



Serena Woodside got another two points for the Lady Huskies on a fast break late in the fourth quarter in the game against Hill City. —Telegram photo by Susie Marble

## Northern Valley girls beat Hill City

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies got their first win Friday night when they defeated Hill City 50-38.

"This was the best game of the season," said Coach Bill Lowry. "We shot the ball really well tonight. Lindsey Graham and Jena Jessup had break-out games tonight."

Graham led scoring with 17 points, followed by Jena Jessup, 14; Kelli Cole, 10; Serena Woodside, 7; and Jayme Horacek, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Jessup and Graham with 14 apiece. They were followed by

Woodside, nine; Cole, four; Lindsey Jessup and Jessica Holmes, three apiece; and Horacek, two.

Cole led assists with four, followed by Graham, two; J. Jessup, Woodside, and L. Jessup, one each.

Making steals were Cole, two; and Woodside and J. Jessup, one each.

Graham made four blocks, while Cole made one.

The junior varsity lost 51-27.

Scoring for the junior varsity were Kesley Kinderknecht, 6; J. Jessup, 5; and Andrea Lowry, Joni

Hilburn, Alysia Shearer, 4 each.

**Northern Valley 50, Hill City 38**

Score by quarters:  
N. Valley 15 18 6 11 — 50  
Hill City 7 7 12 12 — 38

**Northern Valley 50**  
Graham 7 0 4-3 17, J. Jessup 6 0 2-2 14, Cole 5 0 0-10, Woodside 2 0 6-3 7, Horacek 1 0 0-2, L. Jessup 0 0 1-0 0. Totals 21 0 13-8 50.

**Hill City 38**  
Jamie Alexander 3 0 4-2 8, Tiffani Long 3 0 2-2 8, Audrey Hanna 4 0 0-0 8, Brittney Trexler 1 0 4-4 6, Amy Foster 2 0 0-0 4, Aubony Chalfant 1 0 0-0 2, Jessi Day 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 15 0 10-8 38.

## Norton boys basketball team held on for victory

**By DICK BOYD**

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team saw a 30-18 half-time lead disappear in the second half but held on for a 51-49 victory over Class 5A Ottawa on Friday in the championship semi-finals of the Topside Tipoff Tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

Senior forward Ryan Maddy led scoring for Norton in the first half. He threw in a three point shot and three two-point baskets in the first quarter as Norton forged a 16-12 lead.

Norton led by 21-14 in the second quarter but two baskets by the Cyclones made it a 21-18 game with 5:00 left. The Norton defense kept Ottawa from scoring the rest of the half as the Blue Jays went on a 9-0 run to take a 30-18 advantage at intermission. Maddy hit four baskets and senior guard Seth Mills a free throw during the stretch.

Ottawa fought back in the third quarter, outscoring Norton 12-7 to cut the Blue Jays' lead to 37-30. Junior center Heath Vincent hit two baskets, junior forward Nathan Morse hit a basket and Maddy was limited to one free throw in the quarter. Ottawa continued to whittle away at Norton's lead in the fourth quarter and a three-point basket by Jeff Gragg with 4:30 left tied the score at 41-all.

Norton senior guard Kyle Kats hit a free throw to give Norton a 42-41 lead but the Cyclones scored six straight points to take a 47-42 lead, their first of the contest. Senior forward Justin Shirk, who had not scored in the game, and Maddy came to the rescue. Shirk connected for a two-point basket inside, then hit a free throw to make it a 47-45 game. Ottawa turned the ball over on a double dribble and Maddy buried a shot from long range to put the Jays back in front at 48-47 with 2:15 left.

Kats hit a free throw with less than a minute left and, with ice water in his veins, swished two more charities with six seconds remaining to stretch the Norton lead to 51-47 and secure the victory for the Blue Jays. Matt Leecy scored for Ottawa just before the final buzzer but it was too little, too late as Norton earned an exciting 51-49 victory and a berth in Saturday's championship finals.

"We played great defense early to give us a 12-point lead at half-time," said Coach Reusink. "In the second half, we became tentative on the offensive end, allowing Ottawa to go ahead in the fourth quarter but we had players step up and make some big plays on both ends of the floor to get the win."

"Our bench continued to give us great minutes."

"It was a great win. We held a team who scored 108 points the night before to 49."

Maddy finished the game with 23 points on two of three from three-point range and eight of 12 two-point shots for a sharp shooting 67 percent accuracy. He was one of two from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Vincent also had a good shooting eye as he hit four of five from the field for 80 percent accuracy and was a perfect two of two from the free throw line for 10 points.

Senior guard Aaron Overlease also shot well. He hit two of four shots from long range for 50 percent, was a perfect one of one on two-point shots and three of five overall for 60 percent and 8 points.

Leading scorer for Ottawa was Jeff Gragg with 11.

Both teams hit four three-point shots and 15 two-point baskets. Norton's margin of victory came on two free throws.

As a team, Norton hit four of nine from beyond the arc for 44 percent, 15 of 29 two-point shots for 52 percent and 19 of 38 overall for an even 50 percent. Ottawa

swished four of 11 three-point attempts for 36 percent, 15 of 34 two-point shots for 44 percent and was 19 of 45 overall for 42 percent.

The Blue Jays converted nine of 19 free throw attempts for 47 percent compared to the Cyclones' seven of 11 for 64 percent.

Norton out rebounded Ottawa 34-25. The Blue Jays grabbed seven offensive and 27 defensive caroms and the Cyclones pulled down six offensive and 19 defensive boards. Leading rebounder for Norton was Maddy with nine, followed by Vincent, six; Shirk, five; Mills, four; Kats and Overlease, three each; and Morse, and Jason Green, two each.

Norton had seven steals. Kats led with three, followed by Mills, Overlease, Maddy and Vincent, one each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 15 offensive assists. Kats was the leader of this category as well with nine. He was followed by Maddy, three, and Morse, Mills and Overlease, one each.

Norton had 20 turnovers but Ottawa was close behind with 18.

**GAME STATISTICS**

**Norton boys 51**

	FGsFTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	
Nathan Morse	1	0	0-0	2
Kyle Kats	0	0	4-7	4
Seth Mills	0	0	1-2	1
Aaron Overlease	1	2	0-0	8
Jason Green	0	0	0-2	0
Ryan Maddy	8	2	1-2	23
Justin Shirk	1	0	1-4	3
Heath Vincent	4	0	2-2	10
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9-19</b>	<b>51</b>

**Ottawa boys 49**

Sean Hull	1	0	0-0	2
Matt Leecy	1	1	0-0	5
Addison Miller	2	0	3-4	7
Luke Bones	2	0	1-1	5
Dustyn Toland	1	0	0-0	2
Jeff Gragg	1	3	0-0	11
Victor Ojeleye	3	0	0-1	6
Aaron Douglas	2	0	2-3	6
Philip Sylvester	2	0	1-2	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7-11</b>	<b>49</b>

## Husky boys take loss at Hill City

The Northern Valley high school boys basketball team lost 50-31 at Hill City Friday night.

"We came out of the gates in a flurry, posting a 7-2 lead halfway through the first quarter, but then all of a sudden went into a shell for most of the rest of the game on offense," said Coach Jason Dibble. "Part of the credit has to be given to Hill City's defensive effort, especially early in the game when they blocked a few of our post players' shots and took them out of their game."

"There are too many games any team is going to win with no double digit quarters. After having posted two games over 60, we learned that when a team defends you really well we have to be able to adjust and find other ways to score."

"We were not able to get any primary or secondary break points and they also did a good job of switching and fighting off screens. Especially against a disciplined team, like Hill City, we have to try and be just as disciplined."

"Defensively we did a very good job of that by showing good effort and determination to keep them from scoring, especially holding them to 50 points. I told the players after the game to just learn from this game and react in a positive manner going into the Smith Center game on Tuesday."

Scoring were Henry Griffiths and Avery Thalheim, 8 each; Cole Kinderknecht, 6; Jesse Hilburn, 5; and Joey Copper and Andrew Sheley, 2 each.

Rebounding honors went to Copper with six, followed by Griffiths and Kinderknecht, four apiece; Hilburn, three; Sheley, two; Thalheim, one.

Steals were made by Hilburn, Kinderknecht, Thalheim, Griffiths and Copper, who each made 1.

Making assists were Hilburn, Thalheim, Griffiths and Sheley,



Joey Copper, Jesse Hilburn and Henry Griffiths, from left, watched as Avery Thalheim sank a three-pointer in the game against Hill City. —Telegram photo by Susie Marble

one apiece.

The junior varsity lost 62-18.

"We always manage to get off to a good start and did so again only being down 9-7 at the end of the first quarter, but we definitely have to be able to handle pressure better," said the coach. "Through the second and third quarter we were outscored 46-9 mostly due to pressure, turnovers and easy baskets."

"We see some of the same pressure from our varsity players and seem to be able to handle it better than in the game. If we can just remain calm and pass through the pressure, we will have a lot better chance of success."

"One of the good things was after a questionable showing of effort in the second quarter we came out and gave better effort in the second half and made the fourth quarter very respectable even though we did not score very much. Clarke came out with a nice game of 10 points, but more importantly no turnovers."

Scoring for the junior varsity

were Clarke Nelson, 10; Chad Husted and David Harris, 3 apiece; and Cody Lowry, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Chase Miller, Scott Shearer and Sheley, four apiece; Anthony Simants, Lowry, Bryce Marble and Nelson, two each; and Chance Miller, one.

Richie Kersch and Chance Miller both made one steal, while Nelson and Chance Miller each made one assist.

**Hill City 50, Northern Valley 31**

Score by quarters:  
N. Valley 7 6 9 9 — 31  
Hill City 15 9 12 14 — 50

**Northern Valley 31**  
Griffiths 2 1 2-1 8, Thalheim 1 2 1-0 8, Kinderknecht 3 0 0-0 6, Hilburn 1 1 0-0 5, Copper 0 0 2-2 2, Sheley 1 0 1-0 2. Totals 8 4 6-3 31.

**Hill City 50**  
Curt Welter 7 0 6-3 17, Carter Atkins 0 2 0-0 6, Tane Brown 3 0 0-0 6, Jason Hyde 3 0 0-0 6, Josh Long 3 0 0-0 6, Zach Thompson 2 0 2-1 5, Michael Gerstner 2 0 0-0 4. Totals 19 2 10-6 50.

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