

Norton boys lose game 52-45

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team lost their Mid-Continent League season opener at the free throw line on Friday night when Phillipsburg defeated them 52-45 in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

Norton hit three more field goals than Phillipsburg but the Panthers connected on 14 more free throws than the host Blue Jays.

"Their post guys beat us inside," said Coach Reusink. "We got in foul trouble and had to do some things we didn't want to do."

"Offensively, we didn't hit shots. Ryan Maddy and Heath Vincent have been the scorers for us but they were in foul trouble and we had to sit them. Kyle Kats stepped up and took up some of the slack."

"Phillipsburg has a good team but, hopefully, we can learn something from this game."

Keith Sides is in his third year as head coach at Phillipsburg. He is a former player of Coach Reusink's at Northern Valley. His Panther teams have been unable to beat Norton until Friday night.

The game was a tight one for three quarters. Norton led 10-8 after one quarter and Phillipsburg held a slight 20-19 advantage at halftime. Both teams scored 10 in the third quarter to make it a 30-29 contest.

Tyler Turner, 6-foot-5-inch senior center for Phillipsburg, had a big fourth quarter for the visitors, hitting 9 of his game-high 21 points in the period. Turner started the final stanza with a basket but it was matched by Vincent, Norton's 6-5 junior center, to

make it a 32-31 game.

Turner scored again with 6:30 left, then Grant Babcock stole the ball and scored his first basket of the game for the Panthers, then drained a three-point shot 45 seconds later and, suddenly, Phillipsburg led 39-31.

Maddy, who had been on the bench with four fouls, returned to the Norton lineup and was fouled. He hit one free throw to make the score 39-32 with 4:52 remaining.

Turner, who played inside most of the game, took the ball behind the three-point line and buried a shot to put Phillipsburg ahead 42-32. Maddy matched him with a trey at the other end of the court to cut the Panther lead to 42-35 with 4:15 on the clock. Turner hit a two-point shot, however, and Phillipsburg led 44-35.

Miguel Mendoza stole the ball and scored for the Panthers with 2:10 left to extend their lead to 46-35. Kats buried a shot from beyond the arc for the Blue Jays at the two-minute mark and it was 46-38. Jaret Abell hit two free throws for the Panthers with 1:06 remaining to make it a 48-38 game.

The Blue Jays did not give up. With 55 seconds left, Maddy buried a three-point shot to make it 48-41. Norton stole the ball and Kats drove in for two more Blue Jay points to cut the Panther lead to 48-43. Matt Koelsch hit two Phillipsburg free throws with 33 seconds remaining and two more charities with 25 seconds on the clock to extend the Panther advantage to 52-43. Nathan Morse hit one final basket for Norton with 14 seconds remaining to make the score 52-45 in favor of the visiting Panthers.



Norton senior guard Kyle Kats drives inside the lane to score during the Blue Jays' loss to Phillipsburg on Friday evening. With two starters seeing limited action due to foul trouble, Kats took charge on offense, hitting 16

Kats was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points on two of five from long range for 40 percent, 4 of 6 two-point shots for 67 percent and six of 11 overall for an excellent 55 percent marksmanship. He was also two of three from the free throw line for 67 percent accuracy.

Maddy ended the game with 15 points on two of seven from three-point land for 29 percent, four of nine two-point shots for 44 percent and six of 16 overall for 38 percent. He was one of two from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Turner led Phillipsburg with 21 points, followed by Koelsch, 9; Babcock, Abell, 8 each.

As a team, Norton swished four

of 20 three-point shots for 20 percent, 15 of 37 two-point tries for 41 percent and 19 of 57 overall for 33 percent. Phillipsburg hit 3 of 10 treys for 30 percent, 13 of 37 two-point attempts for 35 percent and 16 of 47 overall for 34 percent.

The Blue Jays hit just three of seven free throws for 43 percent accuracy compared to Phillipsburg's 17 of 27 for 63 percent.

Norton outrebounded Phillipsburg 38-25. The Blue Jays pulled down 27 defensive boards and 11 offensive caroms. The Panthers grabbed 18 defensive and 7 offensive rebounds.

Vincent was leading rebounder for Norton with nine, followed by

Justin Shirk, seven; Morse, Kats, five each; Maddy, four; Aaron Overlease, Jason Green, three each; Seth Mills, Josh Jackson, one each.

Norton had six steals. Kats led with three, followed by Overlease, two; Maddy, one.

The Blue Jays had 18 offensive assists. Kats led with six, followed by Overlease, three; Morse, Green two each; Mills, Maddy, Logan Kats, Shirk, Vincent, one each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Phillipsburg lost the ball just eight times.

The Norton varsity and junior varsity boys will return to play on Tuesday, January 4 when they host Oberlin. Games will begin at 5

p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A	M-A	
Nathan Morse	3	0	0-0	6	6
Kyle Kats	4	2	2-3	16	16
Jasone Green	0	0	0-2	0	0
Ryan Maddy	4	2	1-2	15	15
Justin Shirk	1	0	0-0	2	2
Heath Vincent	3	0	0-0	6	6
TOTALS	15	4	3-7	45	45
Phillipsburg boys 52					
Miguel Mendoza	2	0	0-0	4	4
Travis Yoxall	0	0	0-1	0	0
Grant Babcock	1	1	3-4	8	8
Jaret Abell	1	1	3-5	8	8
Tyler Turner	6	1	6-11	21	21
Matt Koelsch	2	0	5-6	9	9
Kurt Thomas	1	0	0-0	2	2
TOTALS	13	3	17-27	52	52

Lady Jays rally to defeat Phillipsburg 48-43

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team saw a big lead disappear but rallied to defeat Phillipsburg 48-43 in their Mid-Continent League opener on Friday night in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

Phillipsburg started three freshmen, a junior and a senior in the game.

The Lady Jays held a 10-8 lead with 3:56 left in the first quarter but tallied the final 13 points of the

period to take a 23-8 advantage. Junior guard Whitney Newell hit four baskets, junior center Chelsea Cox swished three baskets and a free throw, junior center Becca Ebert connected for two baskets and a charity toss and senior forward Amber Engelbert buried a shot from beyond the arc.

Norton was able to score only 10 points in the second quarter, however, compared to 12 for Phillipsburg to make it a 33-20 game at intermission. Six of Norton's points came from junior

guard Karlie Jones who hit four free throws and a basket. Cox and Engelbert each hit a basket.

The Lady Panthers continued to make inroads on the Norton lead in the second half. They outscored Norton 11-5 in the third quarter to cut the Lady Jays' advantage to 38-31. Norton's only points in the period came on a two-point shot by junior guard Klaire Mann and a three-point shot by Jones. Freshman Melanie Bilby led Phillipsburg with three baskets.

The Lady Panthers scored the

first nine points of the fourth quarter on three two-point baskets and a trey to take a 40-38 lead. Norton senior guard Jessi Duscher scored only two points in the game but picked a good time to do it. Her two free throws with 5:34 left tied the score at 40-all. Cox rebounded and scored to put Norton ahead 42-40 but Phillipsburg responded with a basket to tie it again and Cox fouled out shortly after.

Ebert hit a shot after a rebound with 2:18 left to put Norton ahead 44-42. The Lady Jays got the ball back and were fouled two times in a row but Phillipsburg did not have enough fouls to send Norton to the line. Amber Keesee, the only senior to suit up for Phillipsburg, made a key steal with 45 seconds left and was fouled. She hit one of two charities to make it a 44-43 contest.

Again, Phillipsburg fouled while trying to get the ball but they still did not have enough to send Norton to the free throw line. After Norton took the ball out of bounds, Jones was fouled and went to the charity stripe. She calmly swished both free throws to put Norton ahead 46-43 with 35 seconds remaining.

With 1.1 second left on the scoreboard clock, Newell hit two free tosses to make the final score 48-43.

"It's a win and we'll take it," said Coach Jilka. "Sometimes you have to win this kind. We didn't play with much fire at times but we found a way to win. We got up on them and should have put them away. We kept them in the game and they started gaining confidence. They deserve credit for that."

"We hit free throws down the stretch that made the difference." Cox and Jones were leading scorers for Norton with 11 points each. Cox hit five of seven from the field for 71 percent accuracy and was a perfect 1 of 1 from the free throw line. Jones hit just one three-point and one two-point shot but was six of seven from the free throw line for 86 percent accuracy.

Newell added 10 points for the Lady Jays on four of six from the field for 67 percent and two of four from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Bilby was leading scorer for the Lady Panthers with 11 points. Freshman Jordan Redinger added 10 and junior Stacy Rachow scored 9.

Norton swished 15 of 37 two-point shots for 41 percent accuracy but connected on just 2 of 20 from long range for 10 percent for an overall average of 17 of 57 for 30 percent.

Phillipsburg hit two of three three-point shots for 67 percent, 13 of 33 two-pointers for 39 percent and 15 of 36 overall for 42 percent. From the free throw line, Norton hit 12 of 19 for 63 percent compared to 11 of 20 for 55 percent by Phillipsburg.

Norton was outrebounded 33-20. The Lady Jays pulled down 13 defensive rebounds and seven offensive caroms. The Lady Panthers grabbed 28 offensive rebounds, thanks mainly to Norton's poor trey shooting, and five offensive caroms.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with five, followed by Jones, Engelbert, three each; Newell, Amber Overlease, Chelle Donovan, Ebert, two each; Duscher, one.

Norton recorded 13 steals compared to only six for Phillipsburg. Cox and Jones led Norton in thefts with three each, followed by Mann, Engelbert, two each;

Newell, Donovan, Ebert, one each.

The Lady Jays suffered just 11 turnovers while causing the Lady Panthers to lose the ball 23 times.

Norton had 10 offensive assists compared to 12 for Phillipsburg. Engelbert was assists leader with three, followed by Cox, two; Newell, Overlease, Donovan, Ebert, Jones, one each.

Norton will host Oberlin in junior varsity and varsity action on Tuesday, Jan. 4, beginning at 5 p.m.

"We will have to be ready for Oberlin and play better than we did tonight," said Coach Jilka.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 48

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A	M-A	
Whitney Newell	4	0	2-4	10	10
Chelsea Cox	5	0	1-1	11	11
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0	2	2
Becca Ebert	3	0	1-2	7	7
Karlie Jones	1	1	6-7	11	11
Amber Engelbert	1	1	0-3	5	5
Jessi Duscher	0	0	2-2	2	2
TOTALS	15	2	12-19	48	48

Phillipsburg girls 43

Karlie Boyd	1	0	0-0	2	2
Melanie Bilby	5	0	1-1	11	11
Jordan Redinger	4	0	2-4	10	10
Shelbie Robertson	0	0	1-3	1	1
Stacy Rachow	2	0	5-7	9	9
Amber Keesee	0	2	1-2	7	7
R. Schilowsky	1	0	1-3	3	3
TOTALS	13	2	11-20	43	43



Lady Blue Jay senior forward Amber Engelbert scores from close range after driving through the Phillipsburg defense during Norton's 48-43 win on Friday night in Norton. Looking on, confident that Amber would score, was Norton's junior center Chelsea Cox. The Phillipsburg defenders include Stacy Rachow, No. 21 and Melanie Bilby, No. 13.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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