

# Norton to play in post season



Junior center Becca Ebert (above) scores in the paint for Norton during the Lady Jays loss at Colby on Tuesday evening. Ebert was second leading scorer for Norton with 11 points. Also pictured are, from left, Norton's Klaire Mann, Colby's Lissa Mazanec, No. 32 and Norton's Amber Engelbert. Norton junior guard Whitney Newell (left) breaks the Colby full-court press and drives down court. Newell was steals leader for Norton with three and assists co-leader with three. Trying to keep up with Newell on defense is Colby's Jessie Stephens, No. 5.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

## Blue Jays' winning streak ends at Colby

By DICK BOYD

"This was as poorly as we have played in some time," said Coach Doug Reusink after his Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team lost 52-39 at Colby on Tuesday evening, ending the Blue Jays' winning streak

at eight games.

After thrilling the home crowd with a 79-48 win over Ellis on Friday evening, the Blue Jays didn't play with as much enthusiasm against the Eagles.

Norton fell to 13-6 for the season and Colby extended their record to 11-9.

Norton trailed by just 24-22 at halftime but was outscored 12-5 in the third quarter to fall behind 36-27. Colby scored the first four points of the fourth period to take a 13 point advantage and Norton could not cut into that lead the rest of the game.

All night long, Colby found holes in the normally solid Blue Jay defense, many times for easy layins. Irvin Dinkel, Colby's 6-foot-4-inch senior center, did most of the inside damage to the Norton defense. He continually got open for easy shots and ended the game with 18 points.

"We were not active on the defensive end and they beat us badly on the boards," said Coach Reusink.

"Some of our boys just didn't play well and that can't happen for us to be successful down the road.

"We must get tougher mentally."

Norton scored just seven points in the first quarter but Colby tallied just eight. Senior forward Justin Shirk hit two baskets and senior forward Ryan Maddy swished a three-point field goal for Norton's only points in the period.

The Blue Jays stayed close in the second quarter where Colby outscored them by just 16-15. Junior guard Nathan Morse scored eight of Norton's points on two baskets from beyond the arc and a two-point basket. Maddy hit two baskets, senior guard Kyle Kats hit his only basket of the game and Shirk swished a free throw.

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team is seeded No. 1 and the NCHS Lady Jays quintet is seeded No. 2 in the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament which will be held in Cimarron, following first round games on Monday and Tuesday.

Teams were seeded based on records as of Wednesday.

### Girls Division

Girls first round games are to be held on Monday at 7 p.m. on the higher seeded teams' floors with several exceptions. The Norton girls (15-4) are scheduled to play No. 7 Hoisington (8-12) at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The Norton boys also play Hoisington on Tuesday so the change was made so Hoisington would only have to travel to Norton one time.

No. 1 seed Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays (16-3) will host No. 8 Phillipsburg (5-15); No. 4 Lakin (13-7) will host No. 5 Ellinwood (12-8) at 5:30 p.m. in Holcomb and No. 3 Holcomb (14-6) will host No. 6 Cimarron (8-12) at 8:30 p.m.

Winners will play in the semi-finals on Thursday in Cimarron and the semi-finals winners will play on Saturday at 6 p.m. in Cimarron for the championship and a berth in the state tournament in Hutchinson.

TMP-Marian is ranked No. 6 in the state in Class 3A by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association and Norton is ranked No. 10.

### Boys Division

Boys first round games are to be held on Tuesday, with one exception. The Norton boys (13-6) will play No. 8 Hoisington (3-17) at 7 p.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton; No. 4 seed TMP-Marian (11-8) will host No. 5 Lakin (10-9) at 6:30 p.m. and No. 3 Phillipsburg (13-7) will host No. 6 Cimarron (8-11) at 6 p.m. No. 2 Holcomb (13-7) will host No. 7 Ellinwood (5-15) at 7 p.m. on Monday in Holcomb.

Winners will play in the semi-finals on Friday in Cimarron and the semi-finals winners will play at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Cimarron for the championship and a berth in the state tournament in Hutchinson.

## Norton girls fall to Colby

By DICK BOYD

It took awhile but Colby's girls basketball team, ranked No. 6 in the state in Class 4A, finally pulled away from Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls, who are ranked No. 10 in Class 3A, by a 51-38 score on Tuesday night in the Community Building in Colby.

Norton fell to 15-4 with the loss and Colby extended their record to 17-3.

Norton trailed by just 11-7 after one quarter, 21-18 at halftime and 38-31 after three quarters but a 13-7 fourth quarter score in the Lady Eagles' favor allowed them to win by 13 points.

"It wasn't a 13 point game," said Coach Jilka. "We just couldn't make easy shots. We did a nice job of executing our offense against their pressure but we just couldn't finish shots underneath and you can't do that against a team like Colby."

"Defensively, it wasn't one of our better efforts. Most nights we would have won with that effort but it wasn't good enough against Colby."

"We need to do a better job of transition defense down the road. We need to forget this game and concentrate on winning Thursday at Stockton. Our girls will bounce back."

Norton's seven points in the first quarter came on two baskets and a free throw by junior center Chelsea Cox and a basket by junior center Becca Ebert.

In the second quarter, junior guard Karlie Jones buried a three-point shot and a two-point field

goal, Cox hit a basket and two free throws and junior guard Whitney Newell hit her first basket of the game.

Ebert had a big offensive third quarter as she hit four baskets and a free throw for 9 of Norton's 13 points. Newell and Jones each hit another basket.

Newell hit two baskets and Cox hit a field goal and free throw for the Lady Jays' only fourth quarter points.

Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points. She hit 4 of 9 field goal tries for 44 percent and was also 4 of 9 from the charity stripe.

Ebert tallied 11 points. She hit 5 of 7 attempts for 71 percent accuracy and was a perfect 1 of 1 from the free throw line.

Newell scored 8 points on 4 of 7 for 57 percent accuracy.

Leading scorer for Colby was Emily Sloan with 19 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 6 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44 percent and 16 of 40 overall for 40 percent.

Colby swished 3 of 4 long range shots for 75 percent, 20 of 39 two-point attempts for 51 percent and 23 of 43 for 53 percent.

Norton swished 5 of 11 free throws for 45 percent and Colby connected on 6 of 9 charities for 67 percent.

The Lady Jays were outrebounded 31-17. Norton grabbed 3 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and Colby pulled down 7 offensive and 24 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for

Norton with 6, followed by Ebert, 4; Amber Engelbert, 3; Newell, Jones, 2 each.

Norton had 6 steals and Colby had 7 thefts. Steals leader for Norton was Newell with 3, followed by Cox, Ebert, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 offensive assists but the Lady Eagles had 20. Assists leaders for Norton were Newell and Engelbert with 3 each, followed by Cox, Ebert, Jones, 2 each; Klaire Mann, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers and Colby turned the ball over 15 times.

### Junior varsity game

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls quintet lost to Colby 54-37.

The score was tied 10-all after one quarter but Colby outscored Norton 17-8 in the second quarter to take a 27-18 lead at intermission. Colby led 37-25 after three quarters.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 25 points.

Rishonna Martin and Tasha Wagoner each scored 17 points for Colby.

"We ran into a buzz saw," said Coach Rossi. "We could play with Colby at times and then they would just put it to us."

"Our girls really need to work on dribbling and passing."

"Our defense was non-existent at times."

"We would play well for a couple of minutes at a time, then would play badly for a couple of minutes."

### Next action

The Norton girls are scheduled to play Hoisington at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament.

### Game statistics

Norton girls 38			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s3s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	4 0	0-1	8
Chelsea Cox	4 0	4-9	12
Becca Ebert	5 0	1-1	11
Karlie Jones	2 1	0-0	7
TOTALS	15 1	5-11	38
Colby girls 51			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s3s	M-A	
Jessie Stephens	3 0	0-0	6
B. Kersenbrock	1 2	0-0	8
Emily Sloan	8 0	3-4	19
Ashley Barnes	3 0	2-2	8
Lissa Mazanec	3 1	0-1	9
Zanae Baird	0 0	1-2	1
TOTALS	18 3	6-9	51



Norton senior forward Ryan Maddy pulls down a rebound during the Blue Jays' loss at Colby on Tuesday evening. Maddy was leading rebounder for Norton with 10 and leading scorer with 19 points. Also pictured are, from left, Norton's Nathan Morse; Colby's Irvin Dinkel, No. 23 and Norton's Aaron Overlease, No. 20.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

## Blue Jay teams defeat Stockton Thursday

The Norton Community High School girls and boys varsity basketball teams defeated Stockton last night in Stockton to complete their regular 2004-05 seasons.

The Lady Blue Jays won 60-30 to extend their season record to 16-4.

The Blue Jay boys were 62-50 winners and they are now 14-6 for the season.

Both teams will play next in

the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The No. 2 seeded Norton girls will play No. 7 Hoisington at 5:30 p.m. and the No. 1 seeded Norton boys will play No. 8 Hoisington at 7 p.m.

Complete results with pictures of last night's victories over Stockton will be in Tuesday's Norton Telegram.