



Norton junior guard Nathan Morse hits a jump shot during the Blue Jays' 62-50 Mid-Continent League win at Stockton on Thursday. Morse was really on target, hitting three shots from beyond the arc and two from two-point range for 13 points. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay boys extend record to 14-6 with win at Stockton

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team warmed up for sub-state tournament action this week with a 62-50 Mid-Continent League win at Stockton on Thursday evening to extend their season record to 14-6 and tie for second in the final league standings.

"We didn't start out shooting the ball very well but we did a good job of working through that and building a good lead by halftime," said Coach Reusink.

"We lost some intensity in the second half, especially in the fourth quarter, letting Stockton back in the game.

"It wasn't pretty but it was a league win on the road."

With senior guard Ryan Maddy hitting four baskets and senior guard Aaron Overlease and senior forward Justin Shirk each swishing a field goal, Norton took a 12-9 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Overlease and Shirk led the way offensively in Norton's 24 point second quarter. Overlease was on target from beyond the arc as he hit two treys in addition to a two-point basket. Shirk scored eight points on four baskets in the paint. Senior guard Seth Mills, junior guard Nathan Morse and junior center Heath Vincent each hit a basket and senior guard Kyle Kats hit two-of-two from the charity stripe.

Stockton scored only 7 points in the second quarter, allowing Norton to extend their advantage to 36-16 at intermission.

The Tigers would not go away, however, and played the Blue Jays on even terms in the third quarter when Norton outscored them by just 18-17 to make it a 54-36 contest.

Morse was red hot from long range as he buried three shots from beyond the arc. Overlease hit his third trey of the game in addition to a two-point shot and Maddy hit two more field goals for the Jays in the third stanza.

To the Tigers' credit, they continued to battle and outscored Norton 17-8 in the final quarter to cut the Jays' final margin of victory down to 12 points. Morse, Overlease and Shirk each hit a basket and Kats and Vincent each swished a free throw for Norton in the fourth stanza.

Leading scorer for Norton was Overlease with 17 points on 3 of 6 from long range for 50 percent, 4 of 7 two-point shots for 57 percent and 7 of 13 overall for 54 percent marksmanship.

Morse also scorched the nets as he hit 13 points on 3 of 5 from long range for 60 percent, 2 of 3 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 5 of 8 overall for 63 percent accuracy.

Shirk and Maddy each hit 12 points. Shirk swished 6 of 10 from the field for 60 percent and Maddy hit 6 of 8 from two-point range for 75 percent. He missed four trey tries and ended 6 of 12 for 50 percent accuracy.

Blaise Kriley was leading scorer for Stockton with 14 points; Jordan Stithem added 11 points to the Tiger total.

As a team, Norton swished 6 of 20 three-point tries for 30 percent, 20 of 40 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 26 of 60 overall for 43 percent.

Stockton connected on 5 of 19 trey tries for 26 percent, 15 of 31 two-point attempts for 48 percent and 20 of 50 overall for 40 percent.

The Blue Jays hit a cold 4 of 11 free throws for 36 percent compared to 5 of 7 for 71 percent by the Tigers.

Norton was outrebounded 32-22. The Blue Jays grabbed 11 offensive and 11 defensive caroms and the Tigers pulled down 13 offensive and 19 defensive boards.

Overlease, Maddy and Vincent each grabbed 4 rebounds followed by Shirk, 3; Morse, Kats, Mills, 2 each; Josh Jackson, 1.

Kats and Maddy each blocked 1 shot. The Blue Jays had 16 steals. Overlease led with 6, followed by

Kats, 5; Maddy, 3; Shirk, 2.

Norton also had 21 offensive assists. Kats was the leader with 8, followed by Overlease, 5; Maddy, 4; Morse, Mills, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had just 13 turnovers and the Norton defense caused Stockton to turn the ball over 26 times.

Junior varsity won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys quintet defeated Stockton 50-31.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-13 and 36-20 in the three-quarter length contest.

Jared Engelbert led Norton in scoring with 14 points, followed by Jared Cox, 10; Brian Juenemann, Wes Georgeson, 7 each; Logan Kats, 6; Preston Herman, 4; Zach Dole, 2.

Kyle Weiser led Stockton in scoring with 14 points.

Next action

The Norton boys are seeded No. 1 in the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament which will be held this week. Cimarron is the host school but first round games will be played in the gyms of the higher seeded teams.

Norton is scheduled to play No. 8 seed Hoisington at 7 p.m. today in the Memorial Gym in Norton.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 62

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	2	3	0-0 13
Kyle Kats	0	0	3-4 3
Seth Mills	1	0	0-2 2
Aaron Overlease	4	3	0-0 17
Ryan Maddy	6	0	0-0 12
Justin Shirk	6	0	0-2 12
Heath Vincent	1	0	1-2 3
TOTALS	20	6	4-10 62

Stockton boys 50

Blaise Kriley	7	0	0-0 14
David Earl	1	1	0-0 5
Logan Bennett	1	0	2-2 4
Leneal Weiser	2	1	2-4 9
Jordan Stithem	1	3	0-0 11
Luke Kriley	3	0	1-1 7
TOTALS	15	5	5-7 50

Norton girls defeat Stockton; remain undefeated in league

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team defeated Stockton 60-30 on Thursday night in Stockton to add an undefeated Mid-Continent League season to their league tournament championship.

The No. 10 state ranked Lady Jays extended their overall record to 16-4 with Sub-State Tournament play beginning today at 5:30 p.m. versus Hoisington in the Memorial Gym in Norton.

Norton led 9-4 after one quarter but a 17-9 second quarter in the Lady Jays' favor put Norton ahead 26-13 at intermission. Norton outscored Stockton 16-6 in the third period to take a commanding 42-19 advantage into the final stanza where they outscored the Lady Tigers 18-11.

In the first quarter, Norton's points came on a three-point basket by senior guard Amber Engelbert and two-point field goals by junior centers Chelsea Cox and Becca Ebert and junior guard Karlie Jones.

The Lady Jays continued to score from both the perimeter and the paint in the second quarter. Inside, Cox hit three baskets and two free throws and, from the outside, Engelbert hit two more field goals, junior guard Whitney Newell buried a three-pointer and junior guard Klaire Mann swished a basket.

After intermission, Cox's teammates continued to feed her in the paint and the result was four more baskets and a free throw in the third quarter and two baskets and a charity in the final stanza.

Ebert and Engelbert each hit another basket in the third quarter and Jones hit her only basket from beyond the arc.

In the fourth quarter, Newell found the range on three two-point baskets, junior guard Amber Overlease, senior guard Jessi Duscher, and Engelbert each hit a basket and junior guard Chelle Donovan swished a free throw.

"We played a good game," said Coach Jilka. "We had an advantage inside and that helped. We were able to play a number of different combinations of players.

"It was nice to be able to go through the league undefeated. I was not sure that could be done when the season started.

"Winning the league tournament was also a plus. I'm proud of our girls and their performance in the first part of the season. Now, it's time for the second part. It's

sudden death this time of year. We need to be ready for Hoisington in the first round of the sub-state. We're capable of winning the tournament but we must play up to our abilities."

Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 24 points on 10 of 19 from the field for 53 percent and 4 of 8 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

Engelbert added 11 points on 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 4 of 5 from two-point range for 80 percent and 5 of 8 overall for a net-smoking 63 percent accuracy.

Newell tallied 9 points on 50 percent shooting. She was 1 of 2 from long range and 3 of 6 from two-point land.

Kayla Damrow was leading scorer for Stockton with 8 points. Savannah Lowry added 7 points for the Lady Tigers.

As a team, Norton connected on 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 23 of 51 from two-point range for 45 percent and 26 of 62 overall for 42 percent.

Stockton missed both trey tries, hit 10 of 27 two-point attempts for 21 percent and was 10 of 49 overall for 20 percent.

Norton continued to struggle at the free throw line where the Lady Jays hit just 5 of 12 for 42 percent. Stockton connected on 10 of 17 charity tries for 59 percent.

Norton outrebounded Stockton 34-30. The Lady Jays pulled down 14 offensive and 20 defensive caroms compared to the Lady Tigers' 16 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Cox had a double-double for the contest as she pulled down 12 rebounds to go with her 24 points. Ebert grabbed 8 caroms, followed by Engelbert, 5; Newell, 3; Jones and Duscher, 2 each; Mann, Overlease, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 17 offensive assists but Stockton had 21. Newell was assists leader for Norton with 6, followed by Rachael Lentz, 3; Cox, Jones, 2 each; Donovan, Ebert, Duscher, Maggie Nielsen, 1 each.

Norton had 14 turnovers but Stockton turned the ball over 21 times.

Junior varsity won

Ten different Norton junior varsity girls scored to defeat Stockton 52-30 and give junior varsity girls coach George Rossi his 200th jun-

ior varsity win in 14 years of coaching at Norton.

The Lady Jays held quarter advantages of 20-6, 29-11 and 40-19.

Leading scorers for Norton were Chantille Campbell and Maggie Nielsen with 10 points each, followed by Chelle Donovan, 7; Rachael Lentz, 6; Lacey Roe, 5; Amber Overlease, Lacy Ellis, 4 each; Haley Jones, Amber Waggoner, Kylie Morel, 2 each.

Chelsey Kriley led Stockton with 6 points; Kayla Damrow and Heather Murchie each added 5 points.

"This was a good way to end the season," said Coach Rossi. "Our girls played a solid game all four quarters. We moved the ball well, allowing many girls to score.

"These girls did a great job this year. Many of them had never played together and, as the season progressed, they continued to get better. These are the girls who will be leading the team in the coming years. They must understand that you have to work on weaknesses in the offseason in order to become a better player and they must never be satisfied with where they are with their skills.

"We are very proud of their effort. I enjoyed this group a great deal. Several of these girls have played some junior varsity for three years and I will miss them greatly."

The Norton junior varsity girls compiled an outstanding 12-3 record this season.

Next action

The No. 2 seeded Norton varsity girls quintet is scheduled to play Hoisington at 5:30 p.m. today in the Memorial Gym in Norton in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 60

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	3	1	0-0 9
Chelsea Cox	10	0	4-8 24
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0 2
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0 2
Chelle Donovan	0	0	1-2 1
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-2 4
Karlie Jones	1	1	0-0 5
Amber Engelbert	4	1	0-0 11
Jessi Duscher	1	0	0-0 2
TOTALS	23	3	5-12 60

Stockton girls 30

Allison Baughman	2	0	2-4 6
Renee Berkley	2	0	2-2 6
Marissa Tankersley	1	0	1-2 3
Kayla Damrow	3	0	2-2 8
Savannah Lowry	2	0	3-7 7
TOTALS	10	0	10-17 30



Norton junior center Chelsea Cox gets loose inside to score during the Lady Jays' 60-30 Mid-Continent League win at Stockton on Thursday evening. Cox scored 24 points and pulled down 12 rebounds in the victory. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd