

Blue Jay boys beat Redmen

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team outscored the sophomore-dominated Smith Center quintet on the boards Tuesday night in Norton to win an important 50-41 Mid-Continent League victory.

The win extended Norton's season record to 9-4 and dropped Smith Center to 9-5.

"It was a great win for us," said Coach Reusink. "We showed improvement in being tough mentally and physically."

"They play mostly sophomores but they are talented and have a lot of weapons. We fought through foul trouble and outrebounded them, too. Their players made some treys in the second half that kept them in it. We got the ball inside and hurt them with baskets by Vincent and Lewis."

"A lot of players stepped up for us."

Norton led 12-9 after one quarter and was on top 17-14 at halftime. The Redmen outscored the Blue Jays 12-10 in the third quarter to make it a 27-26 game but Norton poured in 23 points in the final stanza compared to 15 by the visitors to pull away for the 9 point victory.

Norton's junior center Nic Lewis played one of his better games from the start. He hit three baskets in the first quarter and sophomore guard Logan Kats hit a basket but Smith Center got two baskets and two free throws from sophomore Braden Wilson, a basket by sophomore center Joe Windscheffel and a free throw from senior Taylor Jones to take a 9-8 lead with 1:41 remaining.

Norton senior center Heath Vincent put the Blue Jays on top at the end of the quarter with his first points of the game. He swished a basket inside, then hit a jumper in the paint with 10 seconds remaining to make it 12-9.

The second quarter was a defensive battle with both teams scoring just 5 points. Smith Center scored all

of their points in the first four minutes. Wilson hit two baskets and sophomore Kerby Rice hit a free throw and the Redmen led 14-12.

Junior guard Brian Juenemann hit a timely three-point shot with 3:41 left in the first half for Norton's initial basket of the second quarter. Lewis was fouled with 1.7 seconds left and swished both charities to put Norton on top 17-14 at intermission.

Vincent got the second half started with two quick baskets, then Lewis swished two more free throws to extend the Blue Jays' advantage to 23-14. Windscheffel scored for Smith Center but Vincent rippled the nets again for Norton to retain the nine-point lead. Rice hit two free throws with 5:08 remaining in the third period but Lewis drained two more charities at the 4:27 mark to put Norton ahead 27-18.

The Redmen scored the final eight points of the quarter on treys by Windscheffel and sophomore Jared Hayes, a charity by Wilson and another by Windscheffel to cut the Norton lead down to 27-26 with one period remaining.

Junior guard Jared Engelbert gave the Blue Jays a jump start in the fourth quarter by triggering a three-point basket that hit nothing but net just 30 seconds into the period. Two minutes later, Wilson hit for two points but Kats rebounded and drove for two more Norton points to put the Jays up 32-28. Wilson swished two free throws to bring Smith Center within two points but Lewis put in a reverse layup and the Jays led 34-30 with 4:46 still left in regulation.

Wilson scored for the Redmen but Lewis matched it with another basket to keep Norton on top by four. Senior guard Nathan Morse stole the ball and drove for a layup to put Norton ahead 38-32 but Hayes hit his second trey of the game to cut the margin to 38-35.

Lewis responded with another Norton basket but Wilson scored for Smith Center and it was 40-37

with 2:52 left.

With 1:20 remaining, Juenemann went to the charity stripe after an intentional Redman foul and hit one of two tosses to give Norton some cushion at 41-37. Smith Center continued to foul in an effort to get the ball but the Blue Jays hit their free throws to pull away. Morse hit two charities with 1:13 left and Juenemann hit two with 54.1 seconds remaining to make it a 45-37 game. Smith Center didn't quit, however, as Jones scored his only basket of the game and Hayes intercepted an inbound Norton pass and scored with 40.8 seconds left to make it a four-point game again at 45-41.

It was all Norton after that. Vincent hit three free throws on two trips to the line and the Jays led 48-41. Norton got the ball one more time as the clock was running down and Lewis put the icing on the cake with a layup at the buzzer to make the final 50-41!

Lewis was the leading scorer for Norton with 20 points on 7 of 13 from the field for 54 percent accuracy and 6 of 8 free throws for 75 percent.

Vincent was second high scorer for the Blue Jays with 13 points. He hit 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent and 3 of 5 from the charity stripe for 60 percent.

Wilson was the only Redman in double figures with 19 points.

As a team, Norton hit only 2 of 17 three-point shots for 12 percent, 15 of 35 two-point tries for 43 percent and 17 of 52 overall for 33 percent.

In comparison, Smith Center swished 3 of 9 treys for 33 percent, 11 of 29 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 14 of 38 overall for 37 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays connected on 14 of 22 for 64 percent and the Redmen netted 10 of 16 for 63 percent.

The Blue Jays dominated the backboards, pulling down a whopping 37 rebounds compared to just 19 by the Redmen. Norton

grabbed 13 offensive and 24 defensive caroms while Smith Center pulled down 5 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Lewis and Vincent both had double-doubles in the game with 11 rebounds each. Sophomore forward Wes Georgeson had 6 rebounds, followed by Kats, 5; Engelbert, 2; Juenemann, Morse, 1 each.

Vincent blocked four Redman shots.

Morse and Kats each had 3 of Norton's 8 offensive assists. Lewis had the other 2.

Norton suffered just 7 turnovers in the game; Smith Center had 10.

Morse had 2 of the Blue Jays' 4 steals. Kats and Lewis each had 1 theft.

Kats and Vincent each drew 1 charge.

Junior varsity won

The Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Smith Center 29-22.

The young Blue Jays trailed 6-5 after one quarter and 13-11 at halftime but outscored the visitors 8-2 in the third quarter to take a 19-15 lead into the final stanza. A 10-7 fourth quarter in Norton's favor extended the final margin of victory to 7 points.

Logan Keiswetter was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points, followed by Matt Stanley, 5; Blake Wolf, 4; Zach Dole, Preston Herman, Logan Runion, 2 each.

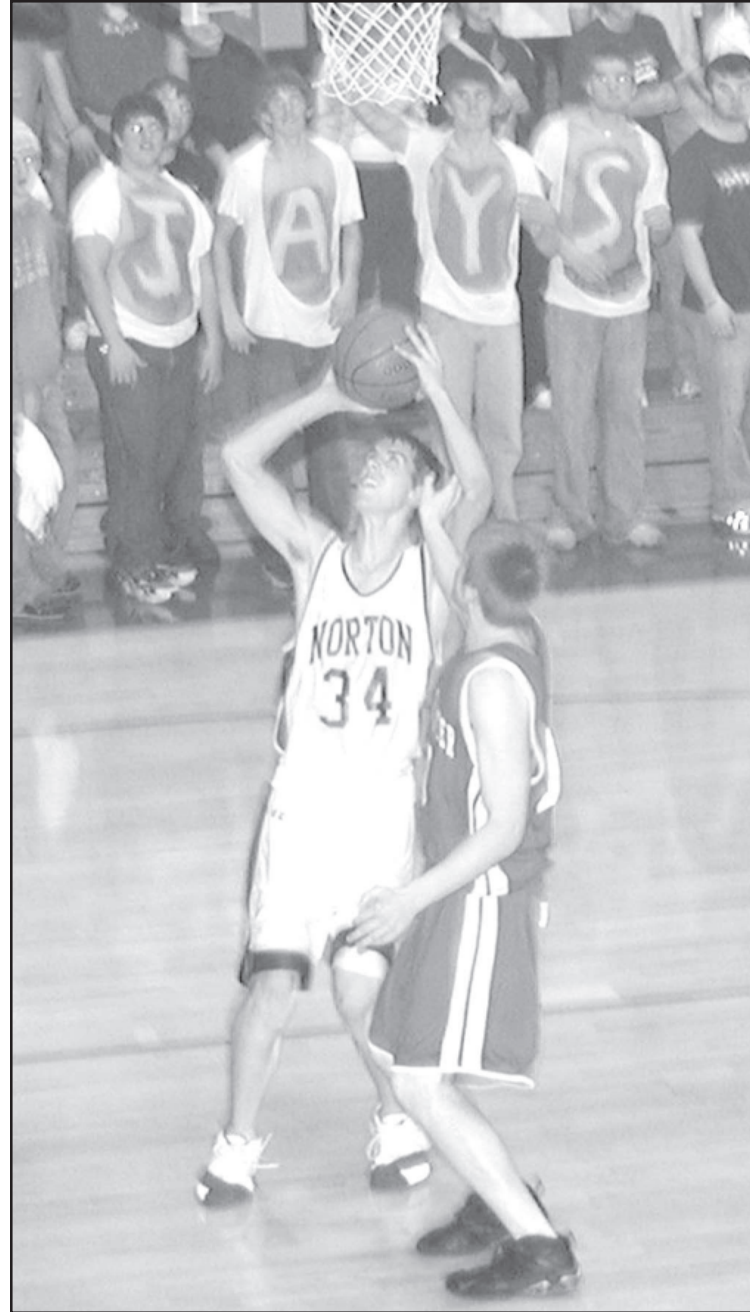
Brayton Gillen led Smith Center with 8 points.

Next action

The Norton boys and girls basketball teams will play Mid-Continent League games at Hill City today.

Play will begin at 5 p.m. in the Grade School Gym with the junior varsity boys game. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Gym will be the junior varsity girls in a two-quarter contest, the varsity girls and the varsity boys games.

The Norton boys rallied from a 17-point deficit to defeat Hill City



Norton junior center Nic Lewis put the icing on the cake in the Blue Jays' 50-41 win over Smith Center here on Tuesday with a basket at the buzzer. Lewis had a double-double with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

37-33 in Norton on January 17 in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament for Coach Reusink's 400th victory. "They'll be ready for us at their place after we beat them here," said Coach Reusink at the Blue Jay Booster Club meeting on Wednesday evening.

"It will be a big league game for us and we'll have to play well to win."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 50	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s 3s	M-A	

Nathan Morse	1	0	2-4	4
Logan Kats	2	0	0-1	4
Jared Engelbert	0	1	0-0	3
Brian Juenemann	0	1	3-4	6
Nic Lewis	7	0	6-8	20
Heath Vincent	5	0	3-5	13
TOTAL	15	2	14-22	50
Smith Center boys 41				
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s 3s	M-A		
Kerby Rice	0	0	3-4	3
Jared Hayes	1	2	0-0	8
Joe Windscheffel	2	1	1-4	8
Braden Wilson	7	0	5-6	19
Taylor Jones	1	0	1-2	3
TOTAL	11	3	10-16	41

Norton girls hold Smith Center to 30 points in win

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team did not allow a visiting Smith Center quintet a basket in either the first or third quarter in defeating the Lady Redmen 48-30 in Mid-Continent League play on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

The Lady Jays' aggressive defense stole the ball 21 times and caused 32 turnovers.

Norton held a 9-1 lead after the first quarter. Both teams scored just 9 points in the second quarter to give the Lady Jays an 18-10 halftime advantage. After a 12-1 third quarter in Norton's favor, the Lady Jays were on top 30-11. Norton had their highest scoring quarter in the fourth stanza when they tallied 18 points. Smith Center did not give up and scored 19 points to cut the final margin of victory to 18 points.

"We played hard and had solid defense, mainly in the first and third quarters," said Coach Jilka. "Offensively, we were struggling with our shooting, especially from the perimeter. The second half, we were more aggressive offensively and did some good things."

"We still need to keep working on our offense. Eventually our shots will start falling."

With the victory, Norton extended their season record to 12-1. Senior guard Karlie Jones hit two baskets, senior center Becca Ebert and senior guard Klaire Mann each hit a basket and senior center Chelsea Cox swished a free throw for Norton's first quarter points.

Smith Center's only point in the opening stanza came on a free throw by freshman Morgan Lorenzen.

Freshman guard Laura Lee Baird scored four points on two baskets, Ebert tallied again, Jones hit two charities and sophomore center Chantille Campbell connected on one free toss for Norton in the second quarter.

Senior Deb Fricker hit 7 of the Lady Redmen's 9 points in the second stanza on three baskets and a free throw. Junior Rebekah Burgess hit their other basket.

Cox scored the first five points of the third quarter on two baskets and a free throw to extend the Norton lead to 23-10. Burgess hit a free throw for Smith Center's only point. Senior guard Amber Overlease hit a basket, followed by another basket by Jones. The Lady Jays finished the quarter with three free throws by Baird.

Jones finished the game strong by hitting nothing but net from beyond the arc, hitting two two-point baskets and two free throws to score half of Norton's fourth quarter points. Cox threw in two more baskets and two charities and senior guard Whitney Newell hit three charities.

Fricker took charge of Smith Center scoring in the final stanza as she hit two baskets and five free throws. Four other Lady Redmen scored their first points of the game. Senior Paige Brooks hit a basket and two free throws, junior Kiley Decker and freshman Jihan Arnold each hit a basket and junior Dannie Boucher connected on two free throws.

Jones led scoring for Norton with 17 points on 1 of 6 long range shots for 17 percent, 5 of 7 two-point attempts for a sizzling 71 percent and 6 of 13 overall for 46 percent accuracy. She also hit 4 of 9 free throws for 56 percent.

Cox also scored in double figures. She hit 12 points on 4 of 6 shots from the field for 67 percent and 4 of 6 free throws.

Fricker was the only Smith Center player to hit more than one field goal. She led the Lady Redmen with 16 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 9 shots from long range for 11 percent, 15 of 33 two-point tries for 45 percent and 16 of 42 overall for 38 percent.

Smith Center missed their only trey try, hit 9 of 25 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 9 of 26 overall for 35 percent.

The Lady Jays swished 15 of 27 free throws for 55 percent compared to Smith Center's 12 of 19 for 63 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 25-21. The Lady Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds and the Lady Redmen grabbed 7 offensive and 18 defen-



Norton senior guard Karlie Jones led the aggressive Lady Blue Jay defense in their victory over a visiting Smith Center quintet on Tuesday. She had 9 of Norton's 21 steals and also scored 17 points in the league contest.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

sive caroms.

Cox was the Norton rebounding leader with 7, followed by Ebert, 5; Baird, Mann, Jones, 2 each; Newell, Rachael Lentz, Overlease, 1 each.

Jones was a real ball hawk as she was responsible for 9 of Norton's 21 steals. Baird had 5 thefts, followed by Cox, 4; Newell, Mann, Ebert, 1 each.

Smith Center had just 3 steals in the game.

Newell had 4 of Norton's 6 assists. Mann and Jones had 1 each. Smith Center also had 6 assists.

The Lady Jays had 15 turnovers but caused 32 Smith Center turnovers.

Junior varsity won

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Smith Center 57-19.

The Lady Jays held quarter advantages of 24-0, 31-11 and 47-11.

Ten different Norton players scored in the game, led by Laura Lee Baird with 11. Megan Kats scored 9 points followed by Taylor Rossi, 8; Maggie Nielsen, 7; KaraJo Jones, 6; Hayli Bozarth, 6; Wiyanna Paxton, 4; Ashley Colip, 3; Amanda Delimont, 2; Chantille Campbell, 1.

Mallory Tillet led Smith Center with 6 points.

better."

Norton C-Team girls won

The Norton C-Team girls basketball team defeated Smith Center 48-9.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 14-0 and 33-4 in the three-quarter game.

Taylor Rossi was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Katharine Roy, KaraJo Jones, Hayli Bozarth, 8 each; Ashley Colip, 7; Amanda Delimont, 4; Wiyanna Paxton, 2.

Amanda Mott led scoring for Smith Center with 4.

"This was another good defensive night for our girls," said Coach Joan Bolt.

"We did a great job of shutting down their offense. Our press defense was also very strong."

"The inside, outside play on our offense was well balanced. Our girls executed very well."

"I think we were hungry to play again at home and had a great performance."

"I'm very proud of the continued effort and gradual improvement they are making this season."

Next action

Norton girls and boys teams will travel to Hill City for Mid-Continent League play today. The junior varsity boys game will begin at 5 p.m. in the Grade School Gym.

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The junior varsity girls game will consist of two 8 minute quarters and will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the High School Gym. It will be followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 48	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s 3s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	0	0	3-4
Chelsea Cox	4	0	4-6
Laura Lee Baird	2	0	3-4
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-0
Chantille Campbell	0	0	1-4
Karlie Jones	5	1	4-9
TOTAL	15	1	15-27
Smith Center girls 30			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s 3s	M-A	
Morgan Lorenzen	0	0	1-3
Kiley Decker	1	0	0-0
Dannie Boucher	0	0	2-2
Paige Brooks	1	0	2-4
Rebekah Burgess	1	0	1-2
Jihan Arnold	1	0	0-0
Deb Fricker	5	0	6-6
TOTAL	9	0	12-19

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