

# Slow first half ends with loss for Norton boys basketball

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink knew Hill City would be seeking revenge after his Norton Community High School boys basketball team rallied from a 17-point deficit to beat them in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament earlier this year in Norton and the Ringnecks got that revenge with a 41-33 league win in Hill City on Friday night.

Just as they did in the first meeting, the Blue Jays fell behind in the first half. Hill City led 12-8 after one quarter and 22-10 at halftime. When the second half began, Norton slowly cut into the Hill City lead as they outscored the Ringnecks 14-6 in the third period to trail by just 28-24 heading into the crucial fourth stanza.

Unlike in Norton, the rally fizzled in the final quarter. The Ringnecks paraded to the free throw line and outscored the Blue Jays 13-9 to record the eight-point win.

Hill City hit just one field goal in the fourth quarter but swished 11 of 12 free throw attempts! For the game, the Ringnecks hit 13 of 19 charities as Norton committed 15 fouls. There was a huge discrepancy in the foul department. Hill City had only four fouls the entire game and Norton went to the free throw line only once!

Both teams hit 14 field goals but Norton scored more points from the field because of four baskets from beyond the arc compared to none for the home team.

"Despite the difference in fouls, fouls didn't beat us," said Coach Reusink.

"We just weren't ready to play. To our credit, we came back in the second half. Heath Vincent got

some big baskets along with Nathan Morse and Logan Kats to get us in contention.

"Once we got the lead in the fourth quarter, we quit playing with confidence. We made some silly mistakes and turnovers.

"You have to be ready to play every night out. Hopefully, this will be a learning experience for us.

Senior guard Nathan Morse gave Norton's offense a jump start when he buried a three-point basket just 40 seconds into the second half. Junior Zach Thompson hit a two-point shot for Hill City at the 7:05 mark but the Blue Jays' senior center Heath Vincent, who did not score in the first half, hit three straight baskets to cut the Ringneck lead to 24-19 with 4:08 remaining in the third period.

Sophomore guard Logan Kats drove for a layup, was fouled and hit the free throw with 2:59 showing and the Blue Jays trailed by just two points at 24-22!

Senior guard Curt Welter hit a driving jump shot for Hill City but Kats answered at the other end for Norton and it was 26-24 with 2:10 remaining. Senior Ryan Knoll responded with a jump shot for Hill City with 1:05 left and the third quarter ended with Hill City on top 28-24.

Morse, who had been silent since his trey to start the second half, resurfaced in the fourth quarter when he hit a two-point shot and followed with a basket from beyond the arc from the other side of the court to give Norton its first lead of the game at 29-28 with 6:15 left. Kats stole the ball and drove for two more Blue Jay points and a 31-28 Norton advantage at the 5:45 mark.

Welter hit two free throws and Thompson hit the Ringnecks' only basket of the fourth quarter to put Hill City back on top 32-31. Vincent hit his fourth basket of the game with 4:24 remaining and Norton led 33-32. The rest of the game's points were scored by Hill City at the charity stripe as the Ringnecks hit 9 of 10 tries from the line for the eight-point win. Welter hit 8 of 8 free throws for Hill City in the final quarter.

Norton's eight points in the first quarter came on two three-point baskets by Kats and a two-point basket by Morse. Hill City got three baskets from junior center Tane Brown and a basket each by Welter, Thompson and senior Jeff Radcliffe.

The Blue Jays' only basket of the second quarter came from junior guard Jared Engelbert. Hill City got three baskets from Welter, one from senior Ryan Knoll and two free throws from Brown.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kats with 13 points on 2 of 6 from long range, 3 of 9 from two-point land and 5 of 15 overall for 33 percent. He also had the lone Norton free throw and made it.

Morse was Norton's other double figure scorer with 10 points. He hit 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 2 of 2 two-point tries for 100 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent accuracy. Vincent hit 8 points on 4 of 9 for 44 percent.

Welter was leading scorer for Hill City with 18 points, 8 of them coming from the free throw line.

As a team, Norton swished 4 of 18 shots from long range for 22 percent, 10 of 26 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 14 of 44 overall for 32 percent.



Fighting for position to rebound during Norton's 41-33 Mid-Continent League loss at Hill City on Friday night are, from left, Norton senior guard Nathan Morse, Hill City's Zach Thompson, Blue Jay senior center Heath Vincent and Norton sophomore center Wes Georgeson. Vincent led Norton in rebounding with six, followed by Morse with five caroms and Georgeson with two.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

**Boys junior varsity**

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost to Hill City 52-46.

Norton trailed by quarters 16-5, 28-20 and 40-26. The Blue Jays rallied in the fourth quarter, outscoring Hill City 20-12, but fell short.

Leading scorer for Norton was Preston Herman with 15, followed by Logan Keiswetter, 8; Matt Stanley, 7; Jared Cox, Blake Wolf, 6 each; Logan Runnion, 4.

Alex VanLoenen led Hill City with 18 points, all of them coming on three-point baskets.

**Next action**

The Norton boys and girls will travel to Oberlin for non-league basketball action tonight, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the C-Team girls game in the high school gym, followed at 6:30 p.m. by the var-

sity girls and 8 p.m. by the varsity boys game. Junior varsity boys will play at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high gym, followed at 8 p.m. by the junior varsity girls.

**GAME STATISTICS**

**Norton boys 33**

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	2	2	0-0
Logan Kats	3	2	1-1
Jared Engelbert	1	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	4	0	0-0
TOTAL	10	4	1-1

**Hill City boys 41**

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Curt Welter	5	0	8-8
Ryan Knoll	2	0	1-2
Mike Gerstner	0	0	2-2
Zach Thompson	3	0	0-3
Jeff Radcliffe	1	0	0-0
Tane Brown	3	0	2-4
TOTAL	14	0	13-19

# Norton girls pounce on Hill City, 56-32, on Friday

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team fashioned a true team victory over Hill City on Friday in Hill City.

Ten different Lady Jays pulled down at least one rebound, eight scored at least two points and eight had at least one steal in the 56-32 Mid-Continent League win.

Norton jumped out to an 11-3 lead by the end of the first quarter, then poured in 25 points compared to 11 by the home team in the second period to take a commanding 36-14 halftime advantage.

An 11-8 third quarter in favor of the Lady Jays extended Norton's lead to 47-22 with one quarter remaining. With reserves seeing a lot of playing time in the final stanza for Norton, Hill City outscored the Lady Jays 10-9 but it was too little, too late for the Lady Ringnecks.

"We got off to a good start and got after it pretty good tonight," said Coach Jilka, who saw his team's season record go to 13-1. Hill City fell to 4-10.

"We played hard again. We did a good job on the offensive boards and got a lot of stick back baskets. We shot better from the perimeter, too.

"We also played well defensively, especially in the first half."

Norton senior center Chelsea Cox hit two baskets and a free throw and senior guard Whitney Newell, senior guard Amber Overlease and senior center Becca Ebert each hit a basket for Norton in the first quarter.

Sophomore Kali Roberts hit Hill City's only first quarter basket and junior Holly Buss hit a free throw.

In Norton's big 25-point second quarter, freshman guard Laura Lee Baird and senior guard Karlie Jones led the way offensively. Baird buried two three-point baskets and a two-point shot and Jones hit a long range basket and two two-point baskets. Five other Lady Jays scored in the quarter. Newell, Cox, senior guard Klaire Mann, Ebert and sophomore center Chantille Campbell each hit a basket.

Sophomore Katelyn Keith hit two baskets and a free throw, junior Jamie Alexander hit a basket and two free throws, and freshman Crystal Kinderknecht hit a basket for Hill City.

In the third quarter, Norton's points came on two-point baskets by Cox and Overlease, 4 of 4 free throws by Campbell and a basket from beyond the arc at the buzzer by Newell.

Junior Liz Miller hit a trey, Alexander hit a basket, Keith hit two free throws and Buss swished a free throw.

The Lady Jays finished with Baird's third trey of the game along with a two-point basket and baskets by Overlease and Campbell. Fourth quarter points for Hill City came on two baskets by Kinderknecht, a basket each by Buss and Miller and two charities by Keith.

Baird was the leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on a net sizzling 3 of 4 from long range for 75 percent accuracy, 2 of 2 two-point baskets for 100 percent and 5 of 6 overall for 83 percent accuracy. The other seven players who scored for Norton were: Cox, 9; Campbell, 8; Jones, Newell, 7 each; Overlease, 6; Ebert, 4; Mann, 2.

Leading scorer for Hill City was Keith with 9 points.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 13 shots from beyond the arc, 18 of 48 two-point tries and 23 of 61 overall for 38 percent.

Hill City found the range on 1 of 1 three-point tries, 10 of 42 two-point shots for 24 percent and 11 of 43 overall for 26 percent.

Norton hit 5 of 16 free throws for 31 percent while Hill City swished 9 of 18 for 50 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled down a whopping 44 rebounds, 17 offensive and 27 defensive. Hill City grabbed 25 caroms, 6 offensive and 19 defensive.

Norton's 10 rebounders were: Cox, 11; Ebert, 8; Baird, 6; Jones, 5; Mann, Campbell, 4 each; Newell, Amber Waggoner, 2 each; Overlease, Megan Kats, 1 each.

The eight players with at least one of Norton's 12 steals were: Cox, Mann, Ebert, Jones, 2 each; Newell, Rachael Lentz, Campbell, Maggie Nielsen, 1 each. Hill City had just 4 thefts in the contest.

Newell had 9 of Norton's 13 of-

fensive assists, followed by Overlease, Ebert, Kats, Jones, 1 each. The Lady Ringnecks had 8 assists.

Norton suffered 11 turnovers and caused Hill City to turn the ball over 17 times.

No girls junior varsity game was played due to the illness of many Hill City girls.

**Next action**

The Norton girls and boys teams will travel to Oberlin for non-league games this evening. The C-Team girls game will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the high school gym and will be followed by the varsity

girls contest. at 6:30 p.m. and the varsity boys game at 8 p.m. Also beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high gym will be the boys junior varsity game, followed at 8 p.m. by the girls junior varsity contest.

**GAME STATISTICS**

**Norton girls 56**

	FGs	FT	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	2	1	0-4
Chelsea Cox	4	0	1-2
Laura Lee Baird	2	3	0-0
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0
Amber Overlease	3	0	0-0

Becca Ebert 2 0 0-0 4  
Chantille Campbell 2 0 4-6 8  
Maggie Nielsen 0 0 0-2 0  
Karlise Jones 2 1 0-2 7  
TOTAL 18 5 5-16 56

**Hill City girls 32**

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Jamie Alexander	2	0	2-4
Holly Buss	1	0	2-4
Liz Miller	1	1	0-1
Katelyn Keith	2	0	5-9
Crystal Kinderknecht			
			3 0 0-4 6
Kali Roberts	1	0	0-0 2
TOTAL	10	1	9-18 32



Norton senior guard Whitney Newell runs the offense for the Lady Jays during their 56-32 win over Hill City on Friday in Hill City. Newell had nine of Norton's 13 assists in the game. Also pictured are Liz Miller, No. 13, Hill City and Chantille Campbell, sophomore center for Hill City.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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