Friday, February 17, 2006

# Blue Jay boys down Hoxie, 43-37

## **By DICK BOYD**

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team rebounded from last Friday's loss at Plainville with a solid 43-37 non-league victory over an excellent Hoxie team on Tuesday night in Norton.

Norton, who has not lost two games in a row the entire season, is now 11-6 for the season and has now secured a first round home game in the 3A sub-state tournament. With the loss to the Blue Jays, Hoxie is now 12-7.

"We played well and beat a good team," said Coach Reusink of Tuesday's victory. "I was very pleased with our defensive effort and pretty pleased with our offensive execution.

"Hoxie has a good team and has beaten some good teams.

"They hit a three-point shot at the last and that made it close but we hit enough free throws down the stretch for the win.

"Three of their players came into the game hitting over 50 percent for the season but we played good defense and held their entire team to 31 percent."

Norton hit two early baskets when senior center Heath Vincent tallied inside, then fed junior center Nic Lewis from the high post for two more Blue Jay points and a 4-0 lead. Junior Jake Moss hit a free throw to get Hoxie on the board with 5:16 left. Norton's sophomore guard Logan Kats hit a basket and Moss followed with a basket but sophomore guardcenter Jared Cox scored to put Norton ahead 8-3 with 3:24 left.

Senior Toliver Bird tallied for the Indians but Kats hit a baseline jump shot at the 2:18 mark and senior guard Nathan Morse swished a jumper in the paint to put the Jays on top 12-5. Moss scored for Hoxie with 53 seconds showing to make it a 12-7 lead for the remaining. Hoxie didn't give up,

Jays after one quarter.

in the second period when both teams hit just three field goals and Norton outscored Hoxie 10-9 to take a 22-16 halftime advantage.

Norton sophomore forward Wes Georgeson got a rebound and put the ball back up and in to start the period. Junior Thayne Spresser buried a three-point shot for his only points of the game but Cox hit two free throws and it was 16-10. Junior Marcus McKenna hit his only basket of the contest with hit his second basket of the period 20 seconds later.

Then, Norton junior guard Brian Juenemann stole the ball and Norton with 12 points. He missed drove for a layup to extend the Blue Jay advantage to 20-12 with 3:44 remaining. Sophomore Patrick Eland kept it interesting by burying a shot from beyond the arc for Hoxie. Vincent hit two free throws and Norton led 22-15. McKenna hit a free throw with a minute left, making the score 22-16 at intermission.

The third quarter was another low scoring one with both teams all four trey tries, hit 17 of 40 twohitting eight points. Moss hit three baskets and junior Derek Spresser hit his first basket of the game while Kats and Cox each hit a basket for Norton to narrow the Blue Jay lead to 26-24 with 3:31 left in the period.

stole the ball and drove for two more points to put the Jays ahead 30-24 with one quarter remaining. Bird hit just his second basket of the game to start the fourth quarter but Vincent answered with a basket for the Jays. Kats stretched basket at the 5:44 mark. Moss hit Vincent scored and Lewis hit a free throw to make it 37-28 with 3:41

however, and Derek Spresser hit Juenemann, Georgeson had 2 The defensive battle continued two field goals with 3:10 and 1:45 thefts each and Cox and Vincent showing on the scoreboard to narrow the Norton lead to 37-32.

Georgeson scored for the Jays with 1:10 left but junior Michael Yergey buried a three-point basket and, with 49.9 seconds left, Norton led by just 39-35. Kats was fouled and, with ice water in his veins, calmly hit both charities. Yergev hit a two-point shot for his second basket of the game and the Jay lead was 41-37 with 18.7 seconds left. Vincent was fouled on the in-4:45 left in the half but Georgeson bounds pass and hit nothing but net on two charities to make the final Norton 43, Hoxie 37.

> Kats was the leading scorer for his only three-point attempt but hit 5 of 8 two-point shots for 63 percent accuracy and was a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Vincent scored 10 points on 3 of 8 from the field for 38 percent and a perfect 4 of 4 from the line.

Moss was Hoxie's only double figure scorer. He finished with 13 points.

As a team, the Blue Jays missed point attempts for 43 percent and 17 of 44 overall for 39 percent.

Hoxie swished 3 of 10 from long range for 30 percent, 13 of 41 twopoint tries for 32 percent and 16 of 51 overall for 31 percent.

Norton connected on 9 of 14 free Cox scored for Norton and Kats throws for 64 percent compared to Hoxie's 2 of 7 for 29 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Indians 28-24. Norton grabbed 5 offensive and 23 defensive caroms and Hoxie pulled down 9 offensive and 15 defensive boards.

Vincent was leading rebounder Na the Norton lead to 34-26 with a for Norton with 7, followed by Lo Cox, Lewis, 5 each; Georgeson, 4; his final basket of the game but Morse, Kats, 3 each; Juenemann,

> Vincent blocked 4 Indian shots. N Norton had 8 steals. Kats,

had 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 5 assists. Morse, Kats, Juenemann, Cox and Vincent had 1 each.

Norton had 10 turnovers and Hoxie lost the ball 12 times.

Junior varsity boys lost in overtime

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost a 43-36 overtime game to Hoxie.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-5, 25-15 and 30-25 but Hoxie outscored the young Jays 9-4 in the final stanza to tie the score at 34all at the end of regulation.

Hoxie also scored 9 points in the overtime and Norton was able to hit just two free throws.

Leading scorer for Norton was Wes Georgeson with 14 points in the first half, his only playing time. Blake Wolf, Logan Runnion and Logan Keiswetter each scored 6 points and Jared Cox and Preston Herman both tallied 2 points.

Joe Ratcliffe and Matt Weis both scored 12 points to lead Hoxie.

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis tonight for the final Mid-Continent League game of the season.

Play will begin at 5 p.m. in the Old Ellis High School Gym with the junior varsity boys game. Also beginning at 5 p.m. in the Ellis High School Gym will be the junior varsity girls game, followed by the varsity girls at 6:30 and varsity boys at 8.

**GAME STATISTICS** Norton boys 43

	F	Gs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A	
Nathan Morse	1	0	0-0	2
Logan Kats	5	0	2-2	12
Brian Juenemann	1	0	0-1	2
Jared Cox	3	0	2-4	8
Wes Georgeson	3	0	0-1	6
Nic Lewis	1	0	1-2	3
Heath Vincent	3	0	4-4	10



Norton senior guard Nathan Morse swishes a jump shot in the paint during the Blue Jays' 43-37 win over Hoxie here on Tuesday. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

0 9-14 43	Marcus McKenna	1	_	1_2	3
0 9-14 43				0-0	
	Michael Yergey	1	1	0-0	J
Gs FTs TP	Derek Spresser	3	0	0-0	6
3s M-A	Thayne Spresser	0	1	0-0	3
0 1-3 13	Toliver Bird	2	0	0-2	4
1 0-0 3	TOTAL	13	3	2-7	37

## Norton girls extend record to 16-1 with win over Hoxie

## **By DICK BOYD**

A year ago, Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team traveled to Hoxie and lost a nail-biting 61-60 contest to the unbeaten and No.2 state ranked Lady Indians but, on Tuesday night in Norton with most the Lady Jays gained a measure of in the final stanza.

and narrowed the final margin of victory to seven points.

ter and 20-19 at halftime after the Chelsea Cox scored to run our lead Lady Indians scored the last six to 28-19. We hit enough free 12 points on 4 of 11 from the field points of the first half. A 13-6 third throws down the stretch to get the quarter in Norton's favor extended the Lady Jays' advantage to 33-25 of the same players on both teams, but Hoxie outscored Norton 19-18 sometimes our transition defense baskets from long range and 4 of

"They ran a lot of defenses

game.

needed them.

ond half when Klaire Mann hit two racy and 3 of 6 from the line for 50 Norton led 11-9 after one quar- baskets and Whitney Newell and win

"They are a quick team and played well defensively and

percent.

Cox was right behind her with for 36 percent and 4 of 6 charities for 67 percent.

Jones added 10 points on two was not good but, overall, we 6 free throws for 67 percent from the charity stripe.

"We got a good start in the sec- from the field for 83 percent accu- while the Lady Indians recorded 8 half." thefts. Ebert, Jones and Newell each had 3 steals, followed by Cox, 2; Baird, 1.

2s

6

TOTAL Hoxie boys 37

Jake Moss

Patrick Eland

Newell had 8 of Norton's 12 offensive assists. Baird, Mann, Ebert and Jones had 1 assist each.

Norton had just 9 turnovers compared to 23 for Hoxie.

Junior varsity girls won

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis for a key Mid-Continent League game this evening.

The Lady Jays are perfect in league play and can win the league championship with a win over Ellis. Norton's only loss this season was to Ellis in the Mid-Continent League Tournament championship contest in Hays. Play will begin at 5 p.m. in the Ellis High School Gym with the junior varsity girls game, followed by the varsity girls at 6:30 and varsity boys at 8. The junior varsity boys game will be played at 5 p.m. in the Old Ellis High School Gym.

evenge with a 51-44 victory. It was Hoxie's fourth loss of the against us," said Coach Jilka. "Our forced 23 turnovers."

season compared to 15 victories and extended Norton's record to 16-1.

Norton led throughout the game Lady Jays had a 12-point advantage with a minute left in the contest but Hoxie wouldn't give up

Norton senior center Becca Ebert shoots over Hoxie defenders during the Lady Jays' 51-44 win over the Lady Indians here on Tuesday. Ebert led Norton scoring with 13 points, was second high rebounder with 10 and tied for high in steals with 3. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

girls adjusted well to the changes

and had only nine turnovers in the came on two baskets and a free throw by senior center Becca 'They made some runs on us Ebert, a basket and two charities but could never pull away. The throughout the game and we by senior center Chelsea Cox and fought them off. All in all, we a basket by senior guard Whitney made the big plays when we Newell.

> Hoxie scored on a three-point and two-point basket by freshman Darra Stithem, a basket and free throw by senior Danielle Pratt and free toss by junior Tiffany Goetz.

Ebert hit two more baskets, senior guard Amber Overlease swished a basket and Cox hit another basket and charity for Noton's 9 second quarter points.

Stithem added two more baskets to her total, Goetz hit a basket and two free throws and senior Carissa Heim hit her only basket of the game for Hoxie in the second stanza.

Senior guard Klaire Mann hit two baskets, Cox and Newell each hit a basket and senior guard Karlie Jones hit a three-point basket and two charities for the Lady Jays' 13 third quarter points.

The Lady Jay defense was outstanding in the third quarter when Norton did not allow a single field goal by the visitors and gave up just 6 points on three throws. Pratt, Heim and sophomore Megan Ochs each connected on two charities.

Many of Norton's 18 fourth quarter points came at the free throw line as Hoxie fouled in an effort to get the ball. Jones hit her second trey of the game and added two charities; Ebert put in another basket and two free tosses; and Mann, Cox and Newell each swished a basket and free throw.

Pratt hit two baskets and seven free throws, Stithem hit a basket and charity, Goetz and Ochs each hit a basket and Heim swished a free throw for the Lady Indians in the final quarter.

Ebert led Norton in scoring with 13 points on a net smoking 5 of 6

Norton's 11 first quarter points in scoring; Stithem added 12. As a team, Norton hit 2 of 12 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 16 of 46 two-point basket attempts for 35 percent and 18 of 58 overall for 31 percent.

> Hoxie swished just 1 of 8 treys for 13 percent, 11 of 32 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 12 of 40 overall for 30 percent.

> From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 13 of 23 tries for 56 percent and the Lady Indians found the range on 19 of 25 for 76 percent.

> Norton outrebounded Hoxie 36-35. The Lady Jays had 20 offensive and 16 defensive caroms compared to 16 offensive and 19 defensive boards for the visitors.

Cox had a double-double with 11 rebounds to go with 12 points. Ebert also had a double-double with 10 caroms and 13 points. Mann grabbed 7 rebounds, followed by Jones, 3; Newell, 2; Laura Lee Baird, 2; Overlease, 1. The Lady Jays had 12 steals

The Norton junior varsity giris Pratt hit 16 points to lead Hoxie team rolled to an impressive 70-28 victory over Hoxie in a three-quarter contest.

The young Lady Jays led by quarters 19-8 and 37-15 and tallied 33 points in the third and final quarter.

Nine Norton players scored, led by Katharine Roy with 15 points. Wiyanna Paxton scored 12 points, followed by Maggie Nielsen, 10; Megan Kats, KaraJo Jones, 8 each; Hayli Bozarth, 6; Taylor Rossi, 5; Chantille Campbell, 4; Haley Jones. 2.

Richelle Shipley and Trisha Goetz each scored 7 points for Hoxie.

We came out and really played K hard tonight," said Norton Coach Т George Rossi.

"All our girls gave maximum effort. Our bench did a fantastic iob

"Our scoring was very balanced and that is what we need to have.

"Our defense was good. We did a good job of getting back and picking up the ball in the second

### **GAME STATISTICS** Norton girls 51

-	FG	s	FTs	TP
	2s3	s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	3	0	1-4	7
Chelsea Cox	4	0	4-6	12
Klaire Mann	3	0	1-1	7
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0	2
Becca Ebert	5	0	3-6	13
Karlie Jones	0	2	4-6	10
TOTAL	16	2	13-23	51
Hoxie girls 44				
	FG	İS	FTs	TP
	2s3	s	M-A	
Darra Stithem	4	1	1-2	12
Danielle Pratt	3	0	10-11	16

3-4 7

2-2 4

3-6 5

D 20 Tiffany Goetz 10 Megan Ochs 10 Carissa Heim 11 1 19-25 44 TOTAL

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