

# Norton Lady Jays defeat No. 5 ranked Colby 34-31

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team is unranked in the state but demonstrated that they can play with the best by defeating Colby, who is ranked No. 5 in the state in Class 4A, by a 34-31 score in non-league action on Tuesday in the Norton Community High School Memorial Gym.

The victory in the final game of the regular season extended the Lady Jays' record to 18-1 and dropped Colby to 15-5.

"We played awfully good defense all night long," said Coach Jilka.

"Our girls played as hard for all four quarters as they have all season. We really got after them, especially in the first half.

"It was a great game between two good teams. Both teams played good defense. We just made a few more baskets.

"It's a great way to end the regular season and for our seniors to close out their final regular season.

"It was a huge win heading into the sub-state tournament."

The score was tied 7-all after one quarter but Norton outscored Colby 16-9 in the second period to take a 23-16 halftime lead. A 7-6 third quarter in Norton's favor but the Lady Jays on top 30-22 heading into the fourth quarter but the Lady Eagles made the Lady Blue Jays earn the victory by outscoring them 9-4.

The fourth period started with a three-point basket by Colby junior Brittany Kersenbrock for her only basket of the game. Sophomore Tasha Wagoner was fouled and hit two free throws for her only points of the game to narrow the Lady Jay lead to 30-27 with 6:31 still left to play.

Senior guard Karlie Jones brought a roar from the Norton fans when she faked out a Colby defender and drove around her for a layup with 4:18 left. Colby narrowed the score again when senior Jessica Stephens hit a free throw for her first point of the game and junior Ashley Barnes hit two free throws to make it a two-point game at 32-30 with 2:39 remaining.

Norton went into a slow-down offense and Colby finally fouled with 30.9 seconds left. Jones went

to the charity stripe and received another roar from the Norton fans when she twice hit nothing but net to make it 34-30.

With 3.1 seconds remaining, Jessica Stephens hit one of two free throws to make the final score Norton 34, Colby 31.

The Lady Jays took a 7-3 lead in the first quarter. Colby scored first when sophomore Lissa Mazanec hit a free throw. Senior guard Whitney Newell stole the ball and was fouled. She hit a free throw, then stole the ball again and fed Jones for two points on the fast break. Colby junior Ashley Barnes hit a basket but senior guard Klaire Mann hit a basket and Jones swished two free throws for the 7-3 lead.

The Lady Eagles tied it at 7-all with a basket by sophomore Paige Stephens and one by Mazanec.

Newell started the second quarter by breaking the Lady Eagles' full court press and driving for a basket. She was fouled in the process and hit the free throw for an old-fashioned three-point play. Freshman guard Laura Lee Baird scored for Norton after getting a rebound and it was 12-7. Mazanec and junior Rishonna Martin hit baskets for Colby and it was 12-11 with 5:50 left in the half. Jones answered with a basket inside but Barnes hit for Colby to make the score 14-13.

Baird started a 9-3 Norton run by hitting a shot from beyond the arc. Then, Jones stole the ball and drove for two more Lady Jay points. Colby turned the ball over and Baird hit a two-point basket to extend the Norton lead to 21-13. Paige Stephens hit a field goal and free throw for Colby with 3:00 left but senior center Becca Ebert's two free throws with 1:23 remaining made the score 23-16 in favor of the Lady Jays at halftime.

Norton senior center Chelsea Cox, who saw limited playing time in the first half due to foul trouble, got the third quarter started for the Lady Jays with a quick basket. Barnes hit her final basket of the game for Colby but Cox answered with another Norton basket to make it 27-18. Mazanec hit her third and final basket of the contest, then the Lady Eagles beat the Lady Jays on a fast break and senior Zanae Baird hit her only basket of the game to cut



Norton freshman guard Laura Lee Baird dribbles toward the basket during the Lady Jays' 34-31 victory over the No. 5 state ranked Colby Lady Eagles here on Tuesday evening. Baird was second high scorer for Norton with 8 points.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the Norton lead to 27-22.

Norton senior guard Amber Overlease hit her only basket of the game to give the Lady Jays a little bit of breathing room. Colby was whistled for a technical foul and Baird hit a free throw to put Norton ahead 30-22 with one quarter remaining.

Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points. She missed all five trey tries but hit 4 of 7 two-point shots for 57 percent. Jones was also 4 of 5 from the free throw line for 80 percent.

Baird ended with 8 points. She hit just 1 of 6 long range tries but was 2 of 3 from two-point land for 67 percent and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Barnes was leading scorer for Colby with 8 points; Mazanec added 7.

As a team, Norton swished just 1 of 11 long range shots for 9 percent, hit 11 of 28 two-point tries for 39 percent and 12 of 39 overall for 31 percent.

Colby hit 1 of 3 treys for 33 percent, 10 of 32 two-point attempts

for 31 percent and 11 of 35 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 9 of 15 for 60 percent and the Lady Eagles swished 8 of 11 for 73 percent.

Norton had 8 offensive and 8 defensive rebounds for 16 total. Colby pulled down 8 offensive and 14 defensive boards for 22 total.

Ebert was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Cox, 4; Baird, 2; Newell, Overlease, Jones, 1 each.

Newell was all over the floor on defense and came up with 6 of the Lady Jays' 11 steals. Jones had 3 thefts, followed by Mann, Ebert, 1 each. Colby had just 3 steals.

Newell also had 3 of Norton's 5 assists. Mann and Jones had 1 each.

The Lady Jays suffered just 8 turnovers while causing the Lady Eagles to turn the ball over 19 times.

It was "Senior Night" and senior players, managers, cheerleaders, dance team and band members

were honored. The senior players are Whitney Newell, Chelsea Cox, Rachael Lentz, Klaire Mann, Amber Overlease, Becca Ebert and Amber Waggoner. Senior managers are Darci Darling and Chelle Donovan. Each handed their parents a flower.

Senior cheerleaders are Chelle Donovan, Amy Husted, Alyssa Kaus, Jaelyn Krueger and Danielle LeClair. Senior members of the dance team are Shelby Annon, Jessica Cook, Klaire Mann, Naomi Streck and Amber Waggoner.

Senior band members include Shelby Annon, Connie Gassmann, Rachael Lentz, Darci Darling, Chelsea Cox, Naomi Streck, Amanda Antrim and Klaire Mann.

### Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team edged Colby 37-36.

The score was tied 8-all after one quarter but Norton outscored Colby 17-2 in the second quarter to take a 25-10 halftime lead.

Colby outpointed Norton 16-4 in the third quarter to narrow the Lady Jay lead to 29-26 with one quarter of action remaining. The Lady Eagles outscored the Lady Jays 10-8 in the final stanza.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 8 points, followed by Katharine Roy, 7; Megan Kats, Kara Jo Jones, 6 each; Hayli Bozarth, 4; Taylor Rossi, Courtney Cox, Wiyanna Paxton, 2 each.

Paige Stephens and April Weaver led Colby in scoring with 8 each.

"Our junior varsity girls finished the season 11-2," said Coach Rossi.

"This was a fantastic game for us tonight. We came out full tilt in the first half and hung on in the second half for the win.

"These girls have a great work habit. They have done a great job of working the varsity in practices. And, the varsity has been fantastic in teaching these younger players and getting them ready to step up into the varsity shoes, which are huge shoes to fill."

### Norton C-Team wins

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton girls C-Team defeated Colby 34-10 in a two-quarter game to finish the season with a perfect 8-0 record.

Norton led 23-2 after one quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was

Taylor Rossi with 9 points, followed by Kylie Morel, 7; Kara Jo Jones, Hayli Bozarth, 6 each; Katharine Roy, 5; Wiyanna Paxton, 1.

Kayla Sloan led Colby in scoring with 4 points.

"Our girls had a tremendous victory over Colby to finish the season undefeated," said Coach Bolt.

"Our defensive pressure was quality and again we had nice rounded scoring.

"What a great year this was for these young ladies. Their press defense was top notch and they continued to improve offensively as the season progressed."

The Norton C-Team held their opponents to an average of 19 points per game while averaging 43 points per game.

"Our girls steadily improved all season and will have a great opportunity for a nice beginning next year.

"Thanks to all the parents and fans for your great support this year."

### Next action

Norton is seeded No. 1 in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament and received a first round bye since there are only seven teams in the tournament due to Salina St. John's Military not having a girls team.

Norton will play the winner of Tuesday's Riley County-Phillipsburg first round contest in the semi-finals on Friday.

### GAME STATISTICS

#### Norton girls 34

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	1	0	2-4
Chelsea Cox	2	0	0-0
Laura Lee Baird	2	1	1-2
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0
Becca Ebert	0	0	2-4
Karla Jones	4	0	4-5
TOTAL	11	19	15-34

#### Colby girls 31

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Rishonna Martin	1	0	0-0
Tasha Wagoner	0	0	2-2
Jessica Stephens	0	0	2-4
Paige Stephens	2	0	1-1
Brittany Kersenbrock	0	1	0-0
Ashley Barnes	3	0	2-2
Lissa Mazanec	3	0	1-2
Zanae Baird	1	0	0-0
TOTAL	10	18	11-31

# Norton boys lose 46-40 to a visiting Colby team Tuesday

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team played catchup and almost caught up several times late in the game before losing 46-40 to a visiting Colby quintet on Tuesday evening.

The Blue Jays trailed 4-0 in the opening minutes of the game, were behind 9-5 after one quarter and 16-13 at halftime. They were within one point at 22-21 with 3:10 remaining in the third quarter but Colby scored the final six points of the period to take a 28-21 lead into the final stanza.

Early in the fourth quarter, Norton had narrowed the Eagle advantage to 28-27 but fouls started to mount up on the Jays and Colby hit their free throws to pull away. The Eagles led by 12 points with 1:06 left but Norton outscored the visitors 9-3 in the last minute to cut the final margin of victory down to six points.

"We didn't play very well," said Norton Head Coach Doug Reusink.

"We basically played with no energy on the defensive end. Several times we were within one point but made some silly mistakes and they pulled out again.

"They've lost quite a few games but many of their losses were by just a few points and to good teams. They were a better team than their record but we still did not play well.

"We weren't very mentally tough and weren't playing with any confidence. On offense, we weren't taking the ball to the basket; we were playing too soft."

Norton did not score until 5:45 remained in the first quarter when sophomore guard Logan Kats allied on a jumper. The Blue Jays' only other first quarter points came on two free throws by junior center Nic Lewis and one charity by senior center Heath Vincent.

Colby junior Trey Barnett hit three baskets and a free throw for the Eagles in the first period and senior Nick Howard added a basket.

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To start the second quarter, Norton sophomore guard-center Jared Cox grabbed a rebound and scored, then Kats hit another jumper and it was 9-11 with 6:35 left. Lewis rebounded and scored to tie it at 11-11 with 5:15 left and Vincent hit a basket from the free throw line with 2:15 remaining to make it 13-11. Barnett scored with 35.4 seconds left and was fouled. He hit the free throw for an old-fashioned three-point play and 16-13 halftime lead for the Eagles.

Sophomore Ethan Stover and freshman Levi Schlick each hit their only baskets of the game for Colby in the second quarter.

Junior R.J. Ladenburger hit his first basket of the game for Colby to start the second half. Lewis hit a jumper for the Jays but Howard answered for the Eagles. Senior guard Nathan Morse hit a two-point basket for Norton and it was 20-17 with 4:58 left.

Howard hit his second basket of the half but Lewis rebounded and scored. With 3:10 remaining, Lewis stole the ball and drove the length of the court for two points to narrow the Colby lead to 22-21. Ladenburger grabbed a rebound and scored, was fouled in the process and hit the free throw for a three-point play. Stover hit a free throw and Howard got loose inside for two more points before the third period ended with Colby on top 28-21.

Norton got the fourth quarter off to a good start. Sophomore forward Wes Georgeson stole the ball and passed to Kats for a two-point basket. Kats was fouled but missed the free throw. Vincent was fouled with 6:09 left in the game and hit the first free throw but missed the second. Lewis got the rebound and scored and was also fouled. He went to the line and swished the charity for a three-point play that put the Jays just one point behind at 28-27.

Barnett had not scored in the second half after hitting 10 first half points. He was fouled and hit

the first two of 10 charities he was to make in the final stanza. A technical foul against Colby put Vincent at the charity stripe where he hit one to make it a 30-28 game. Ladenburger stole the ball and drove for two Colby points with 4:09 left. Barnett hit a free throw and junior Trevor Siebert hit two charities for his first points of the game and Colby led 35-28.

Lewis hit another field goal and was fouled. He missed the free throw. Junior Anthony Rohr hit a free throw for his only point of the game. Lewis was fouled while shooting and hit one of two charities to make the score 36-31. The Eagles reeled off seven straight points on four free throws by Barnett, two by Siebert and one by Ladenburger to extend their lead to 43-31 with 1:06 left.

Juenemann had not scored in the game but came up with some baskets in the final minute that cut the final margin of victory. He buried a three-point shot, rebounded and scored and hit another two-point basket for seven quick points. Norton freshman guard Matt Stanley hit a two-pointer at the buzzer for Norton to make it a six-point Colby victory.

Lewis led Norton in scoring with 16 points on 6 of 11 from the field for 55 percent and 4 of 6 free throws for 67 percent accuracy. Juenemann was second high scorer for Norton with 7 points on 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 2 of 5 two-point shots for 40 percent and 3 of 7 overall for 43 percent.

Leading scorer for Colby was Barnett with 20 points, 12 of them coming on free throws.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 7 long range attempts for 14 percent, 15 of 33 two-point tries for 45 percent and 16 of 40 overall for 40 percent.

Colby missed all three trey tries, hit 13 of 37 two-point attempts for 35 percent and was 13 of 40 overall for 33 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton converted 7 of 13 for 54 percent.

Colby hit 20 of 28 for 71 percent.

Norton was whistled for 24 fouls and Colby had 14 fouls.

Rebounding was fairly even. The Blue Jays pulled down 24 cars and the Eagles grabbed 23. Norton had 5 offensive and 19 defensive boards and Colby had 5 offensive and 18 defensive.

Lewis had another double-double as he pulled down 12 rebounds, followed by Juenemann, Vincent, 3 each; Georgeson, Cox, 2 each; Morse, Kats, 1 each.

Vincent blocked 4 shots and Morse rejected 1.

Norton had just 3 steals in the game. Kats, Georgeson and Lewis had 1 each.

Morse had 2 of Norton's 5 assists. Kats, Cox and Georgeson had 1 each.

The Blue Jays turned the ball over 8 times.

With the loss, Norton's season record dropped to 12-7. Colby improved to 5-15.

It was "Senior Night" and senior players, managers, cheerleaders, dance team and band members were honored. The senior players are Heath Vincent, Nathan Morse and Dane Krizek. Each handed their parents a flower.

Senior band members include Heath Vincent, Jake Kramer, Stephen Mizell and Joshua VanSlike.

### Junior varsity won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team completed their season with a 37-32 win over Colby.

Norton trailed 7-3 after one quarter but outscored Colby 17-6 in the second quarter to take a 20-13 halftime lead. The young Jays led 28-23 after three quarters.

Leading scorer for Norton was Logan Keiswetter with 16 points, followed by Preston Herman, 10; Wes Georgeson, Matt Stanley, 3 each; Blake Wolf, Logan Runnion, 2 each; Jared Cox, 1.

Stephen Dinkel was leading scorer for Colby with 9 points.

### Next action

Norton is seeded No. 3 in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament and will play No. 6 seed Bennington in the first round at 6 p.m. on Monday in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

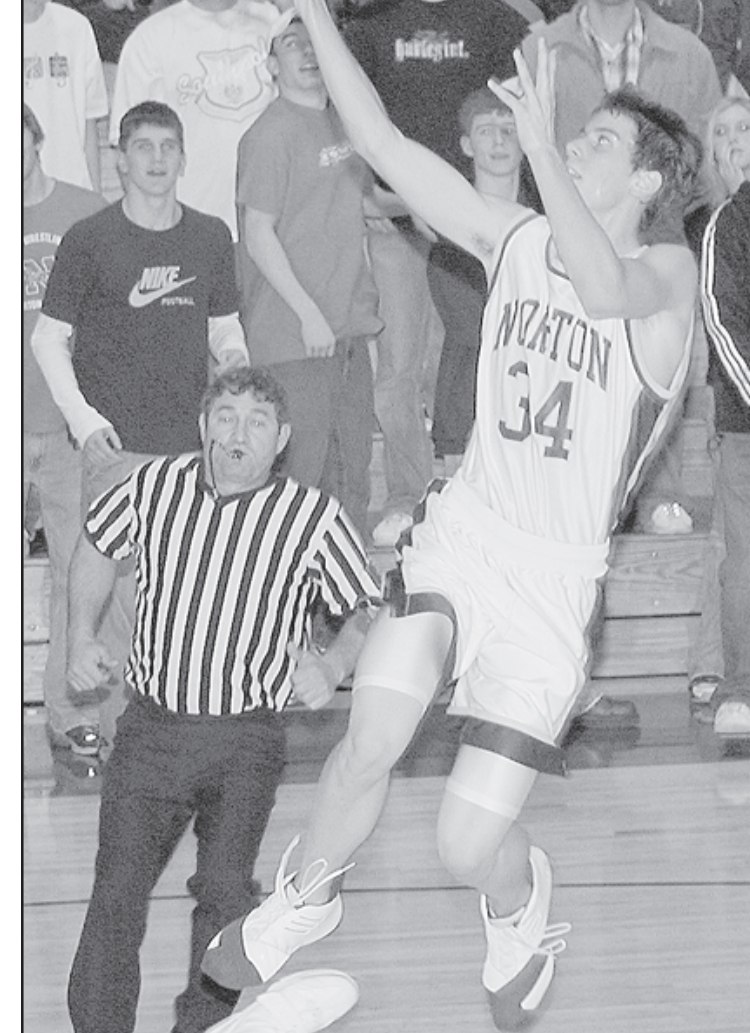
### GAME STATISTICS

#### Norton boys 40

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	1	0	0-0
Logan Kats	3	0	0-1
Brian Juenemann	2	1	0-0
Jared Cox	1	0	0-0

#### Colby boys 46

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Ethan Stover	1	0	1-2
Trevor Siebert	0	0	4-6
Trey Barnett	4	0	12-15
R.J. Ladenburger	3	0	2-3
Nick Howard	4	0	0-0
Levi Schlick	1	0	0-0
Anthony Rohr	0	0	1-2
TOTAL	13	0	20-28



Norton junior center Nic Lewis hits a layup after stealing the ball during the Blue Jays' game here Tuesday evening with Colby. Lewis had a double-double in the game with 16 points and 12 rebounds.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd