

Norton boys lose to Bennington in substate game

By DICK BOYD

The season ended suddenly for Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team on Monday evening when the No. 3 seeded Blue Jays suffered a one-point 45-44 loss to No. 6 seed Bennington in the Norton Community High School Memorial Gym.

Like any close basketball game, an extra basket or free throw by the losing team would have changed the outcome. As it was, the game was not decided until the final seconds when a missed Blue Jay shot kept Norton from advancing to the semi-finals of the tournament in Beloit.

Norton's season ended with a 12-8 record; Bennington advanced with an 11-10 record.

In other Monday boys games, No. 1 seed Riley County defeated No. 8 Salina St. John's Military 76-24, No. 5 seed Phillipsburg upset No. 4 seed Sacred Heart 75-69 and No. 2 seed Beloit outscored No. 7 seed Oberlin 69-43.

Riley County played Phillipsburg and Beloit played Bennington in the semi-finals last night.

On Monday night in Norton, the first half was very close with Bennington leading 10-9 after the first quarter and 18-17 at halftime. Bennington had a big 19-point third quarter and Norton scored 12 points to trail by 8 points at 37-29. But, the Blue Jays weren't finished and fought hard in the fourth quarter where they made up the deficit and even took a short-lived lead.

Norton started the final quarter on a positive note when Bennington was whistled for a technical foul and senior center Heath Vincent, Norton's most accurate free throw shooter, hit two charities. The ball was awarded to Norton and Vincent hit a turnaround shot to cut the Bennington lead to 37-33.

Junior guard Brian Juenemann buried a three-point shot for his first points of the game and Norton trailed by just 37-36. Chris Mann, one of eight seniors on the Bennington quintet, hit a free throw but Vincent hit another basket for Norton to tie the score at 38-38 all with 5:10 remaining.

Senior Trey Lynn answered with a basket from beyond the arc, his only basket of the game. Sophomore guard-center Jared Cox hit his only basket of the game and, with 3:38 left in the contest, Juenemann hit a two-point basket to put Norton ahead 42-41 as the Norton crowd roared their approval.

Senior Skyler Smith hit a basket

inside and Lynn hit a free throw to put Bennington ahead 44-42 had with 2:59 remaining. Juenemann was fouled and calmly swished both charities to knot the score at 44-all with 2:11 showing. Juenemann stole the ball and was fouled. This time, he went to the free throw line with 1:24 left on the clock and was unable to make the charity and break the tie.

The Bulldogs passed the ball around and worked for one final shot. With 4.8 seconds left, Mann shot and missed but was fouled. He stepped to the line and missed the first free throw attempt. His second try rippled the nets, however, giving the visitors the 45-44 lead. Norton called time out immediately. The Blue Jays threw the ball in bounds and called another time out so they could take the ball out of bounds at mid-court. Coach Reusink set up a final play and Norton threw the ball in bounds with 3.5 seconds remaining.

Sophomore guard Logan Kats, who had swished a buzzer-beater earlier in the season in Norton's win at Phillipsburg, got the final shot but it just missed and Bennington survived with the 45-44 victory.

In the opening quarter, Norton's 9 points came on a three-point basket by senior guard Nathan Morse, two two-point baskets by Vincent and a two-point basket by Kats.

Bennington's 10 points were scored by seniors Drew Rathbun and Taylor Copas, who both hit treys, and Mann and Skyler, who both hit two-point shots.

Both teams scored 8 points in the second quarter. Junior center Nic Lewis hit his first two baskets of the game, sophomore forward Wes Georgeson hit his only basket of the game and Vincent swished another basket.

For Bennington, Mann hit two baskets, senior Matt Monroe hit his only basket of the contest and Rathbun hit a two-pointer for his final points of the game.

Norton's 12 third quarter points came on a basket from beyond the arc and two-pointer by Morse, a long range basket by Kats and two-point baskets by Lewis and Vincent.

Mann hit three two-point baskets for Bennington in the third quarter, sophomore Wyatt Norris and Smith each hit a basket, Monroe hit two charities and senior Joe Freeman hit a free throw for his only point in the game but Copas gave the Bulldogs a real boost when he hit his second and third treys of the game in the final two minutes of the quarter. Norton held a slim 27-26 lead after Morse

scored with 4:11 left in the quarter but was outscored 11-2 the rest of the third period to trail by 8 points.

"We did not play very well offensively," said Coach Reusink. "We had a hard time putting the ball in the basket and that put pressure on our defense."

"Our effort was good but we didn't make plays when we needed to. They knocked down some threes at key times."

"I'm proud of our young men; they played hard but didn't get the win."

"Obviously, we'll miss our seniors Heath Vincent and Nathan Morse. You don't find many young men as committed who put in the time they've put in to be better players."

Vincent was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points on 6 of 9 field goal attempts for 67 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 free throws. Morse was second leading scorer with 8 points on two long range shots and one two-point field goal.

Mann led Bennington in scoring with 14 points.

As a team, Norton swished 4 of 16 three-point tries for 25 percent, 14 of 32 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 18 of 48 overall for 38 percent.



Norton senior center Heath Vincent put up a shot in the paint during Norton's 45-44 loss to Bennington in the substate tournament opener here on Monday evening.

Vincent ended his Norton career as leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 14 points.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

percent.

Bennington tallied on 5 of 14 from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 12 of 31 two-pointers for 39 percent and 17 of 45 overall for 38 percent

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 4 of 6 for 67 percent and the Bulldogs connected on 6 of 12 for 50 percent.

Norton grabbed 6 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 22 total. Bennington pulled down 6 offensive and 22 defensive caroms for 28 total.

Juenemann was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Georgeson, Lewis, 5 each; Kats, Vincent, 2 each; Morse, Cox, 1 each.

Juenemann had 4 of Norton's 6 steals. Morse and Vincent each had 1 theft.

The Blue Jays had 13 offensive assists. Morse was the leader with 5, followed by Kats, 4; Juenemann, 2; Lewis, Vincent, 1 each.

Norton had just 7 turnovers while causing Bennington to turn the ball over 10 times.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 44

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	1	2	0-0
Logan Kats	1	1	0-0
Brian Juenemann	1	1	2-3
Jared Cox	1	0	0-0
Wes Georgeson	1	0	0-1
Nic Lewis	3	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	6	0	2-2
TOTAL	14	4	4-6

Bennington boys 45

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Drew Rathbun	1	1	0-0
Trey Lynn	0	1	1-2
Taylor Copas	0	3	0-0
Chris Mann	6	0	2-5
Wyatt Norris	1	0	0-0
Joe Freeman	0	0	1-2
Matt Monroe	1	0	2-2
Skyler Smith	3	0	0-1
TOTAL	12	5	6-12



Blue Jay senior guard Nathan Morse shoots from beyond the arc during Norton's 45-44 substate tournament loss to Bennington here on Monday evening. Morse finished his Norton career by hitting two long range baskets and a two-point goal for 8 points. He was also assists leader with five.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls play tonight in Beloit substate tourney

The No. 1 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team will play No. 4 seeded Riley County in a 6 p.m. game tonight in the semifinals of the Class 3A Substate Basketball Tournament in Beloit.

In the second game at 7:30 p.m., No. 2 seeded Sacred Heart will play No. 3 seeded Beloit.

In the first round on Tuesday, Norton had a bye, Riley County defeated Phillipsburg 58-34, Sacred Heart outscored Bennington

64-31 and Beloit outpointed Oberlin 57-44.

Tonight's winners will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Beloit for the substate championship and a berth in the Class 3A State Tournament next week in Hutchinson.

SNOOKER LEAGUE

Longshot Bar & Grill of Phillipsburg beat The Office of Stockton, 8-6 in Northwest Kansas Snooker League Tournament action on March 1.

Here are the league standings (team/matches played/matches won-matches lost/games won-games lost/percent of games won):

- Longshot — 15, 12, 3, 123, 67, 64.74 percent
- The Office — 16, 11, 5, 126, 78, 61.76 percent
- Golden Q — 15, 77, 8, 83, 102, 44.86 percent
- Websters — 14, 0, 14, 43, 128, 25.15 percent

Locations of teams: Longshot, Phillipsburg; The Golden Q, Hays; The Office, Stockton; and Websters, Stockton.

Danny Heller and Bob Hoover, Norton, played on the Longshot team.

Norton softball player to receive scholarship

Danielle LeClair of Norton is the recipient of a \$500 Commissioner's Scholarship from the Kansas Amateur Softball Association, Inc.

She will receive her scholarship during the annual Kansas ASA

Awards Banquet on Sat., March 18 at the Holiday Inn Holidome, 605 SW Fairlawn, Topeka.

Also to be honored will be other scholarship recipients, Hall of Fame inductees, Dale Wilson umpire selections and more.

Kansas ASA is a non profit, volunteer membership organization that offers softball and baseball competition, certification and instruction for youth and adult teams from competitive to recreational levels.

Elmwood Park Speedway announces schedule

- March 11, Play Day, 3 to 5 p.m.;
- March 12, Sunday, 3 p.m.;
- April 1, 6 p.m.;
- April 15, 6 p.m.;
- April 22, 6 p.m.;
- May 6, May 27
- June 10, June 24
- July 8, July 15

- July 29, Fair; July 30, Fair, Sunday, 6:30 p.m.;
- Aug. 19
- Sept. 16, Sept. 23, 6:30 p.m.;
- All races held on Saturday night starting at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Classes are IMCA Modifieds, IMCA Stock Cars, IMCA Hobby Stocks, and Cruisers.

For more information, contact promoters Don and Paula Bolt at 785-678-2416.

EARLY DEADLINES...

for the
Country Advocate for the Week of March 20.
 Display ad and word ad deadlines will be
noon on Thurs., March 16.
THIS IS ONE DAY EARLY!

Our staff will be at a training session on Friday



The Country Advocate

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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