

Blue Jay basketball boys crush Osborne 68-40

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team extended their season record to 5-1 with a solid 68-40 Mid-Continent League victory at Osborne on Friday night.

The Blue Jays dominated the Bulldogs in the first, third and fourth quarters and played them even in the second. Senior Jared Engelbert scored 16 points from the perimeter and senior Nic Lewis and junior Wes Georgeson added 16 and 19 points, respectively, in the paint.

"This was a good win for us on the road," said coach Reusink.

"I thought we played well at times but not very consistent, especially in the second quarter.

"It was good to see three boys in double figures scoring but our free throw shooting was terrible, which could cost us down the road in close games."

The Jays connected on 52 percent from the field but hit only 36 percent from the charity stripe.

With Engelbert, Lewis and Georgeson all finding the range, Norton took a 19-14 lead by the end of the first quarter. Norton outscored 10-8 in the second quarter to make it a 27-24 game at halftime.

The Blue Jays outscored the

Bulldogs 21-8 in the third quarter, however, to extend their lead to 48-32. A 20-8 fourth quarter in favor of Norton increased the final margin of victory to 28 points.

Georgeson left the nets smoking as he hit 8 of 11 shots from the field for 73 percent accuracy and was a perfect 3 of 3 from the free throw line for 19 total points.

Lewis was just as hot from the field as he burned the nets for 80 percent shooting on 8 of 10 shots hit. He missed all four free throws, however, and ended with 16 points.

Engelbert buried 4 of 14 shots from beyond the arc for 29 percent, hit 2 of 2 from two-point range for 100 percent and was 6 of 16 overall for 38 percent and 16 points. He missed his only free throw try.

Josh Worley was leading scorer for Osborne with 13 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 18 trey tries for 22 percent, 24 of 36 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 28 of 54 overall for 52 percent.

Osborne connected on just 1 of 14 from beyond the arc for 7 percent, 16 of 27 two-point tries for 60 percent and 17 of 41 overall for 44 percent.

The Blue Jays hit just 8 of 22 from the charity stripe for 36 percent compared to 5 of 12 for 42 percent by the Bulldogs.

The rebounding battle was about even. Norton pulled down 10 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 24 total and Osborne grabbed 8 offensive and 15 defensive caroms for 23 total.

Logan Kats was leading rebounder for Norton with 5, followed by Georgeson, 4; Lewis, 4; Engelbert, 3; Blake Wolf, 3; Jared Cox, 2; Kaenon Keiswetter, 1; Landon Hamel, 1; Preston Herman, 1.

The Blue Jays had 8 steals in the game. Kats led with 3, followed by Lewis, 2; Engelbert, Keiswetter, Wolf, 1 each.

Norton recorded 11 assists. Kats and Brian Juenemann led with 3 each, followed by Cox, 2; Engelbert, Keiswetter, Hamel, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had just 7 turnovers while causing the Bulldogs to turn the ball over 14 times.

Kats and Lewis each drew 1 charge.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost a close 32-30 contest to Osborne.

Norton led 8-2 after the first quarter and 10-8 at halftime but the Bulldogs outscored the Blue Jays 13-7 in the third quarter to take a 21-17 advantage. A 13-11 fourth quarter in Norton's favor just fell short of a victory.

J.D. Gall led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Landon Hamel, 6; Zac Dreher, 5; Jared Cox, 4; Marcus Herman, 3; Ashton Draper, 2; Preston Herman, 2.

Next action

Norton will play Trego Community at WaKeeney on Friday, beginning at 4:45 p.m. Varsity and junior varsity games will be played. The boys junior varsity game will be played in the auxiliary gym and the girls junior varsity game will be in the main gym.

The girls varsity game is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. and the boys varsity game for 8 p.m., both in the main gym.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 68

Jared Engelbert 2 4 0-1 16; Kaenon Keiswetter 1 0 0-2; Logan Kats 2 0 0-2 4; Brian Juenemann 0 0 2-4 2; Blake Wolf 1 0 0-2 2; Jared Cox 0 0 3-4 3; Wes Georgeson 8 0 3-3 19; Nic Lewis 8 0 0-4 16; Zac Dreher 2 0 0-2 4; Total 24 4 8-22 68.

Osborne boys 40

Eric Mans 1 0 2-5 4; Andrew Conway 1 0 0-2; Landon Wolters 1 0 0-2 2; Perry Curry 0 0 0-1 0; Marcus Johnston 3 1 0-0 9; Ike Sumpter 1 0 0-2; Devin Spears 4 0 0-0 8; Josh Worley 5 0 3-4 13; Total 16 1 5-12 40.



Norton's Nic Lewis got loose inside for this basket during the Blue Jays' 68-40 Mid-Continent League victory over Osborne. Lewis scored 16 points. Osborne's Ryan Sturgeon is the defender.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Tough loss for girls on the road

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls basketball team traveled to Osborne on Friday night to play the undefeated and No. 2 state ranked Lady Bulldogs and suffered a 52-22 Mid-Continent League loss.

The Lady Jays stayed close in the first half but were overwhelmed in the second half. The first quarter ended with Osborne on top by just 10-7. Then, a 14-9 second quarter in favor of Osborne made it 24-16 at intermission.

Coach Kevin Jilka's girls still had plenty of time to rally for the win but a shooting and rebounding drought in the second half did them in.

Norton hit just one field goal in the third quarter which ended with Osborne on top 36-19.

It didn't get any better in the fourth stanza when Norton was outscored 16-3.

"I knew they were good but I didn't think they were 30 points better than us," said coach Jilka, who saw his girls' early season record fall to 4-2.

"The biggest negative in the game was that they outrebounded us badly. You just can't give up 36 rebounds in a game. We hung around in the first half and missed some easy shots or it would have been closer. As the game wore on in the second half, we became in-

timidated and lost our confidence.

"We didn't play as well as we've been playing. We're better than that.

"We've got to put this game behind us and be ready to play Friday at Trego. We're a young team. I'm anxious to see how we will react after this loss. I expect us to bounce back."

Sophomore guard Taylor Rossi was leading scorer for Norton with 9 points, all from beyond the arc. She hit 3 of 4 long range shots for 75 percent accuracy and took just one from two-point range and missed it. Sophomore guard Laura Lee Baird hit 6 points on 3 of 4 two-point shots for 75 percent. She took four trey tries and missed on all of them.

Leading scorer for Osborne was senior guard Jannice Schultze with 19 points. Coming into the game, she was the fourth leading scorer in the *Salina Journal* area with a 21.1 points per game average. She was averaging 54 percent accuracy from the field.

Junior guard Tracey Mans scored 11 points and junior guard Demi French hit 9. French entered the game averaging 13 points per game and hitting 48 percent from the field.

As a team, Norton hit just 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 6 of 22 two-point tries for 27 percent and 9 of 33 overall for 27

percent. Osborne connected on 2 of 7 long range shots for 29 percent, 20 of 51 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 22 of 58 overall for 38 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit just 1 of 3 for 33 percent. The Lady Bulldogs were 6 of 13 from the charity stripe for 48 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 36-19. The Lady Jays pulled down 4 offensive and 15 defensive caroms while the Lady Bulldogs grabbed 15 offensive and 21 defensive boards.

Sophomore Hayli Bozarth led Norton in rebounding with 6. She was followed by KaraJo Jones, 4; Ashley Colip, 3; Maggie Nielsen and Megan Kats, 2 each; Taylor Rossi and Laura Lee Baird, 1 each.

Norton had 4 steals but Osborne and Kats each had 1 theft.

The Lady Jays were credited with 8 assists compared to 9 for Osborne. Rossi and Jones each had 2 while Katharine Roy, Baird, Kats and Bozarth each had 1.

Norton had 23 turnovers and Osborne gave up the ball just 8 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity lost their game with Osborne by a 36-15 score.

Osborne held quarter leads of 9-4, 14-8 and 25-10.

Amanda Ray was leading scorer for the Lady Jays with 7 points, followed by Ashlie Stewart, 5; Lacy Keilig, 2; Austine Dole, 1.

Katie Wolters was leading scorer for Osborne with 14 points. Stephanie Plowman added 8.

"This was a disappointing loss tonight," said Norton coach George Rossi.

"We did not play with the intensity that is expected. I truly believe that we are capable of better things.

"We need to learn discipline and how to play Lady Blue Jay basketball."

Next action

Norton will play varsity and junior varsity games versus Trego Community in WaKeeney on Friday, beginning at 4:45 p.m. with the girls junior varsity game in the main gym and the boys junior varsity game in the auxiliary gym.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 22

Katharine Roy 0 0 1-2 1; Taylor Rossi 0 3 0-9; Laura Lee Baird 3 0 0-0 6; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 2 0 0-1 4; Total 6 3 1-3 22.

Osborne girls 52

Demi French 3 1 0-2 9; Tracey Mans 4 1 0-0 11; Jannice Schultze 8 0 3-6 19; Paige Noel 2 0 2-3 6; Tana Spears 3 0 1-2 7; Total 20 2 6-13 52.

Norton boys second seed in tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team is seeded No. 2 and the girls quintet is seeded No. 5 in the upcoming Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament.

In order to accommodate the nine league teams in the eight-team bracket, a feather bracket game will be held in boys and girls divisions on Saturday.

Boys

No. 1 seed in the boys division is Hill City (6-0). The Ringnecks will play the winner of Saturday's feather bracket game between No. 8 Ellis (2-6) and No. 9 Plainville (0-7) at 7 p.m. on Monday in Hill City.

The feather bracket game will be played at 8 p.m. on Saturday in Ellis.

In other first round games on Monday, No. 2 Norton (5-1) will host No. 7 Stockton (3-4), No. 3 Phillipsburg (5-2) will host No. 6 Osborne (5-3) and No. 4 Trego (6-3) will host No. 5 Smith Center (5-3).

All first round games will be at 7 p.m. and will be at the school with the higher seeding.

Winners of the Norton-Stockton and Phillipsburg-Osborne con-

tests will play in the championship semi-finals at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Winners of the Hill City-Ellis/Plainville winner and Trego-Smith Center games will play in the championship semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Losers of the Norton-Stockton and Phillipsburg-Osborne games will play in the consolation semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced. Losers of the Hill City-Ellis/Plainville and the Trego-Smith Center contests will play in the consolation semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

Winners of the championship semi-finals will play for the championship at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum and the losers will play for third place at 4:30 p.m. in Gross Coliseum.

Winners of the consolation semi-finals will play at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in Gross Coliseum for fifth. Losers will play at 10:30 a.m. in Gross Coliseum for seventh.

Girls

On Tuesday in Osborne, No. 1 seeded Osborne (8-0) will play the winner of the No. 8 Hill City (2-4) vs. No. 9 Stockton (1-6) feather

bracket game, which will be Saturday at 6:30 p.m. in Ellis.

Other first round games on Tuesday will be: No. 4 Trego (6-3) vs. No. 5 Norton (4-2); No. 3 Phillipsburg (5-2) vs. No. 6 Ellis (5-3) and No. 2 Smith Center (6-2) vs. No. 7 Plainville (4-3).

All first round games will be held at 7 p.m. at the school with the highest seeding.

The first round winners of the Osborne-Hill City/Stockton winner and the Trego-Norton games will play in the championship semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gross Coliseum.

Winners of the Phillipsburg-Ellis and Smith Center-Plainville contests will play in the championship semi-finals at 3 p.m. on Friday in Gross Coliseum.

Losers of the Osborne-Hill City/Stockton and the Trego-Norton games will play in the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced. Losers of the Phillipsburg-Ellis and Smith Center-Plainville contests will play in the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

Championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum. Championship semi-finals

losers will play at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for third place.

The winners of the consolation semi-finals will play at 12 noon on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for fifth. The losers of the consolation semi-finals will play at 9 a.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for seventh.

Other information

A plaque will be awarded to the boys and girls tournament champion teams. Twelve individual medals will be awarded to the top three teams in both boys and girls divisions.

Admission to games at home sites will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Admission for games at Gross Memorial Coliseum will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Smith Center High School is the host school

C-team wins tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School Lady Jays won the championship of the C-Team Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

They defeated Hill City 45-19 in their opener, then outscored Smith Center 38-30 to win the championship.

Phillipsburg defeated Hill City for third place.

"Once our girls realized they were capable of a hard, deny defense against Hill City, they pretty much controlled the game," said coach Joan Bolt.

"We also had our best showing of our zone offense thus far."

Norton held quarter leads of 16-4, 30-8 and 36-12.

"The game with Smith Center in the championship finals was a

tougher game for us," said coach Bolt.

"We made some early silly fouls that allowed Smith Center to stay with us. We had trouble adjusting defensively and Smith Center came within three points of us in the middle of the fourth quarter before we notched up the defense and took back control of the game."

Norton held quarter leads of 7-6, 17-10 and 28-19.

"Our posts are going to be working hard on catching the ball and finishing their shots so they can be more competitive on offense," said coach Bolt.

"Our girls are continuing to learn. The biggest lesson so far is to play hard all the time.

"It will pay off in the end," the coach said.

Norton AYSO Soccer

Region #1365 announces the start of the 2007 Spring Soccer registration.

Both registration sessions will be held at the Prairie Land Electric basement located at 1101 W. Hwy 36. Registrations received after January 27 will be placed on a waiting list. The first game will be on March 31.



The early registration will be held on: **Fri., Jan. 12, 5-8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 13, 2-6 p.m.**

The cost for the early registration is \$30 per child

Final registration will be held on: **Saturday, January 27, 2-6 p.m.**

The cost for the final registration is \$35 per child

Norton AYSO Soccer would also like to thank all of the players for their fundraising efforts and congratulate the 2006 winners:
FIRST PLACE; CADE DOUGHERTY
 Son of Travis and Michelle Hogan, and Paul and Nicole Brungardt
SECOND PLACE; SHAYD DICKS
 Son of Amy Dicks
THIRD PLACE; BREVEN SONDERGAARD
 Son of Ed and Tanya Temmel

We are in need of volunteers to fill several board positions as well as coaches and referees. Please consider donating your time and talents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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