

Tough loss for Blue Jay ladies vs. Oberlin

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls basketball squad lost a hard fought 56-51 game to Oberlin on Thursday in Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The Lady Red Devils took a 16-8 lead after one quarter. Sophomore guard Laura Lee Baird hit Norton's only two baskets in the first period and also added two free throws. Norton's other points came on two free throws by sophomore post Hayli Bozarth.

The Lady Jays outscored Oberlin 12-9 in the second quarter and trailed by just 25-20 at half-time. Bozarth scored most of Norton's second period points as she connected for four baskets and a free throw. Baird hit her third basket of the night and sophomore post KaraJo Jones swished a free throw.

Oberlin edged Norton 12-9 in the third quarter. Baird hit a three-point and two-point basket and two charities, Jones hit her first basket of the night and Norton trailed 37-29.

The Lady Jays didn't give up but played their best offensive basketball of the night in the fourth quarter when they hit 22 points. Unfortunately, Oberlin connected for 19 points to hold off the Norton rally.

The Lady Jays hit four three-point baskets in the fourth quarter. Baird hit three of them and sophomore guard Taylor Rossi hit another. Bozarth hit two more field goals and Jones added another. Baird and Jones each hit two free throws in the final stanza.

"We just didn't play good enough defense to win," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "You can't give up 56 points and

expect to win. "Offensively, we struggled early in shooting the ball but, as the game went along, we did a much better job of moving the basketball and getting good shots.

"Oberlin is a fine ball club and played extremely well. They deserve a lot of credit.

"Our girls fought to the end. We were down 12 in the middle of the fourth quarter and had a chance to tie but just couldn't get a basket. But, our effort was great. We need this kind of effort all the time.

"We will take some time off and be ready to go Tuesday against Smith Center. It should be a good one."

Baird ended the game with 26 points. She hit 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 4 of 13 two-point attempts for 31 percent and 8 of 21 overall for 38 percent.

Bozarth scored 15 points on 6 of 8 from the field for a net-smoking 75 percent and a perfect 3 of 3 charities.

L. Fortin led Oberlin with 19 points; T. Dorshorst and E. Pauls each hit 12.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 5 of 17 from long range for 29 percent, 12 of 30 two-point tries for 40 percent and 17 of 47 overall for 36 percent.

Oberlin swished 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 18 of 34 two-point attempts for 53 percent and 21 of 46 overall for 46 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays swished 12 of 17 for 71 percent and the Lady Red Devils connected on 11 of 15 for 73 percent.

Both teams had 9 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 19 to-

tal. The Norton leader was Bozarth with 7, followed by Jones, 5; Baird, 4; Rossi, Ashley Colip, Maggie Nielsen, 1 each.

Norton had 11 steals compared to 6 for Oberlin. Bozarth had 4 thefts, followed by Jones, 3; Rossi, 2; Baird, Megan Kats, 1 each.

The Lady Jays were credited with 13 assists and the Lady Red Devils with 12. Rossi led with 6, followed by Kats, 4; Baird, 2; Bozarth, 1.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Oberlin gave up the ball 14 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated Oberlin 40-26.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-5, 28-14 and 28-20.

Ashlie Stewart led the young Lady Jays with 15 points, followed by Kaitlyn Wolf, 8; Amanda Ray, 7; Lacy Keilig, 4; Shelby Jones, Hannah Waggoner, Bethany Roy, 2 each.

L. Sheaffer was the scoring leader for Oberlin with 10.

"This was an important victory for us," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"We needed to show that the win over Goodland was not a fluke.

"Our girls are doing a good job of working together and being aggressive. They have been showing this in practice and now they have transferred it to the game floor."

Next action

Norton will travel to Smith Center today to play in C-team, junior varsity and varsity games, beginning at 4 p.m.

BOX SCORE:

Norton Girls 51
Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 4 4 6-8 26; Maggie Nielsen 0 0 0-2 0; KaraJo Jones 2 0 3-4 7; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 3-3 15; Total 12 5 12-17 51.

Oberlin Girls 56

W. Ashley 1 1 0-0 5; L. Fortin 4 2 5-7 19; S. Murray 2 0 0-0 4; L. Ream 1 0 0-0 2; H. Williams 1 0 0-0 2; T. Dorshorst 4 0 4-5 12; E. Pauls 5 0 2-3 12; Total 18 3 11-15 56.

Husky junior high boys remain unbeaten, 8-0

The Northern Valley Junior High A-team boys remain unbeaten at 8-0, thanks to a 47-35 whipping of Damar on Jan. 25.

The Huskies were in front 13-7 at the end of the first period; 22-13 at half; and 37-25 at the end of three. Both teams rattled the nets for 10 points in the fourth.

Colton Lowry led the Northern Valley charge with 13 points and Dusty Eagleburger also hit in double digits with 10.

Others breaking into the scoring column were Austin Herman with 7, Bryant Tharman 6, Zac Vincent

4, Brian Siard 3 and Skyler Harris and Caleb Bach with 2 each.

The Huskies also won the B-team game 24-13, to improve their record to 5-1.

Gunnar Hays scored 8, Caleb Bach 4, Tyson Callaway 3, Calen Bach, Skyler Harris, Nate Land and Zane Miller, all with 2, and Matt Dole 1.

Coach Cole said: "The A-team boys had their best offensive game of the season. They ran their fast break offense extremely well in the first quarter. They played very well as a team, finding the open

man for an easy shot."

The Huskies will finish the regular season with a home game on Feb. 1 against Logan.

The Girls

The Northern Valley Junior High A-team girls fell to 1-6 with a 31-18 defeat at the hands of Damar on Jan. 25.

The Huskies went 4-6-2-6 for their 18 points and Damar 8-10-7-6 for their 31 points.

Scoring for the Huskies were Staci Dole with 14, Erika Chandler 2 and Kayla Field 2.

The B-team girls picked up a

decisive 14-2 victory in a two-quarter contest. Northern Valley popped in 6 points in the first quarter and 8 in the second. Damar scored its 2 points in the first quarter and went scoreless in the second.

Scoring for the Huskies were Kenzi Husted with 8, Melissa Hawks 2, Kynzie Stevens 2 and Regan Simpson 2.

The B-team's record is 3-4.

Coach Largent offered these comments: "The girls played very hard and we did some things well; however, in the end our lack of size and our inability to rebound proved to be too much to overcome. We got good looks at the basket and the shots just didn't fall. The B-team girls have won two games in a row and continue to improve."

Logan Trojan update

The Logan Trojan Junior High boys basketball team avenged an early season loss with a lopsided 43-26 win over Kensington on Jan. 25 at home.

After shooting poorly in the first half and trailing 17-16 at the break, the Trojans held the Goldbugs to 2 points in the third period, taking a 26-19 lead. The Trojans then sealed the victory with a 17-7 fourth quarter output.

Mark Pakkebieb had a game-high 23 points for the Trojans. Sean Newlan had 6, Jordan Girard and Brady Tien 4 each, and Thomas Oles and Tracy Archer each bagged 2.

The Trojans are now 5-5 overall and hosted Eastern Heights in a makeup game Monday. They travel to Long Island to play Northern Valley on Feb. 1.

The B-team lost 39-20. A 14-point fourth quarter made up part of the 32-6 third quarter deficit. Newlan scored 8 points, Tracy Archer and Trever Archer 4 apiece, Dalton Schneider 2, and Gage LeRoux and Coy Leggett each had 1 point.

Becker 2 apiece. **Rebounds:** Buss 11, Reese 7, Morris 6, Gaines 5, Sammons and Whitney Mulder 3

each, Zillinger 2 and Christina Benton 1. **Steals:** Sammons 5, Morris 4, Reese 3 and Gaines 1.

Girls' action

The Logan Junior High A-Team girls defeated Damar 32-30, but lost to Kensington 29-25 in their latest two outings, Jan. 21 and Jan. 25, respectively. Here are the stats for those two games:

Vs. Damar
Scoring: Caley Greving 15, Samantha Tien 6, Alethea Bennett 4, Hannah Pinkerton 4 and Kacey Braun 3. **Rebounds:** Greving 8, Bennett 6, Tien 6, Pinkerton 5 and Braun 1. **Steals:** Pinkerton 8, Greving 3, and Bev Sammons and Tien 1 each. **Assist leader:** Sammons 1.

Vs. Kensington
Scoring: Greving 14, Bennett 4, Tien 3, and Sammons and Pinkerton 2 each. **Rebounds:** Greving and Bennett 8 apiece, Pinkerton 7, Tien 6, Braun 3 and Sammons 2. **Steals:** Pinkerton 4, Tien 3 and Greving and Sammons 2 each. **Assist leaders:** Tien, Sammons and Greving 2 apiece.

The B-Team beat Damar 14-6 and lost to Kensington 21-17. Here are the stats:

Vs. Damar
Scoring: Paige Buss 8, Kaylene Reese 2, Val Morris 2 and Sammons 2. **Rebounds:** Reese 6, Buss 4, Amy Zillinger 1 and Katie Becker 1. **Steals:** Morris 3, Buss 2, and Reese, Sammons and Marci Gaines 1 each. **Assist leader:** Morris 1.

Vs. Kensington
Scoring: Sammons 5, Buss and Reese 4 each, and Morris and

Junior high wrestling tourney set for Saturday

Eight area schools will be represented on Saturday, Feb. 3 when the Norton Junior High School Wrestling Tournament gets underway.

In addition to Norton, the other schools are Atwood, Colby, Hill City, Hoxie, Oakley, Osborne and Smith Center.

The day's action is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. in Stull Gymnasium and run straight through using three mats.

Trophies will be awarded to the top three teams.

Medals will be presented to the top four placers in each of the brackets.

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Grandma Julie and Grandpa George,
WE LOVE YOU!
Love, Billy, Susan, Mary, Zach, Charlie, Emily and Sarah




Chris,
Everytime I look at you, my heart skips a beat!
I Love You! - Love Annie



Melissa,
Your love gives me the feeling that the best is still ahead. I love you so much honey!
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Jennifer,
Happy Valentine's Day! You are such a great friend and I'm so happy that we can count on each other.
Friends forever!
Love, Megan



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