

# Blue Jay basketball boys, girls give fans lots to cheer about

## Boys close out season with 14-7 mark

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team had another outstanding, winning season in 2006-07.

Playing with six returning lettermen, three of whom were starters, the Blue Jays placed third in the season-opening Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland, second in the Mid-Continent League Tournament and tied for second in the league race in compiling a 14-7 record.

Returning lettermen who were starters were: Nic Lewis, 6-foot-3-inch senior forward; Brian Juenemann, 5'10" senior guard and Logan Kats, 5'8" junior guard. The other returning lettermen were Jared Engelbert, 6' senior guard; Jared Cox, 6' junior guard and Wes Georgeson, 6'3" junior forward.

Assistant coaches again this season were David Stover and Todd Fulton. Student managers were Kayleigh Brooks, Ashley Maybon, Hannah Fulton and Emily Juenemann.

The Blue Jays played Colby in their opening Topside Tipoff contest on Thursday, Dec. 7 and were edged 47-45. A Norton three-point try missed at the buzzer. In the semi-finals, Norton defeated Weskan 58-38, then outscored McCook 52-44 to win the consolation championship.

Norton got the Mid-Continent League race off to a good start with a 40-31 win over Phillipsburg in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton on Friday, Dec. 15, then traveled to Stockton on Saturday and returned with a 52-39 victory.

The new year was scheduled to begin on January 2 with a game in Norton versus Oberlin but the weather caused a postponement to January 25. On Friday, Jan. 5, the Blue Jays won their third league game in a row with a 68-40 victory at Osborne. Their first league loss came by a 52-48 score to Trego Community on Friday, Jan. 12 in WaKeeney. Two three-point baskets by a Golden Eagle in the final minute led to the defeat.

The Mid-Continent League Tournament got underway on

Monday, Jan. 15 with No.2 seed Norton besting No.7 Stockton 65-49 in Norton. In Friday's semi-finals in Hays, the Blue Jays outscored No.6 seed Osborne 54-34. Saturday's championship finals were postponed until Monday, Jan. 22, due to inclement weather. Norton lost a hard-fought game to Smith Center by a 57-41 score to place second.

Norton returned home to defeat Goodland 46-31 on Tuesday, Jan. 23. The Blue Jays played one of their better games, hitting 61 percent from the field and 78 percent from the free throw line.

The makeup game with Oberlin was held on Thursday, Jan. 25 and the Norton boys produced a 58-39 victory in Norton. On Tuesday, Jan. 30, the Blue Jays traveled to Smith Center in hopes of avenging the MCL tourney finals loss but it wasn't to be. The Redmen hit 16 of 20 free throws in the fourth quarter en route to a 57-52 victory.

On Friday, Feb. 2, Norton hosted Hill City and defeated the Ringnecks 51-40 to extend their record to 10-4. The Blue Jays trav-

eled to Oberlin on Tuesday, Feb. 6 and defeated the Red Devils 63-40. On Friday, Norton hosted Atwood, another team from the Northwest Kansas League, and found the going much tougher. The Jays had to rally to tie the score at the end of regulation, then lost 64-59 in overtime.

Storms on Tuesday, Feb. 13, caused a game at Hoxie to be canceled.

On Thursday, Feb. 15, Norton ran their league record to 5-2 and overall record to 12-5 with a 70-45 league win over a visiting Ellis quintet. Norton defeated a visiting Plainville team 60-47 on Senior Night, Monday, Feb. 19.

The Blue Jays traveled to Colby the next night and Norton was defeated 62-34 by an excellent Eagle team.

Class 3A Substate Tournament play began on Monday, Feb. 26 and No. 2 seed Norton defeated No.7 Oberlin in Norton by a 55-33 score. On Friday, March 2, Norton traveled to Phillipsburg to play the No.3 seed Panthers. This time, Phillipsburg hit only two baskets in the fourth quarter but swished 10 of 12 free throws to outscore the Blue Jays 58-52 and end their season.

"Defensively, we played solid all season but were not very consistent on the offensive end," coach Reusink told the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

"They were a fun group to work with. We'll miss our seniors. They are good young men on and off the floor. They are great individuals and good leaders.

"We do have a good nucleus coming back so that's something to which we can look forward."

### Season statistics

As a team, Norton averaged 53.5 points per game this season compared to 45.1 by opponents. The Blue Jays hit 43.8 percent of their field goal tries and opponents swished 35.4 percent.

Norton connected on 56.5 percent from the charity stripe compared to 66 percent by opponents.

The Blue Jays had 190 steals on defense for an average of 9 per game. The Norton defense caused 321 opponent turnovers for 15 per contest. The Blue Jays had 285 offensive assists which is 13.6 per game.

Norton outrebounded opponents an average of 26 to 24.7.

Nic Lewis was leading scorer, leading rebounder and blocked the most shots for the Blue Jays this

season. Lewis averaged 13.5 points per game, pulled down an average of 5.7 rebounds per contest and rejected 33 opponents' shots. He also led the Norton quintet in shooting percentage with 58.8 percent accuracy.

Second leading scorer was Logan Kats with 9.9 per game, followed by Wes Georgeson, 9.4 and Jared Engelbert, 9.3. Engelbert was the best free throw shooter with a 76.9 percent average and best two-point shooter with 73.9 percent accuracy. Kats hit 75 percent from the free throw line and Georgeson hit 66.7 percent. Georgeson was second high in field goal percentage at 54.4 percent.

Georgeson was second in rebounding with a 4.4 per game average and Blake Wolf followed with a 4.2 average.

Engelbert grabbed 3.7 rebounds per contest. Georgeson and Wolf each blocked 13 shots. Kats took 11 charges and also led the team in steals with 52 and assists with 112. Juenemann had 32 steals, Georgeson 28 and Engelbert 26 thefts.

Engelbert had 54 assists and Juenemann 47.

## Girls pocket 13-7 record for season

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka had three returning letter winners and no returning starters on the 2006-07 Norton Community High School girls basketball team but the Lady Jays still compiled an excellent 13-7 season record.

In addition to their outstanding record, the Norton girls placed third in the 18th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland to open the season, placed second in the Mid-Continent League race and third in the league tournament in Hays.

Returning letter winners were Maggie Nielsen, 5-foot-8-inch senior post; Megan Kats, 5'3" junior guard and Laura Lee Baird, 5'9" sophomore guard.

Assistant coaches again this season were George Rossi and Joan Bolt. Student managers were Liberty Stephens, Allie Corbin and Kelsey Nuzum.

The Lady Jays opened the season with a solid 55-47 win over Sharon Springs in the Topside Tipoff opener on Thursday, Dec. 7. In the semi-finals, they lost a hard-fought 46-44 game to Northwest Kansas League foe Goodland, then won third place with a 50-43 victory over Ottawa. The Lady Jay defense limited Ot-

tawa to 27 percent shooting.

On Friday, Dec. 15, Norton defeated a visiting Phillipsburg team by a tight 47-44 score to open the Mid-Continent League race with a win. The next night, Saturday, Dec. 16, the Lady Jays traveled to Stockton and returned with an impressive 56-27 win and extended their record to 4-1.

Oberlin of the Northwest Kansas League was next on the schedule but Old Man Winter had something to say about that and the contest was postponed until January 25.

The sophomore-dominated Lady Jay quintet's next game was a tough one Friday, Jan. 5 at Osborne, where the Lady Bulldogs were ranked No.2 in the state in Class 2A. The result was a 52-22 loss. Still smarting from the Osborne defeat, Norton traveled to WaKeeney to play Trego Community on Friday, Jan. 12 and the Lady Jays hit just 20 percent from the field in losing 47-40.

No.5 seeded Norton returned to WaKeeney to play No.4 seed Trego in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Tuesday, Jan. 16. This time, the Lady Jays hit 49 percent of their field goal attempts in defeating the Lady Golden Eagles 63-51.

The win put Norton in the championship semi-finals against an all too familiar foe, No.1 seed Osborne. The game was played Friday, Jan. 19 in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and the result was similar to the one two weeks earlier. The Lady Bulldogs, who eventually placed third in the Class 2A state tournament, prevailed 53-21.

In the consolation championship game on Saturday, Norton rebounded to defeat No.2 seed Smith Center 34-22 and place third.

On Tuesday, Jan. 23, Norton hosted Goodland in the Stull Gymnasium and avenged the earlier 46-44 defeat with an impressive 51-40 victory.

The Lady Jays hosted Oberlin in the makeup game on Thursday, Jan. 25 and the visiting Lady Red Devils handed the Norton quintet a disappointing 56-51 loss.

Norton got back on the winning trail again by defeating Smith Center for the second time. The win came on Tuesday, Jan.30 and came by a 59-49 score on the Lady Redmen's home court.

The Lady Jays hosted Hill City on Friday, Feb. 2 in further Mid-Continent League action and emerged with a 59-35 victory. The

Lady Jays hit 50 percent from the field in extending their season record to 9-5.

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Norton traveled to Oberlin with a second chance to beat the Lady Red Devils. After the first half, Norton trailed by 20 points and it looked like a repeat of the first meeting between the two longtime rivals. But, the two halves were like two different games as the Lady Jays were the aggressors after intermission and completely dominated the second stanza. Norton went on an 11-0 run to end the game with an unbelievable 54-50 victory!

Norton entertained another Northwest Kansas League team when Atwood came to town on Friday, Feb. 9. The Lady Jays were equal to the occasion and produced a 48-43 win.

Inclement weather canceled a game scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Hoxie. On Thursday, Feb. 15, the Lady Jays defeated Ellis 65-55 in league play to extend their season record to 12-5.

Monday, Feb. 19 was Senior Night and Norton responded with a 53-33 win over Plainville in Stull Gymnasium. The win put the Lady Jays 6-2 in the league and wrapped up a second place finish.

The next night was not as much fun as Norton traveled to Colby of the Northwest Kansas League to play the Class 4A state ranked

Lady Eagles, who eventually won the state tournament championship. The Lady Jays absorbed a 68-41 loss to the eventual state champions.

Norton was seeded No.3 in the Class 3A Substate Tournament and met No.6 seed Oberlin for the third time in the season in a first round game on Monday, Feb. 26 in Norton. It was another hard-fought game between the two longtime rivals but Oberlin prevailed this time by a heartbreaking 46-42 score to end the Lady Jays' season.

"We are young and we were nervous against Oberlin in the substate opener," coach Jilka told the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

"We played hard but 20 turnovers against their zone defense were too many.

"If you had told me at the start of the season with no starters returning that we would finish 13-7, I'd probably have said I'd take it. All five starters and eight of our top nine players will return next season so we should be able to improve on this year's record."

### Season statistics

As a team, Norton averaged 47.8 points per game compared to 45.3 by opponents. Lady Jays hit 37.1 percent of their field goal tries and opponents averaged 38.9 percent. Norton swished 59.1 percent of their free throw attempts com-

pared to 53 percent by opponents.

The Lady Jays had 213 steals on defense for an average of 10.7 per game. Norton's aggressive defense caused 323 turnovers by the opposition for an average of 16.2 per contest.

On offense, Norton had 239 assists, or 12 per game. The Lady Jays had 502 total rebounds for an average of 25.1 per game. Opponents averaged 27.1 caroms per contest.

Laura Lee Baird was leading scorer with a 15.9 points per game average. She hit 71 percent of her free throws to lead the Lady Jays in that category and was also the leading three-point shooter with an average of 36.6 percent.

Hayli Bozarth was leading rebounder with 129 total or 6.5 caroms per game. Bozarth was also second leading scorer with an average of 10.8 points per contest. Bozarth was also the leading shooter from the field for Norton with a 56.7 percent average.

KaraJo Jones was second leading rebounder with 120, or 6 per game. Baird was third high with 3.4 boards per game and a total of 68. Baird was also the steals leader with 55, followed by Taylor Rossi and Bozarth, 36 each, Megan Kats, 30 and Jones, 27.

Rossi was assists leader with 96. Kats was second with 39, followed by Baird, 35; Jones, 29.

## New look for the 2007 Norton American Legion baseball team

By DICK BOYD

The Norton American Legion baseball team will be sporting a new look in the 2007 season with new uniforms, a new scoreboard and new assistant coach with major league experience.

Norton Legion head coach Joe Durham announced that the new scoreboard has been financed by First Security Bank and Trust, Western Distributing Inc., Nextech and New Age Industrial Corp, Inc. The old scoreboard,

which had been hit by lightning, could not be repaired since repair parts could not be found. The scoreboard was approximately 25 years old, according to Durham.

The new uniforms will be gold in color with the familiar Blue Jay beak on the shirts. The players will be able to have their names printed on the shirts since they have Velcro on the back. "Our old uniforms just couldn't take any more washings as they were down to just fibers. The old uniforms were 17

years old so we got our use out of them," said coach Durham.

"I am really proud of the local businesses who have gone together to purchase the new scoreboard. This shows once again that Norton is a town that supports its young men and women."

The Norton Correctional Facility will help with improvements such as putting roofs on top of the dugouts and constructing a small building for storing Legion and K-

18 equipment. Other planned improvements are a new batting cage, since the old one is worn out, and redoing the backstop area with rubber.

Joining the Legion nine this year as an assistant coach will be Steve Jeltz, former major league baseball player. He played for the Philadelphia Phillies from 1983 to 1989 and for the Kansas City Royals in 1990. "Coach Jeltz believes as I do that baseball should be fun and that every young man who is

out for the team will play," said coach Durham. "Coach Jeltz brings a ton of major league knowledge and skills to this team and, if the young men listen and soak up his knowledge, you will see a marked improvement over last year's team.

"Steve has played with players such as Pete Rose, Mike Schmidt and Joe Morgan, all in the Hall of Fame or should be.

"So, if our young men will look and listen, we should be a better team. Coach Jeltz is a firm believer that preparation is the key to success.

"Our number one killer last season was errors and that is something we are going to work extra long hours on fixing."

Other coaches for the Legion team this season will be Bill Manning and Chris Bailey. "As a previous coach of both the Legion and K-19 teams, Bill brings a world of

pitching knowledge to this team," said coach Durham.

"Chris is a true follower of the game of baseball. He played baseball in college and his ability to notice small details and correct them should make this team a lot better."

The Legion team will play about 25 games this season, according to coach Durham. They will open the season versus Cambridge, Neb. on May 30.

Pitching depth is a No.1 concern for coach Durham.

"We will go as far as our pitching takes us," he said. "Hopefully, as we get closer to summer, more young men will come out and play with us. Currently, we have about 12 players but are short on pitchers.

"We hope to build on the success the K-18 team had last year with a few of their players moving up to Legion ball."

## BOWLING

### Ladies Inter-City

Standings, March 12 — Land Surveyors, 26-6; The Girls, 19.5-12.5; Nelson Bros, 18.5-13.5; Geezeretts, 16-16; Animal Health, 9-23. High Scratch Game: Land Surveyors, 427; Land Surveyors, 412; Land Surveyors, 392; Laura Leidig, 181; Laura Leidig, 168; Jackie Wright, 160; High Scratch Series: Land Surveyors, 1231; Nelson Bros, 1135; The Girls, 1109; Laura Leidig, 469; Carol Ross, 413; Jackie Wright, 398; Bertsie Bruinekool, 398; High Handicap Game: Nelson Bros, 554; Nelson Bros, 553; Land Surveyors, 552; Laura Leidig, 219; Vendla Tacha, 210; Laura Leidig, 206; High Handicap Series: Nelson Bros, 1645; Land Surveyors, 1606; The Girls, 1547; Laura Leidig, 583; Vida Perrill, 573; Vendla Tacha, 565.

Results, March 5 — High Scratch Game: Land Surveyors, 521; Land Surveyors, 474; The

Girls, 401; Laura Leidig, 215; Laura Leidig, 199; Donna VanKooten, 172; High Scratch Series: Land Surveyors, 1357; The Girls, 1130; Geezeretts, 1103; Laura Leidig, 553; Kathleen Berlier, 454; Donna VanKooten, 420; High Handicap Game: Land Surveyors, 646; Land Surveyors, 599; Geezeretts, 567; Laura Leidig, 254; Laura Leidig, 238; Donna VanKooten, 219; High Handicap Series: Land Surveyors, 1732; Geezeretts, 1604; The Girls, 1568; Laura Leidig, 670; Kathleen Berlier, 589; Donna VanKooten, 561.

### Inter-City

Standings, March 8 — Ram Roofing, 57-24; Affordable Classic Limos, 48-33; Select Seeds, 38-42; Bailey Electric, 34-47; Buff, 26-55. High Scratch Game: Tim Millan, 246; Rusty Miller, 197; Bill LaSalle, 194; Brian Dicks, 177; High Scratch Series: Tim Millan, 593; Rusty Miller, 521; Bill LaSalle, 492; Vance Poage, 488; High Handicap Game: Ram Roofing, 878; Tim

Millan, 295; Brian Dicks, 238; Rusty Miller, 232; Bill LaSalle, 229; High Handicap Series: Ram Roofing, 2367; Tim Millan, 740; Vance Poage, 641; Brian Dicks, 626; Rusty Miller, 626.

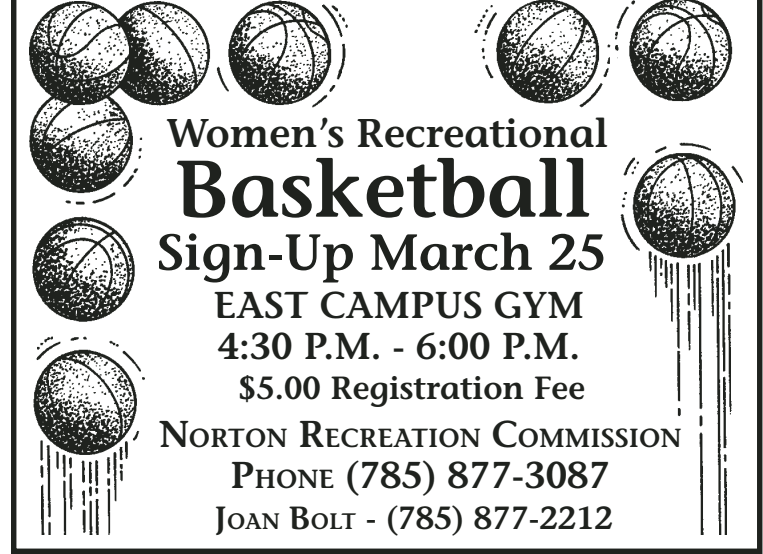
Results, March 1 — High Scratch Game: Mark Bailey, 183; Rusty Miller, 182; Mark Sainz, 181; Denny Leichter, 180; High Scratch Series: Bill LaSalle, 504; Rusty Miller, 492; Denny Leichter, 460; Vance Poage, 451; High Handicap Game: Select Seeds, 850; Mark Bailey, 239; Tim Millan, 219; Denny Leichter, 219; Paul Nauer, 219; Mark Sainz, 219; High Handicap Series: Select Seeds, 2351; Bill LaSalle, 609; Vance Poage, 604; Rusty Miller, 600; Carolyn County, 594.

### Tuesday Night Mens

Standings, March 6 — Trigard Vaults, 67-33; D&M Service, 60-40; Budweiser Western Dist, 55.5-44.5; Carpet Munchers, 51-49; Don's Floor Covering, 50-50; Norton Sports Center, 44.5-55.5; Affordable Classic Limos, 42-58;

Attitudes, 30-70. High Scratch Game: Dennis Corbin, 225; Mike Terrell, 195; Nick Daniels, 189; Rusty Miller, 181; High Scratch Series: Dennis Corbin, 531; Rusty Miller, 524; Fig Millan, 500; Mike Terrell, 492; High Handicap Game: Budweiser Western Dist, 1069; Nick Daniels, 249; Dennis Corbin, 244; Brent Carlton, 243; Fig Millan, 233; High Handicap Series: Carpet Munchers, 3056; Fig Millan, 677; Brian Bozarth, 665; Sara Kindall, 656; David Schlegel, 638; J.B. Carlton, 638.

Results, Feb. 27 — High Scratch Game: Rusty Miller, 203; Nick Daniels, 193; Vance Poage, 191; Rick Green, 190; High Scratch Series: Rusty Miller, 540; Tim Millan, 503; Rick Green, 498; Dennis Freund, 485; High Handicap Game: Trigard Vaults, 1053; Nick Daniels, 254; Vance Poage, 239; Rusty Miller, 237; David Schlegel, 236; High Handicap Series: Trigard Vaults, 3027; David Schlegel, 667; Nick Daniels, 648; Tim Millan, 644; Rusty Miller, 642.



**Women's Recreational Basketball**  
**Sign-Up March 25**  
 EAST CAMPUS GYM  
 4:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
 \$5.00 Registration Fee  
 NORTON RECREATION COMMISSION  
 PHONE (785) 877-3087  
 JOAN BOLT - (785) 877-2212