



Northern Valley's Brittney Braun (#25) and Jessica Largent (#40) positioned themselves for the rebound in this action shot taken during the contest with Eastern Heights. The Huskies won 59-44 with Braun popping in 8 points and Largent 11.

-Photo for The Telegram by Laryl Rous

Second half rally lifts Blue Jays over Hill City

By DICK BOYD
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After falling behind in the second quarter, the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team rallied in the second half to defeat Hill City 70-58 in Mid-Continent League play Friday night in Hill City.

The Blue Jays got a solid start in the first quarter with senior forwards Wes Georgeson and Preston Herman leading the way. Herman hit three baskets and Georgeson hit two baskets and a free throw as Norton took a 14-9 lead.

The Ringnecks outscored the Blue Jays 23-16, however, in the second quarter to take a 32-30 lead at half-time. Hill City hit eight baskets in the period and four of them were from beyond the arc.

Georgeson hit three more baskets for Norton, senior point guard Logan Kats, who concentrated on long range shots in the game, hit his first of four treys along with two free throws, sophomore guard Landon Hamel buried a three-pointer and Herman tallied on another basket.

The second half belonged to the Blue Jays as they outscored the Ringnecks 16-7 in the third period to take a 46-39 lead and had a 24-19 scoring advantage in the final stanza.

Georgeson kept the nets smoking in the second half just as he had in the first as he threw in three more baskets in the third period and three more in the fourth. Kats added two more baskets from beyond the arc in the third quarter and another trey and 4 of 4 from the charity stripe in the final stanza.

Senior guard Jared Cox, who had hit just one basket in the first three quarters, ended with a bang as he buried a three-point shot, hit another two-point basket and two free throws for 7 of his 9 points. He was 3 of 6 overall from the field for 50 percent shooting and hit 2 of 3 charities for 67 percent.

Georgeson ended with 23 points

on 11 of 14 two-point shots for a red hot 79 percent accuracy and was 1 of 2 from the free throw line. He missed his only trey try.

Kats tallied 18 points on 4 of 5 from long range for a sharpshooting 80 percent accuracy and a perfect 6 of 6 from the charity stripe. He missed his only three two-point tries.

Herman was a perfect 4 of 4 from the field for 8 points. Hamel was 2 of 5 from the field for 40 percent and 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent and 8 points.

Chris Miller was leading scorer for Hill City with 19 points; Dylan Vap added 12 and Alex VanLoenen hit 10.

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

"Throughout the game, we would get a lead just to turn around and let them back in it. Finally, in the second half, we made a run and hung on to get the win.

"We really shot the ball well from the field and at the line, which was good to see."

As a team, Norton connected on 6 of 15 three-point tries for 40 percent, 18 of 29 two-point attempts for an excellent 62 percent and 24 of 44 overall for 55 percent.

Hill City found the range on 7 of 13 from beyond the arc for 54 percent, 15 of 32 two-point tries for 47 percent and 22 of 45 overall for 49 percent.

The Blue Jays missed just three free throws in the game as they swished 16 of 19 for 84 percent accuracy.

Hill City also shot well from the line but didn't have as many attempts. They were 7 of 9 on charities for 78 percent.

Norton outrebounded Hill City 28-16. The Blue Jays grabbed 5 offensive and 23 defensive caroms and the Ringnecks pulled down 2 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Georgeson and Herman led the way for Norton on the boards by

pulling down 6 rebounds each. They were followed by J.D. Gall, 5; Kats, 4; Zac Dreher, 3; Hamel, Cox, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had 23 offensive assists compared to 20 for the Ringnecks. Kats was the assists leader with 11, followed by Cox, 4; Gall, Herman, 3 each; Hamel, 2.

Kats had 2 of Norton's 6 steals. Hamel, Georgeson, Gall, Herman had 1 theft each.

Kats blocked 2 shots by Hill City players and Herman rejected 1.

Hill City had 13 turnovers and Norton had 10.

The win extended the Norton record to 9-5.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated 68-14 by Hill City.

The young Ringnecks led by quarters 20-4, 37-9 and 60-11.

Zac Dreher was leading scorer for Norton with 5 points, followed by Landon Hamel, 4; John Koch, 3; Luke Ninemire, 2.

Connor and Pfeifer each scored 12 points for Hill City.

Next action

Norton will host Oberlin of the Northwest Kansas League today in varsity and junior varsity games. The junior varsity boys game will be played at 5 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. The junior varsity girls game will begin at 5 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 70

Logan Kats 0 4 6-6 18; Landon Hamel 1 1 3-4 8; Jared Cox 2 1 2-3 9; Wes Georgeson 1 1 0 1-2 23; Zac Dreher 0 0 4-4 4; Preston Herman 4 0 0-8; Total 18 6 16-19 70.

Hill City boys 58

Dylan Vap 1 3 1-2 12; Chris Miller 6 1 4-5 19; David Gerstner 2 1 0-0 7; Reggie Jordan 3 0 0-0 6; Ryan Pfeifer 2 0 0-0 4; Alex VanLoenen 1 2 2-2 10; Total 15 7 7-9 58.

Huskies go 1-1 in latest action

The Northern Valley varsity Lady Huskies lost to the Alma Cardinals 62-49 on Friday.

The Huskies played the Cardinals even for three quarters. But it was the first quarter in which Northern Valley fell behind and fought an uphill battle the rest of the game to overcome that deficit, but just could not accomplish getting back to even. The Huskies were within 6 points for quite a while but just couldn't come all the way back.

Coach Chuck Zimmerman said "the girls' effort was good, we just were not as efficient as we needed to be."

The deflecks leader was Jessica Largent as she hustled her way to 7, with Joni Hilburn tipping 4.

Steals were then taken by Megan Cole with 8 followed by Hilburn and Alison Cole with 4 each.

Rebounds were grabbed by Alison Cole with 13 and Largent with 10.

Assists were handed out by Largent with 4, while Hilburn found 3 teammates open for scores.

Scoring were Megan Cole with 9; Alison Cole 21; Kenzie Chandler 2; Joni Hilburn 2; Christina Anderson 2; Brittney Braun 2;

Jessica Largent 11.

The Ladies came back with a 59-44 win over Eastern Heights on the road.

The first quarter told the story as the Huskies moved out to an 18-8 margin and increased their margin in each quarter.

"This game saw some of our players playing different positions as we had a couple of players ill, but we adjusted and did well with our new positions," the coach said.

"We are starting to see some growth in our group as we are becoming more intense on defense, especially in covering our areas on the press and even though we have been out rebounded in some of our games we are starting to close the gap.

"Our biggest draw back is still the fact that we do not 'value the ball' enough and are making unnecessary mistakes that will eventually catch up to us when we need more possessions," he said.

Deflecks leaders were Christina Anderson 5, while Alison Cole tipped 4. Jessica Largent and Megan Cole each had 3.

Steals were taken by Largent with 5 and Anderson and Alison

Cole with 3 each.

In the rebounding category, Jessica Largent and Christina Anderson have come alive in the last few games and are definitely making a strong effort to help control the boards, as they realize the need to win the rebounding contests so they may win the ball games. Largent led the way with 14 while Anderson grabbed 9. Alison Cole continued to fight hard as she took 8 off the glass while Brittney Braun took 6 and Karen Wenzel worked for 5. "Needless to say, we had a good night on the boards," Zimmerman said.

Assists were handed out by Anderson, who found 5 teammates open, while Megan Cole and Largent each found 3.

"With this win we continued to play our way to the next step in our season: that of winning the regular conference title. We will have to focus on rebounding and taking care of the ball, plus continuing to improve our defensive schemes," the coach said.

Scoring: Karen Wenzel 2; Megan Cole 9; Alison Cole 20; Kenzie Chandler 2; Christian Anderson 7; Brittney Braun 8; and Jessica Largent 11.

In Healy Tournament

Huskies' junior high boys finish second

The Northern Valley A-team junior high boys' basketball team defeated Damar 53-33 in the semifinals of the recent Healy Tournament, then lost to Healy 35-16 in the finals to finish in second place.

Scoring for the Huskies in the game vs. Damar were: Austin Herman 13; Gunnar Hays 12; Nate Land 19; Tyler Montgomery 6; Calen Bach 6; Zane Miller 3; Tyson Callaway 2; and Phillip Compton 2.

Scoring in the finals vs. Healy were: Land 8; Herman 6; and Bach 2. "In the championship game, we ran into a very solid Healy squad. We played with Healy in the first half, but ran out of steam in the second half," Coach Cole said.

Jayvee wrestlers settle for sixth

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestling team placed sixth in the varsity Arapahoe Warrior Invitational Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26 in Arapahoe.

Elm Creek won the championship with 165 points, followed by Elwood, 157; Axtell, 113; Summer Eddyville Miller, 93.5; Fleming, Colo., 91; Norton JV, 73.5; Arapahoe, 71; Hitchcock County, 36; Eustis Farnam 30.5; Unified JV, 22; Cozad JV, 18; Atwood JV, 0.

Norton had three champions and one fourth place finisher. Winning gold medals were Brett Terrell, 119; Spencer Shirk, 130 and Kaid McKenna, 140. Logan

Kelly, 145, placed fourth.

At 119, Terrell was seeded No. 1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Devin Simon, Hitchcock County, in 1:39. In the championship finals, he won a 6-2 decision over No. 2 seed David Ripp, Elm Creek, to win the championship.

Shirk was also seeded No. 1 at 130. He pinned No. 4 seed Ryan Woodfield, Elwood, in 2:17 after receiving a first round bye. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 2 seed Kurtis Burden, Summer Eddyville Miller, in 2:36 to win the gold medal.

At 140, Kaid McKenna was seeded No. 1. He pinned Spencer Rice, Hitchcock County, in 55 seconds. In the championship semi-finals, he won an 8-0 major

decision over No. 4 seed Travis Pieper, Eustis Farnam. McKenna pinned No. 3 seed Kyle Loebig, Elwood, in 5:47 to win the championship.

Logan Kelly was seeded No. 3 at 145. In the first round, he drew a bye. In the championship semi-finals, he was pinned in 2:41 by No. 2 seed Louis Benavidez, Elwood. In the consolation bracket, he won a 20-4 technical fall over No. 5 seed Andy Gardner, Arapahoe. In the consolation championship, he was pinned in 1:36 by No. 4 seed Zach Burden, Summer Eddyville Miller, to place fourth.

Also competing for Norton but not placing were: Colby Poage, 103; Austin Brown, 152; Brad Nuzum, 160; Ryan Blecha, 171 and Tyler, Cook, 189.



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