

# Blue Jay boys, girls score wins over Hoxie

## Low scoring game goes to boys 42-32

By DICK BOYD

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Neither team shot very well but the Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team took more shots and controlled the boards to defeat Hoxie 42-32 on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Norton held an 11-7 lead after one quarter and a 12-10 second quarter in favor of the Blue Jays made it 23-17 at half-time. The low scoring third quarter ended with Norton scoring 9 points and Hoxie 6 and the Blue Jays extending their lead to 32-23.

The Blue Jays outscored the Indians 10-9 in the fourth quarter to extend the final margin of victory to 10 points.

Point guard Logan Kats was Norton's only double figure scorer. He did most of the damage to the Indians in the first half when he buried three baskets from beyond the arc en route to a 15 point game. He hit 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent accuracy, 1 of 4 two-point tries for 25 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36 percent. Kats swished 4 of 7 from the charity stripe for 57 percent.

Forward Preston Herman tallied 9 points on 4 of 13 from the

field for 31 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent. Forward Wes Georgeson added 8 points on 4 of 5 from the field for a net smoking 80 percent.

Leading scorer for Hoxie was Matt Weis with 10 points.

"This was a good win for us but I didn't feel like we played with a lot of intensity throughout the game," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"We were in a position we have been in before, sitting with a lead and not being able to put people away. We have no killer instinct!"

As a team, the Blue Jays hit 5 of 17 from long range for 29 percent, 10 of 26 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 15 of 43 overall for 35 percent.

The Indians connected on 2 of 10 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 12 of 29 two-point tries for 41 percent and 14 of 39 overall for 36 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 7 of 11 for 64 percent compared to 2 of 5 for Hoxie for 40 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds off the glass for 26 total while limiting the Indians to 5 offensive and 14 defensive boards for 19 total.

Herman was a "horse" on the boards as he pulled down 10 rebounds, followed by Jared Cox, 4; Landon Hamel, Kats, Wes Georgeson, 3 each; J.D. Gall, 2; Zac Dreher, 1.

Herman had 3 of Norton's 6 steals. Georgeson had 2 thefts and Dreher had 1.

The Blue Jays had 12 assists and

the Indians had 11. Kats led with 6, followed by Cox, 4; Gall, 2.

Norton suffered 18 turnovers and Hoxie turned the ball over 16 times.

### Junior varsity

Hoxie won the boys junior varsity contest by a 60-41 score.

The young Indians led by quarters 17-9, 41-19 and 47-31.

Luke Ninemire was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Dakota Dreher, 9; Zac Dreher, 6; Landon Hamel, 5; D.J. Ebner, 4; J.D. Gall, 3; Cole Archer, 1.

Junior Gregory was leading scorer for Hoxie with 23.

### Next action

Norton boys and girls hosted Oberlin in make-up varsity games on Thursday night.

Norton will travel to Ellis today for boys and girls contests, beginning at 5 p.m.

On Monday evening, Norton will travel to Plainville for boys and girls games, starting at 4 p.m.

Tuesday is "Senior Night" in Norton as the Blue Jays boys and girls will host Colby in C-team, junior varsity and varsity contests, beginning at 4 p.m.

### BOX SCORE

Norton boys 42  
Logan Kats 1 3 4-7 15; Landon Hamel 0 12-25; Jared Cox 0 10-0 3; Wes Georgeson 4 0 0-0 8; Zac Dreher 1 0-0-2; Preston Herman 4 0 1-2-9; Total 10 5 7-11 42.

Hoxie boys 32  
Pat Eland 1 1 2-2-7; Josh Gaede 3 1 0-1 9; Jon Peltz 3 0 0-0 6; Matt Weis 5 0 0-2 10; Total 12 2 5-32.

## Sick bug slows down Husky ladies

Illness took its toll as the Northern Valley varsity basketball girls suffered a 71-57 loss to the Hill City Ringnecks at Alma.

"The Ringnecks put on a shooting display from beyond the three point line the likes of which few people have ever seen, even this old coach in his 30+ years. To our credit we were on them as tight as we could be for 90 percent of the game. They just made the shots during the other 10 percent when they did get loose. 67 percent (10 of 15) shooting," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"Yet, from within the arc, they only shot 24 percent. Again, our defense was doing a good job, we

just didn't have an answer on our end of the court as the illnesses we have been suffering took its toll in the fourth quarter as our shots were falling short," he said.

"Again, I was proud of how hard our defense played as we did have 26 deflections with Christina Anderson leading the way with 7, followed by Alison Cole 5, Megan Cole and Staci Dole each had 4.

"We did take 13 balls away as Megan Cole took 4 with Jessica Largent and Dole each with 3.

"Rebounds were taken off the board by Alison Cole with 8 as Megan Cole, Anderson and Largent each pulled in 4.

"Assists were dished out by

Anderson who found 9 teammates open while Largent found 4," Zimmerman said.

Here are the statistics — 3-pointers, 2-pointers, free throws, total points, rebounds, steals, assists and deflections:

Karen Wenzl 0-0-0-(0)-2-0-0-0; Megan Cole 0-3-7-(13)-8-1-1-5; Alison Cole 0-13-7-(33)-8-1-1-5; Kenzie Chandler 0-0-0-(0)-0-0-0-0; Staci Dole 2-1-0-(7)-1-3-0-4; Joni Hilburn 0-1-0-(2)-2-1-1-2; Christina Anderson 0-1-0-(2)-4-1-9-7; Phoung Le 0-0-0-(0)-0-0-0-0; Brittney Brown 0-0-0-(0)-2-0-0-1; Pam Araujo 0-0-0-(0)-0-0-0-0; Jessica Largent 0-3-0-(6)-4-3-4-3.

## Huskies-Trojans meet in regional

The Northern Valley Husky basketball boys will take on Logan in a first round game in the Class 1A Regional Basketball Tournament at 7 p.m. Monday.

The Huskies take a 2-15 mark into the contest vs. 5-13 for the Trojans.

Logan is seeded #4 and Northern Valley #5.

The Husky Ladies drew a first

round bye. They are seeded #2 with an 11-6 record. They will play the winner of the Kensington-Eastern Heights game on Friday night. Kensington is 8-10 and seeded #3 and E/Heights is 1-17 and seeded #6.

The Trojan ladies will square off against Natoma at 7 p.m. Tuesday. The Trojans are 5-13 and Natoma is 4-14.

The boys' bracket includes: Kensington (#1, 17-1), Natoma (#2, 15-3), Eastern Heights (#3, 9-9), Logan (#4, 5-13), Northern Valley (#5, 2-15) and Palco (#6, 0-16). The girls' bracket includes: Palco (#1, 14-2), Northern Valley (#2, 11-6), Kensington (#3, 8-10), Logan (#4, 5-13), Natoma (#5, 4-14) and Eastern Heights (#6, 1-17). Palco is the tourney site.

## Husky varsity boys drop two

Kensington proved just too much for the Northern Valley Husky varsity boys, taking a 67-44 win on the Huskies' home court last Friday night, Feb. 8.

The visitors were up 16-4 at the end of the first quarter, 34-11 at half and 49-25 going into the final period.

Bryce Marble led the Huskies in scoring with 20, their only player in double-figures. Colton Lowry added 5; Dusty Eagleburger 2; Chaim McMillin 4; Cody Callaway 6; Blake Johnson 1; Drew Eagleburger 2; and Eric Woodside 4.

Kensington had three players in double digits — Ethan Kuhlman with 20; Jordan Kirk 14; and Michael Yoxall 10.

Northern Valley scored on 14 2-pointers, 4 3-pointers and 4 free throws.

Kensington had 31 2-pointers and 5 charity tosses.

The Huskies won the junior varsity game 54-31.

Colton Lowry scored 14 and Michael Callaway 12 in the victory.

### Lose to Hill City

The Huskies lost to the Hill City Ringnecks on Feb. 12, 65-37.

The Huskies trailed at the end of the first quarter, 20-7 and 35-11 at the half. At the end of the third

period it was Hill City 52-27.

By quarters, the Huskies were 7-4-16-10. Hill City was 20-15-17-13.

Eric Woodside was top scorer for Northern Valley with 11 points. Others contributing were Colton Lowry with 2; Bryce Marble 8; Dusty Eagleburger 4; Cody Callaway 2; Drew Eagleburger 3; and

Tanner Jessup 7.

The Ringnecks had four players in double figures: Gerstner 16; VanLoenen 12; Vap 11; and Miller 10.

The junior varsity also suffered a setback, 58-20.

Chaim McMillin was tops for the Huskies scoring a total of 7 points.

## A free throw was difference in girls' win

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team proved Tuesday night that free throws, even one free throw, can make the difference in winning or losing as the Lady Jays edged Hoxie's Lady Indians 55-54 in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

And the difference was one free throw.

Both teams hit 5 shots from beyond the arc and 15 from two-point land but the Lady Jays swished 10 of 13 free throws compared to 9 of 16 for the visitors.

"It was a great high school basketball game," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"Both teams played hard and we were fortunate to come away with the win.

"Offensively, we did not execute as well as we would have liked but again we made some free throws when it counted.

"Defensively, it was not one of our better nights but it was good enough to win.

"Rebounding was a major weakness for us and we need to improve in that area."

While shooting on even terms with Hoxie, the Lady Jays were outrebounded 34-21. Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 14 defensive caroms while Hoxie pulled down 11 offensive and 23 defensive boards.

Hayli Bozarth was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by KaraJo Jones, 6; Laura Lee Baird, 3; Taylor Rossi, Courtney Cox, 2 each; Amanda Ray, 1.

Both teams scored 15 points in the first quarter and Hoxie took

a 29-26 half-time advantage by outscoring Norton 14-11 in the second period.

Norton had a 16-10 edge in the third period to lead 42-39 and earned the win in the fourth quarter when the Lady Jays hit 4 field goals and 5 of 6 free throws. Bozarth hit 2 field goals and 3 of 3 from the line, Jones swished two baskets and Baird connected on 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Baird led Norton in scoring with 19 points on 5 of 12 from long range for 42 percent, 1 of 6 two-point tries for 17 percent and 6 of 18 overall for 33 percent plus the two key free throws.

Right behind Baird in the scoring column was Bozarth with 18 points. She hit 6 of 9 from the field for 67 percent and 6 of 7 charity tosses for 86 percent.

Jones finished with 12 points on 5 of 11 from the field for 45 percent and 2 of 3 from the line for 67 percent.

Baird's three baskets from beyond the arc in the third quarter were big momentum boosters for the Lady Jays.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 16 from long range for 31 percent, 15 of 37 two-point tries for 41 percent and 20 of 53 overall for 38 percent.

Hoxie mirrored the Lady Jays by hitting 5 of 13 from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 15 of 40 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 20 of 53 overall for 38 percent.

Norton was 10 of 13 for 77 percent compared to Hoxie's 9 of 16 for 56 percent from the charity stripe.

Norton had 11 steals and Hoxie had 14. Jones and Bozarth had 3 thefts each, Baird and Ashlie Stewart had 2 each and Rossi had 1.

The Lady Jays had 13 assists and the Lady Indians had 19. Rossi, Stewart, Megan Kats and Bozarth each had 3 and Baird had 1. Both teams had 19 turnovers.

"This win keeps us alive for a home court advantage in substitute tournament play," said coach

Jilka. "We need to just keep winning."

### Junior varsity

Hoxie won the girls junior varsity game by a 43-32 score.

The young Lady Jays led 17-15 after one quarter but trailed 28-24 at intermission and 35-28 after three periods.

Kaitlyn Wolf led Norton in scoring with 12 points, followed by Lacy Keilig, 10; Amanda Ray, 4; Shelby Jones, Bethany Roy, Lindsey Tacha, 2 each.

Bailey Ochs led Hoxie with 9.

"This was a horrible game to-night," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"We were very disappointed in the total effort. Our girls are much better. I will give credit to Hoxie for staying aggressive all night long. We were just not able to adjust to it."

### Next action

Norton girls and boys hosted Oberlin in make-up varsity games on Thursday night. Results were not available at press time.

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### BOX SCORE

Norton girls 55  
Katharine Roy 1 0-0-2; Taylor Rossi 1 0-0-2; Ashlie Stewart 0 0-1-0; Laura Lee Baird 1 5-2-19; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; KaraJo Jones 5 0 2-3 12; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 6-7 18; Total 15 5 10-13 55.

Hoxie girls 54  
Darra Stithem 9 0-2-18; Baily Ochs 0 0 2-2 2; Ashley Kennedy 0 1 0-0 3; Brittany Schamberger 3 0 1-3 7; Corinna Hoyt 0 1 1-2 4; Kendra Spresser 1 3 3-5 14; Kylena Hager 2 0 2-2 6; Total 15 5 9-16 54.

## C-team girls score 76 points

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls C-team basketball team placed third in the C-team Tournament held Feb. 2 in Atwood.

In the opener, Norton lost by a 46-38 score to Oberlin, then rolled over Southwest Nebraska 76-48 to finish in third place.

### OBERLIN

In the loss to Oberlin, Norton trailed by quarters 11-8, 21-18 and 32-25.

Lindsey Tacha was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Kaylen Rossi, 9; Dustyna Sprigg, 6; Kendra En-

gelbert, Lacy Keilig, 4 each; Meaghan Peterson, Raven Brown, 2 each.

Diederich led Oberlin with 26 points.

"This was a frustrating game," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"We could not seem to hang onto the ball. There were many times when our girls were so close to a steal and the ball would sneak away from us.

"The effort our girls gave the entire game, however, was excellent.

"Oberlin did a good job of making free throws and we did not."

Norton missed all 6 free throw tries and the young Lady Red Devils connected on 11 of 19 from the charity stripe.

### SOUTHWEST NEBRASKA

In the big win over Southwest Nebraska, the young Lady Jays held quarter advantages of 19-14, 44-27 and 63-36.

Lacy Keilig led scoring for Norton with 27 points, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 14; Meaghan

Peterson, 10; Kaylen Rossi, 7; Kendra Engelbert, 6; Lindsey Tacha, Sophie Mills, Raven Brown, 4 each.

Mallock was the scoring leader for Southwest Nebraska with 17.

Norton hit 12 of 24 free throws in this contest.

"I could not believe the scoreboard during this game," said coach Rossi.

"I can't remember ever coming close to scoring that many points in a C-team game.

"Our girls did a great job of pressing and we were able to go from 8 up to about 22 points ahead in about a minute and thirty seconds by converting steals into points.

"The only downside of this game is that we had everyone in foul trouble in the first half. We changed into a zone defense in the second half and kept everyone from fouling out.

"This was a great game for our girls. Everyone shot the ball extremely accurately."

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