

Loss at state ends Lady Jays' 16-8 season



A Wichita Collegiate player tried to catch up to Norton junior point guard Laura Lee Baird as she broke the Lady Spartans' full court press during Class 3A State Tournament action Thursday in Hutchinson.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior post Hayli Bozarth was unstoppable inside during the Lady Jays' Class 3A State Tournament game versus Wichita Collegiate in Hutchinson on Thursday when she scored 29 points on 80 percent accuracy from the field.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton BB gun shooters bag championship

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton County BB gun shooters won the championship of the 2008 Northwest Kansas Regional 4-H Shooting Sports Match on Saturday, March 1 at the Ellis County Fairgrounds in Hays.

Fifteen of the 23 members of the Norton Rotary BB Gun Team competed as individuals, then scores of the top four from each county were compiled into team scores.

Shooters competed from the prone, standing, sitting and kneeling positions. There was no written test.

Placing for Norton County individually and their scores were: Kaitlyn Campbell, first, 370; Brady Tien, second, 366; Cole Archer, third, 358; Dylan Sprigg, fourth, 358, 13-14 years;

Lane Archer, first, 369, 12 years; Erin Archer, first, 358; Alec Otter, second, 344; Andrew Bashford, fourth, 332; Cameron Heikes, fifth, 331, 9-10 years.

Also competing from Norton County but not placing were Alex Lively, 344; Michael Smith, 339; David Smith, 322; Gavin Lively, 319; Gabe Bird, 316; Zach Bird, 309.

The Norton County team of Kaitlyn Campbell, Erin Archer, Lane Archer and Brady Tien shot a score of 1463 to win the championship. Pottawatomie/Riley County was second with a 1320 and Phillips County was third with a 1312.

There was a three-way tie for the fourth Norton County team position between Cole Archer, Dylan Sprigg and Erin Archer and the tie was broken based on the number

of bull's eyes by each shooter.

All 15 Norton County shooters qualified to shoot at the State 4-H Shoot in Great Bend on April 12.

"Overall, our youngsters shot well," said Cameron Archer, Norton BB gun coach.

"This shoot is different than what we are normally used to. In the upcoming state shoot, you shoot one position at a time and then you have 60 minutes until you shoot again. In this shoot, once you step to the line, you shoot all your positions, one right after the other and spend approximately 50 minutes on the firing line. To do the continuous shooting, you must be able to mentally handle the pressure for this extended period of time.

"If you have a bad target, you must pull yourself together and continue and that is tough for any

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 6 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team completed an outstanding 16-8 season with a 45-39 loss to No. 3 seeded Wichita Collegiate in the Class 3A State Tournament on Thursday afternoon in the Sports Arena in Hutchinson.

Wichita Collegiate lost a close 43-40 contest to No. 2 seed Cimarron on Friday and placed third on Saturday with a 57-43 win over Cherryvale to finish with a 22-4 record.

No. 1 seeded Riley County won the championship with a 46-30 victory over Cimarron on Saturday. Riley County finished the season a perfect 26-0 and Cimarron was 24-2.

The Lady Jays were in the game against Wichita Collegiate until the last but fought an uphill battle against the Lady Spartans who shot 50 percent from three-point range. Norton's free throw percentage was also way below average.

Both teams hit 15 field goals but Collegiate's total included 6 from beyond the arc compared to none for Norton. Both quintets also hit 9 free throws, despite Norton's poor percentage. The Lady Jays were outrebounded but steals, assists and turnovers were nearly the same.

"We played hard and gave a great effort but we couldn't get the baskets when we needed them," said coach Jilka. "Last week we made those baskets against Thomas More Prep and Sacred Heart.

"Free throws hurt us, too. Shooting free throws has been one of our mainstays this season. We are a 65 percent free throw shooting team and shot 45 percent today.

"Collegiate is a heck of a basketball team and we knew that going in but we played hard and I can't fault our effort.

"Hayli was playing well and our girls did a great job of getting her the ball.

"I'm proud of our girls. We were behind by 11 points and came back at the end.

"We also thank the Norton community for their support while we were at Hutchinson and all season long. Playing in the state tournament was a great experience for our girls and one they will always remember."

It was the Norton girls first appearance in the state tournament since 2001, when they placed fourth to complete an 18-7 season.

Bozarth scored 29 of Norton's 39 points but the junior had a frustrating time at the free throw line where she is normally very accurate. She hit 12 of 15 shots from her post position for a net smoking 80 percent accuracy but found the range on only 5 of 13 charities for 38 percent.

Only two other Norton players were able to light up the scoreboard. Junior point guard Laura Lee Baird, who averages in the teens, was held to just 8 points on 2 of 9 from the field for 22 percent and 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent.

Norton's other 2 points came on a basket by junior post KaraJo Jones who was 1 of 4 from the field for 25 percent.

Collegiate had more balanced scoring with six girls adding to the scorebook. They were led by

senior guard Maddie Lower with 13 points. All four of her baskets came from three-point range. Freshman guard Ashia Woods hit Collegiate's other two long range shots and she ended with 10 points.

With Woods hitting a trey, two-point shot and two free throws for 7 points and senior Kim Alexander swishing three of the four baskets she hit in the game, Collegiate outscored Norton 13-8 in the first quarter.

All of Norton's points came on four baskets by Bozarth.

Both teams scored 13 points in the second quarter as Collegiate maintained their five point advantage at half-time. Bozarth hit 9 points in the second stanza on four baskets and Baird and Jones hit a basket each, making the score 26-21 at intermission.

On the strength of two three-point baskets by Lower, Collegiate outscored Norton 10-6 in the defense-oriented third quarter to extend the Lady Spartans' lead to 36-27. Norton's points in the period came on two more baskets by Bozarth and two charities by Baird.

Bozarth hit a free throw to start the fourth quarter but neither team scored again until the 4:12 mark when Lower hit her final three-point basket of the night to push the Lady Spartans' lead to 39-28.

At this point, the Lady Jays made their final drive, which came up just a little short. Bozarth scored and was fouled with 3:44 showing. She missed the free throw but got two more charities when fouled with 2:05 remaining. She hit one of those to make it an eight-point game. Then, Baird stole the ball and drove the length of the court for two more Lady Jay points to cut it to 39-33.

Sophomore Kamri Phox scored for Collegiate, was fouled in the process and hit the free throw to slow-down the Norton rally and extend the lead to 42-33 with 1:36 left.

Baird was fouled and went to the free throw line with 1:18 remaining. She hit the first charity and missed the second but Bozarth rebounded and put the ball back up and in to cut the Spartan lead back to six points at 42-36. Norton had to foul to get the ball back. In the next 15 seconds, Collegiate missed two free throws, then Bozarth shot inside and was fouled with 42 seconds left in the game. She hit both free throws to make it 42-38.

Phox was fouled with 39 seconds remaining and hit both charities. At the 26.9 second mark, Baird was fouled and hit 1 of 2 free tosses to make it 44-39 but one last free throw by Lower with 13 seconds on the clock made the final score 45-39 in favor of the Lady Spartans.

As a team, Norton took 5 shots

from beyond the arc and missed all of them, hit an excellent 15 of 27 two-point tries for 56 percent and was still 15 of 32 overall for 47 percent accuracy.

Collegiate hit 6 of 12 from three-point range for 50 percent, just 9 of 36 two-point tries for 25 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays converted 9 of 20 for 45 percent while the Lady Spartans connected on 9 of 16 for 56 percent.

Norton had 5 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds for 26 total compared to 18 offensive and 20 defensive caroms for 38 total for Collegiate.

Jones led Norton in rebounding with 11, followed by Bozarth, 8; Baird, 4; Taylor Rossi, Megan Kats, Amanda Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 12 steals and Collegiate had just 9.

Baird and Jones led Norton in thefts with 3 each, followed by Rossi, Bozarth, 2 each; Ashlie Stewart, Chantille Campbell, 1 each.

The Lady Jays recorded 11 offensive assists and the Lady Spartans had 13. Assists leader for Norton was Rossi with 4, followed by Baird, 3; Katharine Roy, 2; Kats, Jones, 1 each.

Norton suffered 22 turnovers but the aggressive Lady Jay defense caused 20 Collegiate turnovers.

In other state tournament games of interest on Saturday, Osborne placed fourth in Class 2A after losing the third place game to St. Marys 52-41. Osborne was third last year. The Trego Community boys also placed fourth in 2A after losing to Frankfort 66-60.

In Class 4A, the defending state champion Colby girls placed fourth after losing to Abilene 66-54. The Colby boys also competed in the state tournament but lost to eventual third place finisher Hess-ton 68-47 in the first round.

The Weskan girls placed second in 1A after losing to South Gray 61-47 and the Wheatland-Grinnell girls finished in fourth place after a 47-31 loss to South Barber.

The Ellis girls also competed in the Class 2A state tournament but lost 46-36 to St. John in the first round. St. John played for the championship on Saturday but lost 42-41 in overtime to Berean Academy.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 39

Laura Lee Baird 2 0 4-6 8; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-1 2; Hayli Bozarth 12 0 5-13 29; Total 15 0 9-20 39.

Wichita Collegiate girls 45

Mariah Green 1 0 0-3 2; Kamri Phox 3 0 3-4 9; Maddie Lower 0 4 1-3 13; Kim Alexander 4 0 0-0 8; Ashia Woods 1 2 2-2 10; Abby Mauer 0 0 3-4 3; Total 9 6 9-16 45.

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