



Norton senior guard Terrell Lane puts up a shot in a crowd during the Blue Jays' 43-41 loss to Oberlin on Tuesday evening. Lane led Norton in scoring with 13 points on 86 percent accuracy from two-point range.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay C-team competes in Joe Green Tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys C-team basketball team competed in the annual Joe Green Invitational Tournament on Dec. 29-31 in Hill City and won one game while losing two.

Also competing in the tournament were teams from Northern Valley, Quinter, Lakeside, Ness City, Phillipsburg and Osborne in addition to Norton and Hill City.

In their opening game, Norton lost to Quinter 53-45.

Norton trailed by quarters 18-8, 35-15 and 45-27.

Leading scorer for Norton was Trever Lewis with 19 points, followed by Tanner Furbush, 9; Toby Nickell, 7; Marc Miller, 4; Travis Cressler, 4; Ryan Bainter, 2.

C. Colwin led Quinter with 30 points.

"We did not show up and play today," said Norton assistant boys basketball coach David Stover. "We were extremely sluggish on both ends of the floor and did not compete. The final score was not an indication of the game. We let Quinter get out to an early lead, stretching it to a 20 point deficit

at halftime. The final score was as close as we were able to get."

Next, Norton lost to Northern Valley 59-52.

The Blue Jays led 17-15 after one quarter and trailed by just one point at 26-25 at halftime. A 16-14 third quarter in the Huskies' favor put them on top 42-39 with one quarter remaining.

The Huskies tallied 17 more points in the final stanza compared to 13 for Norton.

Leading scorer for Norton was Furbush with 14 points, followed by Cressler, 13; Lewis, 10; Miller, 7; Bainter, 4; Schrum, 2; Damian Lawson, 2.

Top scorers for the Huskies were T. Vincent and A. Tharman with 16 points each, followed by Chandler, 10; Baird, 9; P. Compton, 5; J. Compton, 3.

"Our overall effort on the second day of the tournament was much better," said coach Stover. "We competed on both ends of the floor.

"Give credit to Northern Valley; they made plays down the stretch to win the game.

"We did see improvement on our part from the first game to

the second."

Norton saved their best performance of the tournament for the final day when they defeated Osborne 58-32.

Norton trailed 11-10 after one quarter but took a 23-18 lead by halftime and expanded it to 37-24 by the end of the third period. A 21-8 fourth quarter in Norton's favor made it a 26 point victory for the Blue Jays.

Cressler was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points, followed by Furbush, 8; Lewis, 6; Nickell, 5; Schrum, 4; Miller, 4; Gabe Bird, 4; Zach Bird, 4; Bainter, 3; Lawson, 2.

Leading scorer for Osborne was Berkley with 13.

"This was our best performance of the tournament," said coach Stover. "We got positive contributions from all our players.

"The best thing is we were able to once again see improvement in all our players from the beginning of the tournament to the end. It is that continued improvement we will work for in order for us to get better every day."

Northern Valley Huskies suffer hard loss to Stockton on Tuesday

The Northern Valley Huskies took on Stockton in a basketball game Tuesday night and lost 55-30.

In the first quarter, Colton Lowry hit a three pointer followed by Dusty Eagleburger, Tyler Montgomery and Bryant Tharman each scoring two. Stockton was on fire. They hit one 3 pointer, eight 2 pointers and made all three free throws. This left Stockton leading 22-9 at the end of the quarter.

During the second quarter, Montgomery led the way for the Huskies by scoring two 2 point baskets followed by a three pointer made by Austin Herman. Stockton slowed a bit by making seven 2 point baskets. This ended

the first half at 36-16 in favor of Stockton.

The second half started with Northern Valley only making four points when Herman successfully completed two shots. Stockton maintained their momentum and scored a three pointer and six, 2 pointers. The third quarter ended 51-20.

In the final quarter, the Huskies caught a second wind and Gunnar Hays hit three of five free throws followed by Eagleburger with one free throw and a 2 point basket. Calen Bach and Zachary Vincent added to the tally with two points each. Stockton slowed way down only scoring four points in the quarter but it was still enough to

take the win 55-30.

Head coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We did not handle their half court trapping defense very well. We made turnovers and gave up a lot of transition baskets. We did not take very good shots either."

The leading rebounder was Herman with 6 followed by Montgomery with 5. Leading scorer was Herman with 7 followed by Montgomery with 6.

In junior varsity play against Stockton, the Huskies won 36-35 in a close game.

The leading scorer was Tyler Montgomery with 14 and the leading rebounder was a tie between Ian Vincent and Montgomery with 7 each.

Oberlin defeats Norton

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team hosted Oberlin in the NCHS Stull Gym on Tuesday evening and, despite staying within a few points of the Red Devils the entire game, suffered a disappointing 43-41 loss.

Norton scored just 7 points in the first quarter on a three point basket by junior Jordan Wahlmeier, two point shot by senior Terrell Lane and two free throws by senior Dakota Dreher.

Oberlin scored 11 in the first period.

The Blue Jays tallied just 8 points in the second quarter on three baskets by Lane and one by sophomore Jacob Brooks.

Again, the Red Devils just outscored them, throwing in 9 points to lead 20-15 at halftime.

The third quarter was also close with Norton tallying 11 points and Oberlin 12 to make it a 32-26 game. Norton's third period points came on baskets by Lane, Brooks and Wahlmeier and a basket and three free throws by junior Tye Nickell.

In the fourth quarter, Norton made a run at Oberlin and almost caught them. Junior Dillon McConney hit his first two baskets of the game, Wahlmeier and Nickell each hit one basket, Lane hit a basket and free throw and Brooks swished a basket and two charities.

Norton trailed 38-35 with 2:13 left in the game when McConney scored on a rebound shot, then Wahlmeier hit with 1:56 remaining to give the Blue Jays a rare 39-38 lead in the game. Four free throws put Oberlin back on top but Brooks scored for Norton and the Jays trailed by just 42-41 with 30 seconds left.

Norton had two more chances to score but could not and Oberlin added one more free throw to their total to win by just two points.

Lane was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on 6 of 7

two-point shots for 85.7 percent accuracy and 1 of 4 free throws for 25 percent. He missed all three trey tries.

Leading the way for Oberlin was Dalton Jones with 14 points; Zach May added 12 to the Red Devil cause.

As a team, Norton hit only 1 of 12 from beyond the arc for 8.3 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44.1 percent and 16 of 46 overall for 34.8 percent.

Oberlin swished 4 of 19 trey tries for 21.1 percent, 8 of 20 two-point attempts for 40 percent and 12 of 39 overall for 30.8 percent.

The Red Devils won the game at the free throw line, hitting 15 of 24 charities for 62.5 percent compared to Norton's 8 of 12 for 67 percent.

Oberlin did not hit a single field goal in the fourth quarter. All 11 of their points in the final stanza came on 11 of 15 from the charity stripe!

Norton had 7 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds for 30 total and Oberlin pulled down 7 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 25 total.

Brooks was rebound leader for Norton with 7, followed by Lane, 6; McConney, 6; Wahlmeier, 5; Luke Ninemire, 3; Dreher, 2; Nickell, 1.

The Blue Jays had 9 steals compared to just 3 for the Red Devils. McConney was steals leader with 4, followed by Nickell, 3; Ninemire, Wahlmeier, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 11 assists and the Red Devils recorded 10. Lane was the Norton leader with 4, followed by McConney, 3; Brooks, 2; Ninemire, Wahlmeier, 1 each.

Norton was hurt by 17 turnovers against the Oberlin full court pressure defense. The Red Devils lost the ball 10 times.

"I was disappointed with our effort and intensity for three quarters," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We never did handle their press and we didn't execute very well offensively.

We didn't play with any kind of intensity until the last quarter.

"We were tentative and not playing with any confidence and took a lot of breaks on defense.

"We won't beat anyone playing like this.

"We kept challenging our players throughout the game and they finally took the challenge and rallied. We have a lot of challenges this season. Hopefully, we will be up to it. We've got a good attitude and that's important. We need to have some players step up for us to be a good team.

"We travel to Osborne on Friday and they will provide another challenge."

Norton's early season record is now 2-4.

Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a 32-27 score.

The score was tied 9-9 after one quarter and Oberlin led 19-13 at intermission. Norton outpointed Oberlin 14-4 in the third period to lead 27-23 and outscored the visitors 5-4 in the final stanza.

Scoring leader for the Blue Jays was Zach Hartwell with 9 points, followed by Trey Millan, 6; Drew Schrum, 6; John Renner, 4; Carson McKenna, 4; Andrew Ellis, 2; Ryan Bainter, 1.

Tyler Bruggeman and Ryan May each scored 6 points for Oberlin.

Next action

Norton will travel to Osborne for Mid-Continent League play this evening.

Games will begin at 4 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 0 0 2-22; Jordan Wahlmeier 2 1 0-0 7; Dillon McConney 2 0 0-0 4; Tye Nickell 2 0 3-4 7; Terrell Lane 6 0 1-4 13; Jacob Brooks 3 0 2-2 8; Game Totals 15 1 8-12 41.

Oberlin Boys

Dalton Jones 1 3 3-4 14; Josh Ritter 3 0 1-5 7; Keithen Fortin 1 0 1-3 3; Zach May 1 1 7-8 12; Dakota Soderlund 2 0 3-4 7; Game Totals 8 4 15-24 43.

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