



Norton Lady Jays season ends in a loss

By DICK BOYD

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The 2010-11 season came to a close for the No. 7 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team with a 52-14 loss to No. 2 seeded and No. 3 state ranked Riley County on Monday evening in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament played at Riley County High School.

The Lady Blue Jays were at a big disadvantage with a cold shooting night which saw them hit just 17 percent of their field goal tries while the Lady Falcons were swishing 48 percent of their attempts.

The taller Riley County quintet also outrebounded Norton and their defense forced 19 Lady Jay turnovers.

"They are a really good team but we didn't show up to play," said a disappointed Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"You have to bring your A game against these girls. Just like the whole month of February, we didn't play with any confidence. The longer the season became, the more we lost our confidence.

"Riley County beat us in every category.

"I feel bad for our seniors that we didn't go farther in the tournament.

"Our returning players have a lot of work to do between now and November. I hope they understand that."

Norton had just two seniors on the squad, guards Dustyna Sprigg and Kaylen Rossi.

Norton's final season record was 9-11.

The Lady Jays were outscored by quarters 22-2, 38-6 and 46-10.

Norton found a lid on the basket in the first quarter when the Lady Jays' only points came on two free throws by junior post Caren

Thomson.

It didn't get much better in the second quarter when baskets by Sprigg and freshman guard Katelyn Engelbert accounted for Norton's only points.

In fact, the Lady Jays scored only four points in each of the third and fourth quarters. Sophomore guard Alex Melvin hit a basket and Sprigg swished two free throws in the third period. Engelbert hit another basket and Thomson and freshman post Bailey Ambrosier each connected on one free throw in the fourth quarter.

Sprigg and Engelbert were leading scorers for Norton with 4 points each. Sprigg hit 1 of 3 tries for 33 percent and was 2 of 2 from the free throw line for 100 percent.

Engelbert swished 2 of 5 shots for 40 percent.

Rachel Rheume led Riley County with 21 points; Kelly Thomson added 15.

As a team, Norton missed all 10 tries from beyond the arc, connected on just 4 of 14 two-point tries for 29 percent and was 4 of 24 for 17 percent overall.

Riley County hit 5 of 17 try tries for 29 percent, 15 of 25 two-point attempts for 60 percent and 20 of 42 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays were 6 of 12 for 50 percent and the Lady Falcons swished 7 of 10 for 70 percent.

Norton pulled down 6 offensive and 8 defensive rebounds for 14 total. Riley County grabbed 7 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 20 total.

Junior post Erin Terrell, who returned to the lineup after missing some games with a toe injury, tied for high rebounder. Terrell and Thomson each had 4, followed by Melvin, Sprigg, Kamilla Jones, 2 each.

Sophomore guard Tawni

Griffey and Engelbert each had 1 steal. Riley County had 12 thefts.

Sprigg had Norton's only assist. The Lady Falcons had 11 assists.

The Lady Jays had 19 turnovers compared to 6 for Riley County.

Coach Jilka thanked the players, fans and assistant coach George Rossi for all they did for the team during the 2010-11 season.

Scores of other games

In other Sub-State Tournament games played on Monday evening, No. 1 seed Smith Center defeated No. 8 seed Ellsworth 70-43, No. 4 seed Minneapolis outscored No. 5 seed Phillipsburg 42-27 and No. 3 seed Southeast of Saline defeated No. 6 seed Beloit 46-44.

On Thursday, Smith Center played Minneapolis at 6 p.m. in the semi-finals at Smith Center and Southeast of Saline played Riley County at 7:30 p.m. in the other semi-finals game in Smith Center.

The winners were not known at the Norton Telegram's press time but they will play each other in the championship finals at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Smith Center.

The winner will receive a berth in the Class 3A State Tournament next week in Hutchinson.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Girls

Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4; Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 1-2 1; Erin Terrell 0 0 0-4 0; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-2; Dustyna Sprigg 1 0 2-2 4; Caren Thomson 0 0 3-3 3; Game Totals 4 0 6-12 14.

Riley County Girls

Kelly Thomson 4 2 1-1 15; Tee Phebus 0 2 4-6 10; Makayla Vargo 1 1 0-0 5; Rachel Rheume 10 0 1-1 21; Morgan Godinet 0 0 1-2 1; Game Totals 15 5 7-10 52.



Lady Jay senior guard Dustyna Sprigg releases a jump shot during Norton's season-ending Sub-State Tournament loss to No. 2 seeded and No. 3 state ranked Riley County on Monday evening at Riley County High School. Also pictured is Norton's junior post Caren Thomson, No. 33. -Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

We are proud of all the Norton athletes!

Blue Jay wrestlers honored after winning State again

By DICK BOYD

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During halftime of the Norton-Ellsworth boys basketball game in the NCHS Stull Gym on Tuesday evening, the seven Norton wrestlers who won the Blue Jays' second consecutive State Championship were honored at center court along with their coaches and manager.

Introduced to an enthusiastic Norton crowd were seniors Troy Bainter, 130; Brett Terrell, 135; Billy Broeckelman, 140; Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160 and Spencer Shirk, 171; sophomore John Risewick, 112 and freshman Branson Addington, 103.

Keiswetter and Bainter were two-time state champions and Shirk won his first state championship. Terrell and Risewick were state runners-up. Broeckelman was injured and placed sixth in the state.

Also introduced was senior Kaid McKenna, a two-time state wrestling medalist who was injured in football and unable to compete this season.

Norton's head coach is Bill Johnson. Assistant coaches are Shane Miller, Doug Ray and Tony Fiscus. Team manager and satiscian is sophomore Juliana Miller.

Coach Johnson walked onto

the court carrying the Blue Jays' state championship trophy. After the introductions, coach Johnson presented the trophy to NCHS principal Rudy Perez.

ABill Johnson coached Norton team first won a state trophy in 1996. In the 14 seasons since then, his Blue Jays have brought home 12 state trophies with five of those being championships since 2004.

Coach Johnson addressed the crowd briefly and talked about the winning tradition of Norton wrestling. He closed by saying, "Thank you, fans, for your awesome support!"

Let's Play Ball!
Softball and Baseball Registration
ENTRY FORMS DUE
SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

GIRLS SOFTBALL
 Division I (Coach Pitch) First, Second, Third Grade
 Division II (Player Pitch-Fast Pitch) Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grade

BOYS BASEBALL
 Division I (Coach Pitch) First, Second, Third Grade
 Division II (Machine Pitch) Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grade

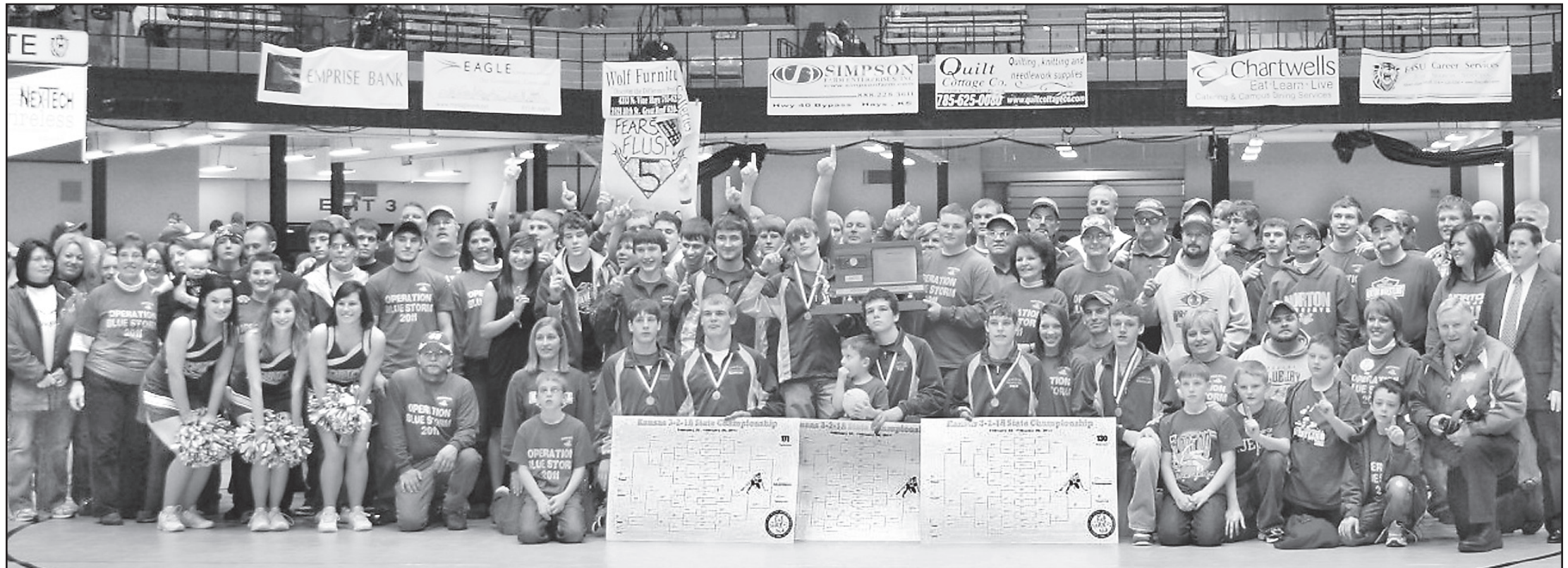
OTHER TEAMS
 T-Ball Coed League Ages 4, 5 and Kindergarten
 K-18 Boys Baseball Ages 15 and Under (As of August 1)

COACHES MEETINGS:
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011 —
 7:00 p.m. - T-Ball • 8:15 p.m. - Boys Division I
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011 —
 7:00 p.m. Boys Division II
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011 —
 7:00 p.m. Girls Division I • 8:15 p.m. Girls Division II

Youth Track and Field Fun Day — Saturday, May 14
Entry Forms Due April 2, 2011, 5:00 p.m.; Kindergarten through Sixth Grade

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Norton Recreation Commission
(785) 877-3087

Congratulations to the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Champions



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