

# Norton girls basketball to begin on Thursday

**By Dick Boyd**  
*nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*

With four returning starters and a total of nine letter winners from last season, coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team will open the 2011-12 season on Thursday in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The Lady Jays will play Sharon Springs at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

Norton's returning starters are Erin Terrell, 5'10" senior; Caren Thomson, 5'7" senior; Tawni Griffey, 5'5" junior and Kamilla Jones, 5'8" junior. The other returning letter winners are: Alec Melvin, 5'7" junior; Katelyn Engelbert, 5'10" sophomore; Bailey Ambrosier, 5'8" sophomore; Johnnye Ruder, 5'4" sophomore and Darcy Bainter, 5'7" sophomore.

Norton returns its two highest scorers from last season. Griffey averaged 12.6 points per game and led the team in three point shooting. She was also Norton's best free throw shooter at 69 percent, was assists leader and second in steals.

Terrell was second leading scorer with an average of 11.6 points per contest. She led in field goal shooting percentage by hitting 49.7 percent of her shots. She was also the rebounds leader with an average of 7.9 per game and steals leader.

Thomson was third high in two-point field goal percentage, connecting on 37.9 percent of her shots. She was also fourth leading scorer and third leading rebounder, averaging 4.6 caroms per contest.

Other team members are Teslee Nickell, 5'6" junior; Marisa Maddy, 5'3" sopho-

more; Kayla Campbell, 5'5" sophomore; Cristine Nelson, 5'8" sophomore; Sierra Griffith, 5'10" freshman and Katie Bohl, 5'10" freshman.

Assistant coaches again this season will be George Rossi and Joan Bolt.

Bryan Henry returns as student manager.

**Coach's comments**

"We are a little behind this year because of girls being gone from practice time but the good thing is we have an extra week, so that will help," said coach Jilka. "When you have only 15 girls out and a few are missing that makes it more difficult to do things but we are adapting to that.

"Offensively, we have a good inside-outside punch with Tawni and Erin but we are going to have to get more girls who want to score and are aggressive in taking the ball to the basket to score.

"Defensively, we can be pretty solid but we aren't the most physical team around and not very aggressive but that is just a mindset and we are working on that part of the game.

"As for the league race, Smith Center is probably the favorite but Osborne, Phillipsburg and Hill City could cause some problems. We can be in that mix but we have to be confident and believe in ourselves all the time.

"It should be an exciting year."

**Long time tenure**

In his 29 years as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays, coach Jilka's teams have won 480 games and lost 173 for a 74 percent winning average. Jilka's Lady Jays have averaged 16.5 wins and just 6 losses per season.

Following their fourth place finish in the

state tournament in 2000-01, coach Jilka's 2001-2 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the league. Norton compiled a 12-9 record in 2003-04 when they tied for second in the league and their season ended with a 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the substate tournament. The season ended for the 2004-05 quintet with a loss to eventual champion Holcomb in the substate tournament. The Lady Jays were 17-5 that year and were undefeated league champions and also league tournament champions.

The 2005-06 Norton girls compiled an 18-2 record, were undefeated in the Mid-Continent League and runner-up in the league tournament. Their season came to a sudden close with a 44-33 loss to Riley County in the substate tournament.

The 2006-07 Lady Jays were 13-7 and also placed third in the league tournament. Their season ended with a 46-42 loss to Oberlin in the substate tournament.

The 2007-08 Norton girls won the sub-state championship and lost their first game in the state tournament 45-39 to Wichita Collegiate.

The Lady Jays did not have a normal won-loss record last season but performed like champions on several occasions. Their games included a 50-49 win over Osborne on a shot at the buzzer, handing No.1 seeded Smith Center their first loss of the season by a 39-32 score in the semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament where Norton finished runner-up, beating Goodland after an earlier loss in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament and taking No.2 state ranked Hill City down to the wire before losing a close game.

Norton Girls Basketball	
<p><b>Dec. 8-9-10</b> Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland</p> <p><b>Dec. 13</b> Stockton 4:45 p.m. Here</p> <p><b>Dec. 16</b> Phillipsburg 4:45 p.m. There</p> <p><b>Dec. 20</b> Cambridge 5 p.m. There</p> <p><b>Jan. 6</b> Osborne Here 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jan. 7</b> MCL Feather Bracket Games TBA</p> <p><b>Jan. 9</b> MCL Girls Quarterfinal TBA</p> <p><b>Jan. 13</b> MCL Semifinals TBA</p> <p><b>Jan. 14</b> MCL Finals TBA</p> <p><b>Jan 17</b> Plainville 4:45 p.m. There</p> <p><b>Jan. 20</b> Trego Community 4:45 p.m. Here</p> <p><b>Jan. 24</b></p>	<p>Goodland 4:45 p.m. There</p> <p><b>Jan. 31</b> Smith Center 4:45 p.m. Here</p> <p><b>Feb. 3</b> Hill City 4:45 p.m. There</p> <p><b>Feb. 7</b> Oberlin There 6:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feb. 10</b> Atwood Here 4:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feb. 14</b> Hoxie Here 4:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feb. 17</b> Ellis There 4:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feb. 21</b> Colby Here 4:45 p.m.</p> <p><b>Feb. 28</b> Sub-State Quarterfinal TBA</p> <p><b>March 2</b> Sub-State Semifinal TBA</p> <p><b>March 8</b> State Championship, Hutchinson</p>
<p><b>Good luck, Lady Jays!</b></p>	

# Norton boys basketball to tip off with tournament

**By Dick Boyd**  
*nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team will open their 2010-11 season on Thursday when they begin competition in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

Norton will play Sharon Springs in a 5 p.m. contest in the fieldhouse.

Coach Reusink has welcomed 31 players for this season's Blue Jay basketball team. Included are four returning starters and one additional letterman from last season's squad. The returning starters are Jordan Wahlmeier, 6'3" senior; Dillon McConney, 6' senior; Tye Nickell, 5'9" senior and Jacob Brooks, 6'2" junior. The fifth returning letterman is 5'6" senior Zach Hartwell.

Wahlmeier was the second leading scorer and rebounder on last season's Norton boys team, averaging 14.7 points and 8.5 rebounds per game. McConney averaged 5.9 points and 4.4 rebounds. Nickell hit 6.6 points per game and 2 rebounds. Brooks scored 10 points per contest and grabbed 5.3 rebounds.

Other team members are: Trey Millan, 5'9"; Joe LeClair, 6'4"; Alec Gilgenbach, 6'7"; Seth Antrim, 5'8", seniors; John Renner, 6'; Andrew Ellis, 6'2"; Dalton Miller, 6'; Ryan Bainter, 5'11"; Carson McKenna, 5'11"; Lane Bigge, 6', juniors; Marc Miller, 5'11"; Drew Schrum, 5'8"; Tanner Furbush, 5'11";

Trever Lewis, 5'8"; Damien Lawson, 6', sophomores; Derick Campbell, 5'7"; Connor Griffey, 5'11"; Kobie Unterseher, 5'7"; Nic Koch, 5'5"; Noah Johnson, 6'; Stefan Bollack-Schott, 5'10"; Breven Sondergaard, 6'; David Smith, 5'10"; Jordan Karnopp, 6'; Tyler Kuhn, 6'4"; Conor Cox, 6'4", freshmen.

David Stover is the assistant coach again this season and Chis Henson will also be an assistant coach.

The four student managers are Damien Davis, Travis Cressler, Jesika Smith and Sheridan Delihay.

**Coach's comments**

"Our numbers are up and that has created competitiveness in practice," said coach Reusink. "We have high expectations

from our returning players and, if we can develop some depth throughout the season, I think we can be a very good team.

"I look for Plainville to repeat as the team to beat in the league again this year and Smith Center has all five starters returning, which will make them a favorite. It's a toss up after that."

**Reusink is veteran coach**

Veteran head coach Reusink is beginning his 33rd year of coaching high school boys basketball teams and has compiled an overall record of 462 wins

and 230 losses for an excellent 67 percent victory record. This is an average of 14.4 wins and 7.2 losses per season.

Under the tutelage of coach Reusink, the 2002-03 Norton quintet won the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-4 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-05 Blue Jays were 15-7.

The Norton boys' 2005-06 record was 12-8 and they finished second in the Mid-Continent League tournament. The 2006-

07 squad was 14-7, tied for second in the league and placed second in the league tournament. The 2007-08 Blue Jays went 15-7, placed third in the league and third in the league tournament but left Norton without any returning starters and only three lettermen for 2008-09.

Norton has completed identical 12-9 records the past two seasons.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 248 wins and 184 losses.

Norton Boys Basketball		
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Norton Varsity in Clay Center Invitational in Clay Center ..... 9:30 a.m. Saturday

**BASKETBALL:**

Norton girls vs. Sharon Springs in Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland ..... 3 p.m. Thursday

Norton boys vs. Sharon Springs in Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland ..... 5 p.m. Thursday

Norton Girls and Boys in Topside Tip-Off Tournament. .... TBA Friday, Saturday

Norton Girls and Boys vs. Stockton in Norton ..... 4:45 p.m. Tuesday

Northern Valley Boys in Purple & Gold Tournament in WaKeeney ..... TBA Dec. 5-10

Logan Girls, Boys vs. Wilson in Stockton ..... 4 p.m. Today

Logan Girls, Boys vs. Hill City in Hill City ..... 4:45 p.m. Friday

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