

# Norton boys upset state ranked Stockton five

**By Dick Boyd**  
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Coach Doug Reusink’s Norton Community High School boys basketball team upset previously unbeaten and No.6 state ranked Stockton by the score of 60-57 in Mid-Continent League play on Friday night in Stockton.

It was a hard-fought game throughout. Norton led 15-11 at the end of the first quarter but lost it in the second period and trailed 26-23 at intermission. The Blue Jays took the lead back in the third quarter and held a 42-36 advantage with one period remaining. Senior Andrew Ellis hit a free throw and passed to senior Lane Bigge for a basket, then senior Dalton Miller drained a three-point shot that put the Blue Jays on top 48-41 with 5:55 left in the game. A two-point and three-point basket by Stockton cut the lead to 48-46 at the 4:17

mark. Junior Drew Schrum hit two free throws before a Stockton three-point basket cut the Norton advantage to 50-49, then another trey by the Tigers put them ahead 52-50 with 3:00 showing on the clock. Norton senior Carson McKenna stole the ball and was fouled. Although he missed his free throw, sophomore Conor Cox grabbed the rebound and was fouled. He hit one free throw to make it 52-51 but another three-point basket by the Tigers gave them a 55-51 advantage. Norton senior Jacob Brooks, who led Norton in scoring but hadn’t yet hit a basket in the final period, scored and was fouled and hit the free throw to cut the Tiger lead to 55-54. Stockton missed two free throws then Cox scored to put Norton on top 56-55 with 44 seconds left in the game! Two Stockton free throws put them

back in the lead at 57-56. Brooks scored again for Norton, moving the Jays ahead 58-57 with nine seconds left! Brooks was fouled with 5.3 seconds remaining. He was perfect for the night in free throw shooting to that point but missed on both charities. He made up for the two misses by stealing the ball and driving for two more points as time ran out and the Blue Jays prevailed 60-57! “This was a great win over a team we were not supposed to beat and it was on the road,” said coach Reusink. “We did a great job on defense of shutting down their inside men and made crucial plays at the end of the game to get the win. “It would have been easier if we had hit our free throws.” Leading scorer for Norton was Brooks with 26 points on 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 8 of 18 two-point shots for

45 percent and 9 of 22 overall for 41 percent and 7 of 9 free throws for 78 percent. Beougher led Stockton with 22 points. As a team, Norton hit 2 of 13 from beyond the arc for 15 percent but made up for it with 21 of 51 from two-point range for 41 percent accuracy. That made the Blue Jays 23 of 64 overall for 36 percent. Stockton relied on three-point shooting but didn’t hit enough to win the game. The Tigers took 30 shots from beyond the arc and hit 11 of them for 37 percent. They took only 17 two-point attempts and hit 6 for 35 percent. Overall, they were 17 of 47 for 36 percent. From the free throw line, Norton swished 12 of 22 for 55 percent and the Tigers hit 12 of 19 for 63 percent. Norton outrebounded Stockton 30-23. The Blue Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 20 de-

fensive caroms while the Tigers grabbed 4 offensive and 19 defensive rebounds. Brooks led in rebounds for Norton with 9, followed by Cox, 5; Furbush, 5; Schrum, 3; Ellis, 3; Miller, 2; Bainter, McKenna, Bigge, 1 each. The battling Norton defense created 20 Stockton turnovers compared to 8 for the Blue Jays. Norton had 13 offensive assists compared to 3 for Stockton. Assists leader was Brooks with 4, followed by Ellis, 3; Miller, 2; McKenna, 2; Schrum, 1; Furbush, 1. **Junior varsity** Norton won the junior varsity game by a 51-16 score. The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 4-2, 17-10 and 38-13. Ten different players scored for Norton. Leading the way were Trever Lewis, 8 and Derrick Campbell and Kobie Un-

terseher, 7 each. They were followed by Breven Sondergaard, 6; Marc Miller, 6; Drew Schrum, 5; Tanner Furbush, 4; Conor Cox, 4; Quinton Porter, 2; Jordan Karnopp, 2. **Next action** Norton boys and girls will host Phillipsburg today in more Mid-Continent League action. Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team boys at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed by junior varsity boys. Beginning at 4:45 p.m. in Stull Gym will be the junior varsity girls, followed by varsity girls and varsity boys games. **Norton boys** Jacob Brooks 8 1 7-9 26; Conor Cox 2 0 2-4 6; Drew Schrum 0 0 2-2 2; Andrew Ellis 4 0 1-2 9; Dalton Miller - 1 0-0 3; Tanner Furbush 2 0 0-0 4; Ryan Bainter 1 0 0-0 2; Carson McKenna 3 0 0-5 6; Lane Bigge 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 21 2 12-22 60.

# Lady Jay defense impressive in win over Stockton

**By Dick Boyd**  
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Coach George Rossi’s Norton Community High School girls basketball team opened Mid-Continent League play on Tuesday with a solid 47-28 victory over Stockton on the Lady Tigers’ home court. The Lady Jays’ hustling defense created many turnovers and limited Stockton to just 3 points in the first and third quarters as they led from start to finish.

“Tonight’s game was a very large step in the right direction,” said coach Rossi. “We were able to press and get some turnovers as well as limiting our turnovers. We are getting more comfortable in our offensive sets with a lot of good passes. “We are beginning to know each other better and communication is getting better. What stands out mostly is how hard our girls hustled tonight. We have been preaching toughness and intensity and we saw both

tonight. “We need to keep moving in this direction.” Norton limited Stockton to one basket and one free throw in the first quarter while putting 11 points on the scoreboard. Senior point guard Tawni Griffey hit her first of three shots from beyond the arc while senior Kamilla Jones swished two baskets and junior Katelyn Engelbert and junior Bailey Ambrosier each hit a basket. The Lady Jays’ second quarter was their lowest scoring one with just 7 points while Stockton tallied 11 to cut into their lead and make the halftime score 18-14. Junior Johnnye Ruder hit a three-point shot while sophomore Katie Bohl and Griffey each hit a basket. Norton outscored Stockton 13-3 in the third quarter when the Lady Jays allowed just a basket and free throw. Engelbert and Ambrosier each hit two baskets in the period, Griffey buried another trey and Jones swished another basket.

The Lady Jays put together their best scoring quarter in the fourth when they put 16 points on the scoreboard as five different players scored. Griffey hit a three-point and two-point basket, Engelbert hit two more baskets, Ambrosier scored on another basket and free throw and junior Darcy Bainter and senior Alec Melvin each hit baskets. Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on 3 of 11 three-point shots for 27 percent, 2 of 6 two-point tries for 33 percent and 5 of 17 overall for 29 percent. Engelbert added 10 points on 5 of 13 shots for 38 percent accuracy. Ambrosier shot exceptionally well, hitting 4 of 5 attempts for 80 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 9 points. Leading scorer for Stockton was Morgan Beougher with 11 points. As a team, Norton hit 4 of 16 three-point shots for 25 percent, 17 of 41 two-point tries for 41 percent and 21 of 57 overall for 37 percent.

Stockton swished 2 of 7 from long range for 29 percent, 8 of 29 two-point attempts for 28 percent and 10 of 36 overall for 28 percent. The Lady Jays hit 1 of 3 free throws in the game for 33 percent. The Lady Tigers had more chances from the charity stripe and hit 6 of 11 for 55 percent. Norton grabbed 11 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 28 total. Stockton pulled down 9 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 30 total. Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Ambrosier with 7, followed by Griffey, 5; Engelbert, 4; Bainter, 4; Melvin, 4; Bohl, 2; Ruder, 1; Jones, 1. Norton’s aggressive defense made 15 steals and created 26 turnovers. Steals leader was Melvin with 4 thefts, followed by Griffey, 3; Engelbert, 2; Ambrosier, 2; Jones, 2; Bainter, 1; Ruder, 1. Norton had 14 turnovers. The Lady Jays had 9 assists. Griffey led with 5, followed by Engelbert, Bainter, Bohl, Ruder,

1 each. **Junior varsity** The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Stockton 35-15. Norton held quarter leads of 8-6, 19-12 and 28-13. Leading scorer for Norton was Sierra Griffith with 10 points, followed by Casey Ambrosier, 6; Peyton Renner, 4; Molly Maddy, Alexis Hartwell, Lauren Mordecai, 3 each; Marisa Maddy, Katie Bohl, 2 each; Hanna Brooks, Kylie Perez, 1 each. Leading in scoring for the Lady Tigers was Ali Miller with 6 points. “Our girls played well tonight,” said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. “Our defense gave the Stockton girls fits and we were able to capitalize on them. “Also, our offense played with improved patience. We had some nice shots. “We need to work a little more on ball reversal and timing our offense a little better. Other than a few silly fouls, our overall

play was a great improvement.” **Next action** Norton girls and boys will host Phillipsburg today in more Mid-Continent League action. Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team boys at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed by junior varsity boys. Beginning at 4:45 p.m. in Stull Gym will be the junior varsity girls, followed by varsity girls and varsity boys games. **Norton girls** Tawni Griffey 2 3 0-0 13; Katelyn Engelbert 5 0 0-0 10; Darcy Bainter 1 0 0-1 2; Katie Bohl, 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Ambrosier 4 0 1-2 9; Johnnye Ruder 0 1 0-0 3; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Kamilla Jones 3 0 0-0 6; Totals 17 4 1-3 47. **Stockton girls** Hannah Lindsey 0 0 1-2 1; Rilee Brown 0 0 1-2 1; Morgan Beougher 1 2 3-4 11; Sierra Brown 4 0 0-0 8; Caitlyn Lingg 2 0 0-2 4; Jonesa Shirley 1 0 1-3 3; Totals 8 2 6-13 28.

# Junior varsity wrestlers fourth at Southern Valley

**By Dick Boyd**  
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers turned in another outstanding early season performance last Friday with a fourth place finish out of 15 teams in the varsity Southern Valley Invitational. South Central Unified won the championship with 328 points, followed by Red Cloud/Blue Hill, 235; Southern Valley, 233; Norton, 216; Loomis-Bertrand, 212; Medicine Valley, 191; Franklin, 181; Centura, 155; Axtell, 134; Wilcox/Hildreth, 103; Elwood, 71; Arapahoe, 69; Alma, 57. “The Southern Valley Invite continues to grow in number of teams and wrestlers,” said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. “The tournament is run with pools promoting more matches and, in most cases, a wrestler will get five matches. How you finish in your pool determines the placing match for medals. At the end of a long day, two of our wrestlers were crowned champions and seven placed in the top five.” Winning championships for Norton were freshman Skylar Johnson, 106 and senior Cody Ellis, 152, who is a varsity wrestler but had a conflict for the Clay Center Tournament. Freshman Mike Kasson placed runner-up at 132 and freshman Riley Hager finished third at 120. Other Norton placings were: freshman Chandler Sumner, fourth, 195; freshman Weston Erbert, fifth, 126; junior Toby Nickell, fifth, 138; freshman Kyle Bell, sixth, 113; junior Garret Otter, sixth, 120; junior Andre Valencia, sixth, 220; sophomore Keith Sander, eighth, 145; freshman Gavin Lively, ninth, 145; sophomore Derek Rowh,

tenth, 138; sophomore Dalton Vanover, 11th, 132. Skylar Johnson ended the day with three pins, a technical fall and a regular decision. For his performance, he was named Norton’s “Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week.” “Skylar is wrestling well in the early part of the season,” said coach Miller. “He is always looking to score and fights for every point. He puts a lot of points on the board and that is what we are trying to promote with all of our young wrestlers. “Cody Ellis went 3-0 for the day. Although this tournament was not the quality of competition he would have seen at Clay Center, there were some good matches and I think he came away with some definite positives. Cody was in quality matches and won all three by pins. “Mike Kasson and Riley Hager had good tournaments as well. Mike came from behind in an exciting match to just miss a gold medal. Riley had a solid day, going 4-1 with his loss coming to the champion.” Norton had a 30-24 won-loss record and 19-15 pin ratio. The young Blue Jays had 19 two-point near falls compared to 3 for the opposition and 15 three-point near falls compared to 5 by opponents. **Individual matches** 106 - Skylar Johnson won a 13-9 decision over Kalen Cumming, Centura; pinned Jason Palmer, Loomis/Bertrand, in 4:28; pinned Tanner Schnuerle, Franklin, in 3:57; pinned Grant Schiermeyer, South Central Unified, in 1:58 and won a 16-0 technical fall over Ray Ramirez, Elwood, in 5:01. 113 - Kyle Bell was pinned in 3:45 by Kevin Lienemann, Alma; pinned Wayne Wills,


Medicine Valley, in :48; was pinned in 3:35 by Sam Hunt, Southern Valley; lost an 8-7 decision to Michael Neville, Centura and was pinned in 2:40 by Jesse Thompson, Loomis/Bertrand. 120 - Riley Hager pinned Wetzel, Centura, in 3:10; drew a bye; pinned Maizache, Southern Valley, in 1:48; was pinned by James, Franklin, in 2:32; pinned Hammond, Alma, in 3:11 and won a 2-1 decision over Begquist, Southern Valley. 120 - Garret Otter lost a 9-4 decision to Trevor Devries, South Central Unified; lost a 7-5 decision to Connor Begquist, Southern Valley; received a bye; won an 8-7 decision over Andrew Mai, Red Cloud/Blue Hill and was pinned in 2:16 by Brady Wetzel, Centura. 126 - Weston Erbert received a bye, was pinned in 2:24 by Blake Krull, South Central Unified; lost a 3-2 decision to Dylan Wells, Axtell; pinned Justin Shipman, Red Cloud/Blue Hill, in 3:03 and pinned Tristen Hancock, South Central Unified, in 4:38. 132 - Mike Kasson pinned Ashton Wasenius, Arapahoe, in 1:47; pinned Dalton Vanover, Norton, in :08; pinned Rodger Farr, Medicine Valley, in 3:13; pinned Kaleb Schafer, South Central Unified, in 5:42 and lost a 6-5 decision to Dillon Hunt, Southern Valley. 132 - Dalton Vanover lost a 6-2 decision to Rodger Farr, Medicine Valley; was pinned in :08 by Mike Kasson, Norton; pinned Ashton Wasenius, Arapahoe, in 3:45; lost a 7-6 decision to Travis Linnemeyer, Centura and won a 4-0 decision over William Wessels, Alma. 138 - Toby Nickell lost a 4-1 decision to Tucker Bergquist, Southern Valley; won a 6-1 de-

cision over Erik Lienemann, Alma; was pinned in 5:19 by Dallas Johnson, Axtell; won an 11-2 major decision over Wyatt Thayer, South Central Unified and pinned Nolan Charron, Centura, in 3:05. 138 - Derek Rowh lost a 7-4 decision to Clark, Alma; lost an 8-2 decision to Charron, Centura; drew a bye; was pinned in 2:46 by Abramson, Loomis/Bertrand; was pinned in 3:49 by Fuller, Red Cloud/Blue Hill and lost a 6-3 decision to Thayer, South Central Unified. 145 - Gavin Lively was pinned in 1:18 by Dillon Schnuerle, Franklin, in 1:18; lost a 5-3 decision to Tanner Ruppecht, Red Cloud/Blue Hill; drew a bye; won by forfeit over Austin Brown, Loomis/Bertrand and pinned Trenton Shriver, Wilcox-Hildreth, in :16. 145 - Keith Sander was pinned in :37 by Grafton, Elwood; pinned Shriver, Wicox/Hildreth, in :14; was pinned in 2:43 by Ruppecht, Red Cloud, Blue Hill and was pinned in 5:59 by Gardner, Arapahoe. 152 - Cody Ellis pinned Devan Ritner, Wilcox-Hildreth, in :56; pinned Ryan Pavelka, South Central Unified, in 1:11; pinned Jesse Jackson, Southern Valley, in 6:00; pinned Taylor Hancock, South Central Unified, in 5:09 and won a 17-1 tech fall over Dylan Shannon, Red Cloud/Blue Hill, in 6:00. 195 - Chandler Sumner pinned Tony Francis, South Central Unified, in 5:08; was pinned in :29 by Logan Searle, South Central Unified; was pinned in 3:12 by Arick Aubushon, Wilcox-Hildreth; and was pinned in 4:52 by Axel Cassel, Axtell. 220 - Andre Valencia was pinned in 1:21 by Brady Heusinkvelt, Centura; was pinned in 3:28 by Cole Haase, South-

ern Valley; was pinned in 1:58 by Cory Merrigan, Medicine Valley; pinned Zach Wadleigh, Arapahoe, in :56 and was pinned in 2:48 by Cole Haase, Southern Valley. **Next action** The Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete this Friday in the Cambridge Invitational, which begins at 10 a.m.

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