

Blue Jays defeat Osborne after slow start

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team got a slow start in their first game of the new year but finished strong to defeat Osborne 53-43 last Friday evening in Osborne.

The Blue Jays earned the Mid-Continent League victory for two reasons: they dominated the final three quarters and Osborne had no answer for Norton's senior guard Jacob Brooks.

After Norton fell behind 19-8 in the first quarter, the aggressive Blue Jay defense allowed the Bulldogs only one field goal in the second quarter and two field goals in the third quarter before they hit five field goals in the fourth period when the game was already decided.

Brooks hit 4 of 10 three-point

tries for 40 percent, 4 of 11 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 8 of 21 overall for 38 percent and was a perfect 9 of 9 from the free throw line for 29 total points.

"We got a bad start but our young men kept battling," said coach Reusink. "We played very good defense and rebounded well in the third quarter which got us the lead."

"We stayed mentally tough and more disciplined than we have in the past when things got tough."

"It was a good road win." Brooks was the only player to score for Norton in the first quarter when he hit two two-point field goals and four free throws.

The Blue Jays outscored the Bulldogs 15-7 in the second quarter when Brooks hit a two-point and three-point basket as

well as two more charities. Andrew Ellis, Dalton Miller, Tanner Furbush and Lane Bigge each hit a basket before intermission to cut Osborne's lead down to 26-23.

Brooks couldn't miss in the third quarter when he led the Blue Jays with 12 of their 18 points. Brooks hit three baskets from beyond the arc and three more charities. Miller hit two baskets and Bigge hit another as well as Norton took a 41-31 lead.

Both teams scored 12 points in the final stanza. Miller led the way with three baskets followed by Brooks, Ellis and Bigge with a basket apiece.

Miller had a perfect shooting night, hitting 6 of 6 field goal attempts for 12 points.

Ubelaker led Osborne in scoring with 13 points while Wolters added 11.

As a team, Norton swished 4 of 18 three-point tries for 22 percent, 16 of 36 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 20 of 54 overall for 37 percent.

Osborne tallied on 3 of 9 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 13 of 28 from two-point land for 46 percent and 16 of 37 overall for 43 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 9 of 13 for 69 percent and Osborne hit 8 of 17 charities for 47 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Bulldogs 26-18. Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 18 defensive caroms while Osborne pulled down 4 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Brooks was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Bigge, 6; Miller, 5; Furbush, 4; Ellis, 2; Drew Schrum, 1; Carson McKenna, 1.

Norton had 7 steals compared

to 5 for Osborne. Ellis and Miller each had 2 thefts while Brooks, Schrum and Furbush each had 1 steal.

The Blue Jays had 10 assists compared to 8 for the Bulldogs. McKenna was assists leader with 4, followed by Brooks, 3; Ellis, Miller, Furbush, 1 each.

Norton blocked 5 shots. Brooks rejected 2 while Conor Cox, John Renner and Ellis each had 1 block.

The Blue Jays had 12 turnovers and the Bulldogs had 9.

Junior varsity
Three quarters were played in the junior varsity game, which was won by Osborne 29-24.

Norton led 10-5 after one quarter and 22-18 at halftime but Osborne outscored the young Jays 11-2 in the third and final quarter.

Marc Miller and Trever Lewis led Norton in scoring with 7

points each, followed by Tanner Furbush, 6; Breven Sondergaard, 4.

Clark led Osborne with 9 points.

Next action
Norton will travel to Wa-Keeney for Mid-Continent League action this evening, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Norton boys
Jacob Brooks 4 4 9-9 29; Andrew Ellis 2 0 0-0 4; Dalton Miller 6 0 0-1 12; Tanner Furbush 1 0 0-2 2; Lane Bigge 3 0 0-1 6; Totals 16 4 9-13 53.

Osborne boys
Wolters 4 1 0-1 11; Tierman 0 1 0-0 3; Ubelaker 3 1 4-7 13; Carswell 1 0 0-1 2; Mick 0 0 1-2 1; LeRock 3 0 1-2 7; Hendrickson 0 0 0-2 0; Clark 2 0 2-2 6; Totals 13 3 8-17 43.

Norton Lady Jays new year's opener ends in loss

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team was outshot pretty badly in their 2013 opener on Friday in Osborne and the result was a 51-36 Mid-Continent League loss.

"We were outthrustled and out-worked for about 18 minutes," said Norton head coach George Rossi.

"The first half, we could not get our shots to fall or establish any kind of rhythm against the Lady bulldogs."

"Osborne did a very good job of moving the ball and we did not play very good man defense."

"During the second half, we did a better job of shooting and being more aggressive on offense but we could not close the gap that we created in the first half."

It is disappointing because we have had good practrices over break. The question is how we will bounce back against Plainville on Tuesday.

"This is a great group of girls and I am confident they will be ready to go when we hit the floor next week."

Osborne outscored Norton 18-9 in the first quarter. The Lady Jays' points came on two baskets and a free throw by junior post Bailey Ambrosier and a basket each by senior point guard Tawni Griffey and junior guard Katelyn Engelbert.

Norton's worst quarter was the second when they were

outscored 13-6 and trailed 31-15 at halftime. The Lady Jays' only points in the second period came on baskets by sophomore post Katie Bohl, Ambrosier and senior post Alec Melvin.

The Lady Jays' best quarter was the third where they outscored the Lady bulldogs 14-13 but it was not enough to make a dent in Osborne's lead. Griffey buried three baskets from beyond the arc, junior guard John-nye Ruder also swished a trey and Ambrosier added a two-point basket.

Norton was unable to cut the Osborne lead down any more since both teams scored just 7 points in the final period. Ambrosier finished with two baskets and Griffey hit another trey.

Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points on 4 of 8 shots from long range for 50 percent, 1 of 9 two-point tries for 11 percent and 5 of 17 overall for 29 percent.

Ambrosier added 13 points on 6 of 10 from two-point range for 60 percent and 1 of 5 free throws for 20 percent.

Leading scorer for Osborne was St. Clair with 17.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 13 three-point attempts for 38 percent, 10 of 36 two-point tries for 28 percent and 15 of 49 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit just 1 of 10 tries for 10 percent. The Lady Bulldogs swished 6 of 12 charities for 50 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 32-29. The Lady Jays had 13

offensive and 16 defensive boards while the Lady Bulldogs grabbed 11 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds.

Ambrosier led Norton in rebounding with 12 total, followed by Engelbert, 4; Griffey, 3 Bohl, 3; Darcy Bainter, 2; Ruder, 2; Kamilla Jones, 2; Melvin, 1.

Norton had 8 offensive assists. Griffey was the leader with 5, followed by Engelbert, Ruder and Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 9 steals compared to 7 by the Lady Bulldogs. Griffey had 4 thefts, followed by Jones, 2; Engelbert, Bohl and Melvin, 1 each.

Both teams had 14 turnovers.

Junior varsity
Norton lost the junior varsity game by a score of 24-13.

Norton trailed 2-0 after the first quarter, the score was tied 4-all at intermission and Osborne outscored Norton 12-2 in

the third period to take a 16-6 lead.

Scoring for Norton were Peyton Renner, Hannah Brooks, Molly Maddy, Katie Bohl, Sierra Griffith and Lexi Voss, each with 2 points and Casey Ambrosier with 1 point.

Werthmann led Osborne with 8 points and S. Brummer added 7.

"This was not a good game for us; we played out of sorts," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"We will continue to work on maintaining focus when playing. We have the ability to play well and do good things. With patience it will happen."

Next action

Norton will travel to Wa-Keeney for Mid-Continent League action this evening, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 1 4 0-0 14; Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-1 2; Katie Bohl 1 0 0-2 2; Bailey Ambrosier 6 0 1-5 13; John-nye Ruder 0 1 0-2 3; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 10 5 1-10 36.

Osborne girls
St Clair 7 1 0-0 17; Wolters 3 0 0-0 6; Princ 4 0 5-6 13; Noel 1 2 1-4 9; Miller 3 0 0-2 6; Totals 18 1 6-12 51.

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Monthly

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Girls C-team takes second at Phillipsburg

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School C-team girls basketball team placed second in the C-team Tournament held Saturday, Jan. 5 in Phillipsburg.

The young Lady Jays defeated Phillipsburg 26-17 in their first game of the tournament, then lost the championship contest by a score of 37-18 to Hill City.

Phillipsburg
In the win over the Lady Panthers, Norton held quarter leads of 6-4, 16-8 and 21-11.

Scoring by Norton was evenly distributed. Hannah Brooks and Lexi Voss each scored 5 points, followed by Peyton Renner, 4; Molly Maddy, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 4; Lauren Mordecai, 2; Cristine Nelson, 2.

Ratliff led Phillipsburg with 9 points.

"This was a great tournament for all our girls to get an opportunity to play," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We took 10 girls and all 10 played. I was happy to see our girls come out in the first game and play with a lot of composure. They were patient on offense and worked the ball around for some good

shots. Seven of our 10 players were able to score."

Hill City
In the loss to Hill City, the young Lady Jays trailed by quarters 13-3, 21-7 and 30-9.

Renner was leading scorer for Norton with 7 points, followed by Mordecai, 5; Brooks, 2; Alexus Hartwell, 2; Voss, 2.

Conway was high scorer for Hill City with 11 points.

"The game with Hill City was very challenging," said coach Bolt. "They were a well balanced team with tall, physical girls in the middle and guards that could drive and hit the outside shot. We struggled to be in the correct positions and move our feet."

"Hill City did a nice job of being patient on offense and finding the open person. Their sagging defense challenged us. We had a tendency to get lazy with our passes, which created steals for them."

"Our girls were down 21-7 at halftime but I will give them credit for going hard and not giving up. We need to have more composure on offense, move our feet, talk on defense and go to the boards more."

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