

Blue Jays fall a shot short of a win

By DICK BOYD

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Despite being badly outshot from the field, the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team battled hard and stayed just a few points behind a visiting Colby quintet on Monday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym but fell just a shot or two short of winning in a 64-59 game.

The contest had been postponed due to inclement weather.

With Tanner Furbush scoring 7 points and Quinton Porter and Drew Schrum adding 5 points each, the Blue Jays scored 17 points in the first quarter. Unfortunately, the Eagles tallied 20 to take a three-point lead.

Led by Schrum with 7 more points, Norton tallied 15 points in the second period but Colby scored 17 to lead 37-32 at halftime.

Norton gained in the third quarter, outscoring the visitors 14-10 to make it a one-point game with Colby leading 47-46. Marc Miller and Tyus Henson each drained three-point shots for Norton in the period.

Colby scored to start the fourth period but Furbush matched it. The Blue Jays could not hit another basket, however, and Colby went on an 8-0 run to stretch their lead to 57-48 with just 2:53 left in the contest.

Furbush hit two free throws, then traded free throws with Colby. Henson hit nothing but net on a three-point shot, making it 58-54 with 2:01 remaining. Colby scored again and Furbush also tallied on a jump shot to make it 60-56 with 1:17 left. Two more Colby free throws stretched the lead to 62-56.

Porter buried a three-point basket with 22.1 seconds remaining to cut the lead to 62-59 but Colby scored one more time to win by five points.

“We played terrible defense, especially transitional defense,” said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. “We haven’t defended well for two games in a row but we were still in the game. Right after the half, we got a lot of shots but couldn’t hit them and that hurt us.”

Furbush was leading scorer for Norton with 17 points on 6 of 16 two-point tries for 38 percent and 5 of 9 free throws for 56 percent.

Schrum added 14 points on 4 of 10 two-point shots for 40 percent, 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent. He also hit 3 of 3 free throws.

Henson was a third Norton player in double figures. He hit 2 of 3 from long range for 67 percent, 2 of 5 two-point tries for 40 percent and 4 of 8 overall



Norton's Tyus Henson puts up a set shot as a Colby player tries desperately to block it during action in the NCHS Stull Gym on Monday evening. Henson hit 10 points on 50 percent shooting. In the background is the Blue Jays' Drew Schrum who scored 14 points in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

for 50 percent and 10 points.

Cameron Brown led Colby with 23 points.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 14 three-point tries for 43 percent, 15 of 43 two-point attempts for

35 percent and 21 of 57 overall for 37 percent.

Colby tallied on 1 of 8 from long range for 13 percent, 25 of 44 from two-point land for 57 percent and 26 of 52 overall for 50 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 11 of 22 for 50 percent and the Eagles hit 11 of 23 for 48 percent.

Norton did slightly out-rebound Colby, 38-35. The Blue Jays pulled down 11 offensive and 27 defensive caroms compared to 7 offensive and 28 defensive for Colby.

Tanner Furbush also led Norton in rebounding with 12, followed by Drew Schrum, 8; Connor Cox, 6; Breven Sondergaard, 5; Quinton Porter, 3; Marc Miller, 2; Tyus Henson, 1; Trevor Lewis, 1.

Schrum also had 7 of Norton's 15 offensive assists. He was followed by Henson, 3; Porter, Miller, 2 each; Cox, 1.

Cox also blocked 3 shots.

Norton had 3 steals. Henson, Miller and Furbush had 1 each. Colby had 5 thefts.

The Blue Jays had just 11 turnovers and the Eagles gave up the ball just 9 times.

Junior Varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Colby 52-45.

Norton had quarter leads of

14-11, 36-25 and 36-35.

Leading scorer for Norton was Landon Porter with 15 points, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 12; Jordan Karnopp, 9; Tyus Henson, 8; Kobie Unterseher, 5; Koby McEwen, 3.

Leighton Rinehart led Colby with 14 points.

C-team game

The Norton boys C-team was beaten by a score of 51-24.

Colby held quarter leads of 12-4, 25-19 and 38-21.

Leading scorer for Norton was James Berry with 10 points. He was followed by Cruz Leon, 5; Koby McEwen, 4; Will Ellis, 3; Andrew Bashford, 2.

Zeke Baka and Brandon Johnson led Colby with 11 points each.

Norton boys

Breven Sondergaard 1 0 1-3 3, Quinton Porter 1 2 1-3 9, Tyus Henson 2 2 0-0 10, Marc Miller 0 1 0-0 3, Drew Schrum 4 1 3-3 14, Connor Cox 0 0 1-4 1, Tanner Furbush 6 0 5-9 17, Trevor Lewis 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 15 6 11-22 59.

Colby boys

Chandler Comfort 2 0 0-1 4, Cameron Brown 9 0 5-11 23, Donte Whitfield 2 0 0-4 1, Luke Cox 3 1 1-4 10, Ashton Russ 4 0 0-0 8, Adam Giersch 0 0 1-1 1, Austin Russ 1 0 2-2 4, Marc Bremenkamp 4 0 2-4 10; Totals 25 1 11-23 64.

Lady Jays defeat Colby in make up game

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team came out energized and confident and defeated Colby, who had been state ranked, by a score of 47-41 in a makeup contest on Monday evening in the Stull Gym.

The Lady Jays led most of the way then had to fight to hold off a Lady Eagle rally attempt.

With five girls scoring, Norton held a slim 11-10 advantage after one quarter but, with a 14-9 second period, extended their lead to 25-19 at halftime. Colby tried to rally in the third quarter when they outscored Norton 12-9 to cut the Norton lead to 34-31 but the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Eagles 13-10 in the final stanza.

“This was our biggest win of the season,” said Norton head coach George Rossi. “It’s been a long time since we’ve beaten Colby.”

“Bailey Ambrosier led the defensive charge and the rest of our players followed her lead. She inspired everyone.”

“After a tough loss to Hill City, we came out determined

and weren’t going to lose. We got a little shaky in the last five minutes but took control and did what we needed to do to win.”

In addition to playing good defense, Ambrosier also shot the ball well and was Norton’s leading scorer with 15 points. She hit 6 of 8 shots from the field for a net smoking 75 percent and also hit 3 of 6 free throws for 50 percent.

Katie Bohl scored 11 points on the inside. She hit 5 of 10 shots for 50 percent and added 1 of 5 from the charity stripe.

Brenly Terrell led Colby with 15 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 14 from beyond the arc for 29 percent but swished 15 of 28 from two-point land for an outstanding 54 percent. Overall, Norton was 19 of 42 for 45 percent.

Colby hit 5 of 19 three-point tries for 26 percent, 12 of 38 two-point attempts for 32 percent and 17 of 57 overall for 30 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 5 of 14 for 36 percent and the Lady Eagles swished 2 of 9 for 22 percent.

Norton had 4 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 24 total. Katelyn Engelbert led with 7,

followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 6; Katie Bohl, 5; Darcy Bainter, 2; Johnnie Ruder, 2; Caitlyn Cox, 1; Miah Melvin, 1.

Colby grabbed 35 total caroms.

Bainter led Norton in assists with 4 of 13 total, followed by Ruder, 3; Engelbert, 2; Ambrosier, 2; Melvin, 2.

Bainter, Bohl and Ambrosier each had 1 steal. Colby had 6 thefts.

Turnovers were about even. Norton had 11 and Colby lost the ball 9 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity edged Colby 36-35.

Norton held quarter leads of 8-6, 15-14 and 30-20.

Colby outscored Norton 15-6 in the fourth quarter but it was too little, too late for the visitors.

Lexi Voss led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Baylee Miller, 7; Casey Ambrosier, 6; Miah Melvin, 6; Hanna Brooks 3; Peyton Renner, 2; Kylie Perez, 2; Molly Maddy, 2.

Leading scorer for the Lady Eagles was Darby Sager with 12 points.

“We just squeaked by with the win,” said Norton assistant

coach Joan Bolt. “We gave up a 10 point lead with four minutes left in the game.”

“The good thing was when Colby had the ball at the end of the game, we were able to keep them from even putting up an opportunity to score.”

“We need to work on taking care of the ball under pressure and not rushing when we have a decent lead at the end of a game.”

“If we had made half of our free throws, the score would never have been a big issue. Hitting 3 of 14 from the charity stripe is not going to cut it in most games. But, we finished with a victory and that is the bottom line.”

Norton girls

Caitlyn Cox 0 0 1-2 1, Katelyn Engelbert 2 1 0-0 7, Darcy Bainter 0 1 0-0 3, Katie Bohl 5 0 1-5 11, Bailey Ambrosier 6 0 3-5 15, Johnnie Ruder 0 2 0-0 6, Miah Melvin 2 0 0-0 4; Totals 15 4 5-12 47.

Colby girls

Brenly Terrell 3 3 0-0 15, Haileigh Shull 1 1 0-0 5, Lara Stephens 3 0 0-0 6, Hannah Strange 2 0 1-3 5, Shailla Giebler 2 1 1-4 8, Kelly Sloan 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 12 5 2-7 41.



The Lady Jays’ Bailey Ambrosier goes up for a shot during Norton’s win over Colby in the NCHS Stull Gym on Monday evening. Ambrosier was Norton’s leading scorer with 15 points on 75 percent shooting!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls take the Oberlin red devils down

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team had a little trouble getting fired up for Oberlin on Tuesday evening after a big win over Colby in a weather-delayed contest Monday evening but survived a tough test on the Lady Red Devils’ home court by a score of 40-36.

The Lady Jays scored just 5 points in the first quarter and the Lady Red Devils put up 11. Norton head coach George Rossi put junior varsity players on the floor in the second stanza and they responded with 12 points compared to 5 for Oberlin. That put Norton ahead 17-16 at intermission.

With the starters rested, Norton outscored Oberlin 10-9 in the third quarter and 15-11 in the final period.

“Coming off our win over Colby, we talked about having a let down and that just about happened,” said coach Rossi. “We came out flat at times and just did not look connected at times in the game. Our bench players came in in the second quarter and gave us super minutes and that helped the starters get their feet under them for the second half.”

tough Oberlin team. Our girls knew how important the game was and made some big plays down the stretch to give us a bit of a cushion.

“It has been a rough couple of nights with tough games but it sure doesn’t get any easier with Osborne, Hoxie, Ellis and Smith Center remaining. Hoxie and Smith Center are defending state champions.”

Leading scorers for Norton were Katie Bohl with 14 points and Bailey Ambrosier with 10. Bohl hit 7 of 12 shots from the field for 58 percent. Ambrosier swished 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent.

Murray led Oberlin with 19 points.

Norton outshooting Oberlin from the field was a big factor in the game. The Lady Jays hit just 1 of 11 three point tries but connected on 15 of 34 two-point attempts for 44 percent.

Oberlin also had trouble from triple range, hitting just 1 of 5 but swished 12 of 43 two-point tries for 28 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton tallied on just 7 of 18 for a cold 39 percent while Oberlin hit 9 of 13 charities for 69 percent.

The rebounding battle was fairly even. Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 21 defensive

caroms for 32 total. Oberlin grabbed 8 offensive and 20 defensive boards for 28 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Katie Bohl with 13, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 5; Katelyn Engelbert, 4; Caitlyn Cox, 3; Darcy Bainter, 2; Miah Melvin, 2; Peyton Renner, 1; Johnnie Rude, 1; Casey Ambrosier, 1.

Marisa Maddy recorded 3 of Norton’s 8 offensive assists. She was followed by Katelyn Engelbert, Peyton Renner, Bailey Ambrosier, Johnnie Ruder, Miah Melvin, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 7 steals and the Lady Red Devils recorded 9. Maddy and Bailey Ambrosier each had 2 thefts and each had 1.

Engelbert had 3 blocked shots and Cox and Bailey Ambrosier each rejected 1 shot.

Turnovers were about even. Norton turned the ball over 16 times and Oberlin lost it 15 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls had a great defensive game as they defeated the Lady Red Devils 45-15.

Norton held quarter leads of 9-3, 23-9 and 39-11.

Leading scoring for Norton was Lexi Voss with 11 points,

followed by Hanna Brooks, 8; Miah Melvin, 8; Caitlyn Cox, 4; Baylee Miller, 4; Molly Maddy, 4; Peyton Renner, 2; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Kira Robertson, 2.

Baker was top scorer for Oberlin with 5 points.

“We put on a great defensive show to defeat Oberlin,” said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

“We hustled hard and our man defense was very tough.”

“We also ran our offense well, allowing for some great feed buckets.”

“All 15 girls contributed to this sound victory.”

Norton girls

Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2, Peyton Renner 0 0 3-4 3, Hanna Brooks 0 0 1-2 1, Katie Bohl 7 0 0-0 14, Bailey Ambrosier 5 0 0-3 10, Johnnie Ruder 1 1 3-5 8, Miah Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 15 1 7-18 40.

Oberlin girls

Jansonius 1 0 0-0 2, Baker 0 1 5-6 8, Murray 8 0 3-3 19, Hisong 2 0 0-0 4, Castle 1 0 0-1 2, Jacobs 0 0 1-2 1; Totals 12 1 9-14 36.

Next action

Norton will host state ranked Osborne this Friday evening, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

The junior varsity boys game will be held in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

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