

# Blue Jays defeat Trego 47-39 to win league tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team made it six straight on Saturday evening when they defeated No. 1 seeded Trego Community High School of WaKeeney 47-39 to once again win the championship of the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

The tournament finals and semi-finals on Friday and Saturday were played in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The Norton boys have now won nine tournament championships in the 57 years the tournament has been held, second only to Hill City with 12 titles.

Norton is the only team to have won more than three straight championships. Stockton won three in a row from 1966 to 1968. Downs, although no longer a tournament competitor, won three in a row from 1948 to 1950.

The Blue Jays met a tough Trego opponent on Saturday evening, one they had defeated by just 41-40 in league play a week before. It was a hard fought contest and Norton did not pull away until late in the game by hitting free throws. In fact, free throws made the difference in the game as the Blue Jays went to the line 26 times and hit 15 for 58 percent accuracy and the Golden Eagles shot just eight charities and hit four for 50 percent.

Norton held a slight 14-13 lead after the first quarter. Senior center Jered Sloan, who led the Jays with 16 points in the game, hit three key baskets and a free throw in the first period. Junior guards Kyle Kats and Aaron Overlease each buried three-point shots and junior center Ryan Maddy hit a free throw.

Norton scored just nine points in the second quarter but held the Golden Eagles to just seven. Senior forward Dan Roeder hit two baskets for the Jays in the second period, Maddy hit two free throws and Kats drained another shot from beyond the arc with just eight seconds showing on the clock to put Norton on top 23-20 at halftime.

The third quarter was evenly played with Norton outscoring Trego 12-11 to take a 35-31 lead into the final stanza. Maddy and Sloan did all the scoring for Norton in the period. Maddy hit two field goals and three free throws and Sloan connected on two field goals and one charity.

With Norton leading by just four points to start the fourth quarter, Roeder gave the Blue Jays some much needed breathing room and a shot of momentum by swishing a shot from beyond the arc to extend the Norton lead to 38-31 with 7:06 left. Wade Knapp, a 6'8" junior center, led Trego with 19 points in the game. He hit a free throw for Trego at the 5:31 mark but Sloan scored for Norton with 4:40 left to make it 40-32. Each team scored

seven points the rest of the way. Knapp hit his two final field goals, sophomore Tyler Ummel hit a basket and sophomore Casey Crossland hit a free throw for Trego.

All seven of Norton's final points were at the charity stripe. Kats hit three charities, Sloan two and Maddy two.

Sloan hit 6 of 10 shots from the field for 60 percent accuracy and was 4 of 7 from the line for 57 percent. Kats was second high scorer with 11 points on 2 of 5 trey tries for 40 percent accuracy and 5 of 6 charities for 83 percent.

Scoring 10 points for the Jays was Maddy on 2 of 9 from the field for 22 percent and 6 of 9 free throws for 67 percent.

"Our defense played really well the entire game," said Coach Reusink. "Our offense was not ever in the flow of things the way I like to see it but Trego has a good team."

Norton hit 4 of 13 three-point attempts for 31 percent, 10 of 25 two-point shots for 40 percent and 14 of 38 overall for 37 percent.

Trego hit just 1 of 6 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 16 of 37 two-point tries for 43 percent and 17 of 43 for 40 percent overall.

Both teams battled hard for the rebounds. Norton held a 26-25 edge. The Blue Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds and the Golden Eagles grabbed 7 offensive and 18 defensive caroms.

Sloan was dominant on the boards as he pulled down 11 rebounds. He was followed by Kats, Roeder, Overlease, Maddy and Vincent, 3 each.

Norton had a season high 10 blocked shots. Sloan had 6 rejections, followed by Roeder, 2; Overlease and Maddy, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 9 steals. Kats, Overlease, Maddy and Sloan had 2 each and Vincent had 1.

Kats and Overlease each had 1 assist.

Norton had 11 turnovers while the efficient Blue Jay defense caused Trego to turn the ball over 20 times.

### Special events

In a ceremony at center court prior to the game, Coach Larry Friend was inducted into the Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame. Making the announcement and plaque presentation was Gary Musselman, executive director of the KSHSAA.

At halftime, the combined Norton Community High School Dance Team and Cheerleaders presented an impressive performance. They are under the direction of Jenny Braun and Joslyn Henson, respectively.

### Next action

The 9-1 Norton Blue Jay boys will play a non-league game at Goodland today. Both girls and boys games will be played, beginning at 5 p.m. Central Time.

### Norton boys 47

Kats 0 2 5-6 11, Roeder 2 1 0-2 7, Overlease 0 1 0-2 3, Maddy 2 0 6-9 10, Sloan 6 0 4-7 16, Totals 10 4 15-26 47

### Trego boys 39

Locke 4 1 0-0 11, Ummel 2 0 0-0 4, D. Pfannenstiel 0 0 0-1 0, Crossland 1 0 1-2 3, Aschenbrenner 1 0 0-0 2, Totals 16 1 4-8 39

### Defeated Plainville in Semi-finals

Coach Reusink's Blue Jay boys had another good night in Friday's tournament semi-finals when they defeated No. 2 seed Plainville 66-36.

It took Norton awhile to break away from the Cardinals but, once they did, they breezed to a 30-point victory. The Blue Jays held just a 15-13 lead with one minute remaining in the first quarter but senior center Jered Sloan was fouled in the act of shooting and hit one free throw. He missed the second but senior forward Dan Roeder rebounded the missed shot and put the ball up for two points at the buzzer to put Norton on top 18-13 after one period.

Roeder had his best scoring night of the season. He drained four two-point shots in the first quarter and ended the game with 18 points. Junior center Ryan Maddy added two baskets to get a start on an 18 point effort. Norton outscored Plainville 12-8 in the second period to take a 30-21 half-time advantage. Maddy added three more baskets in the second period.

The Blue Jays came out of the locker room fired up and jumped on the Cardinals early in the third period. Junior guard Aaron Overlease drained a three-point shot just 35 seconds into the second half. Sloan hit two jumpers in the lane and Maddy hit a free throw and jumper and sophomore center Heath Vincent hit two free throws to extend Norton's lead to 41-23 with 3:27 left. Roeder finished the third quarter with a three-point basket at the 2:10 mark, a two-point basket and then another trey with 1:28 left. After the 20-7 third stanza, Norton led 50-28.

The Blue Jays outscored the Cardinals 12-2 in the first five minutes of the final quarter as Maddy hit two more baskets and a free throw, Sloan connected on two charities, senior forward Jared Foley buried a three-point shot and Vincent hit two more free throws. Before the final gun, Foley hit two free throws and Vincent hit a basket to make the final 66-36.

"We played consistent defense all night but our offense was a little tentative the first half," said Coach Reusink. "We were playing not to lose and passing up shot opportunities."

"In the second half, our offense was okay but we're still turning the ball over too much.

"Maddy and Sloan have been our offensive threats so it was good

to see Roeder step up and hit some shots."

Roeder and Maddy finished with 18 points each and Sloan hit 11 and all three hit 67 percent of their shots. Roeder swished 2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent and 6 of 8 from two-point land for 75 percent and was 8 of 12 overall.

Maddy was 8 of 12 from the floor and hit 2 of 5 free throws for 40 percent.

Sloan swished 4 of 6 shots and was 3 of 5 from the line for 60 percent.

Leading scorer for Plainville was sophomore guard Justin Casey with 10.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 13 from beyond the arc for 39 percent, 20 of 36 two-point tries for 56 percent and 25 of 49 overall for 51

percent.

Plainville connected on 1 of 7 trey tries for 14 percent, 14 of 39 two-point shots for 36 percent and 15 of 46 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 11 of 16 for 69 percent compared to 5 of 8 for 63 percent by Plainville.

Norton outscored the Cardinals 31-21 on the boards. The Jays had 10 offensive and 21 defensive caroms compared to 6 offensive and 15 defensive boards for Plainville.

The Blue Jays blocked seven shots. Vincent led with 4, followed by Maddy, 2 and Sloan, 1.

Norton had 10 steals. Kyle Kats was the leader with 5 thefts, followed by Maddy, 2; Charlie Foley, Overlease and Sloan, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 15 offensive

assists, led by Kats with 5 and followed by Charlie Foley, Overlease, Sloan, 3 each and Vincent, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 20 times against the aggressive Blue Jay defense.

### GAME STATISTICS:

#### Norton boys 66

C. Foley 0 0 0-1 0, J. Foley 0 1 2-2 5, Roeder 6 2 0-0 18, Overlease 1 2 0-0 8, Maddy 8 0 2-5 18, Sloan 4 0 3-5 11, Vincent 1 0 4-4 6. Totals 20 5 11-17 66.

#### Plainville boys 36

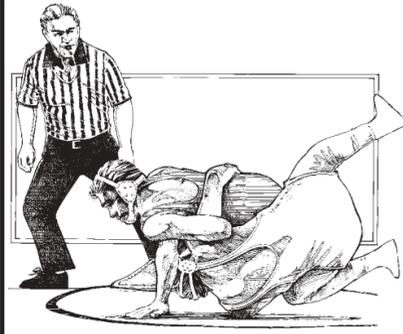
Casey 4 0 2-4 10, Dix 1 0 0-0 7, Frederking 0 1 0-0 3, Klein 3 0 1-2 7, McDowell 1 0 2-2 4, Lynch 1 0 0-0 2, Gosser 1 0 0-0 2, Joel Hrabe 1 0 0-0 2, Josh Hrabe 1 0 0-0 2, Morris 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 14 1 5-8 36.



Norton's junior point guard Kyle Kats (above) steals the ball from Trego and dribbles down court during the Blue Jays' 47-39 victory over the Golden Eagles to win the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday evening in Hays.

—Photo by Dick Boyd

## Go, Norton Blue Jays!



### Wrestling

Tues., Jan. 27  
Norton Blue Jays  
VERSUS

Hays and Kearney  
Hays High Gym in Hays  
Begins 4 P.M. with  
Hays/Kearney Dual

Saturday, January 31  
Beginning at 10 A.M.  
Mid-Continent League  
Wrestling Tournament  
High School in Stockton



**Basketball**  
Tues., Jan. 27  
Beginning at 5 p.m.  
Norton Blue Jays

versus  
Goodland Cowboys  
Max Jones Fieldhouse, Goodland

Friday, January 30  
Norton Blue Jays vs  
Victoria Knights  
5 P.M., NCHS Memorial Gym  
Tuesday, February 3  
Norton vs Smith Center  
4 P.M., NCHS Gym, Norton

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