



Norton senior forward Ryan Maddy shoots over Goodland's Nick Angelos to score during the championship game of the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Maddy was the leading scorer for Norton in the tournament with 20 points in the Goodland game, 23 points in the win over Ottawa and 16 in the victory over Holyoke.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay boys place second in Topside Tipoff Tourney

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team lost 44-42 to Goodland to place second in the 16th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament on Saturday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

In other games on Saturday, Ottawa, who Norton beat 51-49 on Friday, defeated McCook, Neb., 70-57, to place third. Burlington, Colo., outscored Weskan, 70-52, to place fifth and Wray, Colo., defeated Holyoke, Colo., 56-54, to place seventh. Norton beat Holyoke, 48-28, in the first round.

The Norton-Goodland game on Saturday evening was not decided until Cowboy senior Lane Winter hit two free throws with 9.3 seconds left on the scoreboard clock to break a 42-42 tie.

Norton took an early 8-4 lead in the game on two baskets by junior center Heath Vincent and one basket each by senior forward Ryan Maddy and senior guard Kyle Kats. Goodland scored the final eight points of the period to take a 12-8 advantage.

With Maddy leading the way, Norton outscored Goodland 11-5 in the second quarter to take a 19-17 lead at intermission. Maddy hit a trey and three two-point baskets and Kats hit the other Blue Jay basket.

With Winter and senior Derrick Raymer scoring all the points, the Cowboys threw in 17 points in the third quarter to double their score and take a 34-28 lead over the Blue Jays, who hit 9 points. Raymer buried two three point shots and a two-point basket and Winter hit three two-point baskets and three free throws. Again, most of Norton's scoring came from Maddy, who hit five points on a three-point and two-point shot.

Senior guard Aaron Overlease and senior forward Justin Shirk each hit their first basket of the game.

The Blue Jays came fighting back in the fourth quarter and outscored the Cowboys 8-2 to start the period and tie the score at 36-all. Vincent hit a pair of charities, Overlease buried a three-pointer, Maddy scored two points and Vincent added another free throw with 3:28 left in the contest. Maddy swished a shot at the 2:56 mark and Norton led 38-36. Raymer scored on a fast break layup with 1:59 remaining to knot the score at 38-all.

Kats was fouled, stepped to the charity stripe and calmly hit two free throws to put Norton ahead again at 40-38 with 1:30 left. Winter scored for Goodland and was fouled. He missed the charity but senior Brock Lohr grabbed the rebound and scored to put the Cowboys back on top 42-40 at the 1:05 mark. Vincent came through at the other end of the court with another Norton basket to knot the score at 42-all with 45 seconds remaining but Goodland won on Winter's two free throws with 9.3 seconds left.

"I was disappointed with our energy level in the first half," said Coach Reusink. "It got better in the second half but still wasn't great.

"Offensively, we relied too much on Ryan Maddy. More guys need to step up.

"Defensively, down the stretch we lost some guys and gave them some easy baskets. We went ahead and then didn't make the defensive stops.

"It's a learning process. I hope we will learn from it."

The Kansas Basketball Coaches Association ranked Goodland No. 7 in the state in Class 4A and Norton No. 8 in Class 3A this week.

Maddy was the leading scorer for Norton with 20 points on two of five three-point shots for 40 percent, seven of 14 two-point shots for 50 percent and nine of 19 overall for 47 percent accuracy. He missed his only free throw try.

Vincent added 9 points on three of six from the field for 50 percent and three of four free throws for 75 percent accuracy.

Winter led Goodland with 16 points, followed by Raymer with 12.

As a team, Norton hit three of 12 three-point baskets for 25 percent, 14 of 30 two-point shots for 47 percent and 17 of 42 overall for 40 percent. Goodland tallied on three of 10 from long range for 30 percent, the same 14 of 30 from two-point range as Norton and 17 of 40 overall for 43 percent.

The difference in the game came at the free throw line where Norton connected on five of nine for 56 percent and Goodland swished 7 of 14 for 50 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 32-27. The Jays pulled down six of-

fensive and 21 defensive caroms and the Cowboys grabbed nine offensive and 23 defensive boards. Vincent led Norton in rebounding with nine, followed by Kats and Maddy, five each; Jason Green and Shirk, two each; and Seth Mills and Overlease, one each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Goodland, 12. The Blue Jays had three steals and the Cowboys recorded nine.

Maddy and Vincent were both honored when they were selected on the All-Tournament Team.

Norton will play freshmen, junior varsity and varsity boys and girls games against Phillipsburg on Friday in Norton. The freshmen and junior varsity boys games will be played at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on East Campus, beginning at 4 p.m. and the freshmen, junior varsity girls, varsity girls and boys games will be played at the NCHS Memorial Gym, beginning at 4 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Kyle Kats	2	0	2-4
Aaron Overlease	1	1	0-0
Ryan Maddy	7	2	0-1
Justin Shirk	1	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	3	0	3-4
TOTALS	14	3	5-9

Goodland boys 44

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Jase Herl	0	1	0-0
Lane Winter	5	0	6-9
Derrick Raymer	3	2	0-0
David Livengood	0	0	0-2
Brock Lohr	2	0	0-0
Heath Chatfield	3	0	0-0
Jance McKee	1	0	1-2
TOTALS	14	3	7-13

Norton girls lose close semi-final game to Ottawa

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played Ottawa a very close game on Friday before losing 65-59 in the championship semi-finals of the Topside Tipoff Tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The Lady Jays defeated Holyoke, Colo., 44-32 and Ottawa outscored Burlington, Colo., 83-51 in the first round on Thursday.

The Ottawa girls team was ranked No. 10 in the state in the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association pre-season rankings. The Lady Cyclones were edged 47-46 by McCook for last year's Topside Tipoff championship.

"We played a great game," said Coach Jilka. "Offensively, we did a nice job all night long with whatever they had to give us. Right now, we are doing a great job of taking care of the basketball and need to keep doing that.

"Defense is a concern. We just don't play hard team defense for 32 minutes. Rebounding also continues to be a problem. At times, we are very good at rebounding but it's something we need to do all the time.

"Tonight, we improved so much from Thursday. We need to keep doing that."

After trailing 21-13 at the end of the first quarter, Norton actually outscored the Lady Cyclones the rest of the way.

Norton had balanced scoring in the first quarter as Karlie Jones, 5-foot-5-inch junior guard, swished two baskets and Whitney Newell, 5-6 junior guard, hit a basket and free throw. Chelsea Cox, 6-foot junior center; Rebecca Ebert, 5-11 junior center and Amber Engelbert, 5-8 senior forward, each connected for two points.

In the second quarter, Norton outscored Ottawa 14-7 to narrow the Lady Cyclones' lead to 28-27. Newell led scoring for Norton with a three-point and two-point basket and two charities. Cox threw in two baskets and a free throw. Chelle Donovan, a 5-3 junior guard, hit her only basket of the game. Norton limited Ottawa to just two field goals and two free throws in the period.

Norton played Ottawa on even terms in the third quarter where the Lady Cyclones outscored the Lady Jays 18-16 to extend their lead slightly to 46-43.

Again, Norton had balanced scoring in the period. Jones hit a three-point and two-point basket and two free throws; Ebert hit a field goal and charity; Klaire Mann, 5-3 junior forward, and Cox each hit a field goal and



Norton's Amber Overlease is surrounded by McCook players as she goes to the floor after a loose ball during the Lady Jays' third place victory in the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland on Saturday. Chelsea Cox is No. 12 for Norton.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls win third in tourney with 56-28 win over McCook

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played well both offensively and defensively in defeating McCook, Neb. 56-28 on Saturday to place third in the 16th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

In other games on Saturday, Ottawa, who is ranked this week by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association at No. 7 in the state in Class 5A, defeated Goodland 56-46 for the championship.

Holyoke, Colo., who Norton defeated 44-32 in the first round, placed fifth with a 51-36 win over Wray, Colo., and Burlington, Colo., defeated Weskan 68-44 for seventh place.

"We played a complete game, which we didn't do the day before against Ottawa," said Coach Jilka. "We didn't play defense against Ottawa.

"We did a great job of pressuring the ball and forcing turnovers. We talked about being mentally tough and we played that way today.

"We were taking good shots. We had a nice balance of inside and outside shots.

"We got better every game of the tournament, so that was nice."

Norton held a 12-9 lead after the first quarter. After outscoring McCook 19-8 in the second period, the Lady Jays led 31-17 at halftime. Norton tallied only 9 points in the third quarter but held McCook to 6 to extend the Lady Jay lead to 40-23. Norton finished strong with a 16-5 final stanza in their favor.

Junior center Chelsea Cox led Norton in scoring. She tallied 15

points, 12 of them in the first half. Cox hit five of 14 shots from the field for 36 percent and was five of nine from the free throw line for 56 percent. Senior forward Amber Engelbert scored 10 points on two of five from beyond the arc and two of five from two-point range for 40 percent.

Junior guard Whitney Newell threw in 9 points on one of two from long range for 50 percent, one of three two-point goals for 33 percent and two of five overall for 40 percent. She was a perfect four of four from the charity stripe. Junior guard Karlie Jones scored 8 points on two of three from long range for 67 percent, one of six two-point shots for 17 percent and three of nine overall for 33 percent.

Jillian Bryant was leading scorer for McCook with 8 points.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 14 three-point shots for 36 percent, 16 of 43 two-point attempts for 37 percent and 21 of 57 overall for 37 percent accuracy. McCook took one shot from beyond the arc and missed it. The Lady Bison hit 11 of 33 shots from two-point range for 33 percent and were 11 of 34 overall for 32 percent.

Norton connected on nine of 13 free throws for 69 percent while McCook swished 6 of 13 charities for 46 percent.

Norton dominated in the steals, turnovers and assists categories. The Lady Jays stole the ball 17 times compared to just 4 thefts by McCook. Newell was the steals leader with 6, followed by Engelbert, 4; Cox, 3; and Klaire Mann, Becca Ebert, 2 each.

Norton turned the ball over just 7 times while the Lady Jays' pressing defense caused 21 Lady Bison turnovers.

Norton also had 17 offensive assists compared to just five for McCook. Newell was the leader with six, followed by Donovan, three; Cox, Overlease and Engelbert, two each; and Ebert and Jones, one each.

McCook had a slight edge in rebounding. The Lady Bison pulled down 10 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 28 total compared to nine offensive and 14 defensive boards for 23 by Norton. Overlease was the leading rounder with five, followed by Cox, four; Ebert, Maggie Nielsen and Engelbert, three each; Newell, two; and Mann, Jones and Duscher, one each.

Chelsea Cox and Whitney Newell were chosen to the All-Tournament Team.

Next action for the Norton girls and boys basketball teams will be Friday when the Blue Jays host Phillipsburg. Games will begin at 4 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 56

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	1	1	4-4
Chelsea Cox	5	0	5-9
Klaire Mann	2	0	0-0
Becca Ebert	3	0	0-0
Karlie Jones	1	2	0-0
Amber Engelbert	2	2	0-0
Jessi Duscher	2	0	0-0
TOTALS	16	5	9-13

McCook girls 28

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Kim Serbousek	1	0	0-0
Natalie Brooks	0	0	4-6
Katherine Morell	2	0	0-0
Taryn Placzek	2	0	0-1
Jessica Harris	0	0	1-2
Jillian Bryant	4	0	0-2
Allison Smith	2	0	1-2
TOTALS	11	0	6-13

Newell swished two free throws. Jones hit both of her baskets late in the quarter to tie the score at 39-all, then was fouled and hit two free throws to put the Lady Jays ahead 41-39 with two minutes left. Newell hit a free throw to put Norton on top 42-39. Ottawa regained the lead at 43-42 with less than a minute left. Newell hit her second free throw of the period to tie the score at 43-all but the Lady Cyclones scored the final three points of the quarter.

Norton stayed right with Ottawa in the fourth quarter and, once again, points were evenly distributed. Newell hit a trey and Cox; Mann; Amber Overlease, 5-5 junior forward, and Maggie Nielsen, a 5-9 sophomore center, each hit a basket. Engelbert hit a basket and two free throws and Jones hit a charity.

Ottawa outscored Norton 19-16 in the final stanza but hit only seven points on baskets. The rest came from free throws as Norton had to foul to gain possession of the ball.

Three Lady Jays scored in double figures. Newell led with 15 points on four of 12 overall for 33 percent and five of seven free throws for 71 percent accuracy. Jones hit 12 points on three of five from two-point range for 60 percent, one of six from long range for

17 percent and four of 11 overall for 36 percent. She also hit three of four free throws for 75 percent. Cox tallied 11 points on five of nine from the field for 56 percent and one of two charities for 50 percent.

Kelsie Studley, a 6-foot senior center, led Ottawa with 25 points. Megan Ramsey, a 5-9 junior forward, scored 21.

Norton played Ottawa even on the boards, edged them in shooting percentage from the field and in steals and had fewer turnovers.

As a team, Norton hit three of 15 three-point attempts for 33 percent, 19 of 43 two-point shots for 44 percent and 22 of 58 overall for 38 percent. Ottawa connected on five of 12 treys for 42 percent, 13 of 37 two-point attempts for 35 percent and 18 of 49 overall for 37 percent.

Ottawa won the game at the free throw line where the Lady Cyclones swished 24 of 36 for 67 percent accuracy. Norton hit 12 of 21 charities for 57 percent.

Both teams pulled down 32 rebounds. Norton had 12 offensive and 20 defensive caroms while Ottawa had 17 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds.

Engelbert was rebounding leader for Norton with nine, followed by Cox, seven; Ebert, six; Jones, four; Overlease, three;

Mann, two; and Nielsen, one.

Norton had nine steals and Ottawa had six thefts. Cox led with four, followed by Engelbert, three; and Donovan and Jones, one each.

The Lady Jays had 11 assists and the Lady Cyclones had 15. Newell was assists leader for Norton with seven, followed by Mann, Overlease, Jones, and Engelbert, one each.

Norton had just 13 turnovers while Ottawa gave up the ball 17 times.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 59

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	2	2	5-7
Chelsea Cox	5	0	1-2
Klaire Mann	2	0	0-0
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0
Chelle Donovan	1	0	0-0
Becca Ebert	2	0	1-4
Maggie Nielsen	1	0	0-0
Karlie Jones	3	1	3-4
Amber Engelbert	2	0	2-4
TOTALS	19	3	2-21

Ottawa girls 65

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Jill Spratt	0	0	0-2
Mallory Geist	0	2	2-2
Caitlin Smith	2	0	2-5
Jara Vance	0	1	2-4
Megan Ramsey	3	2	9-11
Kelsie Studley	8	0	9-12
TOTALS	13	5	24-36