Norton girls are champions of Goodland tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High girls basketball team not only hit 15 of 20 free throws en route to a 47-33 championship win over Goodland in the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland on Saturday but won the team free throw competition award as well.

In three games, the Norton quintet hit 30 of 46 charities for 65 percent. Their 15 of 20 against Goodland averaged 75 percent.

In the championship win over previously unbeaten Goodland (4-1), the Lady Jays needed every point. Both teams hit two shots from beyond the arc and 13 two-pointers. Goodland hit just one of five free throws and that was the difference.

Norton held a slim 13-12 lead after one quarter. Norton's points came on four of four free throws and two baskets by senior center Chelsea Cox, a three-point basket by freshman guard Laura Lee Baird and two-point basket by senior center Becca Ebert.

The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Cowboys 15-9 in the second quarter to take a 28-21 half-time lead. Ebert led Norton scoring in the period with two baskets and two of two free throws. Baird hit another three-point basket and a two-pointer. Senior guards Klaire Mann and Amber Overlease also hit baskets.

The second half was a defensive battle with both teams hitting just five field goals. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Cowboys 8-5 in the third period. Ebert hit two more baskets and Cox and sophomore center Chantille Campbell hit a basket apiece to extend the Norton lead to 36-26.

The Lady Jays also outscored Goodland 11-7 in the final stanza to win by a 14 point margin. Cox hit Norton's only basket of the quarter but senior guard Karlie Jones connected on four of four free throws, Ebert hit four of five charities and senior guard Whitney Newell hit one of two free tosses.

"We played great on offense," said Coach Kevin Jilka. "They play great defense and we had only 12 turnovers.

"We played with great poise when they cut down our lead and their crowd got into it. This was a great situation to prepare us for this type of environment in the future.

"I'm very, very proud of our girls. They really stepped up and played well against a good team. We gave a great effort.

"We did an outstanding job of hitting our free throws and our bench came in and played well again."

Ebert was leading scorer for the 3-0 Lady Jays with 16 points on five of 10 two-point shots for 50 percent and six of seven free throws for 86 percent. Cox ended with 12 points on four of 12 from the field for 33 percent and a perfect four of four free throws.

Baird tallied 8 on two of three from long range for 67 percent, one of one two-point shots and three of four overall for 75 percent accuracy.

Whitney Archer led Goodland with 11 points; Justeen Koehler added 10.

As a team, Norton hit two of 11 from beyond the arc for 18 percent, 13 of 31 two-point shots for 42 percent and 15 of 42 overall for 36 percent.

Goodland swished two of three from long range for 67 percent, 13 of 22 two-point tries for 59 percent and 15 of 25 overall for 60 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 15 of 20 for 75 percent and the Lady Cowboys hit one of five for 20 percent.

Burlington's Kelli Warren, No.45, and Norton's Chantille Campbell battle for the basketball during the Lady Jays 66-37 semi-finals win over the Lady Cougars on Friday in the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Other Norton players are, from left, Amber Overlease, Laura Lee Baird and Whitney Newell.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton dominated the backboards, pulling down 21 rebounds compared to just 11 for Goodland. The Lady Jays grabbed 14 offensive and seven defensive caroms compared to two offensive and nine defensive for Goodland.

Ebert was rebound leader with eight, followed by Campbell, four; Jones, Cox, three each; Mann, two; Overlease, one.

Norton had 12 steals and Goodland had four. Newell and Cox were leaders with three steals each, followed by Baird, Jones, 2 each; Mann, Ebert, one each.

The Lady Jays had 13 assists compared to 12 for the Lady Cowboys. Newell was the leader with five, followed by Mann, Baird, Campbell, two each; Cox, Ebert, one each.

Norton had just 12 turnovers in the game compared to 22 for Goodland, thanks to the aggressive Lady Jay defense.

In other games on Saturday, Holyoke won third place by edging Burlington 65-64; Ottawa placed fifth with a 58-33 victory over McCook and Wray finished seventh with a 60-53 win over Weskan.

Chelsea Cox and Karlie Jones were both chosen to the All-Tournament Team. Others named to the team were: Victoria Timm, Kendra Knight, Holyoke; Megan Ramsey, Ottawa; Aleja Cuellar, Burlington; Kaylee Billinger, Justeen Koehler, Goodland; Erin Newmann, Wray; Jillian Bryant, McCook.

The 3-0 Norton Lady Jays will begin Mid-Continent League play on Friday when they travel to Phillipsburg. Both girls and boys games will be played, beginning at 6:30 p.m

Norton will play Stockton here on Saturday, with games beginning at 6:30 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS:

Norton girls 47

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Whitney Newell	0	0	1-2	1
Chelsea Cox	4	0	4-4	12
Laura Lee Baird	1	2	0-0	8
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0	2
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-2	2
Becca Ebert	5	0	6-7	16
Chantille Campbell	1	0	0-0	2
Karlie Jones	0	0	4-5	4
TOTAL	13	2	15-20	47

Goodland girls 33

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Kaylee Billinger	1	0	0-0	2
Clancy Nicolette	1	0	1-2	3
Samantha Raymer	0	1	0-0	3
Emily Murray	1	0	0-0	2
Melissa Swager	1	0	0-2	2
Justeen Koehler	5	0	0-1	10
Whitney Archer	4	1	0-0	11
TOTAL	13	2	1-5	33

Norton girls give coach 400th victory with Topside Tipoff win

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High girls basketball team gave Coach Kevin Jilka his 400th victory on Friday in the semi-finals of the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament in Goodland.

The milestone was reached when the Lady Jays defeated Burlington, Colo., 66-37, to advance to Saturday's championship finals.

For the second straight game in the tournament, Norton shot over 50 percent from the field. Three players were in double scoring figures and eight different girls scored. Nine different Lady Jays pulled down at least one rebound and dished off at least one assist. Seven Norton girls had at least one steal.

"We've got great inside-outside offensive balance right now," said Coach Jilka. "To hit over 50 percent again is really good. They were trying to keep us from scoring inside and force us to make shots from the perimeter and we were able to do both.

"Our bench is really playing well; everyone we put in as a substitute contributed to the win."

Norton put the game away early with a three-point barrage. The Lady Jays hit five treys in the first quarter and three more in the second stanza in building a 17-13 first quarter advantage and 43-18 half-time lead. For the game, Norton was 10 of 21 from beyond the arc for 48 percent accuracy.

Senior guard Karlie Jones hit three long range shots, senior guard Whitney Newell buried one and freshman guard Laura Lee Baird also swished a trey in the first stanza. Senior center Chelsea Cox hit Norton's only two-point basket in the period.

In the second quarter, Baird hit two more three-point baskets and a two-pointer and Jones hit another long range basket and free throw. Cox hit two two-point baskets along with senior guard Klaire Mann. Senior center Becca Ebert, junior center Maggie Nielsen and Newell each hit baskets as Norton outscored Burlington 26-5 in the second period.

After hitting at such a torrid pace in the first half, the Lady Jays cooled off a little in the second half but not enough to lose control of the game. Norton scored eight points in the third period on two field goals by Cox and one each by senior center Rachael Lentz and Ebert. Burlington tallied 14 points in the third stanza but Norton still led by 51-32.

The Lady Jays added 15 more points to their total in the final quarter while limiting Burlington to just 5 and pulled away for a 29-point victory. Baird hit a final three-point basket, Jones swished a trey and two-point shot, Cox hit two more baskets and a free throw and Nielsen put in another basket.

Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points on five of 11 from three-point range for 46 percent accuracy, one of three two-point baskets for 33 percent and six of 14 overall for 43 percent. She was one of two from the free throw line.

Cox sizzled from two-point range, hitting seven of 10 shots for 70 percent and one of two charities for 15.

Baird ended with 14 on four of six from three-point range for 67 percent, one of three two-pointers for 33 percent and five of nine overall for 56 percent.

As a team, Norton hit 10 of 21 treys for 48 percent, 17 of 30 two-point tries for 57 percent and 27 of 51 overall for 53 percent.

Burlington found the range on just one of seven treys for 14 percent, 13 of 44 two-point shots for 30 percent and 14 of 51 overall for 28 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on two of four for 50 percent compared to eight of 18 for 44 percent by Burlington.

Norton outrebounded Burlington, 33-26. The Lady Jays pulled down eight offensive and 25 defensive caroms compared to nine offensive and 17 defensive boards by Burlngton.

Cox was leading rebounder with nine, followed by Jones and Ebert, six each; Mann; Overlease and Chantille Campbell, three each; and Newell, Baird, Nielsen, one each.

Both teams had 10 steals. Newell, Campbell and Jones had two thefts each while Lentz, Mann, Baird and Megan Kats had one each.

The Lady Jays displayed excellent teamwork with 22 assists compared to nine for Burlington. Newell was the leader with eight, followed by Overlease, Baird, three each; Jones, two; Cox, Mann, Campbell and Nielsen, one each.

GAME STATISTICS:

Norton girls 66

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Whitney Newell	1	1	0-0	5
Chelsea Cox	7	0	1-2	15
Rachael Lentz	1	0	0-0	2
Laura Lee Baird	1	4	0-0	14
Klaire Mann	2	0	0-0	4
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-0	4
Maggie Nielsen	2	0	0-0	4
Karlie Jones	1	5	1-2	18
TOTAL	17	10	2-4	66

Burlington girls 37

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Courtney Duell	1	1	3-4	8
Mimi Swiatkowski	2	0	2-7	6
Andi Hudler	1	0	0-0	2
Aleja Cuellar	3	0	1-1	7
Kali Anderson	1	0	1-2	3
Kelli Warren	4	0	0-2	8
Morgan Witzel	1	0	1-2	3
TOTAL	13	1	8-18	37

Blue Jay boys basketball team loses to Holyoke in tournament on Saturday

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High boys basketball team lost the fifth-place game of the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland Saturday, 40-31, to Holyoke, Colo., a team who has been in the Colorado State Tournament the past three years.

"You're never happy with a loss but I was happy the way we played," said Norton Coach Doug Reusink, who has only two returning starters.

"We played pretty consistent defense the whole tournament but must get better offensively. We had two or three minute stretches where we just didn't get anything going offensively.

"We must get better at handling the ball and must have some people step up and score."

The first half was a defensive battle that left the Blue Jays with a narrow 18-17 lead at intermission. Junior post Nic Lewis hit three field goals and senior post Heath Vincent swished a basket and two free throws in the first quarter, which ended with Norton trailing 11-10.

In the second quarter, senior guard Nathan Morse, junior guard Brian Juenemann, sophomore guard Jared Cox and Lewis each scored a basket while the Blue Jay defense limited Holyoke to just three baskets and 6 points.

The Norton defense held Holyoke to just 11 points in the third quarter but the Blue Jays found a lid on the basket and came up with only 4 points themselves to fall behind 28-22. Juenemann and Vincent each hit a basket in the period.

Holyoke scored just 12 in the final stanza but the Jays put just 9 on the scoreboard. Morse hit two baskets, Lewis hit one and Vincent swished three free throws for Norton in the final quarter.

Lewis was leading scorer for Norton with five of eight from the field for 62.5 percent accuracy and 10 points. Vincent followed with 9 points on two of four from the field for 50 percent and five of seven free tosses for 71 percent.

Evan Murray was the scoring leader for Holyoke with 15 points. Ethan Bennett added 10 and Zach Krueger scored 8.

As a team, Norton shot very well from two-point range but shots from beyond the arc were off target. The Blue Jays missed all 11 three-point attempts but hit an excellent 13 of 24 two-pointers for 54 percent accuracy. The trey misses dropped their overall shooting percentage down to 37 percent.

Holyoke hit one of three from long range for 33 percent, 12 of 28 two-point shots for 43 percent and 13 of 31 overall for 42 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit five of 11 for 46 percent. The Dragons swished 13 of 15 charities for 87 percent.

Norton outrebounded Holyoke 23-20. The Blue Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 13 defensive caroms and the Dragons grabbed five offensive and 15 defensive boards.

The Blue Jays had just six steals. Vincent was the leader with three thefts, followed by Juenemann, two and Georgeson, one. Holyoke had 13 steals.

Norton had three assists. Kats, Engelbert and Juenemann had one each.

The Blue Jays had 20 turnovers and the Dragons gave up the ball 18 times.

Ottawa won the tournament championship, 72-52, over Goodland. Burlington, Colo. won third by beating McCook, 87-79. Wray, Colo. won seventh with a 74-63 victory over Weskan.

Next action for Norton will be Friday when the Blue Jays travel to Phillipsburg to begin Mid-Continent League play. Both boys and girls games will be played, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 31

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Nathan Morse	3	0	0-1	6
Logan Kats	0	0	0-3	0
Brian Juenemann	2	0	0-0	4
Jared Cox	1	0	0-0	2
Nic Lewis	5	0	0-0	10
Heath Vincent	2	0	5-7	9
Total	13	0	5-11	31

Holyoke boys 40

	FGs 2s	FGs 3s	FTs M-A	TP
Evan Murray	4	1	2-2	13
Kurt Rumold	2	0	0-0	4
Ethan Bennett	3	0	4-5	10
Zach Krueger	2	0	4-4	8
Landon Smith	0	0	1-2	1
Kelvin Haidle	1	0	2-2	4
Total	12	11	3-15	40

Norton point guard Logan Kats dribbles the ball down court during Norton's fifth place game with Holyoke, Colo. in the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament in Goodland on Saturday. In the background is the Blue Jays' Jared Cox.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd