

Norton boys beat Osborne 53-37 on Friday night

By DICK BOYD

Defense was the name of the game Friday night when Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team limited a visiting Osborne quintet to just 28 percent field goal shooting in defeating the Bulldogs 53-37 in Mid-Continent League play.

Norton hit 50 percent from the field but was a cold 38 percent from the free throw line.

With the win, the Blue Jays extended their season record to 5-2.

Norton led by just 10-8 after the first quarter but outscored the visitors 18-7 in the second period to take a 28-15 halftime advantage.

Senior center Heath Vincent, who was unstoppable inside, hit three baskets in the first period. Junior center Nic Lewis and sophomore forward Wes Georgeson each added a basket. Osborne's baskets in the first quarter came on shots from beyond the arc by Marcus Johnston and Nathan Morrison and a two-point basket by Landon Wolters.

Senior point guard Nathan Morse, who did not score in the first period, hit a three-point basket 45 seconds into the second period, then stole the ball and drove in for a layup. He was fouled in the process and hit the free throw to extend the Norton lead to 15-8. Morse hit another three-point basket in the quarter. Vincent swished two more baskets and a free throw and Georgeson and sophomore guard Jared Cox each hit baskets.

Osborne's only second quarter points came on a three-point shot by Brandon Grabast, another two-point shot by Wolters and free throws by Eric Mans and Andrew Conway.

Norton's lowest scoring quarter was the third where the Blue Jays just tallied 9 points compared to 10 by the Bulldogs to make it a 37-25

game. Vincent, Georgeson and Morse each hit baskets and Lewis hit a basket and free throw.

Josh Worley, who had no first half points, found the range in the third quarter when he hit two-two point baskets and a three-pointer. Mans hit Osborne's only other basket of the period and Conway added a free throw.

Norton finished strong with a 17-point fourth quarter while holding Osborne to 12 points. Vincent poured in three baskets, Morse hit his third trey of the game plus a two-point shot and free throw, Lewis hit a basket and charity and Cox swished a basket.

Osborne's final points came on a basket and two charities by Conway, a trey by Wolters, baskets by Ryan Sturgeon and Devin Spears and a free throw by Worley.

"We played pretty well but we're still inconsistent in our play," said Coach Reusink.

"Sometimes I see some great things from our players but we just need to be more consistent.

"We did a good job of getting the ball inside but did not always get points.

"We absolutely must get better at the free throw line.

"Overall, it was a big week for us with three victories and that's a positive for us one game before the league tournament."

Vincent scored most of the points inside for the Blue Jays and Morse tallied most of the points from the perimeter. Vincent ended with 19 points on 9 of 14 field goals for 64 percent and 1 of 4 free throws for 25 percent. Morse swished 17 points, 9 of them coming from long range. He hit 3 of 6 from three-point land for 50 percent, 3 of 4 two-point tries for 75 percent and 6 of 10 overall for 60 percent accuracy. He also hit 2 of 2 charity tosses.

Osborne had no players in double scoring figures. Worley



Norton junior guard Jared Engelbert drives down court after stealing the ball during the Blue Jays' 53-37 Mid-Continent League basketball victory over Osborne here on Friday.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

was the leader with the 8 points he scored in the second half. Wolters added 7 and Conway 6.

As a team, Norton connected on 3 of 9 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 20 of 37 two-point attempts for 54 percent and 23 of 46 overall for an even 50 percent.

In comparison, the Bulldogs hit 5 of 12 from three-point range for a respectable 42 percent but hit a cold 8 of 35 from two-point land for just 23 percent and ended with

13 of 47 overall for 28 percent accuracy.

Norton hit 5 of 13 charities for 38 percent and Osborne was also cold from the line, swishing just 6 of 17 charity tosses for 35 percent.

The Blue Jays outthrew the Bulldogs on the boards. Norton pulled down 8 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 29 total compared to 4 offensive and 10 defensive boards for the visitors for a

total of 14.

Vincent was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Lewis, 6; Morse, Logan Kats, Engelbert, Brian Juenemann, Georgeson, 3 each; Cox, 1.

Norton had a season high seven blocked shots. Making rejections of Bulldog shots were Vincent, 3; Morse, Kats, Georgeson, Lewis, 1 each.

The Blue Jays also had 10 steals compared to 15 for Osborne.

Morse, Kats, Engelbert, Georgeson each had 2 steals. Juenemann and Lewis had 1 theft apiece.

Norton also had 10 assists. Kats was the leader with 3, followed by Morse, Cox, Vincent, 2 each; Georgeson, 1.

The Blue Jays turned the ball over just 7 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity team defeated the visiting Osborne quintet 42-35.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-3, 18-7 and 31-24.

Preston Herman was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Logan Keiswetter, 8; Matt Stanley, 8; Blake Wolf, Jared Cox, 6 each; Zach Dole, 2; Zach Dreher, 1.

Ryan Sturgeon was Osborne's scoring leader with 9 points; Andrew Conway added 7.

Next action

Norton will play Trego Community this Friday in Norton in Mid-Continent League action. Games will begin at 5 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Norton boys 54							
Nathan Morse	3	3	2-2	17			
Jared Engelbert	0	0	0-2	0			
Jared Cox	2	0	0-0	4			
Wes Georgeson	3	0	0-0	6			
Nic Lewis	3	0	2-5	8			
Heath Vincent	9	0	1-4	19			
TOTAL	20	3	5-13	54			

	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Osborne boys 37							
Eric Mans	1	0	1-2	3			
Andrew Conway	1	0	4-8	6			
Brandon Grabast	0	1	0-1	3			
Marcus Johnston	0	1	0-4	3			
Ryan Sturgeon	1	0	0-0	2			
Landon Wolters	2	1	0-0	7			
Nathan Morrison	0	1	0-0	3			
Devin Spears	1	0	0-0	2			
Josh Worley	2	1	1-2	8			
TOTAL	8	5	6-17	37			

Norton girls edged Osborne by three in basketball

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's undefeated Norton Community High School girls basketball team got a scare Friday night before holding off a visiting Osborne quintet for a 45-42 Mid-Continent League victory.

The first half looked like another easy win for the Lady Jays as they led 18-8 after one quarter and 32-18 at intermission. But, Osborne came out the second half and gave notice that they had plenty of fight left in them. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Norton 15-9 in the third quarter to cut the Lady Jay advantage to 41-33, then continued to cut into the Norton lead in the final stanza. They fell short despite outscoring the Lady Jays 9-4 in the fourth quarter.

Had Norton hit their free throws, the final margin of victory would have been more but the Lady Jays were 0-8 from the charity stripe in the fourth period. In comparison, Osborne hit 5 of 6 charities in the final stanza.

Osborne scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter to suddenly cut the Norton lead to just one point. Sophomore Demi French, who had just a basket and two free throws in the first three quarters, hit a basket, then followed with two free throws with 6:19 left. Junior Jannica Schultze, who already had 16 points, hit a basket at the 4:58 mark and swished one of two free throws with 3:56 remaining to cut the Norton lead to 41-40.

Norton's senior center Chelsea Cox scored inside with 2:57 left to give the Lady Jays a little breathing room at 43-40. French hit two more free throws at the 2:40 mark to make it a one point game again at 43-42.

Norton's senior point guard Whitney Newell got only one steal in the game but it was a big one. With less than two minutes remaining in the game, she picked an Osborne player's pocket and dribbled down court with the ball. Her steal led to another basket by Cox in the paint with 1:34 remaining to put the Lady Jays ahead 45-42.

Osborne shot and missed and Norton got the rebound. Senior guard Karlie Jones was fouled while shooting but missed both free throws with 1:08 remaining.

Cox grabbed the rebound after her second miss. Norton shot and missed, then Osborne shot and missed with 28 seconds left. Newell was fouled with 24.9 seconds on the clock. She missed her free throw but Cox rebounded again. She was fouled on the play but also missed two charities.

Osborne shot twice and missed and Newell was fouled with 2.3 seconds showing. She missed her charity again but it didn't matter this time as the Lady Jays had a 45-42 victory.

Everything went Norton's way in the first half. Jones hit three shots from beyond the arc, freshman guard Laura Lee Baird buried a three-pointer, senior guard Klaire Mann had a two-point basket, Cox hit three free throws and Newell hit a single charity as the Lady Jays scored 18 points in the first quarter while limiting Osborne to 8 on two field goals and two free throws.

Norton outscored Osborne 14-10 in the second quarter to take the 32-18 halftime lead. Cox led the way in the second stanza with two field goals and a free throw. Baird buried another three-point shot, Jones hit a two-point basket, sophomore center Chantille Campbell hit a two-point shot and senior guard Amber Overlease hit a two-pointer.

The Jays hit just four field goals in the third quarter for 9 points while Osborne scored 15 to cut the Norton lead to 41-33. Jones hit a three-point and two-point basket, senior center Becca Ebert hit her first basket of the night and Cox hit her third basket of the game.

The win extended Norton's unbeaten record to 7-0 and Osborne fell to 5-2.

"It was a tough game and we knew it would be," said Coach Jilka. "He (Darrel Wolters) does a good job with them.

"The first half we executed well offensively but we stood around a lot on offense in the second half.

"Osborne was shooting the ball well. We kept challenging their shots and thought they would cool down but they didn't.

"At times we held our poise down the stretch but they kept attacking us. Our free throw shooting was bad and we just hung on for the win. Sometimes it's not very pretty but we won our third

game this week. We accomplished what we wanted with Mid-Continent League Tournament pairings coming out Wednesday."

Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points on 4 of 9 from beyond the arc for 44 percent, 2 of 5 two-point shots for 40 percent and 6 of 14 overall for 43 percent. She missed her only two free throws.

Cox was right behind Jones in scoring with 14 total points. She connected on 5 of 14 shots for 36 percent from the field and 4 of 10 free throws for 40 percent.

Schultze led Osborne with 19 points; French added 10.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 16 treys for 38 percent, 11 of 34 two-point shots for 31 percent and 17 of 50 overall for 34 percent.

Osborne made only 1 of 5 long range shots for 20 percent, 15 of 35 two-point tries for 43 percent and 16 of 40 overall for 40 percent accuracy.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays were a cold 5 of 19 for a frigid 26 percent. Osborne connected on 9 of 12 charity tosses for 75 percent.

The Lady Jays outrebounded the Lady Bulldogs 27-22. Norton grabbed 15 offensive and 12 defensive caroms compared to 6 offensive and 16 defensive boards for Osborne.

Cox was Norton's rebounding leader with 12, followed by Ebert, 7; Newell, 4; Jones, 2; Overlease, Campbell, 1 each.

Norton had just 6 steals in the



With less than two minutes remaining and Norton leading Osborne by just 43-42, Norton senior point guard Whitney Newell stole the ball. Newell's theft led to a basket by Chelsea Cox which made the final score 45-42.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

game but Osborne had just 3 steals. Cox was the leader with 4, followed by Newell, Campbell, 1 each.

Both teams had 15 offensive assists. Newell led with 6, followed by Ebert, 5; Cox, Baird, Mann, Overlease, 1 each.

Both teams also had 15 turnovers.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls won their game with Osborne by a 35-26 score.

Norton trailed 10-7 after one

quarter but outscored the visitors 12-8 in the second quarter to take a slim 19-18 halftime lead. Norton doubled the score on Osborne in the second half. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Bulldogs 8-4 in the third quarter to extend their lead to 27-22, then outscored them 8-4 again in the final stanza.

Leading scorer for Norton was Hayli Bozarth with 15 points, followed by Megan Kats, 6; KaraJo Jones, 4; Laura Lee Baird, Ashley Colip, 3 each; Katharine Roy, Maggie Nielsen, 2 each.

Norton C-team wins basketball tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton girls C-Team basketball team was the champion of the C-Team Tournament played Saturday in Phillipsburg.

Norton defeated Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays 62-20, then outscored Phillipsburg 41-33 to win the title.

In the win over Thomas More, Norton dominated with quarter leads of 15-6, 30-12 and 45-16.

KaraJo Jones was leading scorer for the Lady Jays with 23 points. She was followed by Hayli Bozarth, 11; Wiyanna Paxton, 10; Taylor Rossi, Katharine Roy, Kylie Morel, 6 each.

Leading scorers for Thomas More were Holub and Schnuerle with 5 each.

"Both our offensive and defensive execution were very good," said Norton Coach Joan Bolt.

"We improved on our talking on defense and showed good patience on offense.

"Our girls took advantage of Phillipsburg's lack of height and worked the ball inside a lot, which resulted in good scoring numbers from our post players."

In the championship game, Norton played Phillipsburg for the second time this season. The Lady Jays defeated the Lady Panthers

by just four points in the first meeting of the two teams but won by a more comfortable margin in this time around.

The Lady Jays had quarter leads of 12-9, 30-18 and 32-22.

Rossi was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Jones, 12; Paxton, Bozarth, 6 each; Ashley Colip, Morel, 2 each.

Lindsay Dusin and Emilie Coca led the Lady Panthers with 10 points each.

"I knew this would be a tougher game because Phillipsburg gave us some good competition in the first game," said Coach Bolt. "And, it did prove to be a good

contest.

"Although we held the lead throughout the game, the Panthers had a little run down the stretch and came within two baskets. Our girls did a fantastic job of not losing their composure and continuing to execute their offense well and we pulled away and finished with the championship.

"There was a lot of improvement in our offensive play this week. Our girls continue to learn and improve on both sides of the ball. We should see some great basketball from these young ladies as they continue to develop their skills and basketball knowledge."