

# Norton girls lose to Ellis in tournament finals

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 1 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team was undefeated and the defending champion of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament but was outplayed Saturday night by an upstart No. 3 seed Ellis quintet who defeated them 50-37 to win the championship.

Norton held a slim 14-13 lead after one quarter but Ellis took a 25-21 advantage into the locker room at halftime and extended the lead to 38-28 by the end of the third quarter.

"We did not play with any emotion tonight," said Coach Jilka. "We were flat all night."

"We didn't play Lady Blue Jay defense and stood around on offense. We didn't play well in any phase of the game. We shot poorly from both the field and the free throw line."

"Give credit to Ellis for their outstanding play."

The loss dropped Norton's season record to 10-1. Ellis is now 10-2.

Norton's best quarter was the first. Chelsea Cox hit three baskets inside and Becca Ebert and Chantille Campbell each hit one basket in the paint. Klaire Mann swished two baskets from the perimeter.

Lady Railroader baskets in the first quarter were made by Taylor Whitney, who hit two and a free throw, Whitney Lang and Jennifer Jacques. Danielle Pfeifer hit 4 of 4 free throw attempts.

Norton scored just seven points in the second quarter on baskets by Cox, Ebert and Campbell and a free throw by Karlie Jones.

Pfeifer threw in two baskets for Ellis. Taylor hit another basket and Jaymi Riedel also swished a basket. Kristen Weber hit one free throw. Norton trailed by just 22-21 after Campbell scored with 10 seconds left in the half. Kristen Waldschmidt, who had not scored in the half, took a three-point shot with four seconds left. It looked as if a Norton player had partially blocked the shot but she was whistled for a foul. Waldschmidt was awarded three free throws and hit all three to extend the Ellis lead to 25-21 at halftime.

To start the third quarter, Taylor scored on a fast break, then Waldschmidt hit a three-point basket to give Ellis a 30-21 lead and Norton was never able to catch up. The Lady Jays were outscored 13-7 in the third period. Norton scored on a basket and free throw by Campbell and baskets by Cox and Newell.

Waldschmidt hit a two-point shot in addition to her trey and Haley Wolf, Pfeifer, Jacques and Jaymi Riedel all hit baskets for the Lady Railroaders.

A 13-9 fourth quarter in favor of Ellis extended their final margin of victory to 13 points. Cox scored 7 of Norton's 9 points on two baskets and three free throws. Mann hit Norton's other fourth quarter basket.

Pfeifer hit 4 of 4 free throws and a basket, Taylor and Laura Augustine



Norton freshman guard Laura Lee Baird put a defensive blanket on Danielle Pfeifer, Ellis, during the Mid-Continent League Tournament championship game in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Saturday evening.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

time each swished a basket and Waldschmidt hit two free throws for Ellis to finish the game.

Leading scorer for Norton was Cox with 17 points on 7 of 17 from the field for 41 percent and 3 of 10 free throws for 30 percent.

As a team, Norton missed all 11 three-point attempts, swished 16 of 47 from two-point range for 34 percent and 16 of 58 overall for 28 percent. Ellis connected on 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 16 of 29 two-point tries for 55 percent and 17 of 32 overall for 53 percent.

The Blue Jays were also a cold 28 percent from the free throw line, hitting just 5 of 18 attempts. The Lady Railroaders connected on 15 of 26 charities for 58 percent.

Norton outrebounded Ellis 38-27. The Lady Jays grabbed 18 offensive and 20 defensive caroms while the Lady Railroaders pulled down 9 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Cox was the rebound leader for Norton with 14, followed by Ebert, 8; Jones, 7; Campbell, 4; Newell, 3; Mann, 2.

Norton had just 3 steals and Ellis had 7 thefts. Newell had 2 steals and Overlease had 1.

The Lady Jays had 10 turnovers and the Lady Railroaders lost the ball 8 times.

Norton had 11 assists and Ellis had 10. Newell was assists leader with 8, followed by Overlease, 2; Mann, 1.

#### Next action

The Norton girls and boys basketball teams will return to action this evening when they travel to Goodland for games beginning at 6:30 p.m. (central time). The junior varsity boys game will be held first, followed by the girls junior varsity game. Both of these games will be in the junior high

gym.

The girls varsity game will also begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the boys varsity contest. These two games will be in the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"This will be a tough game," said Coach Jilka. "We beat them there in their tournament so they'll be ready for us."

"We need to get things straightened out because we will have to play very well to win."

Norton defeated Goodland 47-33 on Dec. 10 to hand the Lady Jays their first loss of the season and win the championship of the Topside Tipoff Tournament.

#### GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 37			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	1 0	0-0	2
Chelsea Cox	7 0	3-10	17
Klaire Mann	3 0	0-0	6
Becca Ebert	2 0	0-0	4
Chantille Campbell			
	3 0	1-6	7
Karlie Jones	0 0	1-2	1
TOTAL	16 0	5-18	37
Ellis girls 50			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Haley Wolf	1 0	0-0	2
Whitney Taylor	4 0	1-2	9
Whitney Lang	1 0	0-0	2
Danielle Pfeifer	4 0	8-9	16
Jennifer Jacques	2 0	0-2	4
Kristen Waldschmidt			
	1 1	5-9	10
Jaymi Riedel	2 0	0-1	4
Kristen Weber	0 0	1-3	1
Laura Augustine	1 0	0-0	2
TOTAL	16 1	15-26	50

# Norton girls beat Trego 34-19 in Mid-Continent league semi-finals

By DICK BOYD

The No. 1 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team endured a slowdown game by No. 5 seeded Trego Community in the first half, then got their offense going in the second half to defeat the Lady Golden Eagles 34-19 in the semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Friday evening in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The score was tied 4-all after one quarter and Norton led 11-8 at intermission. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Golden Eagles 12-7 in the third period to extend their lead to 23-15 and scored 11 points in the final quarter while holding Trego to just four to win by 15 points and run their season record to a perfect 10-0.

"Trego tried to slow it down and we did a nice job of being patient on defense and not giving them any easy baskets," said Norton Coach Kevin Jilka.

"In the second half, we got a little spurt offensively and were able to feel more comfortable. We had good poise, didn't panic and had the offense when we needed it."

"It was a nice win for us and got

us into the tournament finals."

Neither team scored until the 4:58 mark of the first quarter when Trego took a 3-0 lead on a field goal and free throw by Cindy Riedel. Norton scored four points on a basket by Becca Ebert and set shot by Klaire Mann to take a 4-3 lead with 3:27 left. Cindy Riedel hit another free throw with 2:49 left to tie the score at 4-all after one period.

Aubrey Riedel and Olivia Fabrizius each hit baskets early in the second quarter for Trego to give them an 8-4 lead. Chantille Campbell hit a basket for Norton and Chelsea Cox swished a free throw. Whitney Newell fed Cox for two more Norton points and the Lady Jays led 9-8 with 3:05 left in the first half. Laura Lee Baird hit two free throws with five seconds remaining to give the Lady Jays a slim 11-8 lead at intermission.

Norton went inside for key points in the third quarter when Ebert hit two baskets and Cox hit a basket and free throw. Karlie Jones buried a trey and Newell swished two free throws.

Cindy Riedel hit another basket for Trego and Whitney Newcomer hit the Lady Golden Eagles' only other third quarter basket. Eliza-

beth Schoenberger hit two free throws and Lauren Billinger hit one charity.

Norton continued to go inside on offense in the fourth stanza when Cox hit two more baskets and Ebert hit one. Megan Kats hit two free throws, Jones hit two charities and Campbell hit a free toss.

Trego's only fourth quarter points came on baskets by Fabrizius and Michele Ummel.

Cox led Norton in scoring with 10 points and Ebert followed with 8. Cox hit 4 of 6 shots from the field for 67 percent accuracy and 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent. Ebert was 4 of 8 from the field for 50 percent.

Cindy Riedel was leading scorer for Trego with 6 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 9 from beyond the arc for 11 percent, 10 of 30 two-point shots for 33 percent and 11 of 39 overall for 28 percent.

Trego missed all four trey tries, swished 7 of 18 from two-point land for 39 percent and 7 for 22 overall for 32 percent.

The Lady Jays hit 11 of 17 free throws for 65 percent and the Lady Golden Eagles connected on 5 of 10 for 50 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 19-14. Norton grabbed 11 offensive and 8 defensive caroms and Trego pulled down 3 offensive and 11 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 8, followed by Mann, 5; Ebert, 3; Baird, Amber Overlease, Jones 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 8 steals in the contest. Cox led with 4, followed by Jones, 2; Newell, Baird, 1 each. Trego had 5 thefts.

Norton had 8 assists compared to 5 for Trego. Newell led with 5, followed by Mann, Ebert, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had just 15 turnovers while causing the Lady Golden Eagles to turn the ball over 23 times.

#### GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 34			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	0 0	2-2	2
Chelsea Cox	4 0	2-4	10
Laura Lee Baird	0 0	2-2	2
Klaire Mann	1 0	0-0	2
Becca Ebert	4 0	0-0	8
Chantille Campbell	1 0	1-2	3
Megan Kats	0 0	2-2	2
Karlie Jones	0 1	2-5	5
TOTAL	10 1	11-17	34
Trego girls 19			
	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newcomer	1 0	0-1	2
Cindy Riedel	2 0	2-3	6
Elizabeth Schoenberger			
	0 0	2-2	2
Aubrey Riedel	1 0	0-2	2
Olivia Fabrizius	2 0	0-0	4
Michele Ummel	1 0	0-0	2
Lauren Billinger	0 0	1-2	1
TOTAL	7 0	5-10	19



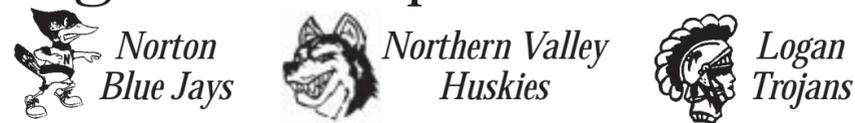
Norton senior point guard Whitney Newell avoids a Trego defender as she brings the ball down court during the Lady Jays' Mid-Continent League Tournament semi-finals win over Trego on Friday night.

**AYSO**  
**Soccer LATE**  
**Registration**  
**Saturday, Jan. 28**  
2-6 p.m.  
309 E. Main, Norton  
(Former Prairie Land Building-Just North of St. Francis Parish Hall)



Norton Lady Jays apply a tight defense during their Mid-Continent League Tournament semi-finals win over Trego on Friday night in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Pictured for Norton are, from left, Becca Ebert, Karlie Jones, Chelsea Cox and Klaire Mann. With the ball for Trego is Michele Ummel, No. 34.

## High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:	
Norton vs. Hays and Kearney, Neb. in duals (Here) .....	4 p.m., Today
Norton vs. Kearney, Kearney vs. Hays, Norton vs. Hays in Wilmetth Kirk Memorial Gym, Senior Night Activities prior to Norton vs. Hays dual	
Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament (In Ellis) .....	10 a.m., Saturday
BASKETBALL:	
Norton vs. Goodland (There) .....	6:30 p.m., Today
Norton vs. Smith Center (Here) .....	6:30 p.m., Tuesday
Logan vs. Mankato (In Mankato) .....	6:30 p.m., Today
Logan vs. Eastern Heights (In Logan) .....	4:30 p.m., Friday
Logan vs. Stockton (In Logan) .....	4:30 p.m., Tuesday
Northern Valley vs. Kensington (In Almena) .....	4:30 p.m., Friday
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb. (In Almena) .....	4 p.m., Tuesday