



Norton senior guard Karlie Jones surprised a Plainville girl (far left) when she stole the ball from her on Friday night in the Lady Jays' 60-34 Mid-Continent League win in Plainville. Jones had eight thefts in the contest and added 17 points. Also pictured for Norton is freshman Laura Lee Baird who led the Lady Jays in scoring with 21 points. — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Norton girls easily defeat Plainville in league play

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team traveled to Plainville for Mid-Continent League play on Friday night and returned with a 60-34 victory.

The Lady Jays trailed early in the game but picked up the scoring pace and led 15-10 after one quarter. A 17-11 second quarter in Norton's favor put the Lady Jays on top 32-21 at intermission. Norton allowed only two baskets and five points by Plainville in the third quarter while scoring 13 to extend their lead to 45-26.

Norton tallied 15 more points in the final stanza while limiting Plainville to just 8 points on four field goals.

"We didn't play very good defense in the first half," said Coach Jilka.

"We fouled a lot and half of their points came at the free throw line. We played a lot better defense in the second half and they didn't get to shoot a single free throw.

"The key to the game was better defense in the second half."

Norton's first quarter points came on two two-point baskets and a three-point basket by senior guard Karlie Jones, two baskets and a free throw by senior guard Amber Overlease, a basket by freshman guard Laura Lee Baird and a free throw by senior center Chelsea Cox.

Senior Eden Rinehart hit two baskets, senior Holly Chew and junior Vanessa Owings each hit a basket and sophomore Aubrey Frederking drained two charities for Plainville's 10 first quarter points.

Baird was a sharpshooter from outside for Norton in the second quarter. She hit one basket from beyond the arc, three two-point baskets and a free throw for 10 points in the period. Overlease also buried a three-point shot, senior guard Whitney Newell hit a two-point basket and Jones swished two charities.

The Lady Cardinals hit just two baskets in the second quarter but paraded to the free throw line. Frederking hit a basket and two free throws, Chew hit a basket, senior Caroline Hrabec tallied on four free throws and senior Jenna Fellhoelter swished one charity.

Baird lit up the scoreboard with two more baskets from long range in the third quarter while Jones buried a trey and Cox and senior center Becca Ebert both hit baskets. The Lady Cardinals' five

points came on a trey by Frederking and two-point basket by Owings.

Jones hit her third trey of the game in the fourth quarter and added a two-point basket; Baird hit her fourth long range shot; Cox, senior guard Klaire Mann and Ebert each hit a basket and senior center Rachael Lentz hit a free throw.

Rinehart had not scored since hitting two baskets for Plainville in the first quarter but swished four baskets in the final stanza for the Lady Cardinals' only points in the period.

With the victory, Norton extended their season record to 15-1 and Plainville dropped to 7-9 overall.

Leading scorer for Norton was Baird with 21 points. She hit 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 4 of 9 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 8 of 17 overall for 47 percent accuracy. She was also a perfect 1 of 1 from the charity stripe.

Jones also brought her shooting eye to the game as she radared in 3 of 4 shots from long range, hit 3 of 4 two-point tries and connected on 6 of 8 free throws for a net-smoking 75 percent accuracy in all shooting categories and 17 points!

Rinehart was Plainville's only double figure scorer with 12 points.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 8 of 20 long range shots for 40 percent, 15 of 44 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 23 of 64 overall for 36 percent.

Plainville hit about the same percentage of shots as Norton but took just over half as many shots. The Lady Cardinals swished 1 of 2 treys for 50 percent, 11 of 32 two-point tries for 34 percent and 12 of 34 overall for 35 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 6 of 10 for 60 percent and Plainville found the range on 9 of 13 for 69 percent.

Norton had 11 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds for 23 total and Plainville grabbed 4 offensive and 23 defensive caroms for 27 total.

Cox was leading rebounder for the Lady Jays with 7, followed by Jones, 4; Overlease, 3; Baird, Mann, Maggie Nielsen, Ebert, 2 each; Newell, 1.

The Lady Jays had 18 steals in the game. Jones was brilliant on the floor as she recorded 8 thefts. Lentz had 5 steals, followed by Newell, 2; Cox, Ebert, Amber Waggoner, 1 each. The Lady Cardinals had just

1 steal in the contest.

Seven Norton ladies had at least one of the Lady Jays' 14 offensive assists. Newell had 7 assists, followed by Baird, 2; Cox, Mann, Overlease, Waggoner and Jones, 1 each.

Norton had just 4 turnovers in the game while causing Plainville to turn the ball over a whopping 24 times!

Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton girls junior varsity team defeated Plainville 32-22 in a two-quarter game.

The Lady Jays led 15-9 after one quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was KaraJo Jones with 9 points, followed by Hayli Bozarth, 6; Megan Kats, Courtney Cox, 4 each; Taylor Rossi, Ashley Colip, 3 each; Wiyanna Paxton, 2; Maggie Nielsen, 1.

Leading scorer for the Lady Cardinals was Kelsey Wyatt with 8 points; Heather Hageman added 7.

"It wasn't real pretty for us tonight," said Coach Rossi.

"We had a hard time getting into arhythm. We finally settled in later in the half and started getting the ball movement and shots we were looking for.

"We have three very tough games coming up and will need to play well to win them."

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will play Hoxie in non-league action today in Norton.

Play will begin at 5 p.m. with the junior varsity boys game in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and the junior varsity girls game, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys games in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

GAME STATISTICS

	FG	sFTs	TP	2s 3s M-A		
				2s	3s	M-A
Norton girls 60						
Whitney Newell	1	0	0-1	2		
Chelsea Cox	2	0	1-2	5		
Rachael Lentz	0	0	1-2	1		
Laura Lee Baird	4	4	1-1	2		
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0	2		
Amber Overlease	2	1	1-1	8		
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-0	4		
Megan Kats	0	0	0-1	0		
Karlie Jones	3	3	2-2	17		
TOTAL	15	8	6-10	60		
Plainville girls 34						
Aubrey Frederking	1	1	4-7	9		
Vanessa Owings	2	0	0-0	4		
Jenna Fellhoelter	0	0	1-2	1		
Eden Rinehart	6	0	0-0	12		
Holly Chew	2	0	0-0	4		
Caroline Hrabec	0	0	4-4	4		
TOTAL	11	1	9-13	34		

Blue Jay boys outscored by Cardinals Friday night

By DICK BOYD

The No. 4 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team upset No. 1 seeded Plainville 56-55 in the semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament in Hays on January 20 but it was a different story Friday night when the Blue Jays traveled to Plainville and the Cardinals rolled to a 71-45 victory.

In the first encounter, Norton hit 44 percent from the field and Plainville could only manage 41 percent. This time around, the Blue Jays cashed in just 31 percent of their shots and the Cardinals sizzled the nets with 56 percent accuracy, including 70 percent from beyond the arc compared to 30 percent the first time.

On January 20, Norton outrebounded Plainville 32-24 but, on Friday night, Plainville prevailed 28-25 on the boards. Norton had 11 assists the first time but only four on Friday night.

Norton's senior center Heath Vincent led the Blue Jays in scoring on January 20 with 17 points and tallied 23 on Friday night but was the only Blue Jay player in double figures.

It was obvious that Norton had played their best game of the season to date when they defeated Plainville and would need to play well again when they traveled to the Cardinals' home court but it wasn't to be. It was payback time and the Blue Jays were not ready for a fired-up Plainville quintet with revenge on their minds.

"We were never able to take them out of their comfort zone," said Norton Coach Doug Reusink. "They played in their comfort zone all night long.

"Mentally, we didn't handle the situation very well. We got frustrated and impatient and tried to match them basket-for-basket instead of staying with our game plan. When we got the ball inside to Heath, he scored but we got away from that and just couldn't score elsewhere.

"We just need to focus on playing our game."

With the win, Plainville extended their season record to 13-3 and Norton dropped to 10-6.

In the second quarter, Norton lost key reserve player junior guard Jared Engelbert for the rest of the season when he stole the ball, drove down court, was fouled and fell as he put up a shot. Engelbert was escorted from the court and Coach Reusink stated that he suffered a broken wrist.

In a preview of the rest of the game, all eight of Norton's first quarter points came on three baskets and two free throws from Vincent.

Meanwhile, Plainville's senior point guard Justin Casey buried two three-point shots and a two-point basket, senior guard Taylor Dix connected on a three-pointer and two-pointer, sophomore guard Tanner Dix hit the Cards' fourth trey of the quarter plus a free throw and senior center Brock McDowell hit a basket and free throw to total 20 first quarter points.

In the second quarter when the Jays were outscored 22-13. Vincent put in two field goals, sophomore guard Logan Kats hit a basket, sophomore guard-center Jared Cox connected on a basket and two free throws, junior center Nic Lewis hit two charities and senior guard Nathan Morse hit a free toss.

Plainville continued to rip the nets from the outside. Casey hit a long range shot and two-point basket, Tanner Dix buried another three-poointer along with a two-pointer and two free throws, Taylor Dix connected on two two-point shots, junior forward Josh Brungardt hit a basket and two charities and junior Caleb Wyatt hit two free tosses.

Norton tallied 15 points in the third quarter for their best scoring quarter of the game but Plainville repeated with 22 more points to take a commanding 64-36 advantage into the final stanza. The Blue Jays' third quarter points came on baskets from five different players. Vincent hit two more baskets and a free throw, Lewis and Morse each hit a basket and Kats and Cox each found the range on a basket and free throw.

Plainville changed their strategy after the half and started going inside to McDowell with success. He hit four field goals and two free throws in the third quarter. Their other points came on two baskets by senior Dalton Mick, a basket each by Wyatt and senior Garrett Frederking and two free throws each by Casey and Taylor Dix.

The Blue Jays outscored the Cardinals 9-7 in the fourth quarter. Vincent threw in two more baskets and two free throws. Freshman guard Matt Stanley hit Norton's other basket and Lewis added a free throw.

Plainville's final points came on another three-point basket by Taylor Dix, another basket by McDowell and a basket by sophomore Jason Dinkel.

Vincent not only led Norton in scoring but in field goal percentage. He hit 9 of 12 shots from the field for 75 percent accuracy and was a perfect 5 of 5 from the free throw line for his 23 points.

Cox was next high scorer for the Blue Jays with seven points on 2 of 4 from two-point range and 3 of 3 free throws. He missed his only trey try.

Four different players scored in double figures for Plainville. Casey and McDowell had 15 points each, followed by Taylor Dix, 14 and Tanner Dix, 11.

As a team, Norton missed all 11 attempted three-point shots, hit 16 of 41 from two-point range for 39 percent and 16 of 52 overall for just 31 percent.

In comparison, Plainville drained 7 of 10 from beyond the arc for 70 percent, 18 of 35 two-point attempts for 51 percent and 25 of 45 overall for 56 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 13 of 18 for 72 percent and Plainville swished 14 of 19 for 74 percent.

Norton grabbed 11 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 25 total and Plainville pulled down 7

offensive and 21 defensive boards for 28 total.

Lewis was leading rebounder for Norton with 11, followed by Vincent, 6; Cox, Preston Herman, 2 each; Kats, Juenemann, Georgeson, Stanley, 1 each.

Vincent blocked three Cardinal shots.

Juenemann had 3 of Norton's 6 steals. Kats, Engelbert and Lewis had 1 theft each.

Morse, Kats, Georgeson and Vincent each had 1 assist.

The Blue Jays suffered 14 turnovers and the Cardinals only turned the ball over 8 times.

Junior varsity boys

The Norton junior varsity boys basketball team lost to Plainville 48-44.

Norton got off to a good start, taking a 22-3 first quarter lead on the strength of Jared Engelbert's three baskets from beyond the arc, a two-point basket and two free throws for 13 points. Engelbert played only in the first quarter.

Plainville outscored Norton 24-2 in the second quarter to take a 27-24 halftime lead. The Cardinals also outscored the Blue Jays 8-5 in the third quarter to extend their lead to 35-29. Norton outpointed Plainville 15-13 in the fourth period to cut the Cardinals' final margin of victory down to four points.

Engelbert was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Preston Herman, Matt Stanley, 9 each; Blake Wolf, Jared Cox, 4 each; Logan Runnion, 3; Zach Dole, 2.

Caleb Wyatt led scoring for Plainville with 13, followed by Aaron Becker, 11.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Engelbert with 13 points, followed by Preston Herman, Matt Stanley, 9 each; Blake Wolf, Jared Cox, 4 each; Logan Runnion, 3; Zach Dole, 2.

Next action

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Play will begin at 5 p.m. with the junior varsity boys game in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and the junior varsity girls game, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys games in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

GAME STATISTICS

	FGs	FTs	TP	2s 3s M-A		
				2s	3s	M-A
Norton boys 45						
Nathan Morse	1	0	1-2	3		
Logan Kats	2	0	1-2	5		
Jared Cox	2	0	3-3	7		
Preston Herman	0	0	0-2	0		
Matt Stanley	1	0	0-0	2		
Nic Lewis	1	0	3-4	5		
Heath Vincent	9	0	5-5	23		
TOTAL	16	0	13-18	45		
Plainville boys 71						
Justin Casey	2	3	2-2	15		
Taylor Dix	3	2	2-2	14		
Tanner Dix	1	2	3-4	11		
Caleb Wyatt	1	0	2-3	4		
Dalton Mick	2	0	0-2	4		
Brock McDowell	6	0	3-4	15		
Josh Brungardt	1	0	2-2	4		
Garrett Frederking	1	0	0-0	2		
Jason Dinkel	1	0	0-0	2		
TOTAL	18	7	14-19	71		



Norton senior center Heath Vincent pulls down a rebound during the Blue Jays' Mid-Continent League game at Plainville on Friday night. From left for Norton are junior center Nic Lewis, who led Norton in rebounding with 11 caroms; senior guard Nathan Morse; junior guard Brian Juenemann and sophomore guard Logan Kats.

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:
Norton in Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament
(In Oberlin) 2 p.m., Friday and 11 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Hoxie (Here) 5 p.m., Today, Junior Varsity Boys, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym 5 p.m., Today, Junior Varsity Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, NCHS Memorial Gym
Norton vs. Ellis (There) 5 p.m., Friday
Norton vs. Colby (Senior Night) (Here) 5 p.m., Tuesday
Junior Varsity Boys, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym; 5 p.m., Tuesday, Junior Varsity Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, NCHS Memorial Gym
Northern Valley vs. Victoria (In Victoria) 4 p.m., Today
Northern Valley vs. Western Plains (In Almena) 4:30 p.m., Friday
Northern Valley in Regional Playoffs February 20-25 TBA
Logan vs. Palco (In Palco) 4:30 p.m., Today
Logan vs. Eastern Heights (In Agra) 4:30 p.m., Friday
Logan in Regional Playoffs February 20-25 TBA