

Jays beat Panthers 40-31

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team got the new Mid-Continent League season off to a good start on Friday night with a hard-fought 40-31 win over Phillipsburg in the Lary Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

It was a close game throughout with Norton only able to pull away with free throws at the end. Norton led 10-7 after one quarter but Phillipsburg was on top 18-15 at halftime.

Norton climbed back on top 19-18 in the third quarter, then junior forward Wes Georgeson hit his third basket of the quarter and senior guard Jared Engelbert buried his third three-point shot of the night to push the Blue Jay advantage to 24-18 with four minutes left. Junior point guard Logan Kats followed with a long range shot at the 3:23 mark and Norton led 27-18.

The Panthers did not fold, however, and scored the final six points to narrow the Norton lead to 27-24 with one quarter remaining.

Jonathan Feik hit his second basket of the night for Phillipsburg and Jarret Abell hit two free throws that gave the Panthers a 28-27 lead with 4:20 remaining. Kats responded with a three-point basket, senior post Blake Wolf got loose for a basket inside and senior guard Brian Juenemann connected for two points to put Norton back on top 34-28 with 2:50 left.

Abell hit a three-point basket with 2:16 showing to cut the Norton margin to three points but it was the Panthers' last points of the night. Senior center Nic Lewis

hit a two-point basket and a free throw and Engelbert swished three free throws to make the final 40-31 in favor of the Blue Jays.

"We played well, especially on defense," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"Our boys did a great job of executing on offense but just couldn't find the basket a lot of the time. We finally had a run late in the game and hung in there against a good team from Phillipsburg."

Engelbert and Georgeson were leading scorers for Norton with 12 points each. Engelbert hit 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent and 3 of 4 charity tosses for 75 percent accuracy. Georgeson connected on 6 of 12 two-point shots for 50 percent and missed his only two long range attempts.

Abell led Phillipsburg with 13 points.

Neither team shot very well, which is probably a credit to both defenses. Norton hit 5 of 22 from beyond the arc for 23 percent, 10 of 23 from two-point range for 43 percent and 15 of 45 overall for 33 percent.

Phillipsburg was cold from long range, hitting just 1 of 11 tries for 9 percent. The Panthers connected on 8 of 19 two-point shots for 42 percent and were 9 of 30 overall for 30 percent.

Norton had just 11 free throws and hit 5 for 45 percent. The Panthers went to the line 15 times and hit 12 for an 80 percent average.

The rebounding battle ended in almost a dead heat. Norton collected 7 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 20 total and Phillipsburg pulled down 2 offen-

sive and 17 defensive caroms for 19 total.

Georgeson was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Engelbert, 5; Juenemann, 3; Lewis, 3; Kats, 2; Wolf, 1.

Norton had 8 steals. Georgeson had 3, Engelbert 2 and Kats, Juenemann and Wolf, 1 each.

Engelbert had 4 of Norton's 9 assists. Kats had 3, Juenemann and Lewis, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had just 7 turnovers while their aggressive defense caused 16 turnovers by the Panthers.

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost 37-28 to Phillipsburg.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters 11-8, 23-15 and 34-20.

Logan Runnion was leading scorer for Norton with 6 points, followed by Landon Hamel, Jared Cox, Ashton Draper, 5 each; J.D. Gall, 3; Zac Dreher, Preston Herman, 2 each.

Greg Rummel was leading scorer for the Panthers with 13 points.

BOX SCORE

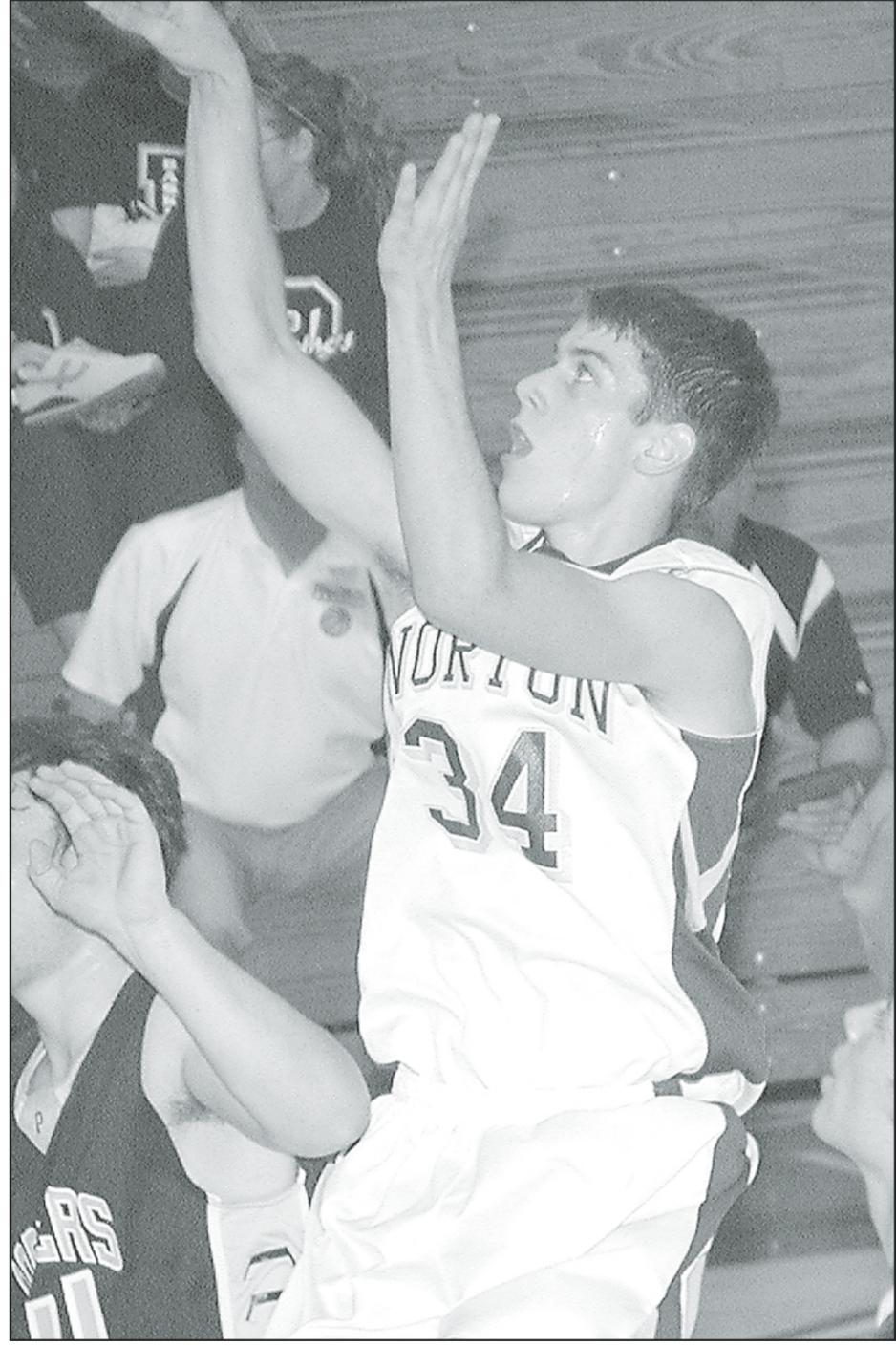
Norton boys 40

Jared Engelbert 0 3 3-4 12; Logan Kats 1 2 1-2 9; Brian Juenemann 1 0 0-1 2;

Blake Wolf 1 0 0-2 2; Wes Georgeson 6 0 0-0 12; Nic Lewis 1 0 1-2 3; Total 10 5 5-11 40

Phillipsburg boys 31

Dylan Franz 2 0 1-1 5; Jarret Abell 2 1 6-6 13; Jonathon Feik 2 0 0-0 4; Jerrad Jerby 1 0 0-1 2; Garrett Wickham 1 0 3-5 5; Trent Weinman 0 0 2-2 2. Total 8 1 12-15 31



Norton senior forward Nic Lewis swished a jump shot during the Blue Jays' 40-31 win over Phillipsburg here Friday, which got the Mid-Continent League race started with a big win.

-Telegram Photo by Dick Boyd

Ladies hold on to win by 3

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team jumped out to a big lead against a visiting Phillipsburg team in the Mid-Continent League opener here on Friday, then had to fight off the determined Lady Panthers down the stretch to win 47-44.

Norton held a 15-6 lead after one quarter and 26-16 advantage at intermission but Phillipsburg outscored the Lady Jays 10-7 in the third quarter to make it a 33-26 game.

An 18-14 fourth quarter in favor of the Lady Panthers narrowed Norton's final margin of victory down to three points.

"We should have put them away but we kept fouling them and turning the ball over," said coach Jilka. "We kept them in the game. When you have 26 turnovers you probably shouldn't win but our girls keep finding ways to win. In the fourth quarter, we made our free throws when we had to."

Norton connected on 6 of 10 charities in the final period.

"They have a great team with four starters back from last year," said coach Jilka. "We stayed close with them on the boards and that was a key statistic."

"I couldn't be prouder of the effort our girls made. They're always going to give a great effort. They just have to play smarter and eventually they will. This was a huge league win for us."

Sophomore post Hayli Bozarth was the leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on 6 of 9 from the field for 67 percent and 1 of 2 from the three throw line for 50 percent. Sophomore point guard Taylor Rossi added 11 points on a perfect 3 of 3 from beyond the arc for 100 percent and 2 of 4 charities for 50 percent.

Rexanne Schilowsky was top scorer for Phillipsburg with 19 points. She hit just five points in the first half but fueled the Lady Panther offense in the second half.

Both teams had about the same shooting percentage but Norton had three more long range baskets than Phillipsburg. The Lady Jays hit 5 of 13 three-point shots for 38 percent, 12 of 33 two-point shots for 36 percent and 17 of 46 overall for 37 percent.

The Lady Panthers connected on 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 16 of 37 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 18 of 45 overall for 40 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 8 of 12 for 67 percent. Phillipsburg had 20 free throw shots and hit only 6 for 44 percent.

Norton had 9 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 29 total compared to 9 offensive and 19 defensive for 28 total for Phillipsburg.

Sophomore post KaraJo Jones was leading rebounder for Norton with 10 boards and Bozarth pulled down 9. Other rebounders for the Lady Jays were sophomore guard Ashley Colip, 4; sophomore guard Laura Lee Baird, 3; junior post Courtney Cox, 2; Rossi, 1.

Norton had 11 steals and Phillipsburg had 13 thefts. Rossi and Baird each had 4 steals and junior guard Megan Kats, Jones and Bozarth each had 1.

The Lady Jays were credited with 10 assists and Rossi had 6 of them. She was followed by Jones, 2; Kats, Baird, 1 each.

Norton had 26 turnovers and Phillipsburg had 17.

The Norton girls junior varsity lost to Phillipsburg 46-33. They trailed by quarters 17-3, 31-11 and 34-19.

Leading scorer for Norton was Ashlie Stewart with 11, followed by Kaitlyn Wolf, 10; Amanda Ray, 6; Lacy Keilig, Haley Jones, Alyssa Thomson, 2 each.

Alex Orr was leading scorer for the Lady Panthers with 15 points.

"There is no other way to put it than to say that we played horrible," said assistant coach George Rossi. "We did not come out aggressive and Phillipsburg made us pay the price."

"We will correct what we need to and we will get better."

The Norton freshmen girls quin-

tet defeated the young Lady Panthers 32-11 in a three-quarter contest. Norton held quarter advantages of 8-0 and 24-2.

Lacy Keilig was leading scorer for Norton with 10 points, followed by Ashlie Stewart, 6; Amanda Ray, 4; Hannah Waggoner, 3; Kendra Engelbert, Raven Brown, Austin Dole, Kaitlyn Wolf, 2 each; Steph Eagleburger, 1.

Abby Corcoran scored 5 for Phillipsburg and Nicole Swatzell tallied 4.

"Our girls did some good things their first time out," said assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"We were aggressive in our defensive press and gave Phillipsburg some fits."

"Our post players also made some nice moves to score."

"We need to talk more on defense, work on blocking out more aggressively and do a better job of protecting the ball when we get it."

"Overall, I thought our first outing was executed fairly well."

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 47

Taylor Rossi 0 3 2-4 11; Laura Lee Baird 1 0 4-4 6; Ashley Colip 1 1 0-0 5; Maggie Nielsen 1 0 0-0 2; Megan Kats 0 1 1-2 4; KaraJo Jones 3 0 0-0 6; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 1-2 13; Total 12 5 8-12 47

Phillipsburg girls 44

Lindsay Dusin 0 2 1-4 7; Brittni Robison 2 0 0-2 4; Toma Griffey 0 0 0-2 0; Shelbie Robertson 1 0 2-2 4; Melanie Bilby 0 0 1-4 1; Rexanne Schilowsky 9 0 1-4 19; Total 16 2 6-20 44

Lady Blue Jays impressive in 56-27 victory

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team traveled to Stockton on Saturday for their second consecutive Mid-Continent League contest and returned with an impressive 56-27 victory.

Norton defeated Phillipsburg in Norton in their league season opener on Friday night. The Lady Jays are now 4-1 for the young season.

Norton led 14-2 after one quarter, 33-16 at halftime and held the Lady Tigers scoreless in the third quarter to extend their advantage to 42-16.

"This was a big league win for us," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"Our girls really got after it all night long. Offensively, we didn't shoot the ball very well but we kept

shooting and that's the important thing."

The Lady Jays took 66 shots and hit just 22 of them for 33 percent but limited the Lady Tigers to only 33 shots.

"Defensively, our girls were everywhere," said coach Jilka. "We really got after it on defense."

"It was a good night for our girls. We are very glad to be 4-1 at Christmas break and 2-0 in league play."

"Our primary focus is to get better this week at practice because our schedule really gets hectic after Christmas break."

Leading scorer for Norton was Laura Lee Baird with 19 points on 5 of 11 from long range for 45 percent, 2 of 6 two-point shots for 33 percent and 7 of 17 overall for 41 percent. Megan Kats added 11 points on 3 of 7 from beyond the

arc for 43 percent, 1 of 4 two-point tries for 25 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36 percent.

Leading scorer for Stockton was Chelsey Kriley with 9 points. Amber Kriley added 8.

As a team, Norton swished 9 of 25 from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 13 of 41 two-point tries for 32 percent and 22 of 66 for 33 percent overall.

Stockton did not take any trey attempts. The Lady Tigers hit 12 of 33 two-point shots for 36 percent.

Neither team made many fouls. Norton went to the line 3 times and hit 3. Stockton went to the foul stripe 8 times and connected 3 times for 38 percent.

Norton edged Stockton 37-35 in the rebounding battle. The Lady Jays pulled down 13 offensive and 24 defensive caroms and the Lady

Tigers grabbed 5 offensive and 30 defensive boards.

Nine different Norton girls had at least one rebound. KaraJo Jones was the leader with a whopping 14 total. She was followed by Hayli Bozarth, 5; Ashley Colip, 4; Baird, Maggie Nielsen, Kats, 3 each; Taylor Rossi, Courtney Cox, 2 each; Katharine Roy, 1.

The aggressive Norton defense came up with a total of 23 steals by 9 girls. Thefts were by: Jones, Kats, Baird, 4 each; Katharine Roy, Taylor Rossi, 3 each; Maggie Nielsen, 2; Ashley Colip, Courtney Cox, Hayli Bozarth, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 assists compared to 6 by the Lady Tigers. Rossi led with 4, followed by Jones, 3; Kats, 2; Roy, Baird, Colip, Cox, 1 each.

Norton had just 8 turnovers in

the game while the Norton defense caused Stockton to turn the ball over 26 times.

The Norton junior varsity beat Stockton 38-16 in a three-quarter game.

Next action

The next varsity and junior varsity games will be on Tuesday, Jan. 2 when Norton hosts Oberlin in games beginning at 5 p.m.

The Norton boys C-team will play in the Joe Green Invitational Tournament on December 28, 29 and 30 in Hill City.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 52

Jared Engelbert 2 4 0-0 16; Logan Keiswetter 0 0 0-2 0; Logan Kats 1 0 2-3 4; Brian Juenemann 1 1 4-9; Blake Wolf 2 0 0-3 4; Wes Georgeson 3 0 2-2 8; Nic Lewis 5 0 1-4 11; Total 14 5 9-18 52

Stockton boys 39

E. Kriley 0 0 2-2 2; L. Kriley 10 6-7 8; Moll 1 0 0-0 2; Bellerive 10 5 0-0 2; LaSage 2 0 1-2 5; K. Weiser 1 0 0-0 2; Post 0 0 2-2 2; E. Weiser 3 2 1-2 13; Voss 0 0 3-8 3; Total 9 2 15-23 39

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 56

Katharine Roy 2 0 0-0 4; Taylor Rossi 1 1 1-1 6; Laura Lee Baird 2 5 0-0 19; Ashley Colip 1 0 0-0 2; Courtney Cox 1 0 2-2 4; Maggie Nielsen 2 0 0-0 4; Megan Kats 1 3 0-0 11; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 2 0 0-0 4; Total 13 9 3-3 56

Stockton girls 27

Jenny Nelson 1 0 0-0 2; Amber Kriley 4 0 0-0 8; Charley Campbell 1 0 2-4 4; Alicia Hrabo 1 0 0-0 2; Heather Murchie 1 0 0-0 2; Chelsey Kriley 4 0 1-4 9; Total 12 0 3-8 27