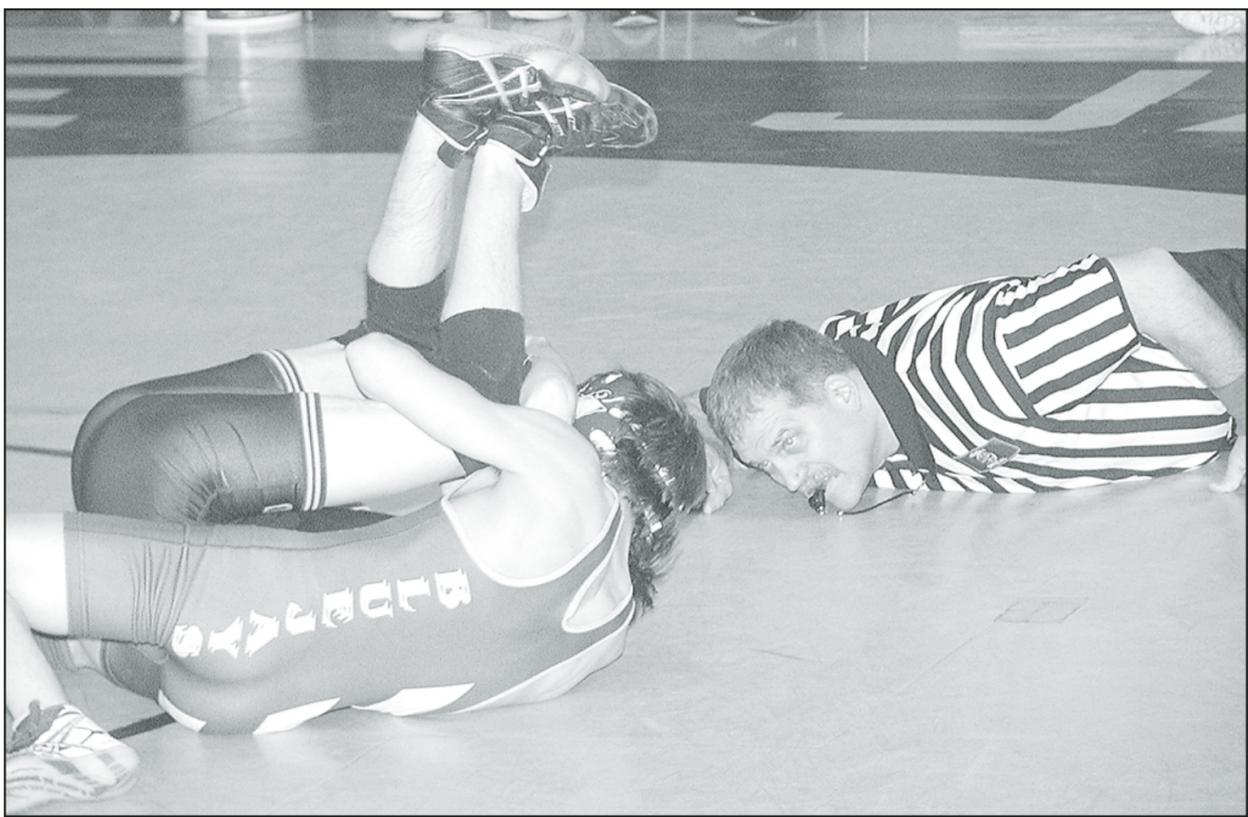


The Blue Jays in action. . .



Blue Jay junior Wes Georgeson dribbled quickly down court against the Trego defense during Norton's tough 52-48 loss in WaKeeney Friday night. Georgeson scored 9 points, grabbed 3 rebounds, had 2 steals and blocked 1 shot. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton sophomore Zach Bainter needed just 57 seconds to pin Trego's Ryan Kaiser in their 125-pound match during the

Blue Jays' 59-15 dual win over the Golden Eagles last Thursday in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Varsity boys lose thriller to Trego

By DICK BOYD

A close Mid-Continent League boys basketball game between Norton Community High School and Trego Community High School on Friday night in WaKeeney had an unfortunate and unexpected finish for the Blue Jays as they lost 52-48.

It was a tight game throughout with each team leading by no more than four points in the first half and by no more than six points in the second half. The two quintets were tied at 41-all with 2:02 remaining when Trego's sophomore guard Spencer Hemmert, who had hit just two two-point baskets in the game, suddenly swished a three-pointer to put the Golden Eagles on top 44-41. Norton was unable to answer and the next time down the court, much to everyone's surprise, Hemmert took aim and fired in another shot from beyond the arc with 1:31 left to suddenly give Trego their largest lead in the game.

Norton's Wes Georgeson quickly scored inside to make it a 47-43 contest. Norton fouled to get the ball back and senior Dustin Day hit two free throws with 53 seconds left. Norton senior Jared Engelbert came through with a three-point basket that brought cheers from the Norton crowd and cut the Trego lead to three at 49-46 with 47 seconds showing. With time slipping away, the Norton defense fought hard to get the ball back but finally had to foul again. This time Hemmert went to the line and calmly hit both free throws to make it a 51-46 game with 17 seconds left on the scoreboard.

Norton's senior Nic Lewis hit his 23rd point of the night with a basket inside with 8 seconds remaining. He was fouled but missed the free throw, leaving the score at 51-48. Junior Nolan Smith was fouled and hit Trego's final point from the free throw line with 3.8 seconds left to earn the Golden Eagles the 52-48 victory.

Norton trailed 7-6 after one quarter but the Blue Jays outscored the Golden Eagles 13-11 in the second quarter to take a slim 19-18 lead at halftime. An 11-10 third quarter in favor of Trego tied the score at 29-all heading into the exciting fourth stanza.

"This was a game where two pretty good defensive teams went after each other and the difference in the game was that Trego made some big shots down the stretch to win," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"For us to win close games like this, we need to get more people involved in scoring and shoot much better as a team from the free throw line." Norton hit just 6 of 16 free throws for 37.5 percent. Trego was 15 of 27 from the line for 55.6

percent accuracy.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lewis, who hit 10 of 14 shots for a net smoking 71.4 percent. He was 3 of 7 from the charity stripe for 42.9 percent and finished with 23 points.

After only hitting one two-point basket in the first three quarters, Hemmert ended with 12 in the final stanza to total 14 points for Trego.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 18 of 43 two-point tries for 42 percent and 20 of 51 overall for 39 percent.

Trego swished 3 of 10 long range shots for 30 percent, 14 of 34 two-point attempts for 41 percent and 17 of 44 overall for the same 39 percent as Norton.

Norton outrebounded Trego 30-22. The Blue Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 20 defensive caroms and the Golden Eagles grabbed 6 offensive and 16 defensive boards.

Senior Blake Wolf led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Nic Lewis, 6; Logan Kats, 5; Jared Engelbert, 4; Wes Georgeson, 3; Brian Juenemann, 2; Logan Keiswetter, Preston Herman, 1 each.

Lewis blocked 3 shots and Georgeson and Kats each rejected 1.

Kats took 3 charges.

Norton had just 7 steals in the game. Juenemann and Georgeson had 2 each and Engelbert, Keiswetter and Kats each had 1 theft.

The Blue Jays had 15 assists. Engelbert led with 5, followed by Kats, 4; Georgeson, 2; Keiswetter, Juenemann, Wolf, Jared Cox, 1 each.

Norton had 17 turnovers and Trego lost the ball 12 times.

Junior varsity

Norton lost the junior varsity game by a 36-19 score to Trego.

Trego had quarter leads of 11-6, 21-15 and 28-15.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Cox with 7, followed by Preston Herman, 6; Landon Hamel, J.D. Gall, Zac Dreher, 2 each.

Matthew Neff led Trego with 10.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 48

Jared Engelbert 0 21-27; Logan Kats 0 0 1-2 1; Blake Wolf 3 0 0-3 6; Wes Georgeson 4 0 1-2 9; Nic Lewis 10 0 3-7 23; Preston Herman 1 0 0-0 2; Total 18 2 6-16 48.

Trego Boys 52

Jared Oborny 2 0 0-0 4; Dustin Day 1 0 4-4 6; Eric Cunningham 0 0 1-2 1; Dylan Sherfick 1 0 1-2 3; Spencer Hemmert 2 2 4-4 14; Nolan Smith 2 1 1-2 8; Cameron Locke 3 0 1-2 7; Nick Geist 3 0 3-11 9; Total 14 3 15-27 52.

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestlers defeated Smith Center and Trego Community in duals on Thursday night in Norton in what they thought was a warmup for defending their two-time championship in the prestigious Newton Tournament of Champions on Friday and Saturday.

Unfortunately, the inclement winter weather kept the Blue Jays from traveling south to Newton so the only competition they saw was Thursday's Mid-Continent League contests in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Norton outscored Smith Center 43-23 in the first dual, which was followed by a 49-24 win by Smith Center over Trego. In the night's finale, Norton defeated Trego 59-15.

Smith Center

In the dual with Smith Center, Norton won just four matches compared to six by the Redmen but won four matches which were forfeit by Smith Center.

"I was very disappointed in our performance against Smith Center," said coach Johnson.

"We were flat-footed in almost every match. We let them get on our legs way too easy. Because of

that, we lost matches we should have won."

*103 — Connor Pfannenstiel won by a fall in 2:26 over Garrett Kuhlman.

*112 — Kaenon Keiswetter lost a 14-6 major decision to Colt Rogers.

*119 — Zane Perez won by forfeit.

*125 — Zach Bainter won by forfeit.

*130 — Nathan Broeckelman won a 12-4 major decision over Trevor Rempe.

*135 — Kent Mann lost a 4-3 decision to Marshall McCall.

*140 — Aaron Husted lost an 11-1 major decision to Justin York.

*145 — Jeff Soderlund won a 3-0 decision over Matt Atwood.

*152 — Blake VanEaton lost a 10-8 decision to Travis Rempe.

*160 — Matt Stanley lost a 9-3 decision to Grady Godsey.

*171 — Jordan Durham won by forfeit.

*189 — Coady McMullen won by forfeit.

*215 — Shane Stanley was pinned in 4:48 by Kirk Palmer.

*285 — Alex Thomas pinned Cody Tucker in 3:34.

Junior Varsity Matches

*140 — Todd Bolt pinned Dustin Baetz in 52 seconds.

Bad start figures in Lady Jays' defeat

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls basketball team failed to hit a basket in the first quarter of their Mid-Continent League game at Trego Community in WaKeeney on Friday night and the Lady Jays were never able to make up the early deficit in a 47-40 loss.

After trailing 10-2 at the end of the first period, Norton scored 12 points in the second quarter and Trego tallied only 13 but the Lady Jays were still behind 23-14 at halftime. Norton was outscored 19-12 in the third period as the Lady Golden Eagles extended their advantage to 42-26.

The Lady Jays rallied in the fourth quarter when they outscored Trego 14-5 but it was too little, too late. Laura Lee Baird and Katharine Roy each hit three-point baskets and KaraJo Jones hit a two-point attempt in the final stanza and the Lady Jays connected on 6 of 8 free throw tries.

But poor field goal shooting throughout the night made it virtually impossible to catch up after the first quarter drought. For the game, Norton hit only 4 of 30 three-point tries for 13 percent, 8 of 31 two-point attempts for 26 percent and 12 of 61 overall for just 20 percent.

Meanwhile, Trego connected on only 3 of 14 from beyond the arc for 21 percent but hit 14 of 33 from two-point land for 42 percent and was 17 of 47 overall for 36

percent.

"You're not going to win games when you shoot just 20 percent and three-fourths of their shots are in the lane," said head coach Kevin Jilka. "That's a bad combination.

"We need to learn to play with more discipline on defense. They shot 27 free throws in the game. "We played harder in the second half and cut their lead down to single digits but just couldn't get it any closer. We need to learn to play hard for 32 minutes. We need to keep our heads up and keep fighting. We can play better.

"We need to play with confidence. We are young and inexperienced so it is sometimes easy to lose confidence. We're better than this and must believe we can play better."

Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points on 2 of 17 from long range for 11 percent, 3 of 6 two-point shots for 50 percent and 5 of 23 overall for 22 percent. She hit 6 of 8 free throws for 75 percent.

Elizabeth Schoenberger was top scorer for Trego with 20 points.

The Lady Jays had their shooting eye when they stepped on the free throw line. They connected on 12 of 15 charity tries for 80 percent accuracy. Trego hit just 10 of 27 from the stripe for 37 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 46 to 28. The Lady Jays pulled down 18 offensive and 28 defensive rebounds compared to the Lady

*145 — Jordan Bebb was pinned in 5:47 by Dustin Baetz.

*145 — Austin Brown won a 14-5 major decision over Kyle Hrabe.

*145 — Logan Kelly pinned Kyle Hrabe in 58 seconds.

Trego Community

In the dual with Trego, Norton won 10 matches, Trego won 2 and the Blue Jays and Golden Eagles each won one match by forfeit.

"Against Trego, we seemed to be a little more aggressive and able to pretty much dominate," said coach Johnson.

"Trego was not as good as Smith Center so our mistakes didn't show up as much.

"Maybe some of our sub-par performances were because we were looking ahead to the Newton tournament. Hopefully, we'll learn from our mistakes and wrestle better in the future."

*103 — Connor Pfannenstiel pinned Ethan Ghumm in 1:35.

*112 — Kaenon Keiswetter pinned Chad Jamison in 2:50.

*119 — Zane Perez pinned Ben Gideon in 4:47.

*125 — Zach Bainter pinned Ryan Kaiser in 57 seconds.

*130 — Nathan Broeckelman won by forfeit.

*135 — Kent Mann won a 4-2

decision over Heath Maley.

*140 — Aaron Husted pinned James Richmeier in 5:05.

*145 — Jeff Soderlund pinned Derek Carr in 58 seconds.

*152 — Blake VanEaton won an 11-0 major decision over Sam Bailey.

*160 — Matt Stanley lost a 13-10 decision to Jon James.

*171 — Jordan Durham won a 12-4 major decision over Matt Dietz.

*189 — Coady McMullen was pinned in 2:49 by Michael Malay.

*215 — Shane Stanley pinned Taylor Dirks in 2:42.

285 — William Hendrickson, Trego, won by forfeit.

Next action

Norton will compete in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 27 in Hill City, beginning at 10 a.m.

The Blue Jays were originally scheduled to wrestle Kearney and Hays in Hays on Tuesday, Jan. 23 but those duals have been moved to Norton on Tuesday, Jan. 30, starting at 5 p.m.

It will be senior night.

Golden Eagles' 9 offensive and 19 defensive caroms.

Nine different Norton girls grabbed at least one rebound. Jones was the leader with 10, followed by Hayli Bozarth, 9; Taylor Rossi, 8; Baird, 7; Ashley Colip, 5; Roy, Courtney Cox and Maggie Nielsen, 2 each; Megan Kats, 1.

Norton had just 12 turnovers and Trego had 13. The Lady Jays had 7 steals and the Lady Golden Eagles had 10 thefts.

The Lady Jays had only 5 assists and Trego had 6.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated Trego 41-28. Trego held a 11-10 lead after one period but Norton edged ahead 19-17 by halftime. An 8-7 third quarter in Norton's favor made the score 27-24 at the end of three. The Jays limited Trego to just one field goal in the fourth when Norton outscored them 14-4.

Ashlie Stewart was top scorer for Norton with 10, followed by Kaitlyn Wolf, 8; Hannah Waggoner, 6; Lacy Keilig, 4; Amanda Ray, 4; Haley Jones, 3; Courtney Cox, Bethany Roy,

Raven Brown, 2 each.

Kirsten Locke scored 8 to lead Trego; Morgan Dietz added 7.

"We did a better job tonight," said Norton coach George Rossi.

"Our girls really hustled in the second half. The hustle gave us a lead that we were able to increase."

Tourney admission will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students for single games. Admission to games later in the week at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 40

Katharine Roy 0 1 0-0 3; Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 3 2 6-8 18; Ashley Colip 1 0 0-0 2; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; Maggie Nielsen 1 0 0-1 2; KaraJo Jones 1 0 1-2 3; Hayli Bozarth 1 0 5-6 7; Total 8 4 12-15 40.

Trego Girls 47

Julia Albin 1 0 1-2 3; Lauren Billinger 1 0 2-3 4; Cindy Riedel 1 0 0-4 2; Elizabeth Schoenberger 6 2 2-8 20; Aubrey Riedel 1 1 2-2 7; Olivia Fabrizius 2 0 0-3 4; Katie Riedel 2 0 2-6 6; Michele Ummel 0 0 1-3 1; Total 14 3 10-27 47.

Booster bunch meets Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, girls basketball

coach Kevin Jilka and wrestling coach Bill Johnson will update fans on latest competitions by their athletes as well as previewing upcoming action. All fans are invited.