

Return trip to Trego smooth ride for Lady Jays

By DICK BOYD

Everyone in Norton knew that the Norton Community High School girls basketball team could play better than they did in a 47-40 Mid-Continent League loss at Trego Community in WaKeeney on Friday evening.

And, they proved on Tuesday night that they could!

The No.5 seeded Lady Jays returned to WaKeeney for the first round of the league tournament to play the No.4 seeded Lady Golden Eagles for the second time in four days and the result was a satisfying 63-51 victory.

Instead of hitting 20 percent of their shots, as they had on Friday, the Lady Jays hit 49 percent of their attempts, which included an excellent 57 percent from three-point range. In Friday's loss, they hit just 13 percent from beyond the arc.

On the same floor against the same team on Friday, Norton trailed 10-2 after one quarter. This time around was a complete reversal. Laura Lee Baird hit two from long range and one two-point shot, Taylor Rossi buried two three-pointers and Megan Kats hit a long range and two-point basket in the initial stanza as the Lady Jays rolled to a 23-12 lead after the first eight minutes of play.

Norton's offense slowed a little in the second quarter with only Ashley Colip hitting from beyond the arc. Although the Lady Jays scored just 15 points, the aggressive Norton defense limited Trego to just 9 points as the fired up visitors from Norton took a commanding 38-21 halftime lead.

To Trego's credit, they battled back in the third quarter, outscoring Norton 16-13 to cut the deficit to 51-37.

The two teams also played on even terms in the fourth period when Trego tallied 14 points and Norton hit 12.

Baird had her shooting eye back after hitting only 22 percent in scoring 18 points on Friday. This time, she hit an even 50 percent and totaled 21 points. Baird wished 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 4 of 9 two-point

shots for 44 percent and 7 of 14 overall. She was also 4 of 9 from the free throw line.

Two other Lady Jays were in double scoring digits with 13 points each and they also burned the nets. Taylor Rossi hit 3 of 4 long range shots for 75 percent, 1 of 1 from two-point range and 4 of 5 overall for 80 percent. Rossi hit 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent.

Also hitting 13 points was Hayli

Bozarth. She connected on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and 3 of 8 charity tosses for 38 percent.

Elizabeth Schoenberger was Trego's leading scorer in Friday's contest with 20 points and led the Lady Golden Eagles Tuesday night with 17.

As a team, Norton ripped the nets on 8 of 14 three-point shots for 57 percent, 14 of 31 two-point tries for 45 percent and 22 of 45 over-

all for 49 percent.

Trego also hit 49 percent overall but did not hit as many treys. The Lady Golden Eagles connected on 2 of 6 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 19 of 37 two-point tries for 51 percent and 21 of 43 overall for 49 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 11 of 24 for 46 percent and the Lady Golden Eagles swished 7 of 13 for 54 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 30-21. Eight different Lady Jays pulled down at least 1 rebound. Leader was Bozarth with 12, followed by Baird, 4; Maggie Nielsen, 4; Ashley Colip, 3; Megan Kats, 2; Katharine Roy, 2; Rossi, 2; KaraJo Jones, 1.

The Lady Jays were much more aggressive on defense, which resulted in 12 steals. The leaders were Baird, Kats, Bozarth, 3 each, and Rossi, Nielsen, Jones, 1 each. Trego had just 2 steals in the game.

Norton had 17 offensive assists compared to just 8 for Trego. Rossi was assists leader with 7, followed by Baird, 5; Kats, 3; Colip, 2. Both teams had 10 turnovers.

"It was a great effort by our play-

ers tonight," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "We have struggled since the holidays and it was great to see our players bounce back.

"Offensively, we shot the ball better but we also executed much better this time around.

"Defensively, we have some work to do yet but our aggressiveness was much better and we had better pressure on the ball.

"At times, rebounding is still a problem and that is something we will continue to work on."

In other first round tournament games on Tuesday evening, No.1 seed Osborne defeated No.8 seed Hill City 46-33, No.6 seed Ellis upset No.3 seed Phillipsburg 62-51 and No.2 seed Smith Center outscored No.7 Plainville 52-20.

No.8 Hill City defeated No.9 Stockton in the feather bracket game on Saturday.

In the championship semi-finals in the Gross Memorial Coliseum on the campus of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Ellis will play Smith Center at 3 p.m. today and Norton will play Osborne at 6 p.m. tonight.

In the consolation semi-finals on Thursday, Hill City played Trego and Phillipsburg played Plainville.

The Lady Jays also lost earlier this season at Osborne and hope to avenge that defeat tonight. "It's great for our players to be in the semi-finals at Hays but we will have our hands full with Osborne," said coach Jilka.

"It will take a complete 32 minutes to beat them but our girls are capable if they believe in themselves."

BOX SCORE Norton Girls 63

Taylor Rossi 1 3 2-4 13; Laura Lee Baird 4 3 4-9 21; Ashley Colip 1 1 0-0 5; Megan Kats 2 1 0-1 7; KaraJo Jones 1 0 2-2 4; Hayli Bozarth 5 0 3-8 13; Total 14 8 11-24 63.

Trego Girls 51

Lauren Billinger 2 1 2-2 9; Cindy Riedel 2 0 0-4 4; Elizabeth Schoenberger 7 0 3-5 17; Aubrey Riedel 2 0 0-0 4; Olivia Fabrizius 3 1 0-0 9; Catie Riedel 1 0 2-2 4; Michele Ummel 2 0 0-4; Total 19 2 7-13 51.



Lady Jay sophomore guard Taylor Rossi looked for a teammate to pass to as she brought the ball down court during the Norton girls' 47-40 loss to Trego at WaKeeney last Friday night. Rossi and her Lady Jay teammates avenged the loss on Tuesday night when they returned to WaKeeney and outscored the Lady Golden Eagles 63-51. Rossi tallied 13 points.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Huskies drop game on road

A poor first quarter performance, coupled with a similar effort in the third, and connecting on only 5 of 13 from the free throw line, pretty much brought out the "L" word for the Northern Valley varsity girls as they went down to defeat 59-42 to Southern Valley on the road Tuesday night.

The Huskies managed but 6 points in the first quarter, while letting Southern Valley shake the nets with 16. Score: 6-16.

The Huskies took control of the second quarter, bombing the place with 15 points, two more than the hosts recorded. Score: 21-29.

Despite trailing by 8 at intermission, there was hope in the eyes of the visiting Huskies.

Unfortunately, Southern Valley hit in double digits (11) in the third while allowing Northern Valley no more than 8. Score: 29-40.

A respectable fourth quarter wasn't enough to overcome the deficit — Northern Valley 13 points, Southern Valley 19 — to make the final score 42-59.

With a lot of games yet to go on the season, the Huskies will predictably get their share of "W's." Fan support will be that "extra" player.

Alison Cole paved the way for the Huskies with 11 points. The game's leader was Southern Valley's Murdoch with 16.

Box Score

Field goals (2s, 3s), free throws

(attempts, made), total points:

Northern Valley 42

Alison Cole 5 0 5-1 11; Megan Cole 0 0 2-1 1; Kelli Cole 1 2 2-1 9; Andrea Lowry 0 1 0-0 3; Kelsey Kinderknecht 0 0 2-0 0; Christina Anderson 2 0 1-1 5; Jena Jessup 0 2 0-0 6; Jessica Largent 3 0 1-1 7; Totals: 11 5 13/5 42

Southern Valley 59

Murdoch 5 1 7-3 16; Gustafson 1 0 4-6 6; Steele 2 0 3-1 5; Siebels 0 0 2-2 2; Witte 3 0 0-0 6; Hogeland 3 0 0-0 6; Strickland 7 0 1-1 15; Harvie 1 0 0-0 2; Bauer 0 0 2-1 1. Totals: 22 1 19-12 59

Norton player All-Tourney pick

Norton freshman Ashton Draper was chosen to the All-Tournament Team following the annual Joe Green Invitational Bas-

ketball Tournament in Hill City at the end of December.

The Norton C-team placed third in that tournament.

Emporia next stop for Norton Blue Jay wrestlers

Since inclement weather prevented the Norton Community High School wrestling team from defending their two-time championship in the Newton Tournament of Champions last weekend, the Blue Jay wrestlers will compete in the Emporia Dual Tournament on Saturday at the Emporia High School.

Competing in the tournament, in addition to Emporia and Norton, will be teams from Chanute, Derby, Junction City and Wichita Heights.

The Norton duals are scheduled as follows: Norton vs. Wichita Heights, 9 a.m.; Norton vs. Derby, 11 a.m.; Norton vs. Emporia, 1 p.m.; Norton vs. Chanute, 3 p.m.; Norton vs. Junction City, 5 p.m.

The times listed are approximate. The next round will start 15 minutes after the final match of that round is finished.

Hundreds of young wrestlers to invade Stull Gymnasium

The annual Norton Kids Wrestling Tournament will be held on Saturday in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton, beginning at 9 a.m.

A total of 327 wrestlers between 5 and 12 years of age are signed up to compete in 104 weight classes.

Wrestlers from Norton, Atwood, Beloit, Oberlin, St. Francis, Hoxie, Osborne, WaKeeney, Russell, Ellis, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Hill City, Stockton, Ulysses, Great Bend, Hays, Lakin, Scott City, Oakley, Hoisington and Cozad, Neb. are

expected to compete.

The top four placers in each weight class will receive medals. The format for each weight class will be either three-, four- or five-man round robin or eight-man double elimination. Wrestling will be on six mats.

There are 68 wrestlers in the Norton Kids Wrestling program. Host for the tournament will be the Norton Kids Wrestling Club.

There is no admission charge. Concessions will be available all day.

Blue Jays

Huskies

Trojans

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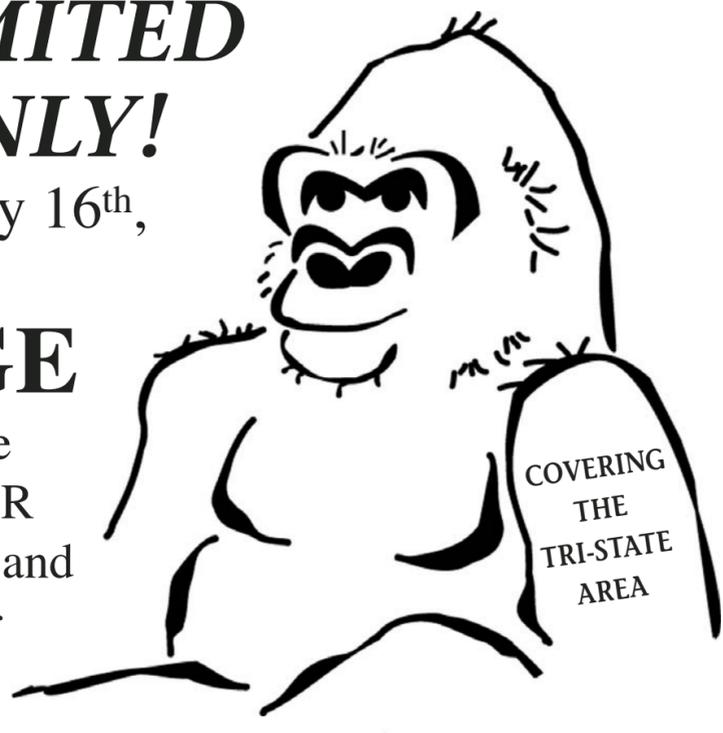
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