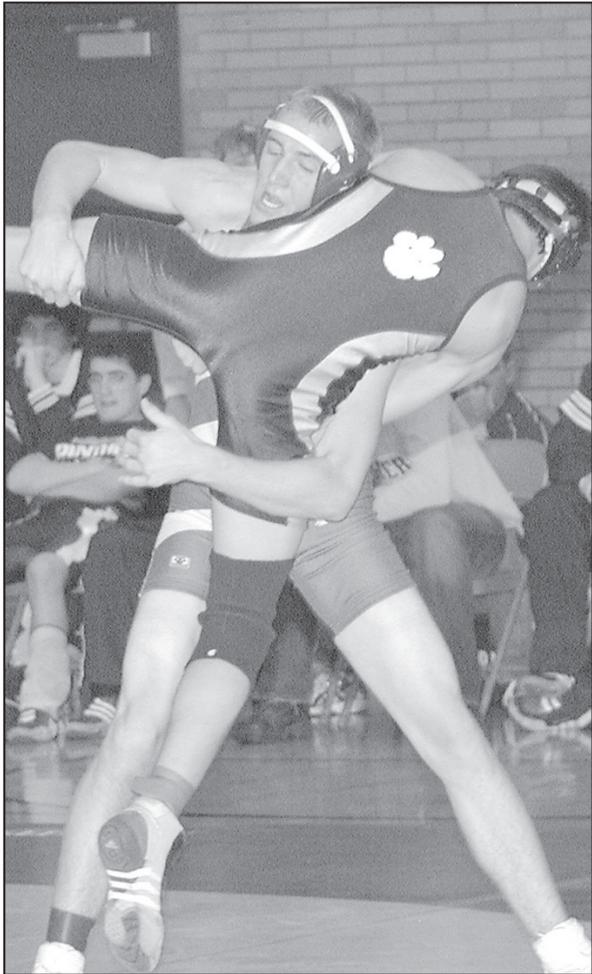


Wrestlers open dual season with big win



Blue Jay senior Aaron Husted used all his strength to take Weston Coomes down to the mat for two points during his 11-3 major decision over Coomes at 145-lbs. in the dual win over Phillipsburg here Friday night.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team opened the dual season and Mid-Continent League competition on Friday with a 46-24 win over Phillipsburg in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Stockton was also scheduled to wrestle both Norton and Phillipsburg but did not due to inclement weather. The Stockton duals were postponed.

Norton wrestlers won 8 of the 14 individual matches versus Phillipsburg and 5 of the Blue Jay victories were by falls. Norton also won a ninth match by forfeit.

The Blue Jays won their first four matches, which included the forfeit, lost at 130 and 135, won the next four, lost the next three and won the 285 pound finale.

"We knew we should probably win the dual with Phillipsburg due to our experience and that we would have a good chance to get a good lead if we wrestled up to our capabilities and, for the most part, we did okay," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"We won some close ones at 103 and 119. Troy Bainter and Landon Keiswetter showed a lot of fight as freshmen.

"We lost a couple of close matches at 130 and 135. Both Zane Perez and Zach Bainter were state medalists. These were not good losses but these same wrestlers will meet again this season.

"We were in better physical condition than Phillipsburg but we seemed to get out of control and give up points easily.

"All our wrestlers competed hard but I still thought they would do better. Part of it was that we thought we had a big day Saturday in the Goodland dual tournament. Our wrestlers were keeping their weight down for the Saturday morning weigh-in."

As it turned out, Norton decided not to travel to Goodland on Saturday due to inclement weather conditions.

Match results

*103 -- Troy Bainter won a 7-6 decision over Chris Ceman.

*112 -- Colby Poage won by forfeit.

*119 -- Landon Keiswetter decided Josh Crain 10-6.

*125 -- Kaenon Keiswetter pinned Keo Roth in 1:25.

*130 -- Zane Perez lost a 4-1 decision to Thomas Rachow.

*135 -- Zach Bainter lost an 8-5 decision to Dustin Zahorsky.

*140 -- Todd Bolt pinned Clint Reese in 1:47.

*145 -- Aaron Husted won an 11-3 major decision over Weston Coomes.

*152 -- Jeff Soderlund pinned Brad Artz.

*160 -- Matt Stanley pinned Brandon Morgan in 1:34.

*171 -- Jordan Bebb lost by a fall in 5:47 to Ryan Swartzell.

*189 -- Brock Lauer lost by a fall in 1:24 to Keath Thomas.

*215 -- Robert Derauf lost by a fall in 3:34 to Nathan Craigg.

*285 -- Alex Thomas pinned Jered Rice in 1:49.

Junior varsity

*119 -- Brett Terrell decided John Boyington 4-0.

*125 -- Conner Pffannenstiel pinned Kolton Vogel in 4:43.

*135 -- Spencer Shirk pinned Clint Reese in 1:21.

*145 -- Austin Brown pinned Taylor Bohl in 1:48.

*152 -- Brad Nuzum pinned Moriah French in 1:23.

*152 -- Logan Kelly pinned Caid Breon in 1:57.

*171 -- Casey Robison was pinned in 3:57 by Zach Jacobs.

*189 -- Cody Cook pinned Cody Leggett in 4:49.

Next action

Norton will host the annual J.R. Durham Invitational wrestling tournament on Saturday, Jan. 5, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Jay guys get third win

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team outshot and outrebounded Phillipsburg on Friday night en route to a 49-31 win on the Panthers' home court which opened the Mid-Continent League season for the Blue Jays and extended their early season record to 3-1.

Norton allowed Phillipsburg only one field goal in the first quarter as the Jays jumped out to a 16-5 lead.

Wes Georgeson hit three baskets, Logan Kats and Preston Herman each hit a basket and two free throws and Zac Dreher connected on a basket for Norton in the first quarter.

Norton outscored the Panthers 14-9 in the second period to lead 30-14 at intermission. Georgeson led the way again in scoring as he swished three two point shots and a three pointer and hit a free throw for 10 of the points. J.D. Gall and Herman each added a basket.

Phillipsburg outscored Norton 11-8 in the third period but the Blue Jays still led 38-25 with one period remaining. Herman scored all of Norton's points in the third quarter on two field goals and four free throws.

The Blue Jay defense limited the Panthers to just three field goals in the fourth quarter while scoring 11 points themselves to win by 18 points. Norton also scored on just three field goals in the final stanza but hit five free throws. Georgeson hit two field goals and Jared Cox swished one. Landon Hamel hit two free throws while Kats, Gall and Dreher each connected on a charity.

"Our boys really came out and played well early in this game," said Norton coach Doug Reusink.

"We were running the floor well and played good defensively.

"In the second half, we let up and they made a run at us but our guys did a nice job of finishing the game.

"Our bench continues to get better each game. This was a great team effort."

Georgeson led Norton in scoring with 1 of 1 from long range, 8 of 14 two point shots for 57 percent and 9 of 15 overall for 60 percent accuracy. He hit his only free throw and finished with 20 points.

Herman added 14 points on 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and 6 of 9 free throws for 67 percent.

Dylan Frantz was leading scorer for Phillipsburg with 14 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 1 of 4 shots from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 16 of 35 two point tries for 46 percent and 17 of 39 overall for 44 percent.

Phillipsburg swished just 2 of 12 long range shots for 17 percent, 9 of 35 two point attempts for 26 percent and 11 of 47 overall for 23 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton found the range on 14 of 20 for 70 percent compared to 7 of 9 for 78 percent by Phillipsburg.

Norton pulled down 8 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds for 35 total caroms compared to the Panthers' 6 offensive and 13 defensive boards for 19 total.

Herman was a horse on the boards as he grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the Jays in that category. He was followed by Cox, Dreher and Georgeson, 5 each; Kats, 3; Terrell Lane, 2; Hamel, Ashton Draper, 1 each.

Both teams had 6 steals. Kats and Herman each had 2 thefts and Hamel and Lane had 1 each.

Norton had a big advantage in

the assists department. The Blue Jays recorded 15 assists while the Panthers had just 4. Kats led with 7, followed by Cox, 4; Lane, 3; Hamel, 1.

Norton had 16 turnovers and Phillipsburg had 13.

Junior varsity
Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Phillipsburg 40-27

Norton led by quarters 17-0, 27-10 and 35-19.

Leading scorer for the young Blue Jays was Landon Hamel with 12 points, followed by Terrell Lane, 6; Ashton Draper, 6; J.J. Ebner, 6; Luke Ninemire, 4; J.D. Gall, 3; Dakota Dreher, 2; Marcus Herman, 1.

Ellis led Phillipsburg with 6 points.

Next action
Norton's next scheduled varsity competition will be Friday, Jan. 4 when Norton hosts Osborne, beginning at 5 p.m.

Norton was scheduled to host Stockton on Saturday evening but the game was not played due to inclement weather and has been postponed.

Also Norton had scheduled a junior varsity tournament for Saturday in Norton and it has also been postponed.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 49
Logan Kats 1 0 3-4 5; Landon Hamel 0 0 2-2 2; Jared Cox 1 0 0-0 2; Wes Georgeson 8 1 1-1 20; J.D. Gall 1 0 1-2 3; Zac Dreher 1 0 1-2 3; Preston Herman 4 0 6-9 14; Total 16 1 14-20 49.

Phillipsburg boys 31
Dylan Frantz 2 1 7-9 14; Clint Jarvis 1 0-0 2; Nick Smith 1 0 0-0 2; Justin Hoft 1 0 0-0 2; Tanner Thompson 1 1 0-0 5; Chance Keiswetter 3 0 0-0 6; Total 9 2 7-9 31.

Last second shot downs Ladies

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team rallied from a nine point deficit in the fourth quarter to take the lead but still lost 54-53 to Phillipsburg on a last second shot Friday night on the Lady Panthers' home court.

The game opened the Mid-Continent League race for coach Kevin Jilka's Lady Jays, who are now 2-2.

Norton trailed 41-32 after three quarters but outscored the Lady Panthers in the fourth period and tied the game at 52-all. Amanda Ray hit a free throw with 12 seconds left on the scoreboard clock to edge the Lady Jays ahead 53-52 but Phillipsburg brought the ball downcourt quickly and the ball was passed inside to Melanie Bilby, who put it up and in at the buzzer!

Ray scored 7 points in the game and all of them came in the fourth quarter when she also hit two baskets and two other free throws.

Hayli Bozarth, who ended the game with 20 points, hit three baskets and a free throw in the final period for 7 points as well. Laura Lee Baird, who scored 19 points in the contest, hit a three point shot and two free throws in the final period and KaraJo Jones hit a basket, too.

The Lady Jays fell behind early and trailed 20-4 after the first quarter. Norton's only points in the initial period came on baskets by Baird and Ashlie Stewart.

The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Panthers 16-9 in the second quarter but Phillipsburg still had a 29-20 advantage at intermission. Bozarth made most of Norton's points in the second quarter as she poured in 11 on five field goals and a free throw. Baird hit a trey and Jones hit a two point shot for the Lady Jays' other five points.

The two teams played on even terms in the third quarter when both scored 12 points to leave the Lady Jays still trailing by 9 points. Norton's only points from the field came on three treys by Baird. Bozarth hit two charities and Taylor Rossi hit one.

"We did not get off to a very good start as Phillipsburg came out very aggressive and we did not respond very well to that," said coach Jilka. "Phillipsburg was beating us in all phases of the game.

"Offensively, we had poor execution at times and at times we looked very good.

"Defensively, we continue to give up too many points and rebounding continues to be a

problem and, until we become committed to rebounding, we will struggle at times.

"Free throw shooting was also a problem tonight. When you don't rebound and make free throws, that's a formula for defeat.

"Despite all that, our girls fought back to take the lead but ended up giving up the winning basket.

"Defense is hard work and that's where we will try to improve.

"It's early in the year and we can still get better."

Bozarth hit 8 of 14 shots from the field for an excellent 57 percent accuracy and was 4 of 6 on free throws for 67 percent and 20 points.

Baird connected on 5 of 11 from beyond the arc for 45 percent but was only 1 of 5 from two point range for 20 percent and ended hitting 6 of 16 for 38 percent. She was 2 of 6 from the charity stripe for 33 percent and 19 points.

Lindsay Dusin was leading scorer for Phillipsburg with 12 points, followed by Jordan Redinger and Bilby with 10 each and Toma Griffey and Makenzie Weinman with 9 each.

As a team Norton hit 5 of 19 three point tries for 26 percent, 14 of 33 two point attempts for 42 percent and 19 of 52 overall for 36 percent.

Phillipsburg missed their only long range shot and hit 21 of 43 two point tries for 49 percent and finished 21 of 44 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 10 of 21 for 48 percent and the Lady Panthers hit 12 of 24 for 50 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 29-22. The Lady Jays pulled down 5 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds and the Lady Panthers grabbed 6 offensive and 23 defensive caroms.

Baird was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Jones, Bozarth, 5 each; Rossi, 3; Katharine Roy, Megan Kats, Amanda Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 13 steals in the game and the Lady Panthers had just 5. Baird led Norton in thefts with 5, followed by Rossi, 3; Bozarth, 2; Stewart, Kats, Jones, 1 each.

Both teams were credited with 12 assists. Norton was led by Baird with 5, followed by Rossi, Stewart, Courtney Cox, 2 each; Kats, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers while causing the Lady Panthers to turn the ball over 17 times.

Junior varsity
The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Phillipsburg 31-23.

Norton led 8-4 after one quarter but Phillipsburg was on top 14-12

at half-time. The young Lady Jays edged ahead 17-16 in the third quarter and outscored the young Lady Panthers 14-7 in the final stanza.

Lacy Keilig was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Shelby Jones, 8; Kaitlyn Wolf, 7; Hannah Waggoner, 3; Bethany Roy, 2.

Voorhees led Phillipsburg with 8.

"It was a good start for our season," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"Overall, we were a bit flat but once we got our feet under us, we started to click a bit better.

"Our girls have many things to work on, such as defense and talking on defense.

"The girls are working hard."

C-team game
The Norton girls C-team defeated Phillipsburg 20-16.

Norton held quarter leads of 6-2, 13-10 and 16-12.

Leading scorer for Norton was Sophie Mills with 8 points, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 6; Kaylen Rossi, Lindsey Tacha, Raven Brown, 2 each.

Norton led Phillipsburg with 6 points.

"It was a pretty even game for us," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"We do need to work on defending throw-ins a little better. Phillipsburg scored nearly half of their points on throw-ins. Our girls did have some good hustle on defense and it paid off in the end."

Next games for the girls C-team will be on Saturday, Jan. 5 in the Phillipsburg C-team Tournament, starting at 10 a.m.

Next action
Norton's next scheduled competition will be Friday, Jan. 4 when Norton hosts Osborne, beginning at 5 p.m.

Norton was scheduled to host Stockton on Saturday evening but the game was not played due to inclement weather and has been postponed. Also, Norton had scheduled a junior varsity tournament for Saturday in Norton and it has also been postponed.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 53
Taylor Rossi 0 0 1-3 1; Ashlie Stewart 1 0 0-0 2; Laura Lee Baird 1 5 2-6 19; KaraJo Jones 2 0 0-0 4; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 4-6 20; Amanda Ray 2 0 3-6 7; Total 14 5 10-21 53.

Phillipsburg girls 54
Makenzie Weinman 4 0 1-1 9; Lindsay Dusin 5 0 2-5 12; Jordan Redinger 5 0 3-10; Toma Griffey 2 0 5-9 9; Shelbie Robertson 1 0 2-2 4; Melanie Bilby 4 0 2-4 10; Total 21 0 12-24 54.

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