

Upset bid comes up short

By DICK BOYD

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With senior point guard Logan Kats and senior forward Preston Herman leading the way, coach Doug Reusink's upset-minded Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team traded baskets with Class 2A No. 2 state ranked Smith Center before losing 59-50 in Mid-Continent League play on Tuesday in Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Kats' jumper from the top of the key was on target all night as he hit 6 of 13 for 46 percent accuracy and was 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent and 16 points.

Herman was equally effective inside as he swished 6 of 9 tries for 67 percent from the field and was 1 of 1 from the charity stripe for 13 points.

Kats and Herman both hit key baskets in every quarter.

The Blue Jays trailed by just 13-10 after one quarter and 29-22 at half-time. The third quarter belonged to the Blue Jays as they outscored the Redmen 12-8 to cut the Smith Center lead to 37-34. Kats hit two baskets in the third period while Herman, junior post Zac Dreher, sophomore guard J.D. Gall and sophomore guard Landon Hamel each contributed important baskets. Smith Center hit only three baskets in the quarter.

Less than a minute into the fourth stanza, Herman hit a jumper

to cut the Redman lead to 37-36 then, with 6:07 showing, Herman missed a rebound shot but rebounded a second time and put the ball back up and in to put the Blue Jays on top 38-37!

A running jump shot by Kats with 5:35 left extended the Norton lead to 40-37 but the very athletic Redmen showed the next two minutes why they are ranked No. 2 in the state when they scored 8 points to retake the lead at 45-40. Norton senior guard Jared Cox scored inside with 3:36 left to cut the Smith Center advantage to 45-42.

Smith Center's Joe Windscheffel hit his third three-point basket of the game with 2:53 left, Jared Mocaby hit two free throws with 2:42 remaining for his only points of the half and Brayton Gillen hit his only basket of the game at the 2:15 mark to push the Smith Center advantage to 52-42.

Kats hit a jumper with 2:08 left but Braden Wilson hit a free throw and Jared Hayes connected on two charities to make it 55-44 with 1:34 remaining. Kats fed Dreher for 2 Blue Jay points but Wilson scored and Gillen hit two free throws for the Redmen's final points to put them ahead 59-46.

Norton added 4 final points when Kats fed Dreher for a basket and Kats connected on two free throws.

"I'm happy with our effort tonight," said coach Reusink.

"I couldn't ask any more of our players.

"We have to be smarter. When we had the lead, we made some bad decisions on offense. We panicked a little bit and made some turnovers. They have players who rise to the occasion and they hit some key shots. We have to come to play this way in every game."

Leading scorer for Smith Center was Wilson with 21; Jared Hayes hit 12 and Windscheffel 11.

As a team, Norton connected on 1 of 9 from three-point land for 11 percent, 21 of 44 two-point tries for 48 percent and 22 of 53 overall for 42 percent from the field.

Smith Center was 4 of 10 from long range for 40 percent, 17 of 32 on two-point attempts for 53 percent and 21 of 42 overall for 50 percent.

The Blue Jays hit 5 of 8 free throws for 63 percent and the Redmen connected on 13 of 21 charities for 62 percent. Norton pulled down 3 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 19 total. Smith Center grabbed 3 offensive and 23 defensive caroms for 26 total.

Herman led Norton with 7 rebounds, followed by Wes Georgeson, Kats, 3 each; Cox, Dreher, 2 each; Zach Dole, Gall, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 18 offensive assists and the Redmen had 17. Assists leader for Norton was Kats

with 6, followed by Hamel, 4; Cox, 3; Herman, 2; Dole, Georgeson, Gall, 1 each.

Norton had 12 turnovers and the aggressive Blue Jay defense caused 19 turnovers by the Redmen.

Junior varsity

Norton lost the junior varsity contest by a 53-21 score. Norton trailed by quarters 17-2, 25-8 and 45-15.

Leading the scoring for the young Blue Jays were Dakota Dreher and John Koch with 5 points each, followed by Landon Hamel, 3; Luke Ninemire, Marcus Herman, Zac Dreher and D.J. Ebner, 2 each.

Dillon Corbett led Smith Center with 22 points; Logan Tuxhorn added 11.

Norton will play varsity and junior varsity games at Hill City today, beginning at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 50

Logan Kats 6 0 4-6 16; Landon Hamel 1 0 0-1 2; Jared Cox 2 0 0-0 4; Wes Georgeson 1 0 0-0 2; J.D. Gall 1 1 0-0 5; Zac Dreher 4 0 0-0 8; Preston Herman 6 0 1-1 13; Total 21 1 5-8 50.

Smith Center boys 59

Drew Joy 1 0 0-0 2; Jared Hayes 3 1 3-4 12; Joe Windscheffel 1 3 0-1 11; Braden Wilson 8 0 5-11 21; Brayton Gillen 1 0 2-2 4; Jared Mocaby 3 0 3-3 9; Total 17 4 13-21 59.



Norton senior point guard Logan Kats led the offensive charge for the Blue Jays during their valiant attempt to upset the No. 2 state-ranked Smith Center quintet here Tuesday evening. Kats, shown here putting up a jump shot in the lane, led Norton in scoring with 16 points and offensive assists with 6.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Late surge results in overtime loss for Lady Jays

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team had the visiting Smith Center quintet just where they wanted them after three quarters in Stull Gymnasium Tuesday evening but let them get away in a 51-46 overtime loss.

The Lady Jays held comfortable leads of 15-7 after one quarter, 21-12 at half-time and 35-26 after three quarters but the Lady Redmen scored the first six points of the final stanza and it was anybody's game after that.

Norton junior guard Laura Lee Baird fed junior post Hayli Bozarth and she scored inside to extend the Lady Jays' lead to five points at 37-32 with 5:23 left in regulation. It turned out to be Norton's only basket of the quarter and only Bozarth's second of the game.

Lady Red sophomore guard

Taylor Arnold buried a three-point shot 20 seconds later to cut the Norton advantage to 37-35. Bozarth hit 1 of 2 free throws with 2:15 showing to make it 38-35. Smith Center senior post Sarah Tucker narrowed the Norton lead to one point with two free throws with 1:33 remaining. A technical foul on the Smith Center bench with 58.6 seconds left resulted in two free throws by Baird to make it a three-point game again.

The Lady Jays had two final chances to earn a victory in the last minute but Baird and senior guard Megan Kats missed charities with 40 and 32 seconds left, respectively.

The Lady Red worked for a final shot. Arnold took it with 15 seconds remaining and connected from long range to tie the game at 40-all and send it into overtime!

In the four-minute extra period, Bozarth fouled out and sent Tucker to the line where she converted

two charities with 3:13 left. Baird drove the lane and scored to tie it at 42-all with 2:40 remaining.

Tucker was fouled with 2:09 showing and hit two more charities. After the two teams exchanged possessions, junior Shayla McMurdo was fouled and hit both charities to put the Lady Red ahead 46-42 with 1:04 left. Junior Morgan Lorenzen was fouled with 49 seconds left and hit 1 of 2 charities to extend the Smith Center lead to 47-42.

Baird hit nothing but net from long range at the Norton end of the court with 41 seconds showing to make it a 47-45 game but the Lady Red swished four more free throws and Baird hit one final charity for the Lady Jays as time ran out on the scoreboard clock with Smith Center winning 51-46.

Baird led Norton scoring with 33 points. She hit 8 of 18 shots from beyond the arc for 44 percent accuracy, 3 of 11 two-point

tries for 27 percent and 11 of 29 overall for 38 percent. She was also 3 of 6 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Arnold hit four shots from long range and ended with 16 points for Smith Center. Tucker added 12 and McMurdo scored 10 points.

"It is a disappointing loss when you lead for three and a half quarters and give it away," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka. "We had the chance to put them away and didn't do it."

"You have to give them credit for coming back. We had our chances at the end. If we had hit some timely free throws we would have won it."

"We did not shoot well in the game and that hurt as well. We gave up 39 points in the second half and that's not very good defense."

"Hopefully, we will move on and be ready to play a full game Friday at Hill City or we'll be in

trouble."

As a team, Norton hit 8 of 28 three-point tries for 29 percent, 7 of 30 two-point attempts for 23 percent and 15 of 58 overall for just 26 percent.

Smith Center hit 41 percent from the field on 5 of 13 long range shots for 38 percent, 7 of 16 two-point tries for 43 percent and 12 of 29 overall.

The Lady Jays shot 15 free throws and hit 8 for 53 percent while the Lady Red paraded to the stripe 31 times and hit 22 for 71 percent.

Norton pulled down 15 offensive and 6 defensive caroms for 21 total. Smith Center grabbed 4 offensive and 22 defensive boards for 26 total.

Bozarth was leading rebounder for Norton with 11, followed by Ashlie Stewart, KaraJo Jones, 3 each; Baird, 2; Chantille Campbell, Courtney Cox, 1 each.

The Lady Jays' aggressive defense stole the ball 13 times while the Lady Red gave up the ball just 3 times. Baird was steals leader with 5, followed by Jones, 3; Bozarth, 2; Stewart, Cox, Kats, 1 each.

Stewart had 4 of Norton's 10 offensive assists, followed by Katharine Roy, Kats, 2 each; Baird, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays turned the ball over 13 times but the Lady Red lost it 19 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Smith Center 37-29.

Norton held quarter leads of

10-5, 16-9 and 29-19.

Kaitlyn Wolf led the young Lady Jays in scoring with 14 points, followed by Amanda Ray, 10; Shelby Jones, 6; Meaghan Peterson, 3; Bethany Roy, Dustyna Sprigg, 2 each.

Carley Ohmstede led Smith Center with 5.

"This was a nice league win for us," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Smith Center made a run on us late in the game but we managed to hang on for the win."

"We did not shoot free throws very well at the end of the game."

"Our girls did do a better job of taking care of the basketball tonight."

"We have a bunch of games coming and we need to be ready."

Next action

Norton will play varsity and junior varsity games at Hill City today, beginning at 5 p.m.

The C-team will play Colby on Monday in the Community Building at Colby, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 46

Laura Lee Baird 3 8 3-6 33; Megan Kats 0 0 0-1 0; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Chantille Campbell 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 2 0 5-8 9; Total 7 8 8-15 46.

Smith Center girls 51

Morgan Lorenzen 0 0 4-6 4; Shayla McMurdo 1 1 5-7 10; Terra Rempe 0 0 0-1 0; Sarah Tucker 2 0 8-9 12; Sara Timmons 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Arnold 1 4 2-4 16; Ariel Robinson 1 0 3-4 5; Jihan Arnold 1 0 0-0 2; Total 7 5 22-31 51.

Alma too much for Huskies, 65-28

The Northern Valley Husky varsity basketball boys opened their doors to some visiting Nebraskaans Tuesday night, and when the evening ended the guests packed up, climbed on their bus and took the results with them: A 65-28 victory.

It was apparent early on that the Huskies would have their hands

full as Alma — who held a 6-point 13-7 lead at the end of the first quarter — went into the locker room at halftime with an 18-point lead, 31-13.

When the third quarter of action was buzzed, the visitors were on top by 39 points, 56-17. Only in the final quarter was Northern Valley able to outscore the Ne-

braskaans, 11-9.

By quarters:
Northern Valley 7-6-4-11=28
Alma 13-18-25-9=65

The Huskies managed 52-pointers, 33-pointers and 9 free throws. For Alma, it was 16 2-pointers, 8 3-pointers and 9 charity tosses.

Tanner Jessup scored in double figures for the Huskies with 10

points. Bryce Marble put in 9; and Colton Lowry Cody Callaway and Drew Eagleburger each scored 3.

Alma had one player hit double digits, Ehrke, with 20 points.

The Huskies lost the junior varsity game 52-29. Colton Lowry and Chaim McMillin led the way with 6 points each.

Logan loses thriller to Stockton

The Logan Trojan basketball varsity boys lost a thriller to Stockton 50-45 in overtime Tuesday at Logan.

The Trojans led 8-6 at the end of the opening quarter, 29-19 at half and trailed 35-33 at the end of three quarters.

In the fourth period, the Trojans

scored 11 points and the Tigers 9 to knot it at 44 at the end of regulation play.

The Trojans managed but one point in the overtime period while the Tigers popped six for the final 50-45 tally.

Scoring for the Trojans were: Zach Long 18 to lead the Logan

charge. Payton Chestnut also hit in double figures with 11. Other scoring were: Girard Jordan 2; Bryce Sammons 4; Tyson Pabst 1; Bret VanDerWege 3; Charley Harmon 5; and Mark Pakkebieb 1.

Cory Post scored 18 for the Tigers, followed by Marcus Moll

with 10. Other scorers were: Ethan Kriley 2; Stephen Bellerive 4; Kyle Weiser 8; and Scott Voss 8.

Logan scored on 9 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 21 free throws.

Stockton scored on 13 2-pointers, 4 3-pointers and 12 from the free throw line.

Logan Ladies fall short

The Logan High School varsity ladies fell to the Stockton Tigers 52-47 at home Tuesday.

The first quarter ended in a 10-10 tie and at intermission the Tigers were on top 25-22.

After three quarters of action, Stockton was still on top 35-31. In the final period, the Tigers outscored the Trojans 17-16 for the final 52-47 score.

Top scorer for Logan, and the game, was Jenny Archer with 15. Also scoring in double figures was Shelley Kemper with 10. Others

scoring: Kathryn Hartman 6; Shalely Van Loenen 3; Aspen Larson 6; and Savannah Sammons 7.

Three Tigers scored in double digits: Carlee Lindsey with 14; Chelsey Kriley 13; Hayley Strutt 12. Also scoring were: Phoenix Hobdell 2; Jenny Nelson 2; Amber Kriley 5; and Brenna Schlaegel 4.

Logan scored on 11 2-pointers, 5 3-pointers and 10 free throws.

Stockton put in 18 2-pointers, 1 3-pointer and 13 from the free throw line.



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