

Blue Jay ladies finish third in tournament

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team extended their season record to 3-1 to place third in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 11-12-13 in Goodland.

After defeating McCook 39-33 in the opener on Thursday, the Lady Jays lost 57-50 to Wray, Colo. on Friday and defeated Weskan 49-41 on Saturday to finish in third.

Ottawa defeated Wray 49-39 to win the championship. Sharon Springs won fifth place with a 61-59 win over Burlington and McCook finished seventh with a 67-34 victory over Goodland.

Norton's Laura Lee Baird was named to the ten-player All-Tournament Team at the conclusion of the tournament.

McCook

The Norton girls got a slow start in the win over McCook on opening day of the tournament. The Lady Jays trailed 9-8 after one quarter which saw Lacey Wallingford hit two baskets, Ashlie Stewart one and Laura Lee Baird hit two free throws.

Norton's best quarter was the second when the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Bison 17-7 to take a 25-16 half-time lead. Wallingford hit two more baskets and two charities, Stewart swished another shot, Baird hit a two and Norton's only three-point basket of the game and Amanda Ray tallied on two shots.

The Lady Jays were outscored 9-8 again in the third quarter when Wallingford hit another basket and two free throws and Katharine Roy and Ray each hit a basket to make the score 33-25.

Norton was also outscored 8-6 in the final quarter. Norton's points came on two baskets by KaraJo Jones and one from Baird.

Wallingford was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points on 5 of 9 field goals for 55 percent accuracy and 4 of 8 free throws for 50 percent.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 15 three-point attempts for 6 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44 percent and 16 of 49 overall for 33 percent.

The Lady Bison took no shots

from long range and hit 11 of 39 two-point attempts for 28 percent. Norton hit 6 of 12 free throws for 50 percent while McCook tallied on 11 of 24 charities for 46 percent.

Norton grabbed 15 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds for 37 total compared to McCook's 13 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 29 total.

Wallingford got a double-double with 14 rebounds, followed by Roy, Stewart, 6 each; Jones, 5; Baird, 4; Taylor Rossi, Ray, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 18 steals compared to 15 for the Lady Bison. Baird led with 6, followed by Jones, 4; Wallingford, 3; Rossi, 2; Roy, Stewart, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had only 10 assists and McCook had 5. Baird led with 4 assists, followed by Roy, Rossi, 2 each; Stewart, Ray, 1 each.

Neither team had a very good floor game. Norton had 40 turnovers and McCook had 32.

"We didn't play very well," said coach Jilka. "We were not in the game mentally and did not take care of the basketball. For a team with our experience, having 40 turnovers is ridiculous." "To our credit, we still found a way to win. We'll have to play better."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 5 0 4-8 14; Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 0 0 0-2 0; Ashlie Stewart 2 0 0-4; Laura Lee Baird 2 1 2-2 9; KaraJo Jones 2 0 0-0 4; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 15 1 6-12 39

McCook Girls

Megan Carfield 1 0 1-2 3; Gretchen Sehert 0 0 2-2 2; Tara Powell 2 0 1-2 5; Morgan Schaefer 1 0 2-2 4; Joanna Bryant 3 0 2-7 8; Hanah Swanhorst 3 0 0-0 6; Emilyne Nichols 1 0 2-3 4; Brianna Watkins 0 0 1-5 1.

Wray, Colo.

The Lady Jays fell behind in the first half against Wray but rallied in the third quarter to tie the score before losing it in the fourth period.

Wray is the defending Class 2A state champion in Colorado and is ranked No. 2 this season.

Norton was outscored 18-13 in the first quarter. The Lay Jays' points came on three baskets by

Wallingford, one each by Baird and Ray and Rossi's first of four three-point baskets.

The second quarter was fairly equal but the Lady Jays were outscored 15-12 to trail by 33-25 at intermission. Wallingford hit two more baskets, Rossi and Lacy Keilig each swished shots from beyond the arc and Baird added another basket.

Norton came storming out of the dressing room after the half and outscored the Lady Eagles 13-5 to tie the score at 38-all. Katharine Roy buried two three-point shots, Rossi hit another long range shot and added two free throws and Baird hit another basket in the period.

Although Norton scored 12 more points in the fourth quarter, Wray had their best quarter of the game with 19 points. Rossi hit her fourth three-pointer, Ray sank two shots and a free throw, and Roy and KaraJo Jones each hit two charities

Rossi was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points on 4 of 6 from three-point land for 67 percent, 0 for 2 from two-point range and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent. She also hit 2 of 5 from the charity stripe.

Wallingford, who was injured and did not play in the second half, scored 10 points on 5 of 5 field goals for a perfect 100 percent. As a team, Norton hit 7 of 21 three-point tries for 33 percent, 11 of 29 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 18 of 50 overall for 36 percent.

Wray swished 4 of 8 from long range for 50 percent, 16 of 33 two-point attempts for 48 percent and 20 of 41 overall for 49 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays converted 7 of 17 for 41 percent compared to 13 of 16 for Wray for 81 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 26-16. The Lady Jays pulled down 7 offensive and 9 defensive caroms compared to 13 of each by the Lady Eagles.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Ray with 4, followed by Rossi, Jones, 3 each; Roy, Wallingford, 2 each; Stewart, Baird, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 12 steals while the Lady Eagles had just 2. Roy was thefts leader with 5, followed by Baird, 4; Rossi, 3.



The Lady Jays' Taylor Rossi showed her determination by outthrusting the McCook players to grab a loose basketball during Norton's win last Thursday on the first day of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Both teams recorded 13 assists. Roy was Norton's assists leader with 4, followed by Rossi, 3; Baird, Jones, 2 each; Wallingford, Ray, 1 each.

Norton cut their turnovers down in this contest, giving the ball up only 10 times on errors while the Lady Jay defense caused 19 turnovers by Wray.

"We just didn't do what we needed to do to win the game," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we were very timid at times and did not do a good job of attacking the press. We were just satisfied with breaking the press.

"At times, our shot selection wasn't very good on the fast break.

"Defensively, we continue to give up easy baskets and aren't rebounding very well right now.

"Giving up 33 points in the first half wasn't good but we did do a better job of defense in the second half.

"Losing Lacey Wallingford in the first half hurt us some but our girls came back in the second half and made a game of it despite falling a little short."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 5 0 0-0 10; Katharine Roy 0 2 2-2 8; Taylor Rossi 0 4 2-5 14; Laura Lee Baird

3 0 0-4 6; Amanda Ray 3 0 1-2 7; KaraJo Jones 0 1 2-4 5; Game Totals 11 7 7-17 50.

Wray Girls

Christa Loyd 3 3 1-3 16; Brianna Bard 1 0 1-2 3; Emily Post 1 0 2-2 4; Stacy Post 3 0 7-9 13; Kaitlin Neumann 2 1 0-0 7; Julia Cure 2 0 2-2 6; C.J. Twiss 4 0 0-0 8; Game Totals 16 4 13-16 57.

Weskan

In the third place game of the tournament, Norton jumped out to a 17-10 lead in the first quarter. Taylor Rossi led the way with three two-point baskets and a trey, Laura Lee Baird buried two shots from beyond the arc and Amanda Ray hit a two-point basket.

The second quarter was pretty even with Weskan scoring 12 points and Norton 11 to make it a 28-22 game. Baird hit a two and a three-point basket and two charities and Jones and Ray each added a basket.

Both teams hit 6 points in the third period. Norton's points came on baskets by Baird, Lacy Keilig and Ray.

Norton finished the win by outscoring Weskan 15-12 in the fourth quarter. Ray led the way with two baskets and two free throws, followed by Rossi, one basket and three free throws; Baird, two charities and Jones, two free throws.

Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 17 points on 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent, 2 of 3 two-point baskets for 67 percent and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent and 4 of 6 charities for 67 percent.

Rossi added 14 points on 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 4 of 6 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 5 of 11 overall for 46 percent and 3 of 5 from the charity stripe for 60 percent.

Ray also scored in double figures with 12 points. She hit 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent and 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

As a team, Norton swished 4 of 15 from long range for 27 percent, 13 of 31 from two-point land for

42 percent and 17 of 46 overall for 37 percent.

Weskan scored on 3 of 14 long range shots for 21 percent, 12 of 41 two-point tries for 29 percent and 15 of 55 overall for 27 percent.

From the free throw stripe, the Lady Jays connected on 11 of 18 for 61 percent compared to 8 of 13 by Weskan for 62 percent.

Norton outrebounded Weskan 30-26. The Lady Jays pulled down 4 offensive and 26 defensive caroms compared to 4 offensive and 22 defensive by Weskan.

Ray was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Rossi, Baird, 5 each; Roy, Jones, 4 each; Stewart, 3; Keilig, 2.

The Lady Jays had 10 steals compared to 7 for Weskan. Baird led with 4 thefts, followed by Rossi, 3; Jones, 2; Ray, 1.

Norton had 11 assists and Weskan had 8. Baird led with 6, followed by Roy, 3; Rossi, Stewart, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Weskan had 12.

"What an effort by our players," said a delighted coach Jilka. "We were playing shorthanded and all stepped up and contributed in one way or another.

"Offensively, we did a great job because we had to use different sets with different combinations.

"Defensively, we had to play zone all night and our girls were great in it. We also rebounded much better.

"We have league games this Thursday and Friday so we need to iron out some things and be ready to go."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Taylor Rossi 4 1 3-5 14; Laura Lee Baird 2 3 4-6 17; Lacy Keilig 1 0 0-2 2; KaraJo Jones 1 0 2-2 4; Amanda Ray 5 0 2-3 12; Game Totals 13 4 11-18 49.

Weskan Girls

Hillary McKinney 2 0 0-0 4; LaKaya Steele 1 0 2-5 4; Raney Okeson 3 3 5-6 20; Payton Walker 3 0 1-2 7; Cassandra Welsh 1 0 0-0 2; Danica Cox 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 12 3 8-13 41.

Norton wrestlers second in tourney

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers placed second in the Clay Center Invitational Round Robin Tournament for the third straight year on Saturday, Dec. 13. Host team Clay Center won the tournament championship with 182.5 points, followed by Norton, 113.5; Andale, 99; Salina South, 90.5; Beloit, 82.5; Rock Creek, 67; Ellsworth, 63.5; Junction City, 41; Topeka Seaman, 14; Salina Central, 3.

Troy Bainter, 112 and Zane Perez, 152, each placed second for the Blue Jays.

Finishing in third place were Billy Broeckelman, 119; Connor Pfannenstiel, 130; Spencer Shirk, 140 and Kaid McKenna, 145.

Earning fourth place finishes for Norton were R.J. Ellis, 103; Matt Stanley, 160; Brock Lauer, 171 and Tyler Cook, 189.

Brett Terrell, 125 and Jordan Bebb, 215, each placed fifth. Landon Keiswetter, 135, finished in sixth place.

Coach Johnson named Troy Bainter "Wrestler of the Week". Troy pinned four opponents before wrestling defending Class 6A state champion Issac Ruiz, Junction City.

"In last year's Clay Center Tournament, Ruiz overpowered the younger Troy and easily won their match," said coach Johnson.

"This year, Troy was much more determined and held his own to say the least. The match was tied at 3-3 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Troy was in deep on a

low single and almost pulled in the winning takedown. After an excellent flurry, Ruiz scored a takedown to win 7-5.

"This was a great match and it will help Troy down the road.

"Another wrestler who continues to make improvement is Zane Perez. He has moved up four weight classes to 152 pounds and continued to battle well. I'm very proud of Zane's efforts this year so far. His only loss at Clay Center was to 140 pound state champion Cas Spangler of Beloit. Zane was moving well and does not seem to be overpowered by the larger opponents. In fact, Zane has used his quickness to his advantage in most of his matches.

"We were without senior three time state medalist Zach Bainter in this tournament. He sat out with a minor injury.

"We looked good at times and at other times we looked like we were moving in slow motion. There is no doubt the competition at this tournament was far tougher than at Hoxie the weekend before. But, in order to compete for state medals, we have to step up and wrestle our best against tough competition.

"As always in a round robin tournament, there are times the brackets end up in three-way ties and one athlete will finish below another athlete that they defeated. But that is just part of the round robin format. We will not make any excuses for placing below someone we have beaten in the tournament. That happened in four weight classes. That simply means that we were not as consistent as we should have been. The

main thing is that we were able to wrestle four or five matches in each weight class. We wrestled 57 matches which is a lot of mat time and that will help us down the road."

Individual matches

• 103 - R.J. Ellis lost an 8-0 major decision to Jake Roberts, Clay Center; won a 12-8 decision over Jonathan Boucher, Seaman; lost a major decision to Javier Vieyra, Salina South and pinned Aaron Engles, Andale, to place fourth.

• 112 - Troy Bainter pinned Bret Simmons, Seaman; pinned Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit; pinned Brandon Chapman, Clay Center; pinned Shane Shaake, Rock Creek; and lost a 7-5 decision to Isaac Ruiz, Junction City, to place second.

• 119 - Billy Broeckelman pinned Tyler Engles, Andale; pinned Cole Meier, Beloit; pinned Tyler Warta, Ellsworth and lost a 7-5 decision to Blaine Smith, Salina South, to place third.

• 125 - Brett Terrell lost by a fall to Ben Thoman, Andale, pinned Jack Diestelkamp, Junction City and was pinned by Matt Unruh, Rock Creek, to place fifth.

• 130 - Connor Pfannenstiel won an 8-1 decision over Nick McGee, Clay Center; pinned Sam Wilson, Rock Creek; lost a 3-1 decision to Kasey Lien, Salina South and won an 11-3 major decision over Josh Hawks, Ellsworth, to place third.

• 135 - Landon Keiswetter lost an 8-3 decision to Trent Hoover, Salina South; pinned D.J. Denzien, Rock Creek; pinned Miles McCall, Junction City; lost an 8-5 decision to Cade Hewitt, Beloit, to place sixth.

• 140 - Spencer Shirk won an 11-0 major decision over Connor Hewitt, Beloit; won a 16-1 technical fall over Davis Miller, Junction City; won a 15-2 major decision over Scott Carlat, Seaman; won a 9-7 decision over Rusty Yarrow, Clay Center and lost a 3-1 decision to Jason Seibel, Salina South, to place third.

• 145 - Kaid McKenna won an 8-2 decision over Taylor Anderson, Salina South; pinned Justin Weers, Rock Creek and lost a 14-9 decision to Jake Hattabaugh, Andale, to place third.

• 152 - Zane Perez won a 9-1 major decision over Scott Mall, Clay Center; decisioned Gary Crumpton, Junction City, 11-6; and won a 10-1 major decision over Jason Zabokrtsky, Seaman, to place second.

• 160 - Matt Stanley won an 11-1 major decision over Sam Blindt, Seaman; pinned Scott Berry, Salina Central; lost a 14-5 major decision to Colin Loomis, Beloit and pinned Wes Theirolf, Rock Creek, to place fourth.

• 171 - Brock Lauer lost a 9-3 decision to Trent Stevenson, Ellsworth; pinned Lupe Ontiveras, Salina Central and won by default over Scott Lester, Andale, to place fourth.

• 189 - Tyler Cook pinned Shane Hancock, Junction City; pinned Matt Cooksley, Seaman and was pinned by Jake Delp, Clay Center, to place fourth.

• 215 - Jordan Bebb pinned Daniel Posey, Junction City; was pinned by Braden Hager, Beloit and was pinned by Joel Marrs, Clay Center, to place fifth.

Merry Christmas from all the area athletes

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