cent accuracy.

39 percent.

for 52 percent.

for 18 total.

She also hit 2 of 2 free throws.

Amber Kriley with 13 points.

The Lady Jays hit 11 of 18 free

throws for 61 percent and Stock-

ton connected on 11 of 21 charities

Norton pulled down 16 offen-

sive and 14 defensive rebounds

for 30 total. Stockton grabbed 2

offensive and 16 defensive caroms

Bozarth was leading rebounder for Norton with 10 boards, fol-

lowed by Wallingford, Ray, 4

each; Roy, Jones, 3 each; Rossi,

The Lady Jays had 20 steals

and the Lady Tigers stole the ball

7 times. Stewart and Bozarth led

in thefts with 4 each, followed by Rossi, 3; Wallingford, Baird, Ray,

2 each; Roy, Jones, Wolf, 1 each.

offensive assists. Wallingford led

with 4, followed by Stewart, 3;

Roy, Rossi, 2 each; Baird, Keilig,

The Lady Jays turned the ball

over 11 times while the Lady Ti-

**Next action** 

ton advanced to championship

semi-final action at 6 p.m. on Fri-

With the win on Tuesday, Nor-

1 each. Stockton had 8 assists.

gers lost the ball 17 times.

in Hays.

Norton was credited with 13

Baird, Keilig, 2 each.

#### Page 10

# Ladies open tourney play with big win

**By DICK BOYD** nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The No.2 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team opened first round play in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Tuesday with a 62-32 win over No.7 seeded Stockton in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The Lady Jays played hard in the first quarter but found a lid on the basket and led by just 9-7 at the end of the period. The baskets started falling in the second quarter and Norton outscored Stockton 25-7 to take a commanding 34-14 halftime lead. A 14-8 third quarter in Norton's favor made it 48-22 and Norton finished with another 14 point quarter while allowing Stockton just 10 points.

Hayli Bozarth, who led all scorers with 22 points, hit a basket and free throw and Laura Lee Baird buried two long range shots for all of Norton's first quarter points.

With 4:04 left in the second quarter, Norton had built a 20-12 lead on baskets by Ashlie Stewart and Lacey Wallingford and two baskets and three free throws by Bozarth. Then, the Lady Jays went on a 12-0 run that put the game out

Baird hit two three-point baskets in a row, Bozarth added a couple of baskets and Stewart hit two free throws to put the Lady Jays up 32-12. During that period, aggressive senior guard Taylor Rossi ran into a wall during a fast break and was injured badly enough that she did not return to the game.

Unfortunately, Rossi's injury was a major one and she will be lost for the rest of the season.

KaraJo Jones stole the ball off the press and scored for Norton's final basket of the first half to make the score 34-14 at intermission.

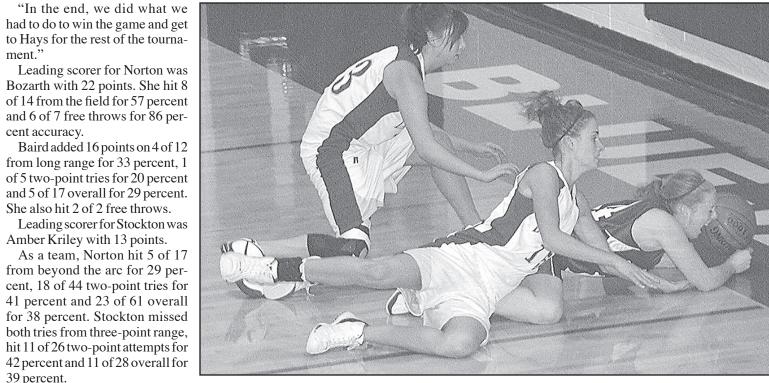
Bozarth continued to find the range in the third quarter with from beyond the arc for 29 perthree more baskets and two free cent, 18 of 44 two-point tries for throws. Katharine Roy and Kaitlyn Wolf each added a basket and for 38 percent. Stockton missed Baird hit two charities as Norton tallied 14 points in the quarter.

The Lady Jays' 14 fourth quarter points came on two baskets by Lacy Keilig, one each by Baird, Wolf and Ray, a three-pointer by Roy and a free throw by Stewart.

"We missed some early shots that we should have made," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"We played better defense in the second half and responded well after we lost Taylor.

"We need to shoot better.



Norton's Taylor Rossi, left, and Laura Lee Baird, center, fought a Stockton player for the basketball during the Lady Jays' win over the Lady Tigers here Tuesday evening in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

## Tough tourney opener for Norton Blue Jay boys

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The No. 7 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team got off to a good start in their Mid-Continent League Tournament first round game at No. 2 Phillipsburg on Monday night, but a hot-shooting Panther quintet soon ended any hopes of a win for the Blue Jays by posting a 62-30 victory.

J.D. Gall and Jordan Wahlmeier each hit field goals to give Norton a 4-0 lead and, after Gall buried a three-point basket with 4:07 left in the first quarter, the Blue Jays trailed by just 8-7.

The aggressive Phillipsburg team took over from there, however, hitting the next 16 points to take a 24-7 lead by the end of the period.

The Panthers, who hit 52 pergame, also outscored Norton 19-8 in the second quarter to take a commanding 43-15 lead at halftime. Norton's only points in the second period came on a two-point and three-point basket by Landon Hamel, a basket by Norton's only senior player Zac Dreher a free throw by Luke Ninemire.

Wahlmeier took over the scoring for Norton in the third quarter, scoring all 6 of the Blue Jays' points on a three-point and twopoint basket and one free throw as the Panthers outscored them 15-6 to extend their lead to 58-21.

Norton did outscore Phillipsburg 9-4 in the fourth quarter. Ashton Draper hit a long range shot and Wahlmeier, Ninemire and Dreher each hit a basket.

Wahlmeier was leading scorer for Norton with 10 points. He hit 1 of 3 shots from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 3 of 5 two-point tries for 60 percent and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent accuracy. He hit 1 of 7 free throw attempts for 14 percent.

Michael Iman led Phillpsburg with 13 points and Ben Suchsland hit 12.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 15 three-point tries for 27 percent, 8 of 25 two-point attempts for 32 percent and 12 of 40 overall for

for 54 percent and 26 of 50 overall 42-13 30 for 52 percent.

The Blue Jays connected on 2 compared to the Panthers' 10 of 12 for 83 percent.

Defensive rebounds were about even, 17 for Phillipsburg and 16 for Norton. The Panthers had 16 offensive caroms compared to just 10 for the Blue Jays giving Phillipsburg a 33-26 rebounding advantage.

Draper was leading rebounder for Norton with 12, followed by Dreher, 6; Ninemire, 3; J.D. Gall, 2; Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, and Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Norton had 9 steals and Phillipsburg had 14 thefts. Steals leaders for Norton were Draper and Hamel with 3 each while Gall had 2 and Ninemire 1.

The Blue Jays had 10 assists and the Panthers dished out 11. Hamel led Norton with 3 assists, followed by Nickell, Draper, 2 each; McConney, Gall, Dreher, 1 each.

Wahlmeier and Draper each blocked 1 Panther shot and Dreher took 4 charges.

Norton had 34 turnovers and Phillipsburg had 14.

"Phillipsburg was a good bas cent from the field and 83 percent ketball team and we did not bring from the free throw line for the up our level of play to compete with them," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"Our group is not playing with much confidence right now on the offensive end and doing a lot of things fundamentally wrong, like not blocking out, on the defensive end."

#### **Next action**

Norton's loss dropped the Blue Jays into the consolation bracket of the tournament. They played Ellis at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday

Ellis is seeded No.6 and lost a 51-45 first round game to No.3 Plainville on Monday.

In other first round games on Monday, No.1 Trego defeated No.9 Hill City 63-34 and No.4 Osborne outscored No.5 Smith Center 60-52.

Hill City played Smith Center at Smith Center at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in the other consolation

On the championship side, Trego will play Osborne at 4:30 p.m. today and Phillipsburg will play Plainville at 7:30 p.m. today. Both games will be in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

#### **BOX SCORE**

**Norton Boys** 

Jordan Wahlmeier 3 1 1-7 10; Ashton Draper 0 1 0-0 3; Luke Ninemire 101-23; Landon Hamel Phillipsburg missed both trey 1 1 0-2 5; J.D. Gall 1 1 0-0 5; Zac tries, hit 26 of 48 two-point tries Dreher 2 0 0-2 4; Game Totals 8

**Phillipsburg Boys** 

Trevor Smith 3 0 2-2 8; Dylan of 13 free throws for 15 percent Frantz 202-26; Ben Suchsland 6 00-012; Dustin Aherin 100-02; Michael Iman 5 0 3-4 13; Steven Craig 400-08; Tanner Thompson 201-25; Chance Keiswetter 20 2-26; Skye Long 100-02; Game Totals 26 0 10-12 62.

More sports Page 9

who defeated No.6 Ellis 45-31 in the first round on Tuesday.

In the other championship semifinal game on Friday, No.1 seed Hill City will play No.4 seed Phillipsburg at 3 p.m. in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Hill City defeated No.8 Trego 75-64 in overtime and Phillipsburg outscored No.5 Smith Center 60-50 in the first round games on Tuesday.

#### **BOX SCORE Norton Girls**

Lacey Wallingford 1 0 0-2 2; Ashlie Stewart 1 0 3-4 5; Laura Lee Baird 1 4 2-2 16; Lacy Keilig 2 0 0-0 4; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Kaitlyn Wolf 2 0 0-0 4; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 6-7 22; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-3 2; Game Totals 18 5 11-18 62.

#### **Stockton Girls**

Phoenix Hobdell 0 0 0-2 0; Carlee Lindsey 0 0 2-4 2; Hayley Strutt 2 0 1-2 5; Jenny Nelson 1 0 2-74; Brenna Schlaegel 200-14; day in Gross Memorial Coliseum Amber Kriley 5 0 3-4 13; Haley Dix 100-02; Jana Conger 002-2 Norton will play No.3 Osborne, 2; Game Totals 11 0 10-21 32.

The Lady Jays's Ashlie Stewart dribbled the ball through the Stockton defense to score a basket during Norton's first-round Mid-Continent League Tournament here on Tuesday evening. KaraJo Jones was No.33 for the Lady Jays



Stockton's Phoenix Hobdell, No.1, was probably surprised when she took a shot during the first round tournament game at Norton and it was suddenly rejected by the Lady Jays' Hayli Bozarth!





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