

Blue Jay ladies win league tournament

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Kevin Jilka's No.2 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team defeated No.4 seeded Phillipsburg 37-34 on Saturday evening in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays to win the championship of the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

It was a hard-fought game between two outstanding teams which went down to the wire before a winner was determined.

"We did not play very well until the last three minutes and then we found a way to win," said coach Jilka.

"Defensively, we played pretty good although we didn't help as well as we should have at times. However, when you hold a team to 34 points you like your chances to win.

"Offensively, we were out of synch all night long. We did a lot of standing around all night long.

"To our girls' credit, we hung in there and found a way to win and are the MCL tournament champions. We are very proud of them!

"We don't have a lot of time to enjoy the championship since Goodland comes to town on Tuesday and we need to be ready."

Norton led 11-5 after one quarter but the Lady Jays were scoreless in the second quarter and Phillipsburg edged ahead 13-11 by halftime. A 10-9 third quarter in Norton's favor left the Lady Panthers on top by one at 22-21.

Norton took a 23-22 lead 15 seconds into the fourth quarter

on a basket by Amanda Ray, then Lacey Wallingford's basket with 7:07 left put the Lady Jays ahead 25-22.

A basket and free throw by Phillipsburg's Raegan Vanderplas tied the score at 25-all. Lindsay Dusin's basket and free throw put the Lady Panthers on top 28-25 with 5:32 showing on the scoreboard clock. Laura Lee Baird's two free throws narrowed the Phillipsburg lead to a single point. Phillipsburg's Samantha Voorhees hit her only basket of the game and the Lady Panthers were on top by three again at 30-27.

Hayli Bozarth, who picked up her fourth foul early in the third quarter and had been sitting on the bench, entered the lineup for the Lady Jays and hit her second field goal of the night with 3:21 remaining, then followed with another key basket at the 2:15 point to put Norton ahead 31-30!

Wallingford added two more points to the Norton lead by rebounding and putting the ball back up and in the basket with 1:11 left on the clock. Dusin scored for Phillipsburg and Norton led 33-32 with 48 seconds left.

Bozarth hit her third basket of the fourth quarter with 19 seconds showing and Norton led 35-32. Vanderplas came driving down court with the ball and scored on a running shot with 9.5 seconds left to cut the Norton lead to 35-34.

Norton's Ashlie Stewart was fouled with 7.9 seconds on the clock and went to the free throw line with a one-and-one opportunity. With ice water in her veins,

she hit nothing but net on, not one, but two free throws to put the Lady Jays ahead 37-34 and clinch the Mid-Continent League Tournament championship!

Neither team had any players in double scoring figures in this defensive battle. Leading scorers for Norton were Laura Lee Baird and Hayli Bozarth, each with 9 points. Bozarth hit 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent. Baird hit 1 of 7 from long range for 14 percent, 2 of 6 two-point tries for 33 percent and 3 of 13 overall for 23 percent. She was a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Wallingford added 8 points for Norton on 4 of 5 from the field for 80 percent. She missed her only free throw.

Leading scorers for Phillipsburg were Vanderplas and Emilie Coca, each with 9 points as well. As a team, the Lady Jays hit 2 of 12 from long range for 17 percent, 13 of 34 two-point tries for 38 percent and 15 of 46 overall for 33 percent.

The Lady Panthers missed all five shots from beyond the arc, hit 13 of 39 two-point attempts for 33 percent and were 13 of 44 overall for 29 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 5 of 7 for 71 percent and Phillipsburg connected on 8 of 13 for 62 percent.

The Lady Jays led by a big margin on the boards. Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds for 33 total compared to Phillipsburg's 11 offensive and 10 defensive caroms

for 21 total. Baird and Wallingford led Norton in rebounds with 7 each, followed by Ray, 6; Bozarth, 5; Jones, 4; Roy, 3; Stewart, 1.

Both teams had 9 steals. Jones and Bozarth each had 2 thefts, followed by Stewart, Wallingford, Roy, Baird, Ray, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 10 assists and the Lady Panthers had 6. Stewart and Jones led with 3 each, followed by Baird, 2; Roy, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Phillipsburg had 13.

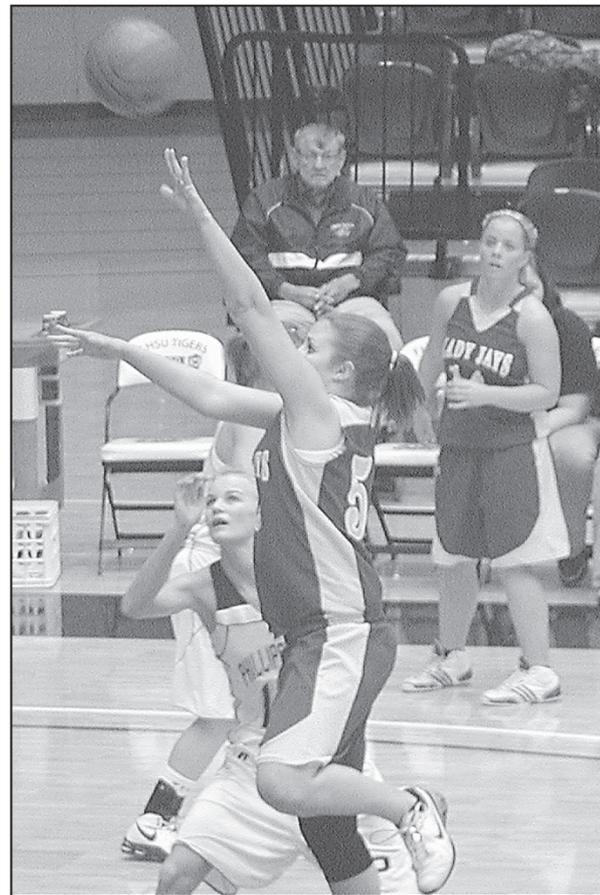
Other games
In the contest for third place, Hill City defeated Osborne 61-50.

Trego won fifth place with a 62-58 win over Ellis and Smith Center placed seventh with a 52-41 win over Stockton.

Next action
Norton will host Goodland in varsity and junior varsity girls and boys games this evening, beginning at 5 p.m. in Stull Gymnasium.

BOX SCORE
Norton Girls
Lacey Wallingford 4 0 0-1 8; Katharine Roy 1 1 0-0 5; Ashlie Stewart 0 2-2 2; Laura Lee Baird 2 1 2-2 9; Hayli Bozarth 4 0 1-2 9; Amanda Ray 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 13 2 5-7 37.

Phillipsburg Girls
Makenzie Weinman 1 0 2-2 4; Lindsay Dusin 2 0 2-4 6; Raegan Vanderplas 4 0 1-1 9; Samantha Voorhees 1 0 0-0 2; Nicole Swatzell 2 0 0-1 4; Emilie Coca 3 0 3-5 9; Game Totals 13 0 8-13 34.



Norton's Amanda Ray swished a jump shot over a Phillipsburg defender during the Lady Jay's exciting win over the Lady Panthers in the championship game of the Mid-Continent League basketball tournament on Saturday evening in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. In the background is Norton's Ashlie Stewart.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Boys beat Redmen to take seventh in league tourney

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Doug Reusink's No.7 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team jumped out to an early 8-0 lead and never looked back in defeating No.5 seeded Smith Center 48-35 on Saturday morning in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays to place seventh in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament.

The Blue Jays doubled the score on the Redmen in the first quarter, which ended with them leading 16-8. Another 16 point second quarter compared to 12 for Smith Center gave the Blue Jays a 32-20 halftime advantage. Norton outscored Smith Center 7-3 in the third period to extend their lead to 39-23.

The Redmen cut the final margin of victory for Norton by three points by outscoring the Blue Jays 12-9 in the fourth quarter.

Landon Hamel returned to the Norton lineup on Saturday after a bout with sickness and gave the Blue Jays an offensive boost by scoring 9 first quarter points on a three-point basket and three baskets from two-point range. J.D. Gall also buried two three-point shots and Jordan Wahlmeier hit a free throw.

In the second quarter, Hamel and Gall each buried another long range shot and Hamel added a free throw. Zac Dreher hit two baskets, Wahlmeier hit a basket and free throw and Luke Ninemire connected on a two-pointer.

The Blue Jays' only third quarter points came on a shot from beyond the arc by Ashton Draper and baskets by Hamel and Tye Nickell.

Dreher was unstoppable under the offensive basket in the fourth

quarter when he hit three baskets and a free throw. Norton's only other fourth period basket was by Nickell.

"Obviously, we are very pleased to get the win," said coach Reusink. "Our boys came out and hit shots early and did some good things on the defensive end to build a lead. We have not been in that position and struggled at times with knowing how to play when we are in front but we did enough to get the win.

"Hopefully, we can gain some confidence with the win and keep improving."

Leading scorer for Norton was Hamel with 15 points on 2 of 4 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 4 of 7 two-point attempts for 57 percent and 6 of 11 overall for 55 percent. He also hit 1 of 4 free throws for 25 percent.

Dreher added 11 points on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Smith Center was Trenton Terrill with 12. Dillon Corbett added 10.

As a team, Norton hit as well from long range as from short distance. The Blue Jays connected on 6 of 14 from beyond the arc, 13 of 30 from two-point distance and 19 of 44 for 43 percent from everywhere on the floor.

Smith Center swished 2 of 16 from long range for 13 percent, 13 of 25 two-point tries for 52 percent and 15 of 41 overall for 37 percent.

Norton connected on 4 of 14 free throws for 29 percent and Smith Center swished 3 of 9 charities for 33 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Redmen by a 30-17 margin. Norton grabbed 12 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds compared

to 4 offensive and 13 defensive caroms by Smith Center.

Draper was leading rebounder for Norton with 8, followed by Wahlmeier, 7; Dreher, 6; Hamel, 4; Nickell, 3; Gall, Marcus Herman, 1 each.

Norton had 9 steals and Smith Center had 8 thefts. Hamel led with 3, followed by Draper, Nickell, 2 each; Ninemire, Gall, 1 each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 12 offensive assists compared to 10 for the Redmen. Gall was the leader with 4 assists, followed by Nickell, 3; Hamel, 2; Wahlmeier, Draper, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had 21 turnovers and Smith Center had 20.

Other games
In other MCL tournament games on Saturday, Trego Community won the boys championship with a 61-31 victory over Plainville, Phillipsburg defeated Osborne 65-36 for third place and Hill City won fifth with a 44-28 win over Ellis.

Next action
Norton will host Goodland in varsity and junior varsity girls and boys games this evening, beginning at 5 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium.

BOX SCORE
Norton Boys
Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 2-4 4; Ashton Draper 0 1 0-0 3; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-1 2; Tye Nickell 2 0 0-0 4; Landon Hamel 4 2 1-4 15; J.D. Gall 0 3 0-3 9; Zac Dreher 5 0 1-2 11; Game Totals 13 6 4-14 48.

Smith Center Boys
Zach Herdt 1 0 0-0 2; Alex Hobeilmann 0 1 0-2 3; Aaron McNary 1 0 1-2 3; Landon Hubbard 0 1 0-0 3; Trenton Terrill 6 0 0-0 12; Kale Terrill 1 0 0-0 2; Dillon Corbett 4 2 5 10; Game Totals 13 2 3-9 35.

Husky ladies open league with win

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies began conference play against Logan and came away with a 58-22 victory, but, it did not start out the way the score ended.

The young Logan team evidently hasn't been reading the box scores of the Huskies' games lately, either that or they just didn't care that Northern Valley was outscoring its opponents by a large margin because this group of young players (to their credit) came out and started drilling all their shots to jump ahead and worked their press offense to the point where the Huskies had to switch defenses.

Simply put, "Logan had come to play," said Huskies' coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"When we realized they were not going to roll over we picked up our intensity, made adjustments on our defense, found the seams in their sagging zone defense and rebounded like 'mad women' to slowly start to build a lead of 25-15 at half time.

"After half-time the tide turned — greatly in our favor as we created 12 third quarter Logan turnovers (33 total for the game) of which we converted many into points, plus, only allowing the Trojans two field goals, we exploded for a 24 — 5 third quarter outing," he said.

In the fourth quarter the Huskies' defense continued to play well as they switched defenses and only allowed Logan two points which brought the final score to 58-22.

Said the coach: "The key to our resurgence of late has been our defensive intensity. It has increased greatly as the Ladies are, again, realizing that our offense starts with our pressure defense and we must be intense the entire game for it to work the way we need it to. The stats show we are getting the job done.

"Twenty deflects by the team are a great indicator that they are all hustling to be where they are supposed to be.

"Staci Dole led in this game as she again was very bothersome to their ball handlers. Alison Cole tipped 4 while Christina Anderson and Kenzie Chandler each had 3.

"Steals were then picked off by Dole with 5 followed by Anderson with 4 and Katie Stillion and A. Cole with 2 each.

"Rebounds played a huge role in this game early on when Logan was doing their damage as Alison Cole raked 18 off the boards with 15 coming in the first half. Following Alison was Dole with 5 and Stillion with 4.

"Assists, and we had some pretty passes for assists in this

game, were dished out by A. Cole with 4, Megan Cole, Dole and Anderson with 3 each."

The coach called it "a good overall game with our defense limiting this team to only 22 points. This is very good but what is better is the percentage Logan shot for the game, 19, this indicates we were on them enough to bother their delivery.

"A good sign for us, one we have to continue to build upon for future contests."

The Huskies' junior varsity continues to play hard and they are learning lessons each time out. This game taught the lesson of "making" shots. "We are shooting now — we just have to start making," the coach said.

"These young ladies have learned to pick up their defensive intensity since the start of the season, they just now need to work very hard, not only in practice but on their own to become better shooters. The final score was 14-37," the coach concluded.

Varsity scoring for Northern Valley:

Karen Wenzl 2; Megan Cole 4; Alison Cole 18; Kenzie Chandler 0; Staci Dole 18; Melissa Hawks 0; Christina Anderson 14; Brittney Braun 2; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 0.

Husky boys fall to Trojans Explosive 4th period not quite enough

Eighteen fourth quarter points by the Northern Valley Husky boys was not quite enough to seal the deal as they lost 52-47 to Logan on the road last Friday

It was one of those games that left the fans clinging to hope as the Huskies ripped the nets at will — outscoring the home team 18-11 in that final period. At the outset of the contest, Logan held a 2-point, 12-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. At half-time, the Trojans went into the locker

room with a 25-17 lead. When the buzzer brought the third period to a close, Logan was on top by a dozen points — 41-29.

It looked like the ride was over, but the Huskies weren't buying into that theory. So they put forth an offensive explosion that shook the scoreboard and took the Trojans by surprise. Another minute or two might have changed the final outcome.

Scoring for the Huskies, were: Colton Lowry 13; Dusty Eagle-

burger 8; Ethan Hays 8; Chaim McMillin 4; Cody Callaway 5; Drew Eagleburger 4; and Eric Woodside 5. Kiser led the way for the Trojans with 19 points. Pabst was also in double figures with 10.

The Huskies pumped in 9 2-pointers, 7 from 3-point range and 8 from the charity stripe.

The Huskies' junior varsity edged Logan 37-35. Colton Lowry was the leading Husky scorer with 11 points.



Norton Blue Jays battled Ellis Railroaders for the rebound during their Mid-Continent League basketball tourney game on Thursday in Ellis. Pictured for Norton are, Ashton Draper, No.12; Luke Ninemire, in the middle; Tye Nickell, No.21 and J.D. Gall.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd