

Jay wrestlers win duals at 'Senior Night'

By DICK BOYD

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As evidenced by Tuesday night's Mid-Continent League dual victories over Stockton and Phillipsburg, the Norton Community High School wrestling team is starting to heal from injuries suffered throughout the season.

The Blue Jays have been riddled by injuries for some unknown reason but head coach Bill Johnson was encouraged by Tuesday's wins on "Senior Night" in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

The Blue Jays smothered Stockton 66-3 in the first dual of the evening and dominated Phillipsburg 67-6 in the final dual. In between, Phillipsburg outscored Stockton 45-31.

Norton lost one match to Stockton and did not lose any matches to Phillipsburg.

"We think we've had it bad with injuries but Phillipsburg does as well," said coach Johnson.

"That led to a lackluster dual with the Panthers. There were only two competitive matches, Kaid McKenna's and Matt Stanley's.

"I'm happy with where we are headed. We had two varsity wrestlers that weren't on the mat tonight and we probably won't have a full team in duals.

"We're hoping and praying that everything will come together when it matters. We'll knock on

wood, keep moving forward and getting healthy."

The five seniors on the Norton team were honored during the evening along with their parents. They are Zach Bainter, 140, son of Vicki and David Bainter; Logan Kelly, 160, son of Danna and Dick Kelly; Matt Stanley, 160, son of Shellie and Perrell Stanley; Brock Lauer, 171, son of Teresa and Dan Lauer and Jordan Bebb, 215, son of Monica Bebb.

Bainter, Kelly, Lauer and Bebb have all been on the team for four years and Stanley is a three-year member.

Norton 66, Stockton 3

103 - R.J. Ellis lost a 5-3 decision to Jeremy Hrabe

112 - Colby Poage pinned Derek Spires in 3:00

119 - Billy Broeckelman won a 14-3 major decision over Carlos Calloway

125 - Brett Terrell won by forfeit

130 - Landon Keiswetter won by forfeit

135 - Kaenon Keiswetter pinned Brady Page in :33

140 - Zach Bainter pinned Johnny Swaney in 2:23

145 - Kaid McKenna won a 17-1 technical fall over Alex Henry

152 - Zane Perez pinned Ethan Morgan in :26

160 - Matt Stanley pinned Blaise Wilson in 4:45

171 - Logan Kelly won a 5-2

decision over Josh Fielder

189 - Jeremy Sproul pinned Marlin Pulec in :47

215 - Jordan Bebb won by a forfeit

285 - Both Teams were Open Norton 67, Phillipsburg 6

103 - R.J. Ellis pinned Kollin Roth in 1:15

112 - Colby Poage won by forfeit

119 - Billy Broeckelman pinned Ross Coomes in :48

125 - Brett Terrell won an 8-1 decision over Matt Schneider

130 - Landon Keiswetter won a 13-5 major decision over Brad Artz

135 - Kaenon Keiswetter pinned John Boyington in 1:54

140 - Zach Bainter pinned Clint Reese in 1:47

145 - Kaid McKenna won a 10-2 major decision over Thomas Rachow

152 - Zane Perez won by forfeit

160 - Matt Stanley won a 5-1 decision over Jake Cole

171 - Casey Robison won by forfeit

189 - Jeremy Sproul won a 19-4 technical fall over Caid Breon

215 - Jordan Bebb pinned Nick Beard in 1:31

285 - Norton forfeited to Jared Rice, Phillipsburg

Next action

Norton will dual Plainville and Ellis in Plainville today, beginning



The Blue Jays' Kaid McKenna nearly pinned Stockton's Alex Henry in their 145 pound match during Norton's dual win Tuesday evening in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym but the buzzer to end the period saved Henry. McKenna went on to win a 17-1 technical fall over Henry.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

at 5 p.m.

Norton will dual Plainville first and then Ellis.

The Blue Jays will compete in the annual Panther Classic Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Competing, in addition to teams from Norton and Phillipsburg, will

be wrestling squads from Abilene, Beloit, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lakin, Lincoln, Minneapolis, St. Francis and Stockton.

Medals will be awarded to the top four places in each weight class. Plaques will be awarded to the first, second and third place

teams. The outstanding wrestler will receive a medal and certificate. The award is in honor of Chuck Lovenstein, who started the Panther Classic in the early 70s.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students (K-12).

Blue Jay ladies whip Smith Center by 23 points

By DICK BOYD

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With senior guard Laura Lee Baird burning the nets and the defense shutting down Smith Center's offense, the Norton Community High School girls basketball team pulled away from the Lady Redmen from the opening tipoff to earn a 60-37 Mid-Continent League win Tuesday night in Smith Center.

Baird hit 67 percent of her shots, including 6 of 10 from beyond the arc, to finish the night with 24 points. Meanwhile, the Lady Jay defense denied the Lady Redmen a single point in the first quarter.

Senior guard KaraJo Jones also was on target and was the only other Norton player to score in double digits, tallying 10 points on 4 of 6 from the field and 2 of 3 free throws, both for 67 percent accuracy!

"This was a huge road win for us," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"Our girls played well all night long. We got off to a great start leading 16-0 at the end of the first quarter and kept the lead from there.

"Defensively, we really got after it. Again, when you can hold a team to 37 points, you like your chances to win.

"We need to make sure we are ready Friday for Hill City as this is another important league game for us."

Baird buried two three-point shots and a two-point shot, senior forward Lacey Wallingford also hit a basket from long range, junior point guard Ashlie Stewart and Jones each hit a basket and senior post Hayli Bozarth hit a free throw for the Lady Jays in the first period.

With Jones hitting two more baskets and two charities, Baird burying another trey and a two-point basket and Bozarth and junior post Amanda Ray each swishing a basket, the Lady Jays tallied 15 more points in the second quarter while holding Smith Center to 10 points to extend the lead to 31-10 at intermission.

Baird continued to sizzle the nets in the third quarter when she radared in three more baskets from beyond the arc, Ray hit two two-point baskets and Wallingford connected on a two-pointer to add

15 more points to the Lady Jay total while the defense continued to play well and hold the Lady Redmen to 11 points and extend the Norton lead to 46-21.

Norton added 14 more points to their total in the fourth quarter while Smith Center had their best quarter of the game, scoring 16 points but not nearly enough to make a dent in the Norton advantage.

Bozarth and Stewart each hit two baskets and a free throw, and Jones connected on another two-point shot and Baird hit two charities in the final stanza for the Lady Jays.

Morgan Lorenzen was the only Lady Redman to score in double figures. She ended with 12 points, 10 of them coming in the fourth quarter.

As a team, Norton hit 7 of 15 shots from long range for 47 percent, 16 of 28 two-point attempts for 57 percent and 23 of 43 overall for an excellent 53 percent.

Smith Center was held to 2 for 4 for 50 percent on treys, 12 of 35 two-point tries for 34 percent and 14 of 39 overall for just 36 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 7 of 13 for 54 percent and Smith Center swished 7 of 11 for 64 percent.

Norton grabbed 4 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 18 total. Smith Center pulled down 7 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 20 total.

Rebounds were pretty even for the Lady Jays. Wallingford, Jones, Bozarth and Ray each grabbed 4 while Stewart and Baird got 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 steals compared to 8 for the Lady Redmen. Bozarth led in thefts with 5, followed by Baird, 4; Wallingford, 3; Stewart, 1.

Norton had 15 offensive assists compared to 10 for Smith Center. Stewart was assists leader with 4, followed by Baird, 3; Wallingford, Jones, Bozarth, Ray, 2 each.

The Lady Jays had 14 turnovers and the Lady Redmen lost the ball 19 times to the aggressive Norton defense.

Junior varsity

The young Lady Jays trailed for three quarters before rallying in the final period to defeat Smith Center 34-31.

Smith Center held quarter leads

of 10-4, 18-17 and 24-21 but Norton outscored them 13-7 in the final stanza.

Kaylen Rossi was leading scorer for Norton with 9, followed by Sady Keilig, 8; Dustyna Sprigg, 6; Erin Terrell, 4; Raven Brown, 3; Hannah Waggoner, Kaitlyn Wolf, 2 each.

Andrea Stewart scored 8 for Smith Center and Kelsey Merritt and Whitney St. Clair each hit 7 points.

"We had a great second half effort," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"We were down big for awhile but our girls hung in there and really worked hard. We hit some big buckets when we needed them."

C-team

The Norton C-team girls lost a 34-17 contest.

Smith Center held quarter leads of 8-0, 14-8 and 23-10.

Leading scorer for Norton was Erin Terrell with 4 points, followed by Sady Keilig, 3; Caren Thomson, Dustyna Sprigg, Meaghan Peterson, Tiffany Eagleburger, Alexis Henson, 2 each.

"We played very flat footed tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach Joan Bolt.

"Smith Center was very aggres-

sive offensively and we did not adjust to it.

"We had a defensive run late in the game, which gave Smith Center a little scare. Unfortunately, it was short lived.

"We will continue working on our communication and fundamentals at practice and be ready for our next game."

Next action

Norton will host Hill City in Mid-Continent League action at 5 p.m. today in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 1 1 0-0 5; Ashlie Stewart 3 0 1-2 7; Laura Lee Baird 2 6-2-224; KaraJo Jones 4 0 2-3 10; Hayli Bozarth 3 0 2-6 8; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 16 7 7-13 60.

Smith Center Girls

Morgan Lorenzen 2 2 2-2 12; McKenzie Benoit 1 0 0-0 2; Whitney St. Clair 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Arnold 1 0 0-0 2; Sara Timmons 2 0 0-2 4; Kelsey Merritt 0 0 1-2 1; Courtney Strine 1 0 0-0 2; Jihan Arnold 3 0 3-3 9; Morgan Darden 1 0 1-2 3; Game Totals 12 2 7-11 37.

Boys fall to Redmen by 53-44 score

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team defeated Smith Center 48-35 in the Mid-Continent League Tournament recently but the Blue Jay defense allowed 18 more points Tuesday evening in Smith Center and the Redmen came out on top 53-44.

Norton led 12-9 after the first quarter but Smith Center was on top 28-22 at intermission. The Blue Jays rallied in the third quarter to outscore the Redmen 13-7 and tie the score at 35-all heading into the crucial fourth quarter. Smith Center finished strong, outscoring the visiting Norton quintet 18-9 in the final stanza to take the win.

"This was a disappointing loss," said coach Reusink.

"We did not play with enough defensive intensity to take Smith Center out of their comfort zone and just didn't make plays consistently on the offensive end to win the game."

Norton's senior post Zac Dreher got the game started with three baskets in the first quarter, junior guards J.D. Gall and Ashton Draper each hit a basket and junior point guard Landon Hamel swished two free throws. Hamel found the range from three-point land in the second quarter when he hit two from beyond the arc and one two-point basket. Norton's only other

points in the quarter came on free throws by Gall and freshman post Jordan Wahlmeier.

In the third quarter, Gall buried two three-point baskets, Hamel hit a two-point basket and two charities. Zac Dreher connected on two free throws and sophomore wing/post Dakota Dreher hit a free throw for Norton's 13 points in the period.

Hamel hit his third trey of the game in the fourth quarter but the Blue Jays' only other basket was a two-pointer by Draper. Gall and Zac Dreher were both perfect on two free throws.

Leading scorer for Norton was Hamel with 17 points on 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent, 2 of 9 two-point tries for 22 percent, 5 of 16 overall for 31 percent and 4 of 5 from the charity stripe for 80 percent.

Gall added 11 points on 2 of 6 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 1 of 2 two-point tries for 50 percent, 3 of 8 overall for 38 percent and 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Zac Dreher was Norton's third double figure scorer with 10 points on 3 of 3 from the field for 100 percent and 4 of 4 free throws, also for 100 percent.

Trenton Terrill was leading scorer for Smith Center with 17 points; Alex Hobelmann hit 11 and Dillon Corbett added 10.

Team shooting percentages were reversed from the first meet-

ing of the two teams. Norton hit 5 of 13 from long range for 39 percent, 8 of 22 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 13 of 35 overall for 37 percent.

Smith Center connected on 4 of 13 from beyond the arc for 31 percent, 16 of 29 two-point tries for 55 percent and 20 of 42 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays found the range on 13 of 18 for 72 percent compared to Smith Center's 9 of 15 for 60 percent.

Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 28 total and the Redmen pulled down 7 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 23 total.

Zac Dreher led the Blue Jays in rebounds with 10, followed by Ashton Draper, 6; Dakota Dreher, Luke Ninemire, Landon Hamel, 4 each.

Norton had 5 steals and Smith Center had 3. Hamel led with 2 thefts, followed by Dakota Dreher, Jordan Wahlmeier, Ashton Draper, 1 each.

The Blue Jays recorded 13 offensive assists compared to 8 by the Redmen. Hamel was assists leader with 5, followed by J.D. Gall, 4; Tye Nickell, 3; Jordan Wahlmeier, 1.

Norton had 12 turnovers and Smith Center had 9.

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity lost a tight 31-29 game after lead-

ing for three quarters.

The young Blue Jays led by quarters 9-4, 13-10 and 25-22 but were outscored 9-4 in the final stanza.

Dillon McConney was leading scorer for Norton with 8 points, followed by Jordan Wahlmeier, 7; Dakota Dreher, Luke Ninemire, 4 each; Zach Hartwell, Cole Archer, Tye Nickell, 2 each.

Trey Molzahn, Nathan Cox and Dereck McNary each tallied 6 points for Smith Center.

Next action

Norton will host Hill City in Mid-Continent League play at 5 p.m. today in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 0 0 1-3 1; Jordan Wahlmeier 0 0 1-2 1; Ashton Draper 2 0 0-4; Landon Hamel 2 3 4-5 17; J.D. Gall 1 2 3-4 11; Zac Dreher 3 0 4-4 10; Game Totals 8 5 13-18 44.

Smith Center Boys

Alex Hobelmann 2 2 1-2 11; Aaron McNary 2 0 2-2 6; Landon Hubbard 1 0 0-0 2; Trenton Terrill 3 2 5-6 17; Kale Terrill 3 0 1-3 7; Dillon Corbett 5 0 0-2 10; Game Totals 16 4 9-15 53.

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