

Norton boys lose to Colby on road

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team ran into a hot shooting Colby quintet from the Northwest Kansas League on Tuesday evening in Colby and fell behind early, which led to a 59-44 loss.

Norton trailed 22-6 after the first quarter which saw Colby connect on four shots from beyond the arc but did not give up and played hard the final three quarters. The Blue Jays outscored the Eagles by one point in the last three periods but could not make up for the first quarter deficit.

Norton hit only three baskets in the first period. Dakota Dreher, J.D. Gall and Zac Dreher each hit for two points. Norton outscored Colby 12-10 in the second quarter. Jordan Wahlmeier led the way with two field goals followed by Landon Hamel, Gall and Zac Dreher with a basket each and Tye Nickell with two free throws.

The Blue Jays scored 8 points in the third period on a basket each by Ashton Draper, Gall and Zac Dreher and two charities by Wahlmeier and trailed 47-26 at the end of the quarter.

Norton outscored Colby 18-12 in the final stanza. Gall led the way with a basket and four free throws, followed by Dakota Dreher with two baskets, Wahlmeier and Hamel with a basket each and Draper and Nickell with two free throws each.

"I thought we played tentative early and were intimidated by their height," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"Once we settled down and played up to our capabilities, I thought we competed well.

"We still have young men becoming better players; we just need to be more consistent."

Gall led scoring for Norton with 12 points. He hit 4 of 7 two-point shots for an excellent 57 percent, missed two from beyond the arc

and was 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent. He also hit 4 of 6 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

Wahlmeier ended with 8 points on 3 of 3 from two-point land, one miss from beyond the arc for 3 of 4 from the field for a sizzling 75 percent accuracy. He was also 2 of 3 on charity tosses for 67 percent.

The Dreher brothers each scored 6 points. Dakota hit 3 of 4 for a red hot 75 percent and missed his only free throw. Zac swished 3 of 7 from the field for 43 percent.

Leading scorer for Colby was Stephen Dinkel, who hit three treys in the first quarter and ended with 17 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 16 of 34 two-point tries for a creditable 47 percent accuracy but missed all five trey tries and ended 16 of 39 for 41 percent.

Colby left the nets smoking by hitting 5 of 11 from long range for 46 percent, 22 of 37 from two-point land for 60 percent and 27 of

48 overall for 56 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on an excellent 12 of 18 for 67 percent. Colby missed their one free throw attempt.

The Blue Jays had 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 26 total. The Eagles pulled down 16 offensive and 23 defensive boards for 39 total. Dakota Dreher led Norton in rebounds with 8, followed by Zac Dreher, 6; Landon Hamel, 5; Ashton Draper, 4; J.D. Gall, 2; Marcus Herman, 1.

Norton had 6 steals and Colby had 5. Gall led with 3, followed by Dakota Dreher, Hamel, Zac Dreher, 1 each.

The Blue Jays recorded 8 offensive assists and the Eagles had 12. Gall and Hamel each had 3, followed by Dakota Dreher, Draper, 1 each. Norton had 12 turnovers and Colby lost the ball 10 times.

Junior varsity

Colby won the junior varsity contest by a 70-37 score.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters 16-11, 29-20 and 45-28.

Jordan Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 13 points, followed by Luke Ninemire, 12; Alec Gillenbach, 8; Dakota Dreher, Tye Nickell, 2 each.

Brock Wagoner was scoring leader for Colby with 17 points; Braden McKee hit 15.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 3 0 0-1 6; Jordan Wahlmeier 3 0 2-3 8; Ashton Draper 1 0 2-2 4; Tye Nickell 0 0 4-4 4; Landon Hamel 2 0 0-0 4; J.D. Gall 4 0 4-6 12; Marcus Herman 0 0 0-2 0; Zac Dreher 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 16 0 12-18 44.

Colby Boys

Cade Carter 2 1 0-0 7; Corbin Stephens 2 0 0-0 4; Kyle Molstad 2 0 0-1 4; Cole Finley 1 0 0-0 2; Ryley Haas 1 1 0-0 5; Stephen Dinkel 4 3 0-0 17; Cory Sager 1 0 0-0 2; Brent Aramberger 3 0 0-0 6; Levi Schlick 4 0 0-0 8; Game Totals 22 5 0-1 59.



Norton junior guard J.D. Gall drove inside for a basket during the Blue Jays' game at Colby last Tuesday evening. Gall led Norton in scoring with 12 points, was steals leader and co-assists leader for the Jays in the game. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Eagles hand Norton Blue Jays 48-31 setback

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team traveled to Colby last Tuesday evening where they met a disciplined Lady Eagle team from the Northwest Kansas League who defeated them 48-31.

Colby worked the ball around for good shots and made most of them. Norton was not as successful on their end and just couldn't make shots in the early going. The Lady Jays trailed 16-7 after one quarter and 30-11 at halftime. Norton played Colby even in the third period which ended with a 40-21 score and outscored the Lady Eagles 10-8 in the fourth quarter but just couldn't make up for the first half deficit.

Norton did not score until Laura Lee Baird hit a basket with 2:39 left in the first quarter to make it a 10-2 game. Baird buried a three-point shot at the 1:50 mark and Hayli Bozarth scored inside with 18 seconds left.

The Lady Jays' dry spell continued in the second quarter where their only four points came on two more baskets by Bozarth, her last one coming with just 26 seconds left in the quarter.

Bozarth swished three baskets in the first several minutes of the third quarter to cut the deficit to 32-17. KaraJo Jones hit her first basket of the game with 2:55 left and Lacey Wallingford connected on two free throws at the 2:02 mark and it was 36-21 but Norton did not score again in the period and Colby added two more baskets to their total to enter the fourth quarter leading 40-21.

The Lady Jays scored six unanswered points on a basket by Amanda Ray and two baskets by KaraJo Jones to start the fourth quarter. Norton did not score again, however, until Katharine Roy hit a basket with 1:36 left, was fouled and hit the free throw. Norton's final points came on another basket by Roy with 1:16 showing.

"We just didn't show up to play tonight," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"Defensively, we did not play very hard and gave up a lot of easy baskets.

"Offensively, we stood around most of the night and did not attack the basket.

"The only bright spot was the play of our younger girls who hustled and played hard in the

second half.

"On Monday, we will play Holcomb at home in our first round of the substate tournament and our girls need to be ready to go!"

Leading scorer for Norton was Bozarth with 12 points on 6 of 11 from the field for 55 percent. Jones hit 3 of 5 from the field for 60 percent and 6 points.

Leading the scoring for Colby was Taylor Young with 14 points; Katherine Kaus added 10.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 14 shots from beyond the arc for 7 percent, 12 of 29 two-point tries for 41 percent and 13 of 43 overall for 30 percent.

Colby swished 2 of 5 long range shots for 40 percent, 18 of 30 two-point attempts for 60 percent and 20 of 35 overall for 57 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 4 of 5 for an excellent 80 percent and Colby swished 6 of 11 for 55 percent.

Norton grabbed 7 offensive and 8 defensive rebounds for 15 total. Colby pulled down 8 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Bozarth led Norton in rebounds with 7, followed by Wallingford, 5; Roy, 2; Baird, 1.

The Lady Jays had 10 steals

compared to only 4 by Colby. Roy led with 3 thefts, followed by Hannah Waggoner, KaraJo Jones, 2 each; Wallingford, Baird, Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton had 5 assists and Colby recorded 15. Stewart led with 2 assists, followed by Wallingford, Baird, KaraJo Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had just 10 turnovers and the Lady Eagles lost the ball 15 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Colby 31-29.

Norton led 11-6 after one quarter and 13-12 at intermission. Colby outscored Norton 9-8 in the third period to tie the score at 21-all but the young Lady Jays outscored them 10-8 in the final stanza to win by two points!

Lacy Keilig led the Lady Jays in scoring with 10 points, followed by Kaylen Rossi, Hannah Waggoner, Raven Brown, 5 each; Kaitlyn Wolf, 4; Dustyna Sprigg, 2.

Leading scorer for Colby was Kylie Reitcheck with 8 points.

"This was a great victory tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Colby was a tough team and we answered every challenge. Our defense was the best it was

all year!

"This was a great group to coach. They must work in the off season in order to be able to compete at the varsity level.

"They can accomplish whatever they want if they work to achieve their goals."

The Norton junior varsity team compiled an outstanding 12-4 record this season.

C-team

The Norton girls C-team finished their season with a 36-13 win over Colby.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-4, 19-5 and 30-7.

Erin Terrell was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points, followed by Caren Thomson, Alexis Henson, 6 each; Kaylen Rossi, Meaghan Peterson, 3 each; Dustyna Sprigg, Tiffany Eagleburger, Sady Keilig, 2 each.

"It was great to finish the season with three wins in a row to give us a

4-3 record," said Norton assistant girls coach Joan Bolt.

"Tonight, our girls were patient on offense and played a tough full court defense with good communication.

"This was a great learning experience for our girls. I hope to see them back on the court next year."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 0 0 2-2 2; Katharine Roy 1 0 2-3 4; Laura Lee Baird 1 1 0-0 5; KaraJo Jones 3 0 0-0 6; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 0-0 12; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 12 1 4-5 31.

Colby Girls

Kayla Hockersmith 2 0 2-3 6; Shelby Terrell 0 2 0-0 6; Katrina Kaus 1 0 0-0 2; Katherine Kaus 5 0 0-0 10; Morgan Bell 4 0 0-2 8; Kylie Reitcheck 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Young 5 0 4-6 14; Game Totals 18 2 6-11 48.

Husky Ladies heading to substate

The Lady Huskies of Northern Valley opened regional tournament play with a 62-45 win over Quinter and an 85-51 loss to Hoxie. Thursday night they will take on Dighton in a substate matchup at the Felten Middle School gym in Hays at 7:30 p.m.

Vs. Quinter

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies opened the regional tournament with a bye which automatically gives them another victory in the win column but does not allow the team to get the jitters out of their system that come along with this new and important post-season.

The Huskies had to feel their way against a tough Quinter team that came to play even though they had an 8-11 record. In the end the Huskies prevailed, 62-45.

Coach Chuck Zimmerman had this to say:

"The first quarter saw Quinter pull out into a 10-14 lead before we started to peck away by out-rebounding them which led to more opportunities for us — which we capitalized on and went into half time up, 26-21.

"We came out stagnant in the third quarter as the Bulldogs caught us but we righted the ship and started to pull away in the fourth quarter as we picked up the intensity and out scored them 27-13 for the final score of 62-45.

"Our pressure played a big role

again as the Quinter group totaled 28 turnovers. Our deflects leaders were Katie Stillion and Alison Cole with 4 each with Megan Cole tipping 3.

"Steals were taken by Staci Dole with 5 while Christina Anderson picked off 4 with Stillion swiping 3.

"Rebounds were grabbed by Stillion and A Cole with 6 each as M Cole and Anderson each raked in 4.

"Our assist leaders were our two Sophomores as Dole found 6 team mates open and Kenzie Chandler found 5.

"We now are guaranteed another week of play at the substate tournament but first get to take on Hoxie in the finals of the regional. This is a rematch of last year's substate game and we would like to see how much we have

improved."

Scoring were: 2; Megan Cole 9; Alison Cole 14; Kenzie Chandler 6; Staci Dole 8; Melissa Hawks 0; Christina Anderson 17; Brittney Braun 0; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 6.

Vs. Hoxie

The Husky Ladies took on #2 in the state, Hoxie, and learned quickly why they are ranked as they are. "We had two Indians surrounding our ball handler at every turn until they were up 0-8. We finally found a way into our side of the court but the Indian girls kept applying the pressure and we ended up on the low side of a 51-85 final score," coach Zimmerman said.

"With Hoxie being very quick we did get 16 deflects with Alison Cole getting 6, with 4 blocks, while Megan Cole tipped 5. But,

for the first time, in any game I can remember, we did not get a single steal. Credit must go to the Hoxie ball club for taking great care of the ball — another reason they are a ranked team.

"We rebounded well with Alison Cole raking 10 off the boards while Karen Wenzl grabbed 6.

"We did find 16 teammates open for scores with Christina Anderson finding 4 with Wenzl, Kenzie Chandler, Staci Dole and Katie Stillion each finding 2.

"We will take this game and make adjustments that will help us in our substate game against Dighton Thursday in Hays," the coach said.

Scoring were: Wenzl 0; Megan Cole 17; Alison Cole 15; Chandler 6; Dole 0; Hawks 0; Anderson 6; Braun 2; Field 3; Stillion 2.

The Leather Shop

We will be picking up Boots and Shoes in need of repair at the Norton Sale Barn on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. beginning February 26 and returning them the following Thursday, March 5. We also Repair Saddles and Tack. We will continue this each Thursday unless the weather is bad.

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Page 10

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