



Lady Jays' Jones (left) and Roy (right) in action...



Lady Jay junior post Amanda Ray won a battle for a loose ball from a Southwestern Heights player during Norton's substate tournament loss on Thursday in Holcomb to the Lady Mustangs who went on to upset No.1 seed Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays and receive a No.1 seed in this week's Class 3A State Tournament in Hutchinson.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton senior guard Karajo Jones drove the lane for a layup in the second quarter of their substate tournament loss to eventual champion Southwestern Heights on Thursday in Holcomb, but was fouled by a Lady Mustang and received a trip to the free throw line where she hit one of the two charities.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

...at the Holcomb Substate Tournament

Norton Lady Blue Jays end season 17-5

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team's outstanding 2008-09 season came to a conclusion Thursday evening with a 51-33 loss to Southwestern Heights in the semifinals of the Class 3A Substate Tournament in Holcomb.

Coach Kevin Jilka's Lady Blue Jays were seeded No.3 in the tournament. After defeating No.6 seed Holcomb 55-34 on Monday in Norton, they advanced to the semifinals to play No.2 seed Southwestern Heights, who brought a 19-1 record into the contest.

Norton ended their excellent season with a 17-5 record.

Despite missing senior guards Taylor Rossi, who suffered a season-ending injury during a win over Stockton in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on January 20 and Laura Lee Baird, who missed the substate tournament games due to illness, the Lady Jays played well against the higher seeded Lady Mustangs, who did not pull away until the fourth quarter.

Southwestern Heights took advantage of a cold shooting Norton quintet to take an 18-6 lead after one quarter. Norton outscored Southwestern Heights 13-9 in a hotly contested second quarter

to cut the deficit to eight points at 27-19 at halftime.

The third quarter was close with the score just reversing from the second quarter as the Lady Mustangs scored 13 points and the Lady Blue Jays recorded 9 to make it a 40-28 contest after three periods. The Lady Mustangs finished strong, outscoring the Lady Jays 11-5 in the final period.

"We had a great effort from our girls," said coach Jilka. "They played hard all night long but we were just outmanned."

"Southwestern Heights did a great job of pressure defense the entire game. Defensively, we played hard but just didn't block off. Giving up 13 offensive rebounds is too many."

"Offensively, we just didn't execute consistently enough to win the game."

In addition to seniors Rossi and Baird, the following Lady Jays were also senior members of the squad and played their final game: Lacey Wallingford, forward; Katharine Roy, forward; KaraJo Jones, guard and Hayli Bozarth, post.

"We had some adversity this season and, through all the adversity, not one time did these girls complain," said coach Jilka. "They came to practice every day and worked hard and we are very proud of them. This senior class

will be greatly missed; they were a special group!"

"Thanks to all who supported our program throughout the year. It was greatly appreciated."

Norton's six first quarter points were scored by Bozarth on a basket and free throw and junior guard Ashlie Stewart with a three-point basket.

Wallingford found her shooting eye in the second quarter when she hit a basket from beyond the arc and two more from two-point land. Roy also buried a three-pointer and Jones hit a two-point basket and free throw for the Lady Jays' 13 points.

Five different girls scored for Norton in the third quarter. Roy and Stewart each hit two-point baskets and Wallingford and Jones hit two charity tosses each and Bozarth hit a free toss.

Bozarth finished with a basket and free throw in the fourth stanza and Jones added a basket, as well.

Leading scorer for Norton was Wallingford with 9 points. She hit 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 2 of 5 two-point tries for 40 percent and 3 of 7 overall for 43 percent. She was perfect on two free throws.

Jones and Bozarth each hit 7 points. Jones swished 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent and 3 of 4 charities for 75 percent. Bozarth

connected on an uncharacteristic 2 of 7 two-point attempts for 29 percent but was 3 of 5 from the charity stripe for 60 percent accuracy.

Deni Jacobs led the Lady Mustangs scored by Bozarth on a basket and free throw and junior guard Ashlie Stewart with a three-point basket.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 11 from long range for 27 percent, 8 of 27 two-point tries for 29 percent and 11 of 38 overall for 29 percent.

Southwestern Heights connected on 2 of 9 from beyond the arc for 22 percent but 18 of 32 two-point attempts for 56 percent and 20 of 41 overall for 49 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 8 of 13 for 62 percent and the Lady Mustangs swished 9 of 16 for 56 percent.

The Lady Jays had 9 offensive and 7 defensive rebounds for 16 total and the Lady Mustangs grabbed 13 offensive and 11 defensive caroms for 24 total.

Jones was leading rebounder for Norton with 5, followed by Bozarth, Amanda Ray, 3 each; Wallingford, Stewart, 2 each; Roy, 1.

Norton had 10 steals and Southwestern Heights had just 7 thefts. Bozarth had 3 steals, followed by Roy, Stewart, Ray, 2 each; Wallingford, 1.

The Lady Jays recorded 7 offensive assists compared to 13 by the Lady Mustangs. Stewart led with 4 assists, followed by Roy, Jones, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Southwestern Heights had 13.

Southwestern Heights played unbeaten and No.1 seeded Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays in Saturday's championship finals and the Lady Mustangs upset them 57-39 to earn a berth and No.1 seeding in this week's state tournament in Hutchinson.

It is interesting to note that Southwestern Heights defeated

the highly regarded Lady Monarchs and Lady Blue Jays by exactly the same number of points.

The Norton boys lost to No.1 seeded Holcomb in the first round of the tournament on Tuesday and Holcomb defeated Southwestern Heights 73-52 on Saturday night to win the championship and return to the state tournament in Hutchinson where they placed third last season. Holcomb is now 20-2 for the season.

In the Class 1A substate tournament at Colby, the Dighton girls defeated Weskan 46-33 and the Quinter boys edged Tribune 51-50. In the Class 1A substate tournament at Colby, the Hoxie girls outscored Tribune 65-53 and the Thunder Ridge boys defeated Otis-Bison 69-56.

The Class 1A winners will play in the state tournament in Hays this week.

In Class 2A play in Plainville on Saturday, two Mid-Continent League schools advanced to this week's state tournament in Manhattan. The Ellis girls defeated Hill City 70-53 and the Trego boys defeated Atwood 62-46.

The Osborne girls, another Mid-Continent League quintet, lost 55-41 to Sacred Heart of Salina in the championship finals of the Class 2A substate tournament in Belleville. The Sacred Heart girls are seeded No.8 in the state tournament in Manhattan with a 17-6 record.

The Beloit girls earned the Class 3A substate championship and a trip to this week's state tournament in Hutchinson with a 40-36 win over Hoisington in the Hoisington substate tournament.

The Colby boys team made it to the championship finals of the Class 4A substate tournament in Nickerson but lost 57-43 to Hesson, who will take a 22-1 record into the state tournament in Salina

and will be the No.2 seed.

State tournaments

In Class 3A girls play at Hutchinson on Wednesday, No.1 seed Southwestern Heights (22-1) will play No. 8 seed Hillsboro (14-9) at 6:30 p.m. and No.6 seed Beloit (18-5) will play No.3 seed Wichita Collegiate (21-2) at 4:45 p.m.

In Class 2A girls action at Manhattan on Thursday, No.6 seed Ellis (18-5) will play No.3 seed Clifton-Clyde (20-3) at 4:45 p.m. and No.8 seeded Sacred Heart (17-6) will play No.1 seed Pittsburg Colgan (21-2) at 6:30 p.m.

In Class 1A at Hays on Wednesday, the No.3 seeded Hoxie girls (24-1) will play the No.6 seeded St. John (23-2) at 8:15 p.m.

In Class 3A boys play on Thursday in Hutchinson, No.4 seeded Holcomb (21-2) will play No.5 seed Sabetha (21-2) at 8:15 p.m.

In Class 2A boys action on Wednesday in Manhattan, No.3 seed Trego (21-2) will play No.6 seed St. Mary's (17-6) at 4:45 p.m.

In Class 1A boys action on Thursday in Hays, No.4 seed Quinter (24-1) will play No.5 seed South Gray (24-1) at 4:45 p.m. and No.2 seed Thunder Ridge (25-0) will play No.7 Goessel (20-5) at 6:30 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 2 1 2-2 9; Katharine Roy 1 1 0-0 5; Ashlie Stewart 1 1 0-2 5; KaraJo Jones 2 0 3-4 7; Hayli Bozarth 2 0 3-5 7; Game Totals 8 3 8-23 33.

Southwestern Heights Girls

Britny Butler 1 0 0-0 2; Deni Jacobs 8 0 2-2 18; Lindsay Garinger 2 0 5-12 9; Vivian Olvera 0 0 2-2 2; Heidi Brown 1 1 0-0 5; Holly Brown 0 1 0-0 3; Kathy Eakes 5 0 0-0 10; Sheree Ryan 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 18 2 9-16 51.

Huskies fall in tournament

"Well, it just wasn't supposed to be, evidently. The Lady Huskies played #8 state ranked (20-2) Dighton in Hays in the first round of substate and had our chance but we did not do the necessary things to move on," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"First we dug ourselves two holes which we had to climb out of — at the start of the game we played ourselves to a score of 4-18 before we picked up our intensity and scored 11 straight points to end the first quarter at 15-18.

"In the second quarter we took care of the ball, shot well and caused turnovers by the Hornets to go into halftime up, 27-25.

"The second hole was the third quarter as Dighton out scored us 6-17 to put us in a tough spot — one which we came almost all the way back from, but, ended up short by 5 with the final score of 46-51" the coach said.

Alison Cole led the team in defects with 7 with all but one being of the blocked shot variety. Megan Cole tipped 3 with Katie Stillion

getting a finger on 2.

Steals were taken by Alison Cole and Katie Stillion with two each.

Rebounds were grabbed by Alison Cole with 9, Megan Cole with 5 and Staci Dole and Christina Anderson with 4 each.

Assists were handed out by Anderson with 5, Dole with 4 and Megan Cole with 3.

"This ended our season — abruptly and an end that we as a team know should not have happened.

"This team will have to decide whether they want to make it to the next level or are they satisfied with where they have ended the last two seasons. They and only they can decide and then they must do what is necessary to correct these outcomes," coach Zimmerman said.

"We want to thank the great crowd that followed us to Hays. Your sportsmanship was the best of the four communities that were represented on that evening. Your class and pride came through.

We, and especially I, thank you," he said.

Scoring for Northern Valley were: Karen Wenzl 0; Megan Cole 2; Alison Cole 17; Kenzie Chandler 2; Staci Dole 3; Melissa Hawks 0; Christina Anderson 17; Brittney Braun 0; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 5.

Thanks, athletes, for a fine winter season



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