

Lady Jays place sixth in tournament

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team placed sixth in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday, Saturday in Goodland.

After losing 55-34 to Goodland in the opener on Thursday, the Lady Jays defeated Sharon Springs 59-36 in Friday's semi-finals.

In the contest for fifth place on Saturday, Norton took an early lead but fell to Burlington, Colo. 51-47 in overtime.

Ottawa won the championship with a 57-49 win over Wray. Third place went to Goodland with a 53-39 victory over Weskan and Sharon Springs won 55-43 over McCook to earn seventh place.

Goodland

In the opening contest versus Goodland, the Lady Cowgirls had better statistics than Norton in every category in taking quarter leads of 17-8, 27-13 and 37-21.

Senior point guard Ashlie Stewart, sophomore post Erin Terrell, senior post Kaitlyn Wolf and senior post Amanda Ray each hit a basket for Norton in the first quarter.

The Lady Jays' only points in the second quarter came on a basket by Ray and basket and free throw by Terrell.

In the third period, Norton scored 8 points. Ray hit two baskets and Stewart buried a 3-point shot and free throw. In the 13-point fourth period for the Lady Jays, Terrell led with four baskets, Ray hit another field goal and Wolf swished a field goal and free throw.

Leading scorer for Norton was Terrell with 13 points on 6 of 7 from the field for a net-smoking 85 percent and 1 of 1 from the free throw line.

Ray finished with 10 points on 5 of 14 two-point shots for 36 percent. She missed her only two shots from beyond the arc.

Ashley Archer led Goodland with 27 points and Jade Herl added 16.

Norton hit 1 of 8 three-point tries for 13 percent, 14 of 39 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 15 of 47 overall for 32 percent. Goodland swished 2 of 5 long range shots for 40 percent, 18 of 25 two-pointers for 72 percent and 19 of 30 overall for 63 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 3 of 9 for 33 percent compared to the Lady Cowgirls 13 of 17 for 76 percent.

Norton pulled down 5 offensive and 7 defensive rebounds for 12 total and Goodland grabbed 3 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 24 total. Ray was leading rebounder for Norton with 5, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 3; Terrell, 2; Kaylen Rossi, Stewart, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 7 steals and the Lady Cowgirls had 9. Stewart led with 3, followed by Hannah Waggoner, 2; Sprigg, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 7 assists and Goodland had 14. Assists leader for the Lady Jays was Stewart with 4, followed by Waggoner, Rossi, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 18 turnovers while causing Goodland 22.

"We did not play very good basketball," said coach Jilka. "We were terrible. It was a layup drill for Goodland. We had lots of breakdowns on defense.

"Offensively, at times we did some good things but consistency is our major problem and we are making dumb turnovers. We need to take care of the ball. Our girls need to realize, we have to play hard for 32 minutes and we can't take breaks."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Ashlie Stewart 11 1-2-6; Caren Thomson 0 0-0-2-0; Erin Terrell 6 0 1-1 13; Dustyna Sprigg 0 0-0-2 0; Kaitlyn Wolf 2 0 1-1 5; Amanda Ray 5 0 0-0 10; Game Totals 14 13-9 34

Goodland Girls

Ashley Archer 10 7-9-27; Jennifer Rome 3 0 2-2-8; Jade Herl 3 2 4-5 16; Alexis Bateman 2 0 0-0 4; Paige Phillips 0 0-0 1-0; Game Totals 18 2 13-17 55.

Sharon Springs

Norton broke a very close game open in the third quarter for a big win over Sharon Springs in the consolation semi-finals.

Norton led 9-8 after one quarter and 23-21 at halftime but a 23-2 third quarter in the Lady Jays' favor extended their lead to 46-23 with one quarter remaining. Both teams scored 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Kaitlyn Wolf, Amanda Ray and senior guard Hannah Waggoner each hit a field goal in the opening quarter and Erin Terrell hit a field goal and free throw.

In the second period, six Norton girls scored. Waggoner, Ashlie Stewart, Terrell and Ray each hit baskets, Wolf hit a field goal and free throw and Kaylen Rossi buried a three-point shot in Norton's 14-point second quarter.

Stewart couldn't miss in the third period when she connected on three treys and two two-point baskets for 13 of her game high 15 points.

Senior guard Kendra Engelbert swished two baskets and Dustyna Sprigg, Wolf and Ray each hit a basket to total 23 points.

Norton's 13 fourth quarter tallies came on another three-point basket by Rossi, two baskets and a free throw by Wolf, a basket and two charities by Ray and a free throw by Waggoner.

Leading scorer for Norton was Stewart on 3 of 5 from beyond the arc and 3 of 5 two-point shots for a sharpshooting 60 percent

accuracy and 15 points. Wolf added 12 points on 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and 2 of 4 from the line for 50 percent. Ray scored 10 on 4 of 11 from the field for 36 percent and 2 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Leading the scoring for Sharon Springs was Hallie Kuhlman with 14.

As a team, Norton connected on 5 of 9 long range shots for 56 percent, 19 of 40 two-pointers for 48 percent and 24 of 49 overall for 49 percent.

Sharon Springs hit 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 8 of 31 two-point tries for 26 percent and 11 of 43 overall for 26 percent.

From the free throw line, it was Norton 6 of 16 for 38 percent and Sharon Springs 11 of 17 for 64 percent.

Norton had 6 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 22 total and Sharon Springs pulled down 7 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 25 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Ray with 5, followed by Terrell, 4; Engelbert, 3; Rossi, Stewart, Wolf, 2 each; Waggoner, Thomson, Sprigg, Meaghan Peterson, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 10 steals compared to 5 for the Lady Wildcats. Wolf led by 4, followed by Ray, 3; Waggoner, Stewart, Terrell, 1 each.

Ray had 4 of Norton's 9 assists, followed by Rossi, 3; Engelbert, Stewart, 1 each.

Norton had 23 turnovers and Sharon Springs had 28.

"We came out and did the things we've been talking about," said coach Jilka.

"We did a good job on our zone defense, played harder and forced some turnovers. Offensively, we passed the ball well all day. We were doing the little things we ask.

"I'm proud of our girls even though we still aren't playing up to our capabilities."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Kendra Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4; Hannah Waggoner 2 1-3 5; Kaylen Rossi 0 2-0 1-6; Ashlie Stewart 3 3 0-0 15; Erin Terrell 2 0 1-4 5; Dustyna Sprigg 1 0 0-2; Kaitlyn Wolf 5 0 2-4 12; Amanda Ray 4 0 2-4 10; Game Totals 19 5 6-16 59.

Sharon Springs Girls

Taylor Weinland 1 0 0-1 2; Kamee Benisch 1 0 0-1 2; Hallie Kuhlman 1 2 6-8 14; Audrey Mote 2 0 5-7 9; Hayley Pletcher 1 1 0-0 5; Gabrielle Kuhlman 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 8 3 11-17 36

Burlington

In the overtime loss to Burlington for fifth place, Norton saw a 13-point lead after three quarters melt in the final stanza due to a defensive change by the Lady Cougars.

Norton trailed 7-4 after one

period but outscored Burlington 17-3 in the second quarter to take a 21-10 advantage at intermission. An 11-9 third quarter advantage for the Lady Jays extended their lead to 32-19.

Burlington turned to a half court press for their defense in the final stanza to outscore Norton 19-6 and send the game into overtime. The Lady Wildcats outscored the Lady Blue Jays 13-9 in the extra period.

Stewart scored all 4 of Norton's first quarter points on two baskets. Wolf led the way with 6 points on three baskets in the second period and was followed by Terrell, two baskets and a free throw, Ray and Engelbert, one basket each and Stewart, two free throws.

Norton scored 11 points in the third period on a basket and two charities by Wolf, a basket each from Waggoner and Stewart and a basket and free throw by Ray.

Terrell scored all 6 of Norton's fourth quarter points on two baskets and two charities.

In the overtime, Stewart hit two baskets, Ray buried a three and Wolf connected on a basket. Six of Burlington's 13 points came on free throws by Ori Swiatkowski and Kirsten Anderson hit three more charities and a basket.

Wolf was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and 2 of 2 free throws. Terrell hit 11 points on 4 of 5 from the field for 80 percent and 3 of 10 free throws for 30 percent. Stewart and Ray each ended with 10 points. Stewart hit 3 of 7 shots for 43 percent and 4 of 6 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

Ray swished 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 2 of 7 two-point tries for 29 percent, 3 of 10 overall for 30 percent and 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Swiatkowski led Burlington in scoring with 14 points, Anderson had 12 and Brittany Weber scored 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 16 of 34 two-point attempts for 47 percent and 17 of 38 overall for 45 percent.

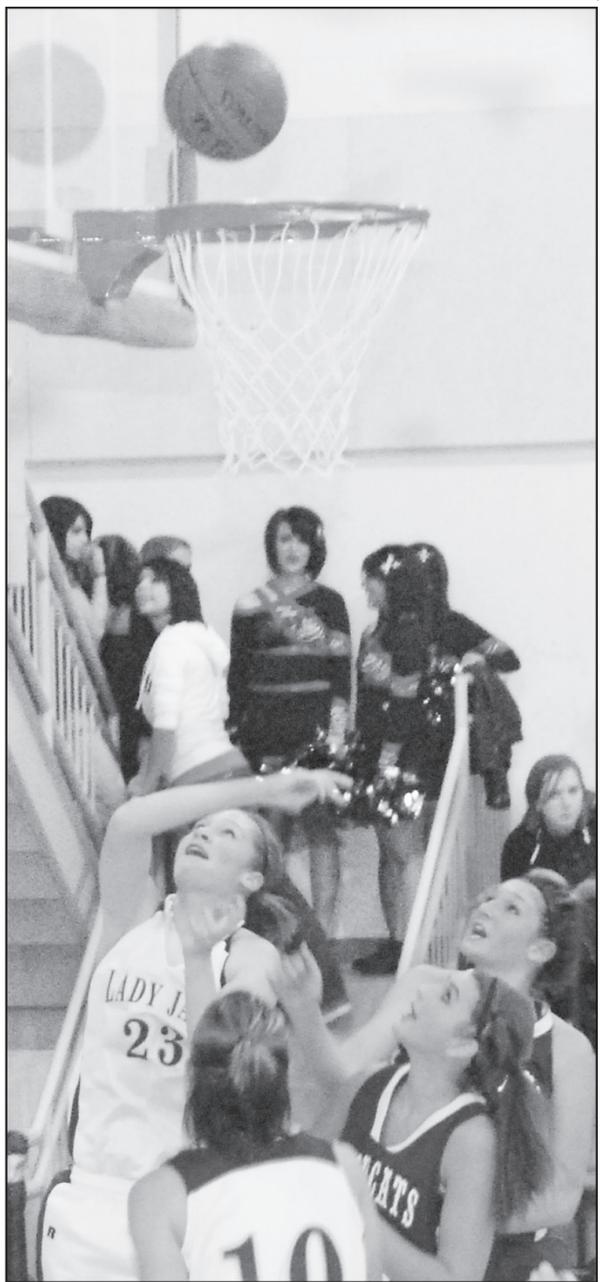
Burlington swished 2 of 3 from beyond the arc for 67 percent, 16 of 43 two-point tries for 37 percent and 18 of 46 overall for 39 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 12 of 22 for 55 percent and Burlington was 13 of 24 for 54 percent.

The Lady Jays had 5 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 20 total. Terrell and Wolf each had 5 rebounds, followed by Ray, 4; Sprigg, 3; Waggoner, Rossi, Engelbert, 1 each.

The Lady Cougars grabbed 16 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 29 total.

Norton had 9 steals and Burlington had 17. Waggoner had 3 thefts, followed by Rossi, Ray, 2



Norton sophomore post Erin Terrell got a pass inside and put the ball up for a basket as Sharon Springs players looked on helplessly during the Lady Jays' 59-34 win in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament semi-finals in Goodland on Friday. No. 10 for Norton is Kendra Engelbert.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

each; Stewart, Wolf, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 9 assists and the Lady Cougars had 2. Wolf led with 3, followed by Rossi, Ray, 2 each; Waggoner, Stewart, 1 each.

Norton had 30 turnovers and Burlington lost the ball 26 times.

"We had 19 turnovers in the second half and didn't handle their half court press very well," said coach Jilka. "We had a nice lead, then didn't execute against their trap. We hadn't worked against it in practice and got too timid and lost our aggressiveness.

"We played solid defense and our offense was excellent until we came up against the trap. We couldn't break it and they got some momentum.

"We still had chances to win at the end. We had two good shots in overtime that didn't fall and they hit their free throws. We'll learn from this experience.

"We got better this week and that's important. We've got two

important league games coming up next."

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Kendra Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2; Hannah Waggoner 1 0 0-0 2; Ashlie Stewart 3 0 4-6 10; Erin Terrell 4 0 3-10 11; Kaitlyn Wolf 5 0 2-2 12; Amanda Ray 2 1 3-4 10; Game Totals 16 1 12-22 47

Burlington Girls

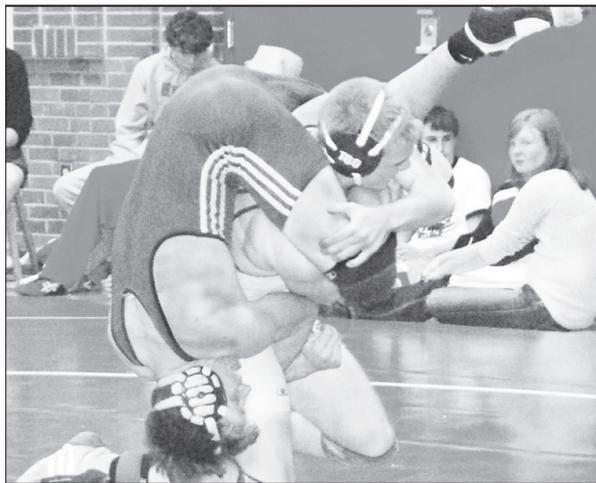
Kirsten Anderson 4 0 6-9 12; Danielle Penny 3 0 1-2 7; Ori Swiatkowski 1 2 6-8 14; Brittany Weber 5 0 0-2 10; Alex Hinkhouse 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Tillitson 2 0 0-3 4; Game Totals 16 2 13-24 51

Next action

Norton will host Stockton on Thursday. The C-team boys game will begin at 4 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed by the boys junior varsity game.

The girls junior varsity game will begin at 5 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

Blue Jay wrestlers place third in Clay Center tournament



Norton junior 160 pounder Spencer Shirk worked a single leg takedown as one of the moves he used to defeat Cody Stewart, Oakley, 6-5 for the championship in the Hoxie Invitational Tournament. Shirk also won the gold medal in Saturday's Clay Center Invitational Round Robin Tournament.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team placed third in the Clay Center Invitational Round Robin Tournament on Saturday just six and one-half points out of first.

Andale edged Clay Center for the team championship with 131 points, compared to 130 for the host team. Norton scored 124.5

points, followed by Junction City, 107; Holton, 67.5; Topeka Seaman, 67; Salina South, 66.5; Beloit, 40.5; Ellsworth, 25; Lawrence Free State, 22; Rock Creek, 8.5.

Norton had four individual champions: Troy Bainter, 125; Kaenon Keiswetter, 145; Landon Keiswetter, 152 and Spencer Shirk, 160.

John Risewick of Norton was

runner-up at 103 and Connor Pfannenstiel placed runner-up at 140. Third place at 171 went to Kaid McKenna and Tyler Cook placed fifth at 285.

Casey Robison wrestled at 189. The Blue Jays were open at 112, 119, 130, 135 and 215.

Coach Johnson named Landon Keiswetter "Norton Wrestler of the Week" for this tournament. Landon pinned his first two opponents, won a 15-0 technical fall over his third opponent and won a 12-4 major decision over Dillon Charland, Junction City, a two-time state runner-up in Class 5A. Landon Keiswetter was also voted the "Outstanding Wrestler of the Clay Center Tournament" by vote of the team coaches.

"I was very, very pleased with our team placing," said coach Johnson.

"We saved our best wrestling for the finals and won six of eight finals matches. We had some tough matchups in the finals.

"All of our wrestlers looked good at times. Landon Keiswetter had a very impressive performance when he dominated the Junction City wrestler to win the title.

"I'm really pleased with where we are now. We will start the dual season this week and it's always fun and interesting to get into one-on-one team battles. It will

mark the first week that we actually start our challenge matches. The first two weeks we just sent wrestlers to tournaments to get experience."

Norton had an outstanding 29-8 won-loss record in the tournament and a 14-5 pin ratio. The Blue Jays also went 6-0 in technical falls, an excellent statistic.

Individual matches

103 -- John Risewick shutout Hunter Price, Holton, 15-0, decisioned Kevin Perez, Junction City, 10-1; pinned Drew Botello, Lawrence Free State, in 4:28 and lost an 11-2 decision to Jake Vierya, Salina South, to place second.

125 -- Troy Bainter pinned Tyler Huntsacker, Lawrence Free State, in 47 seconds; pinned Landon Singular, Clay Center, in 1:18; decisioned Levi Eck, Andale, 4-3; pinned Shane Schaake, Rock Creek, in 3:45 and pinned Schaake again, this time in 1:18, to win the championship.

140 -- Connor Pfannenstiel pinned Philip Bradshaw, Lawrence Free State, in 2:06; decisioned Justin Briner, Holton, 5-2; pinned Bradshaw again, this time in 42 seconds and lost by a fall in the third period to Tyler Anderson, Clay Center, to place second.

145 -- Kaenon Keiswetter won an 18-3 technical fall over T.J.

Cannizzo, Clay Center; won a 17-3 major decision over Bryant Guillen, Seaman; won a 15-0 technical fall over Jake Ryals, Salina South; decisioned Levi Schneider, Ellsworth, 10-6 and won a 16-4 major decision over Colton Duhr, Andale, to win the championship.

152 -- Landon Keiswetter pinned Brandon Eastin, Salina South, in 2:11; pinned Clay Cosand, Beloit, in 2:23; won a 15-0 technical fall over Sam Blindt, Seaman and decisioned Dillon Charland, Junction City, 12-4 to win the championship.

160 -- Spencer Shirk pinned Shayne Boswell, Seaman, in 37 seconds; decisioned Braden Mayes, Beloit, 11-2 and won an 18-3 technical fall over Colton Easterburg, Clay Center, to win the championship.

171 -- Kaid McKenna pinned Andy Jewert, Salina South, in 3:36; pinned Chase Fraser, Lawrence Free State, in 1:19; lost a 3-2 decision to Chance Davis, Clay Center and won an 18-3 technical fall over Austin Ogden, Seaman, and placed third.

189 -- Casey Robison was pinned in the third period by Michael Shirk, Salina South; was pinned in 1:41 by Zach Anderson, Holton; was pinned in 1:51 by Spencer Chestnut, Lawrence Free State and won a 6-3 decision over

Adam McKinna, Holton.

285 -- Tyler Cook lost an 11-10 decision to Jason McGinty, Seaman; was pinned in 54 seconds by B.J. Finney, Andale; pinned Drew Pilgrim, Salina South, in 17 seconds and pinned Aaron Rafalko, Junction City, in 32 seconds and placed fifth.

Next action

The Norton Blue Jays will begin dual action in the Mid-Continent League versus Phillipsburg and Stockton on Friday in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Both varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete, beginning at 5 p.m. Norton will wrestle Stockton, followed by the Stockton-Phillipsburg dual and the Norton-Phillipsburg dual.

On Saturday, Norton will compete in the annual Holiday Classic Wrestling Tournament in Goodland. Competing teams, in addition to Norton and Goodland, will be Garden City, Ulysses, Holcomb, Burlington, Hoxie, Leoti, Scott City, Cherokee Trail, Oakley and Hugoton.

The 12 teams have been separated into three pools for round robin team dual competition. Norton is in Pool B with Burlington, Hoxie and Leoti.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m.