

Lady Jays earn a victory over Plainville

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team finally slowed down Plainville's 5'11" senior post player Dani Winters in the fourth quarter and the result was a Lady Jay 46-40 victory in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton on Tuesday evening.

Winters was virtually unstoppable for three periods when she hit 27 points but she scored just two baskets in the final quarter. In fact, Winters' two baskets were the only two scored by the visitors, who saw a 36-32 lead melt when Norton swished 14 fourth period points. The Lady Cardinals also missed all seven of their free throws in the final stanza.

Meanwhile, Norton got solid points from three players. Junior Erin Terrell hit two baskets and two free throws, junior Caren Thomson swished two field goals and a free throw and sophomore Tawni Griffey connected on one basket and one charity.

The fourth quarter was not Norton's best quarter, however, since the Lady Blue Jays hit 17 points in the first period, thanks to four baskets from beyond the arc. Senior Kaylen Rossi buried two treys and Griffey and senior Dustyna Sprigg each found the range for one basket from beyond the arc. Norton's other five points in the first stanza came on a basket and free throw by Terrell and basket by Thomson.

Norton led 17-12 after the first quarter where Winters contrib-

uted 7 points.

Norton scored just 7 points in the second quarter on a trey by freshman Katelyn Engelbert, a two-point basket by Kamilla Jones and two charities by Terrell.

All of Plainville's 8 second period points came on four baskets by Winters as the Lady Jays took a 24-20 halftime lead.

Winters had her best quarter in the third when she poured in 12 of the Lady Cardinals' 16 points on five baskets and two charities. Norton tallied just 8 points in the period and trailed 36-32. The Lady Jays' only third quarter tallies were on Rossi's third trey of the game, Griffey's second trey and a two-point basket by Jones.

Erin Terrell was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points on 3 of 8 two-point tries for 38 percent and 5 of 9 free throws for 56 percent accuracy.

Kaylen Rossi and Tawni Griffey each added 9 points. Rossi hit 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, missed her only two-point try and was 3 of 8 overall for 38 percent. Griffey swished 2 of 4 long range shots for 50 percent, 1 of 8 two-point tries for 13 percent and 3 of 12 overall for 33 percent. She also hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Norton's three-point shooting made the difference in the game. The Lady Jays hit 7 of 14 from beyond the arc for 50 percent and only 9 of 42 two-point tries for 21 percent. Overall, the Lady Jays were 16 of 56 attempts for 29 percent.

Plainville missed all 6 trey tries



Norton sophomore Tawni Griffey drives around a Plainville defender during Tuesday night's Mid-Continent League victory over the visiting Lady Cardinals in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Griffey scored 9 points and had 3 steals.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

but hit 17 of 33 two-point shots for 52 percent. Overall, the Lady Cardinals were 17 of 39 for 44 percent.

The teams were about even in scoring from the free throw line where Norton hit 7 of 13 for 54

percent and Plainville managed 6 of 18 for 33 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled down 16 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 36 total compared to 8 offensive and 21 defensive for a Plainville total of 29 caroms.

Norton Blue Jays outscored by Plainville Cardinals

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team played the unbeaten and No.5 state ranked Plainville quintet close for two quarters but they needed four good periods to upset the Cardinals, who prevailed 68-44 on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

Norton trailed by just 15-14 after the first quarter and was outscored 15-12 in the third quarter but the Cardinals tallied 22 points in the second period and 16 in the final stanza while the Blue Jays scored just 11 and 7, respectively.

Norton junior Jordan Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring despite not hitting a field goal in the first quarter. He had 17 points on two free throws in the first period, three baskets in the second, two in the third and two more with a charity in the fourth period.

Norton had the fast break going in the first quarter when sophomore Jacob Brooks hit four baskets. In addition to Wahlmeier's charities, Norton's other first quarter points came on baskets by senior Dakota Dreher and senior Terrell Lane.

In the second quarter, the Blue Jays' only points in addition to 6 by Wahlmeier came on baskets by juniors Dillon McConney and Tye Nickell and a free throw by Brooks. Plainville's 22 points stretched their halftime lead to 37-25.

Lane hit two baskets and a free

throw, Wahlmeier swished two shots, Brooks connected on two charities and Dreher hit one free toss for Norton in their 12-point third period but the Cardinals scored 15 points to extend their lead to 52-37.

Plainville went on a 10-0 run to start the fourth quarter and end any Norton chances of catching up. The visitors outscored the Blue Jays 16-7 in the period. Norton's only points came on two baskets and a free throw by Wahlmeier and junior Zach Hartwell's only basket of the night.

"We played them pretty well at times but made some bad decisions," said coach Reusink. "We let it get away from us in the second quarter."

"We're not very consistent. We played hard but we have to play smarter and better. It's just little things that make a difference. We tried to make plays that weren't there."

"The second half, their full court press hurt us."

"They are a good team."

Wahlmeier had a good shooting night for Norton. He hit a net-smoking 7 of 10 shots for 70 percent and was 3 of 7 on free throws for 43 percent in tallying 17 points.

The Blue Jays' only other double figure scorer was Brooks with 4 of 11 two-point shots for 36 percent and 3 of 4 charity tosses for 75 percent and 11 points.

Leading the way for Plainville was Andrew Casey with 19 points. Kyle Becker and Jameson Klein each added 12 points.



Blue Jay sophomore Jacob Brooks left a Plainville defender behind as he dribbled the ball downcourt during Norton's loss to the unbeaten and No.5 state ranked Cardinals on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Brooks scored 11 points, pulled down 5 rebounds and had 2 steals in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

As a team, Norton missed all 8 shots from long range, hit 18 of 39

two-point attempts for 46 percent but was just 18 of 47 overall for

Terrell led Norton in rebounding with 14, followed by Thomson, 9; Sprigg, 5; Rossi, 3; Griffey, Jones, 2 each; Engelbert, 1.

The Lady Jays had 11 steals and the Lady Cards had just 5 thefts. Terrell and Griffey each had 3 steals, followed by Sprigg, Thomson, 2 each; Engelbert, 1.

Norton recorded 7 assists and Plainville had 14. Rossi led with 3, followed by Griffey, Sprigg, 2 each.

The Lady Jays had 11 turnovers while causing the Lady Cards to give up the ball 18 times.

"Our girls just keep finding a way to win," said coach Jilka. "We just hang in there. We hit baskets when needed and we ran the delay game well at the end once we got a lead."

"Winters is an outstanding post player. We did a better job against her in the fourth quarter; we made her work a little harder. They missed their free throws down the stretch and that helped a lot."

"Much of our success comes from attitude and perseverance. We are playing with a lot of confidence right now and hopefully we can keep it going at Trego on Friday night."

Norton extended their record to 5-3 and Plainville fell to 5-4.

Junior varsity

Only two quarters were played in the girls junior varsity game and Norton won 15-13.

Norton trailed 9-7 after one period but outscored Plainville 8-4 in the second period.

Johnnye Ruder led Norton in scoring with 5 points, followed by

Katelyn Engelbert, 4; Antijelica Pfannenstiel, Bailey Ambrosier, Kamilla Jones, 2 each.

Katelyn Frederking led Plainville with 8 points.

"It is difficult to get into a game flow when we only play two quarters but our girls did their jobs well tonight," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"The nice thing about this group is that they want to get better and put in the extra time working on their skills. That work will reap rewards in the future."

Next action

Norton will travel to WaKeeney today to play Trego Community in Mid-Continent League girls and boys contests, beginning at 5 p.m.

The annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament will begin next week and No.4 seeded Norton will host No.5 seeded Ellis at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym.

Both teams have 5-3 records.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey, 1 2 1-2 9; Katelyn Engelbert 0 1 0-0 3; Kaylen Rossi 0 3 0-1 9; Erin Terrell 3 0 5-9 11; Dustyna Sprigg -0 1 0-0 3; Kamilla Jones 2 0 0-0 4; Caren Thomson 3 0 1-1 7; Game Totals 9 7 7-13 46.

Plainville Girls

Taylor Hixon 1 0 0-0 2; Hannah Friend 1 0 1-4 3; Courtney Copeland 1 0 0-0 2; Samantha Bobek 0 0 2-4 2; Dani Winters 14 0 3-10 31; Game Totals 17 0 6-18 40.

Mid-Continent basketball tournament starts this weekend

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team is seeded No.4 and the boys quintet is seeded No.9 in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament which will be played Saturday through Saturday, January 15-22.

In order to accommodate the nine league teams in the eight-team bracket, a feather bracket game will be held in girls and boys divisions on Saturday.

Hill City is the host school this year.

Girls

The No.1 seed in the girls division is Smith Center (7-0). On Tuesday, they will play the winner of the No.8 Osborne (2-5) vs. No.9 Stockton (1-6) feather bracket game, which will be Saturday at

6 p.m. in WaKeeney.

Other first round games on Tuesday will be No.4 Norton (5-3) vs. No.5 Ellis (5-3) at 7 p.m. in Norton; No.3 Phillipsburg (5-3) vs. No.6 Plainville (5-4) at 7 p.m. in Phillipsburg and No.2 Hill City (5-1) vs. No.7 Trego Community (4-5) at 7 p.m. in Hill City.

Winners of the Smith Center vs. Osborne/Stockton winner and the Norton vs. Ellis games will play in the semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Friday in the Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Winners of the Phillipsburg vs. Plainville and Hill City vs. Trego Community games will play in the other semi-final contest at 3 p.m. on Friday in the Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Losers of the Smith Center vs. Osborne/Stockton and Norton vs. Ellis games will play in the

consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

Losers of the Phillipsburg vs. Plainville and Hill City vs. Trego Community contests will play in the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

The girls championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the Gross Coliseum and the semi-finals losers will play in the third place game at 3 p.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

The winners of the consolation semi-finals will play for fifth place at 12 noon on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for seventh at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

Boys

Plainville (9-0) is the No.1 seed in the boys division. The Cardinals will play the winner of

Saturday's feather bracket game between No.8 Trego Community (3-6) and No.9 Norton (2-6) at 7 p.m. on Monday in Plainville.

The Norton vs. Trego feather bracket game will begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in WaKeeney.

In the other first round games on Monday, No.4 seed Smith Center (4-3) will play No.5 Phillipsburg (4-4) at 7 p.m. in Smith Center, No.3 Osborne (4-3) will play No.6 Ellis (4-4) at 7 p.m. in Osborne and No.2 Stockton (7-0) will play No.7 Hill City (3-3) at 7 p.m. in Stockton.

First round winners will play in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Friday in the semi-finals. Winners of the Plainville vs. Trego/Norton and Smith Center vs. Phillipsburg games will play at 7:30 p.m. and winners of the Osborne vs. Ellis and Stockton vs. Hill City contests will play at

4:30 p.m.

Winners of these games will play for the championship at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for third place at 4:30 p.m. in the Coliseum.

Losers of the first round games will play in the consolation semi-finals on Thursday. Losers of the Plainville vs. Trego/Norton and Smith Center vs. Phillipsburg contests will play at 7:30 p.m. in a location to be announced.

Losers of the Osborne vs. Ellis and Stockton vs. Hill City contests will play at 7:30 p.m. in a location to be announced.

Winners of the consolation semi-finals games will play for fifth place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum and the losers will play for seventh at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

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