

# Lady Jays defeat Ellis Tuesday night

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 4 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team defeated No. 5 seed Ellis 60-46 in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym.

The Lady Jays led the entire game and played well overall but the third quarter was the highlight. "We had great defense and on offense we pounded the ball inside in the third quarter," said coach Jilka.

"Erin Terrell and Tawni Griffey got hot shooting at the same time and that really helped.

"After we got a big lead, I was disappointed in how we handled it. We lost our focus a little and they came back on us in the fourth quarter.

"I'm glad to see us in the tournament semi-finals on Friday."

Six different players scored for Norton in their 14 point first quarter. Senior guard Dustyna Sprigg hit two baskets while sophomore guard Tawni Griffey, senior guard Kaylen Rossi, junior post Erin Terrell, sophomore forward Kamilla Jones and junior post Caren Thomson each hit a basket.

Ellis hit three field goals and four free throws for 10 points.

The second quarter was very similar to the first for Norton on the offensive end as the Lady Jays again showed great ball distribution in scoring 11 points while their defense limited the Lady Roaders to 6. Griffey,

Sprigg, Jones and Thomson each hit a basket, Rossi connected on a free throw and freshman guard Katelyn Engelbert hit a basket.

Ellis scored just 6 points in the quarter on two baskets and two charities as Norton led 25-16.

The third quarter was all Norton as the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Roaders 24-8. Norton went on a 13-0 run to start the second half and their full court press caused the Lady Roaders all kinds of problems.

Terrell got loose inside for four baskets and two free throws, Griffey found nothing but net on three shots, Thomson connected on two baskets, Rossi buried a trey and Engelbert hit a free throw in the period.

Three baskets and two free throws were the extent of the Ellis offense.

To the Lady Roaders' credit they did not give up and cut into the Norton advantage in the fourth quarter when they outscored the Lady Jays 22-11. The Lady Jays' final points came on three more baskets and a free throw from Terrell and two more shots by Griffey.

Terrell was leading scorer for Norton with 19 points on 8 of 12 two-point shots for 67 percent and 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent. Griffey tallied 14 points on 7 of 12 two-point attempts for 58 percent accuracy.

Leading scoring for Ellis was Courtney Waldschmidt with 18 points. Alesha Brenner added 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 6

from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 26 of 52 two-point attempts for an excellent 50 percent and 27 of 58 overall for 47 percent.

Ellis swished 1 of 6 trey tries for 17 percent, 15 of 36 two-point tries for 42 percent and 16 of 42 overall for 38 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 8 for 63 percent and Ellis connected on 13 of 20 for 65 percent.

Norton had 12 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 26 total and Ellis pulled down 11 of 21 defensive caroms for 32 total.

Thomson was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Terrell, 6; Sprigg, 5; Jones, Griffey, 3 each; Rossi, 2.

The Lady Jays had 14 assists compared to 1 for Ellis. Griffey and Sprigg each had 5, followed by Engelbert, 2; Rossi, Jones, 1 each.

Norton had 3 steals, all by Griffey, and Ellis had none.

Thomson and Rossi each blocked one shot.

The Lady Jays had 13 turnovers while their aggressive defense caused 20 Lady Roader turnovers.

#### Next action

The big win over Ellis moved the Lady Jays into the tournament semi-finals today versus No. 1 seed Smith Center, a 71-60 winner over No. 8 seed Osborne on Tuesday.

The Lady Jays and Lady Red were scheduled to play at 3 p.m. today in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.



Norton senior guard Kaylen Rossi, right, and junior post Caren Thomson battled an Ellis player for a loose basketball during the Lady Jays' 60-46 win over the Lady Roaders in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gym on Tuesday night. In the background and also on defense for Norton was freshman guard Katelyn Engelbert.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

In the other first round games in the bottom bracket on Tuesday, No. 6 seed Plainville upset No. 3 Phillipsburg 43-31 and No. 2 seed Hill City outscored No. 7 Trego 72-41.

Plainville and Hill City will play in the other semi-final contest at 6 p.m. today in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Winners of the two semi-final games will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday for the championship and losers will play at 3 p.m. for third. Both games will be in Gross

Coliseum.

In the loser's bracket on Thursday, No. 8 Osborne played No. 5 Ellis at 6 p.m. in Ellis and No. 3 Phillipsburg played No. 7 Trego at 6 p.m. in Smith Center.

Winners of these consolation semi-finals games will play at 12 noon on Saturday for fifth place and losers will play at 9 a.m. on Saturday for seventh place. Both games will be in Gross Coliseum in Hays.

#### GAME STATISTICS Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 700-014; Katelyn Engelbert 101-23; Kaylen Rossi 111-26; Erin Terrell 803-419; Dustyna Sprigg 300-06; Kamilla Jones 200-04; Caren Thomson 400-08; Game Totals 2615-860.

#### Ellis Girls

Bailey Hensley 203-77; Alesha Brenner 304-410; Mikayla Gottschalk 300-06; Courtney Waldschmidt 515-818; Kaleigh Soneson 201-15; Game Totals 15113-2046.

# Major last second loss for Blue Jays against Plainville

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team played their best game of the season on Monday versus unbeaten Plainville on the Cardinals' home court and came within seconds of pulling off a major upset in a 63-62 loss in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

The Blue Jays were leading 62-61 after a free throw by Jordan Wahlmeier with 5.6 seconds left on the clock but a last-second shot by Plainville's Kyle Becker produced the win for the Cardinals, who are No. 1 seeded in the MCL Tournament.

Norton did not play like the No. 9 seeded team in the tournament, who had to beat No. 8 seed Trego Community in a feather bracket game on Saturday to get into the tournament. In fact, a stranger watching without knowledge of the two teams' records would have thought it was the championship finals of the MCL tournament.

Norton served notice from the opening whistle that they wanted to avenge a 68-44 loss to Plainville on the Blue Jays' home court a week earlier. Junior guard Dillon McConney buried a shot from beyond the arc and senior guard Terrell Lane drove the lane for an underhanded scoop shot that scored, giving Norton a 5-2 lead.

Norton's only other points in the quarter came on a two-point basket by McConney and two-point shot by sophomore forward

Jacob Brooks as the Cardinals moved ahead 14-9.

Plainville jumped ahead 18-9 in the second quarter but Norton went on a 9-0 run as McConney hit two free throws, junior forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit two baskets and a free throw and McConney scored two more points on a fast break to tie the score at 18-18.

After Plainville hit a free throw, junior Tye Nickell put Norton ahead again on a driving layup. McConney stole the ball and was fouled and hit a charity toss to make it 21-19.

After a Cardinal turnover, senior forward Dakota Dreher swished a two-point basket, then Lane stole the ball and scored, making it 25-19 in favor of the underdog visitors.

Plainville scored but McConney tallied on a fast break and it was 27-21. Plainville scored the final five points of the first half but Norton still led 27-26 at intermission.

The Blue Jays outscored the Cardinals 18-12 in the second period.

Plainville got a field goal and free throw and two more points to start the third quarter but Nickell rang the bell from three-point land and the Cardinals led by just 32-30. Plainville increased their lead to 40-30 before Wahlmeier scored. The Cardinals hit a trey but Wahlmeier scored again, Nickell swished a free throw, Plainville matched it at the other end and Lane threw in two points. Wahlmeier took a pass from Nickell and scored. He was fouled

and hit the free throw to cut the Cardinal lead to 44-40. Plainville scored again but a Lane basket at the buzzer made it 46-42 after three periods.

Lane picked up where he left off and scored again to start the final stanza, cutting the home team's lead to two points. Plainville scored but McConney drained another three-point shot and the Cardinals led by just 48-47. Dreher hit his second basket of the night and Norton led 49-48. A Plainville basket and free throw put them back on top but a layup by Nickell tied the score at 51-all with 4:20 remaining in the game.

Plainville scored but Wahlmeier matched it and the score was knotted at 53-all. A Plainville player scored, was fouled in the process and hit the free throw but Lane tied the score again with a basket from long range. Then, Lane intercepted a Cardinal pass and drove for two points to put the Blue Jays on top with 2:54 left.

After the two teams exchanged turnovers, Wahlmeier scored on a fast break and Norton led by 60-56. A Plainville free toss made it 60-57 but Nickell stole the ball, drove and was fouled. He hit one charity and Norton led again by four points.

With less than a minute left in the game, Plainville hit two free throws and it was a two-point contest at 61-59. The Cardinals scored on a fast break to tie the score at 61-all with 26 seconds left. Wahlmeier was fouled with 5.6 seconds remaining and hit one charity to make it 62-61 but

Becker's last second shot put Plainville on top for the win.

"This loss was a heartbreaker," said coach Reusink. "Our young men outplayed Plainville but as a group we just did not do the things we needed to do down the stretch to win. Missed free throws were definitely a factor but there were many things throughout the game that could have changed the outcome.

"It's tough to lose this way but, if we can continue to play like this, we will be okay."

In the earlier game with Plainville, the Blue Jays' top scorers were Wahlmeier with 17 points and Brooks with 11. This time around, Wahlmeier tallied 19 points but Lane added 15 and McConney 13.

Wahlmeier scored his points on 8 of 13 two-point tries for 62 percent accuracy and 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent. Lane was 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 6 of 9 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 7 of 14 overall for 50 percent. McConney swished 2 of 3 from beyond the arc and 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent overall. He was 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

Leading scorer for Plainville was Jameson Klein with 20 points. Andrew Casey ended with 16 points and Becker scored 14, which included the game winning basket.

In the first meeting between the two teams, Norton was outrebounded 32-27. This time, the Blue Jays outrebounded the Cardinals 30-23. Norton had 12 offensive and 18 defensive re-

bounds compared to Plainville's 9 offensive and 14 defensive caroms.

Wahlmeier led Norton in rebounds with 11, followed by Lane, 5; Brooks, 4; Dreher, Ninemire, 3 each; McConney, Nickell, 2 each.

The Cardinals led in steals the last game but Norton had more thefts this time. The Blue Jays recorded 16 steals compared to just 6 for the Cardinals. Lane led with 6, followed by Wahlmeier, 4; Nickell, 3; Dreher, McConney, Brooks, 1 each.

Norton also had many more offensive assists, outdoing Plainville 21-4. Lane led with 8, followed by Nickell, 6; Brooks, 3; Wahlmeier, Ninemire, 2 each.

The Blue Jays blocked 4 shots and the Cardinals blocked 3. Wahlmeier had 3 rejections and Lane had 1.

The only negative statistic for Norton was in the turnover department where the Blue Jays lost the ball 20 times and Plainville had 15 turnovers.

#### Next action

The narrow loss to Plainville dropped Norton into the consolation bracket for the rest of the tournament.

Norton played Smith Center on Thursday evening in Smith Center. Complete results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time but Norton defeated Smith Center 76-65 in overtime.

In other first round games, No. 5 seed Phillipsburg defeated No. 4 seed Smith Center 65-52 in Norton's bracket. No. 3 seed

Osborne outscored No. 6 seed Ellis 45-43 and No. 2 seed Stockton beat No. 7 Hill City 71-45 in the bottom bracket.

In the other consolation game on Thursday, Ellis played Hill City in Ellis and Hill City won 67-59.

The championship semi-finals games will feature Plainville versus Phillipsburg at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and Osborne versus Stockton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The winners will play for the championship at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and the losers will play at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum in Hays for third place.

Norton will play on Saturday as well. The Blue Jays will play in the fifth place game versus Hill City at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum in Hays.

#### GAME STATISTICS

##### Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 200-04; Jordan Wahlmeier 803-619; Dillon McConney 223-413; Tye Nickell 212-49; Terrell Lane 610-115; Jacob Brooks 100-22; Game Totals 2148-2062.

##### Plainville Boys

Andrew Casey 520-216; Nolan Weiser 206-710; Bryan Brungardt 101-13; Kyle Becker 602-414; Jameson Klein 804-520; Game Totals 22213-1763.

# Norton Jayvee wrestlers defend crown at the Elm Creek Invitational wrestling tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers got the new year off to another great start last Friday by successfully defending their 2010 championship of the varsity Elm Creek Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Elm Creek, Neb.

The Blue Jay wrestlers bettered last year's 129.5 point total by scoring 140 points to win by

18 over second place Arapahoe, who tallied 122. Third place went to Elm Creek with 113, followed by Overton, 85; Lexington JV, 77; Holdrege, 61.5; Sargent Burwell, 58; Pleasanton, 38.5; Cozad JV, 34; Alma, 27; Overton, 18; Gibson, 23.

Norton had two gold medal winners. Alec Hager was the 112 pound champion and Josh Asbury won the 285 pound weight class.

Ethan Ross was runner-up at 103 pounds, R.J. Ellis placed second at 125 pounds, Austin Hager was runner-up at 135 pounds and Jared Bohl placed second at 152 pounds.

Earning the bronze medal for third place was Cody Temmel at 130 pounds.

Placing fourth were Cody Ellis, 140 and Lucas Engel, 171.

Also competing for Norton were Garret Otter, 103; Treven

Rossi, 152 and Dalton Miller, 160.

"I was very pleased with our performance this past weekend," said Norton assistant wrestling coach Shane Miller. "We have some young wrestlers who are making great strides to become better and it is paying off for them on the mat. This was our first competition back after the Christmas break and our dedication to practice certainly paid off. We were in

a lot better shape than most of our opponents and individually some of our wrestlers' technique has improved tremendously.

"Even though 10 of our 13 wrestlers placed and we came home with the team title, we lost several close matches in the medal round, some of those were overtime losses. We need not to be complacent about just getting to the medal round; we need to find a way to finish strong."

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