

# Blue Jays headed for semi-finals in Sub-State basketball

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School No.3 seeded boys basketball team opened Class 3A post-season play with a solid 62-52 victory over No.6 seeded Southwestern Heights on Monday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

The win moved the Blue Jays (12-9) into the semi-finals versus No.2 seeded Holcomb (14-7) at 6 p.m. Thursday at host school Scott City. Holcomb defeated No.7 seeded Phillipsburg 74-47 (8-12) on Monday.

In other first round games on Monday, No.1 seeded Scott City (20-1) defeated No.8 seeded Goodland (6-14) 70-35 and No.4 seeded Lakin (11-10) outscored No.5 seeded Cimarron (10-11) 52-32.

Scott City and Lakin will play at 7:30 p.m. in Scott City on Thursday.

Although Norton broke away from an early 13-all tie in the first quarter and led 41-24 late in the second quarter, the visitors from Southwestern Heights kept it interesting. They crawled back into the game and cut the Blue Jay advantage to less than double digits the rest of the way.

"We didn't make it easy on ourselves," said coach Reusink. "We'd get a good lead and then give it back up but we made plays when we needed to."

"Offensively, we handled their full court press well."

"It was an emotional roller coaster at times as we let little things hurt us."

"Our effort was good but we don't always play smart."

Norton senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier returned from an injury absence and immediately made his presence known on the offensive end. Norton outscored Southwestern Heights 16-13 in the first quarter and Wahlmeier scored 8 points on three baskets and two free throws. Senior guard Zach Hartwell buried a three-pointer and junior guard Jacob Brooks swished a trey and two-point basket in the period.

The Blue Jays pulled away in the second quarter where they outscored the visitors 15-9. Wahlmeier, Brooks and senior guard Tye Nickell each hit a basket, senior guard Dillon McConney hit a basket and free throw for a three-point play and junior forward Andrew Ellis ended the first half by burying not one, but two shots from beyond the arc!

Wahlmeier lit up the scoreboard again in the second half. He hit two more baskets and four free throws in the third quarter and four more baskets and a charity toss in the final stanza to end the game with 27 points.

Norton tallied 13 points in the third period compared to 14 for the visitors. McConney hit another basket and free throw and senior post Alec Gilgenbach tallied inside for Norton's other third quarter points.

The Blue Jays outscored Southwestern Heights 18-16 in the final quarter. In addition to Wahlmeier's 9 points, McConney hit another basket and two free throws, Brooks scored on three charities and Nickell hit two free tosses.

Brooks and McConney were the other two double figure scorers for Norton, each tallying 10 points.

Wahlmeier's 27 points came on 10 of 23 two-point shots for 44 percent accuracy and 7 of 15 free throws for 47 percent. McConney hit 3 of 4 two-point attempts for a net-smoking 75 percent and was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe. Brooks hit 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 2 of 10 two-point tries for 20 percent, 3 of 13 overall for 23 percent and was a deadeye 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Leading scorer for the Mustangs was Clayton Chase with 14 points; Ben Johnsrud and Nathan Johnsrud each scored 12.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 12 from long range for 33 percent, 17 of 44 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 21 of 56 overall for 38 percent.

Southwestern Heights swished 4 of 13 trey tries for 31 percent, 15 of 44 two-point tries for 34 percent and 19 of 57 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays swished 16 of 26 for 62 percent and the Mustangs hit 10 of 14 for 71 percent.

Norton outrebounded Southwestern Heights 32-26. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 24 defensive rebounds and the Mustangs grabbed 8 offensive and 18 defensive caroms.

Eight different Norton players pulled down at least one rebound. The leader was Wahlmeier with 8, followed by Brooks, 7; Nickell, 5; McConney, 4; Ellis, 3; Dalton Miller, 2; Gilgenbach, 2; Hartwell, 1.

Wahlmeier blocked 1 shot.

Norton had 8 steals compared to 6 for Southwestern Heights. Nickell and McConney each had 3 thefts and Brooks had 2.

The Blue Jays were credited with 16 offensive assists while the Mustangs had just 9. Brooks led Norton in assists with 5, followed by Nickell, Hartwell, Wahlmeier, 3 each; Ellis, McKenna, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Southwestern Heights lost the ball 17 times.

Results of Thursday's games will not be reported until Tuesday's paper due to the Telegram's press deadline.

#### Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 1 0 2-2 4; Jacob Brooks 2 1 3-4 10;



Norton senior guard Dillon McConney drives inside and avoids an attempted block by a Southwestern Heights player to score another basket in the Blue Jays' Class 3A Sub-State Tournament victory in the NCHS Stull Gym on Tuesday evening. With the win, Norton moved into the semi-finals versus Holcomb on Thursday evening in Scott City. McConney hit 75 percent of his field goal attempts and was perfect at the free throw line, ending the game with 10 points.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Zach Hartwell 0 1 0-0 3; Jordan Wahlmeier 10 0 7-15 27; Dillon McConney 3 0 4-4 10; Andrew Ellis 0 2 0-1 6; Alec Gilgenbach 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 17 4 16-26 62.

#### Southwestern Heights Boys

Ben Johnsrud 3 2 0-0 12; Nathan Johnsrud 1 2 4-4 12; Trevor Lee 2 0 0-0 4; Lane Sherer 2 0 0-0 4; Clayton Chase 5 0 4-5 14; Jason Eakes 1 0 0-0 2; David Stout 1 0 2-5 4; Game Totals 15 4 10-14 52.

# Lady Jays lose to Phillipsburg in first round of Sub-State

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's No.6 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team had upset on their mind on Tuesday evening when they played the No.3 seeded Phillipsburg quintet in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament in the Chuck Newlin Gym in Phillipsburg and still had that goal in sight until the fourth quarter when the Lady Panthers moved ahead to win 54-42.

With junior point guard Tawni Griffey hitting three baskets from beyond the arc and sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert burying a long range shot along with a two-point basket by senior post Erin Terrell, the Lady Jays surprised the higher seeded Lady Panthers by jumping out to a 14-4 lead.

After the initial shock, Phillipsburg did some scoring of their own and tied the score at 14-all by the end of the first period.

The two teams traded baskets in the second quarter which ended with the Lady Panthers outscoring the Lady Jays 13-11 to lead 27-25 at intermission. Norton's points came on a basket from beyond the arc and two-pointer from junior guard Teslee Nickell and single baskets by Terrell, senior post Caren Thomson and junior guard Kamilla Jones.

Engelbert hit a two-point basket to start the third quarter and tie the score and the two teams traded baskets until a basket from beyond the arc by Jones tied the score at 34-all. Phillipsburg scored the next 7 points, however, and Norton's only other basket was a two-pointer by Nickell. Thomson and Terrell also hit baskets in the quarter which ended with the Lady Panthers leading 41-36 and Norton still very much in the game.

Phillipsburg scored the first two baskets of the final stanza, however, as turnovers began to hurt the Lady Jays, who were unable to match the Lady Panthers in scoring. In fact, Norton

fell off in scoring from the first three quarters, putting only 6 points on the scoreboard compared to 13 for the home team. Norton's final points came on a basket and two free throws by Thomson and basket by Engelbert.

"I'm proud of the way our girls played," said coach Jilka. "We played hard, shot well and hung in their on the boards but just gave up too many easy points."

"We did a lot of good things but had way too many turnovers and that's the bottom line."

"We had the lead and then gave them some easy points. We had them on the ropes for awhile but couldn't finish it. This was one of our best games of the year but we just ran out of gas."

"We will miss our two seniors, Erin Terrell and Caren Thomson, but I hope the rest of the squad will gain some confidence from this game and remember it for next season."

"We had a great Norton crowd and we appreciate that support in this game as well as throughout the season."

Griffey led Norton in scoring with 9 points on her three treys in the first quarter. She was 3 of 8 from long range for 38 percent. Thomson tallied 8 points on 3 of 4 two-point tries for 75 percent and was a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Nickell hit 1 of 1 from beyond the arc for 100 percent, 2 of 5 two-point attempts for 40 percent and was 3 of 6 overall for 50 percent accuracy and 7 points.

Raegan Vanderplas led Phillipsburg in scoring with 23 points, many of them coming on layups from steals. Mattison Dusin and Jordan Kellerman each added 10 points to the Lady Panther total.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 17 from beyond the arc for 35 percent, 11 of 32 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 17 of 49 overall for 35 percent.

Phillipsburg swished 3 of 14 from long range for 21 percent,

22 of 42 two-point tries for 52 percent and 25 of 56 overall for 45 percent.

As it turned out, neither team fouled much so free throws had no effect on the outcome of the game. Norton hit 2 for 2 charities and Phillipsburg swished 1 of 2.

Rebounding was fairly even. Norton pulled down 5 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 22

total and Phillipsburg grabbed 10 offensive and 15 defensive boards for 25.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Nickell with 7, followed by Terrell, 4; Bailey Ambrosier, 3; Jones, 3; Griffey, 2; Engelbert, 2; Thomson, 1.

The Lady Jays had 13 steals compared to 14 by the Lady Panthers. Terrell led Norton in thefts with 4, followed by Jones,

3; Engelbert, 2; Thomson, 2; Griffey, 1; Ambrosier, 1.

Norton was credited with 12 offensive assists while Phillipsburg had 13.

Griffey and Jones led with 4 assists each, followed by Terrell, 2; Nickell, 1; Thomson, 1.

As mentioned earlier, Norton had too many turnovers. The Lady Jays lost the ball 20 times and the Lady Panthers gave it up 13 times.

Norton ended the season with a 9-12 record and Phillipsburg will take a 15-5 record into tonight's semi-finals game versus No.2 seed Cimarron (18-2) at 6 p.m. in host town Scott City.

In the second game at 7:30 p.m., No.1 seed Southwestern Heights (18-2) will play No.4 seed Holcomb (15-6).

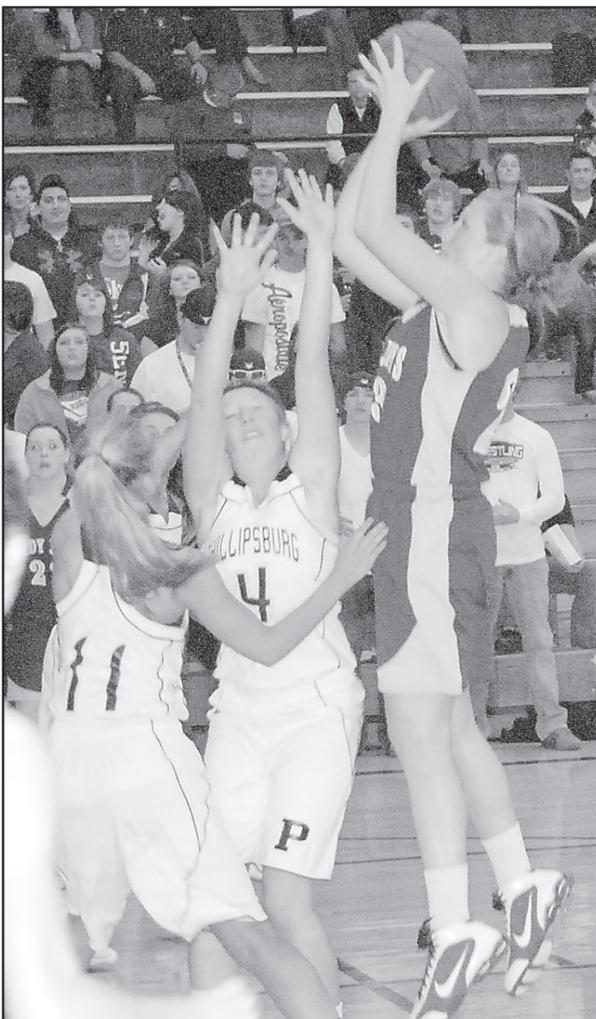
In the other first round girls games on Tuesday, Southwestern Heights defeated No.8 seed Goodland 55-27, Holcomb outscored No.5 seed Lakin and Cimarron beat No.7 Scott City 47-42.

#### Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 0 3 0-0 9; Katelyn Engelbert 2 1 0-0 7; Teslee Nickell 2 1 0-0 7; Erin Terrell 3 0 0-0 6; Kamilla Jones 1 1 0-0 5; Caren Thomson 3 0 2-2 8; Game Totals 11 6 2-2 42.

#### Phillipsburg Girls

Jordan Kellerman 2 2 0-0 10; Shania Wilkison 0 0 1-2 1; Raegan Vanderplas 10 1 0-0 23; Madysen Frantz 1 0 0-0 2; Regan Bartels 4 0 0-0 8; Mattison Dusin 5 0 0-0 10; Game Totals 22 3 1-2 54.



Norton senior post Erin Terrell scores on a jump shot in the paint during the Lady Jays' hard-fought Class 3A Sub-State loss to Phillipsburg in the Chuck Newlin Gym on Tuesday night. Erin and senior teammate Caren Thomson played the final game of their outstanding basketball careers for Norton Community High School.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

## American Legion Baseball

### Organizational Meeting/Practice at John Ryan Field, Sunday, March 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Those born on or after Jan. 1, 1993 are eligible to play

If interested in playing this season, please attend this meeting or contact Scott Ellis at 877-3671

◀ 2011 AA Zone Champions ▶

NORTON RECREATION COMMISSION IS HOSTING AN OPEN RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR ST. PADDY'S DAY

## Saturday, March 17

This tournament is for all levels of players and the entry fee is just \$5.00. PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

Please call Gail Roy at 874-4310 or the Norton Rec at 877-3087 to sign up to play.

Entries should be in by Thursday, March 15.