

Lady Jays defeat Lady Cardinals

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team jumped out to an early lead over an outstanding Plainville squad and held off a late rally by the Lady Cardinals to win 52-47 on Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the Stull Gym in Norton.

The Mid-Continent League victory over a Plainville team coming off a tournament championship extended Norton's season record to 6-3.

Norton held a comfortable 13-6 lead after the first quarter. Junior post Bailey Ambrosier led the way with three baskets and a free throw. Junior guards Katelyn Engelbert and Darcy Bainter each hit a basket and senior post Alec Melvin also scored on a two-point shot.

By outscoring Plainville 14-8 in the second quarter, Norton led 27-14 at halftime. Senior point guard Tawni Griffey buried two three-point baskets while Ambrosier hit another basket and two charities, junior guard Johnnye Ruder and senior Kamilla Jones each hit a basket.

The Lady Cardinals played the Lady Jays evenly in the third quarter, outscoring them 9-8 to make the score a still comfortable 35-23 lead for Norton.

Griffey added two more treys and Ambrosier hit two free throws for Norton's points.

Norton had their best scoring quarter in the fourth when the Lady Jays tallied 17 points but Plainville ended with a scoring flurry, scoring 24 points to cut the final margin of victory down to five points.

Griffey hit one last trey in the final quarter, Engelbert hit a basket and free throw, Ambrosier added two more field goals and a charity, Ruder hit a trey and two-point basket and Jones swished a free throw.

Norton led by 12 points at 50-38 with 2:15 left in the game but Plainville outscored them 9-2 in the final minutes.

"It was a big win for us and will help in our upcoming league tournament seeding," said coach Rossi. "I was happy the way we came out in the first half and played defense. It was really special. It was the best defensive half we've played."

"We came out flat in the second half and didn't have as many fast breaks on offense and our defense was not as aggressive."

"We need to work on our end-of-the-game play but we're happy with the win."

Ambrosier led Norton in scoring with 18 points on 6 of 7 field

goals for a net-smoking 86 percent accuracy and 6 of 10 free throws for 60 percent.

Griffey hit 5 of 10 three-point shots for 50 percent and 15 points.

Allison Sears led Plainville with 13 points. Kim Junkermeier hit 11, most of them in the fourth quarter and Hannah Friend added 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 13 three-point shots for 46 percent, 13 of 34 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 19 of 47 overall for an excellent 40 percent.

Plainville hit 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 17 of 46 two-point tries for 37 percent and 18 of 51 overall for 35 percent.

The Lady Jays swished 8 of 14 free throw attempts for 57 percent and the Lady Cardinals tallied on 10 of 11 for 91 percent.

Norton pulled down 7 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 22 total. Plainville grabbed 13 offensive and 21 defensive boards for 34 total.

Ambrosier led in rebounds with 7, followed by Engelbert, 6; Jones, 3; Ruder, 2; Melvin, 2; Bainter, 1; Griffey, 1.

Melvin had 2 of Norton's 4 steals. Engelbert and Ambrosier each had 1 theft. Plainville had 5 steals.

Norton had just 7 turnovers while Plainville lost the ball 13 times.

Junior varsity

Plainville won the junior varsity game by a 30-27 score.

Norton trailed 7-2 after one quarter but tied the score at 13-all by halftime. Norton led 22-19 after three quarters but was outscored 11-5 in the final period.

Sierra Griffith led Norton in scoring with 11 points, followed by Casey Ambrosier, 4; Katie Bohl, 3; Hannah Brooks, 3; Marisa Maddy, 2; Peyton Renner, 2; Molly Maddy, 1; Lauren Mordecai, 1.

Brenee Robinson led Plainville with 7 points.

"Our girls played much better," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We played the best defense we have so far this year."

"Offensively, we will work on having some confidence to shoot the ball when the opportunity is there."

"Overall, I was pleased and am seeing improvement."

C-team

Only two quarters were played in the C-team game, which ended in an 18-all tie.

Molly Maddy led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Lexi Voss, 6; Alexis Hartwell, 3; Cristine Nelson, 1.



Lady Jay senior Tawni Griffey hits a three-point basket over a Plainville defender during Norton's win over the Lady Cardinals in the Stull Gym on Tuesday evening. Griffey hit 50 percent from beyond the arc and ended with 15 points in the contest, all from long range. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Robinson led Plainville with 10 points.

"Our girls played hard and had several opportunities to win the game," said Norton assistant

coach Cheri Brooks.

"We did a better job of executing compared to previous games but still need to eliminate turnovers."

Norton ball teams competing in Mid-Continent Tourney

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team is seeded No. 4 and the boys quintet is seeded No. 6 in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament which began Saturday and will finish this Saturday.

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

Hill City is the host school this year.

Girls

The No.8 seeded Phillipsburg

girls played No. 9 seed Trego in Hill City on Saturday and Phillipsburg won the game by a score of 48-33.

On Tuesday, the No.1 seeded Smith Center girls will host Phillipsburg, the No.4 seeded Norton girls will host No.5 Plainville, No.2 Ellis will host No.7 Hill City and No.3 Osborne will host No.6 Stockton.

All first round games will begin at 6 p.m.

Winners of the Smith Center-Phillipsburg and Norton-Plainville games will play in the championship bracket at 3 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Winners of the Ellis-Hill City and Osborne-Stockton contests will play in the championship bracket at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Losers of the Smith Center-Phillipsburg and Norton-Plainville games will play at 6 p.m. on Thursday in Plainville and losers of the Ellis-Hill City and Osborne-Stockton games will play at 6 p.m. on Thursday in Plainville.

Winners of Friday's semi-final games in the championship bracket will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays for the league

championship.

The championship semi-finals losers will play at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum for third place in the tournament.

Winners of the consolation semi-finals on Thursday will play for fifth place at noon on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and losers will play for seventh at 9 a.m. on Saturday in the Coliseum.

Boys

Phillipsburg is the No.1 seed in the boys division.

In the feather bracket game between No.8 Hill City and No.9 Osborne on Saturday, Hill

City won by a 54-47 score.

In Monday's first round games, Phillipsburg hosted Hill City, No.4 seed Stockton hosted No.5 Ellis, No.2 Plainville hosted No.7 Trego and No.3 Smith Center hosted No.6 Norton.

Scores of these games were not yet available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

First round winners will play in the championship semi-finals at Gross Coliseum on Friday. The winners of the Phillipsburg-Hill City and Stockton-Ellis games will play at 4:30 p.m. and winners of the Plainville-Trego and Smith Center-Norton contests will play at 7:30 p.m.

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

Losers of the first round games will play in the consolation semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in Plainville.

Consolation winners will play for fifth place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum in Hays and consolation losers will play at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for seventh place.

Norton girls have good showing in win over Trego Eagles

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team didn't shoot as well as Trego but made up for it by taking more shots and outrebounding the Lady Golden Eagles in a 51-40 Mid-Continent League win on Friday night in WaKeeney.

Norton hit just 33 percent from the field but took 54 shots compared to Trego's 40 percent and just 43 shots.

The Lady Jays also took 14 free throws and hit 8 for 57 percent while the Lady Golden Eagles got to the line just 6 times, hitting 4 for 67 percent.

Norton also outrebounded Trego 34-23.

All of these things made enough of a difference that Norton led the entire way.

"Trego is much better than their record shows," said Nor-

ton head girls coach George Rossi. "They have had a brutal schedule and we were fortunate to come out with a win."

"Our girls played very well at times and not so good at others. We had a hard time hitting outside shots in the first half but when Tawni Griffey was not hitting treys, Kamilla Jones and Johnnye Ruder did a great job of stepping up."

"What we need to do is put together a full game. We have had some great moments in the last couple of games; now we just need to put it all together."

With five different girls scoring, Norton took a 15-10 first quarter lead. Ruder and Jones each hit a shot from beyond the arc, Baily Ambrosier hit two baskets and a free throw and Katelyn Engelbert and Griffey each hit a two-point basket.

Norton also had good point distribution again in the second

period with five girls scoring. Griffey found the range on a three-point shot for the first time in the game, Engelbert and Darcy Bainter each hit a two-point basket, Katie Bohl swished a basket and free throw and Alec Melvin hit a charity toss. The Lady Jays outscored the home team 11-8 in the period to take a 26-18 halftime lead.

Most of Norton's points in the third quarter came on baskets from long range as the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Golden Eagles 13-10 to extend their lead to 39-28.

Hitting from beyond the arc were Griffey, Ruder and Jones, who also added a two-point basket. Ambrosier also hit a two-point.

The fourth quarter was even with both teams hitting 12 points. Griffey went to the free throw line four times and was perfect on all four and also

added a two-point basket. Ruder buried another three pointer, Bohl hit a two-point shot and Ambrosier added a charity toss.

Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points on 2 of 15 from long range, 2 of 7 two-point tries and 4 of 4 free throws.

Addie Zeman led Trego with 9 points.

As a team, Norton hit 11 of 30 two-point shots for 36 percent, 7 of 24 three-point tries for 29 percent and 18 of 54 overall for 33 percent.

Trego hit just 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 15 of 36 two-point attempts for 42 percent and 17 of 43 overall for 40 percent.

The Lady Jays grabbed 17 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 34 total. The Lady Golden Eagles pulled down 6 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 23 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Bailey Ambrosier with 8, followed by Katelyn Engelbert, 7, Tawni Griffey, Darcy Bainter, Kamilla Jones, 4 each; Alec Melvin, 3; Katie Bohl and Johnnye Ruder, 2 each.

Griffey had 3 of Norton's 4 offensive assists and Jones had the other one.

Norton had 6 steals compared to 9 for Trego. Engelbert and Bainter each had 2 thefts and Griffey and Ambrosier had one apiece.

The Lady Jays had 14 turnovers and the Lady Golden Eagles lost the ball 17 times to the aggressive Norton defense.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls lost to Trego by a score of 33-25.

The young Lady Jays trailed 8-5 after one quarter but outscored Trego 10-5 in the second quarter to take a 15-13 halftime

lead. Norton was outscored 12-4 in the third period to fall behind 25-19 and also was outscored 8-6 in the fourth period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Sierra Griffith with 9 points, followed by Hannah Brooks, 5; Casey Ambrosier, 5; Peyton Renner, 4; Katie Bohl, 2.

Top scorer for Trego was Addie Zeman with 9.

"Our junior varsity girls hustled hard," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We dominated many aspects of the game but had trouble hitting baskets."

"Our press gave them fits but we could not finish the transition."

"Things are coming together on defense and we are running our offense better."

Norton Blue Jays lose to Trego in Mid-Continent League play

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team fell too far behind in the first quarter of their Mid-Continent League game on Friday night in WaKeeney and, despite playing the Golden Eagles even for the next three quarters, could never make up the early deficit in a 62-44 loss.

Norton was outscored 22-5 in a first quarter which saw Dalton Miller hit a shot from long range and Jacob Brooks swish a two-pointer.

The Blue Jays edged the Golden Eagles 10-9 in the second quarter but still trailed 31-15 at intermission. Norton's points came on baskets by Andrew Ellis, Ryan Bainter and Carson McKenna and four of

four free throws by Brooks.

The third quarter was another low scoring one for both teams with Trego edging Norton 9-7 in the period to extend their lead to 40-22. The Blue Jays' only points in the quarter came on a basket and free throw by Lane Bigge, basket by Miller and two free throws by Brooks.

The Blue Jays had by far their best quarter of the game in the fourth when they hit as many points as they had in the previous three quarters. Their 22 points did nothing to cut down the Trego lead, however, because they also scored 22 points in the period.

Miller hit three field goals and a free throw, Ellis and Drew Schrum buried three-point shots, Brooks hit two baskets and three free throws and Bigge

swished another basket in the final period.

"We played poorly from the start and never got anything going," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "This group has been up and down all season with nobody showing any consistency. Just when I think we may be showing some mental toughness, we take steps backward when things get a little tough."

Brooks was leading scorer for Norton with 15 points on 3 of 11 shots for 27 percent and a perfect 9 of 9 from the charity stripe.

Miller added 12 points on 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, a perfect 4 of 4 two-point shots for 100 percent, 5 of 9 overall for 56 percent and 1 of 1 from the charity stripe.

Leading scorer for Trego was Griffith with 31 points while Riedel hit 17 as the two of them hit 77 percent of the Golden Eagles' points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 17 from beyond the arc for 18 percent, 12 of 31 two-point tries for 39 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

Trego hit 5 of 12 long range shots for 42 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44 percent and 20 of 46 overall for 44 percent.

Norton hit 11 of 14 free throw attempts for 79 percent and Trego swished 17 of 23 charities for 74 percent.

Norton edged Trego 24-22 in the rebound department. The Blue Jays pulled down 4 offensive and 20 defensive caroms and the Golden Eagles grabbed

6 offensive and 16 defensive boards.

Brooks was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by McKenna, 4; Schrum, Ellis, Bigge, 3 each; Miller, 2; Tanner Furbush, Bainter, 1 each.

Both teams had 11 offensive assists in the game. Schrum and Miller were leaders with 4 each, followed by Brooks, 2; Ellis, 1.

Norton had 6 steals and Trego had 12. Brooks had 2 thefts, followed by Schrum, Miller, Furbush, Bigge, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 19 turnovers compared to 11 for the Golden Eagles.

Junior varsity

Nine different players scored as the Norton junior varsity boys ran away with their game with Trego, winning by a score of 49-17.

Norton held quarter leads of 10-4, 26-9 and 37-15.

Leading scorer for the young Blue Jays was Trevor Lewis with 12 points, followed by Drew Schrum, 7; Quinton Porter, 7; Marc Miller, 6; Tanner Furbush, 5; Conor Cox, 4; Jordan Karnopp, 4; Breven Sondergaard, 2; Kobie Unterseher, 2.

Leading scorers for Trego with 3 points each were Satran, Flax and Reitcheck.

C-team

Norton edged Trego 16-14 in the two-quarter C-team game.

Norton trailed 8-6 after one quarter but outscored Trego 10-6 in the second period for the victory.

Quinton Porter scored 11 points and Kobie Unterseher tallied 5 points for the young Blue Jay boys.