

Lady Jays outscored by Colby Eagles

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team fell behind early and had no chance to catch up in a game against a strong, talented Colby team on Friday, Jan. 25 and was outscored 64-34.

Colby led 18-5 after one quarter and 29-12 at halftime.

Norton's only first period points came on a three-point basket by Johnnye Ruder and two-point basket by Kamilla Jones.

In the second quarter, Norton was outscored by just 11-7. Tawni Griffey hit a basket and two free throws and Jones swished a shot from beyond the arc.

The Lady Jays kept up with the Lady Eagles in the third quarter, thanks to a hot hand by Griffey, but were too far behind for it to make any difference. Griffey poured in four shots from long range and a two-point basket as the Lady Jays scored 18 points in the quarter. Bailey Ambrosier hit her only two baskets in the game to account for Norton's other four points. Colby hit 21 points in the quarter which ended with the Lady Eagles ahead 50-30.

The Lady Jays' only points in the fourth quarter came on Katelyn Engelbert's only basket of the night and two free throws by Griffey. Meanwhile, the Lady Eagles added 14 more points to their total.

"Colby is a very quick and disciplined team and we knew that coming into this game," said Norton head coach George

Rossi.

"We did not play at the speed that we were hoping to play. Colby put us on the ropes early and we could not answer. Our girls play hard but Colby was bigger, faster and stronger.

"The good thing is we will use this game to get better down the road. Hopefully, games like tonight will prepare us for sub-state.

"We need to keep our head up, stay together and supportive of each other and this group could surprise someone down the road."

Tawni Griffey led Norton in scoring with 20 points. She hit 4 of 9 three-point attempts for 44 percent accuracy, 2 of 5 from two-point distance for 40 percent and 6 of 14 overall for 43 percent. She was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Leading scorer for Colby was Ortnr with 15 points, all of which she scored in the third quarter. Kriss added 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 17 from beyond the arc for 35 percent, 6 of 19 two-point shots for 32 percent and 12 of 36 overall for 33 percent.

Colby was accurate on 4 of 11 from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 23 of 34 two-point tries for a torrid 68 percent and 27 of 45 overall for 60 percent!

Griffey was the only Norton player to shoot free throws and made all four of them. Colby was 6 of 8 at the line for 75 percent accuracy.

Norton grabbed 14 rebounds, 3 offensive and 11 defensive while Colby pulled down 7 offensive and 17 defensive car-

oms for 24 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Engelbert with 5, followed by Ambrosier, 4; Griffey, 2; Katie Bohl, Ruder, Alec Melvin, 1 each.

Norton had 6 steals and Colby had 12 thefts. Steals leaders for Norton were Griffey and Melvin with 2 each, followed by Darcy Bainter, Ambrosier, 1 each.

Norton had 19 turnovers compared to 9 by the Colby five.

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 2 4 4-4 20; Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 0-0 4; Johnnye Ruder 0 1 0-0 3; Kamilla Jones 1 1 0-0 5; Totals 6 6 4-4 34.

Colby girls

Terrell 2 0 0-0 4; Shull 4 0 2-2 10; Ortnr 3 3 0-0 15; Stephens 0 0 1-1 1; Curry 0 0 1-2 1; Strange 1 0 0-0 2; Bell 3 1 2-2 11; Slour 3 0 0-0 6; Kriss 7 0 0-0 14; Totals 23 4 6-7 64.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost their game with Colby by a 39-17 score.

Colby held quarter leads of 7-4, 16-8 and 28-15.

Casey Ambrosier led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by Marisa Maddy, 3; Peyton Renner, 2; Sierra Griffith, 2.

Menges led Colby with 10 and Sloan added 9.

"I can't fault our girls with their hustle but rebounding was our primary downfall," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"We also missed a lot of short shots and layups.

"On the other hand, we han-

dled the press better than previous games.

"Overall, we showed defensive improvement and hustle was very strong."

C-team

Norton lost to Colby by a score of 19-10 in the two-quarter C-team contest.

The young Lady Jays scored 6 points in the first quarter and 4

in the second.

Casey Ambrosier led Norton with 4 points, followed by Hannah Brooks, Molly Maddy, Kylie Perez, 2 each.

"We played very hard defensively but struggled connecting on our shots," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks.

"We were very patient on offense and had opportunities to

score but not very many of our girls wanted to step up and take the shot.

"I was pleased with our press that created numerous turnovers by Colby.

"We will continue to work on becoming a more offensive threat and boxing out."

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Blue Jays take a hard loss against Colby

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team continued to play hard on Friday, Sept. 25 at Colby but numbers were against them in a 50-41 loss.

The Blue Jays stayed close the entire game but they were outshot from both the field and free throw line and outrebounded. Norton had more steals and fewer turnovers but these two things were unable to swing the balance Norton's way.

"This was another tough loss where we had opportunities to get the win but could not come up with the plays to get it done," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"We played hard but just did not play very smart at times. We missed too many layups and easy shots around the basket plus we were bad at the free throw line.

"We just need to keep plugging away and the wins will come."

Colby took a 16-8 lead in the first quarter and that eight-point lead was close to the final margin of victory. Norton's first quarter points came on three baskets by Jacob Brooks and two free throws by Lane Bigge.

The Blue Jays' best quarter was the second when they outscored Colby 16-10 to cut the Eagles' lead to 26-24 at intermission. Six different Norton players scored in the period. Brooks hit a shot from beyond the arc and a two-pointer, Drew Schrum hit his first basket and a free throw, Dalton Miller buried a three-point shot, Tanner Furbush hit a two-point basket, Carson McKenna scored on a two-point attempt and Conor Cox swished a free throw.

Unfortunately, all but one Norton player went cold in the

second half. The Blue Jays tallied just 6 points in the third period. Tanner Furbush hit all three baskets. Colby scored 13 points to extend their lead to 39-30.

Furbush continued to have the hot hand in the fourth quarter where he hit three more baskets. Brooks hit a trey and McKenna swished two free throws for Norton's only other points.

Colby also hit 11 points in the final period, however, to maintain the nine-point lead.

Furbush and Brooks both scored 14 points to lead Norton in scoring. Furbush hit a net-smoking 7 of 9 shots from the field for 78 percent accuracy!

Brooks scored on 2 of 15 trey tries for 13 percent, 4 of 14 two-point shots for 29 percent and 6 of 29 overall for 21 percent.

Leading scorer for Colby was Todd Cane with 19 points. Marc Bremenkamp added 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 3 of 19 from beyond the arc for 16 percent, 13 of 36 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 16 of 55 overall for 30 percent.

Colby swished 3 of 8 from long range for 38 percent, 16 of 30 two-point tries for 53 percent and 19 of 38 overall for an even 50 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 6 of 15 for 40 percent while the Eagles connected on 9 of 13 for 69 percent.

Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 21 total. Colby grabbed only 5 offensive but 21 defensive caroms for 26 total. Furbush was Norton's leading rebounder with 5, followed by McKenna, Brooks, 4 each; Cox, 3; Schrum, Bigge, 2 each; Miller, 1.

Brooks blocked 2 shots and McKenna rejected 1.

The Blue Jays had 15 steals compared to 9 by the Eagles. Ball hawking McKenna led with

7 thefts, followed by Brooks, Schrum, 3 each; Miller, Furbush, 1 each.

Norton had 4 offensive assists and Colby had 9. Schrum had 2 while Miller and McKenna each had 1.

The Blue Jays had 18 turnovers but the aggressive Norton defense forced Colby into 27 turnovers!

Junior Varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost a close 27-23 game to Colby.

Norton led 7-5 after one quarter but the score was tied 11-11 at halftime. The young Blue Jays trailed 18-15 after three quarters and were outscored 9-8 in the final stanza.

Tanner Furbush was leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 8 points, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 4; Quinton Porter, 4; Jordan Karnopp, 4; Connor Griffey, 3.

Connor Mountford, Ashton Rush and Austin Russ each scored 6 for Colby.

C-team

Norton lost the two-quarter C-team game by a 22-18 score.

Quinton Porter led Norton in scoring with 12 points, followed by Connor Griffey, Noah Johnson, James Berry, 2 each.

Tanner Lee led Colby with 7; Austin Boehme hit 6 points.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 4 2 0-0 14; Conor Cox 0 0 1-4 1; Drew Schrum 1 0 1-3 3; Dalton Miller 0 1 0-0 3; Tanner Furbush 7 0 0-2 14; Carson McKenna 1 0 2-2 4; Lane Bigge 0 0 2-4 2; Totals 13 3 6-15 41.

Colby boys

Luke Cox 4 0 0-1 8; Zane Winger 2 0 0-0 4; Todd Kane 4 3 2-3 19; Ashton Russ 0 0 1-2 1; Marc Bremenkamp 5 0 4-6 14; Wiatt Binder 1 0 2-2 4; Totals 16 3 9-13 50.

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