

# Lady Jays suffer loss to Smith Center

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team members knew going into their game with No. 5 state ranked Smith Center on the Lady Red's home court Tuesday, Jan. 29 that they would have to play well to pull off an upset.

The Lady Jays played right with Smith Center in three of the four quarters before suffering a 69-47 loss.

Norton came within six points of Smith Center when the first, second and fourth quarters are added but the Lady Jays were outscored 25-9 in the third period.

"This was a tough loss," said Norton head coach George Rossi. "The third quarter was just a beat down. Even in the fourth quarter, we were in reach until late in the game.

"Smith Center will not let you make a mistake without penalty. The Lady Red also did a much better job of getting the ball down on their break and we did not do a good job getting back on defense.

"I am proud of our girls' effort. A lot of teams will give up when they have a quarter like our third quarter but our girls just don't give up. They don't hang their heads and pout and that says a great deal about them.

"We know we have the ability to play with good teams. We just need to improve in all areas."

Norton trailed 15-10 after the first quarter. Tawni Griffey hit two field goals and two free throws, Katie Bohl swished two charities and Bailey Ambrosier hit a basket for the Lady Jays in the period.

Norton's best quarter was the second when the Lady Jays also hit 15 points but held Smith Center to just 12 points to trail by just 27-25 at halftime.

Five different girls scored for Norton in the second quarter. Katie Bohl got two baskets inside, Griffey hit a basket and three free throws, Katelyn Engelbert and Kamilla Jones each added a basket and Alec Melvin swished two charities.

Smith Center pulled away in the third period, however, scor-

ing 25 points. Norton's 9 points in the quarter came on a three-point and two-point basket by Griffey, trey by Johnnye Ruder and free throw by Bohl.

The fourth quarter was close again, with Smith Center outscoring Norton by just 17-13 but the damage had already been done. Norton's final points came on two more baskets from beyond the arc and a free throw by Ruder, a basket and two charities by Ambrosier and another basket by Griffey.

Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points. She hit 1 of 5 trey tries for 20 percent, 5 of 9 two-point attempts for 56 percent and 6 of 14 overall for 43 percent accuracy. She also converted 5 of 7 free throws for 71 percent.

Ruder scored in double figures with 10 points on 3 of 4 shots from beyond the arc for 75 percent accuracy and 1 of 2 free throws.

Trenna Cox led Smith Center with 13 points but they had excellent scoring distribution as Alexis Ryan, Blair McNary, Sydney Benoit, Colbie Decker

and Sierra Kuhn each tallied 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 9 trey tries for 44 percent, 11 of 32 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 15 of 41 overall for 37 percent.

Smith Center hit 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent, 27 of 56 two-point tries for 48 percent and 30 of 63 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 13 of 23 for 57 percent and the Lady Red converted 6 of 12 for 50 percent.

Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 28 total.

Smith Center grabbed 16 offensive and 20 defensive caroms for 36 total.

Eight different Norton players pulled down at least one rebound.

Katelyn Engelbert led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Ambrosier, 6; Griffey, Bohl, Jones, 3 each; Ruder, Melvin, 2 each; Darcy Bainter, 1.

The Lady Jays had 7 offensive assists. Griffey led with 4, followed by Bainter, 2; Engel-

bert, 1.

Bohl had 3 of Norton's 7 steals. Griffey had 2 thefts and Engelbert and Bainter each had 1 steal.

Smith Center had 12 steals. The Lady Jays had 23 turnovers but Norton's aggressive defense caused the Lady Red to turn the ball over 20 times.

## Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity was outscored 48-24.

Norton trailed by quarters 10-8, 23-16 and 35-22.

Katie Bohl led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Hannah Brooks, 6; Casey Ambrosier, 6; Peyton Renner, 4.

Kaitlin Albert led Smith Center with 15 points.

"We struggled with turnovers and shooting," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"Our defensive pressure was strong but we struggled with transitioning the stolen balls to buckets. We get frustrated but, if we just keep working hard, the offense will come."

## C-team

Norton was also outscored 21-14 in the two-quarter C-team

game.

Kylie Perez and Alexis Hartwell each hit 4 points for Norton, followed by Casey Ambrosier, 3; Cristine Nelson, 2; Lexi Voss, 1.

"Despite the final score, the game was close until the final minute," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks. "This is the hardest we have played defensively. We got several steals from cutting off the dribbler and denying; however, we killed ourselves with turnovers."

## Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 5 1 5-7 18; Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2; Katie Bohl 2 0 3-6 7; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 2-4 6; Johnnye Ruder 0 3 1-2 10; Alec Melvin 0 0 2-4 2; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 11 4 13-23 47.

## Smith Center girls

Trenna Cox 5 1 0-0 13; Kaitlin Albert 0 2 0-0 6; Alexis Ryan 5 0 0-2 10; Blair McNary 4 0 2-3 10; Sydney Benoit 4 0 2-5 10; Colbie Decker 4 0 2-3 10; Sierra Kuhn 5 0 0-0 10; Totals 27 3 6-13 69.

# Blue Jays lose to Redmen by a narrow margin

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School and Smith Center High School boys varsity basketball teams have engaged in two hard-fought contests on the Redmen's own court this season and, unfortunately for the Blue Jays, the Redmen have won both contests by close scores.

In the first contest, Norton was seeded No.6 in the Mid-Continent League Tournament and Smith Center was No.3. The Redmen won that game 68-64.

On Tuesday, Jan. 29, Norton returned to Smith Center for the regular season game and, once again, it was a hotly contested meeting of the two rivals with the Redmen outlasting the Blue Jays 67-60.

Although Norton outrebounded Smith Center, the Blue Jays' excellent 45 percent field goal shooting could not match the Redmen's torrid 63 percent accuracy.

With senior guard Jacob Brooks leading the way, Norton took what appeared to be a commanding 20-10 lead by the end of the first quarter. Brooks hit three baskets from beyond the arc and a free throw, senior guard Dalton Miller buried a trey and also hit a two-point shot and senior forward Andrew Ellis also found the range from beyond the arc. Senior guard Carson McKenna added a two-

point basket.

The Redmen put a lid on Norton's basket in the second quarter, however, when the Blue Jays hit just 5 points on one two-point basket by Brooks, a basket by McKenna and free throw by junior guard Drew Schrum. Needless to say, Smith Center caught up and took the lead with 19 points.

The Blue Jays scored 12 points in the third quarter but the Redmen tallied 17 more to stretch their slim 29-25 halftime lead to 46-37. Norton's third period points came on two more baskets by Brooks, two by Miller, one basket by Ellis and two free throws by junior forward Tanner Furbush.

Norton continued to battle in the fourth quarter where the Blue Jays scored 23 points for their best quarter of the game but the hot-shooting Redmen scored 21 more points of their own.

Norton was led once again in scoring by Brooks in the final stanza where he hit 5 two-point field goals and two free throws. McKenna hit two more baskets, Schrum swished a basket and two free tosses and junior guard Marc Miller buried a three shot.

"We got off to a good start with an early lead but had a total lack of discipline in the second quarter, which put us in a bad position by halftime," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "I thought we played hard in

the second half but just had too many turnovers to get back on top.

"There are times that we just don't play with confidence and are really struggling knowing how to win games."

Brooks led Norton in scoring with 28 points. He hit 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 8 of 16 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 11 of 23 overall for 48 percent accuracy. He also hit 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Payton Buckmaster led Smith Center in scoring with 25 points and Zach Linn added 13.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 13 from beyond the arc for 46 percent, 17 of 38 two-point attempts for 45 percent and 23 of 51 overall for 45 percent.

The Redmen swished 4 of 9 trey tries for 44 percent, 21 of 31 two-point attempts for 68 percent and 25 of 40 overall for 63 percent.

Norton shot only 11 free throws and hit 8 for 73 percent; Smith Center went to the line 19 times and hit 13 for 68 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 22 total.

Smith Center grabbed just 2 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for just 15 total.

Furbush led Norton in rebounds with 6, followed by Brooks, 4; McKenna, 4; Schrum, Ellis, Miller, Bigge, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had 13 assists compared to 19 for the Redmen. Schrum led Norton in assists with 5, followed by Miller, 3; Brooks, 3; Ellis, 2.

Norton had 13 steals and Smith Center had 16 thefts. Brooks was steals leader for Norton with 7, followed by Schrum, 3; McKenna, 2; Bigge, 1.

Turnovers were about event. Norton had 22 and Smith Center had 20.

## Junior varsity

Norton lost the junior varsity game by a score of 52-41.

The Blue Jays led 17-14 after one quarter and 28-21 at intermission. Norton was outscored

18-4 in the third quarter to fall behind 39-32.

Tanner Furbush led Norton in scoring with 16 points, followed by Quinton Porter, 12; Marc Miller, 5; Breven Sondergaard, 4; Trever Lewis, 4.

Nick Johnson led Smith Center with 15 points.

## C-team

Norton lost the three-quarter C-team game by just 34-33.

Norton trailed by quarters 12-6 and 27-18 and outscored Smith Center 15-7 in the final quarter but the rally fell just short of a win.

Quinton Porter was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Kobie Unterseher,

8; Noah Johnson, 8; Connor Griffey, 3; Brendon Frack, 3.

Lehmkuhl led Smith Center with 9 points.

## Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 8 3 3-4 28; Marc Miller 0 1 0-0 3; Drew Schrum 1 0 3-4 5; Andrew Ellis 1 1 0-0 5; Dalton Miller 3 1 0-0 9; Tanner Furbush 0 0 2-2 2; Carson McKenna 2 0 0-1 4; Lane Bigge 2 0 0-4 4; Totals 17 6 8-11 60.

## Smith Center boys

Overmiller 1 0 5-6 7; Zach Linn 2 3 0-2 13; Mason Buckmaster 0 0 3-4 3; Cole Lorenzen 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Zabel 5 0 0-1 10; Payton Buckmaster 9 1 4-4 25; Weston Rothchild 3 0 1-2 7; Totals 21 4 13-19 67.

# Blue Jay wrestlers beat Smith Center in dual

By Dick Boyd

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The No.3 state ranked Norton Community High School wrestling team outscored No.10 state ranked Smith Center 59-9 in a dual on Friday in Smith Center.

The short-handed Redmen had to forfeit four weight classes.

"Caysean Campbell started the night out well for us," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson. "He made a huge statement with several nice takedowns over Rogers.

"At 120, Branson Addington held on to a 1-0 win over a good Frieling wrestler.

"The next battle came at 152 pounds in a match with huge Regional seeding implications. Jared Bohl scored the only takedown of the match and made it count as he scored a good victory.

"Then, at 160 pounds, we threw Gavin Lively up two weights against a tough Wyatt Oliver. He not only beat Oliver but put him on his back twice during the match to come up with a huge win."

## Individual matches

106 - Caysean Campbell won a 5-3 decision over Cale Rogers.

113 - Ethan Ross lost a 6-4 decision to Jacob Cronin.

120 - Branson Addington won a 1-0 decision over Brody Frieling.

126 - Weston Erbert won by forfeit.

132 - John Risewick won a 15-0 tech fall over Clint Rogers.

138 - Jared Tallent pinned Michael Ruhge in 3:50.

145 - Cody Ellis won by forfeit.

152 - Jared Bohl won a 3-2 decision over Grant Lambert.

160 - Gavin Lively won a 9-5 decision over Wyatt Oliver.

170 - Kendall Miller pinned Cale McDowell in 2:51.

182 - Kyler Atwood, Smith Center, won by forfeit.

195 - Chandler Sumner pinned Shane Hubbard in 2:34.

220 - Lucas Engel won by forfeit.

285 - Michael Johnson won by forfeit.

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