

Lady Jays win over Hill City

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team was enough better in all categories to break a first quarter tie and move on to defeat Hill City 42-33 in Mid-Continent League play in the Stull Gym on Friday, Feb. 1.

It was also a nice win for Kevin Jilka, former 29-year head coach of the Lady Jays, who was honored during the evening with special ceremonies and by the presence of many former players.

The first quarter ended with a 9-9 tie as Tawni Griffey hit two baskets from beyond the arc and a two-pointer and Bailey Ambrosier added a free throw.

With Griffey hitting three more two-point baskets and Katie Bohl and Kamilla Jones each swishing a basket, Norton outscored Hill City 10-7 in the second period to take a 19-16 halftime lead.

The Lady Jays scored just 12 points in the third quarter but limited the Lady Ringnecks to just 6 points on three baskets to extend their advantage to 31-22. Katelyn Engelbert hit two baskets, Griffey and Ambrosier each hit a basket and Alec Melvin hit a basket and two free throws in the third period.

Norton maintained the lead

in the final stanza where both teams hit 11 points. Griffey finished with three more two-point baskets, Ambrosier hit a basket and two free throws and Darcy Bainter swished one charity for Norton's points in the quarter.

"This was a very big win for us," said coach Rossi. "I was concerned going in but our girls played very hard and very steady. It was nothing fancy, we just played very hard."

"Our defense was also very good."

Tawni Griffey led Norton in scoring with 22 points. She hit 2 of 4 shots from long range for 50 percent, 8 of 12 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 10 of 16 overall for an excellent 63 percent shooting night.

Shelby Stewart led Hill City with 15 points; McKenzie Cooper added 10.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 2 of 10 from long range for 20 percent, 15 of 33 two-point tries for 45 percent and 17 of 43 overall for 40 percent.

Hill City scored on 3 of 9 treys for 33 percent, 11 of 29 two-point tries for 38 percent and 14 of 38 overall for just 37 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 6 of 13 for 46 percent. The Lady Ringnecks went to the line just 5 times and hit 2 for 40 percent.

Norton also outrebounded

Hill City 26-21. Norton had 14 offensive and 12 defensive caroms compared to 6 offensive and 15 defensive boards by Hill City.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Engelbert with 7, followed by Ambrosier, 6; Melvin, Jones, 3 each; Griffey, Bainter, Ruder, 2 each; Bohl, 1.

Norton had 8 offensive assists. Engelbert led with 4, followed by Ambrosier, 2; Griffey, Bohl, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 10 steals compared to 8 thefts by the Lady Ringnecks. Griffey was steals leader with 4, followed by Engelbert, 2; Bainter, Ambrosier, Ruder, Melvin, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Hill City lost the ball 20 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity defeated Hill City 39-23.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 15-6, 27-7 and 33-16.

Katie Bohl led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Marisa Maddy, 7; Molly Maddy, 7; Sierra Griffith, 7; Peyton Renner, 4; Hannah Brooks, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 2.

Amanda Kessler led Hill City with 10 points.

"Our girls looked really good tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We had persistent great defense and our offense clicked."

"We took good shots, converted off steals and kept turnovers down."

"It was a great win on an exciting evening."

C-team

Norton also outscored Hill City 13-5 in the two-quarter C-team contest.

Scoring for Norton were Lexi Voss, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 4; Molly Maddy, 2; Alexis Hartwell, 2; Lauren Modocai, 1.

Kayla Bell led Hill City with 3 points.

"I was so proud of our girls defense," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks.

"We were so much more aggressive. Our girls did a good job of hustling after loose balls and did a better job of being in passing lanes to get several steals."

"We took care of the ball better and looked to shoot more."

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 8 2 0-0 22; Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4; Darcy Bainter 0 0 1-2 1; Katie Bohl 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 3-5 7; Alec Melvin 1 0 2-2 4; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-4 2; Totals 15 2 6-13 42.

Hill City girls

Tessa Reynolds 2 0 0-0 4; Shelby Stewart 3 3 0-0 15; Amanda Conway 1 0 0-2 2; McKenzie Cooper 4 0 2-3 10; Brooke Burton 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 11 3 2-5 33.



Lady Jay junior post Bailey Ambrosier leaps into the air to score during Norton's Mid-Continent League win over Hill City on Friday evening in the Stull Gym. Ambrosier scored 7 points and pulled down 6 rebounds in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays lose to Hill City in Mid-Continent play

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team hosted Hill City in Mid-Continent League play in the Stull Gym on Friday evening and matched the Ringnecks basket for basket until the fourth quarter when a cold shooting spell led to a 51-45 loss.

Statistics were almost the same for both teams except that Hill City hit two more field goals and two more free throws than the Blue Jays.

Norton led 11-10 after a first quarter that saw Dalton Miller hit three free throws, Tanner Furbush swish a basket and a charity toss, Andrew Ellis bury a shot from beyond the arc and Jacob Brooks hit a two-point basket.

It was still a tight contest in the second period with Norton outscoring Hill City 16-15 to lead 27-25 at intermission. Miller connected on a long range shot and two from two-point range, Lane Bigge hit a basket and two free throws, Ellis swished a two-pointer and Brooks buried a three for the Blue Jay points in the quarter.

By outscoring Norton 18-14 in the third quarter, the visitors took a slight 43-41 lead. Blue Jay points in the quarter came on a three and two-point basket by Ellis, a three-pointer by Drew

Schrum, two baskets by Furbush and a basket by Brooks.

After Hill City extended their lead to 45-41, Lane Bigge got loose inside for two Blue Jay points and Dalton Miller tied it at 45-all with a two-point basket with five minutes left. Those were Norton's final points of the game, however, while Hill City scored the final six points for the win. Both teams hit two field goals in the fourth quarter but free throws made the difference for the Ringnecks.

"We played hard but we don't always make good decisions," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We have to learn to be more patient to make plays."

Dalton Miller led Norton in scoring with 12 points. He was a perfect 1 of 1 from beyond the arc, hit 3 of 5 two-point tries for 60 percent and was 4 of 6 overall for 67 percent accuracy. He was also 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

Andrew Ellis added 10 points on 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 2 of 6 two-point attempts for 33 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36 percent.

Shane Jones led Hill City with 16 points; Solomon Wilson added 12.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 16 from beyond the arc for 31 percent, 12 of 25 two-point tries for 48 percent and 17 of 41 overall for 42 percent.

Hill City hit the same number of treys but on only 12 tries for 42 percent, swished 14 of 28 two-point shots for 50 percent and 19 of 40 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line Norton was 6 of 13 for 46 percent and Hill City was 8 of 13 for 62 percent.

Norton outrebounded Hill City 20-17. The Blue Jays grabbed 10 offensive and 10 defensive caroms compared to only 4 offensive and 13 defensive boards by the Ringnecks.

Miller was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Furbush, 4; Brooks, Ellis, 3 each; Schrum, Bigge, 2 each.

Norton had 9 offensive assists compared to 10 for Hill City. Schrum was assists leader with 3, followed by Ellis, Miller, 2 each; Brooks, McKenna, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 10 steals and the Ringnecks had 7 thefts. Miller was the Norton leader with 5, followed by Brooks, 3; Ellis, Bigge, 1 each.

Norton had 14 turnovers and Hill City lost the ball 13 times.

Junior varsity

Norton won the very tight junior varsity contest by a 38-35 score.

Norton held quarter leads of 10-9, 19-11 and 31-19.

Leading scoring for Norton was Jordan Karnopp with



Norton senior forward Andrew Ellis penetrates the Hill City defense for a shot in the lane during the Blue Jays' hard-fought Mid-Continent League game on Friday night in the Stull Gym. Ellis was second leading scorer for Norton with 10 points.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 2 1 0-0 7; Drew Schrum 0 1 0-0 3; Andrew Ellis 2 2 0-1 10; Dalton Miller 3 1 3-4 12; Tanner Furbush 3 0 1-4 7; Lane Bigge 2 0 2-4 6; Totals 12 5 6-13 45.

Hill City boys

Ethan Gansel 1 1 2-3 7; Solomon Wilson 3 2 0-0 12; Shane Jones 4 2 2-4 16; Greg Billips 1 0 2-2 4; Deric McKeever 3 0 1-2 7; Jacob Edgell 2 0 1-2 5; Totals 14 5 8-13 51.

Norton wrestlers place sixth in Panther Classic

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team entered the annual Panther Classic Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg under less than ideal conditions and placed sixth, one point out of fifth.

"With Alec Hager and Kolton Harting out with sickness, Kendall Miller moving to 160 and our team being open at 170, 195 and 285, we had a sub-par performance," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"If we are going to have an off-tournament, this is the best time to have it. Regionals are only two weeks away and we have time to rebound and get healthy."

Hoisington won the team championship with 143 points, followed by Abilene, 128.5; Phillipsburg, 127; Marysville, 121; Hoxie, 91; Norton, 90; Beloit, 80; Lincoln, 53; Ellis, 45; St. Francis, 35; Minneapolis, 31; Ellsworth, 30.5; Lakin, 24; Hill City, 15; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 3; Stockton, 2.

Norton entered only nine wrestlers and five came home

with medals.

John Risewick at 132 pounds was Norton's only champion.

Earning third place medals were Ethan Ross, 113; Branson Addington, 120; Jared Tallent, 128 and Cody Ellis, 145.

Also competing for the Blue Jays were Caysean Campbell, 106; Jared Bohl, 152; Kendall Miller, 160 and Lucas Engel, 220.

Individual results

106 - Caysean Campbell was pinned in 5:20 by Kyle Witmer, Phillipsburg; pinned Kody Lang, Hoisington, in :24 and lost an 8-5 decision to Logan McDowell, Abilene.

113 - Ethan Ross pinned Landon Harmon, Hoisington, in :55; lost an 8-1 decision to Zane Baugh, Abilene; pinned Michael Peters, Beloit, in :47 and pinned Rocky Krueger, Lincoln, in :26 to place third.

120 - Branson Addington won a 6-2 decision over Casey Keller, St. Francis; lost a 14-2 major decision to Junior Morgan, Abilene; won an 8-2 decision over Konner Cue, Marysville and won a 4-3 decision over Riley Juenemann, Phillips-

burg, to place third.

132 - John Risewick received a bye; won a 12-1 major decision over Tyler Watts, Beloit and won an 8-0 major decision over Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg, to win the championship.

138 - Jared Tallent pinned Kyle Breneman, Lincoln, in 1:19; lost a 3-2 decision to Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg; pinned Zach Martin, Ellsworth, in 6:44 and won a 9-2 decision over Blake Anguiano, Abilene, to place third.

145 - Cody Ellis received a bye; pinned Landon Younger, Ellis, in 4:36; lost a 5-3 decision to Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit; pinned Isaac Coomes, Phillipsburg, in 3:16 and won a 7-2 decision over Mo Rojas, Ellsworth, to place third.

152 - Jared Bohl received a bye; lost a 13-2 major decision to Gage Younger, Ellis; pinned Dalton Langham, Beloit, in 1:54 and lost a 5-1 decision to Jacob Stewart, Minneapolis.

160 - Kendall Miller was pinned in 4:35 by Calvin Ochs, Hoxie; drew a bye and was pinned in 2:09 by Dalton Gonzales, Lakin.

220 - Lucas Engel pinned Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg, in 1:48; lost a 3-2 decision to Kane Washington, Hoxie and was pinned in :59 by Casey Hilton, Marysville.

Next action

Norton's final home wrestling competition for this season will be this Friday evening, Feb. 8 when Norton hosts Goodland in a varsity/junior varsity dual in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. Wrestling will begin at 6:30 p.m.

It will be "Senior Night" for the NCHS wrestling squad and all seniors and their parents will be honored.



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