

Blue Jays defeat Atwood on their court

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team has been hurt this season by one poor quarter in games but it didn't make any difference on Saturday when they defeated Atwood 78-54 in Atwood.

After taking a 21-12 first quarter advantage, Norton was outscored 16-7 in the second period to tie the score at 28-all at intermission.

Norton fans needn't have been concerned. The Blue Jays came out in the third quarter and poured in 30 points to lead 58-44! A 20-point fourth quarter put the explanation point on the victory!

"We fought through some poor shooting in the second quarter to stay even at half," said coach Reusink. "We came out in the third quarter with a great effort on the offensive end to get a much needed win.

"We have been fighting hard to get a win and that persistence finally paid off."

Norton hit 54 percent from the field and 71 percent from the free throw line in the win.

Six different players scored in the first quarter for Norton. Tanner Furbush hit three baskets, Andrew Ellis hit a shot from beyond the arc and a two-pointer, Drew Schrum also buried a three point shot, Lane Bigge hit two baskets, Jacob Brooks swished two free throws and Carson McKenna hit one charity.

The Blue Jay shooters went cold in the second quarter when they scored just 7 points. McKenna hit a shot from long range and Dalton Miller hit two baskets.

The third quarter was the complete opposite with 30 more Norton points going on the scoreboard! Miller led the way with four baskets and a free throw, followed by Brooks, three baskets and a charity;

Ellis, two baskets from long range; Schrum, a basket and three charities; McKenna, another basket and John Renner, one free throw.

Brooks continued to hit in the fourth quarter when he swished five more field goals and a free throw. Conor Cox added two baskets, Ellis hit another trey and Schrum hit another two-point basket.

Norton had four players in double scoring figures. Brooks led with 20 points. He missed his only three-point try but hit 8 of 11 two-point attempts for 73 percent and was 4 of 5 from the charity stripe for 80 percent accuracy.

Ellis ended with 14 points. He hit 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent shooting and also hit a two-point basket.

Miller put 13 points on the board. He was 6 of 10 on two-point attempts for 60 percent and hit one free throw.

Schrum scored 10 points. He

had a perfect shooting night from the field. He hit his only shot from long range and was a perfect 2 of 2 on two-point shots. He was also 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Peterson led Atwood with 25 points; Tiemeyer added 15.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 12 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 25 of 45 two-point attempts for 56 percent and 31 of 57 overall for 54 percent!

Atwood found the range on 2 of 11 treys for 18 percent, 16 of 34 two-point tries for 47 percent and 18 of 45 overall for 40 percent.

Norton hit 10 of 14 free throws for 71 percent and Atwood hit 16 of 22 charities for 73 percent.

Norton outrebounded Atwood 29-18. The Blue Jays grabbed 12 offensive and 17 defensive caroms and the Buffaloes pulled down 7 offensive and 11 defensive boards.

Brooks led Norton in rebounds with 9, followed by Furbush, 5; Ellis, 4; McKenna, 3; Cox, 2; Renner, 2; Miller, 2; Schrum, 1; Bigge, 1.

Norton had 10 steals compared to 6 for Atwood. Thefts leader for Norton was Ellis with 4, followed by Schrum, 2; Miller, 2; Brooks, 1; McKenna, 1.

The Blue Jays displayed good teamwork with 18 offensive assists; Atwood had 15.

Assists leaders for Norton with 4 each were Brooks, Schrum, Ellis and McKenna. Furbush and Bigge each had 1 assist.

Brooks blocked 2 shots. Both teams had 13 turnovers.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys team also shot the ball well and played good defense in defeating Atwood 72-5.

Norton held quarter leads of 22-0, 48-2 and 65-5.

Leading scorer for Norton was Connor Griffey with 14 points,

followed by Tanner Furbush, 10; Quinton Porter, 9; Jordan Karnopp, 8; Brevon Sondergaard, 6; Conor Cox, 6; Derick Campbell, 5; Kobie Unterseher, 4; Trever Lewis, 4; Marc Miller, 4; Tyler Kuhn 2.

R. Brown scored 3 points and M. Hanzlick hit 2 for Atwood.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 8 0 4-5 20; Conor Cox 2 0 0-0 4; John Renner 0 0 1-2 1; Drew Schrum 2 1 3-4 10; Andrew Ellis 1 4 0-0 14; Dalton Miller 6 0 1-1 13; Tanner Furbush 3 0 0-0 6; Carson McKenna 1 1 1-2 6; Lane Bigge 2 0 0-0 4; Totals 25 6 10-14 78.

Atwood boys

Griffith 1 0 0-0 2; Blodgett 2 1 0-0 7; Capo 1 0 1-2 3; Tiemeyer 3 1 6-6 15; Peterson 8 0 9-12 25; Ginther 1 0 0-2 2; Totals 16 2 16-22 54.

Lady Jays bring home a hard earned victory

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team traveled to Atwood on Saturday, Feb. 2 and returned with a hard-earned 47-35 victory.

Following a 6-5 first quarter in Atwood's favor, Norton held the advantage the rest of the way, adding enough points in each period to eventually win by 12 points.

"This was a very hard earned victory," said coach Rossi. "Atwood was very quick and, at times, we did not get matched up with them correctly. Our girls did not back down and played with a lot of grit and determination.

"Atwood made a couple of ones and we answered each one.

"Tawni was not able to get many looks but our other girls really stepped up and scored with a great mix of drives and outside shots.

"We are delighted with the ef-

fort our team had tonight. Our girls kept their composure and really played well together."

Bailey Ambrosier scored all 5 of Norton's first quarter points on two baskets and a free throw.

Six different players scored for the Lady Jays in the second period when Norton outscored Atwood 15-10 to lead 20-16 at intermission. Johnnye Ruder served notice that she had her three-point eye in the game when she hit the first of her four treys. She also hit a two-point basket along with Katelyn Engelbert and Darcy Bainter. Tawni Griffey, Alec Melvin and Kamilla Jones each contributed a pair of charity tosses.

A 13-8 third quarter extended Norton's lead to 33-24. Ruder proved that her basket from beyond the arc was no fluke when she buried three more shots from long range in the third period. Engelbert added another basket and Griffey hit another pair of charities.

The Lady Jays also outscored

the Lady Buffaloes 14-11 in the fourth quarter. Again, six different players scored for Norton. Engelbert hit two more baskets while Bainter, Ruder, Melvin and Jones each hit another basket and Ambrosier added two more charities.

Leading scorer for Norton was Ruder with 16 points. She was 4 of 6 from beyond the arc for 67 percent, 2 of 4 from two-point range for 50 percent and 6 of 10 overall for a net-smoking 60 percent accuracy!

Katelyn Engelbert hit 8 points and also brought her shooting eye to the game. She swished a perfect 4 of 4 two-point shots and missed just her only trey try.

Leading scorer for Atwood was Tasia Reuber with 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 10 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 12 of 29 two-point attempts for 41 percent and 16 of 39 overall for 41 percent.

The Lady Jays' aggressive defense limited Atwood to a much

lower shooting percentage. The Lady Buffs hit 3 of 10 from long range for 30 percent, 8 of 32 two-point tries for 25 percent and 11 of 42 overall for 26 percent.

Free throws were a standoff. Norton hit an outstanding 11 of 13 charities for 85 percent accuracy while Atwood converted 10 of 13 for an equally impressive 77 percent.

The only statistic not in Norton's favor came in the rebounding department. The Lady Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 11 defensive caroms for 17 total. The Lady Buffs grabbed 12 offensive and 18 defensive boards for 30 total.

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

Griffey had 6 of Norton's 8 offensive assists. Ruder and Jones each had 1 assist.

Norton had a big advantage in the steals department. The Lady Jays had 10 thefts compared to

just 2 by the Lady Buffs.

Griffey and Engelbert were the steals leaders with 3 each, followed by Bohl, Ambrosier, Ruder, Jones, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers but Atwood lost the ball 18 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity defeated Atwood 50-36.

Norton led 8-6 after one quarter but was outscored 15-12 in the second period to trail 21-20 at halftime.

The young Lady Jays edged the Lady Buffs 9-8 in the third quarter to tie the score at 29-all.

With eight different Norton players scoring in the fourth stanza, the Lady Jays closed it out with 21 points!

Casey Ambrosier was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points, followed by Sierra Griffith, 10; Hanna Brooks, 8; Katie Bohl, 7; Alexis Hartwell, 4; Molly Maddy, 3; Marisa Maddy, Lauren Mordecai, 2 each; Peyton Renner, Cristine Nelson, 1 each.

Isabella Skolout led Atwood

with 8 points.

"It was close in the first half but our girls had a nice run in the second half to finish with an impressive win," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"Again, I was really happy with our defensive pressure. Being able to convert off the press was a big plus for us.

"All 12 girls contributed to the victory."

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 0 0 4-4 4; Katelyn Engelbert 4 0 0-1 8; Darcy Bainter 2 0 0-0 4; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 3-4 7; Johnnye Ruder 2 4 0-0 16; Alec Melvin 1 0 2-2 4; Kamilla Jones 1 0 2-2 4; Totals 12 4 11-13 47

Atwood girls

Tasia Reuber 3 2 2-2 14; K. Green 0 0 1-3 1; Lexy Leitner 0 1 2-2 5; Nikki Hemel 3 0 0-0 6; Olivia Chvatal 1 0 1-2 3; Katie Withington 1 0 4-5 6; Totals 8 3 10-14 35.

Junior varsity wrestlers take runner-up at Arapahoe

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers had another outstanding outing on Saturday, Jan. 26 when they placed runner-up, just one point out of first, in the varsity Arapahoe Warrior Invitational.

Elm Creek won the championship with 134 points, followed by Norton JV, 133; Pleasanton, 104; Arapahoe, 103; SEM, 87.5; Elwood, 74; Eustis-Farnam, 70; Axtell, 56; Cozad JV, 43; Unified JV, 26; Wauneta-Palisade, 11; Hitchcock County, 10.

"This was another good team effort by our second teamers," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. "The tournament was down in numbers but there were still some quality matchups. We were also missing a few of our wrestlers who are normally on junior varsity who had to fill in for the varsity. With the team we put out there, we performed well.

"I continue to evaluate our performance more on whether we are attempting in tournaments the things we are practicing in the wrestling room and I'd say we are making good progress."

Toby Nickell at 138 was the only Norton champion. He won three matches by pins and won his championship finals match by a 14-2 major decision.

Toby was recognized as the "Outstanding Wrestler" of the Tournament and was also voted by the Norton coaches as Norton's "JV Wrestler of the Week".

Skylar Johnson, 106; Kyle Bell, 113; Riley Hager, 120; Chris Chastain and Chandler Sumner, 195, all placed runner-

up in their divisions. Garret Otter, 120, was third; Derek Rowh, 132, and Michael Johnson, 285, each placed fourth. Weston Erbert finished fifth at 126.

Individual matches

106 - Skylar Johnson won a decision over Ray Ramirez, Elwood; drew a bye and lost a 5-2 decision to Jeffrey West, Elm Creek, to place second.

113 - Kyle Bell pinned Anthony Park, Arapahoe; drew a bye and lost a 13-8 decision to William Bloom, Elm Creek, to place second.

120 - Riley Hager drew a bye, won an 8-5 decision over Garret Otter, Norton, wrestling for the Unified Team; pinned Nate Clapp, Axtell, in 4:43 and lost a 9-6 decision to Aaron Hueftle, Eustis-Farnam, to place second.

120 - Garret Otter wrestled for the Unified Team. He pinned Nate Clapp, Axtell, in 5:37; lost an 8-5 decision to Norton's Riley Hager; drew a bye and won a 7-5 decision over Yancy Clafflin, SEM, to place third.

126 - Weston Erbert was pinned in 2:31 by Brandon Koch, Cozad JV; pinned Abe Hermosillo, Unified, in :23; was pinned by Cole Remmenga, Elwood, in 3:39 and pinned Zack Wright, Hitchcock County, in 4:26 to place fifth.

132 - Derek Rowh lost a 6-4 decision to Ace Bloom, Elm Creek; was pinned in 2:44 by Colton Lammers, Pleasanton; drew a bye; pinned Corey An-

derson, Hitchcock County, in 3:40 and won an 8-7 decision over Deone Wilson, Elwood, to place fourth.

138 - Toby Nickell pinned Trevor Donahey, Cozad JV, in :54; pinned Devon Strunk-Martin, Hitchcock County, in :39; pinned Dallas Johnson, Axtell, in 5:57 and won a 14-2 major decision over Hayden Geis, Elm Creek, to win the championship.

170 - Chris Chastain pinned Saige Valenzuela, Cozad JV, in :3:30; drew a bye and was pinned in 3:39 by Tyler Kipp, Arapahoe, to place second.

195 - Chandler Sumner pinned Anthony Gutierrez, Elm Creek, in 3:18; was pinned in :27 by

Garhett Nielsen, Eustis-Farnam and drew a bye to place second.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 2:35 by Trey Keaschall, Pleasanton; was pinned in 1:29 by Brogan Else, Elm Creek and was pinned in 2:47 by Grant Clausen, SEM, to place fourth.

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