

Everyone gets court time

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi cleared the bench last Tuesday night during the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team's 51-26 win over Oberlin in the Stull Gym in Norton.

The Lady Jays led from start to finish and all 12 girls who suited up saw action.

"We jumped on them pretty early and stayed on them. We played solid all four quarters.

"For the most part, we made good decisions. We did a better job of blocking out on rebounds and our bench did a real good job. We had no letdown from starters to our bench players.

"Our girls play very hard and this was a good win."

Norton outscored Oberlin 16-4 in the first quarter. Tawni Griffey got things going on the offensive end by hitting nothing but net on three shots from beyond the arc and adding a two-point basket for good measure.

Darcy Bainter and Katie Bohl each hit a basket and Bailey Ambrosier swished a free throw.

A 10-8 second quarter extended Norton's lead to 26-12 at halftime. Kamilla Jones hit a basket from long range, Ambrosier hit a basket and free throw, Griffey hit two charities, and Alec Melvin swished a two-point basket.

Defenses dominated the third quarter but Norton still edged Oberlin 8-6 in the period to maintain a comfortable 34-

18 advantage. The Lady Jays' points in the quarter came on two baskets by Katelyn Engelbert and basket and two free throws by Ambrosier.

The Lady Jays finished the game by scoring 17 points and allowing the bench players to join in the fun.

Johnnye Ruder led the way with a three-point and two-point basket and three free throws. Griffey, Engelbert and Hanna Brooks each hit a basket, Marisa Maddy swished two free throws and Ambrosier hit another charity.

Ten different players scored for Norton in the game. Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was Griffey with 15 points. She hit 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 2 of 8 two-point tries for 25 percent and 5 of 15 overall for 33 percent. She was also perfect on two charity tries.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Miki Dorshorst with 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 18 three-point tries for 28 percent, 12 of 32 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 17 of 50 overall for 34 percent.

The Lady Red Devils found the range on 12 of 46 two-point shots for 26 percent and missed all six shots from beyond the arc.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 12 of 18 for 67 percent and Oberlin swished 2 of 6 for 33 percent.

Norton outrebounded Oberlin 32-19. The Lady Jays pulled

down 8 offensive and 24 defensive rebounds and the Lady Red Devils grabbed 11 offensive and 18 defensive caroms.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Ambrosier with 10, followed by Engelbert with 9; Griffey, 5; Jones 3; Ruder, 2; Hanna Brooks, Bohl, Sierra Griffith, 1 each.

Norton had 6 steals and Oberlin recorded 7. Steals leader for Norton was Griffey with 4, followed by Engelbert, Ambrosier, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 11 offensive assists. Griffey and Ruder led with 4 assists each, followed by Jones, 2 Ambrosier, 1.

Norton had 15 turnovers but Oberlin lost the ball 20 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity defeated Oberlin 46-30.

Norton held quarter leads of 9-7, 23-12 and 35-22.

Leading scorer for the young Lady Jays was Marisa Maddy with 11 points, followed by Peyton Renner, 10; Sierra Griffith, 7; Hannah Brooks, 4; Katie Bohl, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 4; Molly Maddy, 3; Lexi Voss, 3.

Kariah Castle led Oberlin with 9 points.

"Our girls played hard tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "All 13 girls saw the court and played productively.

"Again, our defense was strong and our offenses ran well.

"We did have some mental lapses when we did not get

matched up, allowing Oberlin a few easy buckets.

"We are really seeing improvement each game."

Next action

Norton will face a real challenge today when the Lady Jays travel to Hoxie to take on the No.2 state ranked Lady Indian five.

Play will begin at 4:45 p.m.

Norton will return home for their regular season finale versus No.8 state ranked Ellis on Thursday evening. It will be "Senior Night" for Norton with all seniors and their parents being honored.

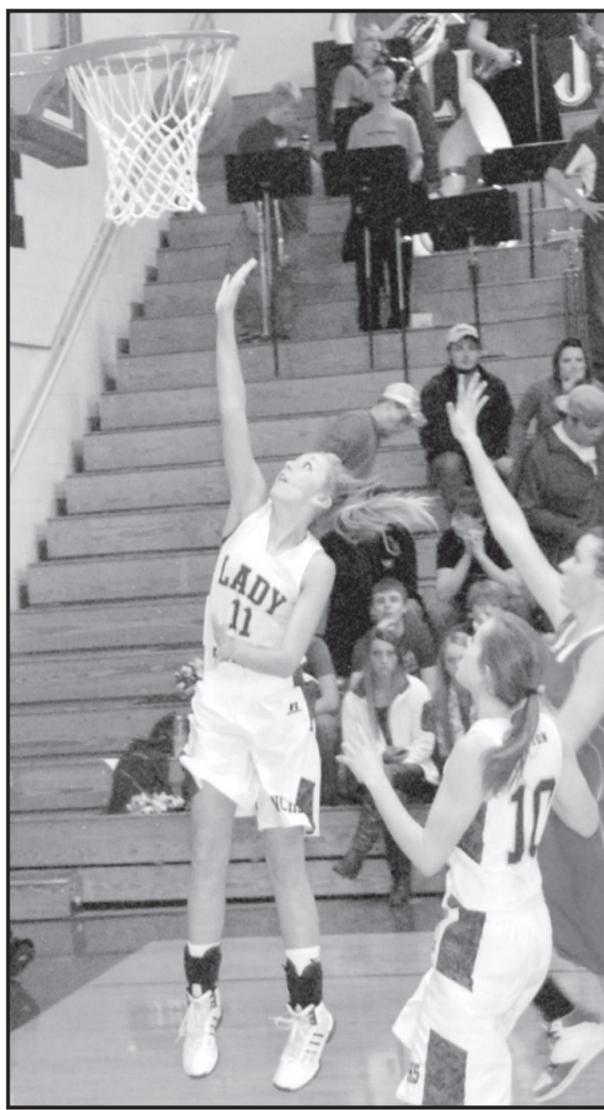
Play will begin at 4:45 p.m. with the girls junior varsity game in Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys games.

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 2 3 2-2 15; Marisa Maddy 0 0 2-2 2; Katelyn Engelbert 3 0 0-1 6; Hanna Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Darcy Bainter 1 0 0-0 2; Katie Bohl 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 5-9 9; Johnnye Ruder 1 1 3-4 8; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Kamilla Jones 0 1 0-0 3 Totals 12 5 12-19 51.

Oberlin girls

Molly Jansonius 0 0 0-2 0; Morgan Jansonius 1 0 0-0 2; Ara Marine 1 0 0-0 2; Demi Murray 1 0 0-0 2; Miki Dorshorst 4 0 2-4 10; Shawn Baker 3 0 0-0 6; Kariah Castle 1 0 0-0 2; Hanna May 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 12 0 2-6 26.



The Norton girls did such a good job in their win over Oberlin in the Stull Gym on Tuesday evening that every player saw some action. Above, Lady Jay freshman Hanna Brooks is shown scoring her first varsity points of the season. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays pull off a hard fought win over Oberlin

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team overcame 23 turnovers and made the plays at the end to defeat Oberlin 44-41 in the Stull Gym on Tuesday evening.

It was a hotly contested game that saw each team lead by just a few points at various times until Norton scored the points needed for the victory.

The Blue Jays trailed 32-26 with 5:00 left in the game. Senior forward Andrew Ellis drained two free throws and senior guard Carson McKenna hit two straight baskets and suddenly the score was tied at 32-32.

After a Norton turnover and Oberlin basket, Ellis hit two more charities with 2:27 showing to knot the score at 34. Another Oberlin steal led to another

Red Devil basket but Norton senior guard Dalton Miller scored two points inside to tie it at 36-36.

The next time Norton got the ball, Ellis looked at the basket from three-point land and calmly fired away. He hit nothing but net and the Blue Jays took a 39-36 lead with only 1:08 left in the game!

If the Red Devils thought they still had a chance, they didn't after they fouled, guess who, Ellis. With 51.2 seconds left, Ellis stepped to the line and calmly swished two more free throws that extended the Norton advantage to 41-36.

Oberlin stayed close with a two-point basket but junior guard Drew Schrum hit a free throw and Brooks hit his final basket of the game to make it 44-38. A three-point basket by Oberlin was too little, too late and the Blue Jays were win-

ners!

In addition to his shot from beyond the arc, Ellis was a perfect 6 of 6 from the charity stripe in the fourth quarter and the Red Devils couldn't keep up.

Ellis was the leading scorer for Norton with 14 points. Brooks added 13.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Kyle Breth with 12 points

"We had boys step up when we needed them to," said coach Reusink. "We made the plays when they were needed.

"Andrew Ellis made some big free throws and a three-point basket down the stretch that really made the difference.

"It was a good win for us." Shooting statistics were fairly even between the two teams. Norton hit 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 13 of 35 two-point attempts for 37 percent and 16 of 46 overall for 35 percent.

In comparison, Oberlin hit 4 of 14 from long range for 29 percent, 12 of 31 two-point tries for 39 percent and 16 of 45 overall for 36 percent.

Ellis gave Norton the edge from the charity stripe where the Blue Jays hit 9 of 16 for 56 percent. The Red Devils swished 5 of 12 charity tries for 42 percent.

Norton dominated the backboards. The Blue Jays pulled down 29 rebounds compared to 16 by the Red Devils.

Norton had 11 offensive and 18 defensive boards while Oberlin had just 3 offensive and 13 defensive caroms.

Brooks was rebound leader with 7, followed by Miller, 6; Tanner Furbush, 6; Ellis, 4; Conor Cox, McKenna, Lane Bigge, 2 each.

Norton had 8 steals but Oberlin had 14 thefts. Steals leader for Norton was Schrum with

3, followed by Brooks, Miller, Furbush, McKenna and Bigge, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 23 turnovers and the Red Devils had 11.

Junior varsity

Norton led 9-4 after one quarter and 20-14 at halftime of the junior varsity game but Oberlin rallied in the second half to win 37-29.

Leading scorer for Norton was Quinton Porter with 8 points, followed by Marc Miller, 7; Tanner Furbush, 4; Conor Cox, 4; Breven Sondergaard, Derick Campbell, Kobie Unterseher, 2 each.

Konner Fortin hit 12 points and Andrew Wade scored 11 for the Red Devils.

Next action

Norton will travel to Hoxie to face the No.9 state ranked Indians today.

Play will begin at 4:45 p.m.

The final game of the regular season will be Thursday when Norton hosts Ellis.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton. Seniors and their parents will be honored.

Play will begin at 4:45 p.m. in Wilmett Kirk Memorial Gym with the junior varsity boys game. Stull Gym will be the site of the girls junior varsity, girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 5 1 0-1 13; Drew Schrum 1 0 1-2 3; Andrew Ellis 1 2 6-7 14; Dalton Miller 3 0 1-2 7; Tanner Furbush 0 0 0-2 0; Carson McKenna 3 0 1-2 7; Totals 13 3 9-16 44.

Oberlin boys

Kyle Breth 1 3 1-5 12; Ryan May 3 0 1-2 7; Regent Erickson 2 0 0-0 4; Noah Nelson 2 1 1-2 8; Tyler Bruggeman 4 0 2-3 10; Totals 12 4 5-12 41.



Norton junior guard Drew Schrum was alert on defense on Tuesday evening during the win over Oberlin in the Stull Gym. He is shown here stealing the ball from the Red Devils. Behind him is Norton's Andrew Ellis. Schrum was steals leader for the Blue Jays in the game. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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