

Blue Jays fall short of Ellis

By DICK BOYD

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A big second half for head coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team fell just short in a 65-64 loss to Ellis on Thursday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

Norton trailed 21-7 after one quarter and 40-23 at halftime.

The Blue Jays came out of the locker room fired up and out-scored the visitors 18-8 in the third quarter to cut the Ellis lead down to 48-41, then tallied 23 more points in the fourth period while holding the Railroaders to 17.

Ellis scored the first three points of the fourth quarter but Norton took over from there. Dalton Miller and Jacob Brooks hit successive baskets, Brooks drained a free throw, Carson McKenna hit two straight baskets and Norton trailed by just 51-50 with 4:50 still left in the game.

Conor Cox stepped to the free throw line and hit both charities to give the Blue Jays a 52-51 lead, their first in the game. Two Ellis free throws put them back ahead but Brooks hit nothing but net on two free throws and Norton was on top 54-53. A three-point basket and free throw by Ellis put them back ahead 57-54.

A free throw by Andrew Ellis and baskets by Brooks and Tanner Furbush gave Norton a 59-58 lead. A basket by the Railroaders put them ahead 60-59 but Cox scored inside and Norton was on top again, 61-60 with 1:39 left in the contest.

Ellis hit two charities to lead 62-61 at the 1:12 mark. Norton

brought the ball downcourt and it went to Andrew Ellis. He hesitated, fired and the ball swished the net for a three-point basket! That put Norton ahead again at 64-62 with 59.9 seconds remaining.

Two Railroader free throws tied the score at 64-all. Norton was unable to break the tie and Ellis got the ball back. A Railroader shot inside was blocked by Cox with 13.7 seconds left but Blake Hudson was fouled on the rebound. With little time left, Hudson hit a free throw to win the game for the Railroaders 65-64.

"We dug ourselves a big hole in the first half," said coach Reusink. "We got in a run and gun game with them that we didn't want."

"We changed defenses, kept battling, the momentum changed and we put ourselves back in the game."

"We've played hard the last two games but have come up empty against two very good teams. I feel sorry for our young men that we've played so hard and couldn't get a win."

Brooks and Miller hit two-point baskets and Ellis added a trey for Norton's seven first quarter points.

Brooks hit two more baskets and a three-pointer. Cox swished two baskets, John Renner hit a basket and Ellis buried his second trey in the second quarter.

Brooks continued to lead the way in the third quarter by swishing three more baskets and a charity. Cox, Drew Schrum, Miller and Tanner Furbush each hit a basket and Carson McKenna buried a three-pointer.

Six players scored for Norton

in the fourth quarter. Brooks kept the pressure on with two more baskets and three free throws, Cox hit a basket and two charities, Ellis buried a trey and hit a charity, Miller and Furbush each hit baskets and McKenna hit two more baskets.

Jacob Brooks was leading scorer for Norton with 23 points. He hit 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 8 of 13 two-point attempts for 62 percent and 9 of 15 overall for an excellent 60 percent accuracy. He was 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent.

Conor Cox and Andrew Ellis each hit 10 points. Cox was 4 of 5 on two-point shots for 80 percent and 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent. Ellis was 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent and 1 of 2 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

Tyler Walters led Ellis in scoring with 21 points; Hudson was second high with 14 and Jared Mick added 12 points.

Norton shot very well as a team and hit more field goals than the Railroaders. The Blue Jays hit 5 of 12 from long range for 42 percent, 21 of 42 two-point tries for 50 percent and 26 of 54 overall for an excellent 48 percent accuracy.

Ellis swished 7 of 18 trey tries for 39 percent, 15 of 36 two-point shots for 42 percent and 22 of 54 overall for 41 percent.

The scoring difference came at the free throw line where Norton hit a respectable 7 of 11 for 64 percent but Ellis swished 14 of 17 for 82 percent.

Rebounding was even. Norton pulled down 10 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 27 total and Ellis grabbed 9 offen-

sive and 17 defensive boards for 26 total.

Brooks was leading rebounder for the Blue Jays with 10, followed by Cox, 4; Ellis, 4; Miller, 3; Furbush, 3; Renner, 1; McKenna, 1; Bigge, 1.

Norton blocked 5 shots. Cox rejected 3 and Brooks 2.

The Blue Jays demonstrated excellent teamwork with 15 offensive assists. Ellis led with 6, followed by Furbush, 3; Brooks, 2; Cox, Schrum, Miller, McKenna, 1 each.

Ellis had just 3 assists.

Norton recorded 7 steals compared to 10 by Ellis. Brooks was the Norton leader with 4 thefts, followed by Ellis, Miller, McKenna, 1 each.

Norton had 22 turnovers and Ellis had 17.

It was "Senior Night" for Norton and senior players, cheerleaders and dance team members were honored along with their parents.

Senior basketball players are Jacob Brooks, John Renner, Andrew Ellis, Dalton Miller, Ryan Bainter, Carson McKenna and Lane Bigge.

Senior dance team members are Sami Gordon, Shelbi McKenna, Kelsey Mordecai and Teal Stewart.

Senior cheerleaders are Sierra Black, Kat Boteler and Katie Koch.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys team lost by a score of 62-38.

Ellis led by quarters 13-11, 33-20 and 44-30.

Marc Miller led scoring for Norton with 12 points, followed by Trever Lewis, 9; Conor Cox, 7; Tanner Furbush, 5; James



Norton's Tanner Furbush hits a jumper in the lane during the Blue Jays' exciting game with Ellis on Thursday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym. Unfortunately, Norton came out on the short end of a 65-64 contest, despite hitting more field goals than Ellis.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Berry, 2; Derick Campbell, Connor Griffey, Andrew Bashford, 1 each.

Josh Tway led Ellis with 14.

Next action

Thursday's game with Ellis completed regular season action for the Blue Jays. They now await seeding for the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament, which will be held in Norton next week.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 8 1 4-6 23; Conor Cox 4 0 2-3 10; John

Renner 1 0 0-0 2; Drew Schrum 1 0 0-0 2; Andrew Ellis 0 3 1-2 10; Dalton Miller 3 0 0-0 6; Tanner Furbush 2 0 0-0 4; Carson McKenna 2 1 0-0 7; Totals 21 5 7-11 64.

Ellis boys

Cole Pfeifer 0 2 0-0 6; Blake Hudson 4 1 3-5 14; Jared Mick 4 0 4-4 12; Tyler Walters 2 4 5-5 21; Brendon Brenner 2 0 0-1 4; Luke Lohmeyer 3 0 2-2 8; Totals 15 7 14-17 65.

Norton Lady Jays lose to Ellis Lady Railroaders

By DICK BOYD

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On Thursday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton, coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls basketball team played well against No.3 state ranked Ellis for three quarters but it wasn't enough as the Lady Railroaders prevailed 45-32.

Norton stayed close in the first quarter, which ended with the Lady Jays trailing 13-7, but outscored Ellis 14-12 in the second period to trail by just 25-21 at halftime.

Norton was unable to score in the third quarter where leading scorer Tawni Griffey hit the Lady Jays only basket. Ellis scored 15 points in the quarter to extend their lead to 40-23.

The Lady Jays tallied just 9 points in the final stanza while holding the Lady Railroaders to 5 but the third quarter advantage by the visitors was the key.

A big difference in the game came at the free throw line where Ellis hit 20 shots compared to 12 for Norton. The Lady Jays made 10 field goals and the Lady Railroaders hit just 12.

"The third quarter obviously wasn't good," said coach Rossi. "We haven't put good four quarters together this season and against good teams like Ellis you have to do this."

"We just didn't answer the bell in the second half."

"They played good defense

on Tawni; she just couldn't get shots but other girls kept us in it."

"We got mentally flustered; we have to do a better job of maintaining our composure."

Norton's only points in the first quarter came on baskets by Darcy Bainter, Katie Bohl and Kamilla Jones and a free throw by Bailey Ambrosier.

Jones continued to find the range in the second quarter as she hit two more baskets and two charities. Bohl swished four free throws, Katelyn Engelbert and Ambrosier hit a basket apiece.

Engelbert hit another basket in the fourth quarter, along with Ambrosier, who also swished three free throws. Jones finished with two charities.

Kamilla Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 10 points. She hit 3 of 6 two-point attempts for 50 percent shooting despite missing all four shots from beyond the arc. She was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Bailey Ambrosier added 8 points on 2 of 3 from the field for 67 percent and 4 of 6 free throws, also 67 percent accuracy.

Tawni Griffey was only able to attempt four shots in the game and hit one.

Leading scorer for Ellis was freshman Alexcia Deutscher with 19 points. Bailey Hensley added 11.

Both defenses were tough



Norton's Katelyn Engelbert swishes a jump shot during the Lady Jays' unsuccessful attempt to upset the No.3 state ranked Ellis Lady Railroaders on Thursday evening in the Stull Gym in Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

enough that neither team shot well. Norton missed all 14 shots from beyond the arc but hit 10 of 25 two-point tries for 40 percent.

Ellis was 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 11 of 45 on two-point tries for 24 percent and 12 of 49 overall for 24 percent.

BOWLING

Tuesday Night Mens League Standings as of Feb. 5

1. WF & BR - 18 wins, 10 losses
 2. RM & DC - 17 wins, 11 losses
 3. Norton Chiropractic Center - 15 wins, 13 losses
 4. BL & JE - 12 wins, 16 losses
 5. AB & BB - 7 wins, 21 losses
- High Line: Bill LaSalle-169, Brad Riggins-167, Rusty Miller-167, RM & DC-316.
- High Line Handicap: Brad Riggins-228, Dale Carlson-211,

WF & BR-425.

High Series: Bill LaSalle-463, Rusty Miller-455, RM & DC-881

High Series Handicap: Brad Riggins-593, Bill LaSalle-583, WF & BR-1160.

Tuesday Housewife League Standings as of Feb. 5

1. Amateurs - 18 wins, 6 losses
 2. BEB & Assoc. - 15 wins, 9 losses
 3. Lenora Nutrition Center - 12 wins, 12 losses
 4. Moffet's - 3 wins, 21 losses
- High Line: Jacque Griffey-

177, Sharron Smith-166, Kathleen Berlier-152, Lenora Nutrition Center-464.

High Line Handicap: Jacque Griffey-222, Margaret Thomas-217, Sharron Smith-216, Lenora Nutrition Center-636.

High Series: Jacque Griffey-469, Sharron Smith-466, Joy Johnson-392, Lenora Nutrition Center-1290.

High Series Handicap: Sharron Smith-616, Jacque Griffey-604, Joy Johnson-602, Lenora Nutrition Center-1806.

Inter-City League Standings as of Feb. 7

1. Bailey Electric - 34 wins,

20 losses

2. B & C - 33 wins, 21 losses

3. Hawks Depot - 26.5 wins, 27.5 losses

4. BLD's - 24.5 wins, 29.5 losses

5. Jett SS - 23 wins, 31 losses

High Series Handicap: Nick Daniels-660, Abe Burk-636, Bev Miller-619, Dennis Balderston-618, B & C-2374.

Ladies Inter-City League Standings as of Jan. 28

1. Geezeretts - 13 wins, 7 losses
 2. Nelson Bros. - 12.5 wins, 7.5 losses
 3. Animal Health - 12 wins, 8 losses
 4. Logan Gals - 11 wins, 9 losses
 5. BEB & Assoc. - 8.5 wins, 11.5 losses
- High Line: Lynn Nelson-167, Kathleen Berlier-166, Lyndelle

Linde-162, Nelson Bros.-418, Animal Health-406, Nelson Bros.-402.

High Line Handicap: Kathleen Berlier-423, Lynn Nelson-420, Lyndelle Linde-403, Nelson Bros.-640, Nelson Bros.- 624, Animal Health-620.

High Series: Lyndelle Linde-234, Lynn Nelson-234, Jean Johnson-229, Kathleen Berlier-221, Joy Johnson-221, Nelson Bros.-1197, Animal Health-1137, BEB & Assoc.-1134.

High Series Handicap: Judy Luft-623, Lynn Nelson-621, Lyndelle Linde-619, Nelson Bros.-1863, Animal Health-1779, Geezeretts-1723.