

Lady Jays win in Sub-State

By Dick Boyd

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The No.3 seed Norton Community High School girls basketball team led No. 6 seed Minneapolis until late in the fourth quarter of their first round Class 3A Sub-State Tournament game in the NCHS Stull Gym on Wednesday, then had to fight off a furious rally by the Lady Lions for a 43-41 win!

In fact, Minneapolis took their only lead of the contest with 1:38 remaining on a field goal and free throw. With the visitors ahead 41-40, Norton was unable to score and the Lady Lions got the ball back. They were working the ball around and hoping to hold onto the slim advantage until Norton fouled when suddenly Norton's Tawni Griffey stole the ball and dribbled the length of the court for a driving layup! She was fouled in the act of shooting and calmly hit nothing but net on the free throw for the three-point play and a 43-41 Norton lead with 24.7 seconds left!

Minneapolis tried frantically to set up a scoring play but a Lady Lion charged into Bailey Ambrosier, fouling her and turning the ball over. Time ran out on the Minneapolis rally and Norton survived to move into the semi-finals of the tournament.

The Lady Jays played No.2 seed Ellsworth on Thursday

evening. Ellsworth edged No. 7 seed Beloit 52-48 on Wednesday. Results of the Norton-Ellsworth contest were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The winner of that game will play on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Stull Gym with a trip to the State Tournament as a reward to the winner.

Leading the entire game until the late Minneapolis rally, Norton was on top 19-14 after one quarter, 27-20 at halftime and 36-26 after three quarters.

"In the first half, we came out very aggressive," said Norton head coach George Rossi.

We did a great job of attacking their full court press and getting the ball into the post.

"In the fourth quarter, Minneapolis became more aggressive and we didn't do a very good job of responding. We weren't as assertive as we needed to be late in the game.

"We had two really good plays at the end that made the difference; Tawni got the interception and Bailey took the charge.

"I want to thank our home crowd for the tremendous support. They were awesome and that was huge!"

Norton got off to a great start in the game, scoring 19 first quarter points and five different girls lighting up the scoreboard. Ambrosier hit two baskets and a free throw, Johnnye Ruder

swished a shot from beyond the arc and two-point basket, Kamilla Jones hit two baskets, Katelyn Engelbert drained a shot and Griffey threw in a shot from beyond the arc.

Norton scored just 8 points in the second period but still led by seven points at intermission. Scoring baskets for Norton in the second stanza were Griffey, Engelbert, Katie Bohl and Jones.

Norton outscored Minneapolis 9-6 in the defensive third quarter. Engelbert hit two more baskets, Bohl hit another and Ambrosier hit a basket and free throw.

In the crucial fourth quarter, Ruder buried a three-point shot and Engelbert hit a free throw in addition to Griffey's crucial steal and three-point play.

Norton had the most even scoring distribution of the entire season with six players scoring but none in double figures. Engelbert led the way by hitting 4 of 8 shots for 50 percent and 1 of 4 free throws for 9 points.

Griffey, Ambrosier and Ruder each ended with 8 points. Griffey hit 1 of 10 from long range, 2 of 5 two-point shots and 4 of 15 overall and also hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Ambrosier swished 3 of 6 two-point shots for 50 percent and hit 2 of 5 free throws.

Ruder hit 2 of 2 from long range and 1 of 1 two-point shots

for a perfect night from the field.

Leading scorer for Minneapolis was Kynedi Allison with 14 points; Jacee Owens added 13.

As a team, Norton swished 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 15 of 28 two-point attempts for a sizzling 54 percent and 18 of 40 overall for 45 percent.

Minneapolis hit 2 of 10 from long range for 20 percent, 15 of 45 two-point tries for 33 percent and 17 of 55 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit just 4 of 11 for 36 percent compared to the Lady Lions' perfect 5 of 5 for 100 percent.

Norton outrebounded Minneapolis. The Lady Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 24 defensive caroms for 32 total. The Lady Lions grabbed 9 offensive and 18 defensive boards for 27 total.

Engelbert was leading rebounder with 10, followed by Ambrosier, 8; Griffey, 6; Bohl, 3; Ruder, 2; Jones, 2; Alec Melvin, 1.

Norton had 6 steals compared to 9 for Minneapolis. Engelbert led with 3, followed by Jones, 2; Griffey, 1.

The Lady Jays had 11 of defensive assists. Griffey was the leader with 5, followed by Ambrosier, 2; Jones, 2; Engelbert, 1; Melvin, 1.

Norton had 20 turnovers and



By the end of the game, it turned out that every rebound, every loose ball, every basket, every free throw, every defensive stop mattered in Norton's 43-41 Sub-State win over Minneapolis on Wednesday evening. Above, from left, Norton's Katelyn Engelbert, Katie Bohl and Darcy Bainter are fighting for one of those key rebounds.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Minneapolis had just 9.

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 2 1 1-2 8; Katelyn Engelbert 4 0 1-4 9; Katie Bohl 2 0 0-0 4; Bailey Ambrosier 3 0 2-5 8; Johnnye Ruder 1 2 0-0 8; Kamilla Jones 3 0 0-0 6;

Totals 15 3 4-11 43.

Minneapolis girls

Lucy Giles 1 0 0-0 2; Jacee Owens 6 0 1-1 13; Kynedi Allison 7 0 0-0 14; Lindsay Shupe 1 0 2-2 4; Kate Steinbrock 0 2 2-2 8; Totals 15 2 5-5 41.

Norton Blue Jays season comes to an end at sub-state

By Dick Boyd

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The No.6 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team expected to challenge No.3 seed Hoisington in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament on Tuesday in Hoisington but found a lid on the basket and suffered a season-ending 72-30 loss.

Norton hit a season-low 31 percent from the field and 19 percent from the free throw line while Hoisington left the nets smoking on 65 percent field goals and 71 percent from the charity stripe.

"We needed to be more patient offensively to stay in the game," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We hurried shots and dug ourselves a hole. When we realized we were losing ground, we got more impatient. We just lost our composure when things got tough.

"We have to take shots we can hit.

"We had watched videos of games they played earlier and felt that we could play with them.

"We didn't give them our best shot and that is disappointing."

Norton hit just one field goal

in the first quarter, a basket by Jacob Brooks, as the Cardinals forged a 21-2 lead.

Norton scored 10 points in the second quarter on two field goals by Conor Cox and baskets by Brooks, Lane Bigge and Tanner Furbush. Hoisington continued to hit the basket and added 19 more points to their total to lead 40-12 at halftime.

Norton's best quarter was the third where the Blue Jays had 14 more points, 10 of them coming from Brooks. John Renner hit a three-point basket and Furbush added a free throw. Hoisington had their best quarter, however, throwing in 25 points from everywhere on the court.

With Hoisington leading 65-26, reserves played the fourth quarter for both teams. The Cardinals outscored the Blue Jays 7-4 in the final stanza. Norton's points came on two baskets by Trever Lewis.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jacob Brooks with 14 points. He hit 6 of 13 shots for 46 percent accuracy but missed all three trey tries. He also hit 2 of 4 free throws.

Cody Stetler, a 6'8" senior post player, led Hoisington with 21 points. Anthony Broeder, a 6'4" senior, added 14.



Norton junior guard Drew Schrum pushes the ball inside during the Blue Jays' season finale against Hoisington in Class 3A Sub-State basketball action on Tuesday in Hoisington.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 12 shots from beyond the arc for 8 percent, 12 of 30 two-point tries for 40 percent and 13 of 42 overall for 31 percent. Hoisington swished 4 of 10 from long range for 40 percent, 25 of 35 two-point attempts for 71 percent and 29 of 45 overall for 64 percent.

From the free throw line, the

Blue Jays hit just 3 of 16 for 19 percent while the Cardinals made 10 of 14 charities for 71 percent.

Rebounding was close. Norton pulled down 10 offensive and 12 defensive boards for 22 total. Hoisington had just 7 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 21 total.

Furbush was leading re-

bounder for the Blue Jays with 8, followed by Brooks, 3; Cox, 3; Drew Schrum, 2; Bigge, 2; Renner, 1; Andrew Ellis, 1; Dalton Miller, 1; Lewis, 1.

Brooks, Schrum and Ryan Bainter each had 1 of Norton's 3 steals.

Norton had 5 offensive assists and Hoisington had 16 assists. Ellis had 2 assists, followed by Miller, Furbush, McKenna, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Hoisington had 8.

"We will miss our seniors. They were good young men who played hard," said coach Reusink.

Norton's senior players were Jacob Brooks, Andrew Ellis, Dalton Miller, Lane Bigge, Carson McKenna, John Renner and Ryan Bainter.

"We also appreciate the support all season long by our Norton fans."

Other tourney scores

In other boys first round games on Tuesday in the Norton Sub-State Tournament, No.1 seed Phillipsburg rolled to an impressive 88-41 win over No.8 seed Russell, No.5 seed Minneapolis

edged No. 4 seed Thomas More Prep-Hays 47-41 and No.2 seed Beloit outscored No.7 Ellsworth 60-43.

In the semi-finals today in the Stull Gym in Norton, Beloit will play Hoisington at 6 p.m. and Phillipsburg will play Minneapolis at 7:30 p.m.

The winners will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Stull Gym with the winner earning a berth in next week's State Tournament in Hutchinson.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 6 0 2-4 14; Conor Cox 2 0 0-2 4; John Renner 0 1 0-0 3; Drew Schrum 0 0 0-2 0; Tanner Furbush 1 0 1-4 3; Trever Lewis 2 0 0-2 4; Lane Bigge 1 0 0-2 2; Totals 12 1 3-16 30.

Hoisington boys

Trent Schremmer 3 0 0-0 6; Jacob Durrett 1 0 0-0 2; Cody Stetler 10 0 1-1 21; Ryan Becker 4 0 0-0 8; Stefan Dolechek 0 1 1-2 4; Jacob Warnken 1 3 2-2 13; Anthony Broeder 6 0 2-3 14; Seth Owen 0 0 4-6 4; Totals 25 4 10-14 72.

Huskies move on at Sub-State

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Huskies boys basketball team won its first game over the Natoma Tigers, 66-58, on Tuesday at the Sub-State Tournament in Palco.

In the first quarter, sophomore Matt Stutsman got the Huskies off to a good start scoring seven of his team's 13 first quarter points. Junior Ian Vincent scored four points on two field goals and senior Phillip Compton had two points on a bucket.

In the second quarter, the Tigers would close the gap thanks to the hot hand of junior Jackson Meiers who scored eight of his team's 14 points in the quarter on four field goals. The Huskies managed 11 points in the quarter, six points coming from junior Hunter Chandler who scored three baskets. Stutsman hit on a 3-pointer and sophomore Brant Cox scored two on a bucket, and the Huskies took a slim one point lead into halftime, 24-23.

In the third quarter the game would get even tighter, Meiers scored another eight points for the Tigers including two 3-pointers and senior Phillip Murphy added five points. The Huskies responded with five points from Stutsman who scored a 3-pointer and a bucket and five points from junior Jordan Baird who hit a 3-pointer and two free throws. The Huskies and Tigers closed out the quarter tied at 38.

Both teams were red hot in the fourth quarter but free throws were the difference and the Huskies made them count. Murphy scored 12 of the Tigers 20 points off of three 3-pointers, a basket and a free throw and Frye had five points on a bucket and three free throws, but they couldn't match the Huskies 28 points. Stutsman scored 11 points in the final stanza including a 3-pointer and converting six of six from the free throw line. Brant Cox was clutch from the charity stripe as well hitting on six of eight free throws and Chandler had six points as well, scoring two baskets and two free throws. Baird added five points on a trey and two free throws as

the Huskies ran away with a 66-58 victory over the Tigers.

"We stepped up and hit our free throws in the fourth quarter once we had the lead," said head coach Chuck Fessenden. "We made 16 out of 20 (free throws) in the final period. Brant Cox came off the bench to replace an injured Tyson Callaway, and did a nice job of running the offense and hitting free throws. Matt Stutsman had a huge game with 26 points. Hunter Chandler and Ian Vincent shot the ball well on the inside. We will now face a very good Dighton team," said Fessenden.

The Huskies will take on the Dighton Hornets on Friday at 6 p.m. in Palco.

Huskies scoring: Matt Stutsman - 26 points, Hunter Chandler - 12 points, Jordan Baird - 10 points, Brant Cox - 8 points, Ian Vincent - 6 points, Phillip Compton - 2 points, Tyson Callaway - 2 points.

Tigers scoring: Phillip Murphy - 19 points, Jackson Meiers - 16 points, Triton Frye - 12 points, Cale Hooper - 7 points, Elijah Holmes - 4 points.



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