

# Lady Jays season ends with loss in Sub-State

By Dick Boyd

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The No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team played hard as always but just did not hit enough baskets in a 52-27 loss to No.2 seed Ellsworth in the semi-finals of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament played Thursday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

The loss ended the Lady Jays' season with an overall record of 12-10.

Ellsworth moved on to play No.1 seed Russell in Saturday's championship finals and their season ended with a 14-9 record when they lost to Russell by a score of 55-37.

Russell will enter the Class 3A State Tournament in Hutchinson this week with an 18-5 record.

Norton got off to a slow start against Ellsworth and trailed 19-6 after one quarter. In the defensive second quarter, both teams scored just 5 points but Norton still trailed 24-11 at halftime.

Norton's best quarter was the third when they scored 12 points but the Lady Bearcats tallied 13 to hold a 37-23 advantage. Ellsworth finished strong, outscoring Norton 15-4 in the final stanza.

"We dug ourselves a hole in the first quarter and just could never get out," said Norton head coach George Rossi.

"We played hard but Ellsworth has a good team. We never gave up but they were the better team tonight.

"It's sad to see the season end with this loss but you must remember that only one team will finish this season with a win."

Norton's six points in the first quarter came on a basket from beyond the arc from senior point guard Tawni Griffey, a two-point basket by junior guard Katelyn Engelbert and a free throw by junior post Bailey Ambrosier.

The five points scored by Norton in the second period came on a three-point basket by junior guard Johnnye Ruder and a two-point basket by Ambrosier.

In the third quarter, Griffey found the range on two shots from beyond the arc while senior post Alec Melvin, senior guard Kamilla Jones and Ambrosier each hit two-point baskets.

Engelbert and junior guard Marisa Maddy hit Norton's only fourth quarter baskets.

Leading scorer for Norton was Griffey who hit all 9 of her

points on 3 of 7 treys for 43 percent.

Halle Connally led Ellsworth with 19 points. Brenn Cravens added 11.

As a team, Norton hit just 4 of 16 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 7 of 21 two-point tries for 33 percent and 11 of 37 overall for 30 percent.

Ellsworth scored on 4 of 6 from long range for 67 percent, 17 of 38 two-point attempts for 45 percent and 21 of 44 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Bearcats hit 6 of 11 for 55 percent. The Lady Blue Jays shot just 3 free throws and hit 1 for 33 percent.

Norton grabbed 5 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 20 total. Ellsworth pulled down 6 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 25 total.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Katelyn Engelbert and Bailey Ambrosier with 5 each, followed by Tawni Griffey, 3; Katie Bohl, Johnnye Ruder, Kamilla Jones, 2 each; Alec Melvin, 1.

Griffey was credited with 3 of Norton's 5 offensive assists. Engelbert and Jones had 1 assist each.

Norton had 2 steals and Ellsworth had 7 steals. Melvin and

Jones each had 1 theft.

The Lady Jays had 14 turnovers and the Lady Bearcats lost the ball 8 times.

Norton will lose three seniors off this season's team: Tawni Griffey, Alec Melvin and Kamilla Jones.

"Our three seniors have been awesome leaders," said coach Rossi.

"It will be tough to replace our seniors but we have a lot of young players coming up.

"I'm proud of our players. We got a lot better during the season and improved in all areas.

"We had a huge crowd screaming for us again tonight. Our fan support has been really great all year.

"Thank you to everyone in the community for your support this season."

### Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 0 3 0-0 9; Marisa Maddy 1 0 0-0 2; Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 1-2 5; Johnnye Ruder 0 1 0-1 3; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 7 4 1-3 27.

### Ellsworth girls

Rachel Herzog 0 0 1-2 1; Halle Connally 3 3 4-6 19;

Brenn Cravens 4 1 0-0 11; Kaillee Landon 3 0 0-0 6; Maycee Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Connor Davis 3 0 1-3 7; Whitney Williams 3 0 0-0 6; Totals 17 4 6-11 52.

### Other Sub-State results

In the other Sub-State girls game in Norton on Thursday, No.1 seed Russell defeated No.4 seed Hoisington 42-30. As mentioned earlier, Russell went on to defeat Ellsworth on Saturday evening and earn a berth in the Class 3A State Tournament in Hutchinson.

In boys Class 3A Sub-State action in Norton, No.1 seed Phillipsburg defeated No.5 seed Minneapolis 57-45 and No.2 seed Beloit outscored No.3 seed Hoisington 60-46 in Friday's semi-finals.

In Saturday's championship finals, Beloit outscored Phillipsburg 65-58 to earn a trip to the Class 3A State Basketball Tournament this week in Hutchinson.

Phillipsburg ended the season with an overall record of 19-2. Beloit enters the state tournament with a 21-2 record.

In Class 2A Sub-State Tournament play on Saturday in Plainville, the Smith Center girls earned a trip to the State Tournament in Manhattan with a 59-

48 win over Ellis.

In Class 1A, Division I in the WaKeeney Sub-State, the unbeaten Hoxie girls advanced to the State Tournament in Emporia again with a 73-38 win over Quinter.

In Class 1A, Division I Sub-State action in Osborne, the Thunder Ridge girls outscored Osborne 58-32 to earn a place in the State Tournament.

In boys play, Ness City defeated Oakley 62-47 in the championship finals of the Plainville 2A Sub-State to earn a berth in the State Championship Tournament.

In the Class 1A, Division I Sub-State Tournament in Osborne on Saturday, the Stockton boys earned a trip to the State Tournament with a 57-30 win over Osborne.

In Class 1A, Division I Sub-State play in WaKeeney on Saturday, the Hoxie boys defeated Quinter 54-24 to reach the State Tournament this week.

In Class 1A, Division II Sub-State play in Colby on Saturday, the Sharon Springs boys defeated Cheylin 62-42 to earn a spot in the State Tournament in Hays this week.

In girls action in Colby, Golden Plains beat Tri-plains 53-33 to advance to Hays.

# Sub-State loss finishes Lady Huskies' season

By Mike Stephens

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### 1st Round

The Norton Valley Lady Huskies won their first round Sub-State Tournament game by 17 points over the Western Plains Lady Bobcats, 59-42, on Wednesday, Feb. 27 in Ransom.

The Huskies got off to a good start in the first quarter, senior Erika Chandler scored six points on three field goals. The Bobcats managed only six points in the quarter and the Huskies led 12-6.

In the second quarter three Huskies freshmen scored all 12 points in the quarter. Shayna Vincent shot four for four from the free throw line and Brooke Baird and Sarah Baird scored four points each on two field goals. The Bobcats scored nine points in the quarter, five coming from junior Ruth Hair. The Huskies would go into halftime up by nine points over the Bobcats, 24-15.

In the third quarter Vincent scored nine of her team's 13 points, one point more than the entire Bobcats team, and the Huskies had a commanding 14 point lead going into the fourth quarter, 37-23.

Both teams were hot offensively in the fourth quarter. Bobcats senior Katie Showalter scored 11 of her team's 19 points, including two 3-pointers but it would not be enough. The five Huskies scored in the quarter. Sophomore Kortney Cunningham led the way, scoring seven of her team's 22 points as the Huskies advanced to the second round with an impressive 59-42 victory over the Bobcats.

"Our first round of Sub-State went really well. We played one of our best games of the season and won 59-42. We came out and played aggressive for three quarters, then let it slip a bit in the fourth, but we picked up our intensity to pull away. Due to foul trouble, we had to have some freshmen step up and play well, and I was very pleased how they handled the situation," said head coach Logan Kats.

Huskies scoring: Shayna Vincent - 18 points, Kortney Cunningham - 11 points, Brooke Baird - 10 points, Erika Chandler - 9 points, Sarah Baird - 8 points, Khrianna VanPatten - 3 points.

### 2nd Round

The Huskies hosted the Natoma Lady Tigers in the second

round and suffered a 22 point loss, 57-35, on Thursday, Feb. 28 in Alma.

The difference in this game was Tigers senior Danica Casey who led all scorers with 22 points could not be stopped and the Huskies inability to put up points especially in the first and fourth quarters, scoring four and five points respectively. Kortney Cunningham led

the Huskies in scoring with 14 points, eight points came in the second quarter. The Lady Tigers led from start to finish and despite the loss the young Huskies gained valuable experience for next year.

"Again, I thought we played fairly well tonight except for a few times in the first half where we struggled at times and our youth and inexperience really

showed. In the second half we fought back to 12 points and they hit a buzzer shot at the end of the third quarter, which really hurt our momentum and prevented a comeback," said head coach Logan Kats.

"Our girls improved greatly throughout the season. We had a very inexperienced team but we were competitive most nights we stepped on the court. I was

very proud of how we grew as a group and came to work everyday. Such a great group of girls we had this year, I am very proud of how far we progressed," said Kats

Huskies scoring: Kortney Cunningham - 14 points, Brooke Baird - 12 points, Sarah Baird - 4 points, Shayna Vincent - 4 points, Erika Chandler - 1 point.

## BOWLING

### Ladies Inter-City League Standings as of Feb. 4

1. Animal Health - 14.5 wins, 9.5 losses
  2. Geezeretts - 14 wins, 10 losses
  3. Nelson Bros. - 14 wins, 10 losses
  4. Logan Gals - 14 wins, 10 losses
  5. BEB & Assoc. - 11.5 wins, 12.5 losses
- High Line: Margaret Thomas-163, Sharron Smith-154, Judy Luft-151, BEB & Assoc.-403, Animal Health-387, BEB & Assoc.-382.
- High Line Handicap: Judy Luft-233, Margaret Thomas-231, Charlene Hildebrand-220, Nelson Bros.-600, Animal Health-600, Logan Gals-593, Geezeretts-583.
- High Series: Sharron Smith-417, Margaret Thomas-396, Joy Johnson-387, BEB & Assoc.-1148, Animal Health-1057, Geezeretts-1049.
- High Series Handicap: Margaret Thomas-600, Judy Luft-595, Joy Johnson-579, Animal Health-1696, Nelson Bros.-1693, Logan Gals-1671.

### Ladies Inter-City League Standings as of Feb. 11

1. Animal Health - 18.5 wins, 9.5 losses
  2. Nelson Bros. - 17 wins, 11 losses
  3. Geezeretts - 15 wins, 13 losses
  4. Logan Gals - 15 wins, 13 losses
  5. BEB & Assoc. - 14.5 wins, 13.5 losses
- High Line: Sharron Smith-173, Lyndelle Linde-170, Sharron Smith-168, BEB & Assoc.-4432, BEB & Assoc.-416, Nelson Bros.-405.
- High Line Handicap: Lyndelle Linde-241, Sharron Smith-224, Sharron Smith-219, Nelson Bros.-624, Animal Health-605, BEB & Assoc.-601.
- High Series: Sharron Smith-504, Margaret Thomas-437, Kathleen Berlier-421, BEB & Assoc.-1264, Animal Health-1114, Nelson Bros.-1084.
- High Series Handicap: Sharron Smith-657, Margaret Thomas-641, Judy Luft-608, BEB & Assoc.-1771, Animal Health-1750, Nelson Bros.-1741.

**Congratulations to all the area teams on a great basketball and wrestling season.**

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