

Norton Blue Jays lose to Stockton Tigers

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team played hard in their Mid-Continent League game with state-ranked and undefeated Stockton in the Stull Gym on Tuesday evening and all statistics for both teams were about the same except for one very important one.

Free throw shooting percentage was the same, rebounds were nearly the same and turnovers were as well but one very important statistic was not close. Norton hit just 20 percent from the field while Stockton swished 38 percent of their shots.

The result was a 41-26 loss for the Blue Jays.

Neither team actually scored many points until the final quarter. The score was tied 8-all after one quarter where sophomore Quinton Porter scored all of Norton's points on a two-point basket, a three-point basket and free throw. Senior Drew Schrum scored Norton's only two points in the second period. Stockton tallied 11 points to lead 19-10 at intermission.

The lid remained on the basket for Norton in the third quarter when the Blue Jays scored just two points again, this time on two free throws by junior Conor Cox. The Tigers hit just two baskets and one free throw in the period but still led 24-12 with one quarter remaining.

Both teams had their best scoring in the final period when the Blue Jays tallied 14 points and Stockton scored 17 more. Norton senior Tanner Furbush, who has been the leading scorer for the Blue Jays but saw limited action due to foul trouble, hit two baskets in the final stanza. Porter hit his third basket of the night along with a free throw, Schrum swished his second basket of the game and senior Marc Miller hit a three-pointer for his only points in the contest.

Porter was high scorer for Norton with 9 points on 1 three-point, 2 two-point baskets and 2 free throws. Jaden Williams was leading scorer for Stockton with 15 points.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 15 three-point attempts for 13 percent, 7 of 31 two-point tries for 23 percent and 9 of 46 overall for 20 percent. Stockton found the range on 3 of 12 trey tries for 25 percent, 11 of 25 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 14 of 37 overall for 38 percent.

From the free throw stripe, the Blue Jays hit 6 of 12 for 50 percent and the Tigers swished 10 of 20 for 50 percent.



Sophomore guard Quinton Porter drives for the basket after stealing the basketball during the Blue Jays' Mid-Continent League game with Stockton in the Stull Gym on Tuesday evening. Porter was leading scorer and second leading rebounder for Norton in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Rebounding was also fairly even. Norton grabbed 11 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 29 total. Stockton pulled down 8 offensive and 25 defensive caroms for 33 total.

Eight different Norton players shared in the

rebounding. Conor Cox led with 9, followed by Quinton Porter, 7; Trever Lewis, 4; Tanner Furbush, 3; Marc Miller, 2; Drew Schrum, 2; Tyus Henson, 1; Kobie Unterseher, 1.

Norton had 5 steals and Stockton recorded 8

thefts. Furbush had 2 steals, followed by Quinton Porter, Marc Miller, Conor Cox, 1 each.

Cox blocked 3 shots and Schrum rejected 1.

The Blue Jays had 4 assists. Henson had 2 while Porter and Lewis each had 1.

Norton had 12 turnovers and Stockton had 10.

"I was very happy with how we played defensively," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "We executed well offensively in the first half but couldn't get shots to fall."

"Once the separation came in the second half, we needed to be more aggressive offensively and penetrate their zone."

"Having Furbush in foul trouble hurt us offensively."

"We are in every game. We just need to keep playing hard and get better at what we do."

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity doubled the score on their young opponents in a 60-30 three-quarter contest.

Norton led by just 8-7 after one quarter but a 28-2 quarter in Norton's favor extended the lead to 36-9. Norton also outscored Stockton 24-21 in the final quarter.

Ten different players scored for Norton. Leading scorers were Breven Sondergaard and Kobie Unterseher, both with 13 points. They were followed by Quinton Porter, 8; Derick Campbell, 6; Landon Porter, 5; Koby McEwen, 3; Connor Griffey, 3; Mitchell Hickman, 3; Tyus Henson, 2; James Berry, 2; Tyler Kuhn, 2.

Kyle Hull led Stockton with 10 points; Nolan Lowry added 7.

Norton boys

Quinton Porter 2 1 2-4 9, Marc Miller 0 1 0-0 3, Drew Schrum 2 0 0-0 4, Conor Cox 0 0 4-8 4, Tanner Furbush 3 0 0-0 6; Totals 7 2 6-12 26.

Stockton boys

Andrew Bellerive 2 0 2-5 6, Reed Stephens 2 0 4-6 8, Casey Deutscher 1 2 1-1 9, Christian Hamel 0 1 0-0 3, Jaden Williams 6 0 3-7 15; Totals 11 3 10-19 41.

Next action

Norton will travel to Phillipsburg today to play another Mid-Continent League game.

Junior varsity games begin at 4:45 p.m.

The Norton junior varsity boys will also compete on Saturday in the Junior Varsity Tournament in Oakley, beginning at 9 a.m.

Junior varsity wrestlers take second

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton junior varsity wrestlers had another good showing with a third place finish in the varsity Southern Valley Invitational Tournament last Friday.

Southern Valley won the championship with 209 points, followed by South Central Unified, 163; Norton junior varsity, 153; Centura, 149; Medicine Valley, 148; Franklin, 118; Red Cloud-Blue Hill, 103; Loomis-Bertrand, 99; Arapahoe, 98; Axtell, 83.5; Wilcox-Hildreth, 68; Elwood, 33; Wauneta-Palisade, 20; Alma, 18.

"This tournament continues to be a quality tournament," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. "It is run with pools which allow most wrestlers to receive five matches. At the end of a long day, one in each weight class is crowned champion, three receive runner-up and eight other wrestlers place in the top five for a third place team finish."

"Leading the way for Norton was Skylar Johnson at 106. He was in a three-man round robin and pinned both of his opponents in the first period."

"Ethan Ross is a varsity wrestler at 120 pounds who was scheduled to take his ACT on Saturday so entered this tournament. Ethan went 4-1. Ethan had some good matches and was definitely challenged in his finals match where he lost to place second. Other finalists were Kade Unterseher, 113 and Mike Kasson, 145. Both are wrestling well for this early in the season. Kade was 3-1 while Mike was 4-1."

"Dalton Vanover put in a quality performance at 138 pounds in his first competition of the year. He went 4-1 for the day. The way the criteria for the bracket worked out, after losing in the second round, Dalton had to battle in his next three matches for a fifth place finish. Dalton ended the day with a major decision win, technical fall win and one pin for a win. For his performance, Dalton was voted Norton's "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

"The competition for the past few years at Southern Valley has been good and we always

have to adjust to the number of matches for each wrestler. This tournament was what we needed and a challenge for our young wrestlers early in the season."

"We don't put too much emphasis on the wins and losses at this point of the season as long as we wrestle hard and put ourselves in situations to become better. For the most part, we are doing that. I was proud of the fact that we competed for a team placing but there are definitely some things we need to hit hard in the practice room."

Match results

106 - Skylar Johnson pinned Drew Goosic, Franklin, in 1:35 and pinned Casey Miller, Southern Valley in 1:08 to place first.

113 - Kade Unterseher won an 11-0 major decision over Ben Bogle, Elwood; won a 9-2 decision over Shea Shannon, Franklin; pinned Owen Grube, Franklin, in 2:45 and was pinned in 2:43 by Dawson Messenger, South Central Unified, to place second.

120 - Ethan Ross pinned Kalen Cumming, Centura, in :32; won a 17-2 technical fall in 5:52 over Jason Palmer, Loomis-Bertrand; won a 4-3 decision over Teak Edwards, Loomis-Bertrand; won a 10-4 decision over Tanner Schnuerle, Franklin and was pinned in 3:34 by Conner Bergquist, Southern Valley, to place second.

132 - Trenton Wright lost an 11-6 decision to Norton's Riley Hager; pinned Ethan GDanitz, Loomis-Bertrand in 3:22; was pinned in 1:59 by Christian Lewis, Southern Valley; pinned Nate Clapp, Axtell, in :52 and pinned Peyton McCord, Centura, in 4:00 to place fifth.

132 - Riley Hager decided Norton's Trenton Wright 11-6; won an 18-2 technical fall over Ethan GDanitz, Loomis-Bertrand in 5:19; pinned Nate Clapp, Axtell, in 5:04; was pinned in 1:04 by Christian Lewis, Southern Valley and decided Thomas Foster, Medi-

cine Valley, 9-4 to place third.

138 - Derek Rowh pinned Rodger Farr, Medicine Valley, in 4:25; pinned Joe Sramek, Wauneta-Palisade, in 2:37; received a third round bye lost a 14-4 major decision to Griffon York, Southern Valley and lost a 10-2 major decision to Kaleb Shafer, South Central Unified, to place fourth.

138 - Dalton Vanover won a 15-9 decision over CJ Hernandez, Southern Valley; was decided 7-4 by Lucas Kyhn, Centura; won a 15-0 tech fall in 2:54 over Wayne Wills, Medicine Valley; pinned Deone Wilson, Elwood, in 5:59 and won a 4-1 decision over Rodger Farr, Medicine Valley, to place fifth.

145 - Garret Otter was pinned in 4:42 by Jon Dobish, Axtell; pinned Cody Barrett, Wauneta-Palisade, in 1:29; was pinned in :22 by Andrew Abramson, Loomis-Bertrand; lost a 9-5 decision to Tre Norman, Southern Valley and pinned Derek Monie, Arapahoe, in 2:29 to place 11th.

145 - Mike Kasson pinned Derek Monie, Arapahoe, in :13; pinned Cole Remmenga, Elwood, in 3:18; pinned Lukas Doyle, Medicine Valley, in :25; won a 16-7 major decision over James Fuller, Red Cloud-Blue Hill and lost a 6-1 decision to Andrew Abramson, Loomis-Bertrand, to place second.

152 - Layton Miller lost a 10-3 decision to Norton's Weston Erbert; won an 11-6 decision over Zack Bomberger, Centura; was pinned in :41 by Anthony Shimm, Arapahoe; won by medical forfeit over Brady Dawson, Southern Valley and pinned Josiah Wilbur, Axtell, in :45 to place fifth.

152 - Weston Erbert pinned Zack Bomberger, Centura, in :57; won a 10-3 decision over Norton's Layton Miller; pinned Josiah Wilbur, Axtell, in :37; was pinned in 2:43 by Dallas Johnson, Axtell and was pinned in 5:49 by James Mazour, South Central Unified, to place

fourth.

170 - Maverick Engel was pinned in 2:36 by Ty Contrerez, Medicine Valley; was pinned in 2:16 by Calvin DeVries, South Central Unified; lost an 8-3 decision to Gage Crowell, Wauneta-Palisade; was pinned in 1:27 by Trent Christianity, Franklin and received a bye to place ninth.

182 - Alex Hjort was pinned in :42 by Zack Kerner, Arapahoe; was pinned in 1:06 by Brett Jones, Medicine Valley; was pinned in 1:26 by Lucas Pistulka, Wilcox-Hildreth; was pinned in 1:47 by Ramsey Hunt, Wilcox-Hildreth and was pinned in 1:00 by Andrew Osburn, Centura, to place eighth.

195 - Jordan Dole pinned Brett Gardner, Arapahoe, in 2:33; was pinned in 3:15 by Axel Cassel, Axtell; received a third round bye; was pinned in 3:44 by Quinten Chancellor, Medicine Valley and pinned Anthony Francis, South Central Unified, in 3:12 to place third.

285 - Lance Armbrister lost by disqualification to Hunter Nance, Centura; was pinned in 3:27 by Jason Garza, Wilcox-Hildreth; was pinned in :31 by Tom Percival, Southern Valley; pinned Parker Sturgis, Wilcox-Hildreth, in 1:07 and was pinned in 1:48 by Nick Andersen, Red Cloud-Blue Hill, to place fifth.

Next action

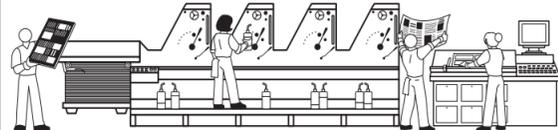
The Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete this Saturday in the varsity Fran Jorgensen Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Cambridge, Neb. Wrestling will begin at 10 a.m.

Teams competing, in addition to the Norton junior varsity and Cambridge varsity, will be Ansley/Litchfield, Axtell, Alma, Elm Creek, Elwood, Eustis/Farnam, Fillmore Central, Franklin, Harvard, Hitchcock Co., Wauneta-Palisade, Loomis/Bertrand, Minden, Overton, Superior, Wilcox-Hildreth and the Oberlin junior varsity.

The top three teams will receive a plaque, the top four individual wrestlers in each weight class will receive a medal and individual champions in each weight class will receive a custom t-shirt.



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