

Norton takes second in Joe Green tourney

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys C-team basketball team played well and finished second in the annual Joe Green Invitational Basketball Tournament held Sat., Mon., Tuesday, Dec. 28, 30, 31 in Hill City.

Norton opened the tournament with a 64-38 win over Oakley, then defeated Ellis 42-36. In the championship finals, they took on the home team Hill City and, despite a furious fourth quarter rally, lost 56-39 to the young Ringnecks.

Ness City defeated Ellis in the third place game and Stockton placed fifth with a win over Oakley.

Oakley
In the win over Oakley on Saturday, Norton held quarter

leads of 10-4, 35-15 and 49-29.

Leading scorer for Norton was Landon Porter with 22 points, followed by Connor Griffey, 12; Jordan Karnopp, 10; Brendon Frack, 6; Koby McEwen, 4; Tyler Kuhn, 4; Will Ellis, 3; James Berry, 3.

Gabel led Oakley with 14 points.

"This was a good game for us, coming off our Christmas break," said Norton assistant coach David Stover.

"After a somewhat sluggish first quarter, we used our defense to create many offensive opportunities, which led to a big halftime lead.

"We played a solid second half to lead us to victory."

Ellis
In the victory over the Railroaders, Norton led 14-9 after

one quarter but was outscored 11-7 in the second period to lead by just 21-20 at intermission. A 6-4 third quarter in favor of the Blue Jays allowed them to lead 27-24 with one period remaining. Norton outscored the Railroaders 15-12 in the final stanza to win by 6 points.

Leading scorer for Norton was Breven Sondergaard with 12 points. Landon Porter added 11, followed by Connor Griffey, 7; Koby McEwen, 4; James Berry, 4; Brendon Frack, 2; Tyler Kuhn, 2.

Feik and Pfeifer each scored 9 points for Ellis and Smith added 7.

"This was a very hard-fought win for us," said coach Stover. "The game was close throughout with no team ever taking a sizeable lead. We did not handle

the Ellis pressure defense well for the majority of the game but made big plays down the stretch to earn the win."

Hill City

Norton fell behind early to Hill City in the championship game and rallied but couldn't catch up.

Hill City led 11-6 after one quarter and 26-14 at halftime. A 20-9 third quarter in favor of the Ringnecks extended their lead to 46-23.

The young Blue Jays held Hill City to just one field goal in the fourth period but they hit eight free throws for 10 more points. Norton scored 16 points in the final stanza, 9 of them on baskets from beyond the arc. Despite outscoring Hill City 16-10 in the fourth, it wasn't enough to catch up and win the

championship.

Landon Porter was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Connor Griffey, 9; Jordan Karnopp, 8; Derick Campbell, 4; Will Ellis, 3; James Berry, 2.

Brandyberry led Hill City with 16 points; Pfeifer added 14 and Tremblay tallied 12.

"Hill City earned the tournament title in the middle two quarters," said coach Stover. "After a fairly even first quarter, they outscored us 35-17 in the second and third quarters to gain control of the game but it was far from over. We mounted a furious fourth quarter rally but Hill City made their free throws down the stretch to earn the victory."

Coach's overall comments
"It was a very good three

days of competition for us," said coach Stover. "We received positive contribution from each and every team member. I truly believe we saw both team and individual improvement each day of the tournament.

"This tournament is always a great opportunity for our players to get valuable court time and we saw improvement in many areas of the game.

"I was proud of our effort and, with that continued effort, we will see improvement as the season continues."

All-Tournament Team
Norton's Landon Porter was named to the All-Tournament Team.

Lady Jays win opening basketball game of year

By DICK BOYD

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With Johnnye Ruder hitting from long range and Katie Bohl scoring inside, the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team opened their 2014 play on Tuesday evening with an impressive 59-39 win in Cambridge.

Ruder hit 5 of 12 three-point baskets and 3 of 3 two-point attempts for 8 of 15 for 53 percent from the field and added 1 of 2 free throws for 22 points. Bohl was unstoppable inside, hitting 9 of 10 shots for a net-smoking 90 percent! She also hit 7 of 12 free throws for 58 percent from the line and 25 points overall.

Norton raced out to an 18-4 first quarter lead with Ruder hitting 8 points and Bohl 7.

The Lady Jays scored just 8 points in the second quarter but limited Cambridge to just 5 and still had a comfortable halftime lead of 26-9.

With Bohl leading the way with 7 more points, the Lady Jays scored 13 points in the third period but Cambridge did not give up and had by far

their best quarter with 21 points to cut the Norton advantage to 39-30. Bohl kept scoring in the fourth quarter with 9 more points as the Lady Jays finished strong with 20 points compared to only 9 for Cambridge.

"This was a fantastic team effort," said Norton head coach George Rossi. "Our girls did a great job to start the game and to finish the game. We learned a lot about ourselves when Cambridge made a run at us in the third quarter. In our huddle, our girls knew it was time to come out and play and they motivated themselves to pull ahead and seal the win.

"The good thing is that right now we don't have a leading scorer. Different girls have stepped up at different times and we have had different girls lead the scoring in each game.

"Our composure was much better tonight. We need to take this game and build on it and keep working on little things to make us a better team."

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 23 three-point attempts for 22 percent, a net-smoking 16 of 25

two-point tries for 64 percent and 21 of 48 overall for 44 percent.

Cambridge swished 4 of 13 from beyond the arc for 31 percent, 13 of 35 two-point tries for 37 percent and 17 of 48 overall for 35 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton found the goal on 12 of 24 for an even 50 percent while Cambridge hit just 1 of 3 charities for 33 percent.

Norton also outrebounded Cambridge. The Lady Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 30 total. Cambridge grabbed 6 offensive and 15 defensive caroms for 21 total.

Bohl was leading rebounder with 11 total, followed by Kate-lynn Engelbert, 8; Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Ruder, 3; Caitlyn Cox, 2; Marisa Maddy, 1; Darcy Bainter, 1.

The aggressive Norton defense stole the ball 17 times! Eight different girls had at least 1 theft. The leader was Ruder with 5, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 3; Bohl, 3; Bainter, 2; Cox, Engelbert, Hanna Brooks,

Casey Ambrosier, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 15 offensive assists. Ruder led with 4 assists, followed by Engelbert and Bohl, each with 3; Cox, Maddy, Bainter, Bailey Ambrosier, Peyton Renner, 1 each.

Bohl blocked 2 shots and Engelbert rejected 1.

Norton had 20 turnovers but Cambridge lost the ball 25 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls put together a 55-12 win over Cambridge.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 17-0, 30-4 and 49-10.

Ten different girls scored for Norton. Leading scorer for Norton was Lexi Voss with 11 points, followed by Hanna Brooks, 8; Miah Melvin, 8; Caitlyn Cox, 6; Molly Maddy, 6; Peyton Renner, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 4; Alexis Hartwell, 4; Baylee Miller, 2; Kira Robertson, 2.

"Coming back from the holidays, it was a great game for us," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"Our girls have picked it up in practice and it showed. We played tough defense and didn't allow Cambridge very many shots. We were also patient offensively and it paid off.

"All of our players had some court time and contributed to our victory."

C-team
The Norton girls C-team also had a dominating victory, winning 30-6.

Norton held quarter advantages of 12-0, 22-0 and 26-4.

Lexi Voss led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by Erin Archer, 8; Alexis Hartwell, 4; Kylie Perez, 4; Brittany Wright, 2; Kira Robertson, 2.

"Our girls played with so much more confidence than we have been seeing," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks "They had better composure and executed well.

"We did a nice job of driving to the basket and passing to our posts.

"It was awesome that we were able to score 30 points with the whole game being on the running clock.

"Our girls created a lot of their points from defensive steals."

Norton girls

Caitlyn Cox 0 0 1-2 1, Kate-lynn Engelbert 2 0 0-1 4, Darcy Bainter 0 0 1-2 1, Katie Bohl 9 0 7-11 25, Johnnye Ruder 3 5 1-2 22, Casey Ambrosier 2 0 0-0 4, Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 2-2 2: Totals 16 5 12-23 59.

Cambridge girls

Marlana Kent 1 0 0-0 2, Kadee Long 2 0 0-0 4, Mikayla Kent 2 1 0-2 7, Sloan Johnson 4 0 1-3 9, Brianna Eubank 0 1 0-0 3, Alea Shaner 1 2 0-0 8, Sheldon Cross 1 0 0-0 2, Rhiley Fiene 2 0 0-0 4; Totals 13 4 1-5 39.

Next action

The Norton varsity girls will play next in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament which begins Monday.

Norton will play in Phillipsburg at 6 p.m.

The Norton C-team girls will also play in a C-team tournament this Saturday in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Blue Jays lose first game of the year to Cambridge Trojans

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team led most of the way Tuesday evening in their 2014 opening game at Cambridge but free throws down the stretch allowed the home team to escape with a 48-43 win.

Cambridge hit 13 of 17 free throws in the game while Norton went to the line just 6 times and hit one charity. Cambridge hit 5 field goals in the fourth quarter compared to 4 for Norton but swished 9 of 10 from the charity stripe compared to 1 of 3 for Norton.

The Blue Jays led by quarters 12-7, 23-16 and 33-28. Norton continued to lead in the final stanza until Cambridge moved ahead with 3:20 remaining.

"It was a tough loss," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We are doing a lot of things right but fail to do fundamental things well when the game is on the line.

"We just are struggling to learn how to win. It is a must to keep our heads up and continue working to get better."

Leading scorer for the Blue Jays was Tanner Furbush. He hit 8 of 10 field goal tries for a net smoking 80 percent and was 1 of 3 from the charity stripe for 17 points.

J. Witte scored 13 points for Cambridge and Rich added 12.

Norton outshot and outrebounded Cambridge but 24 turnovers did not help the Blue Jays' cause.

Norton hit only 3 of 14 from long range for 21 percent but swished 16 of 32 from two-

point range for an excellent 50 percent. Overall, the Blue Jays were 19 of 46 for 41 percent. Cambridge hit 3 of 13 three-point tries for 23 percent, 13 of 38 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 16 of 51 overall for 31 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 14 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 32 total while Cambridge grabbed 10 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Tanner Furbush with 11, followed by Conor Cox, 7; Marc Miller, 5; Quinton Porter 3; Drew Schrum, 2; Tyus Henson, 2; Breven Sondergaard, 1; Trevor Lewis, 1.

Schrum had 3 of Norton's 6 steals. Porter had 2 thefts and Miller 1. Cambridge had 9 steals.

Schrum also had 3 of Norton's 8 offensive assists. Henson had 2 assists and Porter, Furbush and Lewis each had 1.

Cambridge had 13 turnovers.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity got off to a great start, then had to play hard to hold off Cambridge in a 34-32 victory.

Norton outscored Cambridge 20-4 in the first quarter but was outscored 10-3 in the second quarter to still lead 23-14 at intermission. A 10-4 third quarter in Cambridge's favor cut the Norton lead down to 27-24.

The young Blue Jays scored 7 points in the final period and Cambridge tallied just 8 to allow Norton to win by two points.

Leading scorer for Norton was Breven Sondergaard with 10 points, followed by Tyus

Henson, 7; Jordan Karnopp, 6; Quinton Porter, 5; Derick Campbell, 4; Kobie Unterseher, 2.

C-team

The Norton C-team allowed Cambridge only six field goals in a 34-12 victory.

Norton trailed 6-5 after one quarter but held Cambridge scoreless in the second period while putting 15 points on the board for a 20-6 lead at intermission. Norton outscored Cambridge 3-2 in the third period to lead 23-8 and outscored the home team 11-4 in the final stanza.

Will Ellis led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by James Berry, 6; Cruz Leon, 6; Mitchell Hickman, 5; Koby McEwen, 4; Gin Lee, 3; Owen Brown, 2.

Norton boys

Breven Sondergaard 1 0 0-0 2, Quinton Porter 2 0 0-0 4, Tyus Henson 0 2 0-0 6; Marc Miller 1 1 0-0 5, Drew Schrum 2 0 1-3 5, Conor Cox 1 0 0-0 2, Tanner Furbush 8 0 1-3 17, Trevor Lewis 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 16 3 2-6 43.

Cambridge boys

J. Witte 5 0 3-3 13, Bice 1 0 4-4 6, Kubik 3 0 3-4 9, Jones 0 1 0-0 3, Burke 1 0 1-3 3, Johnson 1 0 0-2 2, Rich 2 2 2-2 12; Totals 13 3 13-18 48.

Next action

The annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament will be held next week.

The Norton boys' first game will be Tuesday versus Plainville in Plainville, beginning at 6 p.m.

Mid-Continent Tourney starts Monday

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys varsity basketball teams will play in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament which begins Monday and concludes Saturday with Phillipsburg as the host school.

Girls
The Norton girls are seeded No.5 and will play No.4 seeded Phillipsburg at 6 p.m. Monday in Phillipsburg.

In other first round girls games on Monday, No. 1 Hill City will host No.8 Plainville, No. 2 Smith Center will host No. 7 Stockton and No.3 Ellis will host No.6 Oakley.

All first round games will begin at 6 p.m.

Losers of the Hill City-Pla-

inville and Phillipsburg-Norton contests will play in the consolation bracket at 6 p.m. Thursday in Stockton and losers of the Smith Center-Stockton and Ellis-Oakley games will also play at 6 p.m. Thursday in Stockton.

Winners of the Hill City-Plainville and Phillipsburg-Norton contests will play at 3 p.m. Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Winners of the Smith Center-Stockton and Ellis-Oakley contests will play at 6 p.m. Thursday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Losers of the consolation games on Thursday will play for seventh place in Gross at 9 a.m. Saturday and the winners will play at 12 noon in Gross for fifth place.

Losers of Friday's champi-

onship bracket games will play at 3 p.m. Saturday in Gross for third and winners will play for the championship at 6 p.m.

Boys

The Norton boys are seeded No.8 and will play No.1 seeded Plainville at 6 p.m. Tuesday in Plainville.

In other first round boys games, No.4 seed Stockton will host No.5 Phillipsburg, No.2 Smith Center will host No. 7 Hill City and No.3 Oakley will host No.6 Ellis.

All first round games will begin at 6 p.m.

Losers of the Plainville-Norton and Stockton-Phillipsburg games will play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Stockton and losers of the Smith Center-Hill City and Oakley-Ellis contests will also play at 7:30 p.m. Thursday

in Stockton.

Winners of the Plainville-Norton and Stockton-Phillipsburg games will play at 4:30 p.m. Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Winners of the Smith Center-Hill City and Oakley-Ellis contests will play at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Gross.

Losers of the consolation games on Thursday will play at 10:30 a.m. Saturday for seventh place and the winners will play for fifth place in Gross at 1:30 p.m.

Losers of Friday's championship bracket games will play at 4:30 p.m. Saturday in Gross for third and winners will play for the championship in Gross at 7:30 p.m.

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