



Kyle Kats, Norton's junior point guard, (right) drives inside for a shot during the Blue Jays' 61-35 win over Oberlin on Tuesday. Kyle was fouled on the shot and hit both free throws. He ended the game with 13 points, four rebounds and three steals. Defending for Oberlin were Lance Fortin (No. 3) and Egan Grafel (No. 33). Dan Roeder, senior forward for the Blue Jays, (above) handles the ball inside during the Jays' 61-35 victory over Oberlin on Tuesday. Roeder scored eight points and pulled



down five rebounds. On defense for Oberlin were Egan Grafel (No. 33) and Andy Anderson (No. 41). — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Norton boys come home with 61-35 win against Devils

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team extended their season record to 4-1 with an impressive 61-35 victory over Oberlin on Tuesday in Oberlin. Oberlin entered the game with a five game winning streak after losing their opener to Oakley. The Jays' only loss was by a 67-57 score to Ottawa in the Topsis Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. The score was tied 6-all with 2:08 left in the first quarter of Tuesday's contest, but the Jays outscored the Red Devils 5-2 the rest of the way to take a 13-8 advantage.

Norton pulled away to a 28-15 halftime lead by outscoring Oberlin 15-7 in the second quarter. The Red Devils' only second quarter points came from Egan Grafel, a 6'7" senior center, who finished the game with 21 points.

Norton's first half attack was led by Ryan Maddy, 6'1" junior forward, who hit three baskets in the first quarter and a two-point and three-point shot in the second quarter to score 11 points.

Maddy also hit two two-point baskets in the third quarter when both teams scored 15 points to make it a 43-30 game.

Norton ended the game with a lot of momentum as the Jays outscored the Red Devils 18-5 to extend their margin of victory to 26 points. Jered Sloan, 6'4" senior center, who hit two baskets in the third period, scored seven points in the fourth stanza on three baskets and a free throw. Kyle Kats, 5'10" junior point guard who is Norton's only returning starter from last year's state championship team, added eight points in the fourth period on a three-point basket, two-point shot and three free throws.

Grafel hit all five of Oberlin's points in the final stanza on a basket and three charity tosses.

Eight different Norton players scored in the game, led by Maddy with 15 points. Maddy hit his only three point shot, was 6 of 9 from two-point range for 67 percent accuracy and 7 of 10 overall for a red hot 70 percent.

Kats and Sloan each scored 13 points and each hit 63 percent from the field. Kats was 1 of 2 from three-point land and 4 of 6 from two-point range for 67 percent and 5 of 8 overall. He was perfect on two free throws. Sloan was 5 of 8 from the field as well and a perfect 3 of 3 from the charity stripe.

"Our defense was a key to our win," said Coach Reusink. "Our full court pressure gave them problems."

"I also liked the fact that we played hard for 32 minutes. We're still not executing offen-

sively like we can but that will come.

"Our depth was also a factor. Our bench did a good job for us."

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 7 from three point range for 43 percent, 21 of 41 two-point shots for 51 percent and 24 of 48 overall for 50 percent. Oberlin took seven shots from beyond the arc and missed on all of them. The Red Devils hit 13 of 33 two-point attempts for 39 percent and were 13 of 40 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton converted 10 of 13 for an excellent 77 percent and Oberlin swished 9 of 14 for 64 percent.

Norton outrebounded Oberlin 30-27. The Jays had 7 offensive and 23 defensive caroms compared to the Red Devils' 9 offensive and 18 defensive.

Sloan was the rebounding leader for Norton with 7, followed by Maddy and Dan Roeder, 5 each;

Kats, 4; Jared Foley, Aaron Overlease, Heath Vincent and Brian Luft, 2 each; Charlie Foley, 1.

Charlie Foley led Norton in assists with 3 of the Jays' total of 7. Kats, Roeder, Overlease and Maddy each had 1.

The Jays stole the ball 10 times. Charlie Foley and Kats had 3 thefts each, followed by Overlease, 2; Roeder and Vincent, 1 each.

Norton had 12 turnovers and Oberlin lost the ball 19 times.

Next action

Next competition for the Norton boys will be today when they host the Osborne Bulldogs in Mid-Continent League play. Games will begin with the freshmen contest at 4 p.m.

"Osborne has a good team," said Coach Reusink. "Their only loss was in a close game with Plainville."

B-team contest

Coach David Stover's Norton

boys B-team lost to Oberlin by a 48-43 score.

The Red Devils held quarter leads of 12-8, 22-18 and 39-35.

Nathan Morse led Norton in scoring with 12 points, followed by Josh Jackson and Justin Shirk, 6 each; Heath Vincent and Derek Volgamore, 5 each; Jason Green, 4; Brian Juenemann, 3; Nick Evans, 2.

Jason Thomas led Oberlin with 15 points. Josh Fortin added 12.

Norton boys 61

C. Foley 1 0 0-0 2, Kats 4 1 2-2 13, Roeder 1 1 3-3 8, Overlease 1 0 0-0 2, Luft 1 0 0-0 2, Luft 1 0 0-0 2, Maddy 6 1 0-2 15, Morse 0 0 0-1 0, Sloan 5 0 3-3 13, Vincent 2 0 2-2 6, Totals 21 3 10-13 61

Oberlin boys 35

Fortin 1 0 1-2 3, McKittrick 1 0 1-1 3, Grafel 7 0 7-11 21, Mondero 4 0 0-0 8, Totals 13 0 9-14 35

Lady Jays lose in exciting overtime game to Oberlin

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team lost an exciting 55-52 overtime contest to Oberlin on Tuesday in Oberlin.

After sophomore guard Whitney Newell hit nothing but net on a three point shot at the buzzer to end regulation with a 46-44 score, the Lady Jays were outscored 9-6 in the overtime.

The loss dropped Norton to 2-3 for the season and extended Oberlin's record to 5-2.

Norton led 12-8 after one quarter and outscored Oberlin 13-11 in the second quarter to take a 25-19 halftime lead. The third quarter was played on even terms as

Oberlin edged Norton 10-9 in the period to make it a 34-29 game heading into the fourth stanza.

The Lady Red Devil full court press forced a lot of Norton turnovers and Oberlin tied the score at 38-all with four minutes left in regulation.

Anna Berry, Norton's 5'10" senior center, hit two free throws with 3:07 left but an Oberlin basket at the 2:10 mark tied the score again. Berry scored in the lane with 2:03 remaining to put Norton on top 43-41 but Kaitlyn Stapp scored for Oberlin with 1:46 left to make it 43-all. Stapp stole the ball and scored with 1:38 remaining to put Oberlin on top 45-43. Each team had several missed scoring

opportunities until Kelsey Dorshorst hit 1 of 2 free tosses with just 11 seconds left to put Oberlin on top 45-43.

Coach Jilka called a time out with just four seconds remaining on the clock. After the timeout, the ball went to Newell and she fired a perfect basket to tie the game!

Rena Unger put Oberlin ahead with a free throw with 3:32 left in the four minute overtime but Norton's Amber Engelbert drove inside for a layup with 3:15 showing. Newell swished another shot from beyond the arc at the 2:50 mark and Norton led 51-47. Unger's free throw with 2:25 left made it 51-48. Jamie Elwood buried a three-point shot for the Lady

Red Devils to tie the score at 51-all with 1:39 remaining.

Unger hit 1 of 2 charities with 1:24 left, then Dorshorst swished 1 of 2 from the line at the 34 second mark to make it 53-51 in favor of the Lady Red Devils. Karlie Jones hit 1 of 2 charities for the Lady Jays with 30 seconds remaining. Oberlin's Abby Ream converted two free tosses with 14 seconds left to make it 55-52. Norton took another timeout with 6 seconds left on the clock and got two shots before the final gun but missed both.

"You have to give Oberlin a lot of credit," said Coach Jilka. "They outthusted us all night long in all phases of the game. Our blocking

out on rebounds was terrible as we gave up 25 offensive boards. Also, their press gave us trouble.

"It is disappointing, especially after the great week of practice we had during Christmas break. We just have to regroup and be ready to go against Osborne."

Jones was the leading scorer for Norton with 13 points. She missed all three treys, was 4 of 7 from two-point land for 57 percent and 4 of 10 overall for 40 percent. She hit 5 of 8 charity tosses for 63 percent. Berry added 12 points on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 free throws.

Engelbert was also in double figures with 10 points on 1 of 4 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 3 of 7 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36 percent and 1 of 2 free throws.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Unger with 14. Elwood added 12. As a team, Norton hit 3 of 14 long range shots for 21 percent, 16 of 34 two point attempts for 47 percent and 19 of 48 overall for 40 percent.

Oberlin hit a much lower percentage of their basket attempts but took 26 more shots than Norton. The Lady Red Devils hit just 2 of 12 trey tries for 17 percent, 19 of 62 two-point shots for 31 percent and 21 of 74 overall for only 28 percent accuracy.

Each team hit 11 of 24 free throws for 46 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 39-34. The Lady Jays had 9 offensive and 25 defensive rebounds and the Lady Red Devils pulled down 25 offensive and 14 defensive caroms.

Berry was the rebounding leader for Norton with 10, followed by Cox and Jones, 7 each; Engelbert, 5; Becca Ebert, 4; Newell, 1.

Norton had 11 assists compared to 6 for Oberlin. Newell led with 7, followed by Engelbert, 2 and Cox and Berry, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 8 steals compared to 14 for the Lady Red Devils. Jones led with 3, followed by Cox, 2; Newell, Engelbert and

Berry, 1 each.

The Lady Jays suffered 33 turnovers but the Lady Devils lost the ball 22 times.

Next action

The Norton girls will host Osborne in Mid-Continent League play today.

Games begin with freshmen games at 4 p.m.

B-team wins

Coach George Rossi's Norton girls B-team defeated Oberlin 32-17. Norton held quarter leads of 4-2, 16-3 and 25-9.

Stacy Reeves was leading scorer for Norton with 9 points, followed by Becca Ebert 5; Danece Payne, Amanda Antrim, Klaire Mann, Amber Overlease, 4 each; Chelle Donovan, 2.

Christa Hardy led Oberlin with 6 points. Tricia Dorshorst and Megan Barrett each scored 4 points.

"This was a much better performance tonight," said Coach Rossi. "Our defensive hustle was the best so far. We did a great job of getting in the passing lanes."

"Offense was helter-skelter at times. We need to settle down and run the offense and cut down on silly fouls. We also need to make free throws important."

Norton girls 52

Newell 1 2 0-0 8, Cox 3 0 3-11 9, Ebert 0 0-10, Jones 4 0 5-8 13, Engelbert 3 1 1-2 10, Berry 5 0 2-2 12, Totals 16 3 11-24 52.

Oberlin girls 55

Dorshorst 2 0 2-5 6, Fortin 2 0 0-4, Elwood 3 2 0-0 12, Olson 2 0 0-4, Ream 3 0 2-3 8, Stapp 3 0 1-2 7, Unger 4 0 6-14 14, Totals 19 2 11-24 55.



Chelsea Cox, Norton's 6' sophomore center, shoots a free throw during the Lady Jays' 55-52 overtime loss at Oberlin on Tuesday. Cox scored nine points, pulled down seven rebounds and stole the ball twice in the game. Also pictured are, from left, Oberlin's Rena Unger (No. 24), Norton's Becca Ebert (No. 22), Oberlin's Kerrie Olson (No. 15) and Norton's Whitney Newell.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Nobody covers the Blue Jays like we do!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM