



Norton's sophomore center Chelsea Cox prepared to swish a free throw during the Lady Jays' 53-38 win at Hill City on Friday evening. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls beat Ringnecks

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team returned on Friday to his hometown of Hill City, a place where he says his Blue Jays have trouble playing on occasion, and returned with a solid 53-38 Mid-Continent League victory.

Norton held just a 10-6 lead after the first quarter and 20-14 advantage at halftime. Hill City made a run in the third quarter by scoring 14 points to double their first half production. The Lady Jays scored 16 points to hold off the Lady Ringneck rally attempt and outscored the home team 17-10 in the final stanza to extend the margin of victory to 15 points.

Coach Jilka was happy with the balanced scoring by his quintet. Sophomore center Chelsea Cox hit 15 points and senior center Anna Berry added 12 inside. Sophomore guard Karlie Jones swished 13 points from the perimeter and junior forward Amber Engelbert added 6 from outside.

Norton also hit their free throws when they really counted in the fourth quarter. They hit 11 of 20 free throw attempts in the game but connected on 9 of 12 attempts in the final stanza.

"It's tough for us to play here but we did well," said Coach Jilka. "We rebounded better and hit our free throws when we needed them. We had nice balanced scoring and were more aggressive going for the ball tonight."

"We didn't play as good on defense as I like to see. They had too many open looks."

Cox got the Lady Jays off to a good start offensively as she hit

seven of her 15 points in the first quarter. She added eight more in the fourth period on two field goals and four of four free throws. She was 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent accuracy and 5 of 10 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

Jones hit 2 of 4 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and 5 of 9 overall for 56 percent. She was 1 of 4 from the charity stripe for 25 percent.

Berry swished 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and was a perfect 4 of 4 from the free throw line.

Leading scorer for Hill City was senior Erin Niehaus with 14 points. Junior Tiffani Long and senior Dayna Breese each scored 8 points for the Lady Ringnecks.

As a team, Norton had an excellent shooting night. The Lady Jays hit 4 of 11 from long range for 36 percent, 15 of 30 two-point shots for an even 50 percent and 19 of 41 overall for 46 percent. Meanwhile, Hill City hit 18 of 48 two-point shots for 38 percent, missed their only three-point try and ended 18 of 49 overall for 37 percent.

Norton was 11 of 20 on free throws for 55 percent and Hill City hit 2 of 4 for 50 percent.

Norton pulled down 5 offensive and 19 defensive rebounds for 24 total. Hill City grabbed 8 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 25 total.

Engelbert was the rebounding leader for Norton with 6, followed by Whitney Newell, 5; Cox, Jones, 4 each; Berry, 3; Nicole Wolf, 2.

Norton had 14 offensive assists and Hill City had just 8. Newell was assists leader with 4, followed by Jones, Berry, 3 each; Cox,

Becca Ebert, Wolf, Engelbert, 1 each.

Each team had 6 steals. Newell and Jones had 2 each and Cox and Berry had 1 each.

Norton had just 12 turnovers and Hill City had 15.

With the win, Norton extended their record to 8-6 and Hill City fell to 4-9.

Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Hill City 35-28.

Norton held quarter leads of 7-5, 14-12 and 27-16.

Leading scorer for Norton was Stacy Reeves with 12 points, followed by Dane Payne, 7; Chelle Donovan, Darci Darling, 5 each; Ebert, 3; Amber Overlease, 2; Amanda Antrim, 1.

Aubony Chalfant was leading scorer for Hill City with 7 points. Audrey Hanna added 6.

"This was one of our best games tonight," said Coach Rossi. "We did a good job of getting the ball inside in the second half."

"Our offense was more effective and our defense was pretty solid all night."

Next action

Norton will host Oberlin this evening, beginning at 5 p.m.

Norton girls 53

Newell 0 1 0-0 3, Cox 5 0 5-10 15, Ebert 1 0-0-2, Wolf 1 0-0-2, Jones 3 2 1-4 13, Engelbert 1 1 1-2 6, Berry 4 0 4-4 12. Totals 15 4 11-20 53.

Hill City girls 38

Niehaus 6 0 2-4 14, Long 4 0 0-0 8, Alexander 1 0 0-0 2, Day 1 0 0-0 2, Breese 4 0 0-0 8, Chalfant 1 0 0-0 2, Foster 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 18 0 2-4 38.

Freshmen girls win two, lose one

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School girls freshmen basketball team placed third in the Atwood Tournament on Saturday in Atwood. The girls also beat Smith Center last Tuesday.

The Lady Jays lost a 49-37 game to Colby, then defeated St. Francis 48-41.

Lost to Colby

In the loss to Colby, Norton trailed by quarters 11-1, 27-14 and 37-22.

Leading scorer for Norton was Maggie Nielsen with 13 points, followed by Dana Hillebrand, Morgan Kauten, 7 each; Jessica Ebner, Laura Delimont, 3 each; Lacey Roe, Ashley Traxler, 2 each.

Leading scorer for Colby was Schroeder with 20.

"We did not get off to a very good start today," said Coach Bolt. "We played scattered and out of sync in the first half."

"After half time, we matched up pretty well with them and even won the second half points. Unfortunately, it was too little too late."

Defeated St. Francis

The Lady Jays led 18-8 after one quarter against St. Francis but were outscored 14-5 in the second quarter and led by just 23-22 at halftime. After a 10-5 third quarter in favor of Norton, the Lady Jays held a 33-27 advantage with one quarter remaining.

Norton outscored St. Francis 15-14 in the fourth stanza to earn the victory.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kauten with 14 points, followed by Hillebrand, 9; Nielsen, 8; Delimont, 6; Roe, 5; Traxler, 4; Ebner, 2.

Ross was leading scorer for St. Francis with 13 points. Grace added 10.

"St. Francis started in a zone defense and we quickly shot into a ten point lead in the first quarter," said Coach Bolt. "They adjusted their defense and we once again struggled with our man offense in the second quarter."

"In the second half, we ran the offense well, got some good shots and, more importantly, picked up our help defense and footwork to keep them down."

"Once again, there were some good things happening. Our girls are continuing to improve."

The Norton freshmen girls are now 5-4 for the season.

Defeated Smith Center

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton fresh-

men girls team downed Smith Center 21-13.

The score was tied 5-all after one quarter but Norton had taken a 13-8 lead by halftime. After a 4-3 third quarter, Norton led 17-11.

Leading scorer for Norton was Morgan Kauten with 9, followed by Maggie Nielsen, 8; Lacey Roe, Dana Hillebrand, 2 each.

"I am seeing improvement on our offensive execution," said Coach Bolt. "We had a balanced inside-outside game tonight."

"We got caught off guard a couple of times on defense but, later in the game, we read Smith Center's offense and adjusted for nice steals."

DECATUR COUNTY

USD 294 LOB SPECIAL ELECTION

To be held

TUESDAY the 2nd Day of March, 2004

POLLS will open at 7 a.m.

and close at 7 p.m.

Because Monday the 16th of February is a Holiday—

Registration Books will close Friday,

the 13th of February, 2004, at 5 p.m.

If you have never been a registered voter you may

Register to Vote in the Office of the County Clerk

From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

If you have moved to a new residence—

You must reregister to vote!

For ADVANCED BALLOTS - contact the

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

in Oberlin or Norton.

Polling Places will be in the City Hall in Norcatour and

the Decatur County Courthouse in Oberlin.

Blue Jays down Hill City in 60-44 shootout Friday

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team slowly pulled away from a sharp-shooting Hill City squad for a 60-44 Mid-Continent League victory on Friday in Hill City.

Although the Ringnecks had trouble shooting from beyond the arc, they hit two-thirds of their two-pointers. Credit goes to the Blue Jay defense for limiting the number of shots by the Ringnecks and keeping them off the free throw line.

Norton took more shots from both the field and free throw line. The Blue Jays hit an excellent 56 percent of their two-point shots and swished 12 of 19 free throws while Hill City shot just 9 charities and hit 6.

Norton led by only 9-8 after one quarter but, thanks to three point baskets by senior forward Dan Roeder, junior point guard Kyle Kats and senior forward Jared Foley, three baskets and two free throws by senior Jered Sloan and a basket and two free throws by junior center Ryan Maddy, Norton scored 21 points in the second quarter while limiting Hill City to just 8 to take a 30-16 halftime lead.

Kats hit two more baskets, Roeder buried another trey and a two-point basket and Maddy recorded two more points in Norton's 12 point third quarter as the Jays limited the Ringnecks to a third straight eight point quarter to make the lead 42-24.

Sloan and Maddy each hit three baskets and two free throws and Roeder and junior guard Aaron Overlease each hit a free throw in Norton's 18 point fourth quarter. Hill City did not quit as the Ringnecks scored 20 points in the final stanza, almost half of them coming from senior Casey Atkins, who hit nine points and finished the game with 15.

"We beat a pretty good team on their home floor so we are happy with this win," said Coach Doug Reusink. "I think our intensity

improved over the last two games but there are still times we play sloppy on offense and don't work hard enough on defense."

Leading scorer for Norton was Sloan with 19 points on 7 of 14 from the floor for 50 percent accuracy and 5 of 7 free throws for 71 percent.

Maddy was right behind with 18 points on 7 of 10 from the field for a red hot 70 percent and 4 of 7 free throws for 57 percent.

Roeder was Norton's third double figure scorer with 11 points on 2 of 5 from both three-point and two-point range for 40 percent shooting from the field and 1 of 2 charities.

Kats hit 1 of 3 trey tries, 2 of 3 two-point attempts and 3 of 6 overall for 50 percent shooting from the floor and 1 of 1 from the charity stripe for 8 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 14 from long range for 29 percent, 18 of 32 two-point shots for 56 percent and 22 of 46 overall for 48 percent.

Hill City scored on just 2 of 12 from beyond the arc for 17 percent but hit 16 of 24 two-point shots for 67 percent and ended with 18 of 36 for an even 50 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays swished 12 of 19 for 63 percent and the Ringnecks hit just 6 of 9 for 67 percent.

Norton pulled down 4 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 17 total.

Hill City grabbed 5 offensive and 20 defensive caroms for a total of 25.

Maddy had a double-double in the game as he led rebounds with 10. Sloan grabbed 3 caroms, followed by Roeder, 2; Overlease, Heath Vincent, 1 each.

Sloan and Vincent each blocked one shot.

The Blue Jays had 12 steals. Sloan was the leader with 4 thefts, followed by Kats, Roeder, Overlease, 2 each; Maddy, 1.

Norton had 19 offensive assists. Overlease was the leader with 7,

followed by Roeder, 5; Sloan, 3; Kats, Maddy, 2 each.

Norton had 14 turnovers but their aggressive defense caused the Ringnecks to turn the ball over 22 times.

Norton has a 13-record now.

Junior varsity

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost to Hill City by a 36-33 score.

Although Norton led 12-7 after one quarter and 17-12 at intermission, the Ringnecks outscored the Blue Jays 13-6 in the third quarter to take a 25-23 lead into the final stanza and outscored Norton 11-10 in that quarter to win by three points.

Leading scorer for Norton was Vincent with 9 points, followed by Justin Shirk, 8; Nathan Morse, 6; Greg Wilson, 4; Jared Engelbert, 3; Josh Jackson, 2; Derek Volgamore, 1.

Josh Long was leading scorer for Hill City with 17 points. Michael Gerstner added 11.

Freshmen game

Coach Todd Fulton's Norton freshmen boys lost to Hill City by a 36-25 score.

Norton led 6-5 after the first quarter and 15-9 at halftime. Hill City outscored Norton 15-5 in the third quarter to take a 24-20 lead.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Engelbert with 9 points, followed by Brian Juenemann, 8; Mat Shepard, 4; Blake Wolf, Nic Lewis, 2 each.

Tane Brown led Hill City with 9 points. Jason Walker added 8 and Zach Thompson hit 7.

Next action

Norton will host Oberlin today with games beginning at 5 p.m.

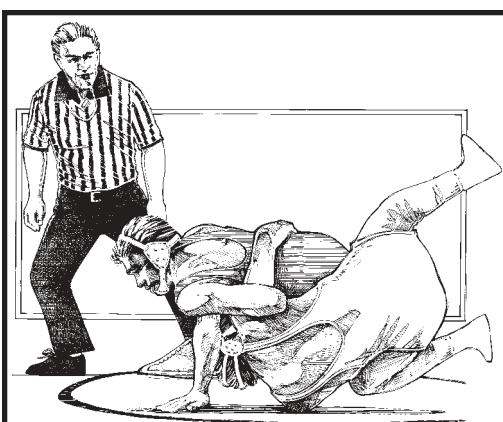
Norton boys 60

Kats 2 1 1-1 8, J. Foley 0 1 0-0 3, Roeder 2 2 1-2 11, Overlease 0 0 1-2 1, Maddy 7 0 4-7 18, Sloan 7 0 5-7 19. Totals 18 4 12-19 60.

Hill City boys 55

Welter 2 0 0-0 4, Miller 0 1 0-0 3, Vap 4 0 0-0 8, Atkins 5 1 2-3 15, Robinson 3 0 2-2 8, Chalfant 2 0 0-2 4, Long 0 0 2-22. Totals 16 26-94 44.

Go, Norton Blue Jays!



Wrestling

Thurs., Feb. 12

Norton Blue Jays

VERSUS

Osborne & Hill City

High School Gym in Osborne

Beginning at 5 P.M. with

Norton vs. Osborne Dual

Saturday, February 14

Beginning at 9 A.M.

Bill Voss

Novice Tourney

High School Gym, Colby



Basketball

Tues., Feb. 10

Beginning at 4 p.m.

Norton Blue Jays

versus

Oberlin Red Devils

4 P.M.-Freshmen Boys at Wilmeth Kirk

5 P.M.-Jr. Varsity Boys at Wilmeth Kirk

5 P.M.-Jr. Varsity Girls at NCHS

MEMORIAL GYM, FOLLOWED BY

VARSITY GIRLS AND BOYS GAMES

Friday, February 13

Norton versus Plainville

4 P.M., High School Gym, Plainville

SUPPORT THESE BLUE JAY BOOSTERS...

THEY ARE EAGER TO SERVE YOU!

ACCOUNTING: Zwickle's Accounting

ALUMINUM EXTRUSION:

New Age Industrial Corp. Inc.

ATTORNEYS: Worden Law Office

AUTOMOTIVE-SALES, SERVICE & ACCESSORIES:

City Motors Inc. and Walter Motor Company

BANKS:

First State Bank; First Security Bank; the Bank

DRUG STORES: Moffet Drug Store

FEED, SEED, GRAIN, PRODUCE:

Norton County Co-op Association

NEWSPAPERS: Norton Telegram