

Norton girls overwhelmed by Hoxie Lady Indians 57-43

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team was overwhelmed in the first half by the Hoxie girls' pressure defense and suffered a 57-43 loss to the Lady Indians on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

Although the Lady Jays outscored Hoxie in the second half, they couldn't make up for the first half deficit created by turnovers resulting in Hoxie layups.

Norton was outscored 16-9 in the first quarter and 12-2 in the second quarter to fall behind 28-11 at intermission.

Both teams scored 12 points in the third period to make it a 40-23 game and Norton outscored Hoxie 20-17 in the final stanza.

The Hoxie offense was led by Jackie Hoyt, 5'5" junior point guard, who poured in 31 points. She was virtually unstoppable in the fourth quarter when she scored 15 of Hoxie's 17 points. Hoyt is the leading girls scorer in Northwest Kansas with a 25 points per game average.

Norton had three scorers in double figures but it wasn't enough. Sophomore center Chelsea Cox hit 13 points, senior center Anna Berry swished 10 points and sophomore guard Karlie Jones connected for 10 points.

Cox hit 6 of 11 shots from the field for 54 percent accuracy and was 1 of 4 from the free throw line for 25 percent. Berry scored on 4 of 10 from the field for 40 percent and 2 of 4 from the charity stripe for 50 percent. Jones hit 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and was 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent. She hit 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

"In the first half, we didn't take care of the ball and they shot layups," said Coach Jilka. "We played better in the second half but still had too many turnovers."

"We're too timid against quality teams. We just get gun shy. We'll have to overcome this mentality to beat quality teams."

The Hoxie girls extended their record to 18-1 and Norton fell to 10-7.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 12 three-point shots for 25 percent, 13 of 30 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 16 of 42 overall for 38 percent. Although Hoxie missed all seven three-point shots they attempted, the Lady Indians hit their close range shots with consistency. They were 27 of 39 on two-point shots for 69 percent accuracy and ended 27 of 46 overall for 59 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 8 of 14 for 57 percent and Hoxie hit 3 of 5 for 60 percent.

Norton outrebounded Hoxie 21-15. The Lady Jays grabbed 10 offensive and 11 defensive rebounds while the Lady Indians pulled down 6 offensive and 9 defensive caroms.

Junior forward Amber Engelbert dominated the backboards, pulling down 4 offensive and 7 defensive rebounds for 11 total. Cox and Jones had 4 each and Berry had 2 caroms.

The Lady Jays had 13 assists compared to 8 for the Lady Indians. Sophomore guard Whitney Newell led with 4, followed by Berry, 3; Cox, Jones, Engelbert, 2 each.

Engelbert led Norton in steals with 3. Cox got Norton's only other theft. Meanwhile, Hoxie stole the ball 16 times. Norton had 22 turnovers and Hoxie gave up the ball just 8 times.

Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls defeated Hoxie 33-23.

Norton trailed 12-10 after one quarter but led 22-17 at intermission. After three quarters, Norton led 30-19.

Leading scorers for Norton were Chelle Donovan and Stacy Reeves with 8 points each, followed by Dane'e Payne, 5; Klaire Mann, Becca Ebert, 4 each; Amber Overlease, Jessi Duscher, 2 each.

Tiffany Goetz led Hoxie with 8 points.

"We played a fairly solid game tonight," said Coach Rossi. "We did a pretty good job of helping on defense."

"We need to dribble with our heads up so we can see down the floor. We are improving."

Freshmen won

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton freshmen girls team defeated Hoxie 18-17 in overtime.

Norton held quarter leads of 6-

4, 12-8 and 14-10 but Hoxie outscored Norton 6-2 in the fourth quarter to send the game into overtime. Norton outscored Hoxie 2-1 in the extra period.

Maggie Nielsen scored the winning basket and ended the game with 8 points. Scoring 2 points each were Lacey Roe, Dana Hillebrand, Morgan Kauten, Ashley Traxler and Laura Delimont.

Kim Wessel led Hoxie with 8 points.

"Our girls played fairly well tonight," said Coach Bolt. "We helped well on defense and did a good job of moving the ball around on offense."

"We had a mental lapse when Hoxie put on the press and we allowed them back into the game."

"In overtime, we regained our poise and made some good decisions to give us the win."

The freshmen girls' final game of the season will be Tuesday when they host Colby, beginning at 4 p.m.

Next action

Next competition for the Norton junior varsity and varsity girls will be today when they travel to Ellis to play the Lady Railroaders. The junior varsity game will begin at 5 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 43

Newell 004-44, Cox 601-413, Jones 311-210, Engelbert 020-06, Berry 402-410. Totals 1338-1443.

Hoxie girls 57

Hoyt 1501-131, J. Pratt 202-26, D. Pratt 200-04, Torluemke 500-010, Rhodes 200-24, Heim 100-02. Totals 2703-557.



(Top) Chelsea Cox, Norton's 6' sophomore center, goes high for a shot over the Hoxie defense during the Lady Jays' loss to the Lady Indians on Tuesday in Norton. Cox was high scorer for Norton in the game with 13 points on 54 percent shooting. She also grabbed 4 rebounds. On defense for Hoxie was junior Allison Mense (No. 25). (Bottom) Anna Berry, Norton's 5'10" senior center, puts up a shot during Norton's loss to Hoxie on Tuesday in Norton. Berry hit 10 points in the game, grabbed two rebounds and had three assists. Ready to rebound for Norton is Whitney Newell, 5'5" sophomore guard (No. 11). Newell was Norton's assists leader on offense with four. Defending for Hoxie was senior Jesse Pratt (No. 10).

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Hoxie boys upset Norton 46-43 on Tuesday evening

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team lost their lead and momentum in the third quarter and suffered a 46-43 loss to a visiting Hoxie Indian squad on Tuesday in the NCHS Memorial Gym.

Both teams scored 11 points in the first quarter but Norton tallied 11 and Hoxie 6 in the second quarter to give the Blue Jays a 22-17 halftime advantage. The Blue Jays returned from the locker room the second half and found a lid on their basket. The Indians outscored them 18-6 to take a 35-28 lead into the fourth quarter.

The teams traded baskets early in the final stanza. Sophomore center Heath Vincent scored first for Norton but James Newman, Hoxie's 6'7" senior center, matched it at the other end. Norton's senior center Jared Sloan scored inside with 6:51 left in the game but Hoxie senior Gerid Spesser hit a basket for Hoxie to push the Indian margin back to seven points at 39-32 with 6:15 showing.

At this point, with the partisan Norton crowd cheering with every Blue Jay basket, it looked as if Norton would avoid their second loss of the season. Sloan scored over Newman, junior center Ryan Maddy hit a basket and then junior point guard Kyle Kats stole the ball, threw it to Sloan and he dunked it to bring Norton within one point at 39-38 with 4:39 left in the game. Sloan was fouled on the play by Newman but he missed the free throw.

Hoxie went into a slow down offense and junior Jordan Vickers finally hit a three-point basket with 2:25 left to put Hoxie ahead 42-38. Before Norton could score again, Gerid Spesser hit another basket for Hoxie and they were on top 44-38. Sloan broke a nearly three-minute scoring drought for the Blue Jays when he scored with 1:56 left. Vickers hit a big basket for the Indians with 1:19 remaining on the scoreboard clock to make it 46-40. Newman fouled out eight seconds later and Kats went to the free throw line. He hit his first charity and missed the second but Maddy rebounded and put the ball back up for two-points to make it 46-43.

Each team had the ball several times in the last minute. Norton had possession with 14 seconds left but an attempted three-point shot missed and Hoxie had pulled the 46-43 upset.

The loss dropped Norton to 15-



Jared Sloan, Norton's 6'4" senior center, shoots over Hoxie's 6'7" senior center James Newman during the Blue Jays' 46-43 loss to the Indians on Tuesday evening in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

2 and Hoxie improved to 11-8.

"We're getting tentative offensively," said Coach Reusink. "Nobody wants to take shots. We played hard down the stretch and gave ourselves plenty of opportunity to get the win but our lack of offensive execution let it get away from us."

Maddy was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points. He hit 8 of 15 shots for 53 percent accuracy. Sloan added 13 points on 6 of 11 shots for 55 percent and 1 of 3 from the free throw line.

Vickers ended as high man for Hoxie with 13 points. Newman, who averages 17 points per game, scored 12 points and Gerid Spesser added 10.

As a team, Norton hit only 1 of 10 shots from long range for 10 percent, 18 of 37 two-point attempts for 49 percent and 19 of 47 overall for only 40 percent.

Hoxie swished 4 of 10 treys for 40 percent, 14 of 28 two-point shots for 50 percent and 18 of 38 overall for 47 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 4 of 7 for 57 percent and Hoxie hit 6 of 9 for 67 percent.

Norton had 24 rebounds and Hoxie had 20. The Blue Jays had 10 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and the Indians had 4 offensive and 16 defensive boards.

Maddy led Norton in rebounding with 9, followed by Sloan, 5; Vincent and Jared Foley, 4 each; Kats, Aaron Overlease, 1 each.

Norton blocked 7 shots and Sloan rejected 5 of them. Overlease and Vincent each had 1

block.

Norton stole the ball 13 times. Kats and Overlease each had 5 thefts, while Sloan had 2 and Charlie Foley 1 theft.

The Blue Jays had just 4 assists. Overlease had 2 and Kats and Maddy had 1 each.

Each team had 15 turnovers.

Starting senior forward Dan Roeder did not play in the game. He injured an ankle in Friday's win over Plainville.

Junior varsity won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Hoxie 50-37.

Norton held quarter leads of 16-8, 20-16 and 35-23.

Nathan Morse and Justin Shirk led Norton in scoring with 11 points each, followed by Heath Vincent, 7; Derek Volgamore, 6; Greg Wilson, Brian Juenemann, 4 each; Jason Green, 3; Nick Evans, Josh Jackson, 2 each.

Thayne Spesser led Hoxie in scoring with 11 points.

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis today for Mid-Continent League play, beginning at 5 p.m.

Norton boys 43

Kats, 103-45, Jared Foley 100-02, Overlease 010-03, Luft 100-02, Maddy 800-016, Sloan 601-313, Vincent 100-02. Totals 1814-743.

Hoxie boys 46

Cameron 100-02, Vickers 412-313, G. Spesser 220-010, Eland 210-07, Gaede 100-02, Newman 404-612. Totals 1446-946.

JV wrestlers perform well at Colby

By DICK BOYD

Eight Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers competed in the "Bill Voss" Novice Tournament on Saturday in Colby.

Team scores were not recorded but seven of the eight Blue Jay wrestlers who competed placed in their weight classes.

Jon Harding (125), Blake VanEaton (140) and Davvid Stanley (160) won gold medals. Finishing second were Logan Keiswetter (103), Jared Bebb (119) and Korey Look (152).

Shane Stanley (215) placed fourth. Chris Davis (135) also competed.

Davvid Stanley was chosen "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week". In addition to winning his weight division on Saturday in Colby, he wrestled at the varsity level in Norton's dual win over Hill City last Thursday and pinned his opponent.

Harding won the first gold medal for Norton on Saturday. He was seeded No. 1 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Brian Frick, Trego, in 1:11. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 2 seed Justin Holloway, Goodland, in 55 seconds.

At 140 pounds, Blake VanEaton was seeded No. 1. In the first round he pinned Joe Heier, Colby, in 2:28. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Russell Rogers, St. Francis, in 2:45. In the championship finals, he shutout No. 7 seed Devin Rohweder, St. Francis, 9-0.

Davvid Stanley was seeded No. 2 at 160 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 6 seeded Tobi Dirks, Trego, in 1:49

in the semi-finals. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 1 seed David Obermeyer, Hoxie, in 3:62.

At 103 pounds, Logan Keiswetter was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he pinned Darren Sporing, Colby, in 3:03. In the semi-finals, he decided No. 2 seed Jared Sauer, Scott City, 20-6. In the championship finals, he lost a 4-2 decision to Trenton Powell, Colby.

Bebb competed in a three-man round robin at 119 pounds. In his first match, he was pinned in 58 seconds by Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg. In his second match, he won a 20-3 technical fall over Jeremiah Winters, Hill City, to place second.

Korey Look was seeded No. 2 at 152 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 3 seed Tray

Klinge, Goodland, in 4:41. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 1:27 by No. 1 seed Lee Hadley, Phillipsburg.

At 215 pounds, Shane Stanley was seeded No. 7. In the first round, he was pinned in 3:19 by No. 2 seed Tal Earl, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 6 seed John Schmidt, Colby, in 59 seconds. In the consolation championship, he was pinned in 59 seconds by No. 1 seed Andy Brown, Plainville.

Chris Davis was seeded No. 5 at 135 pounds. In the first round, he lost an 8-6 decision to No. 4 seeded Matt Brown, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 1:26 by No. 8 seed Alex Kleinsorge, Colby, in 1:26 and injury defaulted to No. 3 seed Luke Brin, Plainville.

Freshmen girls lose to Lady Eagles

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School freshmen girls basketball team lost a 37-35 heartbreaker at Colby last week.

The score was tied 7-all after the first quarter and Norton led 19-15 at halftime. The Lady Jays were also ahead 28-26 after three quarters but the Lady Eagles outscored them 11-7 in the final quarter to take the win.

"This was by far our best execution of the season," said Coach Bolt. "We did so many things right. We kept a lead much of the game and came out just short at the end on a couple of mental errors. We did have several nice shots in the fourth quarter that just would not fall."

"Our girls blocked out well,

communicated on defense and made some nice offensive plays. I am very proud of their effort tonight."

Maggie Nielsen led Norton in scoring with 23 points on ten field goals and 3 of 5 free throws. She was followed by Morgan Kauten, 4; Lacey Roe, Dana Hillebrand, Ashley Traxler, Laura Delimont, 2 each.

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