

Blue Jay boys fall 56-37 to aggressive Colby Eagles

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team got a wake up call Tuesday night when they suffered a 56-37 loss to an aggressive visiting Colby quintet.

The Blue Jays got off to a good start with three baskets by junior center Ryan Maddy and one by junior guard Kyle Kats to lead 8-2 with just two minutes gone. Their game went downhill from there, however, as Colby outscored Norton 16-4 the rest of the quarter to take an 18-12 advantage. Shane Stover, did most of the offensive damage for the Eagles in the first as he hit six field goals to match Norton's production. Stover hit two more baskets in the second quarter and a basket and free throw in the third to lead his team with 19 points prior to suffering an injury with 4:56 left in the game. Stover went after a ball and crashed into a windowed door at the east end of the high school gym. (See story on Page 1)

Maddy did not score in the second quarter which saw Norton tally just 9 points on two baskets by Kats and two baskets and a free throw by senior center Jared Sloan. Meanwhile, Colby added 18 more points to their total to take a commanding 36-21 halftime lead.

The Blue Jays scored just 7 points in the third quarter on baskets by Maddy and senior forward Jared Foley and a basket and free throw by sophomore center Heath Vincent. Colby scored just 11 points in the third quarter but it was enough to extend their lead to 47-28. Both teams scored only 9 points in the fourth stanza. Kats and Vincent each hit two baskets and Maddy swished a free throw for the Jays in the period.

"We were beaten by a much better team tonight," said a disappointed Coach Reusink. "They played hard every second and we didn't match that intensity."

"We didn't play with much confidence and were not very aggressive. We weren't attacking the basket and didn't hardly score outside

of the paint.

I thought our defense would help us hang in there but our struggling offense caused our defensive effort to go down, too.

"We didn't have any trouble breaking their full court pressure on offense but then we didn't attack."

Maddy was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points on 5 of 7 from the field for 71 percent and 1 of 2 from the free throw line. Kats added 10 points on 5 of 9 from two-point range for 56 percent. He missed his only trey try. Vincent and Sloan each had 7 points. Vincent hit 3 of 5 from the field for 60 percent and 1 of 2 charities. Sloan swished 3 of 7 tries for 43 percent and was 1 of 1 from the line.

As a team, Norton hit 17 of 36 two-point attempts for 47 percent, missed all four long range shots and was 17 of 40 overall for 43 percent accuracy.

Colby hit 27 of his 42 two-point tries for an outstanding 64 percent, missed both trey attempts and ended 27 of 44 overall for 61 percent.

Only 13 fouls were called in the game. Norton hit 3 of 5 charities for 60 percent accuracy and Colby connected on 2 of 5 from the line for 40 percent.

Colby outrebounded Norton 20-18. The Jays had 7 offensive and 11 defensive caroms and the Eagles grabbed 4 offensive and 16 defensive boards.

Maddy was leading rebounder for Norton with 5, followed by Aaron Overlease, 4; Kats, 3; Brian Luft, Sloan, Vincent, 2 each.

Sloan blocked 3 shots and Vincent blocked 2.

Norton had just 4 steals in the contest. Overlease had 3 thefts and Luft had 1.

Norton also had a season low in assists with just 2. Kats and Overlease had 1 each.

The Blue Jays also turned the ball over 20 times compared to 15 turnovers by Colby.

With the loss, Norton's record dropped to 16-3. Colby increased their record to 15-5.

JUNIOR VARSITY

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost a close 48-47 game to Colby.

The Eagles held quarter leads of 20-14, 28-24 and 41-33 but Norton outscored the visiting Eagles 14-7 in the final stanza and also came away with a victory.

Heath Vincent, who played in just the second and fourth quarters, led Norton in scoring with 16 points. He hit 10 of Norton's 14 fourth quarter points.

Also scoring for Norton were Justin Shirk, 9; Jason Green, 8; Nathan Morse, 6; Nick Evans, Josh Jackson, 4 each.

Chris Finley led Colby in scoring with 20 points.

FRESHMEN

Coach Todd Fulton's Norton freshmen boys team lost by a 36-28 score to Colby.

Colby held quarter leads of 10-7, 21-14 and 31-17.

Leading scorer for Norton was Nic Lewis with 10 points, followed by Jared Engelbert, 8; Brian Juenemann, 7; Corey Rutherford, 2; Mat Shepard, 1.

J.D. Donn and R.J. Ladenburger each scored 12 points for Colby.

"We came to play tonight and it showed in our effort and execution," said Coach Fulton. "Our goal was to get better throughout the season and we did that. I was proud of our boys' effort tonight and all year long. This was one of our best performances, despite the loss."

"We played good defense and ran the offense well. Hopefully, this will carry over into the off-season and next year. Our goal in the off-season is to get stronger and continue to improve our skill level."

Norton boys 37

Kats 5 0 0-0 10, J. Foley 1 0 0-0 2, Maddy 5 0 1-2 11, Sloan 3 0 1-1 7, Vincent 3 0 1-2 7, Totals 17 0 3-5 37

Colby boys 56

Sulzman 5 0 0-0 10, Augustine 4 0 0-2 8, Cranston 2 0 0-0 4, Stover 9 0 1-2 19, Dinkel 4 0 1-1 9, Arnberger 3 0 0-0 6, Totals 27 0 2-5 56



Norton's leading scorer in the Tuesday loss to Colby was 6-foot sophomore center Chelsea Cox, who tallied 18 points. Her point total included a perfect 10 of 10 shots from the free throw line. She was also the leading rebounder for Norton in the game with eight caroms.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Jays lose 50-42 to Colby

By DICK BOYD

For three quarters on Tuesday night, it was hard to tell which girls high school basketball team was playing with just one loss but Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School quintet finally fell to the visiting Colby Lady Eagles, 50-42.

The Lady Jays held quarter leads of 15-9, 24-18 and 36-33 over the once-beaten and favored Eagles, who are ranked No. 3 in the state by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association. The fourth quarter belonged to Colby, however, as they finally broke through Norton's defense and shutdown the Lady Jays' offense. In the first half, Norton's inside game was working to perfection as sophomore center Chelsea Cox hit 13 of her game high 18 points and senior center Anna Berry added 6 more on three baskets from close range. The second half, Cox hit just one basket and three free throws and Berry hit just two baskets.

Cox connected on a perfect 10 of 10 free throws.

Berry hit 5 of 8 shots for 63 percent accuracy and missed her only free throw attempt to score 10 points.

Sophomore guard Karlie Jones had a good night from the floor as she hit 1 of 3 trey tries, 3 of 3 two-point shots and 1 of 2 charities for 10 points.

Senior Amanda Seemann led Colby with 12 points and sophomore Jessica Stephens and junior Emily Sloan added 11 each.

"We played awfully well," said Coach Jilka. "We proved we can play with quality teams. We led most of the game but just lost our poise down the stretch. A break here and there and a basket here and there made the difference."

"We didn't back down. We grew up. We hope we can keep this level of play going the rest of the season."

With the win, the Colby girls increased their record to 19-1 and Norton's record dropped to 11-8. Colby's only loss was to Hoxie and one of Norton's losses was also to Hoxie by a 57-43 score on February 17.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 4 three-point tries for 25 percent, 14 of 27 two-point shots for 52 percent and 15 of 31 overall for an excellent 48 percent.

Colby swished 3 of 8 trey tries for 38 percent, 15 of 33 two-point shots for 45 percent and 18 of 41 overall for 44 percent.

Both teams also shot well from the free throw line. The Lady Jays hit 11 of 13 charities for 85 percent and the Lady Eagles connected on 12 of 18 free throws for 67 percent.

Rebounding was fairly even. Norton pulled down 5 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 20 total.

Colby grabbed 11 offensive and 11 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Cox led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Berry, 6; Whitney Newell, 3; Jones, Amber Engelbert, 2 each.

Both teams had 12 offensive

assists. Cox, Jones and Engelbert had 3 each, followed by Stacy Reeves, 2; Newell, 1.

Cox was credited with Norton's only steal. Colby had 6 thefts.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Colby lost the ball just 7 times.

JUNIOR VARSITY

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Colby 35-31.

Norton held quarter leads of 8-2, 19-11 and 23-21.

Leading scorer for Norton was Becca Ebert with 12 points, followed by Stacy Reeves, 10; Klaire Mann, 5; Chelle Donovan, 4; Dane'e Payne, Amanda Antrim, 2 each.

Rishonna Martin was high scorer for Colby with 11 points. April Weaver added 10.

"This was our best overall game of the year," said Coach Rossi. "We came out focused and really did a good job of talking on defense. The perimeter did a great job of passing the ball into the posts, who finished the plays with an aggressive style of play."

"We need to finish with this kind of hustle against Stockton."

Norton girls 42

Newell 1 0 0-0 2, Cox 4 0 10-10 18, Jones 3 1 1-2 10, Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2, Berry 5 0 0-1 10, Totals 14 1 11-13 42

Colby girls 50

Ramsey 0 0 7-9 7, Stephens 4 1 0-2 11, Seemann 3 2 0-0 12, Sloan 4 0 3-4 11, Barnes 4 0 2-3 9, Totals 15 3 12-18 50.



Norton sophomore center Heath Vincent added 2 points for the Blue Jays Tuesday night against the Colby Eagles.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton seeded No. 2, 5 for sub-state

By DICK BOYD

The Norton boys are seeded No. 2 and the Norton girls No. 5 in the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament which will be held in Beloit, following first round games which begin on Monday.

Teams were seeded based on records as of Wednesday.

Boys Division

Boys first round games will be held on the higher seeded teams' floors on Monday at 7 p.m.

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton boys (16-3) will host No. 7 seed Beloit (6-13) in the Norton Community High School Memorial Gym. In other games, No. 1 seed Minneapolis (18-2) will host No.

8 seed Russell (6-13), No. 4 seed Phillipsburg (13-6) will host No. 5 Oakley (13-6) and No. 3 seed Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays (15-4) will host No. 6 seed Belleville (12-8).

Winners will play in the semi-finals on Thursday in Beloit and the semi-finals winners will play on Saturday in Beloit for the championship and a berth in the state tournament in Hutchinson.

Three of the boys teams in the tournament are ranked in the top 10 in Class 3A by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association. Norton is ranked No. 3, Minneapolis, No. 4 and Thomas More, No. 6.

Girls Division

Girls first round games will be held on the higher seeded teams' floors on Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Norton (11-8) will travel to Beloit to play No. 4 seed Beloit (12-7). In other games, No. 1 seed Oakley (15-4) will host No. 8 Russell (5-14), No. 2 Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays (14-5) will host No. 7 Minneapolis (7-13) and No. 3 Belleville (14-6) will host No. 6 Phillipsburg (9-10).

Winners will play in the semi-finals on Friday in Beloit and the semi-finals winners will play Saturday in Beloit for the championship and a berth in the state tournament in Hutchinson.

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