

# Norton boys beat Osborne in tournament opener

By DICK BOYD

Defense was the name of the game for Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team on Monday evening when the No. 6 seeded Blue Jays defeated No. 3 seed Osborne 60-38 in the Mid-Continent League Tournament opener in Osborne.

Having lost a 56-53 regular season encounter to the Bulldogs on the same floor on Friday evening, Norton was determined to make amends last night.

The Blue Jays are now 3-3 for the season and will play No. 2 seed Trego at 4:30 p.m. today in the semi-finals in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Norton led from start to finish last night as the aggressive Blue Jay defense limited the Bulldogs to 33 percent shooting from the field compared to 48 percent they shot on Friday.

On offense, Norton had more scoring distribution with eight different players scoring and hit 44 percent from the field compared to 39 percent on Friday. The Blue Jays also hit 6 of 14 shots from beyond the arc for 43 percent accuracy while limiting the Bulldogs to 1 of 11 treys for 9 percent.

Norton led 15-9 after a first quarter which saw senior forward Ryan Maddy hit a three-pointer and two-pointer, junior center Heath Vincent swish two field goals and two free throws, senior guard Kyle Kats bury a trey and senior forward Justin Shirk hit a free throw.

It got even better for the Blue Jays in the second quarter when they left the nets smoking after hitting 23 points and allowing only 11 Bulldog points to take a commanding 38-20 halftime advantage.

During the second quarter, Maddy poured in 10 more points on two baskets from long range and two from two-point land. Senior guard Aaron Overlease hit nothing but net on a trey. Vincent added another field goal and four free throws and Shirk and junior guard Nathan Morse each hit a basket.

Norton cooled off a little offensively in the second half but the Jays' defense still kept the pressure on, forcing Osborne to take low percentage shots. Osborne outscored Norton 14-11 in the third quarter to take three points off the Norton lead and make it a 49-34 game. Norton scoring was still well distributed as senior forward Seth Mills hit a trey and Morse, Maddy, Shirk and Vincent each swished a basket.

The Norton defense was really effective in the fourth quarter when the Blue Jays allowed the Bulldogs just four points on two baskets the entire eight minutes. Meanwhile, Norton scored 11 more points as Maddy swished two more baskets, senior forward Jason Green hit a basket, Mills hit another basket and Shirk added another basket and free throw as the Jays pulled away for the 22 point victory.

"We had a great defensive effort tonight, especially in the first half," said Coach Reusink. "Our young men came to play and we did it for most of the game, which was good to see."

Our energy level was so much better tonight than last Friday when we played them."

Maddy was Norton's leading scorer with 21 points on 3 of 5 from three-point range for 60 percent, 6 of 12 two-point shots for 50 percent and 9 of 17 overall for 53 percent accuracy.

Vincent added 14 points on 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and 6 of 7 from the charity stripe for 86 percent.

Shirk hit 8 points on 3 of 4 from the field for 75 percent accuracy and 2 of 4 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Osborne was Jason Howland with 12. Adam Conway added 11. R.J. Michel and Tyler Schultze, both of whom scored 16 points in the win over Norton on Friday night, tallied 5 and 4, respectively, last night.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 14 trey tries for 43 percent, 17 of 38 two-point shots for 45 percent and 23 of 52 overall for 44 percent.

Osborne hit 1 of 11 from long range for 9 percent, 16 of 40 from two-point land for 40 percent and 17 of 51 overall for 33 percent.

The Blue Jays converted 8 of 12 free throws for 67 percent from the line. In Friday's game, Osborne connected on 9 of 11 free throws for 82 percent but, last night, Norton kept Osborne off the charity stripe most of the game. The Bulldogs got just 4 charity tries and made 3 for 75 percent.

Norton outrebounded Osborne 26-20. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds compared to 9 offensive and 11 defensive boards by Osborne.

Nine different Norton players pulled down rebounds. The leader was Maddy with 9, followed by Kats, 5; Vincent, 3; Overlease, Shirk, Josh Jackson, 2 each; Morse, Mills, Jared Engelbert, 1 each.

Vincent blocked three Osborne shots and Maddy rejected one.

Norton had 10 steals in the game. Maddy led with 4, followed by Kats, 3; Morse, Overlease, Engelbert, 1 each.

The Blue Jays displayed good offensive teamwork by dishing out 19 assists. Kats was the leader with 6, followed by Maddy, 5; Overlease, 4; Morse, 2; Mills, Vincent, 1 each.

Norton had 14 turnovers but caused Osborne to give up the ball 15 times.

## GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 60				
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	
Nathan Morse	2	0	0-0	4
Kyle Kats	0	1	0-1	3
Seth Mills	1	1	0-0	5
Aaron Overlease	0	1	0-0	3
Jason Green	1	0	0-0	2
Ryan Maddy	6	3	0-0	21
Justin Shirk	3	0	2-4	8
Heath Vincent	4	0	6-7	14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8-12</b>	<b>60</b>
Osborne boys 38				
Eric Mans	1	0	0-0	2
Adam Conway	4	1	0-0	11
Marcus Johnston	2	0	0-0	4
Tyler Schultze	2	0	0-0	4
Jason Howland	5	0	2-2	12
R.J. Michel	2	0	1-2	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>38</b>

# Huskies take third place in Cambridge Tournament

The Northern Valley boys basketball team took third place in the Cambridge Tournament last week, losing to Cambridge 79-49, but then defeating Hitchcock County 55-51.

## Cambridge

"After a week of weather, we played three games in a row," said Coach Jason Dibble. "Fortunately everyone was in the same boat not having practice or school all week."

"The first night we played the defending state champions in class C1 Cambridge. They returned a couple of players from that team, but also added the Chambers twins from Herndon. They did not start the two Chambers kids, but did not need to."

"Waid Vontz is probably considered one of the best players in the state and he proved that with three-point shooting, driving, and dishing. Sometimes we got caught standing around and watching him instead of playing good defense."

"On the offensive end we had some decent possessions, but were unable to put the ball in the basket. Effort was somewhat of a question, especially being out-rebounded 35-14. The thing we talked about was getting two wins in the next two nights and learning/forgetting about this game."

Joey Copper led scoring for the Huskies with 17 points, followed by Jesse Hilburn, 11; Avery Thalheim, 10; Andrew Sheley, 5; Henry Griffiths, 3; Cody Lowry, 2; and Cole Kinderknecht, 1.

Rebounding honors went to Copper, 5; Griffiths and Sheley, 3 each; and Hilburn, Clarke Nelson and Scott Shearer, 1 apiece.

Thalheim and Kinderknecht led steals with 5 apiece, followed by Hilburn and Copper, 2 each; and



Griffiths and Sheley, 1 apiece.

Assists were made by Thalheim, 4; Kinderknecht, 2; and Hilburn, 2.

## Hitchcock

"Our offensive output increased as we scored 15 in the first and 18 in the second, but we were giving up too many easy baskets," said the coach. "In the second half we picked up our defensive presence again and held them to 17 points."

"Leading 52-45 with about four minutes we had some questionable possessions with two turnovers and two three-point attempts letting them get within one at 52-51."

"Our defense again picked up and we were able to get the win. After winning two close games after giving up a somewhat comfortable lead, hopefully we will perform better in these situations in the future."

"It was important for us to win and get over the Cambridge game. It was also a high point for our team exceeding our win total the past two years with only half the season completed putting our record at 5-4."

Thalheim led scoring for North-

ern Valley with 14 points, followed by Hilburn, 12; Copper, 11; Griffiths, 10; Kinderknecht, 4; and Sheley, 4.

Rebounding honors went to Copper with 9 and Griffiths with 8. They were followed by Kinderknecht, 4; Hilburn, 2; Thalheim, 2; and Sheley, 1.

Making steals were Kinderknecht, 3; Hilburn and Thalheim, 1 apiece.

Hilburn, Kinderknecht and Griffiths led assists with 2 apiece, followed by Thalheim with 1.

## Cambridge 79,

## Northern Valley 49

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 8 17 8 16 - 49

Cambridge 21 26 18 14 - 79

## Northern Valley

Copper 7 0 6-3 17, Hilburn 4 0 3-3 11, Thalheim 0 3 2-1 10, Sheley 2 0 2-1 5, Griffiths 1 0 2-1 3, Lowry 1 0 0-0 2, Kinderknecht 0 0 2-1 1, Nelson 0 0 1-0 0. Totals 15 3 18-10 49.

## Cambridge

Vontz 9 2 6-4 28, Lytle 3 1 2-2 11, B. Chambers 2 1 0-0 7, Moore 3 0 0-0 6, Ballou 2 0 2-1 5, D. Chambers 2 0 2-1 5, Dickson 0 0 2-2 4, McHale 0 0 3-2 2, Palmer 0 2-1 1. Totals 24 6 19-13 79.

## Northern Valley 55,

## Hitchcock 51

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 15 18 13 9 - 55

Hitchcock 17 17 9 8 - 51

## Northern Valley

Thalheim 0 4 3-2 14, Hilburn 3 0 9-6 12, Copper 4 0 5-3 11, Griffiths 1 1 8-5 10, Kinderknecht 1 0 2-2 4, Sheley 1 0 2-2 4. Totals 10 5 29-20 55.

## Hitchcock

J. Thompson 7 0 4-3 17, J. Kershaw 6 0 1-1 13, Carlson 3 0 1-1 7, Wright 0 2 0-0 6, Paprocki 2 0 0-4, A. Scott 0 2-2 2, Riggs 1 0 0-2. Totals 19 2 8-7 51.



Northern Valley's Jena Jessup gets off a shot good for two points in the game against Cambridge at the Cambridge Tournament last week. —Telegram photo by Susie Marble

# Husky girls win game 62-18 to take third place in tourney

The Northern Valley High School girls basketball team took third place in the Cambridge Tournament last week, losing to Cambridge 53-36, but defeating Hitchcock County 62-18.

## Cambridge

"We really struggled shooting the ball," said Coach Bill Lowry. "A week off due to the weather really showed."

"Cambridge is a good team and Lindsey Jessup is out due to an accident."

Lindsey Graham led scoring for the Lady Huskies with 12 points, followed by Jayme Horacek, 9 points; Serena Woodside, 6; Jena Jessup, 5; Kelli Cole, 2; and Jessica Holmes, 2.

Northern Valley out-rebounded Cambridge 44-41 with rebounding honors going to Graham with 14 and Woodside and Horacek with 7 apiece.

Steal leaders were Cole and Graham, 2 each. Graham made 2 of the team's 4 assists.

## Hitchcock

"We played very aggressive in

this game," said Coach Lowry. "We moved the ball well and kept our turnovers down. Everyone saw a lot of playing time."

"It was good to finish third." Graham led scoring for the Lady Huskies with 23 points, followed by Cole, 12 points; Horacek, 7; Woodside, 7; Andrea Lowry, 3; Kelsey Kinderknecht, 2; Holmes, 2; Alysia Shearer, 2; J. Jessup, 2; and Jessica Largent, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Graham with 16, Woodside with 7 and J. Jessup with 5.

Cole made 6 steals, while Horacek took 3.

Horacek, Kinderknecht and Graham each made 2 assists.

Woodside led blocks with 2.

## Cambridge 53,

## Northern Valley 36

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 7 12 7 10 - 36

Cambridge 9 17 19 8 - 53

## Northern Valley

Graham 3 0 11-6 12, Horacek 3 0 12-3 9, Woodside 0 0 8-6 6, J. Jessup 0 1 2-2 5, Cole 1 0 0-0 2, Holmes 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 8 1 33-17

## Cambridge

Making steals were Copper, 4; Hilburn, 3; Thalheim, 2; and Andrew Sheley, 1.

Assists were made by Hilburn and Griffiths, 2 apiece; and Thalheim, 1.

Kinderknecht made the only block.

The junior varsity lost 34-29.

"Through the first half we were able to stay within three of the opponents, but were unable to score many points only having ten at half-time," said Coach Dibble. "We could see they were not able to shoot from the perimeter, but never could keep them off of the offensive boards."

"In the third and early fourth quarter this hurt us when we got down by as much as 13 at one point. Our resiliency paid off though when we pressured them into some turnovers and hit a few shots to cut the lead to two at one point."

"We never really got another good look at the basket, but the effort displayed by our junior varsity players was a good sign of not giving up while mounting a comeback."

36.

## Cambridge

Staci Moore 3 2 0-0 12, Kaitlin Deaver 3 1 2-2 11, Kaci Nickerson 4 0 2-1 9, Andi Langley 3 1 0-0 9, Kymbre Lytie 3 0 0-0 6, Shelby Schultz 2 0 0-0 4, Cristin Brackman 1 0 0-0 2. Totals 19 4 4-3 53.

## Northern Valley 62,

## Hitchcock 18

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 11 22 18 11 - 62

Hitchcock 5 8 3 2 - 18

## Northern Valley

Graham 7 0 10-9 23, Cole 1 3 2-1 12, Horacek 3 0 4-1 7, Woodside 2 0 4-3 7, Lowry 0 1 0-0 3, Kinderknecht 1 0 0-0 2, Holmes 0 0 5-2 2, Shearer 0 0 2-2 2, J. Jessup 0 0 2-2 2, Largent 1 0 2-0 2, Joni Hilburn 0 0 2-0 0. Totals 15 4 33-20 62.

## Hitchcock

L. Lewis 1 0 4-3 5, T. McDonald 1 0 4-3 5, L. Cook 0 1 0-0 3, M. Cole 1 0 0-0 2, N. West 1 0 0-0 2, L. Brennan 0 0 3-1 1, C. Hudson 0 0 1-0 0, A. Swanson 0 0 2-0 0, L. Faimon 0 0 2-0 0, E. Sandberg 0 0 2-0 0. Totals 4 1 18-7 18.

# Northern Valley boys get 47-43 win at Western Plains on Friday

The Northern Valley High School boys basketball team beat Western Plains 47-43 Friday night in Ransom.

"For the third game in a row we came out lackluster on the offensive end only scoring 6 points in the first quarter," said Coach Jason Dibble. "A positive note was our defensive intensity was a lot better holding them to eight."

"We took some advantage with their two best players in foul trouble, leading at half. In the third we went up by nine, but were unable to hold the lead."

"In the fourth we had a lot of defensive stands to regain and keep the lead to get the win. It was a big win because it was our first league game and gave us a higher seed in the league tournament next week."

Avery Thalheim led scoring for the Huskies with 17 points, followed by Joey Copper, 13 points; Jesse Hilburn, 8; Henry Griffiths, 6; and Cole Kinderknecht, 3.

Rebounding honors went to Copper with 11, followed by Kinderknecht, 5; Thalheim, 2; Griffiths, 2; and Hilburn, 1.

Making steals were Copper, 4; Hilburn, 3; Thalheim, 2; and Andrew Sheley, 1.

Assists were made by Hilburn and Griffiths, 2 apiece; and Thalheim, 1.

Kinderknecht made the only block.

The junior varsity lost 34-29.

"Through the first half we were able to stay within three of the opponents, but were unable to score many points only having ten at half-time," said Coach Dibble. "We could see they were not able to shoot from the perimeter, but never could keep them off of the offensive boards."

"In the third and early fourth quarter this hurt us when we got down by as much as 13 at one point. Our resiliency paid off though when we pressured them into some turnovers and hit a few shots to cut the lead to two at one point."

"We never really got another good look at the basket, but the effort displayed by our junior varsity players was a good sign of not giving up while mounting a comeback."

David Harris led scoring for Northern Valley with 14 points, followed by Anthony Simants, 5; Clarke Nelson 5; Scott Shearer 3; and Cody Lowry, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Harris with 4, followed by Simants and Sheley, 2 each; Chase Miller, Richie Kersch, Shearer and Chance Miller, 1 apiece.

Making steals were Chase Miller and Nelson, 2 apiece; Simants, Blake Johnson and Harris, 1 each.

Chad Husted led assists with 4, followed by Simants and Harris with 1 apiece.

## Northern Valley 47,

## Western Plains 43

Score by quarters:

N. Valley 6 15 13 13 - 47

W. Plains 8 9 14 12 - 43

## Northern Valley

Thalheim 3 3 2-2 17, Copper 3 0 12-7 13, Hilburn 4 0 0-0 8, Griffiths 2 0 2-2 6, Kinderknecht 1 0 2-1 3. Totals 13 3 18-12 47.

## Western Plains

Hartman 5 0 1-0 10, Bain 3 1 0-0 9, Tillitson 4 0 2-1 9, Schrieber 2 1 0-0 7, Kuehn 1 1 0-0 5, Walker 0 1 0-0 3. Totals 15 4 3-1 43.