



Norton's junior center Heath Vincent looks for a shot in heavy traffic during the Blue Jays' game at Osborne on Friday. Vincent scored 12 points during the 56-53 loss and tallied 14 last night when Norton upset the Bulldogs 60-38 in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Lady Jays slide past Osborne 43-42 Friday

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team earned an important Mid-Continent League victory on Friday evening when they edged Osborne 43-42 in an exciting contest on the Lady Bulldogs' home court.

The Lady Jays, who received the No. 3 seed earlier in the week in the Mid-Continent League Tournament, extended their early season record to 4-1. Osborne is seeded No. 2 in the MCL tournament.

Norton will host No. 6 seed Hill City at 7 p.m. this evening in the NCHS Memorial Gym in the first round of the tourney.

In the first quarter on Friday night, Norton did not appear to be en route to a victory. The Lady Jays brought the cold weather inside with them and missed every field goal attempt, hit just two free throws and trailed 12-2 at the end of the stanza. Free throws by Karlie Jones and Whitney Newell were Norton's only points.

The second quarter was a different story as Norton outscored Osborne 12-2 in the first four minutes to tie the score at 14-all. Chelsea Cox hit a jumper to start the quarter and Rebecca Ebert followed with a basket inside to make it 12-6. After Osborne scored, Jones buried a three-point shot, Cox hit a rebound shot, Jones hit a free throw and Cox rebounded Jones' missed second free throw and scored.

Norton's only basket the rest of the first half came when Jones stole the ball and drove for a layup. Osborne hit two free throws and two baskets to close out the first half and take a slight 20-16 lead to the dressing room at halftime. Norton outscored Osborne 14-8 in the second quarter.

Ebert scored inside to start the third quarter and Cox hit two baskets to tie the score at 22-all with 3:16 left. Amber Engelbert hit nothing but net on a three-point shot at the 2:30 mark and Norton held a 25-22 advantage, their first lead of the game. Osborne scored two baskets to regain the lead at 26-25. Erbert hit two free throws with 1:24 remaining and, although the score was tied twice after that, Norton never trailed again. Cox scored with 59 seconds left and Norton led 29-26.

Osborne tied the score at 29-all but Cox scored with 10 seconds remaining to put Norton ahead 31-29 at the end of the third quarter. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Bulldogs 15-9 in the third stanza. Engelbert scored inside to start

the fourth quarter and Cox followed with three baskets and a free throw to give Norton a 40-34 advantage with 5:15 remaining in the contest. A three-point play by Osborne narrowed the Lady Jay lead to 40-37. Newell hit a free throw with 3:58 left to make it a 41-37 game. Osborne hit a basket with 3:22 left and Cox fouled out with 2:19 remaining. Osborne's two free throws tied the score at 41-all.

Jones fed Ebert inside and she scored to put Norton on top 43-41 with 2:03 on the clock. That was the last field goal of the game. Osborne hit a free throw with 11 seconds left but it wasn't enough and the Lady Jays were 43-42 winners!

"The first quarter, we had some good looks but just couldn't hit," said Coach Jilka. "We hung in there and got back in the game and finally got a lead. Our defense was a real key to the win. We played great defense down the stretch.

"We missed some free throws at the end but we showed a lot of character and poise and didn't ever quit."

"Osborne is very well coached. Anytime you can win at Osborne, you feel fortunate.

Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 21 points. She hit a sizzling 10 of 12 shots for an outstanding 83 percent accuracy and was 1 of 3 from the charity stripe.

Ebert tallied 8 points on 3 of 5 from the field for an excellent 60 percent average and she also hit 2 of 2 free throws.

Leading scorer for Osborne was Kari Ubelaker with 18 points. Jannica Schultze added 11.

As a team, Norton swished just 2 of 11 from three-point range for 18 percent but hit 15 of 30 two-point shots for 50 percent. Overall, the Lady Jays connected on 17 of 41 attempts for 41 percent.

Osborne hit 2 of 4 long range shots for 50 percent, 13 of 35 two-point tries for 37 percent and was 15 of 39 overall for 38 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit just 7 of 16 for 44 percent compared to Osborne's 10 of 13 for 77 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 26-24. The Lady Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds and the Lady Bulldogs grabbed 15 offensive and 11 defensive caroms.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Jones, 5; Newell and Engelbert, 4 each; Ebert, 3; Klaire Mann, 2.

Both teams had 9 steals. Jones led Norton with 3 thefts, followed by Newell, Cox, Engelbert, 2 each.

Both teams had 13 assists. Newell was Norton's assists leader with 7, followed by Mann, Jones, 2 each; Ebert, Engelbert, 1 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and caused Osborne to turn the ball over 17 times.

### Junior varsity contest

Coach George Rossi's Norton girls junior varsity lost their game with Osborne by a 31-17 score.

Norton trailed by quarters 11-2, 21-7 and 21-13.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 6 points, followed by Megan Kats, 4; Amber Overlease, 3; Klaire Mann, Maggie Nielsen, 2 each.

Demi French led Osborne with 7 points; Amberleigh Plowman added 6 points.

"The winter weather wasn't the only cold thing tonight," said Coach Rossi. "We had one of the poorer games that I can remember. We did not play our game."

"In the second half, we did better trapping the ball and getting turnovers.

"All of our mistakes can be corrected but we need to work harder in practice in order to get better."

### Next action

The No. 3 seeded Norton girls varsity team will begin Mid-Continent League Tournament play this evening versus No. 6 seed Hill City at 7 p.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

In other first round tourney games tonight, No. 1 seed Victoria will host the winner of Saturday's feather bracket game between No. 8 Plainville and No. 9 Phillipsburg, No. 4 Ellis will host No. 5 Smith Center and No. 2 Osborne will host No. 7 Trego who defeated No. 10 Stockton 72-32 in the feather bracket on Saturday.

All first round games begin at 7 p.m.

### GAME STATISTICS

	Norton girls 43			
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	0	0	2-6	2
Chelsea Cox	10	0	1-3	21
Becca Ebert	3	0	2-2	8
Karlie Jones	1	1	2-5	7
Amber Engelbert	1	1	0-0	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7-16</b>	<b>43</b>

	Osborne girls 42			
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	TP
Demi French	2	0	0-0	4
Karie Ubelaker	4	2	4-4	18
Jannica Schultze	5	0	1-2	11
Chelsea Swisher	0	0	2-2	2
Jessica Patee	0	0	1-2	1
Kayla Clausen	0	0	1-2	1
Meredith Musil	2	0	1-1	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10-13</b>	<b>42</b>

# Blue Jay boys fall to Osborne in close game

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team lost a close game to Osborne by a 56-53 score in Mid-Continent League action on Friday night in Osborne.

With the loss, Norton's season record fell to 2-3.

After trailing 15-12 at the end of the first quarter, the Blue Jays held a slim 27-24 advantage at halftime and led 37-35 after three quarters but were outscored 21-16 in the final stanza.

Eight of Norton's first quarter points came on three field goals and two free throws by junior center Heath Vincent. Senior guard Aaron Overlease hit a basket and senior guard Kyle Kats hit 2 of 2 free throws.

Osborne jumped out to a 22-12 lead in the second quarter.

Norton's first points of the second stanza came at the 4:39 mark when senior forward Seth Mills hit a jumper in the lane. Osborne scored again with 4:05 left and the Bulldogs did not score again in the first half.

Senior center Ryan Maddy, Norton's leading scorer, hit his first basket of the game with 3:25 remaining and followed with two more two-point shots and a basket from beyond the arc to cut the Osborne lead to 24-23 at the 2:18 mark. Senior forward Justin Shirk scored inside for Norton to give the Jays the lead and Maddy scored again at the buzzer to put Norton ahead 27-24 at halftime.

Junior guard Nathan Morse started the second half with a basket off the fast break. After Osborne answered with a basket, Kats buried a shot from beyond the arc and Norton led 32-26. Maddy scored on the break with 5:43 left and Vincent hit a basket and free throw and the Jays were ahead 37-31 with 4:26 left. The Bulldogs scored the final four points of the quarter, however, to narrow the Norton lead to 37-35.

Osborne scored the first two baskets of the fourth stanza but Overlease's timely basket tied the score at 39-all. After Maddy hit a two-point shot and Kats scored from long range with 5:12 left, Norton led 44-41. Morse scored

from beyond the arc and Maddy put in another two-point basket at the 3:10 mark and Norton led 49-48. Osborne scored the next two baskets but Kats stole the ball and Maddy scored and was fouled. He hit the free throw to tie the score at 52-all with 1:25 remaining in the contest.

Tyler Schultze broke the tie with two free throws for Osborne with just 20 seconds left. Vincent was fouled with six seconds left on the clock and hit one of two charities to make it a 54-53 game. Schultze was fouled again with 4 seconds showing and hit both free throws to make the score 56-53. Schultze was fouled again with 2 seconds left and missed his free throw. Norton threw the ball in bounds but the final buzzer went off before the Blue Jays could get off a three-point basket attempt.

"We just didn't play with any consistency," said Coach Reusink. "Our intensity, especially on the defensive end, has got to get better for us to beat good teams."

"I like what I see from this group at times but it just isn't happening for a complete game."

Maddy was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points on 1 of 2 from long range for 50 percent, 8 of 20 two-point attempts for 40 percent and 9 of 22 overall for 41 percent accuracy. He was also 1 of 1 from the free throw line.

Vincent added 12 points on 4 of 11 from the field for 36 percent and 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent.

Osborne had four players in double scoring figures. The Bulldogs were led by Schultze and R.J. Michel with 16 each. Adam Conway scored 12 and Jason Howland hit 10.

The Blue Jays were outshot from both the field and free throw line. Both teams hit 22 field goals but Norton needed a lot more shots to make as many baskets as Osborne. The Blue Jays hit 4 of 15 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 18 of 42 two-point shots for 43 percent and 22 of 57 overall for 39 percent.

In contrast, Osborne swished 3 of 7 free tries for 43 percent, 19 of 39 two-point tries for 49 percent and 22 of 46 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 7 of 11 for 64 percent and Osborne connected on 9 of 11 for 82 percent.

Norton outrebounded Osborne 29-24. The Blue Jays pulled down 14 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds compared to 6 offensive and 18 defensive caroms by the Bulldogs.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Maddy with 7, followed by Vincent, 6; Overlease, 5; Mills, Shirk, 3 each; Morse, Kats, 2 each; Jason Green, 1.

Norton had 13 steals. Kats, Overlease, Maddy each had 3, followed by Morse, Vincent, 2 each.

The Blue Jays also had 13 assists. Mills was the leader with 4, followed by Kats, Maddy, 3 each; Morse, Overlease, Green, 1 each.

Norton had just 9 turnovers while forcing Osborne to turn the ball over 18 times.

### Junior varsity contest

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys basketball team lost to Osborne by a 30-27 score.

Norton trailed by quarters 8-4, 18-8 and 21-18.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Engelbert with 8 points, followed by Brian Juenemann, 7; Wes Georgeson, 6; Preston Herman, 3; Logan Kats, 2; Jared Cox, 1.

Top scorer for the Bulldogs was Josh Worley with 9. Marcus Johnston added 7 points.

### GAME STATISTICS

	Norton boys 53			
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	
Nathan Morse	1	1	0-0	5
Kyle Kats	0	2	2-2	8
Seth Mills	2	0	0-2	2
Aaron Overlease	2	0	0-0	4
Ryan Maddy	8	1	1-1	20
Justin Shirk	1	0	0-0	2
Heath Vincent	4	0	4-6	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7-11</b>	<b>53</b>

	Osborne boys 56			
	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	TP
Adam Conway	3	2	0-0	12
Tyler Schultze	6	0	4-5	16
Nick Roach	1	0	0-0	2
R.J. Howland	4	0	2-2	10
R.J. Michel	5	1	3-4	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9-11</b>	<b>56</b>



The Lady Blue Jays' junior guard Karlie Jones avoids Osborne defenders as she dribbles down court during Norton's 43-42 Mid-Continent League victory on Friday night in Osborne. Jones had a good all-around floor game as she scored 7 points, pulled down 5 rebounds, made 3 steals and had 2 assists. In the background is junior guard Whitney Newell, who was Norton's assists leader with 7, had 4 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 points. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd