

*Aggressive Lady Jays' defense*

# Norton girls roll over Hill City in opener

By DICK BOYD

Playing aggressive defense and efficient offense, Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team rolled over No. 6 seeded Hill City 57-15 in the opening round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Tuesday evening in Memorial Gym in Norton.

The 5-1 Lady Jays were to play No. 2 seed Osborne in the tournament semi-finals at 3 p.m. today in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Osborne, who lost a 43-42 regular season game to Norton last Friday in Osborne, defeated No. 7 seed Trego 52-34 in first round action on Tuesday. In other first round games on Tuesday, No. 1 seed Victoria defeated No. 8 seed Phillipsburg 56-48 and No. 5 seeded Smith Center outscored No. 4 seeded Ellis 62-45.

Victoria and Smith Center were to play at 6 p.m. this evening. Winners will play Saturday in Gross Coliseum at 6 p.m. for the tournament championship. Losers will play for third at 3 p.m.

Norton scored the first 12 points in Tuesday's win over Hill City and held a 16-2 advantage after one quarter.

Junior center Chelsea Cox led the way with four baskets and junior center Becca Ebert swished two baskets as the Lady Jays seemed to score at will inside. Junior guard Whitney Newell added a basket from outside and junior Karlie Jones hit two free throws.

The situation didn't improve for the Lady Ringnecks in the second quarter where Norton outscored them 14-2 to take a commanding 30-4 halftime advantage. Senior forward Amber Engelbert connected for two baskets, Ebert hit two more baskets and a free throw, Cox swished another basket and free throws and Jones hit her first basket of the night.

Norton produced their lowest scoring quarter in the third stanza where the Lady Jays hit just 11 points but Hill City hit just one basket and one free throw for 3 points as the Lady Jays extended their lead to 41-7. Engelbert buried a three-point shot, Newell hit

a basket and two free throws, Cox connected on another shot and junior guard Klaire Mann hit a basket.

Norton finished the game with a 16-8 quarter to win by 42 points. Jones hit a shot from beyond the arc along with three free tosses, Newell buried a trey, sophomore center Maggie Nielsen hit a basket and two free throws and junior guard Amber Overlease connected for two points.

"We played the best defense we have all year long," said Coach Jilka. "We played very aggressive defense.

"We also did a nice job offensively of getting the ball to open people and finishing plays.

"Every player contributed to the victory. It was a fun game."

Hill City fell to 3-3 with the loss.

Eight Norton players scored in the game. Cox was the leader with 13 on six of 12 from the field for 50 percent accuracy and one of four from the free throw line for 25 percent.

Jones tallied 10 points on one of three for 33 percent from both three-point and two-point range and five of six for 83 percent from the free throw line.

Ebert and Newell each hit 9. Ebert tallied on four of five field goal attempts for 80 percent accuracy and one of two charities for 50 percent. Newell was a perfect one of one from long range, hit two of three two-point basket attempts for 67 percent and scored on three of four overall for 75 percent. She was also a perfect two of two from the line.

Engelbert totaled 7 points on one of three from three-point range for 33 percent, two of four two-point shots for 50 percent and three of seven overall for 43 percent shooting.

Tiffani Long was leading scorer for Hill City with 8 points.

The Lady Jays shot as well as they have all season. They hit three of 10 long range shots for 30 percent, 18 of 34 two-point basket attempts for 53 percent and 21 of 44 overall for an excellent 48 percent.

The Norton defense limited the Lady Ringnecks to just 27 percent shooting on six of 22 shot attempts, all from two-point land.

From the free-throw line, Norton connected on 12 of 19 for 63 percent accuracy compared to three of four for 75 percent by Hill City.

The Lady Jays edged the Lady Ringnecks 16-15 on rebounds. Norton pulled down six offensive and 10 defensive caroms and Hill City grabbed three offensive and 12 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with five, followed by Jones, four; Jessi Duscher, three; Ebert, two; and Newell, Engelbert, one each.

Norton stole the ball 17 times and allowed seven thefts. Jones was the steals leader with 8, followed by Newell, three; Cox, two; and Mann, Overlease, Ebert and Duscher, one each.

The Lady Jays compiled 18 offensive assists. Newell was the leader with six, followed by Jones, five; Chelle Donovan, three; Duscher, two; and Overlease, Engelbert, one each.

Hill City totaled 5 offensive assists.

The Lady Jays turned the ball over just 11 times while causing the Lady Ringnecks to give up the ball 27 times.

**GAME STATISTICS**

**Norton girls 57**

	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	2	1	2-2	9
Chelsea Cox	6	0	1-4	13
Klaire Mann	1	0	1-2	3
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0	2
Becca Ebert	4	0	1-2	9
Maggie Nielsen	1	0	2-3	4
Karlie Jones	1	1	5-6	10
Amber Engelbert	2	1	0-0	7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12-19</b>	<b>57</b>

**Hill City girls 15**

	FGs	FTs	TP	
	2s	3s	M-A	
Jamie Alexander	1	0	1-2	3
Jessie Day	1	0	0-0	2
Tiffani Long	3	0	2-2	8
Liz Miller	1	0	0-0	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3-4</b>	<b>15</b>



This action from the Norton Community High School girls basketball team's 57-15 victory over Hill City in the first round of the Mid-Continent League basketball tournament on Tuesday evening in Norton is just one example of the aggressive defense played by the Lady Jays. Senior forward Amber Engelbert went down on the hardwoods to tie up the ball with two Lady Ringnecks. —Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Freshmen girls second in tourney

## Norton's girls win one, lose one

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School freshmen girls basketball team defeated Smith Center 41-22 and lost to Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays 42-33 to place second in the Phillipsburg Freshmen Girls Tournament last Saturday in Phillipsburg.

**Smith Center**

In the victory over Smith Center, Norton held quarter leads of 10-4, 21-6 and 28-16.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 13, followed by Megan Kats, 10; Haley Jones, 7; Courtney Cox, 6; Jessica Strickland, 4; and Thea Wiseman, 1.

High scorer for Smith Center was Mott with 8 points.

"Against Smith Center, we really had our defense in high gear," said Coach Bolt. "We allowed them only three baskets in the first half. The Lady Redmen switched to a man-to-man defense in the second half. We did not adapt very well to it and allowed them to close in on us. As soon as we settled down into the offense, we increased our lead for a comfortable win."

**Thomas More-Marian**

The score was tied at 10-all after one quarter of the game with Thomas More Prep-Marian but the young Lady Jays were outscored 12-6 in the second quarter and trailed 22-16 at halftime. The third quarter was closer but

the Lady Monarchs prevailed 7-5 to take a 29-21 advantage into the final stanza.

Norton played Thomas More on even terms in the fourth quarter but was outscored 13-12.

Leading scorer for Norton was Campbell with 12, followed by Strickland, 7; Jones, 6; and Wiseman and Lacy Ellis, 4 each.

Mall led scoring for Thomas More Prep with 13 points.

"In the finals against Thomas More Prep, it was a battle of leads," said Coach Bolt. "Unfortunately, we made some passing errors in the last minute of the second quarter, allowing them to make three easy baskets and take a six point lead into the half.

"In the second half, we just could not get it together offensively. We need to work on our ball movement and timing on our zone offense.

"Overall, I felt that our girls did a lot of good things defensively. I was very pleased with our overall hustle and our communication has improved.

"We will keep working on our ball movement and patience on offense."

**Next action**

The freshmen girls will play next when they travel to WaKeeney next Friday to play Trego in a 4 p.m. game. Girls junior varsity and varsity and boys freshmen, junior varsity and varsity games will also be played.



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