

Norton boys lose to Trego

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's No. 6 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team had a poor shooting night against No. 2 seeded Trego Community High School in the championship semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League basketball tournament on Friday night in the Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and suffered a 59-37 loss.

The Blue Jays hit a cold 31 percent from the field and missed their only free throw of the game while the Golden Eagles were sizzling the nets with 56 percent shooting from the field and hit 3 of 7 free throws for 43 percent.

The defeat ended a Norton winning streak in the Mid-Continent League Tournament. The Blue Jays had won the last six championships.

Norton hit just two baskets in the first quarter, a three-pointer by senior guard Kyle Kats and a two-pointer by junior center Heath Vincent, and trailed 11-5 at the end of the period. Vincent is Norton's second leading scorer for the season but he did not score again in the contest.

The second quarter turned out to be the best for the stunned Blue Jays. They hit 12 points on a two-point and three-point basket by senior guard Seth Mills, a trey by senior guard Aaron Overlease and two-point baskets by junior guard Nathan Morse and senior forward Justin Shirk.

Trego poured in 17 points in the second quarter, however, to take a 28-17 halftime lead.

Although the Blue Jays still had trouble hitting the basket, their defense limited the Golden Eagles in the third quarter where Norton was outscored by just 12-11 to make it a 40-28 game. The Blue Jays had balanced scoring in the period as Kats found the range on another three-point basket and Morse, Overlease and Shirk each hit a two-point shot. Senior forward Ryan Maddy, Norton's leading scorer for the season, hit his first basket of the game.

The Norton fans, who were as stunned as the Norton players, hoped for a fourth quarter rally by their favorite Blue Jays but it wasn't to be on this particular winter evening. Norton hit just 9 points and Trego scored 19 to extend their final margin of victory to 22 points.

Norton's points in the final stanza came on another basket from beyond the arc by Kats, two more baskets by Shirk and a final basket by Maddy.

"I felt like we hung in there for three quarters but really let things



Norton senior forward Justin Shirk, No. 34, grabs a rebound during the Blue Jays' 76-38 victory over Oberlin in the NCHS Memorial Gym last night in Norton. Pictured are, from left, Norton's Josh Jackson, Kyle Kats and Nathan Morse.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

get away from us in the fourth," said Coach Reusink. "We were intimidated by their size on the offensive end and just needed to be more aggressive in attacking the basket."

"On defense, we did a nice job of stopping their tall boy Knapp (6-foot-8-inch center) but, in the process, let some of their other players hurt us."

"Trego was a very good basketball team but not unbeatable by any means."

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 17 three-point tries for 29 percent accuracy, 11 of 34 two-point shots for 32 percent and 16 of 51 overall for just 31 percent.

In comparison, Trego swished 2 of 8 trey tries for 25 percent, 25 of 40 two-point attempts for 63 percent and 27 of 48 overall for 56 percent.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kats with 9 points. He hit 3 of 4 three-point attempts for 75 percent accuracy but missed all three of his two-point shots. Shirk scored 8 points on 4 of 8 from the field for 50 percent shooting. Maddy ended with just 4 points and Vincent with just 2 tallies.

Tyler Ummel was leading scorer for Trego with 19 points. Nathan Locke added 17 points for the Golden Eagles.

Norton was also badly

outrebounded. The Blue Jays pulled down three offensive and 15 defensive caroms for 18 total and the Golden Eagles grabbed 10 offensive and 27 defensive boards for 37 total.

Overlease was the leading rebounder for Norton with eight, followed by Kats, Maddy, three each; Morse, Mills, Jason Green, Vincent, one each.

Vincent blocked three shots and Morse rejected one.

Norton had just six steals in the game. Maddy led with three thefts and Kats, Mills and Overlease had one each.

The Blue Jays were credited with just nine offensive assists. Morse, Overlease, Maddy each had two and Kats, Mills, Shirk each had one.

Norton had 13 turnovers while causing Trego to cough up the ball 17 times.

Game statistics				
Norton boys 37				
FGs	FTs		M-A	TP
	2s	3s		
Nathan Morse	2	0	0-0	4
Kyle Kats	0	3	0-0	9
Seth Mills	1	1	0-0	5
Aaron Overlease	1	1	0-1	4
Ryan Maddy	2	0	0-1	4
Justin Shirk	4	0	0-0	8
Heath Vincent	1	0	0-0	2
TOTALS	11	5	0-1	37

Trego boys 59

Brent Deines	0	1	0-0	3
Nathan Locke	6	1	2-2	17
Nick Geist	2	0	0-4	4
Tyler Ummel	9	0	1-1	19
Wade Knapp	4	0	0-0	8
Mark Aschenbrenner	4	0	0-0	8
TOTALS	25	2	3-7	59

Blue Jay boys beat Oberlin 76-38 in Norton last night

By DICK BOYD

Much to the delight of the Norton fans, Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team gave the visiting Oberlin quintet a clinic on three-point shooting in the first half of last night's 76-38 win in Norton.

The Blue Jays drained 10 treys for 30 of their 42 first-half points.

Senior guard Aaron Overlease got the show started with a three-pointer that was followed by a trey by senior guard Kyle Kats. Kats ended the quarter with three long-range shots. Overlease added two two-point baskets and junior center Heath Vincent hit two shots from the field.

Junior guard Nathan Morse got in on the three-point show in the second quarter when he hit nothing but net on three treys. Kats added two more long-range bombs and Overlease hit another shot from beyond the arc along with a two-point shot and a free throw. Vincent scored Norton's other point from the free throw line as Norton outscored Oberlin 22-8 and took a commanding 42-17 lead into the dressing room at half-time.

Although the three-point show was over, Norton displayed plenty of two-point firepower in the third quarter when the Jays outscored the Devils 21-15 to extend their lead to 63-32. Senior forward Ryan Maddy, Norton's leading scorer, had not scored in the game but poured in four baskets. Kats hit two two-point shots and a free throw, Shirk connected for two baskets, Vincent hit two charities and Overlease hit a two-point basket.

Reserves saw a lot of action in the fourth quarter where Norton outscored Oberlin 13-6. Senior guard Seth Mills drained a three-pointer; Kats, senior guard Jason Green, Maddy and Vincent each hit a basket and Shirk hit two free throws.

With the victory, Norton improved to 5-4 and Oberlin fell to 4-6.

"The game is so much easier when you hit shots," said Coach

Wrestlers are Newton champs

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers led from start to finish in winning the championship of the 42nd annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions held Friday and Saturday in Newton.

Norton was the smallest school competing out of 24. No team with lower enrollment than a Class 5A school has ever won the tournament until this year.

Norton scored 170.5 points to win the championship. Bishop Carroll of Wichita was runnerup with 166.5 and Clay Center placed third with 163. They were followed by: Arkansas City, 152.5; Wichita-Haysville Campus, 150.5; Perry, Okla., 147.5; Hutchinson, 126.5; Manhattan, 125.5; Emporia, 120; Maize, 119; Derby, 116.5; Wichita South, 112; Winfield, 108.5; Wichita Northwest, 106.5; Salina South, 103.5; Valley Center, 71; McPherson, 70; Leavenworth, 59; Andover, 52; Newton, 39.5; Dodge City, 38; Wichita East, 20.5; Wichita Heights, 20; El Dorado, 12.5.

Eight of the 13 Norton wrestlers placed in the top eight of their weight classes.

Norton had three wrestlers in championship matches but senior Michael Sprigg was the only winner. He defeated Tyler Jensen, Wichita Northwest, 7-5 in overtime, in the battle of the unbeaten heavyweights.

At 112 pounds, the Blue Jays' Clay Madden suffered his second defeat of the season when he lost a 12-8 decision to unbeaten Seth Metzler, Newton, in the finals. Both wrestlers are reigning state champions in their respective classes.

Lance Roe was Norton's other championship finalist. He wrestled Dave Anderson of Campus and was pinned in 2:26. It was Roe's first loss of the season.

Nathan Broeckelman placed third at 119 pounds when he decided Brad Hasselbring, Winfield, 4-2.

Norton's other placers were: Jon Harding, sixth, 130; Logan Keiswetter, seventh, 103; Blake VanEaton, eighth, 145; Davvid Stanley, eighth, 171.

Also competing for Norton were: Kent Mann, 125; Jeremy Harding, 135; Luke Pfannenstiel, 140; Paul Juenemann, 189 and Blake Hillebrand, 215. Norton was open at 160 pounds.

"I'm very proud of the way our boys wrestled in this tournament," said Coach Johnson. "We had a very good start and led the team score from beginning to end. We lost only three matches in the first two rounds of competition."

"Each and every wrestler contributed to this good weekend. All competed hard and displayed good sportsmanship in times of both celebration and frustration. Each wrestler knows of things on which they need to improve and, at this tournament, the wrestlers' weaknesses are exposed very quickly."

"Jon Harding, Blake VanEaton and Davvid Stanley were not seeded and all placed in the top eight. I was especially proud of Davvid. He came in with a losing record and won three matches to place eighth."

Individual results from each weight class have not been received but will be reported in a complete story in Friday's Telegram.

Norton girls beat Oberlin last night

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overall for 46 percent and 16 points.

Ebert connected on 5 of 8 shots for 63 percent accuracy and 10 points.

Newell hit 2 of 2 trey tries for 100 percent, 1 of 2 two-point shots for 50 percent and 3 of 4 overall for 75 percent. She was 1 of 2 from the free throw line and finished with 9 points.

Jamie Elwood was leading scorer for Oberlin with 12 points; Kaitlyn Stapp added 11.

As a team, Norton swished 5 of 10 three-point attempts for 50 percent, 17 of 40 two-point shots for 43 percent and 23 of 50 overall for 46 percent.

The Lady Red Devils connected on 3 of 9 long range shots for 33 percent, 10 of 38 two-point attempts for 26 percent and 13 of 47 overall for 28 percent.

Norton made 12 of 17 free throws for 71 percent and Oberlin swished 8 of 13 charities for 62 percent.

Each team had 26 rebounds. Norton grabbed 7 offensive and 19 defensive caroms and Oberlin pulled down 10 offensive and 16 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 13, followed by

Newell, Klaire Mann, Jones, 3 each; Ebert, 2; Amber Overlease, Engelbert, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 14 steals compared to just 5 for Oberlin. Newell and Cox each had 4 steals, followed by Mann, 3; Ebert, 2; Jones, 1.

Norton had 17 offensive assists compared to 6 by Oberlin. Newell had 9 assists, followed by Jones, 3; Cox, 2; Overlease, Engelbert, Jessi Duscher, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 19 turnovers and the Lady Red Devils lost the ball 28 times to the aggressive Norton defense.

Junior varsity won
Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Oberlin 36-31.

Norton trailed 8-7 after one quarter and 14-13 at halftime but tied the score at 21-all by the end of the third period and outscored Oberlin 15-10 in the fourth quarter to win by five points.

Chantille Campbell was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points, followed by Lacey Roe, 5; Amber Overlease, Chelle Donovan, 4 each; Jessica Strickland, 3; Rachael Lentz, 2; Haley Jones, Megan Kats, 1 each.

Lacey Realm led Oberlin with 12 points.

"Although we played a much better game tonight, we struggled with making baskets," said Coach Rossi.

"We did do a great job of paying attention at the end and doing the right thing."

"Oberlin will be tough when we go there. They have some good players."

Next action
Norton will play freshmen, junior varsity and varsity games this Friday versus Trego Community High School in WaKeeney. Games will begin at 4 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS				
Norton girls 61				
FGs	FTs		M-A	TP
	2s	3s		
Whitney Newell	1	2	1-2	9
Chelsea Cox	6	0	8-8	20
Amber Overlease	0	0	0-1	0
Chelle Donovan	0	0	1-2	1
Becca Ebert	5	0	0-0	10
Karlie Jones	3	3	1-2	16
Amber Engelbert	2	0	1-2	5
TOTALS	17	5	12-17	61

Oberlin girls 37				
FGs	FTs		M-A	TP
	2s	3s		
Lauren Fortin	4	0	0-1	8
Jamie Elwood	3	2	0-2	12
Lydia Karnopp	0	0	1-2	1
Kaitlyn Stapp	1	1	6-6	11
Tricia Dorshorst	2	0	1-2	5
TOTALS	10	3	8-13	37

Vincent each rejected two.

Norton had 12 steals in the game. Kats led with 6, followed by Overlease, Vincent, 2 each; Brian Juenemann, Jason Green, 1 each.

Kats was the assist leader with 6, followed by Morse, 5; Mills, 4; Overlease, 4; Maddy, 2; Juenemann, Shirk, 1 each.

Norton had just 7 turnovers while causing Oberlin to turn the ball over 22 times.

Junior varsity won
Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team defeated Oberlin 51-38.

Norton held quarter leads of 13-8, 24-15 and 35-24.

Logan Kats and Jared Cox each scored 12 points for Norton and Wes Georgeson and Jared Engelbert each tallied 11 points. Brian Juenemann added 5.

Andy Leitner was leading scorer for Oberlin with 10 points; Kurt Olson added 8.

Next action
Norton will travel to WaKeeney on Friday to play Trego Community High School. Games will begin at 4 p.m. with a girls freshmen game, which will be followed by junior varsity and varsity girls and boys games.

The remaining boys freshmen games have been canceled due to a shortage of players.

GAME STATISTICS				
Norton boys 76				
FGs	FTs		M-A	TP
	2s	3s		
Nathan Morse	0	3	0-0	9
Kyle Kats	3	5	1-2	22
Seth Mills	0	1	0-0	3
Aaron Overlease	4	2	1-2	15
Jason Green	1	0	0-0	2
Ryan Maddy	5	0	0-4	10
Justin Shirk	2	0	2-2	6
Heath Vincent	3	0	3-4	9
TOTALS	18	11	7-14	76

Oberlin boys 38				
FGs	FTs		M-A	TP
	2s	3s		
Lance Fortin	5	0	2-4	12
Jason Thomas	1	1	0-0	5
Kyle Glodt	0	1	0-0	3
Teryn Grafel	2	0	0-1	4
Jesse Juenemann	2	0	0-1	4
Andy Inman	1	1	1-2	6
Jace Robinson	0	0	0-2	0
Andy Anderson	1	0	2-4	4
TOTALS	12	3	5-14	38