

# Norton boys place third in league tourney



By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's No. 6 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team employed a smothering defense to defeat No. 5 seeded Ellis 53-42 on Saturday evening in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays to place third in the 10-team Mid-Continent League Tournament.

The Blue Jays, who had won the tournament the past six years, limited the Railroaders to just 20 percent shooting.

Norton lost a 59-37 semi-final game to a hot-shooting No. 2 seeded Trego on Friday. The Golden Eagles hit 56 percent of their shots against Norton and won the championship on Saturday by defeating No. 8 seeded Phillipsburg 45-40.

Osborne defeated Hill City 43-39 to place fifth, Plainville outscored Smith Center 59-43 to finish in seventh place and Stockton defeated Victoria 76-69 to place ninth in the tournament.

With senior forward Ryan Maddy back on target after a four-point scoring effort against Trego, the Blue Jays held a 17-6 lead after one quarter against Ellis and led the Railroaders by 31-16 at half-time.

Maddy hit two shots from beyond the arc and two two-pointers and a free throw for 11 of Norton's points in the first quarter, then added 9 more points in the second quarter on three two-point baskets and one from long range.

Junior center Heath Vincent hit a basket in the first quarter and three free throws in the second. Senior forward Justin Shirk swished a free throw in the initial

period and a basket in the second. Senior guard Aaron Overlease buried a three point shot in the first quarter.

After an impressive first half, the Blue Jays found a lid on the basket in the third quarter and were outscored 10-2 to cut their lead to seven points at 33-26. Shirk hit Norton's only basket in the period.

Norton got back on track in the fourth quarter when they outscored the Railroaders 20-16. Ten of the Blue Jays' final stanza points came at the free throw line as they connected on 10 of 18 charities.

Junior guard Nathan Morse and Shirk each hit two baskets and a free throw, Maddy added a basket and three charities, Overlease swished four free tosses and senior guard Seth Mills hit a charity.

"We had a decent first half and shot the ball well but went flat in the second half," said Coach Reusink.

"We put them to the free throw line too much and didn't attack well enough on our full court press.

"Being without our senior point guard Kyle Kats, who had a sprained ankle, didn't help but it gave some of our bench players a chance to step up."

Maddy hit 3 of 6 shots from be-

yond the arc for 50 percent, 6 of 9 from two-point land for a net-sizzling 67 percent, 9 of 15 overall for 60 percent marksmanship and 4 of 9 free throws for 44 percent and 25 points.

Shirk was second high scorer for the Blue Jays with 10 points. He hit 4 of 9 from the field for 44 percent and 2 of 4 charities for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Ellis was Daren Haas with 15 points. Chuck Parks added 9 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 4 of 16 shots from long range for 25 percent, 13 of 30 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 17 of 46 overall for 37 percent.

The Blue Jay defense held the Railroaders to 2 of 10 from three-point range for 20 percent, 10 of 49 two-point shots for 20 percent and 12 of 59 overall for 20 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton connected on 15 of 28 for 54 percent and Ellis found the range on 13 of 23 for 57 percent.

The Blue Jays dominated the backboards, pulling down 39 rebounds compared to 22 for the Railroaders. Norton grabbed 14 offensive and 25 defensive boards while Ellis pulled down 6 offensive and 16 defensive caroms.

Nine different Norton players grabbed at least one rebound. Maddy was the leader with 13, followed by Overlease, 7; Morse, Kats, Shirk, Vincent, 4 each; Mills, Jason Green, Jared Engelbert, 1 each.

Vincent blocked three shots and Morse rejected two.

Norton had five steals. Overlease and Maddy had two each and Engelbert had one theft.

The Blue Jays had nine assists. Kats led with 5, followed by Morse, 2; Overlease, Maddy, 1 each.

Norton turned the ball over 19 times and Ellis had 11 turnovers.

## GAME STATISTICS

### Norton boys 53

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	2 0	1-2	5
Seth Mills	0 0	1-2	1
Aaron Overlease	0 1	4-6	7
Ryan Maddy	6 3	4-9	25
Justin Shirk	4 0	2-4	10
Heath Vincent	1 0	3-5	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13 4</b>	<b>15-28</b>	<b>53</b>

### Ellis boys 42

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Adam Augustine	1 0	0-0	2
Dylan Lang	1 0	3-6	5
Daren Haas	4 0	7-12	15
Kyle Urban	1 0	0-0	2
Chuck Parks	3 0	3-5	9
Jerome Gottschalk			
	0 2	0-0	6
Eric Gaschler	0 1	0-0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10 3</b>	<b>13-23</b>	<b>42</b>



The Norton-Smith Center girls basketball game for the Mid-Continent League Tournament championship on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays was a close one from start to finish. Shown on the pretty even opening jump for the ball are Smith Center's Toni Fuller, No. 20 and Norton's Chelsea Cox, No. 12. Norton edged Smith Center 29-28 for the championship. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Norton girls beat Smith Center for league title

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team edged No. 5 seeded and defending champion Smith Center 29-28 to win the championship of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

It was Norton's first Mid-Continent League Tournament championship since the Lady Jays defeated Smith Center 48-32 in 1999.

Both teams played tough defense, which resulted in low shooting percentages and low scoring. Norton hit 23 percent from the field and Smith Center swished just 31 percent of their field goal attempts. Both teams hit 11 field goals and four free throws but the difference was one more three-point basket by the Lady Jays.

Smith Center jumped out to a 4-0 lead on baskets by Toni Fuller. Becca Ebert scored Norton's first points with a basket with 3:40 left in the first quarter. Whitney Newell stole the ball and drove for a layin to tie the score at 4-all with 1:25 left in the first quarter.

Amber Engelbert's basket with 25 seconds remaining gave Norton a 6-4 lead after one quarter.

Vanessa Peterson hit a three-point shot for the Lady Redmen but a Jones free throw with 5:10 left tied the score at 7-all. Deb Fricker tallied for Smith Center but Engelbert buried a three-point shot with 2:58 left in the half to put Norton on top 10-9.

Chelsea Cox hit her first points of the game with 1:58 left when she swished two free throws to give Norton a 12-9 advantage. Rebekah Burgess hit a basket for the Lady Redmen with 1:21 left on the clock and Peterson hit her second trey of the quarter with just 24 seconds left to put Smith Center on top 14-12 at intermission.

Each team hit just three baskets in the third quarter but two of Norton's were from beyond the arc. Jones hit a trey and Ebert a two-point shot and Fuller swished a two-point basket for Smith Center to give Norton a 17-16 lead the game with 10 points. Jones hit 2 of 10 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 1 of 6 two-point tries for 17 percent and 3 of 16 overall for 19 percent. She also swished 2 of 4 free throw attempts for 50 percent.

to make it a 21-20 game with one quarter remaining.

Ebert scored for Norton to start the fourth quarter but Fuller answered at the Smith Center end of the court. Ebert rebounded and put the ball back up and in to give Norton a 24-23 lead. Jones connected on a two-point attempt and Norton led 26-23 with 4:39 left. Burgess scored for the Lady Redmen and Fuller added a free throw to tie the score at 26-all with 4:01 remaining.

A free throw by Jones at the 3:32 mark put Norton ahead 27-26. Neither team scored again until Fuller tallied with 28 seconds left in the game to put the Lady Redmen on top 28-27. Norton worked the ball inside to Cox and she responded with a basket with just nine seconds remaining to put Norton ahead 29-28. It was the only basket of the night for Cox, who is usually the Lady Jays' leading scorer, but it couldn't have come at a more opportune time for Norton.

Smith Center brought the ball down court and called a time out with 3.9 seconds showing. The Lady Redmen set up a potential scoring play but unintentionally threw the ball out of bounds. Norton threw the ball in bounds and Newell was fouled immediately with 2.2 seconds left. She missed the charity try but Smith Center did not have time to take the ball down court and shoot. The buzzer sounded and the Lady Blue Jays were the league tournament champions!

"It wasn't pretty but we will take it," said Coach Jilka. "Some way these girls find a way to win and that's what is important.

"We didn't shoot the ball particularly well for whatever reason but our defense was good enough for us to win.

"Our girls have been through a lot and have put in a lot of work to get to this point. We have some work to do but we know this team will do it

"We are very proud of our girls right now. They are giving it their all."

Jones was the only double figure scorer for Norton. She finished the game with 10 points. Jones hit 2 of 10 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 1 of 6 two-point tries for 17 percent and 3 of 16 overall for 19 percent. She also swished 2 of 4 free throw attempts for 50 percent.

Ebert scored 8 points on 4 of 7 from the field for 67 percent. Leading scorer for Smith Center was Fuller with 15.

As a team, Norton connected on 3 of 18 shots from long range for 17 percent, 8 of 30 two-point tries for 27 percent and 11 of 48 overall for 23 percent. Smith Center hit 2 of 6 trey tries for 33 percent, 9 of 30 two-point attempts for 30 percent and 11 of 36 overall for 31 percent. From the free throw line, Norton connected on 4 of 7 for 57 percent and Smith Center on 4 of 9 for 44 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 31-24. The Lady Jays pulled down 9 offensive and 15 defensive caroms compared to 8 offensive and 23 defensive boards by Smith

Center. Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Newell, 6; Jones, 5; Engelbert, 3; Ebert, 2; Overlease, 1.

Norton had 11 steals compared to 2 for Smith Center. Newell led with 4 thefts, followed by Jones, 3; Cox, Klaire Mann, Ebert, Engelbert, 1 each.

Newell led offensive assists with 3, followed by Jones, 2; Mann, 1.

The Lady Jays had six assists compared to 10 for the Lady Redmen. Newell led with 3 assists, followed by Jones, 2; Mann, 1.

Norton had 10 turnovers but caused the Lady Redmen to turn over the ball 18 times.

Osborne placed third by defeating Victoria 70-37. Fifth place

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# Norton girls beat Osborne in semi-finals

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team jumped out early to a big lead and held a 37-21 advantage at half-time, then had to fight hard to hold off a rallying No. 2 seeded Osborne quintet to win 48-39 in the championship semi-finals of the annual Mid-Continent League basketball tournament on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The Lady Jays scored 22 points in the first quarter and held the Lady Bulldogs to just 10. Junior guard Karlie Jones poured in two baskets from beyond the arc, two two-point baskets and two of two free throws for 12 of Norton's points. Junior center Chelsea Cox swished three baskets and two of two charities for 8 points. Junior guard Klaire Mann hit Norton's other basket in the quarter.

Norton's shooting cooled off a little in the second quarter but the Lady Jays still outscored the Lady Bulldogs 15-11 to lead 37-21 at intermission. Junior forward Amber Engelbert did some sharp shooting in the second stanza as she drained a three-point shot and two two-point baskets. Jones added two more baskets, Cox scored again from the field and junior center Becca Ebert swished a two-point shot.

The Lady Jays hit 15 of 28 bas-

kets attempted in the first half for an excellent 54 percent accuracy. In the second half, they could manage only 3 of 19 shots for a cold 16 percent and the Lady Bulldogs took advantage to cut into the big first half lead.

Norton scored just four points in the third quarter on two baskets by Cox and Osborne hit 10 points to cut the Lady Jays' advantage to 41-31.

Norton slowed the game down offensively in the fourth quarter, making Osborne foul to get the ball. Cox hit Norton's only basket of the final stanza but added two more points on free throws. Junior guard Whitney Newell hit two free throws and Engelbert swished one charity. The Lady Jays scored just 7 points in the final quarter but Norton's defense limited Osborne to just 8 points.

"It was a tale of two different halves," said Coach Jilka. "We played very well in the first half and hung in there in the second half.

"We knew they'd make a run at us in the second half and, unfortunately, some shots were not falling for us. We made free throws when we needed them, however, and played decent defense. It wasn't real pretty but we survived and advanced to the championship finals.

"This team fights to the end and finds a way to win games."

Leading scorer for Norton was

Cox with 18 points on 7 of 17 field goals for 41 percent accuracy and 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent.

Jones was right behind her in the scoring department with 16 points. She rang the bell on 2 of 5 three-point attempts for 40 percent, hit 4 of 8 two-point tries for 50 percent and was 6 of 13 overall for 46 percent marksmanship.

Engelbert swished 8 points. She found the range on 1 of 4 trey tries for 25 percent, 2 of 4 two-point shots for 50 percent and 3 of 8 overall for 38 percent. She hit 1 of 4 free throw attempts for 25 percent.

Top scorer for Osborne was Karie Ubelaker with 11 points; Jannica Schulte and Kala Clausen each hit 8 points.

As a team, the Lady Jays connected on 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 15 of 36 two-point attempts for 42 percent and 18 of 47 overall for 38 percent.

Osborne hit just 1 of 7 tries from long range for 14 percent, 16 of 28 two-point attempts for 57 percent and 17 of 35 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 9 of 16 for 56 percent compared to 4 of 8 for Osborne for 50 percent.

Osborne had a slight 24-22 edge in rebounding. The Lady Bulldogs grabbed 4 offensive and 20 defensive caroms while Norton pulled down 8 offensive and 14 defensive

boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 9, followed by Ebert, 5; Jones, Engelbert, 2 each; Newell, Mann, Amber Overlease, Chelle Donovan, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had nine steals and the Lady Bulldogs had three thefts. Jones and Engelbert each had three steals, Newell had two and Cox had one theft.

The Lady Jays' good offensive teamwork was evidenced by their 19 assists. Newell led with seven, followed by Cox, four; Ebert, three; Jones, Engelbert, two each; Mann, one.

Norton had 9 turnovers compared to 17 for Osborne.

## GAME STATISTICS

### Norton 48

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	A-M
Whitney Newell	0 0	2-4	2
Chelsea Cox	7 0	4-6	18
Becca Ebert	1 0	0-0	2
Klaire Mann	1 0	0-0	2
Karlie Jones	4 2	2-2	16
Amber Engelbert	2 1	1-4	8
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15 3</b>	<b>9-16</b>	<b>48</b>

### Osborne 39

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	A-M
Demi French	1 0	0-2	2
Karie Ubelaker	4 1	0-0	11
Jannica Schulte	4 0	0-0	8
Michele Princ	2 0	1-2	5
Jessica Patee	2 0	0-0	4
Kala Clausen	3 0	2-2	8
Meredith Musil	0 0	1-2	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16 1</b>	<b>4-8</b>	<b>39</b>