

Norton boys fall to Eagles

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played better the second time around against Trego but the final result was the same as the taller Golden Eagles won 65-51 in Mid-Continent League action on Friday night in WaKeeney.

Norton played Trego in the semi-finals of the league tournament and lost 59-37. The Blue Jays defeated Ellis the next night to place third in the tournament.

The Blue Jays were outshot again but not by as big a margin. In the first encounter, Norton hit just 31 percent from the field and on Friday night they swished 41 percent. The Blue Jays also hit 86 percent from the free throw line on Friday.

Norton's top two scorers also returned to normal form. Senior forward Ryan Maddy hit just 4 points the first time and 18 this time around. Junior center Heath Vincent scored just 2 points the first meeting and connected for 17 on Friday.

In both games, however, Norton was outshot by Trego. The Golden Eagles hit 56 percent of their shots in the first win over Norton and swished 55 percent on Friday night.

The first quarter ended with Trego on top 15-11. Maddy hit a three-point and two-point shot, Vincent swished two baskets and senior forward Justin Shirk connected for two points.

Wade Knapp, Trego's 6-foot-8-inch senior center, countered with three baskets, Nathan Locke, 6-foot-5-inch junior, hit a trey and two-point shot and Mark Aschenbrenner, 6-foot-3-inch senior, put in two baskets.

Trego outscored Norton 14-11 in the second quarter to take a 29-22 halftime lead. The Blue Jays received two more baskets from Shirk, one each from Maddy and senior guard Jason Green and a three-point basket by junior guard Nathan Morse at the buzzer.

Knapp hit two more baskets for Trego, senior Brent Deines scored his only points of the game when he hit a long range shot and two-point basket. Locke and Aschenbrenner each swished another basket and sophomore Nick Geist hit a free throw for his only point of the contest.

Trego extended their advantage in the third quarter by outscoring Norton 18-12 to take a 47-34 lead. The Blue Jays' points came on three baskets by Maddy and two baskets and two free throws by Vincent.

The Golden Eagles' junior forward Tyler Ummel, who had scored 19 points in the first win over Norton, did not score in the first half on Friday but broke his drought in the third period when he connected on four basket attempts. Knapp continued to use his height to advantage inside and scored three more baskets. Aschenbrenner and Locke each hit a basket.

The shorter Blue Jays continued to fight into the fourth quarter but were outscored 18-17 to lose by 14 points. Norton was trailing 60-48 with 1:04 left when Vincent scored and was fouled. He hit the free throw for a three-point play that brought Norton within nine points at 60-51. But the Blue Jays had to foul in hopes that Trego would miss their free throws and Norton would get the ball back. Unfortunately, Trego hit their charities to add five more points onto their total.

Vincent scored 7 points for Norton in the fourth period on two baskets and three free throws. Maddy hit two baskets and a charity toss, senior guard Aaron Overlease hit a basket from beyond the arc for his only points of the game and senior guard Kyle Kats hit a two-point basket for his only tally in the contest.

Knapp continued to dominate inside during the final stanza as he hit four baskets, including a dunk, and a free throw.

"Despite the loss, I thought our boys played a very good game," said Coach Reusink.

"We didn't shoot the ball very well from the three-point line and were beaten badly on the boards again but we played hard until the end."

Maddy shot very well in hitting 18 points. He hit 7 of 10 two-point shots for 70 percent accuracy, was 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent and 8 of 15 overall for 53 percent accuracy. He hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Vincent also shot well. He hit 6 of 10 attempts for 60 percent from the field and was a perfect 5 of 5 from the charity stripe for 17 points.

Knapp, who scored just 8 points in the first win over Norton, poured in 25 points to lead Trego. Locke and Ummel each ended with 12 points and Aschenbrenner added 10 points.

As a team, Norton connected on just 3 of 16 shots from beyond the arc for 19 percent but hit 18 of 35 two-point shots for an outstanding 51 percent for an overall total of 21 out of 51 for 41 percent.

Trego swished 2 of 4 from beyond the arc for 50 percent and 26 of 47 from two-point range for 55 percent and 28 of 51 overall for 55 percent.

Norton swished 6 of 7 charities for 86 percent compared to Trego's 7 of 14 for 50 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 30-20, not quite as bad as the first game. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 12 defensive caroms and the Golden Eagles grabbed 12 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

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

Norton blocked four shots. Vincent rejected two and Maddy and Kats blocked one each.

The Blue Jays had 8 steals. Overlease and Kats each had 4 thefts.

Norton had 10 offensive assists. Overlease was the leader with 4, followed by Morse, Kats, 2 each; Maddy, Shirk, 1 each.

Norton had 14 turnovers but forced Trego to turn over the ball 12 times.

Junior varsity boys

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys quintet lost to Trego 55-42.

Norton trailed 14-2 after the first quarter but outscored Trego 19-10 in the second quarter to narrow the Golden Eagles' lead to 24-21 at intermission.

Trego extended their lead in the third period by scoring 17 more points and limiting Norton to 10 to make it a 41-31 game. Trego also outscored Norton 14-11 in the final stanza to win by 13 points.

Logan Kats was leading scorer for Norton with 14 points, followed by Wes Georgeson, 12; Jared Engelbert, 5; Jared Cox, Zach Dole, 4 each; Brian Juenemann, 3.

Tate Lang led scoring for Trego with 12 points. Kevyn Goodman added 11.

Next action

Norton's basketball teams are scheduled to play Goodland in Norton today, beginning at 5 p.m.

The boys junior varsity contest will be in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus. Games in the high school Memorial Gym will begin with the girls junior varsity and will be followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 51

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	0	1	0-0
Kyle Kats	1	0	0-0
Aaron Overlease	0	1	0-0
Jason Green	1	0	0-0
Ryan Maddy	7	1	1-2
Justin Shirk	3	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	6	0	5-5
TOTALS	18	3	6-7

Trego boys 65

Brent Deines	1	1	0-0
Nathan Locke	3	1	3-4
Nick Geist	0	0	1-2
Tyler Ummel	15	0	2-3
Wade Knapp	12	0	1-2
Mark Aschenbrenner	5	0	0-3
TOTALS	26	2	7-14



Norton's Klaire Mann steals the ball during the Lady Jays' win over Trego on Friday night in WaKeeney. Mann and Karlie Jones, No. 32, led Norton in thefts with three each. Behind them is Becca Ebert who was Norton's leading rebounder with seven and scorer with 12.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls beat Trego on Friday

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team wasn't hitting Friday night but Coach Kevin Jilka's philosophy to keep shooting paid off in a 47-27 win over Trego Community High School in WaKeeney.

Norton was outshot 38 percent to 30 percent from the field but the Lady Jays put up over twice as many shots as the Lady Golden Eagles to make the difference.

Hitting 83 percent from the free throw line compared to 43 percent for Trego also made some difference.

"It wasn't one of our better games but it was a win and we'll take it," said Coach Jilka. "This is a tough place to play but our girls keep finding a way to win."

Norton extended their season record to 9-1 and Trego fell below 500 to 6-7.

"Our offense took care of the ball and handled their full court press," said the coach. "Even though we held them to 27 points, I wasn't as happy with our defense."

"We're always glad to win on the road in the Mid-Continent League. Our girls are playing with confidence. Wins will do that."

Norton is 3-0 in the league race and took over first place on Friday night when Victoria and Hill City both lost and are now 3-1 along with Osborne.

With senior guard Amber Engelbert and junior center Becca Ebert hitting the final five points of the first quarter, Norton took a 16-6 lead. Engelbert buried a three-point shot with 1:54 left and finished with a basket with 5.2 seconds left. She was fouled on the play and converted the free throw.

Ebert hit two baskets in the opening stanza, senior guards Whitney Newell and Karlie Jones each hit a basket and junior center Chelsea Cox hit two free throws.

Both teams hit 9 points in the second quarter to make Norton's lead 25-15 at halftime. Junior guard Klaire Mann hit a basket and free throw, Cox connected for two baskets and Ebert tallied again in the quarter.

After Jones' free throw with 3:11 left in the third quarter, Norton led 32-18 but Coach Rose McFarland's Trego quintet scored the next seven points to cut the Lady Jay advantage to seven points. Ebert finished the quarter with a basket and Norton led 34-25 with one quarter remaining. Norton was outscored 10-9 in the third period. Ebert also hit two free throws in the third period. Baskets by Engelbert and Mann were

Norton's only other baskets. Jones added a free throw.

The fourth quarter belonged to Norton, however, as the Lady Jays did not allow a single Lady Golden Eagle basket and limited the home team to just two free throws. Meanwhile, Norton scored 12 points and extended their final margin of victory to 20 points. Two of Norton's final four baskets were from beyond the arc as Jones and Newell each buried three-pointers. Jones also hit two free throws and Newell hit one. Ebert and Engelbert each hit a basket during the period.

Ebert was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points on 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent accuracy and a perfect 2 of 2 charities. Engelbert added 10 points on 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 3 of 8 from two-point range for 38 percent and 4 of 13 overall for 31 percent. She also hit her only free throw.

Emily Deines led Trego with 12 points. As a team, Norton swished 3 of 14 three-point attempts for 21 percent, 14 of 42 two-point shots for 33 percent and 17 of 56 overall for 30 percent.

Trego hit 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 9 of 23 two-point shots for 39 percent and 10 of 26 overall for 38 percent accuracy.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 10 of 12 tries for 83 percent and Trego swished 6 of 14 for 43 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 29-19. The Lady Jays pulled down 17 offensive and 12 defensive caroms and the Lady Golden Eagles grabbed 1 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Ebert was leading rebounder for

Norton with 7, followed by Jones, 6; Engelbert, Cox, 5 each; Mann, 4; Amber Overlease, Jessi Duscher, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 11 steals and Trego had just 4. Mann and Jones led with 3 thefts each, followed by Newell, 2; Cox, Ebert, Engelbert, 1 each.

Norton was credited with 12 offensive assists compared to Trego's 8. Jones was the leader with 5, followed by Newell, 4; Ebert, 2; Engelbert, 1.

Norton had 10 turnovers and the Lady Jay defense caused the Lady Golden Eagles to turn over the ball 20 times.

Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Trego 48-30.

Norton held quarter leads of 11-8, 27-18 and 36-22.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 13, followed by Lacey Roe, 10; Rachael Lentz, 8; Maggie Nielsen, 4; Chelle Donovan, 3; Klaire Mann, Amber Overlease, Haley Jones, Amber Waggoner, Kylie Morel, 2 each.

Michele Ummel was high scorer for Trego with 10. Julia Albin added 8.

"We played much better as the game went along," said Coach Rossi. "We did a much better job of working against the press and getting the ball inside."

"We still make too many silly errors but our girls are learning to play with each other."

Freshmen girls won

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton freshmen girls quintet defeated Trego 27-15.

Norton held quarter leads of 13-

2, 18-4 and 24-8.

Chantille Campbell was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Megan Kats, 5; Jessica Strickland, Haley Jones, 4 each; Kylie Morel, 2; Thea Wiseman, 1.

Christine Schreiner was leading scorer for Trego with 6 points.

"We had another good defensive performance," said Coach Bolt. "Our press transitioned into some easy baskets. We also played very good heads up defense."

"Offensively, we did a good job of working the ball around and getting it inside."

"We also had some great contributions off the bench. All eight ladies played solid basketball."

Next action

The Norton girls will be on the hardwoods again today versus Goodland. Games will begin at 5 p.m. with the junior varsity boys game in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus and junior varsity girls in the Memorial Gym at the high school, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys games.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 47

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	1	1	1-2
Chelsea Cox	2	0	2-2
Klaire Mann	2	0	1-1
Becca Ebert	5	0	2-2
Karlie Jones	1	1	3-4
Amber Engelbert	3	1	1-1
TOTALS	14	3	10-12

Trego girls 27

Denise Neff	0	1	1-3
Cindy Riedel	3	0	1-2
Aubrey Riedel	1	0	0-0
Emily Deines	5	0	2-5
Courtney Riedel	0	0	1-2
Kilee Zeman	0	0	1-2
TOTALS	9	1	6-14

Senior quarterback named to NCAA II All-America Team

By DICK BOYD

Neal Philpot, 6-foot-4-inch, 254 pound, senior quarterback from Norton for the Pittsburg State University Gorillas, has been named to the NCAA Division II second team All-America Team from Don Hansen's Football Gazette.

Pittsburg state was ranked No. 1 in the nation and was undefeated until losing the national championship game 36-31 to No. 3 ranked Valdosta State University, Georgia on December 11.

This season, Philpot became the first quarterback in Division II history to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in a season for three seasons. He completed 96 of 170 passes (56.5 percent accuracy) for 1,825 yards and 25 touchdowns and rushed for 1,398 yards and 16 touchdowns and set an NCAA-II record for highest average yards per pass completion of 17.9 yards.

Philpot finished his four-year college career with 10,168 yards of offense to become the all-time

leader in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association history. When Philpot was the starting quarterback, Pittsburg State's record was 38-8.

The Gorillas captured the Mid-America championship en route to the playoffs and finished 14-1.

Philpot helped direct a Pittsburg State offense that set all-time NCAA all division records this season for points, 837; rushing yards, 5,320 and total yards, 8,976.