

Blue Jay boys get 67-56 win over Cowboys

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team excited the home crowd Tuesday night with an impressive 67-56 victory over No. 8 state ranked Goodland in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The Blue Jays led the entire game but had to hold off a Cowboy rally late in the fourth quarter and hit enough free throws to ensure the victory.

With the win, Norton extended their season record to 6-5. Goodland dropped to 10-4. The Cowboys have lost twice to Class 5A Hays, who is ranked No. 8 in the state, and once to Class 5A Liberal who is ranked No. 2 in the state.

"We played a great game for 32 minutes," said Coach Reusink. "We were aggressive on defense and attacked the basket on offense. They are a very well coached team. This was a good victory for us."

The Blue Jays took it to the Cowboys from the opening tip and led 14-10 at the end of the first quarter. Senior forward Ryan Maddy hit three baskets, senior forward Justin Shirk and senior guard Aaron Overlease each

swished a two-point basket, junior guard Nathan Morse buried a three-pointer and senior guard Kyle Kats hit a free throw for Norton in the period.

Maddy hit three more baskets and a free throw, Shirk and Overlease each connected on two baskets, junior center Heath Vincent hit his first basket of the game and Kats buried a shot from beyond the arc and hit two free throws as Norton tallied 22 points in the second quarter. Goodland scored 17 points and Norton led 36-27 at intermission.

The third quarter was a defensive one with Norton outscoring Goodland 11-9. Vincent hit three baskets, Shirk scored once and Maddy hit a free throw for the Jays as Norton took a 47-36 lead.

Although both teams scored 20 points in the fourth quarter, Goodland narrowed the Norton lead to 52-50 with 3:08 remaining. Overlease scored from beyond the arc with 2:41 left but two free throws by Jance McKee made it a 55-52 game. Vincent scored inside but Goodland's Brock Lohr matched it.

Morse gave the Blue Jays some breathing room when he stole the ball, drove the length of the court

and scored. He was fouled in the act of shooting and hit the free throw for a three-point play and a 60-54 Norton advantage with 1:28 remaining. A free throw by Kats and two each by Morse and Maddy extended the Norton lead to 65-54 with 30.3 seconds left.

Lohr hit Goodland's last basket and Vincent put an exclamation point on the game with one final basket as time was running out on the scoreboard clock to make the final score 67-56.

Maddy was the leading scorer for Norton with 16 points. He missed his only three-point attempt but hit 6 of 13 two-point tries for 46 percent and shot 43 percent overall. He swished 4 of 6 free throws for 67 percent accuracy from the line.

Vincent followed with 15 points on 7 of 9 from the field for 78 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Morse was Norton's other double figure scorer with 11 points. He hit his only attempt from beyond the arc, was 2 of 5 from two-point range for 40 percent and 3 of 6 overall for 50 percent. He also hit 4 of 5 free throw tries for 80 percent accuracy.

Overlease finished with 9 points and also shot well. He hit 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent.

Shirk ended with 8 points on a perfect night of field goal shooting as he connected on 4 of 4 attempts.

Lohr was leading scorer for Goodland with 15 points.

As a team, Norton swished 3 of 9 three-point shots for 33 percent, 22 of 43 two-point basket attempts for 51 percent and 25 of 52 overall for 48 percent.

Goodland put up the same number of shots as Norton but did not shoot quite as well. The Cowboys hit only 2 of 11 from long range for 18 percent but swished 20 of 41 two-point tries for 49 percent and ended with 22 of 52 overall for 42 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton scored on 14 of 25 for 56 percent and Goodland swished 10 of 16 charities for 63 percent.

The battle on the backboards was almost a draw. Goodland pulled down 8 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 27 total and Norton grabbed 5 offensive and 21 defensive boards for 26 total.

Maddy and Vincent each pulled down six rebounds, followed by Kats, five; Morse, Shirk, three each; Mills, two; Jason Green, one.

Vincent blocked four shots and Shirk rejected two.

Norton had four steals in the game. Morse, Kats, Overlease and Maddy had one theft each.

The Blue Jays had 21 offensive assists. Kats was the leader with eight, followed by Maddy, six; Morse, Vincent, two each; Seth Mills, Overlease, Shirk, one each.

Norton had just five turnovers while the Blue Jay defense caused the Cowboys to turn the ball over 10 times.

Junior varsity contest

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys quintet lost to Goodland 57-49.

Norton trailed 20-14 after one quarter but outscored Goodland



Norton senior forward Ryan Maddy hits a jump shot during the Blue Jays' 67-56 defeat of No. 8 state ranked Goodland on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Memorial Gym. Maddy led Norton scoring with 16 points and was co-leader with Heath Vincent in rebounds with six. Guarding Maddy is the Cowboys' David Livengood. Other players are, from left, Goodland's Jance McKee, Norton's Justin Shirk, Norton's Seth Mills.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton's 6-foot-5-inch junior center Heath Vincent gets loose underneath for a basket during the Blue Jays' 67-56 defeat of No. 8 state ranked Goodland on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Memorial Gym. Vincent was second high scorer for Norton with 15 points and co-leader with Ryan Maddy in rebounds with six.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

12-8 in the second period to cut the Cowboys' lead to 28-26 at half-time. Goodland outscored Norton 18-7 in the third period, however, to take a 46-33 advantage into the final stanza. The young Blue Jays outscored the Cowboys 16-11 in the fourth quarter but it wasn't enough for the victory.

Jared Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 15 points, followed by Logan Kats, 14; Jared Engelbert, 7; Wes Georgeson, 5; Preston Herman, 4; Zach Dole, Brian Juenemann, 2 each.

Preston Dautel was leading scorer for Goodland with 11. Taylor Frazier added 10.

Next action

Norton will travel to Victoria today for Mid-Continent League games, which are scheduled to begin at 4 p.m.

Games will begin with the junior varsity boys contest, followed by the junior varsity girls, varsity girls and varsity boys.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 67

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	2	1	4-5 11
Kyle Kats	0	1	4-9 7
Aaron Overlease	3	1	0-0 9
Jason Green	0	0	1-2 1
Ryan Maddy	6	0	4-6 16
Justin Shirk	4	0	0-1 8

Heath Vincent	7	0	1-2 15	Lane Winter	5	0	2-2 12
TOTALS	22	3	14-25 67	Derrick Raymer	2	2	0-0 10
Goodland boys 56				David Livengood	0	0	0-2 0
FGs				Brock Lohr	7	0	1-5 15
2s				Heath Chatfield	1	0	0-0 2
3s				Jance McKee	2	0	5-5 9
M-A				TOTALS	20	2	10-16 56
Jase Herl	2	0	2-2 6				
Nick Angelos	1	0	0-0 2				

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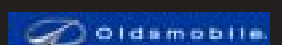
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