

# Blue Jay boys basketball team gets victory at Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team used a 17-5 second quarter performance on Tuesday night to propel them to a 58-43 victory over a Smith Center quintet who played them even in the second half of their Mid-Continent League contest in Smith Center.

With the win, Norton extended their season record to 8-5. Smith

Center fell to 5-9.

"This was a good win for us on the road," said Coach Reusink. "I thought our boys played hard for the whole game but we keep making some of the same mistakes each time we play.

"More boys are contributing on the offensive end, which is good to see. If we can be more consistent with our defense and rebounding, we can be a pretty good team."

Norton held a 16-13 lead at the

end of the first quarter. Senior guard Kyle Kats swished two baskets and two free throws, senior forward Ryan Maddy and junior center Heath Vincent each hit two field goals and junior guard Nathan Morse hit a two-point attempt in the quarter.

Six different Blue Jays contributed to Norton's 17 point second quarter. Maddy led the way with two baskets, Morse and senior guard Seth Mills each buried a

trey, Vincent hit a basket and free throw and Kats and senior forward Justin Shirk each hit a basket.

The Blue Jay defense limited the Redmen to just two baskets in the second quarter as Norton took a 33-18 halftime advantage into the dressing room.

Smith Center did not go away, however, and outscored Norton 14-13 in the third quarter to make it a 46-32 contest. Vincent got loose underneath the basket for three field goals and also hit a free throw. Maddy hit a basket and two charities and senior guard Aaron Overlease hit his first field goal of the game.

Norton hit 12 points compared to 11 for Smith Center in the final stanza. Overlease hit from long range, Kats, Maddy, Shirk and Vincent each hit a field goal and senior guard Jason Green hit a charity toss to extend Norton's final margin of victory to 15 points.

Vincent was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points. He hit 7 of 14 field goal attempts for 50 percent accuracy and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent.

Maddy added 14 points on 6 of 13 two-point attempts for 46 percent and 2 of 2 free throws. He missed his only three-point try.

Kats was Norton's third double figure scorer with 10 points. He hit 4 of 9 two-point tries for 44 percent and 2 of 2 charities. He also missed his only trey try.

Leading scorer for Smith Center was junior Taylor Jones with

12. Senior Jordan Hommon added 11 points.

As a team, Norton tallied on 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 21 of 48 two-point tries for 44 percent and 24 of 59 overall for 41 percent.

The Redmen hit just 2 of 15 from three-point range for 13 percent, 15 of 33 two-point tries for 45 percent and 17 of 48 overall for 35 percent.

Each team hit seven free throws. Norton was 7 of 9 for 78 percent and Smith Center was 7 of 14 for 50 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 29-24. The Blue Jays pulled down 9 offensive and 15 defensive caroms while the Redmen grabbed 8 offensive and 21 defensive boards.

Vincent was rebounding leader for Norton with 7, followed by Overlease, 5; Maddy, 4; Morse, 3; Kats, Shirk, 2 each; Green, 1.

Vincent blocked two shots and Kats rejected one.

The Blue Jays stole the ball 15 times. Kats had 7 thefts, followed by Overlease, 4; Maddy, 3; Shirk, 1.

Norton was credited with 11 offensive assists. Kats and Maddy had 4 each, followed by Morse, 2; Mills, 1.

The Blue Jays had 13 turnovers but the Norton defense caused the Redmen to turn the ball over 22 times.

### Junior varsity contest

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost a 59-

43 contest to Smith Center.

The Redmen held quarter leads of 17-5, 30-19 and 47-26.

Leading scorer for Norton was Brian Juenemann with 11, followed by Logan Kats, 10; Jared Engelbert, 8; Wes Georgeson, 7; David Counter, 3; Jared Cox, Preston Herman, 2 each.

Braden Wilson led the Redmen with 19 points.

### Next action

Norton is scheduled to play Hill City in Norton today.

The junior varsity boys game will begin at 5 p.m. in Wilmet Kirk Memorial Gym. The girls freshmen game will begin at 4 p.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym, followed by the girls junior varsity, girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

### GAME STATISTICS

#### Norton boys 58

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A		
Nathan Morse	1	1	0-0	5	
Kyle Kats	4	0	2-2	10	
Seth Mills	0	1	0-0	3	
Aaron Overlease	1	1	0-0	5	
Jason Green	0	0	1-2	1	
Ryan Maddy	6	0	2-2	14	
Justin Shirk	2	0	0-0	4	
Heath Vincent	7	0	2-3	16	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7-9</b>	<b>58</b>	

#### Smith Center boys 43

Jordan Hommon	3	1	2-2	11
Taylor Jones	5	0	2-5	12
Cole Davis	2	1	1-3	8
Joe Windscheffel	3	0	1-2	7
Eric Robinson	2	0	1-2	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7-14</b>	<b>43</b>



Norton senior guard Kyle Kats drives inside with shooting on his mind during the Blue Jays' 58-43 win over Smith Center on Tuesday in Smith Center. Kats was third leading scorer for Norton with 10 points, co-leader in assists and steals leader with seven. In the post position for Norton is junior center Heath Vincent. Junior guard Nathan Morse is in the background. —Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Norton girls defeat Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team ventured into Redmen territory on Tuesday evening and took care of business with a 43-36 win over Smith Center in Mid-Continent League play. Norton defeated Smith Center 29-28 earlier this year to win the league tournament championship so the Lady Jays knew the Lady Redmen would have revenge on their minds.

It was a typically hard-fought Norton-Smith Center encounter that saw the Lady Jays outscore the Lady Redmen by just a few points in each of the first three quarters and the fourth quarter was even.

Norton held a 16-14 advantage after the first stanza. Most of the Lady Jays' points in the first quarter came on four field goals, one from beyond the arc, by junior guard Karlie Jones. Senior guard Amber Engelbert also buried a three-point shot and junior center Chelsea Cox and junior guard Whitney Newell each lit up the scoreboard with a basket.

The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Redmen 12-8 in the second period to take a 28-22 lead at halftime. Newell, who had a perfect shooting night from the field, poured in three baskets, Jones hit another trey and a free throw and junior center Becca Ebert hit her first basket of the game in the second quarter.

The third quarter was a defensive one and probably reminded fans of the tournament game between the two teams. Norton edged Smith Center 7-6 in the period to take a 35-28 lead into the crucial fourth quarter. Norton's only points came on a trey and two-point shot by Jones and a basket by Engelbert.

Both teams scored 8 points in the final stanza. Norton's tallies came on baskets by Cox, Ebert and junior guard Amber Overlease and clutch free throws by Newell and Engelbert with the scoreboard clock winding down.

"We didn't play a great game but this team always finds a way to win," said Coach Jilka. "Smith Center is tough to beat at home.

"Our perimeter girls Jones, Newell and Engelbert stepped up. We told them they'd have to score and they did. They shot better from outside and also took the ball inside effectively since Cox was being watched pretty closely by Smith Center defenders.

"We didn't run our delay game very well at the end but we got some free throws that helped.

"We played well overall defensively."

Norton is undefeated in league play and extended their season record to 11-2. It was Smith Center's second league loss. The Lady Redmen are now 7-6.

Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points. She hit 3 of 8 shots from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 4 of 5 two-point shots for a net sizzling 80 percent and 7 of 13 overall for an excellent 54 percent accuracy. She also hit 1 of 2 charity tosses for 50 percent.

Newell was Norton's other double figure scorer. She hit a perfect 4 of 4 from the field for 100 percent and 2 of 5 from the charity stripe for 40 percent.

Leading scorer for Smith Center was senior Toni Fuller with 14. Senior Vanessa Peterson added 13.

Both teams hit 13 two-point field goals but the difference in the game came from long range where the Lady Jays swished three more shots than the Lady Redmen.

As a team, Norton scored on 4 of 12 long range shots for 33 percent, 13 of 29 two-point attempts for 45 percent and 17 of 41 overall for 41 percent.

Smith Center hit just 1 of 8 from beyond the arc for 13 percent, 13 of 30 from two-point land for 43 percent and 14 of 38 overall for 37 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 5 of 9 for 56 percent compared to Smith Center's 7 of 13 for 54 percent.

The Lady Jays outrebounded the Lady Redmen 26-20. Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 18 defensive caroms and Smith Center pulled down 6 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Cox with 11, followed by Ebert, 7; Engelbert, 6; Jones, 2.

The Lady Jays had 5 steals compared to 10 by the Lady Redmen. Cox and Ebert each had 2 thefts and Jones had 1.

Norton had 9 offensive assists compared to 10 for Smith Center. Newell and Engelbert led with 3 each, followed by Mann, 2; Jones, 1.

The Lady Jays had 16 turnovers and the Lady Redmen turned the ball over 12 times.

### Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Smith Center 44-20.

Norton held quarter leads of 8-3, 20-8 and 35-18.

Leading scorers for Norton were Rachael Lentz and Chantille Campbell with 12 points each, followed by Lacey Roe and Maggie

Nielsen, 8 each; Klaire Mann and Amber Waggoner, 2 each.

Aurielle Hughes and Ashley Shellito led Smith Center with 4 points each.

"This was the game we've been looking for," said Coach Rossi.

"We played four quarters of good ball.

"We did a great job of passing the ball, which has been a weak spot for us.

"Our girls are coming together and playing well together."

### Freshmen girls won

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton freshmen girls basketball team defeated Smith Center 31-16 in a three quarter contest.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-2 and 25-6.

Leading scorer for Norton was Megan Kats with 9, followed by Lacy Ellis, 8; Haley Jones, Chantille Campbell, Kylie Morel, 4 each; Courtney Cox, 2.

Kayla Kaundart led Smith Center with 7 and Amanda Mott added 5.

"Our girls played another aggressive defensive game," said Coach Bolt. "Our girls love the full court press and it shows.

"We also played a good inside-outside offensive game, sharing the scoring between the posts and perimeter people.

"Defensively, we did a pretty good job of stopping Smith Center's offensive set."

### Next action

Norton is scheduled to play Hill City in Norton today. The junior varsity boys game will begin at 5 p.m. and be held in Wilmet Kirk Memorial Gym.

All other games will be held in the NCHS Memorial Gym and begin at 4 p.m. with the freshmen girls three quarter contest, followed by the junior varsity girls, varsity girls and varsity boys games.

The Norton C-team girls quintet will compete in a four-team tournament on Saturday in Atwood.

### GAME STATISTICS

#### Norton girls 43

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A		
Whitney Newell	4	0	2-5	10	
Chelsea Cox	2	0	0-0	4	
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-0	4	
Karlie Jones	4	3	1-2	18	
Amber Engelbert	1	1	2-2	7	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5-9</b>	<b>43</b>	

#### Smith Center girls 36

Lishe Isom	1	0	3-4	5
Toni Fuller	6	0	2-4	14
Vanessa Peterson	4	1	2-5	13
Deb Fricker	2	0	0-0	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7-13</b>	<b>36</b>



Norton senior guard Amber Engelbert eyes the basket as she calmly swishes two clutch free throws late in the game to help the Lady Jays defeat Smith Center 43-36 on Tuesday evening in Smith Center. Engelbert was third high scorer and rebounder and co-leader in assists for Norton in the contest. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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