



Lady Blue Jay junior guard Whitney Newell drives inside with the ball during Norton's 41-29 Mid-Continent League win over Hill City on Friday evening in Norton. Newell was the assists leader for Norton in the game with five. Junior guard Klaire Mann is No. 15 for Norton. On defense for the Lady Ringnecks is sophomore Liz Miller, No. 23.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton boys outscore Ringnecks at home

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team pleased the large number of Blue Jay fans in attendance with a 52-37 win over Hill City in Mid-Continent League play on Friday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton. The win extended Norton's record to 9-5.

Senior forward Ryan Maddy had another good scoring night as he poured in 24 points. Coach Reusink was happy that six other Blue Jays also scored.

"Our energy level was great in the first half," said Coach Reusink. "We looked tired in the second half. We lost our energy and focus. We have to be better in late game situations. We did not hit free throws down the stretch.

"We did a pretty good job offensively against their man and zone defenses but we didn't always finish our plays."

Norton outscored Hill City 14-10 in the first quarter. Senior guard Aaron Overlease was all over the floor on defense as he made several steals that led to baskets. Overlease hit a three-point and two-point field goal and free throw in the period. Maddy added two field goals. Senior forward Justin Shirk and junior center Heath Vincent also scored for the Blue Jays.

With Maddy leading the way, Norton had their best offensive quarter of the game in the second stanza, when they outscored Hill City 17-10 to take a 31-20 halftime lead. Maddy drained four baskets, junior guard Nathan Morse buried a three-point shot, Vincent hit a basket and two charities and senior guard Kyle Kats connected on a two-pointer.

The third quarter was much closer as Norton outscored Hill City by just 11-9. Maddy continued to find the range as he hit four more baskets. Norton's other basket in the quarter came on a two-point shot by Kats, who also hit a free throw.

Norton scored just 10 points in the final stanza but held Hill City to 8 points. Maddy and Shirk each hit two baskets in the final period and senior forward Seth Mills swished a two-pointer.

Maddy left the nets smoking from two-point range as he connected on 12 of 16 attempts for 75 percent accuracy. He missed three long range shots and a free throw and finished with 24 points.

Shirk also shot well. He hit 3 of 5 shots for 60 percent accuracy and 6 points.

Junior Curt Welter was leading scorer for Hill City with 11 points. Sophomore Tane Brown added 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 2 of 12 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 21 of 46 two-point tries for 46 percent and 23 of 58 overall for 40 percent.

The Ringnecks hit 2 of 10 from long range for 20 percent, 14 of 29 two-pointers for 48 percent and 16 of 39 overall for 44 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit a cold 4 of 12 for 33 percent and Hill City was just as cold from the charity stripe, hitting 3 of 9 for 33 percent.

Norton outrebounded Hill City 28-21. The Blue Jays pulled down 12 offensive and 16 defensive caroms and the Ringnecks grabbed 3 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Shirk was the rebounding leader for Norton with 7, followed by Kats, 6; Vincent, 5; Morse, Over-

lease, Maddy, 3 each; Mills, 1.

The Blue Jays had 12 steals. Overlease led with 6, followed by Kats, 5; Maddy, 1.

Norton was credited with 12 offensive assists. Kats led with 5, followed by Morse, 3; Maddy, 2; Overlease, Shirk, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 11 turnovers and caused the Ringnecks to turn the ball over 16 times.

Junior varsity won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys quintet defeated Hill City 47-40.

Norton held quarter leads of 11-8, 25-15 and 35-24.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Engelbert with 21 points, followed by Jared Cox, 15; Logan Kats, 8; Wes Georgeson, 3.

Ryan Knoll led Hill City with 17 points.

Next action

Norton is scheduled to play non-league basketball games at Oberlin today. Contests will start with the freshmen girls game at 4:30 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 52

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	0	1	0-1
Kyle Kats	2	0	1-4
Seth Mills	1	0	0-0
Aaron Overlease	1	1	1-4
Ryan Maddy	12	0	0-1
Justin Shirk	3	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	2	0	2-2
TOTALS	21	2	4-12

Hill City boys 37

Curt Welter	5	0	1-2
Mike Gerstner	1	0	0-0
Carter Atkins	1	1	0-0
Dylan Irby	0	1	0-0
Zach Thompson	2	0	0-4
Tane Brown	4	0	2-2
Jason Hyde	1	0	0-1
TOTALS	14	2	3-9

Norton girls beat Hill City again

By DICK BOYD

It was a lot harder for Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team to defeat Hill City the second time around but the Lady Jays eventually prevailed 41-29 on Friday evening in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The two teams met for the first time this season in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament and Norton dominated from start to finish in a 57-15 win.

The Lady Ringnecks trailed 30-4 at halftime of the first encounter but, this time, they had the upper hand most of the first half. Norton edged ahead 13-12 with 43 seconds left in the first half and led by just 17-14 at intermission.

"I knew they'd play better the second time around but it was hard to convince our girls that they would," said Coach Jilka.

"They tried to make us score from the outside but we did a nice job of getting the ball inside. Unfortunately, we didn't hit very well inside until the second half. We were also more patient on offense the second half.

"It was a nice league win for us." Both teams hit just two baskets in the first quarter but Hill City swished three free throws to take a 7-4 lead. Norton's points came on two baskets by junior center Becca Ebert.

The Lady Jay defense limited the Lady Ringnecks to just 7 points on two more baskets and three charities in the second quarter. On the strength of three baskets and three free throws by junior center Chelsea Cox, Norton tallied 13 points in the second stanza. The Lady Jays trailed until Cox scored with 1:50 left to tie the score at 12-11. Cox's free throw put Norton ahead 13-12.

Hill City regained the lead with 31 seconds remaining but Cox hit two more charities with 9.7 seconds showing on the scoreboard clock to give Norton a 15-14 lead. With time running out, junior guard Whitney Newell stole an inbounds pass and fed senior forward Amber Engelbert for her first basket of the game to put the Lady Jays up 17-14.

Ebert scored Norton's other basket in the second quarter. Hill City would not go away in the third quarter, which saw both teams score 8 points. Engelbert hit two more baskets, Cox hit a basket and free throw and Ebert swished a charity in the period. Nortons's lead was just 25-22 with eight minutes left in the contest.

The Lady Jays said enough is enough, however, in the final stanza when they scored the first 12 points of the quarter to extend their lead to 37-22 with 3:44 left. Norton outscored Hill City 16-7 in the final period.

Ebert led the way with three baskets and a free throw. Cox hit two baskets and two free throws and junior guard Karlie Jones buried a three-point basket for her only points of the game.

Three-fourths of Norton's points in the game came from centers Cox and Ebert. Cox hit 6 of 17 field goal attempts for 35 percent accuracy and 6 of 11 free throws for 55 percent and 18 points.

Ebert connected on 6 of 13 field goal tries for 46 percent and 2 of 5 charity tosses for 40 percent and 14 points.

Senior Tiffani Long was leading scorer for Hill City with 11 points.

With the victory, Norton extended their season record to 12-2. Hill City fell to 4-9.

The Lady Ringnecks actually outshot the Lady Jays but didn't take nearly as many shots. Norton hit 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 15 of 43 two-point shots for 35 percent and 16 of 48 overall for just 33 percent.

Hill City connected on 9 of 23 two-point attempts for 39 percent and did not try any shots from long range.

The Lady Jays were also outshot from the free throw line where they hit just 8 of 19 tries for 42 percent compared to 11 of 16 for 69 percent by Hill City.

Hill City also had a slight 23-20 edge in rebounds. Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 9 defensive caroms and Hill City grabbed 2 offensive and 21 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Ebert, 4; Newell, Klaire Mann, Jones, Engelbert, 2 each; Amber Overlease, 1.

The Lady Jays stole the ball 11 times and the Lady Ringnecks had 6 thefts. Engelbert led with 5, followed by Newell, 3; Cox, 2; Jones, 1.

Norton had 14 offensive assists and Hill City had just 3. Newell led with 5, followed by Cox, 4; Mann, Overlease, Ebert, Jones, Engelbert, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had just 6 turnovers compared to 21 for Hill City.

Junior varsity won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Hill City 41-27.

Just as in the varsity game, Hill City took the early lead. In fact, the Lady Ringnecks led at halftime. After leading 9-8 at the quarter, Hill City was on top 17-15 at intermission.

However, Maggie Nielsen was unstoppable in the second half as she outscored the entire Hill City quintet. After a 15-3 third quarter, Norton led 30-20 and outscored the visitors 11-7 in the final stanza. Nielsen, who had just 3 points at halftime, finished with 19 to lead Lady Jay scoring. She was followed by Chantille Campbell, 6; Lacey Roe, 5; Amber Overlease,

4; Chelle Donovan, 3; Klaire Mann, Haley Jones, 2 each.

Jamie Alexander led Hill City with 11 points.

"Tonight, we started slowly but got better as the game went on," said Coach Rossi. "We had trouble stopping Hill City's offensive drives in the first half.

"The second half was better at both ends. Our guards did a good job of getting the ball inside and the posts did a good job of scoring."

Norton freshmen won

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton freshmen girls quintet beat Hill City 34-28 in a three-quarter contest.

Norton led 10-9 after one quarter but Hill City was on top 22-21 at halftime. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Ringnecks 13-6 in the final quarter.

Leading scorers for Norton were Haley Jones and Chantille Campbell with 8 points each, followed by Jessica Strickland, Thea Wiseman, 5 each; Megan Kats, Kylie Morel, Courtney Cox, Lacy Ellis, 2 each.

Jessica Stewart led the Lady Ringnecks with 10 points. Kali Roberts scored 9 and Katelyn Keith hit 8 points.

"This was not one of our better games tonight," said Coach Bolt.

"We did not shuffle our feet well on defense and had trouble with timing and post play offensively.

"Our girls did play good defense in the last quarter and made some nice back cuts on offense that gave us a little margin to finish on top.

"I was very happy that we kept working out the kinks and finished hard."

Next action

Norton is scheduled to travel to Oberlin for non-league play today. Games begin at 4:30 p.m. with the girls freshmen game.

The Norton girls varsity defeated Oberlin 61-37 earlier this season in Norton.

"Just like Hill City, they will play better this time around," said Coach Jilka. "They are better than they played here.

"We'll have to be geared up and ready to play."

GAME STATISTICS

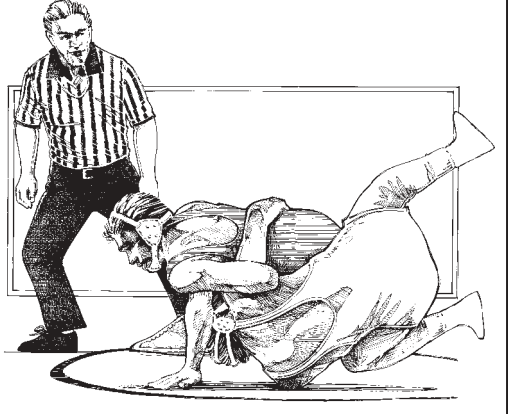
Norton girls 41

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	0	0	0-2
Chelsea Cox	6	0	6-11
Becca Ebert	6	0	2-5
Karlie Jones	0	1	0-0
Amber Engelbert	3	0	0-0
Jessi Duscher	0	0	0-1
TOTALS	15	1	8-19

Hill City girls 29

Jessie Day	2	0	0-0
Amy Foster	1	0	3-4
Tiffani Long	4	0	3-4
Audrey Hanna	1	0	1-2
Brittany Trexler	0	0	0-2
Liz Miller	1	0	4-4
TOTALS	9	0	11-16

Go, Norton Blue Jays!



Wrestling

Thurs., Feb. 10

5:15 P.M.-Duals Hill City Osborne vs. Hill City Norton vs. Osborne Norton vs. Hill City

Saturday, February 12

Beginning at 9 A.M.

"Bill Voss" Novice Wrestling Tournament

COLBY HIGH SCHOOL

TEAMS COMPETING: Atwood, Colby, Garden City, Goodland, Hays, Hays-TMP, Hill City, Hoxie, Leoti, Norton, Oakley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Quinter, Scott City, Smith Center, St. Francis, Stockton, Trego and Ulysses



Basketball

Tues., Feb. 8

Norton Blue Jays VERSUS Oberlin Red Devils AT OBERLIN

4:30 P.M.-C-team Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys - Senior High Gymnasium

6:30 P.M.-Junior Varsity Boys, Girls - Jr. High Gym

Friday, February 11

Norton Blue Jays VERSUS Plainville Cardinals

5 P.M.-Junior Varsity Boys—Wilmeth Kirk Gym

4 P.M.-9th Girls, Junior Varsity Girls, Varsity Girls and Boys-NCHS Gym

SUPPORT THESE BLUE JAY BOOSTERS... THEY ARE EAQER TO SERVE YOU!

- ACCOUNTING: Zwickle's Accounting
- ALUMINUM EXTRUSION: New Age Industrial Corp. Inc.
- ATTORNEYS: Worden Law Office
- AUTOMOTIVE-SALES, SERVICE & ACCESSORIES: Walter Motor Company
- BANKS: First State Bank; First Security Bank; the Bank
- DRUG STORES: Moffet Drug Store; Pamida Pharmacy
- FEED, SEED, GRAIN, PRODUCE: Norton County Co-op Association
- NEWSPAPERS: Norton Telegram