

Norton boys get exciting overtime win over Plainville

By DICK BOYD

One of the largest home crowds of the season enjoyed one of the most exciting basketball games of the campaign on Friday night when Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity quintet edged Plainville 66-65 in Mid-Continent League play in Norton.

After trailing 10 points at half-time, Norton rallied in the third quarter behind a shooting barrage by senior point guard Kyle Kats, who hit about every shot he put up. With Norton leading 40-38 with one quarter remaining, the two teams played on even terms and the score was tied at 56-all at the end of regulation.

Plainville held a 65-64 lead when Norton senior forward Ryan Maddy was fouled with 1.8 seconds left in the extra period. Maddy stepped to the free throw line to hit nothing but net on two free shots and give Norton an exciting 66-65 win.

The victory extended Norton's season record to 10-5.

"Our players are nice young men and I don't criticize them very often but I really chewed on them at halftime," said Coach Reusink. "In the first half, we were playing very tentative and not doing the things we needed to do.

"In the second half, we took it to them. We stepped up and made plays.

"It was good to see Kats have a break out scoring night. He's been due."

The score was tied at 6-all after Norton senior guard Aaron Overlease hit a two-point shot with 4:46 left in the first quarter but Plainville went on an 8-0 run to take a 14-6 lead. Kats scored the final basket of the quarter and Norton trailed 14-8. Norton's other four points in the quarter came on a field goal and two free throws by junior center Heath Vincent.

The Blue Jays were outscored 13-9 in the second quarter and fell behind 27-17.

Norton's second quarter points came on two baskets by Maddy, another basket by Overlease and a basket and free throw by Vincent.

Kats didn't wait long in the second half to start his shooting clinic. Just 26 seconds into the third quarter, he buried a three-pointer. After Plainville's junior point guard Justin Casey tallied at the 7:10 mark, Kats hit a jumper in the lane with 6:40 showing and Overlease hit nothing but net on a shot from beyond the arc to cut the Cardinal lead to 29-25.

The next time Norton got the ball, Kats swished another basket from long range and it was a 29-28 game. After junior forward Brock McDowell tallied for Plainville, another deafening roar came from the Norton crowd when Kats scored again from beyond the arc to tie the score at 31-all with 4:38 left.

The next time down the court, Kats drove inside for two more points and Norton's first lead of the game at the 3:40 mark. With 2:49 remaining, Kats penetrated the Plainville defense once again and scored two more points to give Norton a 35-31 advantage.

Casey hit a three-point shot for the Cardinals but Maddy matched it with a trey of his own and the Jays led 38-34. Senior Lance Gosser scored for Plainville and senior Brandon Frederking hit two free throws to tie the score at 38-all. With 1:26 showing in the third period, Maddy scored for Norton and the Jays led 40-38 with one regulation quarter remaining.

Casey tied the score to start the fourth stanza but Maddy's basket with 7:28 left put Norton back on top. Casey buried a three-pointer to give the Cardinals a 43-42 advantage. Senior forward Justin Shirk scored for the Jays with 5:56 left but McDowell gave the Cards the lead again with a basket at the 4:50 mark.

Kats put Norton on top 47-45 with another beauty from beyond the arc. Senior M.J. Klein scored for Plainville and it was tied at 47-all with 4:10 left in the game. Casey hit another trey and Josh Hrabec, Plainville's 6-foot-6-inch senior center, connected on two free throws to give the Cards a 52-47 lead with 3:05 left.

Maddy scored at the 2:42 mark but junior Taylor Dix scored three points at the other end of the court to give Plainville a 55-49 advan-

tage with 1:45 left. Vincent was fouled and hit both free throws with 1:40 remaining. Casey hit a charity but Vincent scored inside with 1:22 left and Norton trailed by just 56-53.

Overlease, who had hit a basket in each of the first three quarters, came through again with just 43 seconds remaining as he hit nothing but net from long range to tie the score at 56-all! Those were the last points scored in regulation, sending the game into overtime.

Dix hit just his second basket of the game to give Plainville a 58-56 lead to start the four minute overtime period. Vincent got loose inside and put up a two-point field goal to tie the score with 3:21 left. McDowell hit two free throws but Vincent muscled inside again for two more points and a 60-all tie with 2:40 left. The next time down the court, Kats fed Overlease and he scored to give Norton a 62-60 lead. Overlease passed to Maddy for two more Norton points and a 64-60 Blue Jay advantage.

But, the Norton four-point lead wasn't enough. Casey hit one of two free throw tries, then Hrabec scored with 22.8 seconds left to narrow the Norton advantage to 64-63. Hrabec hit a bank shot with 2.4 seconds remaining to give Plainville a 65-64 lead.

Maddy had to battle to grab the long in-bounds pass and he was fouled in the process. With 1.8 seconds left on the scoreboard clock, Maddy confidently stepped to the free throw line. He hit nothing but net on the first charity to tie the score and his second free toss was also perfect to give Norton the 66-65 victory!

Norton had four players in double scoring figures.

Kats led with 20 points. He hit a sharpshooting 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent accuracy, 4 of 8 two-point shots for 50 percent and 8 of 16 overall.

Maddy tallied 17 points. He was 6 of 12 from two-point land for 50 percent and hit 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent. He swished

2 of 4 free throws but the two he hit were big ones in a pressure situation.

Vincent threw in 15 points. He was 5 of 9 from the field for 55 percent and 5 of 6 from the charity stripe for 83 percent.

Overlease tallied 12 points on 2 of 9 from three-point land, 3 of 3 two-point shots and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent.

Casey led Plainville with 19 points. McDowell and Hrabec each tallied 12.

Both teams hit 54 percent of their two-point field goal attempts.

Norton was 7 of 24 from long range for 29 percent, 19 of 35 from two-point land for 54 percent and 26 of 59 overall for 44 percent.

Plainville hit 4 of 12 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 20 of 37 two-point shots for 54 percent and 24 of 49 overall for 49 percent.

The Blue Jays connected on 7 of 13 free throws for 54 percent. The Cardinals swished 13 of 19 charities for 68 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 28-22. The Jays grabbed 8 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and the Cards pulled down 8 offensive but 20 defensive boards.

Maddy came close to a double-double in scoring and rebounding. In addition to tallying 17 points, he grabbed nine rebounds. Vincent pulled down seven caroms and was followed by Kats, three; Nathan Morse, Seth Mills, Overlease, one each.

Maddy and Vincent each blocked two Plainville shots.

Morse and Kats each had two steals and Maddy had one theft.

Norton had 14 offensive assists. Kats was the leader with seven, followed by Morse, Overlease, three each; Vincent, one.

The Blue Jays had 11 turnovers and the Cardinals turned the ball over 13 times.

Junior varsity

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team lost 52-43 to Plainville.

The Cardinals held quarter leads of 11-8, 19-10 and 33-21.



Norton senior forward Ryan Maddy focuses on the goal as he prepares to shoot free throws with the Blue Jays trailing visiting Plainville 65-64 with just 1.8 seconds left in overtime on Friday evening. Maddy's concentration paid off as he hit nothing but net on both charities to give Norton a 66-65 victory.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Leading scorer for Norton was Jared Engelbert with 10 points, followed by Brian Juenemann, Logan Kats, 8 each; Jared Cox, 7; Preston Herman, 6; Wes Georgeson, 4.

Toby Ruder and Caleb Wyatt led Plainville in scoring with 11 points each.

Next action

Norton is scheduled to play at Hoxie today. Contests should begin at 4:45 p.m. in the high school gym with the boys junior varsity game, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests. There will be no girls junior varsity game.

On Thursday, Norton will travel to Oberlin to play games post-

poned from February 8 due to inclement weather. Contests should begin at 6:30 p.m.

On Friday, Norton is scheduled to play Ellis here, beginning at 5 p.m. It will be Senior Night and the 1951 and 2003 Norton boys state champion basketball teams will be honored at halftime of the boys varsity game.

The junior varsity boys game will begin at 5 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus. The junior varsity girls game will begin at 5 p.m. in the high school gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

GAME STATISTICS Norton boys 66

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Nathan Morse	0	0	0-1
Kyle Kats	4	4	0-2
Aaron Overlease	3	2	0-0
Ryan Maddy	6	1	2-4
Justin Shirk	1	0	0-0
Heath Vincent	5	0	5-6
TOTALS	19	7	7-13

Plainville boys 65

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Justin Casey	4	3	2-4
Taylor Dix	1	1	0-0
Brandon Frederking	0	0	4-6
M.J. Klein	3	0	1-2
Brock McDowell	5	0	2-2
Josh Hrabec	5	0	2-2
Lance Gosser	2	0	2-3
TOTALS	20	4	13-19

Norton girls conquer Plainville 64-23

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team left the nets smoking after their 64-23 Mid-Continent League victory over Plainville on Friday in Norton.

The Lady Jays hit a torrid 57 percent of their two-point shots and 40 percent from three-point range in the win, which extended their season record to 13-2.

Plainville fell to 5-10.

Norton held quarter leads of 24-4, 40-8 and 52-17.

Junior guard Karlie Jones was red hot from beyond the arc in the first half where she hit four three-point shots. She also hit a two-point basket and led Norton in scoring at halftime with 14 points.

Junior guard Whitney Newell also had her shooting eye as she hit three baskets in the first quarter and added two free throws in the second.

Senior forward Amber Engelbert scored two points in the first period.

The Lady Jays also had their inside scoring game in focus. Junior centers Becca Ebert and Chelsea Cox each hit two baskets in the first quarter and one in the second period.

Senior guard Jessi Duscher came off the bench to hit two baskets in the second quarter.

In the second half, Coach Jilka played all 10 girls suited up for the game. Norton outscored Plainville 12-9 in the third quarter and 12-6 in the fourth stanza.

Cox hit two baskets and a free throw, Ebert swished two field goals and Newell buried a three-point shot for Norton in the third quarter.

Junior guard Chelle Donovan hit nothing but net on a three-point shot in the fourth quarter. Sophomore center Maggie Nielsen hit a basket and free throw, junior guard Klaire Mann, Ebert and Duscher each hit a basket in the final stanza.

"We shot the ball as well as we have all season and got some turnovers on defense," said Coach Jilka.

"It was good to get everyone some playing time and give our

starters a rest. We've had some sickness so it was fortunate that our game at Oberlin was postponed until Thursday. It will be a busy week, though, with a game at No. 2 state ranked Hoxie tonight and hosting Ellis on Friday."

Jones finished the game with 14 points on 4 of 7 from long range for 57 percent, 1 of 3 two-point shots for 33 percent and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent accuracy.

Ebert added 12 points on a net-smoking 6 of 7 shots from the field for 86 percent marksmanship.

Cox and Newell each tallied 11 points. Cox hit 5 of 8 for 63 percent and 1 of 2 free shots for 50 percent. Newell drained 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 3 of 5 two-point attempts for 60 percent and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent shooting. She also hit 2 of 2 free throws for 100 percent.

Duscher scored 6 points on 3 of 4 from the field for 75 percent accuracy.

Three girls were leading scorers

for Plainville. Kelcee Meitler, Aubrey Frederking and Caroline Hrabec each scored 4 points.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 15 three-point attempts for 40 percent, 21 of 37 two-point tries for 57 percent and 27 of 52 overall for 52 percent.

Plainville swished 10 of 34 two-point shots for 29 percent, missed all three trey tries and was 10 of 37 overall for a cold 27 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 4 of 9 for 44 percent and Plainville hit 3 of 10 for 30 percent.

Norton outrebounded Plainville 29-22. The Lady Jays grabbed 10 offensive and 19 defensive caroms compared to Plainville's 7 offensive and 15 defensive boards.

Engelbert and Ebert were leading rebounders for Norton with 7 each, followed by Cox, Jones, 4 each; Mann, Nielsen, 2 each; Newell, Amber Overlease, 1 each.

Norton stole the ball 13 times

and caused Plainville to turn the ball over 23 times. Jones led in thefts with 4, followed by Mann, 3; Newell, Ebert, 2 each; Cox, Engelbert, 1 each.

Norton had only 12 turnovers and Plainville had just 5 steals.

The Lady Jays had 14 offensive assists and the Lady Cardinals had 7. Newell led in assists with 4, followed by Cox, 3; Jones, Engelbert, 2 each; Overlease, Donovan, Ebert, 1 each.

Junior varsity

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Plainville 26-6.

Norton held quarter leads of 8-2, 17-2 and 21-4.

Lacey Roe was leading scorer for the Lady Jays with 10 points, followed by Maggie Nielsen, 6; Chelle Donovan, Chantille Campbell, 3 each; Amber Overlease, Amber Waggoner, 2 each.

Jessica Thompson, Ashley Stroda and Aubrey Frederking each scored 2 points for Plainville.

"Our girls continue to look better and play better together as a team," said Coach Rossi.

"We play many different combinations with juniors, sophomores and freshmen. All of these girls work hard."

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GAME STATISTICS Norton girls 64

	FGs	FTs	TP
	2s	3s	M-A
Whitney Newell	3	1	2-2
Chelsea Cox	5	0	1-2
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-1
Chelle Donovan	0	1	0-0
Becca Ebert	6	0	0-1
Maggie Nielsen	1	0	1-3
Karlie Jones	1	4	0-0
Amber Engelbert	1	0	0-0
Jessi Duscher	3	0	0-0
TOTALS	21	6	4-9

Plainville girls 23

Kelcee Meitler	2	0	0-0
Jenna Fellhoelter	1	0	1-2
Vanessa Owings	0	0	0-2
Eden Rinehart	1	0	0-0
Megan Becker	1	0	0-0
Aubrey Frederking	2	0	0-0
Holly Chew	1	0	1-2
Caroline Hrabec	2	0	0-0
Bretta Mick	0	0	1-4
TOTALS	10	0	3-10

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior guard Amber Engelbert pulls down a rebound during the Lady Jays' 64-23 Mid-Continent League win over Plainville on Friday evening in Norton. Engelbert was co-leader in rebounds for Norton with seven. Also pictured are Holly Chew, No. 42 for Plainville and Norton junior center Chelsea Cox.