

Norton boys come away with 62-52 victory at Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School seniors on Coach Doug Reusink's boys basketball team had not beaten Hoxie until Tuesday night when they entered Indian country and returned with a 62-52 victory.

The Blue Jays lost a 46-43 contest with Hoxie in the Norton Memorial Gym last season and Norton's state championship team of 2003 suffered its fifth and last loss of the season by a 64-57 score at Hoxie.

The 2005 team was determined to make amends and they did, although the stubborn Indians hung around the entire game.

Hoxie led 15-13 after one quarter but a 14-6 second quarter in Norton's favor put the Blue Jays on top 27-21 at halftime. Norton outpointed Hoxie 14-13 in the third quarter to make it a 41-34 contest. The high scoring fourth stanza saw Norton outscore Hoxie 21-18 to extend their final margin of victory to 10 points.

Norton's first quarter points came on two baskets by senior forward Ryan Maddy, two field goals by junior center Heath Vincent, a basket by senior forward Justin Shirk and a three-point basket by junior guard Nathan Morse.

The Blue Jays' second quarter points came on a two-point and three-point basket by senior point guard Kyle Kats, a basket and two free throws by Shirk, two free throws by Vincent and another long range field goal by Morse.

Hoxie scored the first five points of the second half to cut the Norton lead to 27-26. Vincent hit two baskets inside and Maddy scored to give the Blue Jays a 33-30 lead with 4:36 left. A technical foul nine seconds later against a Hoxie player put Vincent at the free throw line. He hit both charities and Norton was awarded possession of the ball. Maddy scored and suddenly the Blue Jay lead was 37-30.

Maddy and senior guard Aaron Overlease each hit a basket before the third stanza ended and Hoxie also hit two field goals as Norton took a seven point advantage into the fourth quarter.

Morse hit the first basket for Norton in the final stanza. After four Hoxie points, Vincent tallied and Morse took a pass from Maddy for two more Norton points that extended the Blue Jay

lead to 47-38. A three point basket by Gerid Spresser with 5:21 left cut Norton's lead to six points. Vincent scored inside but two Hoxie free throws made it 49-43. Morse passed inside to senior forward Justin Shirk and he scored but Spresser kept it close with another three-point basket for Hoxie.

Norton extended their lead to 58-46 on a two-point basket by Overlease with 2:41 left, then a basket from beyond the arc by Overlease and a two point basket by Maddy. Hoxie's Jordan Vickers kept it from being a runaway as he buried two three-point shots to make the score 58-52 but only 39 seconds remained.

The Indians began fouling in hopes of getting the ball back but Kats hit four free throws in the final seconds to ice the 62-52 Norton win.

"We have had a tough time beating Hoxie the last couple of years so it was great getting a win, especially on their home floor," said Coach Reusink.

"Our energy level wasn't consistent for 32 minutes but we did a nice job of holding off their runs. When they got close to us, we made plays to extend the lead again."

Vincent was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points. He hit a net-sizzling 6 of 9 field goal attempts for 67 percent accuracy and was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Maddy added 12 points on 6 of 10 two-point shots. He missed all four three-point tries.

Morse was Norton's third player in double figures. He had a perfect night of field goal shooting as he hit 2 of 2 from long range and 2 of 2 from two-point land for 10 points.

Vickers was the Hoxie scoring leader with 19 points. Jeff Cameron scored 12 and Spresser hit 8 points.

Norton shot very well as a team. The Blue Jays hit 4 of 10 from long range for 40 percent, 20 of 41 two-point tries for 49 percent and 24 of 51 overall for 47 percent.

Hoxie hit 7 of 14 three-point shots for 50 percent, 11 of 28 two-point tries for 39 percent and 18 of 42 overall for 43 percent.

The Blue Jays swished 10 of 14 free throws for 71 percent and the Indians hit 9 of 14 for 64 percent.

Hoxie edged Norton 28-26 in

the rebounding department. The Blue Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 20 defensive caroms and the Indians grabbed 6 offensive and 22 defensive boards.

Maddy recorded a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Vincent grabbed 5 caroms, Morse, Kats and Shirk each pulled down 3 and Seth Mills and Overlease each had 1 rebound.

Norton had 11 steals. Overlease led with 5 thefts, followed by Kats, 3; Morse, Maddy, Shirk, 1 each.

The Blue Jays recorded 13 assists. Morse was the leader with 5, followed by Maddy, 4; Kats, 3; Overlease, 1.

Norton had 12 turnovers but the Blue Jay defense caused the Indians to turn the ball over 19 times.

Junior varsity

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys basketball team lost to Hoxie by a 48-33 score.

Hoxie held quarter leads of 17-5, 31-17 and 37-24.

Leading scorers for Norton were Logan Kats and Wes Georgeson with 8 points each, followed by Jared Engelbert, Jared Cox, 5 each; Preston Herman, 3; Luke VanSlike, Brian Jueneemann, 2 each.

Derek Spresser led Hoxie in scoring with 12 points. Jake Moss and Thayne Spresser each hit 11 points.

Next action

On Tuesday, Norton is scheduled to travel to Colby to play the Eagles from the Northwest Kansas League. Play should begin at 6:30 p.m. with the varsity girls and junior varsity boys games.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 62

	FGs		FTs	TP
	2s	3s		
Nathan Morse	2	2	0-1	10
Kyle Kats	1	1	4-7	9
Aaron Overlease	2	1	0-0	7
Ryan Maddy	6	0	0-0	12
Justin Shirk	3	0	2-2	8
Heath Vincent	6	0	4-4	16
TOTALS	20	4	10-14	62

Hoxie boys 52

	FGs		FTs	TP
	2s	3s		
Jeff Cameron	5	0	2-4	12
Jordan Vickers	4	3	2-2	19
Gerid Spresser	0	2	2-2	8
Brad Eland	0	1	0-1	3
Erick Gaede	1	0	0-1	2
Lance Weis	0	0	1-2	1
Marcus McKenna	0	1	0-0	3
Toliver Bird	1	0	2-2	4
TOTALS	11	7	9-14	52



Norton senior point guard Kyle Kats gets inside the Hoxie defense to score during the Blue Jays' 62-52 victory at Hoxie on Tuesday evening. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior center Becca Ebert tallied in heavy traffic during the Lady Jays' 61-60 loss to No.2 state ranked and unbeaten Hoxie on Tuesday evening in Hoxie. Ebert was leading scorer for Norton in the game with 17 points. She hit a perfect 8 of 8 field goals. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton girls lose heartbreaker

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played unbeaten Hoxie to the wire on Tuesday in Hoxie before losing 61-60.

Hoxie is ranked No.2 in the state in Class 2A and Norton is ranked No.9 in Class 3A. The Lady Indians extended their unbeaten season record to 19-0 and Norton dropped to 13-3.

It was an exciting contest from start to finish. Norton was unable to stop Hoxie's outstanding 5-foot-6-inch senior point guard Jacie Hoyt from scoring two points more than her season average of 26 points but the Lady Jays outshot the Lady Indians from the field and rebounded them.

Unfortunately, free throws made the difference in the game as the Lady Jays hit just 3 of 10 charities in the fourth quarter.

Despite Norton's coldness at the free throw line, the Lady Jays still had a chance to win with just seconds remaining.

Hoxie put on a full-court press to start the game and Norton took advantage with court-length passes for easy baskets. When the Lady Jays couldn't get the easier baskets, they shot from the perimeter with tremendous success. Norton hit 10 of 12 field goal attempts in the first period, including 4 of 4 from beyond the arc.

With junior guard Karlie Jones burying three shots from beyond the arc, senior forward Amber Engelbert swishing a three-point and two-point basket, junior guard Whitney Newell scoring two baskets, junior center Becca Ebert hitting two field goals and junior center Chelsea Cox swishing a basket and two free throws, the Lady Jays ran out to a 26-21 first quarter advantage.

Junior forward Danielle Pratt outscored Hoyt in the first quarter as she hit four key baskets for the Lady Indians and Hoyt hit just two baskets and three free throws.

With Engelbert hitting a rebound shot and Ebert scoring two points inside, Norton led 30-25 with 6:35 left in the half. Hoyt, who hit 7 of 7 free throws in the game, hit two free throws, then hit nothing but net on a long three-point shot to tie the score at 30-all with 4:39 remaining. Norton junior guard Klaire Mann hit a free throw to put Norton ahead again but Rebecca Farber scored inside for the Lady Indians at the 2:55 mark. Ebert scored for the Lady Jays with 2:40 left and Norton led 33-32. Tiffany Goetz hit her only basket of the game with 20 seconds remaining in the half to give the Lady Indians a slim 34-33 advantage at intermission.

After Ebert and Pratt both scored to start the second half, Engelbert buried a three-point shot to put Norton ahead 38-36. Hoyt scored to tie it at 38-all, then Engelbert dished the ball inside to Ebert and she scored with 5:23 left. Hoyt scored twice and Pratt once as Hoxie moved ahead 44-40. Newell hit a free toss but Pratt scored for Hoxie and they led 46-41 with 2:30 remaining.

It was Hoxie's last points of the third quarter, however, as Cox scored and was fouled and hit a free throw, Ebert got loose again inside to tie the score at 46-all and Newell swished a three-point shot

at the buzzer to give the Lady Jays a 49-46 advantage at the end of three periods.

Carissa Heim hit just her second basket of the game for Hoxie to start the fourth quarter, then Hoyt was perfect on another three-point shot to put the Lady Indians ahead 51-49. Engelbert connected on two free throws to tie the game again. Hoyt hit another trey and Cox scored on a two-point shot. Pratt hit her only three-point shot of the game and Hoxie led 57-53 with 5:40 left.

Hoyt picked up her fourth foul and went to the bench. The Lady Indians worked the ball around awhile with their star on the bench. Finally, they shot and Cox blocked the shot out of bounds. Hoyt returned and Pratt scored with 2:50 left in the game to give the Lady Indians a 59-53 lead. Ebert hit a free throw and Jones fed Cox inside for two more Norton points with 1:50 remaining as the Lady Jays cut the Hoxie lead to 59-56.

Farber scored Hoxie's final two points with 1:10 on the clock to make it 61-56. Jones stole the ball and drove for two Norton points with 33 seconds left and it was 61-58. Hoxie traveled with 27 seconds on the clock and Norton had another chance to score. Norton shot and missed but Hoxie turned the ball over with 9 seconds left. A three-point shot to tie missed the mark and Ebert scored inside at the buzzer to make the final score 61-60 in favor of the home standing Lady Indians.

"Both teams played awfully well," said Coach Jilka. "It was a great game between two good teams who hit 50 percent from the field."

"There were just 19 turnovers between the two teams and each team had just three steals. They hit just one more basket than we did."

"Our players did everything needed to have a chance to win. They gave everything you could ask of them."

"We were very aggressive on both offense and defense."

"Free throws hurt us down the stretch but one break here or there could have made the difference for us."

"Our girls played a great game." Norton had four girls in double scoring figures. Ebert led with 17 points on a perfect night from the field. She connected on 8 of 8 shots for 100 percent accuracy and hit 1 of 4 free throws.

Engelbert hit 12 points on 2 of 2 from long range for 100 percent,

2 of 4 two-point shots for 50 percent and 4 of 6 overall for 67 percent. She was a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Cox and Jones each hit 11 points. Cox hit 4 of 9 baskets for 44 percent and 3 of 5 free tosses for 60 percent. Jones swished 3 of 6 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 1 of 7 two-point shots for 14 percent and 4 of 13 overall for 31 percent.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 10 shots from long range for 60 percent accuracy, 17 of 35 two-point attempts for 49 percent and 23 of 45 overall for a sharpshooting 51 percent.

Hoxie connected on 4 of 11 from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 20 of 38 two-point shots for 53 percent and 24 of 49 overall for 49 percent.

Norton swished just 8 of 18 free throw attempts for 44 percent accuracy while Hoxie connected on 9 of 11 for 82 percent.

Norton outrebounded Hoxie 24-18. The Lady Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and the Lady Indians grabbed 4 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 11, followed by Newell, 4; Jones, Engelbert, Ebert, 3 each.

The Lady Jays had 16 offensive assists and the Lady Indians recorded 13.

Newell was Norton assists leader with 9, followed by Cox, 3; Engelbert, 2; Ebert, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had just 11 turnovers but the Lady Indians turned the ball over just 8 times.

There was no junior varsity girls game.

Next action

Norton will travel to Colby on Tuesday for non-league action versus the Eagles. Games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. with the girls varsity and boys junior varsity contests.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 60

	FGs		FTs	TP
	2s	3s		
Whitney Newell	2	1	1-2	8
Chelsea Cox	4	0	3-5	11
Klaire Mann	0	0	1-2	1
Becca Ebert	8	0	1-4	17
Karlie Jones	1	3	0-3	11
Amber Engelbert	2	2	2-2	12
TOTALS	17	6	8-18	60

Hoxie girls 61

	FGs		FTs	TP
	2s	3s		
Jacie Hoyt	6	3	7-7	28
Danielle Pratt	8	1	0-2	19
Tiffany Goetz	1	0	2-2	4
Carissa Heim	2	0	0-0	4
Rebecca Farber	3	0	0-0	6
TOTALS	20	4	9-11	61

Blue Jay teams defeat Oberlin on Thursday

The Norton Community High School girls and boys varsity basketball teams defeated the Decatur Community High teams at Oberlin last night in weather delayed makeup games.

The Lady Jays defeated the Lady Red Devils 61-38 and the Norton Blue Jay boys outpointed the Red Devils 68-37.

Complete results will be in Tuesday's *Norton Telegram*.

Norton is scheduled to play

Ellis this evening in Norton. 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 Memorial Gym and will be followed by the varsity girls and boys contests.

It is "Senior Night" and the 1951 and 2003 Norton state championship boys teams will be honored at halftime of the boys varsity contest.