

# Norton girls end season with loss to Holcomb

By DICK BOYD

The 2004-'05 season came to an unexpected end last night for Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 2 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team when they lost 44-36 to No. 3 seeded Holcomb in Class 3A Sub-State Tournament semi-final action at Cimarron High School.

The Norton girls final season record was 17-5.

Unfortunately, the Lady Jays had their worst shooting night of the entire season, hitting only 29 percent from the field compared to 46 percent for Holcomb.

"When you don't shoot the ball well, you don't win," said Coach Jilka.

"I thought we played scared the first half and were not very aggressive defensively. We got great offensive looks but didn't score.

"To our credit, we came back in the second half. We got their lead down to four points by the middle of the third quarter. We let them build their lead again, then cut it to three points late in the game.

"We had a great season. I enjoyed working with our girls and appreciate all our fan support. We'll just have to start over again next season."

The Lady Jays will lose two seniors off this year's squad: guards Amber Engelbert and Jessi Duscher.

Norton trailed 17-8 after one quarter. Engelbert and junior center Chelsea Cox each hit a basket and free throw and junior center

Becca Ebert hit a field goal for the Lady Jays.

Norton was outscored 10-8 in the second quarter to trail by 27-16 at intermission. The Lady Jays' points came on two baskets by Cox and one each by junior guard Whitney Newell and Ebert.

The Lady Jays scored just 9 points in the third stanza but held the Lady Longhorns to just 6 points to cut their lead to 8 points at 33-25. Cox had more success in the paint as she hit three baskets and a free throw. Engelbert hit a two-point basket for Norton's other points in the period.

Norton trailed 29-16 early in the third quarter but went on a 9-0 run as Engelbert hit a rebound shot, Cox scored and was fouled for a three-point play and Cox hit two more baskets to cut the Holcomb lead to just four points at 29-25 but Holcomb scored the final four points of the period.

With 4:24 left in the game, Holcomb led by 38-28 but Cox hit two free throws and Engelbert hit a two-point shot and then a basket from beyond the arc to make it a 38-35 game with 1:30 showing on the scoreboard clock. With time running out, Norton had to foul in order to get possession of the ball but Holcomb hit their free throws down the stretch to extend their final winning margin to 8 points.

Cox was leading scorer for Norton with 19 points on 7 of 22 shots for 32 percent and 5 of 8 free throws for 63 percent.

Engelbert closed out her high

school basketball career with 10 points. She hit 1 of 1 from long range for 100 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and was 4 of 6 overall for 67 percent accuracy. She also hit 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Holcomb was Trista Schmitt with 15 points; Katie Novack added 11.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 13 of 44 two-point attempts for 30 percent and 14 of 49 overall for 29 percent.

Holcomb swished 16 of 32 two-point tries for 50 percent but missed all three trey tries and ended 16 of 35 for 46 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 7 of 12 for 58 percent. Holcomb swished 12 of 16 charities for 75 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 28-22. The Lady Jays grabbed 10 offensive and 12 defensive caroms compared to 3 offensive and 25 defensive boards by Holcomb.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Newell, Ebert, Engelbert, 4 each; Jones, 3.

Norton had 6 steals and Holcomb had 3. Cox led with 3 thefts, followed by Newell, Mann, Ebert, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 9 assists and the Lady Longhorns had 12. Newell was assists leader with 5, followed by Jones, 2; Cox, Engelbert, 1 each.

Norton had 7 turnovers but Holcomb lost the ball 14 times.

### GAME STATISTICS

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M	A	
Whitney Newell	1	0	1-2	3	
Chelsea Cox	7	0	5-8	19	
Becca Ebert	2	0	0-0	4	
Amber Engelbert	3	1	1-2	10	
TOTALS	13	1	7-12	36	
<b>Holcomb girls 44</b>					
Laura Lussier	1	0	0-0	2	
Trista Schmitt	6	0	3-5	15	
Randee Stegman	0	0	3-4	3	
Katie Novack	5	0	1-1	11	
Samantha Matthews		3	0	3-4	9
Chelsy Proehl	1	0	2-2	4	
TOTALS	16	0	12-16	44	

# Hoop shoot winners advance to regionals

By DICK BOYD

Lexi Hardiek and Madison Coffey, both of Hill City, will compete in the Region No. 8 Elks Hoop Shoot Contest to be held today through Sunday at Thomas Jefferson High School in Littleton, Colo.

Both are district and state champions. The Kansas champions will compete against state champions from Colorado, Nebraska and Wyoming in the regional competition.

First place finishers will advance to the National Finals to be held in Springfield, Mass.

Hardiek, who is a sixth grader, hit 16 of 25 free throws to win the District Hoop Shoot held in Russell last month and Coffey, who is a seventh grader, connected on 20 of 25 charities.

Hardiek won the Kansas State contest in the 10-11 girls' age group on February 12 in Newton. She received a standing ovation



Lexi Hardiek

from those present in Newton High School's Willis Gym after hitting a perfect 25 of 25 free throws!

Coffey, who competes in the 12-13 age group for girls, won the Kansas Hoop Shoot Contest by swishing 22 of 25 free throws and qualified for the regional competition for the third straight year.

Coffey has also qualified for the national finals the last two years.

Hardiek is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hardiek, Hill City; granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Strayer and Mr. and Mrs. Roger Hardiek; and great-granddaughter of Ruby Strayer, Marjorie Hicks-Snyder and Helen Keiswetter, all of Norton.



Norton senior guard Amber Engelbert, left, and junior guard Karlie Jones are shown on defense during the Lady Jays' season ending 44-36 loss to Holcomb in Cimarron on Thursday in the semi-finals of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament.

# Freshmen girls end season with win

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School freshmen girls basketball team finished its season on a winning note last Monday with a 48-43 victory over a visiting Oberlin quintet.

The teams played on even terms through three quarters but the fourth period belonged to the Lady Jays who outscored the Lady Red Devils 17-11.

Norton led 11-9 after one quarter but Oberlin held a slim 18-17 intermission advantage. After three quarters, Oberlin was on top 32-31.

The Lady Jays hit one less field goal than the Lady Red Devils in the final stanza but swished 9 of 10 free throws.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chantille Campbell with 18 points, followed by Haley Jones, 10; Megan Kats, 8; Kylie Morel, Lacy Ellis, 4 each; Thea Wiseman, Courtney Cox, 2 each.

Lacey Ream scored 20 points to lead Oberlin in scoring.

"It was a great last game of the season for our squad," said Coach Bolt.

"Free throws were a key factor. We hit 14 of 17 in the game but the 9 of 10 in the final quarter were a real plus.

"We kept our composure when Oberlin got on a scoring run in the

early minutes of the fourth quarter. Penetration and pitch passes to the posts and weak side guards for some nice assists got us right back into the game.

"Oberlin put on a full court press and our girls handled it very well. We stayed under control, forced the Red Devils to foul and made our free throws to lock up the vic-

tory." The freshmen girls compiled an excellent 7-2 won-loss record this season.

"It was a lot of fun coaching this group of young ladies this season," said Coach Bolt. "They worked hard and continuously improved themselves as players and teammates."

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1999 Chevrolet Silverado K-1500	White	\$11,495
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