

Norton eighth-grade boys defeat Osborne, WaKeeney in basketball

The Norton Junior High eighth-grade boys beat Osborne, 28-26, on Nov. 17 and WaKeeney, 35-31, on Nov. 21, but then were handed their first two losses when they were defeated, 40-18, by Hill City on Dec. 1 and, 50-28, by Ellis on Dec. 8.

Osborne

"Osborne came to Norton with a 2-1 record and a 6-2 post player," said Coach Lucas Melvin. "Norton held the Bullpups to just one point in the first quarter, while scoring seven of their own. At the end of the first half, the Jays led 16-8.

"Defense was still the key in the second half and Norton held off the Bullpups and won 28-26.

"We played very well defensively again, but are just having trouble scoring right now."

Scoring were Landon Hamel, 11; Kaenon Keiswetter, 7; JD Gall, 6; and Marcus Herman and Ashton Draper, 2 each."

Rebounding honors went to Keiswetter with five, followed by Robert Derauf, three; Hamel, two; and Draper, one.

Making steals were Hamel, three; Keiswetter, two; and Herman and Draper, one each.

Herman, Draper and Casey Robison each had one assist.

The junior varsity team kept its winning streak going with a 14-2 win over the Bullpups.

Grant McClymont had 8 points; Ronne Tafoya, 4; and Andrew Soderlund, 2.

WaKeeney

"Norton hosted their third and last home game of the season when Trego came to town," said the coach. "The Blue Jays trailed 6-4 after the first quarter, but Norton came out hot in the second quarter and scored 17 points, with Keiswetter making 8 of those. Norton took a 21-13 lead into intermission.

"The defense played well in the second half, holding the Eagles to 12 points, but the offense went ice cold and could only muster 4 points. This caused a deadlock of 25-25 at the end of regulation.

"Overtime saw a free throw competition with Norton making 8 of 16 and Trego making 6 of 8. Keiswetter also added a two pointer to give the Jays a 35-31

overtime win.

"The second quarter was the best that we have played offensively. We played well defensively the whole game, we just did not make our free throws. Over the last 3 games we were shooting above 65 percent from the free throw line. Tonight we shot 40 percent. But, we did make some down the stretch in overtime to secure the win. The kids played hard and Chris Maddy did a good job coming off the bench to help, since we lost our starting point guard, Landon Hamel, to a broken thumb. It was a fun game to watch."

Keiswetter led scoring with 13 points, followed by Draper, 10; Christopher Maddy, 3; Robison, Derauf, Gall and Herman, 2 each; and Connor Pfannenstiel, 1.

Rebounding honors went to Draper, Gall and Pfannenstiel, with five each, followed by Keiswetter, four; Herman, two; and Derauf, one.

Draper led steals with three, Derauf had two and Keiswetter and Pfannenstiel, one each.

Keiswetter and Pfannenstiel each made one assist.

The junior varsity remained undefeated, beating WaKeeney 18-5.

"The junior varsity played great defensively, shutting Trego out in the second quarter," said the coach.

McClymont scored 8; Tafoya and Maddy, 4 each; and D.J. Ebner, 2.

Hill City

"The Norton basketball team took its first road trip in almost a month when they traveled to Hill City on Dec. 1," said Coach Melvin. "Hill City jumped all over Norton in the first quarter, scoring 19 points and holding the Blue Jays to nothing. The rest of the game was pretty even as the Broncos outscored the Jays 21-18 in the last three quarters.

"Hill City was a much bigger team than us and we just didn't settle down in the first quarter. Once we settled down we played okay. We just really need to start out games better than we have."

Scoring for Norton were Keiswetter, 7; Herman, Gall and Draper, 4 each; and Derauf, 1.

Steals were led by Keiswetter with three, followed by Derauf, two, and Draper, one.

Herman, Draper and Pfannenstiel each found one teammate open for a basket.

The junior varsity team was handed its first loss of the season 8-2.

Ebner was the lone scorer.

Ellis

"The Norton eighth-grade boys traveled to the undefeated Ellis Streamliners on Dec. 8," said Coach Melvin. "Norton came out and handled Ellis' tough full court press okay in the first quarter. The Jays were also able to slow down the Streamliners' high-powered offense early, holding them to just 11 first quarter points. Norton, however, could not get many baskets to fall of their own and trailed 11-5 at the end of one.

"It got a little tougher for the Jays in the second and third quarters. Ellis scored 31 points in those quarters while the Jays scored just 9. Final score was 50-28.

"We played very well defensively in the first quarter. Their press got to us in the second and

third quarters. We need to learn to put together a complete game. Grant McClymont came off the bench and gave us a spark. He did a great job of going to the basket on offense and blocking shots on defense. With respect to Ellis, they have a very good team with some great athletes."

Rebounding honors went to Keiswetter with five, followed by Draper, Gall and McClymont, two each; and Herman, Derauf, Tafoya and Adam Myers, one each.

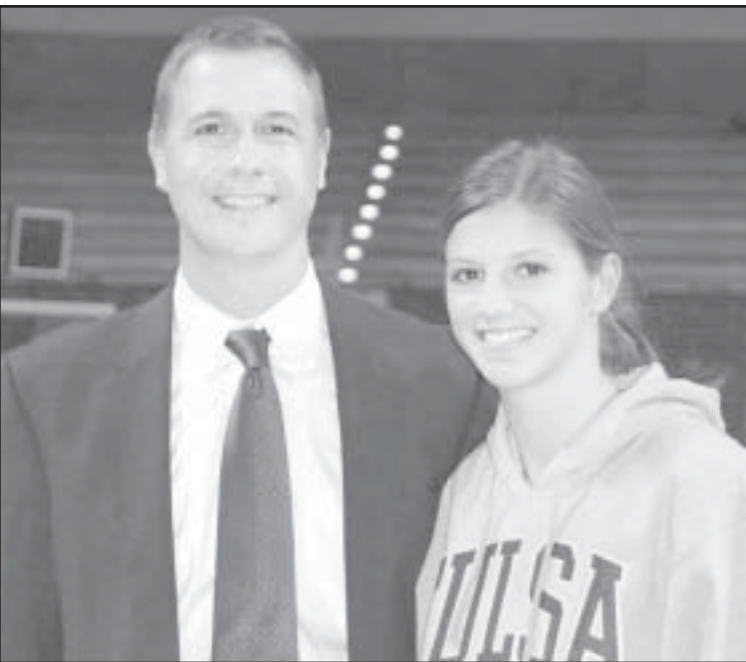
Myers, McClymont, Pfannenstiel, Draper and Keiswetter each stole a ball.

Finding a teammate open for a basket were Draper, Gall and Derauf.

The junior varsity suffered its second loss of the year with a 13-7 defeat by Ellis.

McClymont had 5 points and Maddy, 2.

The eighth-grade Junior Jays will next compete in the Mid-Continent Elementary League feather bracket on Thursday, Jan. 5, followed by the league tournament on Saturday, Jan. 7.



Tulsa University Volleyball Coach Matt Sonnichsen and Norton's Chelsea Cox visit on the TU campus during a recruiting trip for Cox, who signed a national letter of intent to play for the Division 1A Lady Golden Hurricanes.

— Courtesy photo

Norton senior signs to play volleyball

By DICK BOYD

Chelsea Cox, 6-foot, 1-inch senior at Norton Community High School, has signed a national letter of intent to play volleyball for the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

Cox was a unanimous first team all league selection in the Mid-Continent League this season. She was also first team all-league as a junior and was chosen to the all-league second team as a sophomore.

She was chosen to the all-tournament team at the Scott City Tournament the past two years.

A setter/outside hitter for Norton, Cox served 36 aces and had 241 assists this season. At the net, she racked up 238 kills, had 22 blocks and 90 digs.

She is also an outstanding basketball player for the Lady Jays and also plays for the Panhandle Volleyball Club.

"Chelsea is by far our tallest and most athletic recruit ever in the setter position," said Tulsa Head Volleyball Coach Matt Sonnichsen.

"She has such a natural gift for the sport of volleyball and her abilities as a setter will positively impact our program for years to come.

"Once Chelsea has a chance to adjust to the speed and demands of being a college setter, combined with her athleticism, I believe she can dominate the game from her position."

"Chelsea has worked very hard to earn a scholarship in volleyball," said Norton Volleyball Coach Jill Lively.

"She loves the sport and is a dedicated player. She possesses an ability to drive herself and motivate her teammates to work hard. Her commitment in the weight room, on the court and in the classroom has paid off and she will continue to grow as a player and student in college.

"Chelsea is a well-rounded student athlete who performs athletically but also has great character and attitude. It has been fun to coach her and I wish her well at Tulsa."

Cox is the daughter of Peggy and Clark Cox, Norton.

Norton basketball teams play Phillipsburg today

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High varsity, junior varsity and C-team boys and girls basketball teams will be in Phillipsburg today to begin Mid-Continent League play.

Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team girls playing in the Auxiliary Gym and the C-team boys playing in the Newlin Gym. Four six-minute quarters will be played.

The junior varsity games will begin at 5 p.m. with the girls in

the Auxiliary gym and the boys in the Newlin Gym. Four regular eight-minute quarters will be played.

The varsity girls game will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Newlin Gym and will be followed by the boys game at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Norton will play Stockton at home. The girls game will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the boys game at 8 p.m.

There will be no C-team or junior varsity games.

Seventh-grade boys basketball ends with perfect 9-0 season

The Norton seventh-grade boys basketball team ended with a perfect 9-0 season earlier this month.

The Young Jay team was undefeated in the Smith Center Tournament, beating the Redmen 33-14 and Belleville 38-11 on Dec. 10.

Smith Center

"We took care of the ball and had very few turnovers," said Coach Jim Myers. "Our pressure defense really bothered Smith Center. We were able to play a lot of kids, getting some of our kids that normally don't get as much playing time some quality minutes."

Terrell Lane led scoring with 10 points, followed by Troy Bainter, 6; Dakota Dreher, 5; Landon Keiswetter and Luke Ninemire, 3 each; Kaid McKenna, Bill Broeckelman and Cole Archer, 2 each.

Rebounding honors went to Dreher and Lane with seven each, followed by McKenna, six; Bainter, four; Spencer Shirk, Ninemire, Archer and Brett Terrell, two each; and Keiswetter, one.

Bainter led steals with seven. Others making steals were Shirk, four; Keiswetter, three; McKenna, Broeckelman and Terrell, two each; Ninemire, Dreher, Archer and Lane, one each.

Belleville

"Belleville was big, but our quickness and defense was too much for them to handle," said Coach Myers. "This was a great season for these kids, going unde-

feated with nobody really challenging them. They are a fun group of kids to work with. I congratulate them on their season!

"These kids had not played much basketball before this season, so to do what they did all year is remarkable, and a real tribute to their hard work and willingness to learn. The coaching staff appreciates their efforts.

"I want to thank Coach Joe Cox for helping me this year. He did a great job."

Lane led scoring with 9 points, followed by Keiswetter, Bainter and Dreher, 6 each; Shirk, 5; and McKenna and Ninemire, 3 each.

Rebounding honors went to Lane, five; Dreher, four; McKenna, Keiswetter and Ninemire, three each; Shirk and Bainter, two each; and Broeckelman and Terrell, one each.

Steals were made by McKenna and Lane, four each; Dreher and Bainter, three each; Broeckelman, two; and Shirk, Keiswetter, Ninemire, Archer and John Koch, one each.

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