

Norton boys beat Hill City

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's 400th career win was much in doubt at halftime of the Norton Community High School boys basketball team's Mid-Continent League Tournament opener here Tuesday night but the Blue Jays rallied from a 17 point deficit to win 37-33 and reach a milestone for their mentor. Hitting just 17 percent from the field and not shooting a free throw, Norton trailed 12-6 after the first quarter and 25-8 at intermission. Little did the Hill City quintet know at halftime that they would score only 8 points in the second half compared to 29 by a fired-up Blue Jay quintet.

Coach Reusink is beginning his 27th year as a high school basketball coach and now has an impressive record of 400 wins and 175 losses for a 70 percent winning average. Reusink is an NCHS graduate who played for the Blue Jays. Just over half of his coaching wins came when he was head coach at Northern Valley.

The No. 4 seeded Blue Jays are now 6-3 for the season. The No. 5 seeded Ringnecks are 5-3. Hill City was leading the league with a 4-0 record until losing to Norton. Now, Norton, Hill City, Plainville and Trego are in a four-way tie for first in the league with identical 4-1 records. Plainville has the best overall record in the league with an 8-1 mark. The Cardinals' only loss is to Hill City.

In the tournament championship semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Gross Memorial Coliseum at Fort Hays State, Norton will play No. 1 seed Plainville, who destroyed No. 9 seed Stockton 86-24 on Tuesday. Stockton defeated No. 8 seed Osborne 61-35 in the feather-bracket game on Saturday.

In the other two first round games on Tuesday, No. 3 seed Smith Center defeated No. 6 seed Phillipsburg 54-50 and No. 2 seed Trego outscored No. 7 Ellis 64-45. Smith Center and Trego will play at 4:30 p.m. today in the other boys semi-final game at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

The No. 1 seeded Norton girls team, who defeated No. 8 Smith Center 39-21 on Monday, will play No. 5 Trego at 6 p.m. tonight in Gross Memorial Coliseum. Trego defeated No. 4 seed Phillipsburg 44-40 in the first round.

In the other girls first round games on Monday, No. 3 seed Ellis outscored No. 6 seed Plainville 55-

32 and No. 2 seed Osborne outpointed No. 7 Hill City 49-28. Ellis was scheduled to play Osborne at 3 p.m. today in Gross Memorial Coliseum in the other championship semi-final game.

The boys championship game will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday with third place set for 4:30 p.m. Seventh place is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. and fifth place for 1:30 p.m.

The girls championship game is set for 6 p.m. on Saturday with third place at 3 p.m. Seventh place will be at 9 a.m. and the fifth place game at 12 noon. All Saturday games will be in Gross Memorial Coliseum.

In Tuesday night's game, Norton outscored Hill City 11-7 in the third quarter but still trailed 32-19 at the start of the final stanza. The Blue Jays grabbed the momentum and outscored the visitors 18-1 to earn the four point win.

Norton's sophomore point guard Logan Kats hit two free throws to start the fourth quarter. Hill City couldn't get the ball in bounds against the Blue Jays' full court press and Norton gained possession. Junior guard Jared Engelbert buried his second three-point basket of the game and it was suddenly a 32-24 game with only 46 seconds gone in the quarter.

Sophomore forward Wes Georgeson scored on a rebound shot with 6:08 left. Hill City threw the ball in bounds but the aggressive Norton defense caused the ball to go out of bounds off a Ringneck. Senior center Heath Vincent got loose inside for a layup and Norton trailed by just four points with 5:54 showing. Hill City turned the ball over again and Vincent responded with another basket as the Norton crowd cheered wildly!

With 4:35 left, Hill City brought the ball down court, shot and missed and Norton grabbed the rebound with 3:52 remaining. Vincent received the ball at the top of the circle and fed junior center Nic Lewis underneath. Lewis was fouled in the act of shooting and awarded two free throws. With ice water in his veins, Lewis swished both charities to tie the score at 32-32!

Thanks to the stingy Norton defense, Hill City turned the ball over once again. After a missed Norton shot, the Ringnecks got the ball back with 1:49 left in the game. Hill City junior Tane Brown was fouled with 1:08 showing on the scoreboard. He hit the first free

throw to put the Ringnecks ahead 33-32 but missed the second charity. Hill City got the rebound, shot and missed and Vincent cleared the rebound. He was fouled in the process and went to the charity stripe with 44 seconds left. Vincent hit nothing but net on two free throws to put the Blue Jays ahead 34-33 as the Norton crowd roared their approval!

After a Hill City timeout, junior guard Brian Juenemann, picked the perfect time for his only steal of the game. As he dribbled down court, he was fouled by a Hill City player with 21.5 seconds on the clock. He hit the first free throw to extend the Norton lead to 35-33 but missed the second and Hill City rebounded.

Senior Curt Welter, who led the Ringnecks in scoring in the contest, shot and missed but was fouled with four seconds left in the game. Welter had swished 5 of 5 free throws up to this point in the game but suffered his first charity miss of the contest. On his second free toss, it was obvious he was trying to miss the shot in hopes that a fellow player would rebound and put the ball back up and in to tie the score but it didn't work and Vincent

grabbed the rebound. He was fouled immediately and went to the charity line with 1.8 seconds left. Vincent hit nothing but net once again to extend the final margin of victory to four points at 37-33.

Norton was so cold from the field in the first quarter that the Blue Jays hit just 6 points on field goals by Kats, Lewis and Vincent. Zach Thompson hit three baskets and Welter hit two baskets and two free throws for Hill City's 12 first quarter points.

The Blue Jays were even colder in the second quarter when they scored just 2 points on a basket by Georgeson. Hill City hit 13 second quarter points for their best quarter of the game. Thompson swished another basket, Welter hit a field goal and three more charities, Mike Gerstner buried a shot from beyond the arc and Brown hit a basket and free throw.

The Blue Jays got some momentum going in the third quarter when Vincent hit 4 of 4 free throws, Lewis and Kats each hit a two-point basket and Engelbert buried his first trey of the game.

Hill City's third quarter points came on a field goal and one free throw by Ryan Knoll, another bas-



Norton's senior center Heath Vincent goes up for a shot and is fouled by a Hill City player during the Blue Jays' Mid-Continent League Tournament opener here Tuesday night. Vincent went to the free throw line and calmly hit both free throws. He hit 8 of 8 charities in the game.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd.



Norton sophomore forward Wes Georgeson puts up a shot during the Blue Jays' come-from-behind victory over Hill City in the Mid-Continent League Tournament opener here on Tuesday. On defense for the Ringnecks was Mike Gerstner, No. 14. In the background for Norton is junior guard Jared Engelbert.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

ket by Welter and two charities by Thompson.

"In the first half, we were tentative; we were playing not to lose," said Coach Reusink.

"We let them run their offense continually without stopping it and very few of our shots went in. We just didn't play well on either end of the floor.

"At halftime, I wasn't sure we had any chance of winning. I just told them we had nothing to lose and to go out and be aggressive. Our guys went out and did just that. A few of our shots went in, we got our confidence and the adrenalin got going. We grabbed the momentum and just kept making plays.

"I don't know when I've had a team come from that far behind to win. We played with a lot of heart."

Vincent led the Blue Jays in scoring with 14 points on 3 of 6 from the field for 50 percent and a perfect 8 of 8 free throws.

Welter led Hill City with 13 points and Thompson hit 10.

As a team, Norton hit just 2 of 14 from long range for 14 percent, 9 of 28 two-point attempts for 32 percent and 11 of 42 overall for 26 percent.

Hill City found the range on 1 of 4 treys for 25 percent, 10 of 29 two-point shots for 34 percent and 11 of 33 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays were accurate on 13 of 14 for a net sizzling 93 percent accuracy. Hill City connected on

10 of 15 charities for 67 percent. Norton outrebounded Hill City 21-12. The Blue Jays grabbed 7 offensive and 14 defensive boards and the Ringnecks pulled down 3 offensive and 9 defensive caroms.

Vincent was the Norton rebound leader with 8, followed by Georgeson, 7; Lewis, 4; Kats, 1; Jared Cox, 1.

Vincent blocked two shots. The Blue Jays had 9 steals. Kats led with 3 thefts, followed by Lewis, 2; Engelbert, Juenemann, Cox, Vincent, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Hill City turned the ball over 9 times.

The Blue Jays had 7 assists. Kats was the leader with 4, followed by Nathan Morse, Georgeson, Vincent, 1 each.

GAME STATISTICS

	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A	M-A	
Norton boys 37					
Logan Kats	2	0	2-2	6	
Jared Engelbert	0	2	0-0	6	
Brian Juenemann	0	0	1-2		
Wes Georgeson	2	0	0-0	4	
Nic Lewis	2	0	2-2	6	
Heath Vincent	3	0	8-8	14	
TOTAL	9	2	13-14	37	
Hill City boys 33					
	FGs		FTs		TP
	2s	3s	M-A	M-A	
Curt Welter	4	0	5-7	13	
Ryan Knoll	1	0	1-2	3	
Mike Gerstner	0	1	0-0	3	
Zach Thompson	4	0	2-3	10	
Tane Brown	1	0	2-3	4	
TOTAL	10	1	10-15	33	

Junior varsity second in Elm Creek Wrestling Tourney

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestling team placed second in the Elm Creek, Neb., Tournament on Friday.

Elm Creek won the championship with 225 points, followed by Norton junior varsity, 157; Cozad junior varsity, 148.5; Lexington junior varsity A, 114; Burwell Sargent junior varsity, 74; Southern Valley junior varsity, 64; Arapahoe, 56; Alma, 44; Rock County, 40; Lexington junior varsity B, 25.5; Unattached, 23; Pleasanton, 21; Holdrege junior varsity, 20; Gibbon junior varsity, 15; Overton, 15; Elm Creek junior varsity, 12.

Nine of the 12 Norton wrestlers placed in the top four of their weight divisions.

Norton had two champions, sophomore Travis Ray, 130 and junior Shane Stanley, 189. Placing second were junior Jared Bebb, 125 and sophomore Aaron Husted, 135.

Finishing in third place were: sophomore Todd Bolt, 140; sophomore Jeff Soderlund, 145 and sophomore Zach Mannel, 275.

Fourth place finishers were sophomore David Counter, 103 and freshman Brock Lauer, 152.

Sophomore Aaron Van Der Wege, 119; junior Jordan Durham, 160 and senior Tyler Burns, 171, also competed for the Blue Jays.

"We wrestled very well down the stretch," said Coach Hager.

"We were in fourth or fifth as a team going into the championship finals. I'm proud of the way our wrestlers made up ground and fin-

ished with the second place trophy."

Ray was seeded No. 1 at 130. He drew a first round bye, then won a 15-0 technical fall over Micah Schroeder, Gibbon. In the semi-finals, he won a 9-2 decision over No. 4 seed Chris Grawes, Burwell Sargent. In the championship finals, he won an 8-1 decision over No. 2 seed Joe Meier, Elm Creek.

Grawes placed third by pinning No. 3 seed Tyson Beck, Rock County, in 3:24.

At 189, Stanley was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Giovanni Victorino, Lexington junior varsity B, in 3:15. Next, he pinned No. 3 seed Tony Broeker, Southern Valley, in 4:51. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 1 seed Dustin Johns, Elm Creek, in 2:37.

Coach Hager selected Stanley as the "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

Broeker placed third by pinning No. 5 seed Adam Bilsend, Cozad, in 2:03.

Bebb was seeded No. 3 at 125. In the first round, he pinned Ricardo Cohetero, Lexington junior varsity B, in 4:59. Next, he won a 10-2 major decision over No. 2 seed Orlando Lopez, Lexington junior varsity A. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Cory Stabenow, Elm Creek, and lost a 14-2 major decision.

Lopez placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Grant Williamson, Arapahoe, in 1:58.

At 135, Husted was seeded No. 3. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 2 seed Doug Harlan, Rock County in 4:23. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 3:17 by No. 1 seed Russell Benson, Elm Creek.

Third place went to No. 5 seed Josh Johnson, Burwell Sargent, who pinned Harlan in 4:20.

Bolt was seeded No. 6 at 140. In his first match, he won a 16-0 technical fall over Eric Fleming, Alma. Next, he lost a 12-3 major decision to No. 3 seed Brock Meier, Elm Creek. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then pinned Ben Reiter, Burwell Sargent, in 3:32. Next, he won a 6-2 decision over Anthony Prather, Elm Creek junior varsity, to reach the consolation championship. He pinned No. 5 seed Marcos Marquez, Lexington junior varsity A, in 3:45 to place third.

No. 2 seed Adam Rawson, Southern Valley, won the championship with a 4-2 decision over No. 1 seed Joe Gomez, Cozad.

At 145, Soderlund was seeded No. 6. In his first match, he pinned Zach Paulsen, Pleasanton, in 39 seconds. Next, he lost an 8-3 decision to No. 3 seed Jake Woodside, Holdrege. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Arturo Banderas, Lexington A, in 3:27. In his next match, Soderlund pinned Mark Florom, Alma, in 37 seconds. In the consolation semi-finals, he won a 7-2 decision over No. 4 seed Brandon Percival, Southern Valley. He won an 8-6 decision over Woodside to avenge the earlier defeat and place third.

No. 1 seed Casey Stout, Burwell Sargent, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Ivin Hubbard, Elm Creek, in 5:42.

Zach Mannel was seeded No. 5 at 275 pounds. In his first round match, he pinned No. 4 seed Nick Walker, Lexington junior varsity A, in 2:23. Next, he wrestled No. 1 seed Buzz Daake, Elm Creek, and was pinned in 1:09. In the con-

solation bracket, he pinned No. 6 seed Nick Stadler, Holdrege, in 4:29. In the consolation championship match, he pinned No. 3 seed Eric Bedke, Pleasanton, in 33 seconds to place third.

Daake won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Tom Oyler, Cozad, in 3:53.

At 103, Counter was seeded No. 5. He drew a first round bye, then faced No. 1 seed David Ripp, Elm Creek, who won a 15-0 technical fall. In the consolation bracket, Counter pinned No. 6 seed Josh Linder, Holdrege, in 2:25. In the consolation championship match, he lost a 6-0 decision to No. 3 seed Harley Bennet, Overton, to place fourth.

Ripp won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed David Shields, Lexington junior varsity A, in 1:27.

Brock Lauer was seeded No. 4 at 152 pounds. In his first match, he pinned Andy Paben, Pleasanton. In the quarter-finals, he pinned No. 5 seed Wyatt Stubbs, Elm Creek junior varsity, in 5:27. In his semi-finals match, he wrestled No. 1 seed Cory Devine, Cozad, and was pinned in 1:19. In the consolation bracket, Lauer won an 8-7 decision over No. 7 seed Dakota Favinger, Unattached, to reach the consolation championship. He wrestled No. 2 seed Steve Taylor, Elm Creek, and was pinned in 2:32 to place fourth.

No. 3 seed Andres Hernandez, Lexington junior varsity A, won the championship with a fall over No. 1 seed Cory Devine, Cozad, in 3:29.

At 119, Van Der Wege was seeded No. 5. In his first round match, he was pinned by No. 4 seed Dustin Lange, Gibbon. In the con-

solation bracket, he pinned Jose Lara, Lexington junior varsity B, in 1:33. In his next match, he wrestled No. 2 seed Caleb Roberts, Alma, and was pinned in 47 seconds.

No. 1 seed Foster Meier, Elm Creek, won the championship with a fall in 2:00 over No. 6 seed Chancy Stewart, Rock County. Third place went to Roberts, who pinned Lange in 2:03.

No. 5 seed Jordan Durham lost a 17-12 decision to Roberto Romero, Lexington junior varsity B, in the first round of the 160 pound division. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then pinned Billy Stover, Elm Creek, in 2:34. In his next match, he won an 11-5 decision over No. 7 seed Detrik Jacobs, Overton. In the semi-finals, he lost a 4-1 decision to No. 4 seed Ben Stewart, Lexington junior varsity A.

No. 1 seed Kyle Gill, Cozad, won the championship with a fall over No. 2 seed Jared Jenkins, Arapahoe, in 5:35. Third place went to No. 3 seed Jon Fisher, Alma, with a fall in 3:04 over Stewart.

At 171, Tyler Burns was seeded No. 3. He drew a first round bye, then lost a 9-7 decision to No. 6

seed Eugene Greenlee, Lexington junior varsity B. In the consolation bracket, he decided David Molina, Lexington junior varsity A, by a 4-3 score. In his next match, he was pinned in 4:23 by No. 7 seed Brandon Dawson, Unattached.

Mike Burns, the No. 1 seed, won the championship with a fall over No. 2 seed Andrew Lemmer, Cozad, in 55 seconds. Third place went to No. 4 seed Mike Shaw, Southern Valley, with a fall over No. 8 seed Tyson Benson, Elm Creek junior varsity.

At 112, No. 1 seed Elmer Leiva, Lexington junior varsity A, won a 4-2 decision over No. 2 seed Mulcoma Issa, Lexington junior varsity B, to win the championship. Third place went to No. 5 seed Buck Moon, Burwell Sargent, with a 19-9 major decision over No. 8 seed Carlos Chavarria, Unattached.

At 215, No. 2 seed Zack Schwarz, Cozad, won the championship with a fall over No. 1 seed Ethan Jenkins, Arapahoe, in 1:05. Third place went to No. 4 seed Scott Meier, Elm Creek, with a fall in 48 seconds over No. 3 seed Eric Freeland, Lexington junior varsity A.

Norton will wrestle here Tuesday

The Norton Community High School wrestling team will host a dual with Kearney, Neb. and Hays High at 4 p.m. on Tuesday in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on East Campus in Norton.

In the first dual, Norton will wrestle Kearney. The second dual will feature Kearney vs.

Hays. Norton and Hays will wrestle in the third dual.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton since this will be the final home action of the season for the Blue Jay wrestlers. Senior night activities will be held prior to the Norton vs. Hays dual.