

Norton girls defeat Ellis to earn league title

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team had something to prove on Friday night when they traveled to Ellis for their final Mid-Continent League game of the season with the league title on the line.

And they did with a 46-31 win over the Lady Railroaders, who handed them their only previous defeat.

The loss to Ellis came in the championship finals of the MCL Tournament on January 21 in Hays. No. 1 seeded Norton lost 50-37 to No. 3 seeded Ellis.

After that contest, Coach Jilka commented, "We didn't play well in any phase of the game."

On Friday night, the Lady Jays looked like a different team and proved that, not only could they play with Ellis, they could beat them soundly.

Norton doubled the score on Ellis in the first quarter and led 14-7 at that point. Then, the Lady Jays poured in 19 points while holding the Lady Railroaders to 4 in the second quarter to triple their lead to 33-11 at intermission.

It was hard for the Lady Jays to maintain the same momentum in the second half but they led 37-19 after three quarters and ended with a comfortable 15-point victory.

"We played better defense this time and shot the ball better, especially from the three-point line," said Coach Jilka.

"Our girls had something to prove after the loss to Ellis in the tournament. They were a little embarrassed by the loss.

"They didn't want to share the league title. I'm especially happy for our seniors. They wanted to defend their league title from last year.

"We played hard and deserved this win."

Norton compiled a perfect 8-0 record in the league and is now 17-1 overall.

Ellis finished 6-2 in the league and is 15-4 overall. The loss to Norton on Friday was the first

home loss for Ellis this season.

The Lady Jays got two big three-point baskets from freshman guard Laura Lee Baird in the first quarter. Senior center Becca Ebert added two two-point field goals, senior guard Amber Overlease and senior center Chelsea Cox each hit a two-point basket for Norton's 14 points.

Ellis scored their 7 points on a field goal and free throw by freshman Whitney Taylor and field goals by sophomore Danielle Pfeifer and senior Jennifer Jacques.

In the first minute of the second quarter, Ebert scored inside and Baird buried her third try to make it 19-7. Senior Jaymi Riedel hit a free throw for Ellis but senior guard Whitney Newell answered with a basket from beyond the arc and Norton led 22-8 with 5:02 left in the period. Baird hit a two-point basket, senior guard Klaire Mann ripped the nets from two-point land and senior guard Karlie Jones radared in a long range shot. Baird intercepted an in-bounds pass and scored with 3:01 remaining.

Another three-point basket by Baird with 1:15 left in the half extended the Lady Jay lead to 33-8. Taylor hit a free throw and Pfeifer hit a basket in the final minute to narrow the Lady Jay advantage to 33-11 at halftime.

The Norton offense cooled off in the third quarter where the Lady Jays hit just four points but their defense was equal to the occasion and allowed only eight Ellis points.

Cox and Ebert each hit a basket for the Lady Jays in the third period. Jacques hit two baskets and Taylor and Riedel hit one basket apiece.

The fourth quarter was also a defensive battle. Norton got baskets from Cox and Jones, four free throws from Baird and a charity from Ebert.

The Lady Railroaders' final points came on three baskets by Pfeifer and a basket apiece from Taylor, Jacques and junior Kristen Waldschmidt.

Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 19 points on 3 of 5 from long range for 60 percent, 3 of



Norton senior guard Whitney Newell drives past two Ellis defenders during the Lady Jays' 46-31 Mid-Continent League victory on Friday night in Ellis. Newell was the assists leader for Norton with seven. In the background for Norton are Karlie Jones, No. 32, and Laura Lee Baird, No. 14.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

9 two-point attempts for 33 percent and 6 of 14 overall for 43 percent accuracy. Baird hit 4 of 5 charity tosses for 80 percent.

Ebert scored 9 points on 4 of 6 from the field for 67 percent and 1 of 5 free throws.

Pfeifer was leading scorer for the Lady Railroaders with 10 points. Taylor and Jacques added 8 each.

In the win over Norton, Pfeifer led scoring with 16 and Waldschmidt hit 10, compared to 2 this time.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 11 from beyond the arc for 45 percent, 13 of 36 two-point tries for 36 percent and 18 of 47 overall for 38 percent.

Ellis missed both trey tries, hit 14 of 42 two-point shots for 33 percent and was 14 of 44 overall for 32 percent. In the first game between the two teams, Ellis hit 53 percent from

the field and Norton could manage only 28 percent.

The Lady Jays swished 5 of 13 free throws for 38 percent and the Lady Railroaders hit 3 of 9 charities for 33 percent. The last time, Norton was 28 percent from the free throw line and Ellis was 58 percent.

Norton had 8 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 23 total. Ellis pulled down 12 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 30 total.

Cox was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Ebert, 5; Baird, 4; Newell, 3; Jones, 2; Mann, Overlease, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 11 steals compared to only 3 during the first encounter. Ellis stole the ball only 2 times.

Leading thefts for the Lady Jays

was Cox with 3, followed by Newell, Jones, 2 each; Baird, Mann, Overlease, Ebert, 1 each.

Norton had 15 offensive assists and Ellis had 9.

Assists leader for Norton was Newell with 7, followed by Mann, 3; Ebert, 2; Baird, Overlease, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had just 9 turnovers in the game and caused the Lady Railroaders to turn the ball over 17 times compared to 8 in the first game between the two quintets.

Junior varsity girls won

Coach George Rossi's Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Ellis 44-22.

Norton held quarter leads of 13-7, 28-7 and 29-12.

Eleven different girls scored for

Norton. Hayli Bozarth was the scoring leader with 8 points, followed by Taylor Rossi, Chantille Campbell, Maggie Nielsen, Megan Kats, 6 each; Katharine Roy, Haley Jones, KaraJo Jones, Amanda Delimont, Ashley Colip, Kylie Morel, 2 each.

Laura Augustine led Ellis with 12 points.

"Our junior varsity finished their league play undefeated," said Coach Rossi.

"Our girls continue to come out and play hard.

"We did have a letdown in the third quarter. We need to understand that you must play with intensity all the time.

"Ellis had lost only two games previous to this one so this is a good and important win for us."

Next action

Norton will play Colby here today in non-league action that will complete the regular schedule.

Play will begin at 4:15 p.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym with the C-Team girls contest, followed by the Junior Varsity girls, Varsity girls and Varsity boys games. The Junior Varsity boys contest will be played at 5 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on East Campus.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton girls 46	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Whitney Newell	0	1	0-0	3	0	0-2	3
Chelsea Cox	3	0	0-2	6	0	0-0	6
Laura Lee Baird	3	3	4-5	19	0	0-0	2
Klaire Mann	1	0	0-0	2	0	0-0	2
Amber Overlease	1	0	0-0	2	0	0-0	2
Becca Ebert	4	0	1-5	9	0	0-0	9
Karlie Jones	1	1	0-1	5	0	0-0	5
TOTAL	13	5	5-13	46	0	0-0	46
Ellis girls 31							
	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Whitney Taylor	3	0	2-4	8	0	0-1	10
Danielle Pfeifer	5	0	0-1	10	0	0-0	8
Jennifer Jacques	4	0	0-0	8	0	0-0	8
Kristen Waldschmidt	1	0	0-1	2	0	0-1	2
Jaymi Riedel	1	0	1-3	3	0	0-0	3
TOTAL	14	0	3-9	31	0	0-0	31

Blue Jay boys complete league play with win over Ellis

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team completed Mid-Continent League play for the season on Friday night with a 53-41 victory at Ellis.

The win extended the Blue Jays' league record to 5-3 and season record to 12-6. Ellis fell to 2-6 in the league and 7-12 overall.

Seven different players rotated into the lineup for Norton and all seven played a significant role in the victory. Every player scored at least four points and pulled down at least two rebounds.

"It was a good road win for us," said Coach Reusink.

"They were hurting us on the defensive boards in the first half. We challenged our players at halftime and they did a better job in the second half.

"We also told our inside guys to attack the basket in the second half and they did, especially Nic Lewis.

"We still need to work on knowing what to do in key situations."

Norton held quarter leads of 20-16, 26-21 and 35-29 and did not pull away until outscoring the Railroaders 18-12 in the fourth stanza.

The first quarter turned out to be a three-point contest between the two teams. Norton took an 8-5 lead after Ellis senior Dylan Lang hit a three-point basket and Blue Jay senior guard Nathan Morse answered with a two-point bank shot with 4:11 left. Senior guard Daren Haas hit two straight buckets for Ellis to give them their only lead of the game at 9-8. The next five baskets were from beyond the arc, four by Norton and one by Ellis.

Junior guard Brian Juenemann got the fireworks started by burying a trey with 3:17 left. Morse responded with a nothing-but-net long range bomb with 2:47 remaining to put Norton on top 14-9. Ellis junior guard Adam Casey swished a three-pointer with 2:19 showing but Morse came back 19 seconds later with his second trey of the quarter.

Norton got the ball back again with under a minute to play and

Morse buried another long range shot to extend the Blue Jay lead to 20-12. Casey broke the string of treys with a two-point basket, followed by another two-point basket by junior Adam Augustine to narrow the Norton advantage to 20-16 at the end of the period.

The second quarter was a real defensive battle with Norton outscoring the home team 6-5. Norton's points came on baskets by sophomore guard-center Jared Cox, sophomore forward Wes Georgeson and senior center Heath Vincent.

Ellis hit just one basket in the second period. It was scored by Lang, who also added a free throw. The Railroaders got a free throw from Casey and one from Haas.

The third quarter was also a low scoring one with Norton outscoring the Railroaders 9-8. Norton got a basket and free throw from Vincent and baskets from sophomore guard Logan Kats, Cox and junior center Nic Lewis.

Haas hit two baskets and two free throws for Ellis and Lang added a basket.

Norton hit only one more basket than Ellis in the fourth quarter but made up for it at the free throw line where the Jays swished 8 of 12 tries. Georgeson hit two more baskets, Lewis hit two baskets and two free throws, Kats hit a basket, Juenemann connected on two charities and Vincent hit four free tosses.

Junior Cole Erbert hit his only two field goals of the game, Haas added another field goal and two charities, Casey swished a field goal and junior Cory Amrein hit his only basket of the contest for Ellis in the final stanza.

Norton had three players in double scoring figures. Morse and Vincent each tallied 11 points and Lewis added 10.

Morse was 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 1 of 1 from two-point land and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent accuracy. Vincent hit 3 of 5 from the field for 60 percent and was a perfect 5 of 5 from the free throw line.

Lewis hit 4 of 9 from the field for 44 percent and 2 of 3 from the char-

ity stripe for 67 percent.

Haas hit 15 points for Ellis and was the Railroaders' only double figure scorer.

As a team, the Blue Jays hit 4 of 10 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 16 of 42 two-point tries for 38 percent and 20 of 52 overall for 38 percent.

Ellis connected on just 2 of 11 long range shots for 18 percent, 14 of 39 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 16 of 50 overall for 32 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 9 of 13 for 69 percent and Ellis connected on 7 of 13 for 54 percent.

Norton outrebounded Ellis 38-28. The Blue Jays had 17 offensive and 21 defensive caroms and the Railroaders grabbed 13 offensive and 15 defensive boards.

Lewis was leading rebounder for Norton with 11 for another double-double. Vincent had 7 caroms, followed by Georgeson, Morse, 6 each; Cox, Juenemann, 3 each; Kats, 2.

Norton blocked 6 Ellis shots. Vincent had 4 rejections and Lewis and Cox had 1 each.

Kats led Norton in steals with 6; Juenemann had 1 theft.

Kats was also the assists leader with 8; Georgeson and Lewis had 1 each.

Norton had 16 turnovers and Ellis had 9.

Junior varsity boys won

Coach David Stover's Norton junior varsity boys team edged Ellis 39-38.

Norton led 12-8 after one quarter and 16-14 at halftime. The score was tied 26-all after three quarters and was tied 38-all with two seconds left. Preston Herman was fouled, stepped to the free throw line and calmly swished a charity to give the young Blue Jays the win.

Herman was also leading scorer for Norton with 19 points, followed by Blake Wolf, 6; Logan Keiswetter, 5; Wes Georgeson, 4; Zach Dole, 2; Matt Stanley, 2; Logan Runnion, 1.

Andrew Casey, Logan Bittel and Brett Mickelson led Ellis with 5 points each.

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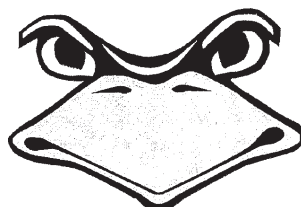
GAME STATISTICS

Norton boys 53	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Nathan Morse	1	3	0-0	11	0	0-0	11
Logan Kats	3	0	0-2	6	0	0-0	6
Brian Juenemann	0	1	2-2	5	0	0-0	5
Jared Cox	2	0	0-0	4	0	0-0	4
Wes Georgeson	3	0	0-1	6	0	0-0	6
Nic Lewis	4	0	2-3	10	0	0-0	10
Heath Vincent	3	0	5-5	11	0	0-0	11
TOTAL	16	4	9-13	53	0	0-0	53
Ellis boys 41							
	FGs			FTs			TP
	2s	3s	M-A	2s	3s	M-A	
Andrew Casey	2	1	1-2	8	0	0-0	8
Adam Augustine	2	0	0-0	4	0	0-0	4
Dylan Lang	2	1	1-2	8	0	0-0	8
Daren Haas	5	0	5-8	15	0	0-0	15
Cory Amrein	1	0	0-0	2	0	0-0	2
Cole Erbert	2	0	0-1	4	0	0-0	4
TOTAL	14	2	7-13	41	0	0-0	41



Norton senior center Heath Vincent just misses blocking a shot by an Ellis player during the Blue Jays' 53-41 Mid-Continent League victory on Friday evening in Ellis. Vincent made it hard for the Railroaders to shoot inside and blocked four Ellis shots. Also pictured for Norton are, from left, Jared Cox and Nathan Morse.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:
Norton in Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament (Gross Memorial Coliseum, Fort Hays State University, Hays) 10 a.m., Friday; 10 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Colby (Here) 4:15 p.m., Today - C-Team Girls, followed by Junior Varsity Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, NCHS Memorial Gym; 5 p.m. - Junior Varsity Boys, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym
Northern Valley Boys vs. Kensington in Regionals in Palco 6 p.m., Thursday
Northern Valley Girls vs. Logan in Regionals in Palco 7:30 p.m., Friday