

Tournament ushers in Blue Jay basketball

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams will open the 2006-'07 season on Thursday when they play in the opening round of the 18th annual Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland.

Also competing in the tournament will be teams from Goodland; Colby; Weskan; Ottawa; Sharon Springs; Wray, Colo.; McCook, Neb.

Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, third and fifth place teams. Members of the top three teams will receive individual medals. An all-tournament team will be selected.

The tournament will feature a three-point contest as well as team free throwing competition. A spirit

award will also be given.

BOYS

The Norton boys will play Colby at 5 p.m. on Thursday in the fieldhouse. In other first round games, Ottawa will play Weskan at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym adjoining the fieldhouse, Wray will play Sharon Springs at 7 p.m. in the junior high gym and Goodland will play McCook at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

Winners of the Norton-Colby and Ottawa-Weskan contests will play in the championship semi-finals at 5 p.m. Friday in the fieldhouse. In the other semi-finals contest, the winners of the Goodland-McCook and Wray-Sharon Springs games will play at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

On the consolation side, losers from the Norton-Colby and Ottawa-Weskan games will play at

5 p.m. in the junior high gym and losers of the Goodland-McCook and Wray-Sharon Springs games will play at 9 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse and the third place game will be at 4 p.m. in the fieldhouse. On the consolation side, the seventh place game will be at 2 p.m. in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be played at 4 p.m. in the junior high gym.

GIRLS

The Norton girls will play Sharon Springs at 9 p.m. on Thursday in the junior high gym. Other first round games will be: Colby vs. Wray, 3 p.m., fieldhouse; Ottawa vs. McCook, 5 p.m., junior high gym and Goodland vs. Weskan, 7 p.m., fieldhouse.

On Friday, winners of the Ottawa-McCook and Colby-Wray games will play at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse and winners of the Norton-Sharon Springs and Goodland-Weskan contests will play at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse in the championship semi-finals.

Losers from the Ottawa-McCook and Colby-Wray games will play on the consolation side at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym and losers of the Norton-Sharon Springs and Goodland-Weskan contests will play at 7 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse. The third place game will be at 2 p.m. in the fieldhouse. The seventh place contest will be at 12 noon in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be at 12 noon in the fieldhouse

Six lettermen on boys' varsity roster

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink has six returning lettermen on this season's Norton Community High School boys' basketball team.

Last year's squad compiled a final 12-8 record, placed runnerup in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament and placed fourth in the league race.

The Jays' season ended with a 45-44 loss to Bennington in the substate tournament.

The returning lettermen who were starters are: Nic Lewis, 6-foot, 3-inch senior center; Brian Juenemann, 5'10" senior guard and Logan Kats, 5'8" junior guard.

The other returning lettermen are Jared Engelbert, 6' senior guard; Jared Cox, 6' junior forward and Wes Georgeson, 6'3" junior center.

Lewis led the Blue Jays in rebounding last season, averaging

7.7 caroms per contest. He was second in scoring with 9 points per game and is the leading returning scorer.

Lewis was also second in shot blocks last season with 13 and is the returning shot blocks leader.

Kats was assists leader last year with 70 and he steals leader with 35. He averaged 5 points and 2 rebounds per game.

Juenemann and Lewis each had 21 steals last season. Juenemann averaged 4 points and 2 rebounds per game.

Georgeson averaged 4.5 points and 3.5 rebounds per contest last season. He had 16 steals and 20 assists.

Engelbert had 15 steals and 20 assists while averaging 4 points and 2 rebounds. Cox averaged 2.5 points and 1.5 rebounds last season.

Other members of the squad are:

Logan Keiswetter, 6'; Blake Wolf, 6', seniors; Matheus Martins, 6'; Zach Dole, 5'9"; Logan Runnion, 6'1"; Young Sun Cho, 5'9"; Preston Herman, 6'3", juniors; Zac Dreher, 6'2", sophomore; Landon Hamel, 5'7"; J.D. Gall, 5'6"; Marcus Herman, 5'5"; Ashton Draper, 5'10"; D.J. Ebner, 6'3", freshmen.

"This group has worked hard in practice and shown improvement every day," said coach Reusink. "I think we could be an improved team from last year if we can get some of these boys to step up and do some scoring for us.

"With the experience we have returning, I feel we should be better, especially at handling any defensive pressure.

"The league should be competitive again. Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Plainville and Trego should all have good teams."

Coach Reusink's assistant coaches again this season are David Stover and Todd Fulton. Student managers are Kayleigh Brooks, Ashley Maybon, Hannah Fulton and Emily Juenemann.

Under the leadership of coach Reusink, the Blue Jay boys are always competitive. The 2002-'03 team won the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-'04 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-'05 quintet was 15-7.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 192 wins and 134 losses. He is beginning his 28th year of coaching high school boys teams and has compiled an overall record of 406 wins and 180 losses for an outstanding 69.2 percent victory record. This is an average of 15 wins and 6.6 losses per year.

Coach Jilka to begin 25th season

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka has three returning letter winners but no returning starters on this season's Norton Community High School girls basketball team.

Last season, the Lady Jays compiled an 18-2 record, were undefeated in the Mid-Continent League and runnerup in the league tournament. Their season came to a sudden close with a 44-33 loss to Riley County in the substate tournament.

The returning letter winners are Maggie Nielsen, 5-foot-8-inch senior; Megan Kats, 5'3" junior and Laura Lee Baird, 5'9" sophomore.

Baird averaged 7.8 points per game last season, third highest on the Lady Jay quintet. She was also the most accurate free thrower with a 68.4 percent average. Baird

received honorable mention on the all-league team by vote of the league coaches.

Other team members are: Courtney Cox, 5'6"; Haley Jones, 5'4", juniors; Katharine Roy, 5'8"; Taylor Rossi, 5'3"; Ashley Colip, 5'4"; KaraJo Jones, 5'9"; Amanda Delimont, 5'8"; Hayli Bozarth, 5'10", sophomores; Shelby Jones, 5'4"; Kendra Engelbert, 5'6"; Hannah Waggoner, 5'; Stephanie Eagleburger, 5'5"; Ashlie Stewart, 5'2"; Lacy Keilig, 5'10"; Bethany Roy, 5'5"; Raven Brown, 5'4"; Austine Dole, 5'8"; Alyssa Thomson, 5'9"; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5'10"; Amanda Ray, 5'9", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this season are George Rossi and Joan Bolt. Student managers are Liberty Stephens, Allie Corbin, Kelsey Nuzum.

"Our practices have gone very well," said coach Jilka. "Our girls are working hard and have been very receptive to what we are trying to teach them.

"We have some quickness and depth and right now we are planning on pressuring the basketball a lot and getting up a lot of shots.

"Right now, we are just an inexperienced group of girls who need to play some games and find out where we are. One thing we do know is that these girls will play hard."

Coach Jilka said he felt Ellis and Osborne would have to be the favorites in the league race but that Phillipsburg should also have an excellent team.

This will be coach Jilka's 25th season as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays. During his tenure, the Norton girls have won 416 games

and have lost 130 for a 76 percent winning average. Jilka's Lady Jays have averaged 17 wins and just 5.4 losses per season.

The 2000-'01 team compiled an 18-7 record en route to a fourth place finish in the Class 3A state tournament.

Coach Jilka's 2001-'02 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the league. Norton compiled a 12-9 record in 2003-'04 when they tied for second in the league and their season ended with a 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the substate tournament.

The season ended for the 2004-'05 quintet with a loss to eventual champion Holcomb in the substate tournament. The Lady Jays were 17-5 that year and were undefeated league champions and also league tournament champions.

where I had hoped it would be. We got into foul trouble early and had some younger girls step up and contribute.

"Our overall enthusiasm was tremendous and both teams played at very high levels. This was a good win and we look forward to practice as we can continue to work hard and work as a team and strive to get better each and every day."

Norton basketball schedule

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 7-9 — Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland

Friday, Dec. 15 — V, JV, C Phillipsburg, Here, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16 — V, JV Stockton, There, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 16 — JV WaKeeney Tournament, There, 9 a.m.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Dec. 28-30 — C Boys Hill City Tournament, There, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 2 — V, JV Decatur Community, Here, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 5 — V, JV Osborne, There, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6 — C Girls Phillipsburg Tournament, There, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6 — C Boys Smith Center Tournament, There, 9 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 12 — V, JV C Trego Community, There, 4 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 15 — MCL Tournament Quarterfinals, Here TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 16 — MCL Tournament Quarterfinals, Here TBA

Friday, Jan. 19 — MCL Tournament Semifinals in Hays, TBA

Saturday, Jan. 20 — MCL Tournament Finals in Hays, TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 23 — V, JV, C Goodland, Here, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 30 — V, JV, C Smith Center, There, 4 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 2 — V, JV, C Hill City, Here, 4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5 — C Girls/Boys Colby, Here, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6 — V, JV Decatur Community, There, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9 — V, JV Atwood, Here, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 13 — V, JV Hoxie, There, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 15 — V, JV Ellis, Here, 5 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 19 — V, JV, C Plainville (Senior Night), Here, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 20 — V, JV Colby, There, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 26 — Girls Sub-State Quarterfinals, Here, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 27 — Boys Sub-State Quarterfinals, Here, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 1 — Girls Sub-State Semifinals in Phillipsburg, TBA

Friday, March 2 — Boys Sub-State Semifinals, in Phillipsburg, TBA

Saturday, March 3 — Sub-State Championships, in Phillipsburg, TBA

March 7-10 — Class 3A State Tournament, Hutchinson, TBA

Wins over Stockton, Smith Center and Plainville = 3-0

The Norton Bluejays 8th grade boys' basketball team is off to a 3-0 start. The roster carries the names of 20 players, including: Cole Archer, Troy Bainter, Ryan Blecha, Billy Broeckelman, Randy Cochran, Dakota Dreher, Taylor Gordon, Justin Griffith, Landon Keiswetter, John Koch, Terrell Lane, Caleb Laughlin, Josiah Laughlin, Kaid McKenna, David Mizell, Jacob Mizell, Luke Ninemire, Andrew Otter, Spencer Shirk and Brett Terrell. They are coached by Joe Cox and Clayton Cox.

Beat Stockton

The 'Jays opened the season with a 27-22 win over Stockton. Shirk was top scorer with 12 points and he had 8 steals. Ninemire was the leading rebounder with 8. "They played under tough conditions," said coach Joe Cox. "We had two days with no practice before this game due to circumstances beyond our control, but they were able to stay focused and get the job done."

Others scoring were: Keiswetter 2; Ninemire 6; McKenna 2; and Dreher 5.

Upend Smith Center

Norton jumped quickly on Smith center and never looked back. After a 20-point halftime lead, they continued to roll, ending the night with a 44-16 win.

"The Bluejay tough man-to-man defense held the Redmen to only 16 percent shooting from the field, while shooting 43 per cent themselves," said the coach. The Jays pulled down 30 rebounds.

Norton 8th grade boys' recap

Terrell Lane was top point maker with 14 and Dreher scored 12. Others scoring were: Caleb Laughlin 4; Ninemire 8; Shirk 3; Cole Archer 1; and Josiah Laughlin 2.

Smash Plainville

The Bluejays' tempo and pressure were more than Plainville bargained for as the Norton bunch put up a lopsided 45-14 victory.

"An active man-to-man defense forced 27 turnovers," the coach noted.

Lane led all scorers with 20 points. Kaid McKenna was a perfect 4/4 from the field, pitching in 8 points, and he also led the team in steals with 6.

The Bluejays shot 51 percent from the field.

"Plainville struggled a little, they didn't handle our defense very well which led to our 19 steals," coach Cox said. "I was very pleased with our shot selections. We had four players shoot more than 50 percent from the field." Others scoring were: Bainter with 4; Ninemire 1; Shirk 7; McKenna 8; Dreher 4; and Terrell 1.

Booster Club schedules Wednesday huddle

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Wrestling coach Bill Johnson will report on the Blue Jays' season opening tournaments in Hoxie and Alma and preview upcoming

action.

Boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and girls coach Kevin Jilka will tell about the season opening tournament in Goodland, which begins on Thursday.

All fans are invited. There is no charge.

Atwood takes two wins over Husky varsities

Atwood proved to be too much for both the Northern Valley Husky varsity boys and girls in opening games last Friday.

The boys came up on the short end of a 66-36 final and the girls lost 53-39.

Boys

Atwood held a first quarter 24-6 lead, 44-22 at the break, and 60-32 going into the final quarter.

Scoring for Northern Valley were Ethan Hays with 2, Bryce Marble 4, Drew Britt 3, Henry Griffiths 10, Callaway 2, Justin Lee 10, Eagleburger 3 and Jessup 2. Basgall was Atwood's and the game's top scorer with 24.

Girls

The Huskies trailed 11-6 at the end of the first quarter, 33-13 at the half and 41-24 heading into the final period. Despite outscoring the Atwood bunch in the third and fourth quarters, it wasn't enough to overcome the lead built up by the visitors in the first half.

Scoring for the Huskies were Allison Cole 5, Megan Cole 2, Kelli Cole 2, Lowry 7, Anderson 8, Jenna Jessup 13 and Jessica Largent 2. Cahoj and Mullen were tops for Atwood with 11 each

Junior High Boys — A-team

Northern Valley Round-up

The Husky A-team won 38-30 over Golden Plains on Nov. 30. Northern Valley trailed by just one point, 11-10 at the end of the first quarter, tied the host team at intermission 17-17, and moved out front by 5 big points, 31-26 at the end of the third frame.

Scoring for the Huskies were Dusty Eagleburger 18; Austin Herman 8; Bryant Tharman 4; Zac Vincent 3; Colton Lowry 3; and Matt Dole 2.

Boys B-team

Northern Valley rolled to a 40-16 final, holding Golden Plains scoreless in the opening quarter while hitting the basket for 10 points.

Scoring: Gunnar Hays 10; Daniel Field 6; Caleb Bach 6; Sean Braun 6; Skyler Harris 4; Zane Bauch 3; Tyson Callaway 2; Canel Miller 2; and Matt Dole 1.

Boys C-team

Northern Valley got the win 25-4. Scoring were: Dillon Hogan 6; Zane Miller 6; Tyler Montgomery 4; and Chris Pinzenscham 4, Tyson Callaway 3 and Alex Tharman 2.

Coach Cole said: "The boys had a good night of basketball. The A-team improved its record to 3-0 and the B-team to 2-0. All 18 players scored at least one basket...everyone got to play a lot of basketball and we are showing improvement with each game we play."

Girls — A-team

Northern Valley picked up a 38-35 win over Golden Plains on the road, and in overtime. The score was knotted at 35 at the end of regulation play and in the OT, the Huskies scored 3 points while holding Golden Plains to 0.


Scoring for the A-team were Staci Dole 19, Ashley Constable 10 and Katie Stillion 9.

B-Team


In two quarters of action, Golden Plains won 7-1. Kenzi Husted scored the Huskies' lone point.

Coach Largent said: "I was pleased with the girls' effort and energy, and our execution was


High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:
 Norton Junior Varsity in Southern Valley Invitational (in Oxford) 3 p.m., Friday
 Norton Varsity in Clay Center Invitational (in Clay Center) 9 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
 Norton Boys vs. Colby in Topside Tipoff Tournament 5 p.m., Thursday (in Goodland)
 Norton Girls vs. Sharon Springs in Topside Tipoff Tournament 9 p.m., Thursday (in Goodland)
 Norton Girls and Boys in Topside Tipoff Tournament TBA Friday and Saturday
 Northern Valley vs. Hill City (in Hill City) 5 p.m., Friday
 Northern Valley vs. Smith Center (in Smith Center) 5 p.m., Tuesday
 Logan vs. Stockton in Round robin (in Stockton) TBA Today
 Logan vs. Plainville in Round Robin (in Stockton) TBA Friday
 Logan vs. Phillipsburg in Round Robin (in Stockton) TBA Saturday