

# Ladies finish 3rd in tourney

By DICK BOYD

Defense was the name of the game on Saturday when coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team limited Ottawa to just 27 percent shooting in defeating the Lady Cyclones 50-43 to place third in the 18th annual Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland.

Ottawa got off to a good start and led 12-7 after one quarter but Norton limited Ottawa to just 5 points in the second quarter while scoring 15 to take a 22-17 halftime advantage. A 12-6 score in favor of Norton in the third quarter extended the Lady Jay lead to 34-23.

The fourth quarter turned into a free throw contest with Ottawa outscoring Norton 17-16 but it was too little, too late for the Lady Cyclones. Norton hit 7 of 13 charities in the final stanza and Ottawa connected on 12 of 14 from the charity stripe.

"This was a huge win for our girls," said coach Jilka.

"The second half, we played a lot better and held our poise much better than against Goodland on Friday.

"Offensively, we did a nice job all night. Our execution was much more consistent.

"Defensively, we still need to rebound better. We stand around a lot after the shot is taken. We need to learn to go get the ball.

"Overall, we were very pleased with our progression in the tournament.

"We need to work to improve this week so we'll be ready for Phillipsburg and Stockton on Friday and Saturday. These will be two important Mid-Continent League games."

Leading scorer for Norton was Laura Lee Baird with 15 points on 2 of 4 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 3 of 8 from two-point land for 38 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent. She also swished 3

of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Right behind Baird in scoring was KaraJo Jones with 13 points on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and 3 of 9 charities for 33 percent.

Stephanie Mars was leading scorer for Ottawa with 18.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 8 from long range for 50 percent, 12 of 27 two-point shots for 44 percent and 16 of 35 overall for 46 percent.

Ottawa hit just 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 8 of 29 two-point shots for 28 percent and 11 of 41 overall for 27 percent.

Norton hit 14 of 30 free throws for 47 percent and Ottawa connected on 17 of 25 charities for 68 percent.

Norton had 4 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 21. Ottawa pulled down 9 offensive caroms and 21 defensive for 30 total.

Jones and Hayli Bozarth were leading rebounders for Norton with 6 each, followed by Ashley Colip, 3; Baird, 2; Katharine Roy, Taylor Rossi, Maggie Nielsen,

Megan Kats, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 10 steals and the Lady Cyclones stole the ball 12 times. Kats and Bozarth were leaders with 3 thefts each, followed by Jones, 2; Baird, Colip, 1 each.

Norton had 13 assists and Ottawa recorded 8. Baird was the leader with 5, followed by Rossi, 4; Jones, Bozarth, 2 each.

Also on Saturday, Goodland edged Colby 47-43 to win the championship.

## BOX SCORE

### Norton girls 50

Taylor Rossi 0 2 0-1 6; Laura Lee Baird 3 2 3-4 15; Ashley Colip 1 0 2-4 4; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; Maggie Nielsen 0 0 0-2 0; Megan Kats 1 0 5-8 7; KaraJo Jones 5 0 3-9 13; Hayli Bozarth 1 0 1-2 3; Total 12 4 14-30 50

### Ottawa girls 43

Carrie Bowen 1 0 2-2 4; Katie Hawkins 0 0 1-2 1; Stephanie Hermreck 0 1 4-6 7; Stephanie Mars 3 2 6-8 18; Sylvia Rusk 0 0 1-2 1; Kara McFarland 3 0 1-2 7; Chantay Caron 1 0 3-3 5; Total 8 3 17-25 43



With her ponytail flying, Norton's Laura Lee Baird dribbled past Abby Mote during Norton's 55-46 win over Sharon Springs during the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Kassie Weiland, No. 13 for Sharon Springs, couldn't keep up with Norton's Taylor Rossi as she brought the ball down court during the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Behind, from left, are Norton's KaraJo Jones and Hayli Bozarth and the Lady Wildcats' Nikki Welsh.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Norton loses game at free throw line

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team played Goodland on even terms but sent the Cowgirls to the free throw line too many times in a 46-44 loss in the championship semi-finals of the Topside Tipoff Tournament on Friday in Goodland.

Both teams hit 17 field goals but Norton had a higher shooting percentage. The Lady Jays hit 4 of 10 three-point shots for 40 percent, 13 of 27 two-point tries for 48 percent and 17 of 37 overall for 46 percent. Goodland tallied on 4 of 8 treys for 50 percent, 13 of 34 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 17 of 42 for 40 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton was 6 of 8 for 75 percent while Goodland hit 8 of 23 for 35 percent and the two extra points needed for the victory.

Norton had 21 fouls in the contest and Goodland had just 13.

Norton held a 9-8 lead after one

quarter and Goodland had a slight 16-15 advantage at halftime. Goodland outscored Norton 18-14 in the third period to extend the Cowgirls' lead to 34-29. A 15-12 fourth quarter in the Lady Jays' favor fell just two points short.

"It was a hard fought game but, unfortunately, we came out on the short end," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we were very tentative the first half but we executed much better and were much more aggressive in the second half.

"Defensively, we got hammered on the boards. We just can't give up 12 offensive rebounds.

"Our girls came back to take the lead late in the game but we just couldn't hang on. Late game situations were a problem and it is something we will need to correct.

"We have to put this one behind us."

Leading scorer for Norton was Hayli Bozarth with 12 points on 6 of 7 from the field for 86 percent. Laura Lee Baird hit 3 of 8 from long range for 38 percent. She was unable to score from short range and hit 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent and 11 points. KaraJo Jones hit 4 of 6 shots for 67 percent and 8 points.

Kaylee Billinger led Goodland with 11 points and Lindsay Shields added 10.

Norton was also outrebounded by Goodland. The Lady Jays pulled down 2 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 20 total. The Cowgirls grabbed 12 offen-

sive and 16 defensive caroms for 28 total.

Baird was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Bozarth, 5; Jones, 3; Maggie Nielsen, 2; Katharine Roy, Courtney Cox, Ashley Colip, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 7 steals and the Cowgirls totaled 11 thefts. Baird led Norton in steals with 3, followed by Megan Kats, 2; Roy, Colip, 1 each.

Nielsen led Norton in assists with 3, followed by Roy, Rossi, Baird, 2 each; Jones, 1. Goodland had 8 assists.

The Lady Jays had 19 turnovers compared to 12 for the Cowgirls.

The loss dropped Norton into the third place game on Saturday versus Ottawa, who lost 51-27 to Colby in the other championship semi-final game on Friday.

## BOX SCORE

### Norton girls 44

Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 0 3 2-3 11; Maggie Nielsen 1 0 2-3 4; Megan Kats 2 0 2-2 6; KaraJo Jones 4 0 0-0 8; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 0-0 12; Total 13 4 6-8 44

### Goodland girls 46

Stephanie Sheldon 0 0 0-1 0; Kaylee Billinger 1 2 3-4 11; Nicolette Clancy 1 0 3-6 5; Saimie Raymer 3 0 1-7 7; Emily Murray 3 0 1-3 7; Lindsay Shields 2 2 0-0 10; Whitney Archer 3 0 0-2 6. Total 13 4 8-23 46

# All Lady 'Jays see action in tournament win

Coach Kevin Jilka gave all 10 of his Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball players plenty of playing time in their season opener against Sharon Springs in the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland on Thursday and all played a part in the 55-46 victory.

Every single player scored at least one point, nine grabbed at least one rebound, seven stole the ball at least once and six had at least one assist.

Sharon Springs came out hitting every shot they took, which led to a 23-16 lead after one quarter. But, the Lady Jays gave a preview of things to come when they hit three first quarter baskets from beyond the arc. Megan Kats buried two long range shots and Laura Lee Baird hit one as well.

In the second quarter, Norton hit four baskets and all were treys. Scoring from long range were Taylor Rossi twice and Ashley Colip and Haley Jones once each. Sharon Springs also hit four baskets in the second period but only one was a three and Norton outscored them 13-10 to cut the Sharon Springs halftime advantage to 33-29.

The Lady Jay defense was out-

standing in the third quarter and the Lady Wildcats failed to score. Meanwhile, Norton tallied 15 points as Rossi hit her third shot from beyond the arc and Baird buried her second. Baird also hit a two point shot and three free throws in the period as the Lady Jays took a 44-33 lead.

Norton did not hit a field goal in the fourth quarter but the Lady Jays paraded to the free throw line. Norton connected on 11 of 16 charities in the period. Sharon Springs got back on the scoreboard with 13 points but it was too little, too late and Norton earned a 55-46 victory.

"We didn't match up very well on defense in the first half," said coach Jilka. "They had too many open shots in the first quarter since we didn't contest them.

"Our defense was much better in the second half and we rebounded better.

"It was a great effort by all our girls. We played everyone and all contributed in one way or the other."

Leading scorer for Norton was Baird with 15 points on 2 of 6 from three-point range for 33 percent, 1 of 6 two-point tries for 17 percent and 3 of 12 overall for 25 percent.

She was 7 of 8 from the free throw line for 88 percent accuracy. Rossi added 11 points on the strength of 3 of 8 from beyond the arc for 38 percent and 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent.

Nikki Welsh tallied 14 points for Sharon Springs and Natalie Elder added 13.

The Norton ladies put on a three-point show for the crowd as they were twice as accurate from beyond the arc as from two-point range.

They swished 9 of 20 treys for 45 percent accuracy compared to 6 of 26 two-point attempts for 21 percent. Overall, Norton hit 15 of 48 shots for 31 percent.

Sharon Springs scored on 4 of 13 long range shots for 31 percent, 14 of 35 two-point tries for 40 percent and 18 of 48 overall for 38 percent.

Norton hit 16 of 26 free throws for 62 percent and Sharon Springs connected on 6 of 13 charities for 46 percent.

The Lady Jays edged the Lady Wildcats in rebounds 33-32. Norton had 11 offensive and 22 defensive caroms and Sharon Springs pulled down 9 offensive and 23 defensive boards.

Hayli Bozarth led Norton in re-

bounds with 6, followed by Baird, Courtney Cox, 5 each; Kats, KaraJo Jones, 4 each; Katharine Roy, Maggie Nielsen, 3 each; Rossi, 2; Ashley Colip, 1.

The Lady Jays had 13 steals and the Lady Wildcats had just 7. Baird and Kats each had 3 steals, followed by Colip, Jones, 2 each; Rossi, Cox, Bozarth, 1 each.

Both teams had 9 assists. Kats led Norton with 3, followed by Jones, 2; Roy, Colip, Cox, Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Sharon Springs had 22.

## BOX SCORE

### Norton girls 55

Katharine Roy 0 0 1-2 1; Taylor Rossi 0 3 2-4 11; Laura Lee Baird 1 2 7-8 15; Ashley Colip 0 1 1-2 4; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; Haley Jones 0 1 0-0 3; Maggie Nielsen 0 0 4-6 4; Megan Kats 0 2 0-0 6; KaraJo Jones 2 0 1-4 5; Hayli Bozarth 2 0 0-0 4; Total 6 9 16-26 55

### Sharon Springs girls 46

Bracey Fischer 3 0 1-2 7; Natalie Elder 6 0 1-2 13; Abby Mote 1 0 0-0 2; Nikki Welsh 3 3 1-4 16; Lauren Elder 0 0 1-2 1; Kenzi Knobbe 0 1 2-2 5; Cricket Short 1 0 0-0 2; Total 14 4 6-12 46

**Queen Anne**

4'x8' - 1" Slate  
21" tall, 8" wide  
Solid oak rails,  
legs and custom  
stain finishes  
complete this fine  
piece of furniture

**Elite Series**

54" 3 in 1 Game Table  
Bumper Pool, Poker & Dinette Table

**"Twelve Days of Christmas Sale"**

Going on Now!  
**Progressive Sale**

With 13% today and discounts grow 1% each day through Christmas Eve.  
Sale good on all Christmas items  
Christmas Brunch Buffet  
Sunday, Dec. 17 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Open Sundays**

(785) 475-2340  
Next to the LandMark Inn, Downtown Oberlin

**Air Hockey**

**Eliminator**

**Dartboard Cabinet**

**Poker Sets & Accessories**

**Dome Hockey**

- Commercial Style
- All Aluminum Construction
- Heavy Laminate Surface
- Warranty

**TRI-STATE SPAS**

SALES & SERVICE \* ACCESSORIES \* CHEMICALS

345-6717 McCook / 534-2056 North Platte

Financing Available WAC

**Your Purchase Could be FREE! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS!**

**Games - Games and More Games At TRI-STATE SPAS**

**Queen Anne**

4'x8' - 1" Slate  
21" tall, 8" wide  
Solid oak rails,  
legs and custom  
stain finishes  
complete this fine  
piece of furniture

**Elite Series**

54" 3 in 1 Game Table  
Bumper Pool, Poker & Dinette Table

**"Twelve Days of Christmas Sale"**

Going on Now!  
**Progressive Sale**

With 13% today and discounts grow 1% each day through Christmas Eve.  
Sale good on all Christmas items  
Christmas Brunch Buffet  
Sunday, Dec. 17 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Open Sundays**

(785) 475-2340  
Next to the LandMark Inn, Downtown Oberlin

**Air Hockey**

**Eliminator**

**Dartboard Cabinet**

**Poker Sets & Accessories**

**Dome Hockey**

- Commercial Style
- All Aluminum Construction
- Heavy Laminate Surface
- Warranty

**TRI-STATE SPAS**

SALES & SERVICE \* ACCESSORIES \* CHEMICALS

345-6717 McCook / 534-2056 North Platte

Financing Available WAC

**Your Purchase Could be FREE! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS!**