

Lady Jays trip up Smith Center for 3rd place

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's No. 5 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team did not shoot well for the second straight game but the Lady Jays' aggressive defense held the No. 2 seeded Smith Center quintet to an even lower shooting percentage as the Lady Jays defeated the Lady Redmen 34-22 on Saturday in Hays to earn third place in the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

Norton hit only 24 percent from the field in the game but Smith Center connected on just 11 percent. The Lady Redmen hit just four field goals in the contest. Smith Center held a slim 7-5 lead after the first quarter but Norton outscored the Lady Redmen 13-5 in the second stanza to take an 18-12 lead at halftime. A 6-4 third quarter in Norton's favor which saw Smith Center hit no field goals made it a 24-16 game. Both teams hit just one field goal in the fourth quarter but Norton outscored Smith Center 10-6 to extend the final margin of victory to 12 points.

"It wasn't very pretty but it was a win," said coach Jilka. "The first half, we didn't rebound very well and put them on the free throw line a lot. But, overall we played good defense.

"The second half, we rebounded better and our delay game was good at the end. We also hit our free throws in the fourth quarter. "We're happy to win third place

in the tournament but we will need to play better."

Leading scorer for Norton was Laura Lee Baird with 12 points. She hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 3 of 8 two-point tries for 38 percent and 4 of 12 overall for 33 percent from the field and was 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent accuracy.

Smith Center's leading scorer was Rebekah Burgess with 8. She was followed by Morgan Lorenzen with 7.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 17 from beyond the arc for 18 percent, 7 of 25 from two-point range for 28 percent and 10 of 42 overall for 24 percent.

Smith Center connected on just 1 of 9 treys, 3 of 27 two-point attempts and 4 of 36 overall for 11 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 11 of 22 for 50 percent and Smith Center connected on 13 of 28 for 46 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled down 9 offensive and 9 defensive rebounds for 18 total. The Lady Redmen grabbed 12 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 33 total.

Jones was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Bozarth, 5; Rossi, Baird, 2 each; Cox, Nielsen, 1 each.

Norton had just 4 steals in the game and Smith Center had 9 thefts. Bozarth had 2 steals and Jones and Kats had 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 8 assists. Rossi and Jones had 3 each and

Katharine Roy and Kats had 1 each.

Norton suffered just 13 turnovers in the game while the aggressive Lady Jay defense caused Smith Center to turn the ball over 21 times.

Osborne was scheduled to play Ellis for the championship on Saturday evening but the game was postponed until Monday due to the inclement weather.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will host Goodland today. A C-team girls game with two 8 minute quarters will be played in the Stull Gymnasium, beginning at 4:15 p.m., and will be followed by the junior varsity girls, varsity girls and varsity boys games.

The junior varsity boys game will be played in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on east campus at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 34

Katharine Roy 100-02; Taylor Rossi 013-46; Laura Lee Baird 313-412; Ashley Colip 010-03; Maggie Nielsen 100-02; Megan Kats 001-21; KaraJo Jones 102-64; Hayli Bozarth 102-64; Total 7311-2234.

Smith Center Girls 22

Taylor Arnold 000-40; Sarah Tucker 100-22; Dannie Boucher 012-45; Morgan Lorenzen 007-107; Rebekah Burgess 204-88; Total 3113-2822.



Norton sophomore Laura Lee Baird drove by a Smith Center defender toward the basket during the Lady Jays' third-place win in the league tournament on Saturday in Hays. Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points. —Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay boys rattle Osborne, advance to championship

By DICK BOYD

Playing a solid game on both ends of the floor, coach Doug Reusink's No. 2 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team defeated No. 6 seeded Osborne 54-34 on Friday in Hays in the championship semi-finals of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament.

In the other semi-final contest, No. 5 seeded Smith Center handed unbeaten and No. 1 seeded Hill City their first loss by a 46-36 score. Norton and Smith Center were scheduled to play for the championship on Saturday evening but the game was postponed due to inclement weather until Monday evening in Hays.

Norton took charge early in the win over Osborne. The Blue Jays held a 17-4 lead after one quarter and outscored the Bulldogs 11-7 in the second quarter to lead 28-11 at halftime.

The Blue Jays scored 13 more points in the third period and Osborne added 11 to their total to make it a 41-22 game with one

quarter remaining. A 13-12 fourth period in Norton's favor extended the final margin of victory to 20 points.

"We came out and played well early in all phases of the game," said coach Reusink. "We rebounded well and did a good job of executing our offense. In the second half, it was hard to maintain our intensity but we still did a good job. We've got nine players now that we can rotate so that depth helps us."

Eight different players scored for Norton. Wes Georgeson led with 14 points. He hit a net-smoking 6 of 8 for 75 percent accuracy and was a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe. Jared Engelbert added 11 points as he scorched the nets from long range. He hit 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent and was 1 of 1 from two-point range for 67 percent shooting overall.

Blake Wolf was the third Blue Jay in double figures with 10 points. He also brought his shooting eye to the game. Wolf hit 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and

2 of 4 from the line for 50 percent.

Osborne had no players in double figures. Leading scorer for the Bulldogs was Andrew Conway with 7 points. Eric Mans and Landon Wolters each tallied 6.

Norton had an excellent shooting game. The Blue Jays hit 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 16 of 31 two-point shots for 52 percent and 19 of 36 overall for 53 percent. The Blue Jay defense was also very stingy, allowing the Bulldogs to hit just 3 of 12 long range shots for 25 percent, 11 of 30 two-point attempts for 37 percent and 14 of 42 overall for 33 percent.

Both teams shot well from the free throw line but the Blue Jays had more charities. Norton hit 13 of 18 for 72 percent and Osborne was perfect with 5 of 5 from the line.

Norton had 5 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds for 27 total. Osborne had 7 offensive and 14 defensive for 21 total boards. Eight different Norton players grabbed at least one rebound. The leader was Wolf with 8, followed by Logan Kats, 5; Nic Lewis, 4;

Georgeson, 3; Preston Herman, 3; Jared Cox, 2; Engelbert, 1; Logan Keiswetter, 1.

The Jays had 9 steals. Engelbert led with 4, followed by Brian Juenemann, 2; Wolf, Cox, Georgeson, 1 each. Norton was credited with 8 assists. Kats and Juenemann had 2 each, followed by Engelbert, Wolf, Cox, Georgeson, 1 each. Lewis and Kats each blocked 1 shot. Cox had 1 charge drawn. Both teams had 10 turnovers.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 54

Jared Engelbert 130-011; Logan Keiswetter 101-23; Logan Kats 204-48; Landon Hamel 001-21; Blake Wolf 402-410; Jared Cox 001-21; Wes Georgeson 602-214; Nic Lewis 202-26; Total 16313-1854.

Osborne Boys 34

Eric Mans 111-16; Andrew Conway 210-07; Landon Wolters 202-26; Nathan Mick 100-02; Ryan Sturgeon 100-02; John Eickenberg 012-25; Devin Spears 200-04; Josh Worley 100-02; Total 1035-534.

Norton girls lose in semi-finals

By DICK BOYD

Coming off an impressive 63-51 win over No. 4 seeded Trego in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Tuesday, the No. 5 seeded Norton Community High School girls quintet met the No. 1 seeded and unbeaten Osborne girls in the semi-finals in Hays on Friday night and suffered their second loss this season to the No. 2 state ranked Lady Bulldogs.

Osborne started the game hitting almost every shot they put up and Norton found a lid on their basket. The result was a 16-4 lead for the Lady Bulldogs after one quarter. The second quarter wasn't any better with Osborne outscoring Norton 13-2 to extend their advantage to 29-6 at halftime.

The Lady Jays were outscored by just 11-7 in the third quarter but still trailed 43-13. Norton outscored Osborne 10-8 in the fourth quarter but it made little difference as Osborne won 53-21.

"They shot great in the first part of the game and that didn't help the confidence of our young girls," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "We had some good shots that we didn't score on and that hurt, too."

"The second half we played better on offense but it wasn't good enough. They have a great team with great shooters.

"We'll have to get mentally

ready to bounce back against Smith Center in the third place game on Saturday."

Norton's leading scorer was Laura Lee Baird with 12 points on 4 of 15 from two-point range for 27 percent. She missed all three shots from long range and ended with 4 of 18 overall for 22 percent. Baird was 80 percent from the free throw line, hitting 4 of 5.

Only four players scored for Norton. Hayli Bozarth was second high scorer with 5 points on 2 of 4 from the field and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Jannica Schultze outscored the entire Norton team as she connected for 28 points for Osborne.

As a team, Norton missed all 9 three-point tries, hit 8 of 27 two-point attempts for 30 percent and was 8 of 36 overall for a cold 22 percent.

Osborne connected on 4 of 10 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 18 of 41 two-point tries for 44 percent and 22 of 51 overall for 43 percent. From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 7 for 71 percent and Osborne swished 5 of 6 for 83 percent.

The Lady Jays had 8 offensive and 19 defensive rebounds for 27 total but allowed the Lady Bulldogs 8 offensive and 28 defensive boards for 36 total.

Bozarth and Baird led Norton in rebounds with 7 each, followed by Maggie Nielsen, KaraJo Jones, 3

each; Taylor Rossi, Courtney Cox, Megan Kats, 2 each; Ashley Colip, 1.

Norton had 8 steals in the game and Osborne had 11. Rossi, Baird, Kats and Bozarth each had 2 thefts.

The Lady Jays had just 5 assists and the Lady Bulldogs had 8. Rossi led with 3, followed by Colip and Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton suffered 21 turnovers and Osborne lost the ball just 12 times.

In the other championship semi-final tournament game on Friday, No. 6 seed Ellis defeated No. 2 seed Smith Center 66-41.

Norton and Smith Center played for third place on Saturday and the Lady Jays won 34-22.

Osborne and Ellis were scheduled to play for the championship on Saturday night in Hays but the game was postponed until Monday due to inclement weather conditions.


BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 21

Taylor Rossi 100-02; Laura Lee Baird 404-512; KaraJo Jones 100-02; Hayli Bozarth 201-25; Total 805-721.

Osborne Girls 53

Demi French 103-45; Tracey Mans 300-06; Jannica Schultze 840-028; Paige Noel 300-06; Stephanie Plowman 100-02; Jeni Wolters 002-22; Amberleigh Plowman 100-02; Tana Spears 100-02; Total 1845-653.




Mick Cox

Performance-Tested/Carcass-Evaluated

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High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



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WRESTLING:

Norton in Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament in Hill City ... 10 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-Team Girls vs. Goodland in Norton 4:15 p.m., Today
 Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Oberlin in Norton 5 p.m., Thursday
 Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-Team vs. Smith Center (there) 4 p.m., Tuesday
 Northern Valley vs. Lucas-Luray, in Luray 4:30 p.m., Today
 Northern Valley vs. Kensington (there) 4:30 p.m., Friday
 Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb. (there) 4 p.m., Tuesday
 Logan vs. Mankato in Logan 4:30 p.m., Today
 Logan vs. Eastern Heights in Agra 4 p.m., Friday
 Logan vs. Stockton (there) 4:30 p.m., Tuesday