

Lady Jays pull out win over Buffaloes

By DICK BOYD

The sophomore-dominated Norton Community High School girls basketball team gave their head coach Kevin Jilka a few more gray hairs, Friday before finally pulling out a 48-43 non-league win over Atwood in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The Lady Jays were fresh from a 24 point comeback on Tuesday to beat Oberlin and didn't have to rally from as far down but kept everyone in the large crowd on the edge of their seats before putting together a strong fourth quarter to record their 11th win of the season compared to only five losses.

Norton was outscored 11-7 in the first quarter which saw only a three-point basket by sophomore guard Laura Lee Baird and two-point baskets by junior guard Megan Kats and sophomore post Hayli Bozarth.

The second quarter wasn't much better as Norton edged Atwood 9-7 to trail 18-16 at half-time. Baird hit two more baskets and Bozarth hit two more along with a free throw.

Helped by two three-point baskets and five free throws by Bozarth, the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Buffaloes 15-11 in the third quarter. The other two Norton baskets were scored by sophomore post KaraJo Jones. Baird's second try was from way beyond the arc and at the buzzer after Jones intercepted an Atwood pass.

The 17-14 fourth quarter in the Lady Jays' favor was the Hayli Bozarth show for Norton as her teammates fed her inside and she muscled her way to the basket, hitting four baskets and going to the free throw line after being fouled while shooting and converting 3 of 3 charities. Norton's other fourth quarter points came on a three-point basket by sophomore guard Taylor Rossi, two charities by Baird and one by Jones.

"We find different ways to win. It was pretty ugly but it was a win," said coach Jilka. "We didn't take care of the ball. We had 19 turnovers, most of them unforced. We had a lot of bad passes.

"Somehow, we found a way to win.

"We didn't play with much energy and enthusiasm but, when it came time to turn it up a notch and play, we did. We played great in the fourth quarter.

"Atwood was a good team; we knew they would be."

The loss dropped Atwood's record to 11-8.

Baird was leading scorer again for Norton with 20 points. She hit 3 of 6 from long-range for 50 percent, 2 of 5 two-point tries for 40 percent and 5 of 11 overall for 45 percent. She was 7 of 10 from the free throw line for 70 percent.

Bozarth did a good job taking care of the inside game as she hit 18 points. Bozarth connected on a net-smoking 7 of 8 shots for 88 percent and was 4 of 7 from the free throw line for 57 percent.

As a team, the Lady Jays connected on 4 of 14 shots from be-



The Atwood girls defense kept the inside clogged up during Norton's 48-43 win over the visiting Lady Buffaloes Friday night, but the Lady Jays' sophomore post Hayli Bozarth still muscled her way to the basket to score on 7 of 8 tries for a net-smoking 88 percent accuracy.

yond the arc for 29 percent, 12 of 25 two-point tries for 48 percent and 16 of 39 overall for 41 percent.

The Lady Buffaloes hit 15 of 29 two-point attempts for 52 percent but missed both they tries and were 15 of 31 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays found the range on 12 of 23 for 52 percent and the Lady Buffaloes hit 13 of 22 charities for 59 percent.

Norton pulled down 6 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 16 total.

The Lady Buffaloes grabbed 8 offensive and 13 defensive boards for 21 total.

Jones and Bozarth led Norton in rebounding with 4 each, followed by Katharine Roy, Baird, Kats, 2 each; Rossi, Courtney Cox, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 9 steals compared to just 1 theft by Atwood. Baird, Maggie Nielsen, Jones and Bozarth each had 2 steals and Cox had 1.

Norton had 11 offensive assists. Rossi led with 4, followed by Jones, 3; Kats, 2; Baird, Bozarth, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 19 turnovers and the Lady Buffaloes gave up the ball 14 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Atwood 33-17.

Norton held quarter leads of 7-6, 18-10 and 24-11.

Leading scorer for the young Lady Jays was Ashlie Stewart with 13 points, followed by Lacy Keilig, Alyssa Thomson, 4 each; Shelby Jones, Amanda Delimont, 3 each; Austine Dole, Kaitlyn Wolf, Amanda Ray, 2 each.

Melissa Rall led Atwood with 5.

"If this was a beauty pageant, we would have come in last," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"It wasn't a very pretty win but a win none the less.

"We got a good lead going into halftime and played well enough to keep it. We were getting worn down but our girls off the bench did a good job."

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity girls and boys will play at Hoxie today, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 48

Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-2 3; Laura Lee Baird 237-1020; Megan Kats 1 0 0-0 2; KaraJo Jones 2 0 1-4 5; Hayli Bozarth 7 0 4-7 18; Total 12 4 12-23 48.

Atwood Girls 43

Sidney Carlson 1 0 0-0 2; Megan Cahoj 2 0 4-8; Katelyn Clark 1 0 0-0 2; Emily Wahrman 4 0 5-6 13; Macy Migchelbrink 1 0 2-4 4; Laura Wolters 2 0 2-4 6; Sara Miller 4 0 0-4 8; Total 15 0 13-22 43.

Norton's seven state-ranked wrestlers are: Connor Pfannenstiel, No.5, 103; Kaenon Keiswetter, No.3, 112; Zach Bainter, No.4, 125; Nathan Broeckelman, No.1, 130; Kent Mann, No.3, 135; Blake VanEaton, No.2, 152 and Alex Thomas, No.4, 285.

Other state-ranked wrestlers expected are: Carlos Galloway, Stockton, No.1, 103; Jace Campbell, Oakley, No.5; Zach Cemen, Phillipsburg, No.6, 112; Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood, No.1; Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, No.3, 125; Jeremy Chase, Hill City, No.5; Gavin Smull, St. Francis, No.6, 130; Gage Reichert, Oberlin, No.6, 140; Nick Kough, Scott City, No.2; Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, No.3, 145; Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, No.1; Nathan Palmer, Stockton, No.5; Lakin Dreiling,



Norton senior defenders Brian Juenemann (#20) and Jared Engelbert surrounded Atwood's Marcus Cahoj during the Blue Jays' hard-fought overtime loss to the visiting Buffaloes Friday night.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Jay boys fall in overtime

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team trailed a visiting Atwood quintet for three quarters, rallied in the fourth quarter to tie the game, then lost it 64-59 in overtime in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton on Friday night.

The net-smoking three-point baskets by Atwood kept the Buffaloes ahead most of the game and also made the difference in overtime. The visitors hit 7 shots from beyond the arc in regulation and 3 more in the extra period. The Buffaloes were 10 of 15 from three-point range for 67 percent accuracy!

Norton trailed 19-9 after Atwood connected on 5 shots from beyond the arc in the first quarter. The Blue Jays' points came on two baskets by junior point guard Logan Kats, baskets by senior forward Nic Lewis and junior forward Preston Herman and a free throw by junior guard Jared Cox.

Both teams hit just two baskets in the defensive second quarter but Norton hit more free throws to outscore the visitors 11-6 and cut Atwood's lead to 25-20 by halftime. Norton's points came on a three-point basket by senior guard Jared Engelbert, a two-point basket by senior post Blake Wolf, two free throws by Lewis and Herman and one free throw apiece by Kats and senior guard Brian Juenemann.

The two teams played on even terms in the third quarter but Norton was outscored 14-12 to extend the Atwood lead to 39-32. Most of the Blue Jays' third quarter points came on three baskets and two free throws by Kats. Wolf and Lewis each added a basket.

Norton came on strong in the fourth quarter, outscoring Atwood 16-9 to tie the game at 48-all and send it into overtime. The Blue Jays trailed 45-36 with 5:05 left in regulation but Norton outscored Atwood 12-3 the rest of the way. Herman hit two free throws, Lewis hit a basket after a rebound, Kats fed Lewis for another basket, Lewis hit two free throws, Kats

buried his second three-point shot of the quarter and Lewis hit a free throw to tie the score.

Atwood's three baskets from long range fueled a 16-point overtime period and gave them a five-point 64-59 victory. Norton's extra period points came on Engelbert's second trey of the game, a basket and two free throws by Lewis and baskets by Herman and freshman guard Landon Hamel.

"We put ourselves in a position we never should have been in," said coach Reusink.

"We were playing our first game without Wes Georgeson and that created some adversity for us. We had to have some boys step up but that didn't happen. We were not very tough mentally early. We didn't respond that well in the first half but we were down by just five points

"We did not take care of business until the fourth quarter. We had our backs against the wall and were in foul trouble but did a nice job of fighting our way back and getting in the game. We had a chance at the end to win but they made some tough three point shots that we defended well. They just made the plays in overtime that they needed to win."

With the loss, Norton's record dropped to 11-5 and Atwood's record improved to 9-10.

Kats was Norton's leading scorer with 19 points. He hit 2 of 5 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 5 of 14 two-point tries for 36 percent and 7 of 19 overall for 37 percent. He was 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

Lewis scored 17 points on 5 of 11 from the field for 45 percent and 7 of 8 from the free throw line for a red hot 88 percent.

Elijah Kastens, who hit six three-point baskets, ended the game with 24 points for Atwood. The Buffaloes' Drew Basgall hit three treys and finished with 20 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 4 of 12 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 15 of 41 two-point tries for 37 percent and 19 of 53 over-

all for 36 percent.

Atwood swished 10 of 15 long-range shots for 67 percent, 13 of 30 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 23 of 45 overall for 51 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 17 of 30 for 57 percent and Atwood was 8 of 16 for 50 percent.

Norton grabbed 4 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 24 total. Atwood pulled down 4 offensive and 22 defensive boards for 26 total.

Engelbert led the Blue Jays in rebounds with 8, followed by Lewis, Herman, 4 each; Cox, 3; Kats, Wolf, 2 each; Juenemann, 1.

Norton had just 3 steals in the game. Engelbert, Kats and Juenemann had 1 each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 15 offensive assists.

Engelbert, Kats, Juenemann had 4 each, followed by Cox, Lewis, Herman, 1 each.

Zac Dreher blocked 1 shot and Kats had 1 charge drawn. Norton had just 8 turnovers but Atwood gave up the ball just 5 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys defeated Atwood 43-22.

The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 7-6, 21-10 and 31-17.

Leading scorer for Norton was Preston Herman with 12 points, followed by Ashton Draper, 7; Landon Hamel, J.D. Gall, Zac Dreher, 6 each; Zach Dole, 4; Jared Cox, 2.

Blake Studer led Atwood with 5.

The Norton varsity and junior varsity boys and girls will play at Hoxie today, beginning at 6:30.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 59

Jared Engelbert 0 20-26; Logan Kats 5 2 3-4 19; Landon Hamel 1 0 0-0 2; Brian Juenemann 0 0 1-4 1; Blake Wolf 2 0 1-4 5; Jared Cox 0 0 1-2 1; Nic Lewis 5 0 7-8 17; Preston Herman 2 0 4-6 8; Total 15 4 17-30 59.

Atwood Boys 64

Wesley Martin 3 0 0-0 6; Drew Basgall 4 3 3-7 20; Marcus Cahoj 2 0 3-3 7; Jason Argabright 0 0 2-2 2; Eric Holub 1 1 0-3 5; Elijah Kastens 3 6 0-1 24; Total 13 10 8-16 64.

Norton to host Regional 3-2-1A wrestling tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's No.1 state-ranked Norton Community High School wrestling team will compete in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament which will be held on Friday and Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

With five of the top 10 ranked Class 3-2-1A teams in the state of Kansas competing, it should be the toughest regional tournament in the state.

In addition to Norton, ranked teams competing will be Phillipsburg, No.4; St. Francis, No.6; Oberlin, No.9; Oakley, No.10. Other teams in the tournament will be from Eastern Heights, Atwood, Cheylin, Cimarron, Deerfield, Wheatland, Hill City, Holcomb, Hoxie, Lakin, Leoti, Montezuma-South Gray, Quinter, Scott City, Stockton, Sublette and

Trego Community.

Out of 84 state-ranked wrestlers, 28 are on teams which will compete in this tournament.

The three-time defending state champion Blue Jays have had a great season so far. They have compiled an impressive 17-1 dual record, having lost only to an outstanding Garden City team by a 35-24 score. They won the Mid-Continent League with a perfect 8-0 dual record.

The Blue Jay wrestlers also were champions of the Hoxie Invitational, J.R. Durham Invitational, Mid-Continent League Tournament and Panther Classic. No team scores were kept in the Emporia Dual Tournament where Norton went a perfect 5-0.

Norton was also second in the Clay Center Invitational and second in the Goodland Holiday Classic dual tournament.

Scott City, No.6, 152; Kelly Younkin, Oakley, No.3; Ryan Swatzell, Phillipsburg, No.4, 160; Russell Rogers, St. Francis, No.3, 171; Terry Urban, Oberlin, No.2, 189; Aaron Racette, Oakley, No.1, 215; Brennan Wilger, St. Francis, No.2; Brock Euhus, Oberlin, No.5; Shelby Wright, Atwood, No.6, 285.

Coach's comments
"We expect this to be the toughest regional tournament in the state," said coach Johnson. "If you qualify for the state tournament from this regional, you have a very good chance of placing in the state tournament. Every year, some wrestlers who deserve to be in the state tournament don't make it and some of those are previous state medalists.

"Scott City has dropped down from Class 4A and they always do exceptionally well in the state

tournament. They will provide some excellent competition for this tournament.

"The state looks at the regional and state tournaments as all one tournament. We're not concerned about team points in the regional. We are more concerned with how many of our wrestlers qualify since they can't contribute to team points in the state if they aren't there.

"The thing that we feel helps our wrestlers is that we have wrestled against a lot of good wrestlers from Garden City to Emporia and from Goodland to Chanute."

Coach Johnson downplayed any home mat advantage for his wrestlers. "The hometown crowd will help us and sleeping in their home bed instead of a motel will be good for our wrestlers; however, if a wrestler's family has a lot of visiting relatives, that could be

a distraction."

Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight. Those top four wrestlers in each weight will qualify for the state tournament next weekend in Hays.

Norton wrestlers

103 — freshman Connor Pfannenstiel, 21-10; 112 — freshman Kaenon Keiswetter 28-5; 119 — freshman Zane Perez 25-8; 125 — sophomore Zach Bainter, 24-9; 130 — senior Nathan Broeckelman, 33-0; 135 — senior Kent Mann, 31-1; 140 — junior Aaron Husted, 20-9; 145 — junior Jeff Soderlund, 26-9; 152 — senior Blake VanEaton, 24-6; 160 — junior Todd Bolt, 17-10; 171 — senior Jordan Durham, 18-8; 189 — senior Jared Bebb, 6-4; 215 — senior Shane Stanley, 18-8; 285 — junior Alex Thomas, 30-0.