

Blue Jays roll over Ellis 70-45

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team defeated Ellis 70-45 in Mid-Continent League action Thursday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

The Blue Jays kept the Railroaders on the defensive as they shot lights out from three-point range. Norton hit 6 of 12 baskets from beyond the arc for 50 percent accuracy and swished 18 of 34 two-point baskets for 53 percent shooting. Meanwhile, the Blue Jay defense limited the Railroaders to 37 percent shooting, which included 0 for 8 from beyond the arc.

"Defensively, we didn't play too well in the first half but we played a lot better defense in the second half," said coach Reusink.

"We did pretty well on offense. Jared Engelbert was hitting the three's, Logan was penetrating and we got the ball inside, too.

"It was nice to get so many young men involved in the game."

Norton outscored Ellis 19-9 in the first quarter as senior guard Jared Engelbert buried two three-point baskets, hit a two-pointer and added three free throws. Norton's other points came on four baskets by junior point guard Logan Kats.

The Jays got their inside game going in the second quarter when senior forward Nic Lewis threw in two baskets and four free throws. Kats hit his first three-pointer of the game and junior guard Jared Cox hit a two-point basket. The Blue Jays held a 32-27 halftime lead.

After a 13-9 third quarter in Norton's favor, the Jays led 45-36. Five different players tallied for Norton in the third period. Engelbert swished two more long range bombs, senior post Blake Wolf and sophomore post Zac Dreher each hit baskets, junior forward Preston Herman hit two charities and Cox connected on a free toss.

The Blue Jays' strongest offensive quarter was the fourth as they outscored the visitors 25-9 to win by 25 points. Lewis and Herman had things their own way inside as Lewis hit four baskets and a free throw and Herman sank three baskets and a charity. Engelbert added another three-pointer to the mix, Cox hit another two-point basket and Wolf connected on four more shots from the free line.

Engelbert led Norton in scoring with 5 of 10 from beyond the arc for a net-smoking 50 percent accuracy, was 1 of 2 from two-point land for 50 percent and 6 of 12 overall for 50 percent. He hit a perfect 3 of 3 free throws and finished with 20 points.

Lewis scored 17 points on 6 of 9 from the field for a red hot 67 percent and 5 of 7 charities for 71



In just a split second, the time it took to snap this photo, it looked like an Ellis player was trying to remove Blue Jay Jared Cox's neck from the rest of his body. But that wasn't the case. Cox was trying to drive inside during the Jays' 70-45 win here last Thursday night and ran into some resistance. Cox, however, was able to penetrate the Railroader defense for two baskets, and was fouled and added a free throw.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

percent.

Leading scorers for Ellis were Andrew Casey and Monte Honas with 9 points each. Adam Augustine and Brett Mickelson each added 8.

Norton hit 16 of 23 free throws for 70 percent and Ellis swished 9 of 15 for 60 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Railroaders 25-19. Norton had 12 offensive and 13 defensive caroms and Ellis grabbed 8 offensive and 11 defensive boards.

Wolf was the rebounding leader for Norton with 8, followed by Lewis, 5; Engelbert, Herman, 4 each; Kats, Brian Juenemann, Cox, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had a season-high 6 blocked shots. Lewis led the way with 3 rejects, followed by Wolf, 2; Kats, 1.

The Blue Jays had 7 steals. Kats led with 3, followed by Wolf, 2; Juenemann, Engelbert, 1 each.

Norton had an excellent 17 offensive assists. Juenemann led with 6, followed by Kats, 5; Wolf, 3; Engelbert, 2; Lewis, 1.

The Blue Jays had just 8 turnovers compared to 11 by Ellis.

Junior varsity

Norton lost a hard-fought 32-31 game to Ellis in junior varsity play.

The young Blue Jays led 9-7 after one quarter but fell behind 18-13 by halftime. Ellis led 28-22 after three quarters. Norton

outscored Ellis 9-4 in the final stanza and a Blue Jay shot which would have won the game missed at the buzzer.

Zac Dreher led Norton in scoring with 9 points, followed by Zach Dole, 7; Jared Cox, 5; Ashton Draper, 4; Marcus Herman, D.J. Ebner, Preston Herman, 2 each.

Kyle Hadley led Ellis in scoring with 13.

Next action

Norton will play final regular season games today in Colby. The girls C-team game will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Building and will be followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games. The junior varsity boys game will start at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by the junior varsity girls. Both of these games will be in the high school gym.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 70
Jared Engelbert 1 5 3-3 20; Logan Kats 4 1 0-0 11; Blake Wolf 1 0 4-7 6; Jared Cox 2 0 1-2 5; Nic Lewis 6 0 5-7 17; Zac Dreher 1 0 0-2 2; Preston Herman 3 0 3-4 9; Total 18 6 16-23 70.

Ellis Boys 45

Andrew Casey 3 0 3-4 9; Adam Augustine 4 0 0-0 8; Daniel Gottschalk 2 0 0-0 4; Ryan Bittel 1 0 0-0 2; Kyle Hadley 0 0 2-4 2; Monte Honas 3 0 3-5 9; Brett Mickelson 4 0 0-0 8; Matt Erbert 1 0 1-2 3; Total 18 0 9-15 45

Lady Jays jolt Railroaders

By DICK BOYD

An outstanding Ellis girls basketball team came to town Thursday but coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School Lady Jays were ready for them and handed them a 65-55 defeat in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

With the win, Norton extended their season record to 12-5 and Mid-Continent League record to 5-2. Ellis dropped to 12-6 overall and 4-4 in the league.

"Nobody on this team cares who scores," said coach Jilka. "Whatever they can contribute, they will. Our bench also played great for us.

"Our players did a great job of getting the ball inside and Laura Lee was hitting from the perimeter. They tried a box and one defense on Laura Lee but had to get out of it because our other girls were scoring, too.

"We were in foul trouble in the fourth quarter so went into a zone defense and it worked great for us. We also made our free throws down the stretch.

"This was a huge win for us. We have a lot to play for and this was a step in the right direction."

Norton led 12-11 after the first quarter which saw sophomore guard Laura Lee Baird, sophomore posts KaraJo Jones and Hayli Bozarth each hit two baskets.

After an outstanding 22-13 second quarter, Norton led 34-24 at intermission. Baird and Bozarth each hit three more baskets and a free throw, sophomore guard Ashley Colip and junior guard Megan Kats each buried three point shots and junior post Courtney Cox hit a two-point basket.

The teams played on even terms in the third quarter when Ellis edged Norton 11-10 to cut the Lady Jay lead to 44-35. Baird hit a basket and five free shots and Jones hit a basket and one charity.

Norton edged Ellis 21-20 in the high scoring fourth quarter to earn the 10 point victory. Senior post Maggie Nielsen contributed to the final scoring as she hit two baskets. Kats hit two more baskets and the rest of Norton's points came at the line. Jones buried 8 of 9 free throws, Baird connected on three free tosses and Bozarth hit two charities.

Norton had three players in double scoring figures. Baird led with 21 points on 6 of 8 from two-point land for a net-smoking 75 percent and 9 of 13 free throws for 69 percent. She missed her only free throw.

Jones tallied 15 points in the contest on 3 of 5 two-point baskets for 60 percent and 9 of 10 free throws for an excellent 90 percent.

Bozarth contributed 13 points on 5 of 7 from the field for 71 percent and 3 of 5 charities for 60 percent.

Whitney Taylor led Ellis with 22 points and Kristen Waldschmidt followed with 18.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 19 of 30 from two-point land for 63 percent and 21 of 37 for a sharp-



The Norton and Ellis girls were playing a little rough on occasion during the Lady Jays' 65-55 win here last Thursday night. This photo was taken when a Lady Railroader and Norton's Laura Lee Baird fell to the floor as they went after the ball, which got away from both of them. No. 21 for Norton is Courtney Cox.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

shooting 57 percent.

The Lady Railroaders swished 2 of 9 long range shots for 22 percent, 19 of 45 two-point tries for 42 percent and 21 of 54 overall for 39 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton connected on 21 of 28 for 75 percent compared to 11 of 19 for 58 percent by Ellis.

Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 26 total. Ellis had just 9 offensive and 7 defensive boards for 16 total.

Jones led Norton in rebounds with 7, followed by Bozarth, 5; Colip, Nielsen, 4 each; Taylor Rossi, 3; Baird, 2; Kats, 1.

Norton had 13 steals and Ellis had 12. Baird led Norton with 4 thefts, followed by Rossi, Bozarth, 3 each; Jones, 2; Nielsen, 1.

The Lady Jays had 14 assists compared to 8 for the Lady Railroaders.

Rossi and Kats led in assists with 4 each, followed by Colip, 2; Katharine Roy, Baird, Cox, Jones, 1 each.

Norton had 22 turnovers and Ellis lost the ball 14 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Ellis 55-24.

Norton held quarter leads of 17-5, 35-12 and 43-22.

Ashlie Stewart led Norton in scoring with 15 points, followed by Haley Jones, 10; Shelby Jones, 8; Courtney Cox, Lacy Keilig, 6 each; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5; Alyssa

Thomson, Amanda Ray, 2 each; Austine Dole, 1.

Alicia Lang led Ellis with 8.

"Our girls played a very aggressive game tonight," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"This was one of our better efforts. "We were able to get Ellis a bit out of sync by playing so hard. Our girls have two games left. We need to finish strong."

Next action

Norton will play final regular season games today in Colby. The girls C-team game will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Building and will be followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

The junior varsity boys game will start at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym and will be followed by the junior varsity girls.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 65
Laura Lee Baird 6 0 9-13 21; Ashley Colip 0 1 0-0 3; Courtney Cox 10 0-2; Maggie Nielsen 20 0-0 4; Megan Kats 2 1 0-0 7; KaraJo Jones 3 0 9-10 15; Hayli Bozarth 5 0 3-5 13; Total 19 2 21-28 65.

Ellis Girls 55

Whitney Taylor 9 0 4-5 22; Whitney Lang 2 0 2-2 6; Danielle Pfeifer 3 0 3-5 9; Kristen Waldschmidt 5 2 2-5 18; Laura Augustine 0 0-0 2; Total 19 2 11-19 55.

Good showing at Panther Classic for jayvees

By DICK BOYD

Fourteen Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers competed in the junior varsity division of the Panther Classic recently in Phillipsburg.

No team scores were kept but Norton had two individual champions, three runnerup wrestlers and three third place finishers.

Earning championships were Travis Ray, 140 and Jordan Bebb, 145. Placing runnerup in their weight classes were Breyer Simmons, 130-135; Tyler Cook, 152; Coady McMullen, 189. Finishing third were Michael Ward, 130-35; Austin Brown, 152; Matt Stanley, 160.

Also competing for Norton were Andrew Soderlund, 112-119; Phillip Becker, 112-119; Logan Kelly, 145; Casey Robison, 152; Allen Robinson, 171; Robert Derauf, 189.

"Overall, we didn't wrestle as well as we could," said Norton assistant coach Chance McKinney.

"At times, we didn't start wrestling hard at the start and that caused us to fall behind in some of our matches.

a few wrestlers."

Jordan Bebb was named "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

Individual results

•112-119 — Andrew Soderlund lost a 10-9 decision to J. Henrickson, Ellis; pinned T. Helberg, Hill City, in 2:05 and was pinned in 4:24 by an Ellsworth wrestler.

•112-119 — Phillip Becker was pinned in 1:00 by J. Hawks, Ellsworth and was pinned in 2:28 by S. Dunning, Stockton.

•130-135 — Breyer Simmons pinned C. Johnson, Hill City, in 3:35; pinned Z. Sanders, Hoisington, in 3:15 and lost a 14-8 decision to G. Breese, Minneapolis, to place second.

•130-135 — Michael Ward pinned L. Wilson, Ellsworth, in 38

seconds; lost a 16-11 decision to G. Breese, Minneapolis; pinned C. Johnson, Hill City, in 39 seconds and pinned a Phillipsburg wrestler to place third.

•140 — Travis Ray pinned M. Thacker, Ellsworth, in 55 seconds; won a 15-3 major decision over J. Larson, Hoisington and pinned C. Walburn, Ellsworth, in 2:29 to place first.

•145 — Logan Kelly was pinned in 2:55 by M. McCasland, Ellsworth and was pinned in 2:39 by L. Adams, St. Francis.

•145 — Jordan Bebb pinned L. Adams, St. Francis, in 2:37 and pinned M. McCasland, Ellsworth, in 1:00 to place first.

•152 — Austin Brown pinned A. Crosson, Minneapolis, in 31 seconds; was pinned in 2:39 by S.

Ford, St. Francis; pinned C. Breon, Phillipsburg, in 49 seconds and pinned a Minneapolis wrestler to place third.

•152 — Casey Robison lost a 19-2 technical fall to S. Ford, St. Francis, and lost a 12-4 major decision to A. Crosson, Minneapolis.

•152 — Tyler Cook pinned K. Moody, Minneapolis, in 1:04 and lost a 15-0 technical fall to S. Ford, St. Francis, to place second.

160 — Matt Stanley pinned S.

Burress, Ellsworth, in 59 seconds; was pinned in 4:55 by J. Mitchell, Hoisington; pinned N. Shepard, Hill City, in 36 seconds and pinned a Hill City wrestler in 2:09 to place third.

•171 — Allen Robinson was pinned in 3:05 by A. Stout, Ellsworth and was pinned in 3:37 by a Phillipsburg wrestler.

•189 — Robert Derauf pinned an Ellis wrestler in 1:34; was pinned in 1:38 by S. Sowers, St. Francis; pinned J. Bayse,

Hoisington, in 1:57 and was pinned in 2:12 by T. Hilt, St. Francis.

•189 — Coady McMullen pinned a Beloit wrestler; won a 4-1 decision over W. Poland, Ellis; pinned T. Hilt, St. Francis, in 1:51 and lost a 4-1 decision to J. Bretton, Phillipsburg, to place second.

877-3361

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton will compete in the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament, 10 a.m., Friday; 10 a.m., Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum, Hays

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, Girls C-Team vs. Colby (There) 4:30 p.m., Today
Norton Varsity Girls in Sub-State Quarter-finals 7 p.m., Monday TBA
Norton Varsity Boys in Sub-State Quarter-finals 7 p.m., Tuesday TBA
Logan Boys vs. Northern Valley Boys in Regional Opener in Logan 7 p.m., Today
Class 1A Girls Regional Semi-finals will be Thursday, Class 1A Boys Semi-finals will be Friday and Championships will be Saturday in Rexford

Booster Club to meet Wednesday

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

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson will report on his team's regional championship and preview the upcoming state tournament in Hays.

Blue Jay boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and girls coach Kevin Jilka will report on recent victories by their teams as well as give previews of the upcoming substate tournament.

All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend.