

Blue Jays beat Goodland to place third

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team defeated Goodland 35-29 to win third place in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament on Saturday evening in Goodland.

Neither team had much success hitting the basket in the first half, which ended with Norton on top 13-12 but both teams warmed up some after intermission.

The score was tied 8-all after a first quarter that saw Goodland take a 6-0 lead before Norton's Landon Hamel buried a three-point shot to tie the game as the first period came to a close. Norton's other first quarter points came on a basket and free throw by Zac Dreher and field goal by Preston Herman.

Norton outscored Goodland 5-4 in the second quarter. Herman hit another basket and free throw and Jared Cox swished a two point shot for all of Norton's points.

Norton fell behind 16-13 early in the third quarter but J.D. Gall came off the bench to hit a basket, then steal the ball and score again. Next, Terrell Lane, who did not

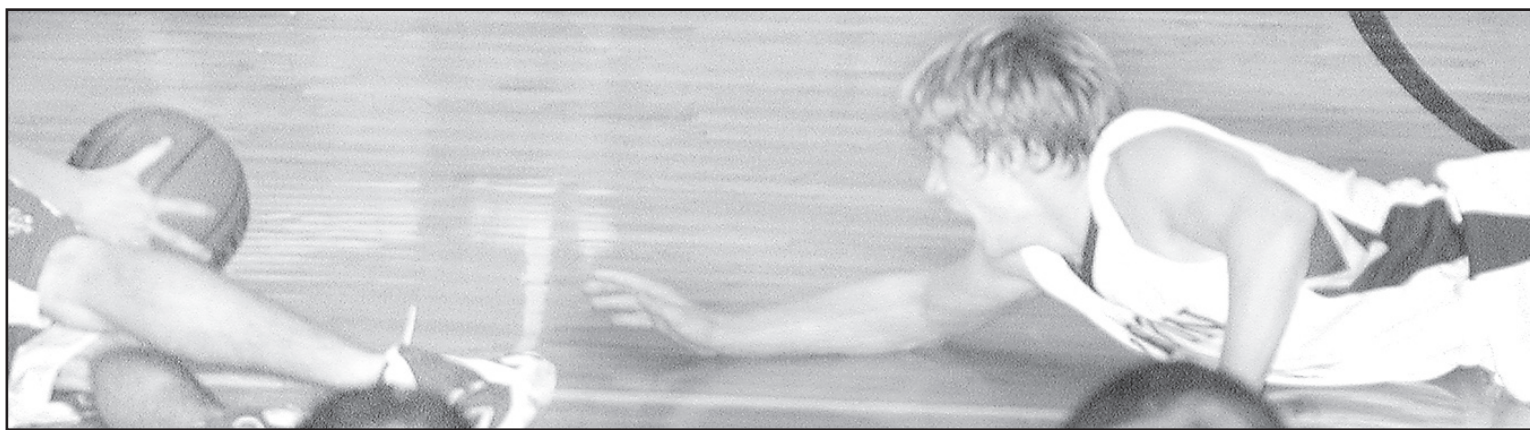
score in the first half, stole the ball and drove in for another Norton basket and suddenly the Blue Jays were on top 21-16.

Goodland hit a three point basket to cut the Norton margin to two points but Lane responded with another basket and Norton held on for a 25-20 lead after three quarters. Dreher hit the Blue Jays' other two baskets in the third stanza.

The fourth quarter proved to be a battle of free throws. Lane hit Norton's only basket while Kats drained 5 of 6 charities, Cox hit 2 of 2 from the line and Gall hit 1 of 2. Goodland's Tanner Smith hit all 9 of their points on 6 of 8 free throws and a three point basket. The game was tied at 26-all and again at 28-all before Cox hit two free throws to put Norton on top for good. With under a minute left, Gall hit a free throw and Kats hit 2 of 2 charities twice.

"We really struggled offensively at times in this game but our defense hung in and kept us in the game," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"Our bench really stepped up and helped us in this game as they



Norton senior Logan Kats dived onto the gymnasium floor in an unsuccessful effort to grab a loose ball that was retrieved by a Skyline player during the Blue Jays' season-opening 69-

52 win in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland last Thursday.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

did the whole tournament.

"I'm really proud of these guys getting third place in a very quality tournament."

Scoring for Norton was evenly distributed. Dreher led with 7 points on 3 of 5 from the field for 60 percent and 1 of 4 from the line for 25 percent.

Lane tallied 6 points on 3 of 7 from the field for 43 percent.

Kats, Gall and Herman each scored 5 points. Kats hit 5 of 6 free throws for 83 percent. Gall and Herman each hit 2 field goals

and 1 free throw.

Smith was leading scorer for Goodland with 12 points; Greg Farris added 8.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 11 of 34 two point shots for 32 percent and 12 of 39 overall for 31 percent.

Goodland swished 3 of 10 from long range for 30 percent, 5 of 27 two point tries for 19 percent and 8 of 37 overall for 22 percent.

From the free throw line, both teams connected on 10 of 18 for 56 percent.

The Blue Jays grabbed 10 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 24 total while the Cowboys pulled down 10 offensive and 20 defensive caroms for 30 total.

Herman led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Lane, 6; Wes Georgeson, Dreher, 3 each; Gall, 2; Kats, Cox, 1 each.

Norton had 10 steals and Goodland had 6 thefts. Kats led Norton with 5 while Lane, Cox, Gall, Dreher and Herman had 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 6 assists and the Cowboys recorded 4. Kats led

with 3, followed by Lane, Cox, Georgeson, 1 each.

Norton had 16 turnovers and Goodland lost the ball 19 times.

Other games, honors

Ottawa won the boys championship with a 54-51 victory over Sharon Springs. Colby placed fifth with a 50-48 win over McCook and Skyline finished in seventh place with a 68-66 victory over Weskan.

Norton won the Team Free Throw Championship. The Blue Jays hit 40 of 60 free throws during the three days of the tournament for 67 percent accuracy.

Logan Kats of Norton was named to the All-Tournament Team for the second straight year. Others on the all-star team were:

Drew Frazier, Weskan; Dustin Wright, Skyline; Cory Gaston, McCook; Levi Schlick, Colby; Tanner Smith, Goodland; Jeff Hennick, Taylor Elder, both of Sharon Springs; Jacob Sipple, Ian Mathews, both of Ottawa.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 35

Logan Kats 0 0 5-6 5; Landon Hamel 0 1 0-0 3; Terrell Lane 3 0 0-0 6; Jared Cox 1 0 2-4 4; J.D. Gall 2 0 1-2 5; Zac Dreher 3 0 1-4 7; Preston Herman 2 0 1-2 5; Total 11 1 10-18 35.

Goodland boys 29

Brandon Rome 100-02; Tanner Smith 1 1 7-12 12; Travis Angelos 1 0 0-0 2; Greg Farris 0 2 2-3 8; Josh Duke 2 0 1-3 5. Total 5 3 10-18 29.

Norton boys crush Colorado bunch 69-52

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team got the 2007-08 season off to a good start with a 69-52 win over Skyline of Longmont, Colo. on Thursday in the first round of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland.

The first quarter was evenly matched as both teams warmed up. At the conclusion, Norton outscored Skyline 20-9 in the second period to take a 36-28 half-time advantage.

The third quarter was similar to the first with neither team able to gain an advantage. Norton was outscored 9-8 to cut the Blue lead to 44-37 with the crucial fourth quarter remaining.

The Blue Jays were equal to the task and outscored the Falcons 25-15 to extend the final margin of victory to 17 points.

"I was pleased with the win," said coach Reusink. "With our

inexperience, I didn't know how we would do in our opener.

"The first half, I was disappointed with our transition defense. We weren't getting back on defense and picking people up. Our offense also struggled against their pressure defense.

"The second half we did a better job of rebounding and we got a lot of points from Logan Kats at the free throw line."

Kats, a 5-foot-8 inch senior point guard, hit 17 of 19 free throws for a sharpshooting 89 percent accuracy and ended the game with 19 points.

Wes Georgeson, 6'3" senior forward, also scored 19 points for the Blue Jays but most of his points were from the floor. Georgeson swished 9 of 12 field goal attempts for a red hot 75 percent accuracy and was a perfect 1 of 1 from the charity stripe.

Zac Dreher, 6'2" junior post, added 11 points on 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent and 1 of 2 from the line.

Also scoring 11 points in his

first high school basketball game was Terrell Lane, a 5'10" freshman guard. Lane hit his only three point shot and was 3 of 6 from two point range for 57 percent shooting overall. He was 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

Dustin Wright led Skyline in scoring with 30 points which included 7 of 13 from beyond the arc for 54 percent accuracy. Blaine Robinson added 13.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 3 from three point land for 33 percent, 22 of 43 two point attempts for 51 percent and 23 of 46 overall for an even 50 percent.

With Wright leading the way, Skyline swished 8 of 22 three point tries for 36 percent, 10 of 30 two point attempts for 33 percent and 18 of 52 overall for 35 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 22 of 29 for 76 percent and Skyline was 8 of 12 for 67 percent.

The rebounding battle was about even. Norton pulled down 7 offensive and 23 defensive caroms

for 30 total.

Skyline grabbed 11 offensive and 14 defensive boards for 25 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Georgeson with 11, followed by Lane, 7; Jared Cox, 4; Preston Herman, 3; Kats, 2; Zach Dole, J.D. Gall, Dreher, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 15 steals and Skyline stole the ball just 10 times. Lane led with 5 steals, followed by Cox, 3; Kats, Georgeson, Herman, 2 each.

Norton had 14 assists. Kats led with 7, followed by Lane, Cox, Georgeson, 2 each; Dole, 1.

The Blue Jays had 22 turnovers in the game and Skyline turned the ball over 24 times.

With the victory, Norton qualified to play Ottawa in the semifinals on Friday. Ottawa defeated Colby 67-44 in their opening round contest.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 69

Logan Kats 1 0 17-19 19; Zach Dole 0 0 0-2 0; Terrell Lane 3 1 2-3 11; Jared Cox 4 0 1-2 9; Wes Georgeson 9 0 1-1 19; Zac Dreher 5 0 1-2 11; Preston Herman 0 0 0-0 2; Total 22 1 22-29 69.

Skyline boys 52

Jake Garrison 0 1 2-2 5; Blaine Robinson 6 0 1-3 13; Dustin Wright 3 7 3-4 30; Alex Johnson 0 0 1-2 1; Nate Czaprán 1 0 1-1 3; Total 10 8 8-12 52.

Blue Jays bow to Ottawa 61-49

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team trailed by 13 points after the first quarter and 18 at half-time against Ottawa, who is ranked No. 6 in the state in Class 4A, in the championship semi-finals of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland on Friday but outscored the Cyclones by 6 points in the second half in a 61-49 loss.

After trailing 16-3 at the end of the first quarter, the Blue Jays were down 28-10 at intermission. In the third quarter, they started to chip away at the Ottawa lead and went on a 9-0 run, which included two baskets each by freshman guard Terrell Lane and senior forward Wes Georgeson. Ottawa rallied, however, before the quarter was over and held a 46-31 advantage beginning the final period.

Lane fouled out early in the fourth quarter and senior forward Preston Herman fouled out shortly after. Early in the final stanza, sophomore point guard Landon Hamel buried a three-point shot for the Blue Jays that cut the Ottawa lead to 50-41. After senior point guard Logan Kats fed Georgeson for two points and Georgeson hit a free throw, the Cyclone lead was down to eight points at 52-44 with 3:45 remaining.

When Georgeson scored again, it was 56-46 but Ottawa hit a three-point basket for the Cyclones' final points of the contest. Norton finished with a free throw by Georgeson and basket by junior post Zac Dreher to cut the final margin of victory down to 12 points.

"We struggled in the first half against their good pressure man defense," said coach Reusink. "We really panicked and lacked composure, which put us in a bad

position by half-time.

"In the second half, we did a good job of battling back, which I was pleased to see.

"How we responded in the second half was a positive to take from this game."

Georgeson finished with 18 points on 8 of 10 field goals for a sizzling 80 percent accuracy and 2 of 5 free throws.

Lane was in double figures for the second straight game as he hit 10 points on 4 of 9 shots for 44 percent and 2 of 4 free throws.

Ian Mathews, a 6-foot 8-inch senior center, led Ottawa in scoring with 16 points, followed by Jacob Sipple, 15 and Chase Moore, 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 6 three point tries for 17 percent, 19 of 43 two point attempts for 44 percent and 20 of 49 overall for 41 percent.

Ottawa swished 6 of 14 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 13 of 28 two point tries for 46 percent and 19 of 42 overall for 45 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays connected on 8 of 15 for 53 percent while the Cyclones converted 17 of 27 charities for 63 percent.

The rebounding battle was nearly even as Norton pulled down 12 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 25 total and Ottawa grabbed 8

offensive and 19 defensive boards for 27 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Lane with 9, followed by Georgeson, 5; Herman, 4; Kats, Jared Cox, Dreher, 2 each; Hamel, 1.

Norton had 13 steals in the game and Ottawa had 14 thefts. Kats led Norton in steals with 5, followed by Georgeson, Herman, 2 each; Zach Dole, Hamel, Lane, Cox, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had just 5 assists; Kats led with 4 and Lane had 1. Ottawa recorded 10 assists.

Norton had 23 turnovers and the Blue Jay defense forced 21 Cyclone turnovers.

The loss advanced Norton to the third place game versus Goodland, who lost 55-26 to Sharon Springs.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 49

Logan Kats 2 0 1-2 5; Landon Hamel 1 1 0-0 5; Terrell Lane 4 0 2-4 10; Jared Cox 0 0 0-0 0; Wes Georgeson 8 0 2-5 18; Zac Dreher 2 0 1-2 5; Preston Herman 2 0 2-2 6; Total 19 1 8-15 49.

Ottawa boys 61

Chase Moore 0 3 1-2 10; Adam Hasty 2 1 2-2 9; Jacob Sipple 2 1 8-12 15; Cory Carner 1 1 0-1 5; Brandon Turner 2 0 2-3 6; Ian Mathews 6 0 4-7 16; Total 13 6 17-27 61.

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