

# Blue Jay Ladies settle for second place

**By DICK BOYD**  
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After one quarter, the Norton Community High School girls basketball team realized they could play with the No. 2 state ranked and Class 4A defending state champion Colby girls in the championship finals of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament on Saturday evening in Goodland and they came very close to pulling off a big upset.

Norton trailed by only one point early in the fourth quarter but Colby hit their free throws down the stretch to move farther ahead and win 56-49.

The game started with Norton's Laura Lee Baird feeding post Hayli Bozarth for two points and a 2-0 Lady Jay lead. But, the rest of the quarter was all Colby as they allowed only a basket by Chantille Campbell for Norton's other points of the quarter for a 16-4 lead.

The Lady Jays did not get rattled but continued to play their game and slowly crept into contention. Norton started the second quarter with a three point basket by Megan Kats. After Colby scored, KaraJo Jones hit for two points, Bozarth was fouled while shooting and hit a free throw, then Baird buried a shot from beyond the arc and Norton trailed by just 18-13.

Colby built the lead up to 24-14 but Jones scored again and Baird hit nothing but net from long range and the Lady Eagles led by just 24-19. Colby scored the final two baskets of the quarter to take a 28-19 lead at intermission.

Baird hit two three point baskets in the second quarter in addition to Kats' trey. Jones hit two baskets and a charity in addition to Bozarth's free throw.

The Lady Jays came out of the locker room for the second half ready to cut the Lady Eagle

margin even more and they did, outscoring Colby 17-12 to narrow the Lady Eagle lead to 40-36. Rossi started the Norton scoring with a three pointer, followed by baskets by Bozarth and Jones that cut the Colby advantage to 29-26. A Colby three point basket expanded the Lady Eagles' lead to 38-31 but Baird matched it and Baird and Stewart hit free throws to cut the lead to two at 38-36. A Colby basket at the buzzer made it a four point game with one quarter remaining.

Rossi got the final period started the same way she did the second half with a three point shot that cut the Colby lead to just one point! The Lady Eagles held a two to four point lead until the under three minute mark when Norton had to put the Lady Eagles on the free throw line and they did what they needed to do to hold off the determined Lady Jays. Colby outscored Norton 16-13 in the fourth quarter and 10 of their points came at the free throw line where they missed just four shots.

In the final quarter for Norton, Rossi hit a two point basket in addition to her trey. Amanda Ray tallied on two baskets, Jones added a basket and Baird hit Norton's only two free throws of the period.

"It was really a great championship game," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "Both teams played well and got after it."

"Offensively, we did a great job all night. We just could not come up with the big shot when we needed it; however, our overall execution was great."

"Defensively, we still need to work on some things and they are things we will get better at. Rebounding was a big problem as we were out rebounded by 10 and we need to correct that. Rebounding and free throws were the difference in the game as far as we were

concerned.

"We did a great job of taking care of the ball all night. Having only 11 turnovers was great."

"We have a big week ahead of us with league teams Phillipsburg and Stockton coming up so we will have to continue to play well."

Baird was top scorer for Norton with 13 points on 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent and 4 of 6 free throws for 67 percent.

Jones tallied 9 points in the game on 4 of 8 from the field and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent. Rossi finished with 8 points on 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 1 of 1 from two point land for 3 of 6 overall and 50 percent.

Bozarth hit 3 of 7 from the field for 43 percent and 1 of 4 from the charity stripe for 25 percent and 7 points.

Paige Stephens led Colby with 17, followed by Lissa Mazanec, 14; Aubrette Stephens and April Gee, 10 each.

As a team, Norton swished 6 of 19 long range shots for 32 percent, 12 of 27 two pointers for 44 percent and 18 of 46 overall for 39 percent.

Colby hit just 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent and 18 of 40 two point shots for 45 percent. They ended with just one more field goal than Norton. The Lady Eagles hit 19 of 43 overall for 44 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 7 of 16 for 44 percent but Colby swished 15 of 22 for 68 percent. The Lady Jays pulled down 5 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 18 total. The Lady Eagles grabbed 8 offensive and 19 defensive boards for 27 total.

Bozarth was leading rebounder for the Lady Jays with 7, followed by Jones, 4; Ray, 2; Roy, Rossi, Baird, Cox, Kats, 1 each.

Both teams had 11 assists. Rossi led Norton with 4, followed by



Norton junior KaraJo Jones and Lady Jay sophomore Amanda Ray flew through the air in an attempt to block a shot by Goodland's Ashley Archer during Norton's first round 62-36 win in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Baird, 3; Cox, 2; Stewart, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 4 steals and the Lady Eagles had 8. Rossi had 2 thefts and Baird and Jones 1 each. Norton had 12 turnovers and Colby lost the ball 13 times.

**Other games, honors**

The Weskan girls placed third by beating Sharon Springs 58-27. Ottawa took fifth place with a 47-32 win over Goodland and McCook placed seventh with a 47-33 victory over Skyline.

Norton's Laura Lee Baird and Hayli Bozarth were named to the Girls All-Tournament Team.

Baird received the honor for the second year in a row. Others honored on the all-star team were: Lissa Mazanec, April Gee and Aubrette Stephens, all of Colby; Kara McFarland, Kristen Hendrickson, both of Ottawa; Jade Herl, Goodland; Payton Walker, Weskan and Lindsey Hazlitt, McCook.

**Next action**

The Norton girls and boys will travel to Phillipsburg on Friday night to begin Mid-Continent League play.

Games will begin with the C-team contest at 4 p.m. and will be followed by junior varsity and

varsity action.

**BOX SCORE**

**Norton girls 49**

Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 1 2 0-0 8; Ashlie Stewart 0 0 1-2 1; Laura Lee Baird 0 3 4-6 13; Megan Kats 0 1 0-0 3; KaraJo Jones 4 0 1-2 9; Chantille Campbell 1 0 0-2 2; Hayli Bozarth 3 0 1-4 7; Amanda Ray 2 0 0-4; Total 12 6 7-16 49.

**Colby girls 56**

Tasha Wagoner 1 1 0-0 5; Aubrette Stephens 4 0 2-4 10; Paige Stephens 5 0 7-8 17; April Gee 3 0 4-6 10; Lissa Mazanec 6 0 2-4 14; Total 19 1 15-22 56.

# Sharon Springs falls victim to Norton Ladies, 52-40

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team jumped out to a big lead, lost some intensity in the second half and still defeated Sharon Springs 52-40 in the championship semi-finals of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament on Friday in Goodland.

The Lady Jays hit from all over the court in the first quarter as they built a 21-4 advantage. Megan Kats, Taylor Rossi and Laura Lee Baird shocked the Lady Wildcats with three-point baskets and Baird threw in two from two point range. Inside, Hayli Bozarth swished three baskets and KaraJo Jones hit another.

The second quarter was more of the same as Norton outscored

Sharon Springs 15-8 to take a commanding 36-12 half-time advantage. Ashlie Stewart found the range from behind the arc as she swished two treys! Bozarth hit two more baskets inside along with a free throw and Chantille Campbell and Kats each hit a basket.

The Lady Jays lost some intensity during intermission and were outscored 16-10 in the third quarter. Most of Norton's points came inside from Bozarth, who hit two field goals and two charities. Campbell and Baird each added a basket.

The Lady Wildcats continued to cut into the Lady Blue Jay lead in the fourth quarter when they outscored them 12-6. Norton's points came on baskets by Bozarth, Stewart and Katharine Roy.

"We really got off to a great start both offensively and defensively," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"Offensively, we established our inside game and our girls did a great job of finishing inside."

"Defensively, our full court press hurt them as we forced a lot of turnovers. Anytime you hold a team to 12 points in a half, you have done something right. The second half, we didn't play with a lot of intensity but we did enough to win the game."

Bozarth was high point scorer for the Lady Jays with 19 points on 8 of 13 shots from the field for 62 percent accuracy and 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Baird added 9 on 3 of 6 from two

point range for 50 percent and 1 of 8 from three point land. Stewart totaled 8 points on 2 of 5 treys for 40 percent and 1 of 3 two point shots for 33 percent.

Audrey Mote led Sharon Springs in scoring with 10 points, followed by Kassie Weinland and Shabree Schwartz with 8 each.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 19 from beyond the arc for 26 percent, 17 of 37 two point tries for 46 percent and 22 of 56 overall for 39 percent. Sharon Springs missed their only three point attempt and hit the same 17 of 37 from two point range that Norton hit for an overall shooting percentage of 45 percent.

Bozarth's free throws were the only ones shot by Norton. Sharon Springs had 17 charities and hit 6

for 35 percent.

Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 25 total. Sharon Springs grabbed 8 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 27 total. Bozarth was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Baird, 5; Jones, 4; Courtney Cox, 3; Rossi, Amanda Ray, 2 each; Kats, Campbell, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 16 assists compared to 9 for the Lady Wildcats. Rossi and Baird let with 5 each, followed by Cox, 4; Kats, Jones, 1 each. Norton had 8 steals compared to 4 by Sharon Springs. Rossi, Baird and Cox each had 2 thefts. Stewart and Campbell had 1 each. The Lady Jays had 11 turnovers and the Lady Wildcats lost the ball 17 times.

With the win, Norton moved

into the championship game on Saturday evening versus Colby, who defeated Weskan 68-36 in the other championship semi-final contest.

**BOX SCORE**

**Norton girls 52**

Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Ashlie Stewart 1 2 0-0 8; Laura Lee Baird 3 1 0-0 9; Megan Kats 1 1 0-0 5; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Chantille Campbell 2 0 0-0 4; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 3-4 19. Total 17 5 3-4 52.

**Sharon Springs girls 40**

Kassie Weinland 4 0 0-3 8; Shabree Schwartz 4 0 0-2 8; Abby Mote 1 0 0-0 2; Audrey Mote 5 0 0-1 10; Lauren Elder 0 0 0-2 0; Kenzi Knobbe 0 0 6-6 6; Cricket Short 3 0 0-2 6. Total 17 0 6-17 40.

# Norton Blue Jays fly past Goodland by 26 points

**By DICK BOYD**  
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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team got the 2007-08 season off to a flying start with an impressive 62-36 win over Goodland on Thursday in the first round of the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland.

The Lady Jays totaled 16 points in the first quarter on the strength of 14 by 5-foot-8-inch junior guard Laura Lee Baird while holding the Lady Cowgirls to 7 points on just three field goals. Baird hit from everywhere in the first stanza, converting three shots from beyond the arc, two from two point range and a free throw.

Norton added 19 more points in the second quarter while limiting Goodland to 9 to take a commanding 35-16 advantage at intermission. Baird hit another trey and a deuce; Ashlie Stewart, 5'3" sophomore guard, buried a three point shot; Amanda Ray, a 5'10" sophomore post, swished two baskets and two free throws; Hayli Bozarth, 5'10" junior post, hit a basket and free throw and KaraJo Jones, 5'9" junior post, found the range for a two pointer.

The Lady Jays continued to extend their lead in the third quarter by outscoring the Lady Cowgirls 15-5. Baird buried two more shots

from beyond the arc and Taylor Rossi, a 5'3" junior guard, also scored from long range. Jones, Bozarth and Chantille Campbell, 5'7" senior post, each hit a basket as well.

In the fourth quarter, Baird and Stewart each hit another three point shot, Campbell hit a basket, Bozarth swished two free throws and Courtney Cox, a 5'7" senior guard, hit her only basket of the night as Norton scored 12 final points.

Goodland took advantage of two treys to help them score 15 points in the final stanza.

"We got off to a good start and got better defensively as the game went on," said coach Jilka. "In the third quarter, we did a good job defensively."

"Offensively, we did a good job of perimeter shooting but need to be more consistent inside."

"All in all, it was a good first game. I'm pretty happy."

Baird ended the game with 28 points. She buried 7 of 13 shots from long range for a sizzling 54 percent, was 3 of 4 from two point land for 75 percent and 10 of 17 overall for 59 percent accuracy. She was also 1 of 2 from the free throw line.

Stewart hit 8 points on 2 of 2 from beyond the arc, 1 of 2 two point shots and 3 of 4 overall for

75 percent shooting.

Bozarth added 7 points on 2 of 5 from the field for 40 percent and a perfect 3 of 3 from the charity stripe.

Ray scored 6 points on 2 of 2 shots from the field and 2 of 2 free throws for a perfect night scoring.

Jade Herl was leading scorer for Goodland with 14 points. Ashley Archer added 8 and Sammie Raymer hit 6.

As a team, Norton hit 10 of 26 three point tries for 38 percent, 13 of 31 two point attempts for 42 percent and 23 of 57 overall for 40 percent.

Goodland cashed in just 3 of 8 from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 8 of 30 two point shots for 27 percent and 11 of 38 overall for 29 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 6 of 9 for 67 percent and Goodland hit 11 of 13 for 85 percent.

Norton pulled down 16 offensive and 11 defensive caroms for 27 total while Goodland grabbed 10 offensive and 16 defensive boards for 26 total.

Jones was leading rebounder for Norton with 9, followed by Cox, Bozarth, 5 each; Campbell, 4; Baird, 3; Megan Kats, 1.

The win by Norton moved the Lady Jays into Friday's championship semi-finals versus Sharon Springs, who defeated Skyline.

Norton had 15 assists compared to 7 for Goodland. Rossi led with 6, followed by Baird, 4; Stewart, 3; Roy, Cox, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 turnovers but caused the Lady Cowgirls to give up the ball 23 times.

**BOX SCORE**

**Norton girls 62**

Katharine Roy 0 0 0-0 0; Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Ashlie Stewart 1 2 0-1 8; Laura Lee Baird 3 7 1-2 28; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; Megan Kats 0 0 0-0 0; KaraJo Jones 2

**Goodland girls 36**

Whitney Shields 2 0 1-2 5; Courtney Sheldon 0 1 0-0 3; Jade Herl 1 2 6-6 14; Sammie Raymer 2 0 2-3 6; Ashley Archer 3 0 2-2 8; Total 8 3 11-13 36.

## High School Sports This Week



**WRESTLING:**

Norton vs. Phillipsburg/Stockton Duals (Senior Night) in Norton ..... 6 p.m. Friday  
Norton in Holiday Classic in Goodland ..... 9 a.m. Saturday  
Norton Junior Varsity in Alma Tournament in Alma ..... 3:30 p.m. Monday

**BASKETBALL:**

Norton vs. Phillipsburg Varsity, JV, C at Phillipsburg ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Norton vs. Stockton Varsity, JV in Norton ..... 5 p.m. Saturday  
Norton Junior Varsity Tournament--  
Norton, Oakley, Quinter, Trego in Norton ..... 9 a.m. Saturday  
Northern Valley vs. Smith Center in Almena ..... 4 p.m. Today  
Northern Valley vs. Rock Hills in Mankato ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Northern Valley vs. Golden Plains in Rexford ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday  
Logan vs. Kensington in Logan ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Logan vs. Natoma in Logan ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday