

Strong second half lifts Jays to victory

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team defeated Osborne 62-44 on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium but it wasn't as easy as the score may indicate.

The Blue Jay boys trailed 16-11 after one quarter and 27-25 at half-time. By outscoring the visiting Bulldogs 15-7 in the third quarter, they took a 40-34 advantage into the final period where they scored 22 final points compared to 10 for Osborne.

Most of Norton's points in the first quarter came from senior forward Wes Georgeson who threw in 9 points on four baskets and a free throw. Senior guard Jared Cox added the other basket.

In the second period, senior guard Logan Kats and sophomore guard J.D. Gall found their shooting range and each hit a three-point and two-point basket. Kats also added a free throw. Georgeson hit another basket and senior guard Zach Dole hit a charity.

The Blue Jays got more of the same from Kats in the third quarter when he hit a trey, two-point basket and two free throws. Georgeson added two more baskets and Cox and Gall each hit one.

Georgeson came through with three more baskets in the fourth stanza, Kats and Gall each buried another three-pointer and hit two more charities, senior forward Preston Herman scored his only two baskets of the night and Cox added two charities.

Georgeson hit 10 of 13 basket

tries for a red hot 77 percent accuracy and was 1 for 1 from the charity stripe for 21 points. Kats added 18 tallies on an equally hot 3 of 4 from beyond the arc for 75 percent, 2 of 8 from two-point range for 25 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent. He was nearly perfect from the charity stripe where he connected on 5 of 6 for 83 percent.

Gall was also in double figures with 12 points. He hit 2 of 6 from long range for 33 percent, 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent. He also swished 2 of 4 from the line for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Osborne was Dennis Rucinski with 16 points; Nathan Mick added 12.

"I was disappointed in our defensive effort in the first half," said coach Reusink. "Our general energy level was not very good."

"We also had trouble shooting the ball, which put us in a bad position."

"We did a good job of improving on all of these things in the second half."

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 14 shots from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 18 of 36 two-point tries for 50 percent and 23 of 50 overall for 46 percent.

Osborne tallied on 1 of 5 long range shots for 20 percent, 13 of 33 two-point tries for 39 percent and 14 of 38 overall for 37 percent.

Norton hit 11 of 17 free throws for 65 percent and Osborne connected on 15 of 21 for 71 percent.

The rebounding battle was close. Norton pulled down 9 of-

fensive and 8 defensive caroms for 17 total compared to 1 offensive and 15 defensive for 16 total for the Bulldogs.

Kats was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Cox, 3; Herman, 3; Georgeson, 2; Zach Dreher, 2; Dole, 1.

Norton had 6 steals and Osborne had 1. Kats led Norton in thefts with 5, followed by Dole, 1.

The Blue Jays had 9 assists and the Bulldogs had 3. Gall led Norton in assists with 3, followed by Kats, 2; Cox, 2; Dole, 1; Herman, 1.

The aggressive Norton defense caused Osborne to turn the ball over 12 times. The Blue Jays lost the ball just 4 times.

Junior varsity

Norton lost the junior varsity game by a 41-36 score.

The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 14-9, 21-17 and 33-29 but were outscored 12-3 in the final quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was Dakota Dreher with 12, followed by J.D. Gall, 10; Luke Ninemire, 8; D.J. Ebner, 4; Cole Archer, 2.

Steven Mick led Osborne with 17 points.

BOX SCORE

Norton boys 62

Logan Kats 2 3 5-6 18; Zach Dole 0 0 1-2 1; Jared Cox 2 0 2-4 6; Wes Georgeson 10 0 1-1 21; J.D. Gall 2 2 2-4 12; Preston Herman 2 0 0-0 4; Total 18 5 11-17 62.

Osborne boys 44

Shae Clark 4 0 0-1 8; Chris Eakin 1 0 0-0 2; Nathan Mick 5 0 2-6 12; Ryan Sturgeon 0 0 6-6 6; Dennis Rucinski 3 1 7-8 16; Total 13 1 15-21 44.



Norton senior guard Logan Kats stole the ball, drove the length of the court, was fouled while shooting and hit both charities during the Blue Jays' 62-44 win over Osborne here Friday night. Kats led Norton in steals and rebounds and was second leading scorer with 18 points.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Jays crush Stockton

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team started slowly Saturday afternoon in a make-up game in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym with Mid-Continent League foe Stockton following an emotional loss Friday night to Osborne but picked up the tempo the final three quarters to produce a 53-27 victory.

Norton trailed 6-0 to start the game and led by just 9-6 after one quarter but outscored the Lady Tigers 14-4 in the second quarter to lead 23-10 at intermission.

A 19-8 third quarter in Norton's favor extended the Lady Jays' lead to 42-18. Norton outscored Stockton 11-9 in the fourth period to win by 26 points.

Hayli Bozarth was leading scorer for the Lady Jays with 5 of 10 shots from the field for 50 percent accuracy and 7 of 9 free throws for 78 percent and 17 points.

Leading scoring for Stockton was Amber Kriley with 10.

"We were sluggish after Friday night's game and didn't play with a lot of enthusiasm," said coach Jilka. "We picked it up a little in the second quarter and outplayed them the rest of the way."

"It was nice to get a win and we need to keep playing hard in the future."

"We spent a lot of energy in the loss to Osborne on Friday night."

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 12 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 12 of 34 from two-point range for 38 percent and 14 of 46 overall for 30 percent.

Stockton missed their only long range shot, hit 9 of 28 two-point attempts for 32 percent and was 9 of 29 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 23 of 37 for 62 percent and the Lady Tigers hit 9 of 21 for 43 percent.

Norton had 3 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 18 total.

Stockton pulled down 2 offensive and 24 defensive caroms for 26 total.

Leading rebounding for the Lady Jays were KaraJo Jones, Hayli Bozarth and Amanda Ray with 3 each, followed by Courtney Cox, Megan Kats, Chantille

Campbell, 2 each; Katharine Roy, Taylor Rossi, Ashlie Stewart, 1 each.

The Lady Jays stole the ball 22 times and gave it up only 6 times. Rossi had 6 thefts, followed by Bozarth, 5; Laura Lee Baird, 4; Roy, Jones, 2 each; Stewart, Cox, Ray, 1 each.

Norton recorded 10 assists compared to 5 for Stockton. Rossi led with 4 assists, followed by Ray, 2; Roy, Stewart, Baird, Campbell, 1 each.

Norton had only 7 turnovers and caused Stockton to turn the ball over 27 times.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 53

Taylor Rossi 1 0 3-6 5; Ashlie Stewart 1 1 0-5 5; Laura Lee Baird 0 1 5-6 8; Courtney Cox 1 0 1-2 3; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Chantille Campbell 3 0 3-6 9; Hayli Bozarth 5 0 7-9 17; Amanda Ray 0 0 4-4 4; Total 12 2 23-37 53.

Stockton girls 27

Phoenix Hobdell 1 0 0-3 2; Carlee Lindsey 1 0 0-1 2; Hayley Strutt 3 0 1-4 7; Jennifer Nelson 2 0 0-0 4; Amber Kriley 2 0 6-8 10; Afton Winters 0 0 2-4 2; Brenna Schlaegel 0 0 0-1 0; Total 9 0 9-21 27.

Busy week for Norton wrestlers

This will be a busy week for the Norton Community High School wrestling team.

On Thursday, they will compete in Mid-Continent League duals with Trego Community and Smith Center in WaKeeney. The first dual will be Smith Center versus Trego and will begin at 5 p.m.

Following will be the Norton versus Smith Center dual. Norton versus Trego will be the final dual of the night.

On Friday and Saturday, Norton will compete in the prestigious 45th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton.

Others competing will be Ark City, Bishop Carroll, Buhler, Campus, Colby, Clay Center, Derby, Dodge City, Emporia, Gardner-Edgerton, Hutchinson, Leavenworth, Maize, Manhattan, McPherson, Mill Valley, Salina South, Wichita East, Wichita Northwest, Wichita South, Wichita Heights and Winfield.

Norton was the two-time defending champion last season but was unable to compete in the tour-

namment due to inclement weather, competed in the Emporia duals tournament instead and compiled a 5-0 record there.

Norton is the smallest enrollment school to ever win the Newton tournament championship.

Wrestling will begin at 11:15 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students 1-12.

On Friday, the Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete in

the annual Elm Creek Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Elm Creek, Neb.

Wrestling will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Others entered are Alma, Overton, Pleasanton, Southern Valley, Arapahoe, Rock County and junior varsities from Gibbon, Holdrege, Lexington, Burwell and Cozad.

Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Northern Valley Huskies, Logan Trojans on page 8

Norton AYSO Soccer

Region #1365 announces the start of the 2008 Spring Soccer registration.

Both registration sessions will be held at the Prairie Land Electric basement located at 1101 W. Hwy 36. Registrations received after January 26 will be placed on a waiting list. The first game will be on March 29.



The early registration will be held on: **Fri., Jan. 11, 5-8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 12, 2-6 p.m.** The cost for the early registration is \$30 per child

Final registration will be held on: **Saturday, January 26, 2-6 p.m.** The cost for the final registration is \$35 per child

Norton AYSO Soccer would also like to thank all of the players for their fundraising efforts and congratulate the 2007 winners:

FIRST PLACE: NICHOLAS MANDL

Son of Nick and Kama Mandl

SECOND PLACE: TYUS HENSON

Son of Chris and Joslyn Henson

THIRD PLACE: KELDON DAY

Son of Dustin and Lisa Day

We are in need of volunteers to fill several board positions as well as coaches and referees. Please consider donating your time and talents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Toby Kuhn, Regional Commissioner (785) 877-2275
Julie Baughman, Registrar (785) 877-2678
Deena Wente, Secretary (785) 877-5235

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Trego Community, Smith Center in WaKeeney..... 6 p.m., Thursday
 Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions in Newton.... 11:15 a.m., Fri; 9 a.m., Sat.
 Norton Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational in Elm Creek, Neb..... 2:30 p.m., Friday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-team vs. Trego Community in Norton.... 5 p.m., Friday
 Norton Girls Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament.... TBA Monday
 Norton Boys Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament.... TBA Tuesday
 Northern Valley Girls vs. Eastern Heights in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg)..... 4 p.m., Today
 Logan Boys vs. Palco in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 5:15 p.m., Today
 Northern Valley Boys vs. Kensington in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 7:45 p.m., Today
 Northern Valley Boys vs. Western Plains in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 5:15 p.m., Thursday
 Northern Valley Girls vs. Logan Girls in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 6:30 p.m., Thursday
 Logan Boys vs. Eastern Heights in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 7:45 p.m., Thursday
 Consolation and Championship Girls and Boys Games in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Auxiliary and Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) Beginning 3 p.m., Friday