

Lady Jays give Osborne all they could handle

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played an outstanding Osborne quintet down to the wire before losing 54-48 in Mid-Continent League play here Friday night.

The Lady Bulldogs graduated just one player from last season's team which placed third in the state tournament.

In the end, the difference came at the free throw line. Although Norton hit 8 of 12 charities in the final period, the Lady Bulldogs had taken a 10 point lead with a flurry of points at the end of the third quarter and swished 9 of 14 free throws down the stretch to win by six points.

Contributing the most points to Norton's 19 point fourth quarter was junior post Hayli Bozarth who hit 6 of 9 from the free throw line and two field goals for 10 points. Norton's other fourth quarter points came on a basket and two free throws from junior guard Laura Lee Baird, a trey from junior guard Katharine Roy and a basket by junior post KaraJo Jones.

On the strength of Baird's two baskets from beyond the arc and a two-point field goal, the Lady Jays took a 12-7 first quarter lead. Jones hit a basket and junior guard Taylor Rossi and Bozarth each hit a charity in the period.

The Lady Bulldogs were held to just one field goal in the first quarter but warmed up in the second period when they hit 15 points to take a 22-18 half-time lead. Norton's only second quarter points came on baskets by Baird and sophomore post Amanda Ray and two charities from Roy.

Norton was outscored 17-11 in the third quarter to expand Osborne's lead to 39-29. The Lady Jays scored points on another trey by Baird, a basket by senior guard Courtney Cox, a basket and two free throws by Bozarth and two charities by Ray.

"We played hard for four quar-

ters but just couldn't make the big play when we needed it," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"We focused on defense over the Christmas holiday and played better defensively but still made some silly fouls.

"If we just keep playing hard, it will turn around for us. It's frustrating to be so close and not get over the mountaintop. Our girls are hard workers and we'll get there eventually. We're close so we have to just keep working."

Baird led Norton in scoring with 3 of 9 from long range and 3 of 9 from two-point land for 6 of 18 overall and 33 percent and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent and 17 total points.

Bozarth was right behind her with 15 points on 3 of 6 from the field for 50 percent and 9 of 13 charities for 74 percent.

Tracey Mans led Osborne in scoring with 14 points, followed by Demi French, 12; Jeni Wolters, 10.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 15 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 10 of 32 two-point attempts for 31 percent and 14 of 47 overall for 30 percent.

Osborne missed both three-point tries, hit 16 of 31 two-point attempts for 52 percent and was 16 of 33 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 16 of 22 for 73 percent and Osborne was 22 of 41 for 54 percent.

The rebounding battle was almost even. Norton grabbed 9 of 23 total and the Lady Bulldogs pulled down 8 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 21 total.

Chantille Campbell was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Jones, 5; Baird, Cox, 3 each; Bozarth, Megan Kats, 2 each; Roy, Ray, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 7 steals and Osborne had just 3. Roy led with 2 thefts, followed by Rossi, Cox, Kats, Jones and Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton led in assists with 10 compared to 8 for Osborne. Rossi



Norton girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka focused on defense during holiday practices and that emphasis helped the Lady Blue Jays in their hard fought loss here last Friday night to an excellent Osborne quintet. Above, junior KarlaJo Jones stole

the ball from an Osborne player, while teammates Chantille Campbell and Taylor Rossi were on their way to provide assistance.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

had 3 assists, followed by Roy, Jones, 2 each; Baird, Cox, Bozarth, 1 each.

Both teams had 11 turnovers in the game.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost to Osborne 37-32 in two overtimes.

The young Lady Jays trailed by quarters 12-6, 16-12 and 23-21 but tied the score at 30-all by the end of the game. Both teams scored two points in the first overtime but Osborne outscored Norton 5-0 in the second extra period for the win.

Kaitlyn Wolf was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points, followed by Lacy Keilig, 7; Amanda Ray, 6; Shelby Jones, 3; Ashlie

Stewart, Raven Brown, 2 each.

Katie Wolters led Osborne with 12 points.

"This was a disappointing loss," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi. "We had a great week of practice but did not bring it to the floor. Our offense was horrible in the first half but, once we got the timing down, it went better after intermission. We also need to get in shape. That will be taken care of at practice."

C-team

The Norton girls C-team defeated Osborne 37-23 in a three quarter game. Norton trailed 13-6 after one quarter but the points were reversed in the second quarter to

tie the score at 19-all by half-time. Norton outscored the visitors 18-4 in the third and final quarter.

Lacy Keilig led Norton in scoring with 12 points, followed by Meaghan Peterson, 9; Dustyna Sprigg, Kendra Engelbert, Hannah Waggoner, 4 each; Kaylen Rossi, Lindsey Tacha, 2 each.

Jordyn Sturgeon led Osborne with 10 points.

"The game was close the first two quarters because we had to adjust to Osborne's overplay man defense," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "Once we adjusted, the entry passes came and we scored."

"We need to work more on talking on defense and being patient

offensively. Overall, our girls did a good job of hustling at the end to give us some distance and the win."

BOX SCORE
Norton girls 48

Katharine Roy 0 1 2-2 5; Taylor Rossi 0 0 1-2 1; Laura Lee Baird 3 3 2-3 17; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; KaraJo Jones 2 0 0-0 4; Hayli Bozarth 3 0 9-13 15; Amnda Ray 1 0 2-2 4; Total 10 4 16-22 48.

Osborne girls 54
Demi French 3 0 6-14 12; Tracey Mans 5 0 4-4 14; Jeni Wolters 1 0 8-11 10; Amberleigh Plowman 1 0 0-0 2; Tana Spears 0 0 0-2 0; Paige Noel 2 0 3-7 7; Emily Girard 2 0 0-1 4; Blake Nichols 2 0 1-2 5; Total 16 0 22-41 54.

Overtime paved way for Blue Jays boys' victory

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team won their second Mid-Continent league game in two days on Saturday afternoon in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym but had to fight through overtime to defeat Stockton 45-43 in a makeup contest.

Norton led 6-5 after one quarter and scored only four points in the second quarter to fall behind 21-10 at half-time. Senior post Wes Georgeson took over the Blue Jay offense in the third quarter, scoring 10 points on five field goals to lead Norton's 20 point period but the Tigers scored 10 points and remained on top 31-30 heading into the fourth period.

The teams played on even terms in the fourth quarter which saw Norton leading 38-37 with 46 seconds remaining in regulation. Jared Cox fed Zach Dole and he hit his only basket of the game inside to give the Jays a 40-37 advantage with 30 seconds remaining.

Not to be denied, the Tigers brought the ball down court and Trevor Winters buried his second shot in the quarter from beyond

the arc to tie the score at 40-all with 14 seconds showing on the scoreboard clock to throw the game into overtime.

Both teams hit one basket in the extra period but Norton connected on three free throws compared to one for the visitors to give the Blue Jays the two-point victory. Preston Herman hit the final basket for Norton and Cox, Georgeson and Zac Dreher each hit 1 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Georgeson was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points on a net smoking 8 of 10 from the field for 80 percent accuracy and 2 of 5 from the free throw line for 40 percent.

Herman hit 6 of 13 from the field for 46 percent and 12 points.

Scott Voss was leading scorer for Stockton with 10 points.

"We didn't play that well but played through the adversity in the second half to win," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"We stepped it up and found a way to win it even though it wasn't very pretty."

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 9 from long range for 11 percent, 17 of 39 two-point tries for 44 percent and 18 of 48 overall for 38 percent.

Stockton swished 5 of 8 from beyond the arc for 63 percent, 9 of 28 two-point attempts for 32 percent and 14 of 36 overall for 39 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays connected on 8 of 19 for 42 percent and the Tigers hit 10 of 22 for 45 percent.

Norton outrebounded Stockton 35-25. Norton pulled down 12 offensive and 23 defensive caroms and Stockton grabbed 7 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Herman was leading rebounder

for Norton with 11, followed by Georgeson, 7; Cox, 6; Logan Kats, Dole, 4 each; Dreher, 2; J.D. Gall, 1.

The Blue Jays recorded 14 steals and the Tigers stole the ball 6 times. Kats and Georgeson each had 4 thefts, followed by Dole, 3; Cox, Dreher, Herman, 1 each.

Norton had 10 assists and Stockton had 9. Kats led with 4 assists, followed by Cox, 3; Georgeson, Gall, Dole, 1 each.

Stockton had 24 turnovers and Norton had 16.

Norton lost the junior varsity game by a 45-15 score.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters 10-6, 22-8 and 35-8.

Leading scorer for Norton was Dakota Dreher with 9, followed by Zac Dreher, 4; Luke Ninemire, 2. Sage Penner led Stockton with 9; Calvin Dix hit 8.

BOX SCORE
Norton boys 45
Logan Kats 1 1 0-0 5; Zach Dole

1 0 0-0 2; Jared Cox 1 0 4-8 6; Wes Georgeson 8 0 2-5 18; J.D. Gall 0 0 1-4 1; Zac Dreher 0 0 1-2 1; Preston Herman 6 0 0-0 12; Total 17 1 8-19 45.

Stockton boys 43
Ethan Kriley 1 0 3-5 5; Sage Penner 0 0 1-2 1; Stephen Bellerive 1 2 0-0 8; Kyle Weiser 0 1 0-0 3; Trevor Winters 0 2 1-4 7; Cory Post 2 0 1-2 5; Scott Voss 3 0 4-9 10; Andrew Niblock 2 0 0-0 4; Total 9 5 10-22 43.

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