

# Solid win for Ladies

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team built up some momentum going into this week's Mid-Continent League Tournament with a solid 64-41 win over Trego Community on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Clicking on all cylinders, the Lady Jays (5-3) scored 22 points in the first quarter compared to 10 for the Lady Golden Eagles. Leading the way was Laura Lee Baird with two shots from long range and five free throws.

Norton cooled off in the second quarter when the Lady Jays scored just 8 points and Trego hit 13 to cut the Norton lead to 30-23 at intermission.

Hayli Bozarth hit three baskets to lead scoring as Norton tallied 13 points in the third quarter while allowing Trego only 9 to extend their advantage to 43-32.

With Amanda Ray leading the way with three baskets, Norton built up the final margin of victory to 23 points by outscoring the Lady Golden Eagles 21-9 in the fourth stanza. Norton's aggressive defense limited Trego to just one field goal in the final period.

"We played well both offensively and defensively," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka.

"Our pressure defense hurt them and we got some easy baskets from it.

"It was just a good overall effort by our girls going into the league tournament.

Laura Lee Baird led Norton in scoring with 20 points, thanks to a net smoking 92 percent on 12 of 13 free throws. She also hit 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 1 of 5 two-point tries for 20 percent and 3 of 13 overall from the field for 23 percent.

Adding 18 points from close range was post Hayli Bozarth who connected on 8 of 11 from the field for 75 percent but missed both free throw attempts.

KaraJo Jones was Norton's other double figure scorer. She hit 5 of 9 field goal tries for 55 percent and 10 points.

Leading scorer for Trego was Olivia Fabricius with 10 points; Katie Riedel added 8.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 13 from long range for 15 percent, 21 of 42 two-point tries for 50 percent and 23 of 55 overall for 42 percent.

Trego took 23 fewer shots than Norton. They swished 2 of 6 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 9 of 26 two-point attempts for 35 percent and 11 of 32 overall for 34 percent accuracy.

Scoring from the charity stripe was about even. Norton swished 16 of 24 charities for 67 percent and Trego connected on 17 of 27 charities for 63 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 22-20. The Lady Jays pulled down 11 offensive and 13 defensive caroms compared to 4 offensive and 16 defensive boards for the visitors.



Lady Jay junior guard Taylor Rossi is a very efficient ball handler. She is shown here dribbling past a Lady Golden Eagle defender to set up the Norton offense. She was the assists leader for the Lady Jays in their win at home Friday night.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Leading rebounder for Norton was Baird with 7, followed by Bozarth, 4; Chantille Campbell, 3; Taylor Rossi, Ashlie Stewart, Megan Kats, Jones 2 each; Katharine Roy, Courtney Cox, 1 each.

Norton had 11 steals compared to 5 by Trego. Baird led Norton thefts with 5, followed by Cox, 3; Rossi, Kats, Jones, 1 each.

Rossi had 7 of Norton's 19 assists. She was followed by Stewart, 4; Baird, 3; Jones, Campbell, 2 each; Cox, 1.

The Lady Golden Eagles recorded 6 assists.

Norton had 9 turnovers and Trego gave the ball up 14 times.

### Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Trego 49-33.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 13-9, 23-15 and 37-24.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kaitlyn Wolf with 12, followed by Amanda Ray, 10; Shelby Jones, Lacy Keilig, Bethany Roy, Dustyna Sprigg, 4 each; Ashlie Stewart, 3; Kaylen Rossi, Kendra Engelbert, Meaghan Peterson, Raven Brown, 2 each.

Top scorers for Trego were Kirsten Locke and Stephanie Griffith with 10 each.

"We started like our feet were stuck in mud," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"We cleaned off the mud at half-time and the second half was much better. Our girls were flying around after loose balls and we also took care of the ball better. We had only three turnovers in the second half.

"We need to get out of the gate better and put together a complete game."

### Next action

The Norton varsity girls are competing this week in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament. First round games on Monday were in the towns with the top seeds.

No.5 seeded Norton played Monday evening at No.4 Smith Center. Results were not available at press time.

The winner of the game will advance to the championship semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. The loser will advance to the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

Games to decide first through eighth will be played in Hays on Saturday.

### BOX SCORE

**Norton girls 64**  
Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 0 0 0-1 0; Ashlie Stewart 0 0 0-1 0; Laura Lee Baird 1 2 12-13 20; Courtney Cox 1 0 0-0 2; KaraJo Jones 5 0 0-1 0; Chantille Campbell 2 0 4-6 8; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 0-2 16; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-1 6; Total 21 2 16-24 64.

### Trego girls 41

Morgan Dietz 0 1 0-2 3; Elizabeth Schoenberger 1 0 4-6 6; Kirsten Locke 0 0 1-2 1; Aubrey Riedel 1 0 1-2 3; Olivia Fabricius 2 0 6-7 10; Lauren Billinger 3 0 0-2 6; Michele Ummel 0 1 1-2 4; Katie Riedel 2 0 4-4 8; Total 9 2 17-27 41.

Robert Derauf, 215.  
Earning silver medals were Logan Kelly, 145 and Tyler Cook, 189.

Brad Nuzum won the bronze medal with a third place finish at 160.

Competing but not placing were Cody Bredemier (135) and Ryan Blecha (160) who lost to Brad Nuzum in the consolation semi-finals.

"This was our junior varsity boys best showing yet," said Norton assistant wrestling coach Shane Miller. "All the hours of hard work they have put into practice paid off as they put everything together and wrestled extremely well. Even without a full team, our Blue Jays were at the top of the team scores until they were barely passed in the end by Elm Creek."

The entire team was named "Junior Varsity Wrestlers of the Week".

### FINALS

\*103 -- Colby Poage pinned Dell Pearson, Holdrege JV, in 39 seconds.  
\*119 -- Brett Terrell won a 7-6 decision over David Ripp, Elm Creek.  
\*130 -- Spencer Shirk won a 12-0 major decision over Cameron Worden, Sargent/Burwell JV.  
\*140 -- Kaid McKenna pinned Nathan Goodner, Elm Creek, in 5:36.  
\*145 -- Logan Kelly was pinned in 1:22 by Foster Meier, Elm Creek.  
\*152 -- Austin Brown won a 14-9 decision over Tower Robinson, Alma.  
\*189 -- Tyler Cook lost a 14-3 major decision to Jesse Spangler, Alma.  
\*215 -- Robert Derauf won a 14-7 decision over Ethan Jenkins, Arapahoe.

### CONSOLATION FINALS

\*160 -- Brad Nuzum pinned Ashton Weber, Sargent/Burwell, in 43 seconds.

# Northern Valley Ladies win league tournament

**By TOM DREILING**  
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The Northern Valley Husky basketball ladies won the championship of the Cheyenne Conference Basketball Tournament with a razor-thin 41-40 win over a veteran Palco team.

The Roosters came into the tourney as the team to beat, having but one loss on their record. Never mind that the Roosters had a senior-dominated roster that included five starters from last year's successful season.

"The bigger they are, the harder they fall," goes an old saw — "if they fall." When Palco met up with the Huskies, in the end they fell.

The victory allowed the Huskies' Coach Chuck Zimmerman to offer a potluck of commentary, such as:

"Our third game of the tournament was for the championship against league favorite Palco, who came into the contest with only one loss on the year. A huge favorite, Palco has a senior-dominated team and one with all five starters back from a successful season last year."

Zimmerman said his team was again up against a taller team, "this time one that was taller than us at each position, so rebounding was going to be a huge determining factor in this the most important game of the season to date."

"Also for us," the coach said, "was taking care of the ball as we have not done as well as we need to in this area up to now. We would have to be very protective of the ball when we have it on our possession so we may have as many shot opportunities as possible during the game."

The championship showdown started off very close as both teams scored evenly for the first quarter with the Huskies taking a small lead, a lead nevertheless, 11-9.

In the second period, the Huskies extended the lead by working their pressure defense and collecting numerous rebounds, allowing the Roosters only one offensive board.

The third period allowed Palco's

senior experience to show through and Northern Valley's "sophomore" level experience raised it's head as the Roosters charged ahead outscoring the Huskies 14-5 to claim a 31-28 lead.

Palco built a 7-point lead in the fourth quarter and held that margin up to around the 3-minute mark to go in the game. "It was then we had to remind ourselves what it would take to win and to their credit the Lady Huskies responded and started a remarkable comeback through defensive pressure, finding the open shooter, making the shots and keeping our heads," coach Zimmerman said.

"With all this in mind, these young ladies came back and overtook the veteran Palco team and won the championship by one point, 41-40 in what some have said was one of the most exciting games from start to finish they had seen in some time. I have to agree," the coach said.

The Huskies' leadership in the championship game shook out this way:

Deflects — Alison Cole with 5, of which 3 were blocked shots; Christina Anderson tipped 4, while Joni Hilburn got her hands on 3.

Steals were taken by Alison Cole with 8, as Staci Dole, Hilburn, Anderson and Jessica Largent each took 2 from the Roosters.

Rebounds found Alison Cole pulling down 11 (she had been in double figures in the tournament games) and Jessica Largent with 8. The Huskies' two shooting guards — Megan Cole and Anderson, who crashed the boards from the outside to each gather 9 rebounds.

"These, plus the rest of the team's contributions, gave us a 44-38 rebounding edge which was very key and most importantly the Roosters only had 8 offensive boards," the coach explained.

Assists were dished out by Hilburn, who penetrated to find 6 teammates, while Megan Cole, Dole and Anderson each found 2.

"I must comment about our turn-

overs," the coach said. "We, being young, have not quite learned to 'value the ball' as we sometimes get careless and make unforced turnovers that just give the other team another scoring opportunity. Well, in this championship game, we weren't perfect but we were better as we only had 20 compared to our normal 25 while at the same time forcing the Roosters into 30 of their own."

"A great win, a great come-from-behind victory, a great week of basketball for the Lady Huskies," the coach said.

Coach Zimmerman thanks the fans for their support throughout the entire week. "It was great to have a 'packed house' to play before. We hope you can see the potential in this team, but also know we are not nearly where we want to be," he said.

Scoring for the Huskies: Karen Wenzel 0 (but had 1 rebound); Megan Cole 6 (9 rebounds, 1 steal, 2 assists, 2 deflects); Alison Cole 20 (11 rebounds, 8 steals, 5 deflects); Kenzie Chandler 0; Staci Dole 3 (2 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists, 1 deflection); Joni Hilburn 4 (2 rebounds, 2 steals, 6 assists, 3 deflection); Christina Anderson 5 (9 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists, 4 deflects); Phoung Le 0; Brittney Braun 0 (2 rebounds); Pam Araujo 0; Jessica Largent 3 (8 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 deflection).

### Beat Logan

In the tournament's second game, the Huskies beat the Logan Trojans 52-47.

Coach Zimmerman said defense was again the key factor as the Huskies had 18 deflects with 8 of those being Alison Cole's and 5 being touched by Jessica Largent.

The team had 27 steals with Joni Hilburn leading the way with 7. In rebounds, Jessica Largent was key with 11, followed by Alison Cole with 10.

### Scoring:

Wenzel 1; Megan Cole 7; Alison Cole 20; Chandler 0; Dole 2; Hilburn 7; Anderson 9; Le 0; Braun 0; Araujo 0; and Jessica Largent with 6.

# At home Jays upset bid falls short

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played well enough to upset unbeaten Trego Community in Mid-Continent League play Friday night in Norton but fell short at the free throw line and lost 52-49.

It was a tight game throughout with Trego leading 15-13 after one quarter, Norton taking a 28-24 half-time lead and holding onto a 42-36 advantage at the start of the fourth quarter.

The Golden Eagles rallied and outscored the Blue Jays 16-7 in the final stanza to record the win and stay unbeaten at 6-0. The loss dropped Norton to 6-2 for the season.

Trego outscored Norton 7-1 to start the fourth period and tied the score at 43-all with 4:38 remaining. Ryan Pfannenstiel put Trego ahead with two free throws at the 3:34 mark but Preston Herman hit a crucial basket for Norton to tie it at 45-all with 3:09 showing on the scoreboard clock.

A free throw by Nolan Smith put the Golden Eagles on top by one but Norton senior guard Logan Kats drove the lane and scored to put the Blue Jays back ahead 47-46 with 2:08 remaining.

Smith responded at the other end of the court by burying a three-point shot that put Trego on top 49-47. Norton's Terrell Lane was fouled with 1:43 left and, with ice water in his veins, calmly swished both free throws to knot the score at 49-all.

The final three points belonged to Trego as three Golden Eagles each hit 1 of 2 tries from the charity stripe and Norton, despite several shots at the basket, was not able to find the range.

"We shouldn't have lost this game," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"Their half court trap defense

hurt us and I didn't help us get through it. We panicked. It came down to not handling their pressure, not finishing plays inside and not hitting our free throws."

Kats was leading scorer for Norton. He had a big third quarter when he hit two shots from beyond the arc, a two-point basket and two of two free throw attempts for 10 of the Blue Jays' 14 points in the period.

For the game, Kats swished 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 4 of 6 two-point attempts for 67 percent, 6 of 11 overall for 55 percent and 2 of 2 free throws for 16 points.

Norton's other double figure scorer was senior forward Wes Georgeson, who hit 1 of 2 try tries, 3 of 6 two-point attempts and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent from the field and was 4 of 7 from the charity stripe for 57 percent and 13 points.

Leading scorer for Trego was Nolan Smith with 14 points; Spencer Hemmert added 10.

As a team, Norton connected on 5 of 10 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 12 of 28 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 17 of 38 overall for 45 percent accuracy.

The Golden Eagles swished 3 of 9 from long range for 33 percent, 11 of 28 two-point tries for 39 percent and 14 of 37 overall for 38 percent.

Norton hit 10 of 22 free throw tries for 45 percent compared to Trego's 21 of 33 for 64 percent.

The rebounding battle was pretty even. Norton grabbed 12 offensive and 15 defensive boards for 27 total and Trego pulled down 12 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 29 total.

Georgeson led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Herman, 6; Kats, Zach Dole, Jared Cox, 3 each; Landon Hamel, 2; Lane, J.D. Gall, 1 each.

Herman also blocked 2 shots. Lane had 2 of the Blue Jays' 4 steals. Kats and Cox had 1 theft

apiece. Norton recorded 4 assists. Kats, Dole, Lane and Herman had 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 11 turnovers and the Golden Eagles lost the ball 9 times.

### Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys quintet defeated Trego 45-33.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-6, 26-18 and 30-23.

Leading scorer for the young Blue Jays was Terrell Lane with 18 points, followed by Dakota Dreher, 13; Zac Dreher, 8; Landon Hamel, 4; Luke Ninemire, 2.

Derek Carr led Trego with 7.

### Next action

No.3 seed Norton will host No.6 seed Ellis in the first round of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament at 7 p.m. this evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The winner will play in the championship semi-finals against this evening's winner of the No.2 Trego vs. No.7 Plainville game at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The losers will play in the consolation semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday in a location to be announced.

Games to determine first through eighth will be played in Hays on Saturday.

### BOX SCORE

**Norton boys 49**  
Logan Kats 4 2 2-2 16; Zach Dole 1 1 0-0 5; Landon Hamel 0 1 0-0 3; Terrell Lane 0 0 2-2 12; Jared Cox 0 0 2-4 2; Wes Georgeson 3 1 4-7 13; Zac Dreher 1 0 0-2 2; Preston Herman 3 0 0-5 6; Total 12 5 10-22 49.

### Trego boys 52

Eric Cunningham 2 0 5-10 9; Nolan Smith 2 2 4-6 14; Dylan Sherfitt 0 0 2-2 2; Spencer Hemmert 1 5-7 10; Ryan Pfannenstiel 0 0 3-4 3; Casey Flax 2 0 1-2 5; Cameron Locke 4 0 1-2 9; Total 11 3 21-33 52.

# Jayvee mat guys place 2nd

## Six win crown at Elm Creek event

**By DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers placed second in the team standings Friday in the Elm Creek Invitational Tournament, despite not having a complete roster.

The Elm Creek varsity won the tournament with 178 points, followed by Norton junior varsity, 172; Alma varsity, 139; Southern Valley varsity, 114.5; Lexington junior varsity, 93; Arapahoe varsity, 69; Burwell/Sargent junior varsity, 60; Gibbon junior varsity, 25.5; Holdrege junior varsity, 24.5; Overton varsity, 8; Unattached, 7; Cozad junior varsity, 4; Pleasanton varsity, 0; Rock County varsity, 0.

Eight of the nine Norton wrestlers competed in the championship finals and six of them won championships.

Norton champions were Colby Poage, 103; Brett Terrell, 119; Spencer Shirk, 130; Kaid McKenna, 140; Austin Brown, 152;