

Jays rattle Railroaders

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team took awhile to get warmed up from the bitter cold outside but, once they did, the Blue Jays pulled away to a 62-36 victory over Ellis in the opening round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday evening in Norton.

The No.3 seeded Norton quintet trailed the No.6 Railroaders 10-4 with three minutes left in the first quarter but scored the next six points to tie the score at 10-all at the end of the period.

With senior forward Wes Georgeson leading the way with two baskets, Norton took a 17-10 advantage before the Railroaders scored again with just 2:58 left in the half. Norton outscored Ellis 5-2 to end the half and take a 22-14 lead at intermission.

In the third quarter, the Blue Jays hit seven baskets, including a trey from Landon Hamel, while limiting the Railroaders to just one basket and six free throws as they outscored the visitors 15-8 to go on top 37-22 with the fourth quarter remaining.

The Railroaders had not heard the last from Georgeson, the Blue Jays' leading scorer, who hadn't shot much the first three quarters and had four baskets. In the final stanza, Georgeson couldn't miss. Every shot he took went in as he swished six baskets and a free throw for 13 of Norton's 25 fourth quarter points.

Meanwhile, the shell-shocked Railroaders scored 14 points to hold the final margin of victory to 26 points.

Georgeson missed just two shots from the field in the entire game as he connected on 10 of 11 two-point tries for a net smoking 91 percent accuracy, missed his only shot from beyond the arc and hit 1 of 3 free throws for 33 percent to finish with 21 points.

Senior forward Preston Herman scored 10 points on 4 of 8 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent. He missed his only trey try.

Leading scorer for Ellis was Daniel Gottschalk with 12.

"I was disappointed with our energy level early in the game," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "There was no bounce in our step."

"We did a lot better job the second half even though we didn't have much flow. We didn't play hard all the time but I saw some good things. We are playing more guys all the time and they are all doing good things."

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 11 from long range for 9 percent, 24 of 41 two-point tries for 59 percent and 25 of 52 overall for 48 percent.

Ellis hit 1 of 6 long range shots



Ellis hit only 12 field goals in their 62-36 loss to Norton in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament here Tuesday night, and good Blue Jay defense got the credit. In the photo, Norton Blue Jay post Zac Dreher blocked a shot from close range by the Railroaders' Matt Erbert.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

for 17 percent, 11 of 35 two-point tries for 31 percent and 12 of 41 overall for 29 percent.

From the charity stripe, the Blue Jays swished 11 of 22 for 50 percent and the Railroaders connected on 11 of 24 for 46 percent.

The rebounding battle was even. Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 26 total and Ellis grabbed 10 offensive and 17 defensive boards for 27 total.

Jared Cox led Norton in rebounds with 6, followed by Georgeson, 5; Herman, Terrell Lane, 3 each; Zach Dole, Hamel, Dreher, 2 each; Logan Kats, J.D. Gall, Luke Ninemire, 1 each.

The Blue Jays' good offensive teamwork resulted in 23 assists. Lane had 7, followed by Cox, 6; Kats, 5; Dole, 2; Hamel, Herman, Dakota Dreher, 1 each.

Georgeson had 2 of Norton's 8 steals. Dole, Hamel, Lane, Cox, Zac Dreher, Herman had 1 each.

Norton had just 7 turnovers while causing Ellis to turn the ball over 12 times.

In other first round tournament games on Tuesday evening, No.1 seed Smith Center defeated No.8 seed Stockton 57-27, No.4 Hill City outscored No.5 Phillipsburg

67-52 and No.2 Trego defeated No.7 Plainville 64-42.

Next action

Norton will play Trego in the championship semi-finals at 4:30 p.m. today in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Smith Center and Hill City will play at 7:30 p.m. today in Gross Coliseum in Hays in the other championship semi-final game.

The winners will play for the championship at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in Hays.

Losers of today's championship games will play at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in Hays for third place.

BOX SCORE Norton boys 62

Dakota Dreher 10 0-0 2; Logan Kats 30 1-2 7; Landon Hamel 0 1 2-4 5; Terrell Lane 20 2-2 6; Jared Cox 20 1-2 5; Wes Georgeson 10 0 1-3 2 1; J.D. Gall 1 0 0-0 2; Zac Dreher 10 2-6 4; Preston Herman 40 2-3 10; Total 24 1 11-22 62.

Ellis boys 36

Ryan Weber 00 0-0 2; Kyle Hadley 00 5-6 5; Daniel Gottschalk 60 0-4 12; Aaron Gnad 0 1 1-4 4; Jacob Kinderknecht 00 0-1 0; Ryan Bittel 2 0 0-0 4; Monte Honas 0 0 1-2 1; Gideon Fuchs 1 0 2-2 4; Matt Erbert 2 0 2-3 6; Total 11 1 11-24 36.

Norton Lady Jays pull upset

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach Kevin Jilka's No.5 seeded Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team upset No.4 seed Smith Center 41-31 in the opening round of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Monday evening in Smith Center.

Both teams struggled shooting from the field but the Lady Jays pulled away for the win by hitting more free throws than the Lady Redmen in the fourth quarter.

Norton held a slim 19-25 advantage after three quarters but hit 10 of 13 free throws along with just one basket to outscore the home team 12-6 and extend the final margin of victory to 10 points.

Taylor Rossi hit 5 of 6, Laura Lee Baird and Chantille Campbell each 2 of 2 and Courtney Cox 1 of 3 from the line in the final stanza.

Hayli Bozarth hit her only basket of the game in the period.

All 6 of the Lady Redmen's fourth quarter points came from the charity stripe.

Norton took a 10-5 lead in the first quarter. Smith Center outscored Norton 10-9 in the second stanza but the Lady Jays were still on top 19-15 at intermission.

Both teams tallied 10 points in the third quarter.

"It wasn't a thing of beauty but we got the job done and get to move on to Hays to play in the semi-finals," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we struggled all night long to score but, down the stretch, we executed very well and also hit our free throws to

put the game away.

"Defensively, we played pretty solid but we needed to be more aggressive on the boards. You have to win games like these when you don't have your 'A' game on offense.

"We played hard but not very smart at times which led to dumb mistakes. Normally we take care of the ball better than we did tonight."

Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 15 points on 2 of 10 from long range for 20 percent, 2 of 5 two-point attempts for 40 percent, 4 of 15 overall for 27 percent and 5 of 6 free throws for 83 percent accuracy.

Campbell was Norton's second double figure scorer. She hit 4 of 7 from close range for 57 percent and was 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent and 10 points.

Both teams had a sub-par shooting percentage from the field. Norton hit 3 of 14 three-point tries for 21 percent, 7 of 27 two-point attempts for 26 percent and 10 of 41 overall for just 24 percent.

The Lady Redmen connected on 1 of 4 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 7 of 30 two-point tries for 23 percent and 8 of 34 overall for just 23 percent accuracy.

The Lady Jays won it from the free throw line where they connected on 18 of 24 for 75 percent compared to Smith Center's 14 of 25 for 56 percent.

The rebounding battle was a standoff. Norton grabbed 7 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds for 28 total and Smith Center pulled down 8 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 27 total.

Eight different Lady Jays had at

least one rebound. Leading rebounder was KaraJo Jones with 6, followed by Baird, Campbell, 5 each; Bozarth, 4; Megan Kats, 3; Katharine Roy, Cox, 2 each; Rossi, 1.

Norton had 14 steals compared to just 4 for the Lady Redmen. Baird was thefts leader with 7, followed by Jones, 3; Roy, Rossi, Cox, Amanda Ray, 1 each.

Both teams had 6 assists. Ashlie Stewart led Norton with 4, followed by Kats, Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 15 turnovers but caused the Lady Redmen to turn the ball over 19 times.

In other first round games Monday, No.1 seed Osborne edged No.8 Trego Community 39-37, No.6 Ellis upset No.3 Hill City 45-43 and No.2 Phillipsburg outscored No.7 Plainville 65-35.

Next action

Norton will play Osborne at 3 p.m. and Ellis will play Phillipsburg at 6 p.m. on Friday in the championship semi-finals in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

In the losers' bracket, Trego played Smith Center at 6 p.m. in Smith Center and Hill City played Plainville at 7:30 p.m. in Hill City on Thursday.

BOX SCORE Norton girls 41

Taylor Rossi 0 0 5-6 5; Laura Lee Baird 2 2 5-6 15; Courtney Cox 0 0 1-3 1; Megan Kats 0 1 0-0 3; KaraJo Jones 0 0 3-4 3; Chantille Campbell 4 0 2-3 10; Hayli Bozarth 1 0 2-2 4; Total 7 3 18-24 41.

Husky boys fall to Eastern Heights

The Northern Valley varsity basketball boys came up on the short end of a 56-40 score in a battle against Eastern Heights at Alma Tuesday night.

The first half of the contest belonged to the Huskies, as they led 11-4 at the end of the first quarter and 20-18 at the half.

Eastern Heights grabbed the

lead in the third period, up by a 35-32 count at the buzzer, and capped off the night with the triumph.

Drew Britt was the Huskies' leading scorer with 14. Bryce Marble was also in double digits with 11. Others scoring included Eric Wood 7; Tanner Jessup 4; and Cody Callaway and Drew Eagleburger with 2 each.

Eastern Heights' Joe Suchsland was the game's top point-maker with 22. Teammate Michael Iman also hit in double figures with 13.

The Northern Valley junior varsity boys won by four, 55-51. Dusty Eagleburger scored a game-high 23 points and Colton Lowry tossed in 11.

Logan Trojans whip Palco, 63-46

The Logan Trojan varsity basketball boys rolled to an impressive 63-46 win over Palco at home on Tuesday night.

The Trojans led 17-11 at the end of the first period, 33-26 at intermission and 52-31 at the start

of the final quarter.

Logan's Zach Long had a game-high 24 points and was joined in double figures by Ethan Gottschalk with 11. Others scoring were Jordan Girard 4; Bryce Sammons 4; Brady Tien 2; Tyson

Pabst 6; Charley Harmon 8; and Payton Chestnut 4.

Palco was led by Chance Remington with 14. Others scoring were Jayce Newell 9; Landon Keller 5; Brock Newell 1; Blake Gehring 9; and Greg Whisman 8.

Logan Trojan ladies fall to Palco, 44-38

The Logan Trojans varsity ladies fell 44-38 to Palco at home Tuesday evening.

Palco was on top at the end of the first quarter 11-8. At intermission, Logan had the lead 18-15.

At the end of three quarters, Palco held onto the lead by one, 31-30.

Scoring for Logan were Shelley Kemper and Savannah Sammons with 11 each; Tiffany Clements 3; Jenny Archer 6; Aspen Larson 3; and Anna Zillinger 4.

For Palco, Rachel Belisle scored 18, Bailey Gehring 13, Marissa Lambert 4; Rebecca Benoit 2; and Peggi Benoit 7.

Jayvee girls capture tourney title

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls junior varsity basketball team won the championship of the Girls Junior Varsity Tournament held Saturday, Jan. 12 in Norton.

Norton defeated Quinter 54-20 in their opening game, then downed Oakley 42-33 in the championship contest.

Quinter

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 15-6, 29-11 and 43-12 in their win over Quinter.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lacy Keilig with 16 points, followed by Shelby Jones, 8; Kaitlyn Wolf, 6; Bethany Roy, Dustyna Sprigg, Lindsey Tacha, 4 each; Meaghan Peterson, 3; Kaylen Rossi, Kendra Engelbert, Sophie Mills, Raven Brown, 2 each.

D. Stover led Quinter with 8.

"Our girls played very aggress-

sive this early morning," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Our press produced several five second calls.

"It was a good game for all our girls to be involved in."

Oakley

The score versus Oakley was tied 8-all after one quarter but Norton held a 17-13 half-time advantage and was on top 29-22 after three quarters.

Wolf led scoring for Norton with 14 points, followed by Keilig, 8; Jones, 7; Peterson, 5; Roy, Brown, 4 each. Kristin Kohn led Oakley with 14.

"We really struggled against Oakley's press," said coach Rossi. "When we were able to break it, we usually scored."

"Our girls did a good job of sticking in there. We ran the offense well and made baskets at key times.

"We are proud of their effort and their championship."

Northwest Kansas Technical College

Women in Technology Day



Putting your hands on the future

Northwest Kansas Technical College invites you to **Women in Technology Day**, a half-day event that introduces females to technical careers in mostly male, higher paying occupations such as auto repair, carpentry, engineering and computer networking.

The day's events will include:

- Fun, hands-on activities
- Meeting with female professionals
- Free lunch

January 30 from 8 am to 1 pm

Register by **January 21**
Call (800) 316-4127 or go to www.nwktc.edu

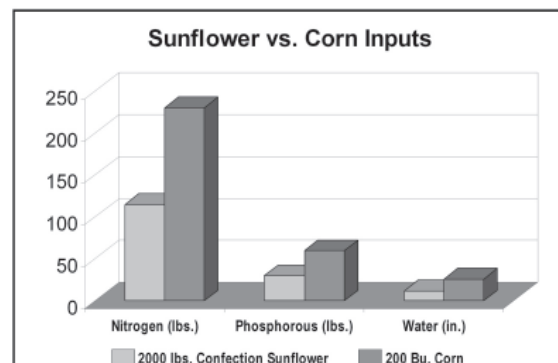
Use up to
50% LESS
Fertilizer & H₂O in

2008

VS



- 200 bushel corn needs 230 lbs Nitrogen
- 2000 lb Confection Sunflower needs 115 lbs Nitrogen
- 200 bushel corn needs 60 lbs Phosphorous
- 2000 lb Confection Sunflower needs 30 lbs Phosphorous
- 200 bushels corn needs 24-28" water in season
- 2000 lb Confection Sunflower needs 12" water in season



2008 contracts are \$30/20 for irrigated

For information on contracting for 2008 call Mike or Larry:
1-800-742-9259

www.sunopta.com SunOpta Sunflower