

# Big win for Husky ladies

The Northern Valley varsity basketball ladies opened their Cheyenne Conference season with a convincing win over Logan 61-47.

Coach Chuck Zimmerman said the ladies dominated the first half with their defense, enabling them to roll to a 32-11 lead at the buzzer.

"In the second half the ol' coach, wanting the game to go the full playing time, [understand, in Kansas when a team is 30 points ahead in the 4th quarter the game clock never stops], he required the Ladies to go through their offense twice before shooting, we took the press off and we worked on an offense and half court defense that we hardly use," he said.

"Plus, I wanted to get our jayvee team more minutes on the court as they only play two quarters in their contests. This 'extra' time on the court (especially against a varsity team) was great experience. And, for the most part they held their own," he said.

"Technology, you either love it or live with it and the incidences that come along with it. Our game stats, taken off the 'film' did not get taken as there was some technical difficulty with the disks,"

he said. "So, if you were at the game you saw an impressive display of how much these young ladies have improved and are starting to all be 'on the same page.' We still have a ways to go. We are still a work in progress and watching that progress improve each day and game will be something to behold," the coach said.

The coach called the next game, a makeup with Smith Center, "a great test to see how far we have come, and what we need to do to become even better."

He said the only 'stats' he has to share are points and "in this coach's eye points are the last statistic that you should look at. Points scored are the direct result of all the other action that took place, the defense that deflected the ball for the steal that got the ball into the offenses' hands.

"The action during the offensive sets that freed the shooter for the shot, and then the shot itself. Now, with that in mind we did have an amazing shooting night by Alison Cole as her teammates worked our plays with precision and Alison benefited to the tune of 29 points. Kenzie Chandler put in 4, another freshman, Staci Dole, contrib-

uted 7. Joni Hilburn stopped and popped for 2 while Christina Anderson benefited from our fast break by receiving passes that led to 7 points. Brittney Braun and Jessica Largent both contributed with 6 points each."

Coach Zimmerman called it an "overall good game, bordering on great in the first half with a lot of experience received in the second."

"In the junior varsity game against Logan, the girls decided to show the coaches that they can be counted on when they decide to put them in the varsity game. In our last contest, an 8-22 fiasco against Eastern Heights, the ladies' effort was not something even they were proud of, so on this night they decided to rectify that and came out and played well. As a matter of fact the word *dominated* pops up again as we out played the Trojans 13-2 in the final stanza for a 19-7 victory," he said.

Scorers in this contest were Karen Wenzl with 4, Kenzie Chandler with 2, Staci Dole with 5, and Brittney Braun with 8.

"A very good and much improved effort by these young ladies," was the coach's closing comment.

# Boosters hand out 16th award

By DICK BOYD  
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Jack Ward of Norton has been named the 16th recipient of the prestigious "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award, presented annually by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

Mr. Ward received the plaque for the honor between the recent Norton-Osborne basketball games in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Making the presentation on behalf of the Blue Jay Booster Club was Norton Athletic Director Larry Mills.

The crowd gave Jack a thunderous applause in approval of the award to the longtime Blue Jay sports booster.

"The recipient of this award is not only the ultimate Blue Jay athletics booster but is a former Blue Jay sports letterman who is unquestionably 'the' authority on the long and proud history of Norton sports," said current "Voice of the Blue Jays" announcer Eric Farber over the public address system.

"Ask him any question on Norton sports history and he will have the answer and an accurate one. He is literally a walking encyclopedia of Norton sports!"

Jack is a 1942 graduate of Norton Community High School who lettered in football, wrestling and track. After serving as a U.S. Marine in World War II from 1942-45, he attended Kansas State University from 1946-47 before returning to Norton to go into business with his father. He was owner-operator of Jack Ward's Sports and Toys for 43 years. He also officiated area sports contests for 14 years.

"Being involved for 70 years in high school activities, I have been impressed with our many fine athletes, coaches and school



Jack Ward, longtime Norton sports booster, holds the plaque he recently received as the 16th recipient of the "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award. The presentation took place in the NCHS Stull Gym in between the recent girls and boys' basketball games vs. Osborne. The plaque is presented annually by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

administrators," said Jack. "And, our community support has been super. Our out-of-town following has always been huge. Sometimes we have more fans than the home team. Traveling distance does not matter to our fans.

"Mediocrity or average has not been acceptable to our athletes. We've had some good years and some great years and very few down years and our young people have always been competitive. Even when we are losing, we are competitive. Winning isn't everything. They know it's how you compete that counts.

"Nineteen state championships in six sports by our athletes is not too shabby.

"In addition to great athletes, administration and fans, we've

also been blessed with a lot of good, dedicated coaches. Our coaches have been great people who want to work with our youths to make them good sports and citizens.

"It's been a lot of fun and I really appreciate the award. Go, Blue Jays!"

The award is made possible by a memorial in honor of the late Tommy Davison, who was considered to be the ultimate Norton Blue Jay sports booster. The award is based upon nominations by the booster club members of persons who have gone above and beyond as a fan of Norton sports.

Mr. Ward's name will be engraved along with the names of previous winners on a plaque in the high school gym.

# Husky boys slip by Logan

The Northern Valley varsity Husky boys edged Logan at Almena last Friday 38-36.

The tightness of the night was evident by the scoring, with the game deadlocked at 9 points each at the end of the first quarter.

In the second period, the Trojans outscored the Huskies 11-7 to take a 20-16 lead at the half.

In the third quarter, while the Huskies outscored Logan 9-5, the tally was knotted at 25 all at the buzzer.

In the final period, Northern Valley connected on 13 points while the visitors popped in 11 for the 2-point, 38-36 Husky Nation triumph.

Bryce Marble led the charge for

Northern Valley, connecting on 4 2-pointers and 2 free throws for 10 points. Drew Britt and Drew Eagleburger both scored 9; Cody Callaway 6 and Tanner Jessup 4.

The Trojans' Zach Long took game scoring honors with 18. VanDerWege hit for 9, Ethan Gottschalk 5, and Tyson Pabst and Charley Harmon 2 apiece.

Teamwise, the Huskies got their 38 points on 12 2-pointers, 3 3-pointers and 5 charity tosses.

The 3-point hot hand, resulting in 9 points, belonged to Drew Eagleburger.

The visiting Trojans scored on 9 2-pointers, 3 3-pointers and 9 free throws.

VanDerWege had 2 of the 3 3-pointers and Long 1.

In the junior varsity game, Northern Valley won 35-30.

The Huskies' top scorers were Dusty Eagleburger and Colton Lowry with 8 points each.

# Coach calls game, 'A tale of two halves'

"The tale of two halves," was the way Coach Chuck Zimmerman characterized the Northern Valley Husky Ladies' lopsided 76-43 victory over Eastern Heights on Jan. 15.

"The tale of two halves was what the Northern Valley fans saw when they watched the home town girls play against league foe Eastern Heights in their first game after winning the Conference Tournament title," he said.

"The first half was a case of playing down to the level of our competition. And, give credit where credit is due the Mustangs played well in the first quarter by only having 5 turnovers and staying close on the scoreboard.

"The Lady Huskies fiddled around in the second quarter also and only took an 11 point lead into half-time where the first question asked was, 'are you pleased with your performance?', and rightfully so the team answered, 'no,'" the coach said.

He continued: "So, in the second half the fans saw a closer rendition of what we need to look like when we play each and every team from here on out, because if we don't, we will end up on the short side of the score. We again had a great effort by our defense as we were (in the second half) getting deflects and steals which lead to more offensive opportunities for us.

"The 'second row' on our full court defense again, as the de-

fense is designed, led the team in deflects as Alison Cole tipped 6 while Jessica Largent had 5. Staci Dole, mostly at the 'hawk' position tipped 3.

"The steals were taken by Alison Cole with 6, Christina Anderson and Largent with 4 each.

"Rebounding was again key as we out rebounded the Mustangs 46-24 with Christina Anderson leading the way with 10, Largent right behind with 9 and Alison Cole grabbing 8 and Brittney Braun taking 6 off the boards. Plus, our guards all got involved also. Hopefully the team is figuring out that the team that wins the rebounding battles usually wins the games.

"Assists, and there were some pretty passes on this night, were dished out by Megan Cole with 7 while Joni Hilburn found 4 and Alison Cole, Anderson and Largent each found 3 teammates open for scores."

Statistics (3-pointers-2 pointers-free throws-rebounds--steals-assists-deflections, in that order, are):

Karen Wenzl 0-2-1-2-1-2-0-0; Megan Cole 2-1-0-4-0-7-1; Alison Cole 0-7-0-8-6-3-6; Kenzie Chandler 0-1-0-1-0-0-0; Staci Dole 1-3-0-3-1-0-3; Joni Hilburn 0-1-0-3-3-4-2; Christina Anderson 1-6-1-10-4-3-2; Phoung Le 0-1-0-0-0-0-0; Brittney Braun 0-4-2--6-2-0-1; Pam Araujo 0-0-0-0-0-0-0; Jessica Largent 0-2-4-9-4-3-5.

# Junior High Huskies now 4-3

The Northern Valley Junior High basketball boys fell to Kensington/Eastern Heights on Jan. 17 by a score of 40-19.

That puts the team at 4-3 on the season.

Here are the statistics: Scoring: Austin Herman, 8; Calen Bach 5; Tyler Montgomery 2; Phillip Compton 2; and Nate Land 2.

The B-team boys won 30-11 and their record goes to 5-1-1.

Scoring: Jordan Baird 12; Tyson Callaway 8; Ian Vincent 4; Zane

Miller 4; and Alex Thomas 2.

The C-team boys won 17-5. Scoring: Hunter Chandler 8; Ivan Vincent 7; and Jordan Baird 2.

Coach Cole's comments: "The A-team boys played a great first half, shooting the ball well and playing very good defense.

"The half-time score was 15-18. The Huskies struggled with their shooting in the second half, but kept playing hard the whole game. The B-team played an outstanding game."

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