

Coach happy with win, but...

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball coach Doug Reusink was happy for his quintet's 55-39 win in a makeup game here Thursday with Oberlin but, other than the third quarter defense, was far from satisfied with his Blue Jays' play.

Norton did a good job of working the ball inside to senior forward Wes Georgeson, junior post Zac Dreher and senior forward Preston Herman who ended with 17, 12 and 9 points, respectively.

Norton led 16-11 after one quarter, 29-24 at half-time and 43-28 at the end of the third stanza. The Blue Jays tallied 12 points in the fourth period compared to 11 by the visitors.

"We didn't come to play tonight," said coach Reusink. "I didn't like our intensity level.

"I was happy with our defense in the third quarter when we only allowed them four points.

"We weren't doing a very good job of finishing plays. We are playing to the level of our competition but competition will be tougher in the future."

Georgeson hit 7 of 14 shots from the field for 50 percent accuracy and was 3 of 5 from the free throw line for 60 percent.

Dreher scored on 6 of 9 from the field for 67 percent and Herman connected on 3 of 9 from the field for 33 percent and 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Logan Fortin with 12 points. Toby Peters added 8 and Jacob Fortin tallied 7.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 13 long range shots for 23 percent, 19 of 44 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 22 of 57 overall

for 39 percent.

Oberlin found the range on 3 of 16 from beyond the arc for 19 percent, 13 of 38 two-point tries for 34 percent and 16 of 54 overall for 30 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 8 of 19 for 42 percent compared to Oberlin's 4 of 8 for 50 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 13 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds for 34 total. The Red Devils grabbed 10 offensive and 20 defensive boards for 30 total.

Georgeson was leading rebounder for Norton with 8, followed by Dreher, Herman, 7 each; Logan Kats, 4; Jared Cox, 3; Landon Hamel, J.D. Gall, 2 each; Zach Dole, 1.

Norton had 10 steals. Kats and Georgeson led with 3 each, followed by Hamel, 2; Dreher, Herman, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 16 offensive assists. Kats was the leader with 6, followed by Cox, 4; Hamel, 3; Dole, Dreher, Herman, 1 each.

Oberlin had 12 assists. The Blue Jays had 14 turnovers and the Red Devils turned the ball over 12 times.

The victory extended Norton's record to 12-5.

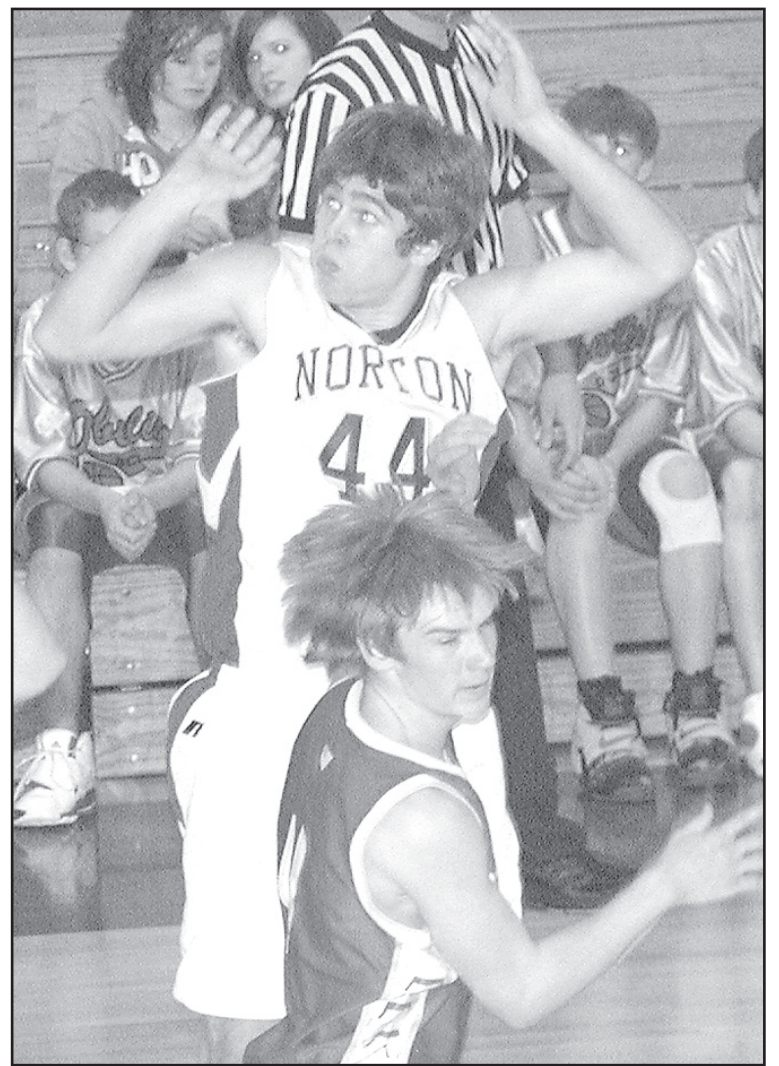
BOX SCORE

Norton boys 55

Logan Kats 1 1 0-0 5; Landon Hamel 0 1 1-6 4; Jared Cox 2 1 1-4 8; Wes Georgeson 7 0 3-5 17; Zac Dreher 6 0 0-0 12; Preston Herman 3 0 3-4 9; Total 19 3 8-19 55.

Oberlin boys 39

Lucas Juenemann 2 0 0-0 4; Toby Peters 4 0 0-0 8; Jacob Fortin 1 1 2-4 7; Logan Fortin 3 2 0-0 12; Sam Stapp 2 0 0-2 4; Dakota Soderlund 0 0 2-2 2; Cody Haas 1 0 0-0 2; Total 13 3 4-8 39.



Blue Jay junior post Zac Dreher hit a jump shot as an Oberlin player tried to guard him but not foul him during Norton's win here Thursday night in a makeup contest. Dreher hit 6 of 9 shots from the field and tied for second leading Norton rebounder.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Blue Jays pocketed win early

By DICK BOYD

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When the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team hosted Oberlin in a makeup game Thursday, one quarter was all the Lady Blue Jays needed to put the game out of reach and coast to a 63-42 victory.

In the opening quarter, Norton got the ball inside to junior post Hayli Bozarth and junior guard Laura Lee Baird swished baskets from the perimeter. Bozarth and Baird each hit 16 points in the initial stanza as the Lady Jays ran up an amazing 35-5 advantage!

A second five played most of the second quarter for the Lady Jays when both teams scored 8 points, making the half-time tally 43-13.

The starters returned in the third quarter but just outscored the Lady Red Devils 12-7 to extend the Norton lead to 55-20. With the second quintet back in for Norton, the Lady Red Devils outscored the locals 22-8 in the fourth stanza to cut the final margin of victory down to 21 points.

"That first quarter was really something," said Norton head

girls coach Kevin Jilka. "Things went so well that it was almost like a clinic.

"We were coming off a hard fought game with Hoxie so I was hoping Oberlin wouldn't catch us with a letdown but it really turned out to be a good night for us.

"We got a lot of good playing minutes for a lot of our girls. We just came out and took care of business. We were playing with enthusiasm."

Baird and Bozarth each ended the night with 20 points.

Baird hit 3 of 4 from beyond the arc for 75 percent, a perfect 4 of 4 from two-point land and 7 of 8 overall for a net smoking 88 percent accuracy. She was also a perfect 3 of 3 from the charity stripe.

Bozarth had a perfect shooting night as she hit 9 of 9 from the field and 2 of 2 from the free throw line for 100 percent!

Sophomore guard Ashlie Stewart also had a good night offensively. She hit 4 of 7 two-point attempts for 57 percent, missed two trey tries, hit 1 of 3 free throws and ended with 9 points.

Freshman Jordan Dreher led

Oberlin with 15 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 4 of 16 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 22 of 37 two-point attempts for 59 percent and 26 of 53 overall for 49 percent.

Meanwhile, the Lady Red Devils could only connect on 2 of 7 long range shots for 29 percent, 15 of 40 two-point tries for 38 percent and 17 of 47 overall for 36 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 7 of 11 for 64 percent and Oberlin was 6 of 9 for 67 percent.

Norton had 6 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 22 total compared to 6 of each for 12 total for the visitors.

Nine different Norton girls grabbed at least one rebound. Baird was the leader with 5, followed by Bozarth, 4; Chantille Campbell, 3; Stewart, Courtney Cox, KaraJo Jones, Amanda Ray, 2 each; Katharine Roy, Megan Kats, 1 each. Nine Lady Jays were credited with at least one of Norton's 18 offensive assists. Oberlin recorded 9 assists.

Assists leader for Norton was Taylor Rossi with 6, followed by

Baird, 3; Roy, Bozarth, 2 each; Stewart, Cox, Kats, KaraJo Jones, Shelby Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 steals compared to 6 for the Lady Red Devils. Rossi led in thefts with 3, followed by Roy, KaraJo Jones, Bozarth, 2 each; Stewart, Baird, Kats, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had just 11 turnovers but the aggressive Lady Jay defense forced 22 Oberlin turnovers.

The win extended Norton's season record to 12-5.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 63

Katharine Roy 0 0 1-2 1; Taylor Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Ashlie Stewart 4 0 1-3 9; Laura Lee Baird 4 3 3-20; Courtney Cox 0 0 0-1 0; Chantille Campbell 2 0 0-4; Hayli Bozarth 9 0 2-2 20; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-0 6; Total 22 4 7-11 63.

Oberlin girls 42

Nikki Wessel 1 0 0-0 2; Brandi Diederich 1 0 0-0 2; Ashley Horton 1 0 0-0 2; Heather Glodt 1 0 1-2 3; Lacey Ream 1 1 0-0 5; Jordan Dreher 7 0 1-1 15; Jones 0 1 0-0 3; Andrienne Pauls 2 0 3-4 7; Mary Olson 1 0 1-2 3; Total 15 2 6-9 42.



The Norton Lady Jays forced 22 Oberlin turnovers during Thursday's 63-42 win over the Lady Red Devils here. On defense for Norton were, from left, Ashlie Stewart, Amanda Ray and Laura Lee Baird.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ellis trip didn't pan out for Ladies

By DICK BOYD

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It's too bad the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team couldn't have saved some of Thursday night's points for Friday night when they suffered an uncharacteristic 49-31 Mid-Continent League loss to Ellis on the Lady Railroaders' home court.

The previous night, the Lady Jays scored more points in the first quarter in a makeup contest with Oberlin than they did on Friday. After taking a 35-5 first quarter lead over the Lady Red Devils, Norton coasted to a 63-42 victory.

The shoe was on the other foot Friday night in Ellis as the Lady Railroaders outscored the Lady Jays 17-11 in the first quarter and 13-6 in the second stanza to take a comfortable 30-17 half-time advantage. A 12-11 third quarter in favor of Ellis made it 42-28. The Lady Railroaders finished the game by outscoring the Lady Jays 7-3 in the final period.

"As good as we were Thursday night, we were the opposite tonight," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"Give credit to Ellis. They had a great game plan against us and executed it well.

"Offensively, we stood around all night long. We did not penetrate on zone offense and did not take care of the ball at all.

"Defensively, we weren't aggressive at all. They took it at us all night long.

"We must find a way to regroup because we are in a must win situation for home court advantage in sub-state play."

Norton hosted Plainville on Monday evening but results were

not available at press time.

For the first time this season, Norton had no scorers in double figures. Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was senior guard Megan Kats with 8 points on 2 of 4 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 1 of 1 two-point tries and 3 of 5 overall for a net smoking 60 percent accuracy!

None of the other Norton players shot nearly this well and the entire team ended the game hitting just 25 percent from the field.

The Lady Railroaders had two scorers in double figures. Taylor Whitney and Danielle Pfeifer each scored 16 points for Ellis.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 23 from beyond the arc for 26 percent, 6 of 24 two-point tries for 25 percent and 12 of 47 overall for 25 percent. Meanwhile, Ellis scored on 2 of 6 from long range for 33 percent, 16 of 36 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 18 of 42 overall for 43 percent accuracy.

The Lady Jays had just 4 free throws and hit 1 for 25 percent. The Lady Railroaders paraded to the charity stripe 15 times and hit 11 for 73 percent.

In addition to being outshot, the Lady Jays were outrebounded and had fewer steals and more turnovers than Ellis.

Norton pulled down 7 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 20 total. Ellis grabbed 8 offensive and 20 defensive boards for 28 total.

Taylor Rossi and Hayli Bozarth were leading rebounders for Norton with 4 each, followed by Laura Lee Baird, KaraJo Jones, 3 each; Katharine Roy, 2; Ashlie Stewart, Kats, Chantille Campbell, Amanda Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 5 steals and Ellis recorded 12 thefts. Rossi, Stewart, Baird, Courtney Cox and Bozarth

each had 1 steal.

Norton had 9 assists and Ellis had 7. Rossi was assists leader with 3, followed by Stewart, Baird and Bozarth, 2 each.

The Lady Jays turned the ball over 19 times and the Lady Railroaders had 15 turnovers.

With the loss, Norton's season record fell to 12-6.

Junior varsity

Norton won the girls junior varsity game by a 40-20 score.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 14-2, 25-8 and 33-18.

Leading scorer for Norton was Amanda Ray with 14 points, followed by Raven Brown, 12; Lacy Keilig, 4; Lindsey Tacha, Kaitlyn Wolf, 3 each; Kaylen Rossi, Meaghan Peterson, 2 each.

A. Brenner led Ellis with 8 points.

"We won but we really did not play our normal game," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Our intensity was nowhere close to what it normally is. In the second half, we did a better job of moving the ball around and getting good shots.

"The season is not over yet; we still have two games and need to be at our peak."

Next action

Norton will host Colby today in the last regular season home games, which will be "Senior Night" for the Blue Jays.

The girls C-team game will begin at 4 p.m. and will be played in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium, followed by the junior varsity girls, varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

The junior varsity boys game will be in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and will begin at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 31

Katharine Roy 0 1 0-0 3; Taylor Rossi 2 1 0-0 7; Ashlie Stewart 0 2 0-0 6; Laura Lee Baird 1 0 1-2 3; Megan Kats 1 2 0-0 8; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 1 0 0-2 2; Total 6 6 1-4 31.

Ellis girls 49

Wolf 1 1 2-2 7; Whitney Taylor 5 1 3-3 16; Danielle Pfeifer 7 0 2-4 16; Polifka 2 0 2-2 6; Kristen Waldschmidt 1 0 2-4 4; Total 16 2 11-15 49.

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