

# Norton boys top Plainville

By DICK BOYD

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In their final game of the league season, the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team defeated Plainville 51-44 in Mid-Continent League action Monday night in Plainville.

It was a hard-fought contest with the Cardinals holding a 10-8 edge after one quarter and 23-20 advantage at half-time. Norton tied the score at 35-all by the end of the third stanza.

The game was still tight when senior point guard Logan Kats hit his second basket from long range in the quarter with 1:30 left to give Norton a 46-44 lead. The Blue Jays hit the final 5 points at the free throw line with Kats and senior guard Jared Cox each hitting two charities and sophomore guard J.D. Gall sinking one.

"We didn't play that well but found a way to win at the end," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"The three-point baskets by Logan Kats and free throws at the end made the difference."

Kats was leading scorer for Norton with 18 points, 13 of them coming in the second half. He hit 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 2 of 7 two-point attempts for 29 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent.

Senior forward Wes Georgeson tallied 11 points on 4 of 12 from the field for 33 percent and 3 of 7 from the charity stripe for 43 percent. He missed two three-point tries.

Leading scorers for Plainville were Toby Ruder with 12 and Justin Lacy with 10.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 12 from long range for 33 percent, 13 of 43 two-point attempts for 30 percent and 17 of 55 overall for 31 percent.

Plainville swished just 1 of 15 long range shots for 7 percent, 10 of 33 two-point tries for 30 percent and 11 of 48 overall for 23 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton connected on 13 of 22 for 59 per-

cent compared to the Cardinals' 21 of 30 for 70 percent.

Norton had 13 offensive and 29 defensive rebounds for a season record 42. Plainville pulled down 9 offensive and 22 defensive caroms for 31 total.

Preston Herman led rebounding with 11, followed by Georgeson, 10; Landon Hamel, 7; Gall, Zac Dreher, 4 each; Cox, Kats, 3 each.

The Blue Jays also had a season high 7 blocked shots. Leading the rejections was Georgeson with 3, followed by Herman, 2; Kats, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had 8 steals and Plainville had 2. Kats was the leader with 3 thefts, followed by Herman, 2; Zach Dole, Hamel, Cox, 1 each.

The Blue Jays recorded 11 offensive assists, led by Kats and Hamel with 3 each. Georgeson had 2 assists, followed by Dole, Cox, Herman, 1 each. Plainville had 10 assists.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 11 times.

## Junior varsity

Norton won the boys junior varsity game by a score of 31-24.

The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 16-5, 22-9 and 24-12.

Landon Hamel was leading scorer for Norton with 10, followed by Zac Dreher, 6; Luke Ninemire, D.J. Ebner, 4 each; Dakota Dreher, John Koch, J.D. Gall, 2 each; Marcus Herman, 1.

Robin Lanz led Plainville with 7.

## BOX SCORE

### Norton boys 51

Logan Kats 23 5-6 18; Landon Hamel 20 1-4; Jared Cox 10 3-4 5; Wes Georgeson 4 0 3-7 11; J.D. Gall 0 1 1-2 4; Zac Dreher 2 0 0-4; Preston Herman 2 0 1-2 5; Total 13 4 13-22 51.

### Plainville boys 44

Aaron Becker 1 0 2-3 4; Alex Dreher 1 0 5-6 7; Toby Ruder 2 1 5-7 12; Ross Copeland 1 0 0-2; Justin Lacy 3 0 4-6 10; Jason Dinkel 1 0 0-0 2; Joe Becker 1 0 5-8 7; Total 10 1 21-30 44.

# Girls roll to 80-49 victory

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played a rare Monday night game this week when they traveled to Plainville for the Mid-Continent League finale for the season and returned with an impressive 80-49 victory.

"It was a great game for us tonight," said coach Jilka.

"Plainville was playing box and one and triangle and two defenses and we had a lot of players step up and shoot the ball and that was good to see.

"Defensively, we played okay. The important thing was winning again so we can get a home court advantage in the sub-state tournament."

Although nine different girls scored in the game for Norton, junior post Hayli Bozarth stood

out. She hit 29 points on a net smoking 12 of 17 from the field for 71 percent and 5 of 6 from the free throw line for 83 percent.

Junior point guard Laura Lee Baird added 14 points on 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 3 of 5 two-point attempts for 60 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent. She was a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Sophomore point guard Ashlie Stewart was a third double figure scorer for the Lady Jays with 11 points. She hit 3 of 7 from long range for 43 percent, 1 of 1 from two-point range and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent.

Bozarth scored 14 points on five baskets and 4 of 4 from the free throw line in the first quarter as Norton took a 22-11 lead. Four more baskets by Bozarth and three-point baskets by junior guard Taylor Rossi, senior guard Megan Kats and Stewart produced 17 more points for Norton in the second quarter compared to 10 for the Lady Cardinals to make the score 39-26 at half-time.

Bozarth continued to light up the scoreboard in the third period with three more baskets and a free throw. Baird tallied 10 points on a trey, two two-point baskets and 2 of 2 charities. Rossi and Kats each hit their second trey of the game as the Lady Jays totaled 26 points in the period to stretch their advantage to 65-39.

Stewart scored 8 of Norton's 15 fourth quarter points on two more baskets from beyond the arc and one from two-point range. Bozarth did not play in the third quarter. Bretta Mick and Kelsey Wyatt led Plainville with 15 points each.

As a team, Norton hit 10 of 29 shots from beyond the arc for 34 percent, 21 of 38 two-point tries for 55 percent and 31 of 67 overall for 46 percent accuracy.

The Lady Cardinals swished 7 of 17 from long range for 41 percent, 12 of 31 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 19 of 48 overall for 40 percent.

Norton was 8 of 10 for 80 percent from the line and Plainville was 4 of 7 for 57 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled 15 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds off the glass for 33 total. The Lady

Cardinals grabbed 6 offensive and 15 defensive boards for 21 total.

Bozarth had a double-double with 12 rebounds to go with her 29 points. KaraJo Jones pulled down 6 rebounds, followed by Stewart, 4; Baird, Amanda Ray, 3 each; Kats, Katharine Roy, 2 each; Rossi, 1.

Norton had 13 steals compared to 2 for Plainville. Jones and Bozarth had 3 thefts each, followed by Rossi, Stewart, Baird, 2 each; Kats, 1.

The Lady Jays had 24 offensive assists and the Lady Cardinals had 13. Rossi dished out 10 assists, followed by Kats, 5; Baird, 4; Jones, 2; Stewart, Chantille Campbell, Bozarth, 1 each. Norton had just 5 turnovers in the game while the aggressive Lady Jay defense caused 16 turnovers by Plainville.

## Junior varsity

Norton won the girls junior varsity game by a 34-15 score.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 7-1, 13-3 and 29-9.

Leading scorers for Norton were Kaitlyn Wolfe and Amanda Ray with 12 points each, followed by Shelby Jones, 4; Raven Brown, 3; Hannah Waggoner, 2; Meaghan Peterson, 1.

Pywell led Plainville with 5.

"We didn't come out in the first half with much zest," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"The second half was much better. We went somewhere with our dribbles and, when we did that, other people became open for shots.

"Our junior varsity girls finished the season with only one league loss which was in double overtime to Osborne."

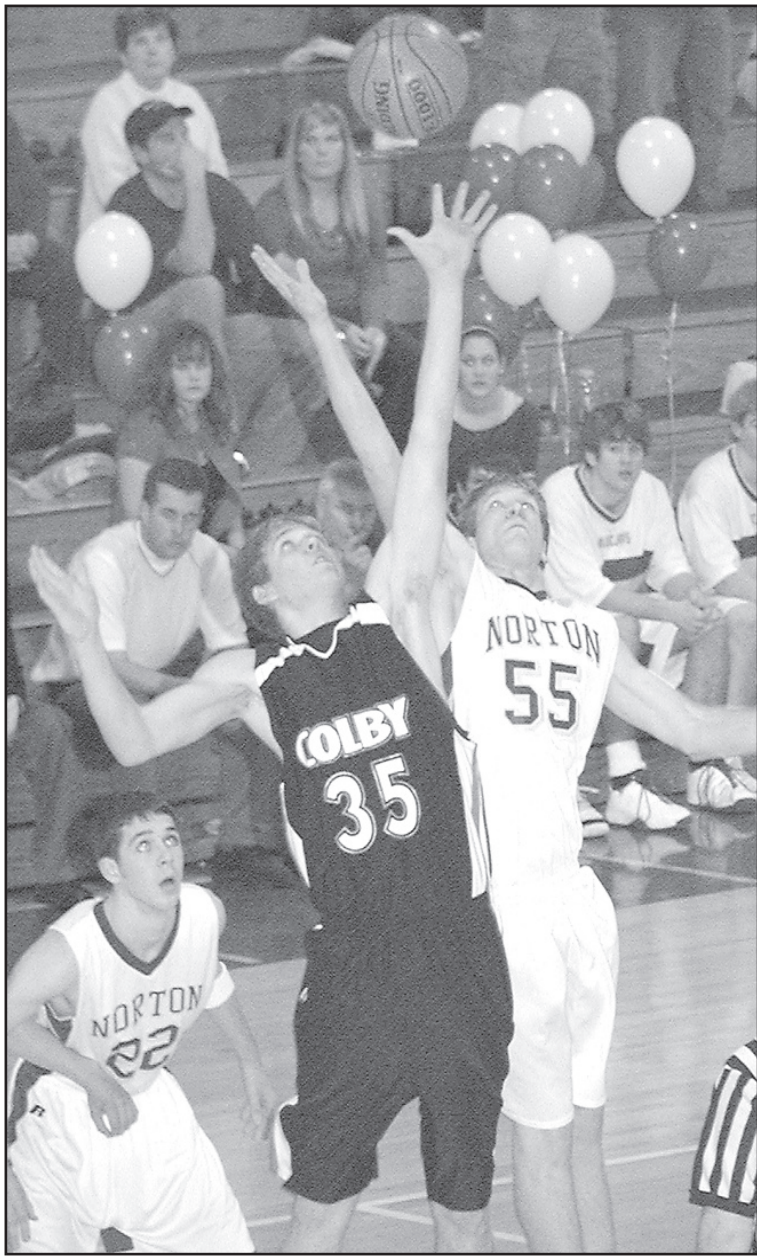
## BOX SCORE

### Norton girls 80

Katharine Roy 1 0 1-2 3; Taylor Rossi 1 2 0-0 8; Ashlie Stewart 1 3 0-0 11; Laura Lee Baird 3 2 2-2 14; Megan Kats 0 2 0-0 6; KaraJo Jones 1 1 0-0 5; Chantille Campbell 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 12 0 5-6 29; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-0 2; Total 21 10 8-10 80.

### Plainville girls 49

Aubrey Frederking 1 1 2-4 7; Bretta Mick 7 0 1-1 15; Lauren Buresh 0 1 1-2 4; Kelsey Wyatt 0 5 0-0 15; Amanda Casey 4 0 0-0 8; Total 12 7 4-7 49.



Norton and Colby boys played an exciting game on Tuesday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium and, in the end, the only thing separating the two teams was one 3-point basket as the Eagles edged the Blue Jays 50-47. Both teams had the same record coming in and all post-game statistics were very close. This photo was taken during the center jump between the Eagles' Levi Schlick and the Blue Jays' Preston Herman to begin the game. No. 22 for Norton is Jared Cox.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Defending 4A state champs too much for Norton

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team played hard against the No. 2 state ranked Class 4A and defending state champion Colby girls Tuesday in the final regular season game but an upset was not in the cards as the Lady Jays lost 52-29.

It didn't help that Norton hit just 23 percent from the field but the Lady Eagle defense probably had something to do with that.

Playing with near flawless precision, the Colby girls built a 16-8 first quarter lead and were on top 26-12 at half-time. A 19-8 third quarter in the Lady Eagles' favor extended their lead to 45-20. Norton outscored Colby 9-7 in the final stanza to cut the margin of victory to 23 points.

"We played hard and competed but they are an excellent team," said Norton head girls coach

Kevin Jilka.

"They have great athletes with good balance both inside and outside.

"We didn't shoot the ball very well and that hurt but we hung in there.

"You have to guard all five of their starters because they are all great athletes. There's a reason they are now 20-0.

"I can't fault our effort. We played hard. This game was great preparation for our sub-state tournament. Hopefully, we learned from this game and will be ready for tournament play."

Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was Laura Lee Baird with 12 points on 2 of 7 from long range for 29 percent, 1 of 5 two-point tries for 20 percent and 3 of 12 overall for 25 percent. Baird was a perfect 4 of 4 from the free throw line.

Hayli Bozarth hit 3 of 13 basket attempts for 23 percent and 1 of 2 charities for 50 percent and 7

points.

Tasha Wagoner led Colby with 14 points; Lissa Mazanec hit 12 and April Gee tallied 10.

As a team, Norton hit just 4 of 17 from beyond the arc for 29 percent compared to 5 of 8 for Colby and 63 percent. From two-point range the Lady Jays hit 6 of 26 for 23 percent while the Lady Eagles swished 15 of 38 for 39 percent. Overall, Norton hit 10 of 43 for 23 percent and Colby connected on 20 of 46 for 44 percent.

Norton did hit well from the free throw line where the Lady Jays swished 5 of 6 for 83 percent. The Lady Eagles tallied on 7 of 11 charities for 63 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 11 defensive rebounds for 17 total.

The Lady Eagles had 9 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 26 total.

Bozarth led Norton in rebounding with 5, followed by KaraJo

Jones, 4; Taylor Rossi, 3; Katharine Roy, Courtney Cox, 2 each; Baird, 1.

Norton had 4 steals and Colby had 2. Roy, Baird, Megan Kats and Bozarth each had 1 theft.

The Lady Jays received credit for 6 offensive assists compared to 12 for the Lady Eagles. Rossi and Cox had 2 each, followed by Baird, Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton suffered 10 turnovers and Colby had 13.

## Junior varsity

Colby won the girls junior varsity contest by a 38-20 score.

The score was tied 8-all after one quarter and Colby led by 16-15 at intermission but the young Lady Eagles scored 14 points in the third quarter and held Norton scoreless to extend their lead to 30-15.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kaitlyn Wolf with 5, followed by Amanda Ray, 4; Bethany Roy, 3; Hannah Waggoner, Lacy Keilig,

Meaghan Peterson, Raven Brown, 2 each.

Katherine Kaus led Colby with 10.

"This wasn't the way to end the season," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"The game was very even the first half. We were outthrustled by Colby in the second half and couldn't score.

"Our girls have great potential, however, they must be willing to put in extra work to get better. Improvement comes in the off season. I know these girls have many irons in the fire but they need to sacrifice some to get better at anything.

"I enjoyed coaching these girls. They are fun to be around and I look for great things to come."

The Norton junior varsity girls compiled an excellent 11-3 record this season.

## Next action

The Norton varsity girls team

finished the regular season 13-7 and will begin Class 3A Sub-State Tournament play on Tuesday.

The No. 3 seeded Lady Jays will host Belleville, No. 6 seed with 10-10 record, at 7 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

## Norton girls 29

Katharine Roy 1 1 0-0 5; Ashlie Stewart 0 1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 1 2 4-4 12; Chantille Campbell 1 0 0-0 2; Hayli Bozarth 3 0 1-2 7; Total 6 4 5-6 29.

## Colby girls 52

Tasha Wagoner 1 4 0-0 14; Aubrette Stephens 0 1 0-0 3; Paige Stephens 4 0 1-2 9; April Gee 4 0 2-3 10; Taylor Young 1 0 2-4 4; Lissa Mazanec 5 0 2-2 12; Total

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# Norton Blue Jay boys lose thriller to Colby Eagles

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played Colby on even terms in the second half when they visited the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday evening but fell just a few points short of victory as the Eagles prevailed 50-47.

Colby was on top 17-8 after the first quarter but Norton caught up some in the second stanza by outscoring the Eagles 10-6 to cut the visitors' lead to 23-18 at half-time.

Norton senior point guard Logan Kats hit a three-point basket to start the second half and it was suddenly a two point game. The two teams played even the rest of the period. Norton held one point leads twice in the quarter but

Colby was on top again at 32-30 when the fourth quarter began.

The Blue Jays continued to trail by two points until senior post Wes Georgeson scored to tie the score at 40-all with 4:00 left. Georgeson scored again with 2:09 remaining to tie it at 44-all and was fouled in the process. His resulting free throw put the Blue Jays ahead 45-44.

Norton was able to hit only one more field goal in the remaining minutes when sophomore guard Landon Hamel connected. Colby hit four free throws and a basket to win by 3 points.

Georgeson was leading scorer for Norton with 15 points on 7 of 11 from the field for 64 percent and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe. He missed his only trey try.

Kats ended with 13 points on 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50

percent, 3 of 10 two-point tries for 30 percent and 4 of 12 overall for 33 percent. He was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Herman added 11 points on 3 of 9 from the field for 33 percent and 5 of 6 free throws for 83 percent.

Levi Schlick led Colby with 13 points; Ethan Stover added 11 and Todd Ziegelmeier tallied 10.

"Colby is one of the better teams we've played," said coach Reusink. "I'm proud of the way we played. We did good things at both ends of the floor.

"We trailed in the first half and could have checked it in but we kept fighting and got in the game and were in position to win it."

Norton is now 14-6 and Colby is 15-5.

The Blue Jays and Eagles were very close in all statistics with just one three-point basket making

the difference in the final score. Norton hit 1 of 6 from beyond the arc for 17 percent and Colby swished 2 of 8 from long range for 25 percent.

The Blue Jays swished 17 of 40 two-point tries for 43 percent compared to Colby's 17 of 42 for 40 percent.

Overall, Norton hit 18 of 46 for 39 percent and Colby connected on 19 of 50 for 38 percent.

Both teams hit 10 free throws. Norton was 10 of 12 for 83 percent and Colby was 10 of 16 for 63 percent.

Norton pulled down 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 26 total and Colby grabbed 8 offensive and 19 defensive boards for 27 total.

Herman led Norton in rebounding with 8, followed by Georgeson, 7; Hamel, 5; Cox, 3; Kats, 2; Gall,

1.

Norton had 16 assists and Colby recorded 17.

Kats led with 6 assists, followed by Hamel, 3; Cox, Herman, Dole 2 each; Georgeson, 1.

Norton had 6 steals compared to 3 for Colby. Hamel led in thefts with 3, followed by Kats, 2; Cox, 1.

Norton had just 7 turnovers and Colby had 11.

## Junior varsity

Norton lost the boys junior varsity game by a 55-20 score.

Colby held quarter leads of 19-11, 34-15 and 41-19.

Dakota Dreher led Norton in scoring with 6, followed by Zac Dreher, 5; J.D. Gall, 4; Luke Ninemire, Marcus Herman, 2 each; D.J. Ebner, 1.

Garrett Rogers led Colby with 9.