

Lady Blue Jays limit Oberlin to 25 points

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team started the new year with an impressive 62-25 win over Oberlin on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Despite an original schedule that would have seen the Lady Jays play at home twice already, it was Norton's first home game of the season. A season-opening contest with Atwood was changed from Norton to Atwood and a home contest with Phillipsburg was postponed until February 12 due to inclement weather.

Needless to say, the home fans were delighted to see the Lady Jays of the Mid-Continent League dominate the Lady Red Devils from the Northwest Kansas League.

Norton shot well and played aggressively on defense in a contest where the second half mirrored the first half in points scored by both teams. Norton led by quarters 17-6, 31-13 and 46-19.

"It was nice to finally play at home," said coach Jilka. "I was proud of the way our girls played."

"Defensively, we were solid all night. Offensively, we moved the ball well. We played hard for 32 minutes and executed well in all phases of the game."

"We got a slow start in the third quarter offensively but continued to play good defense and they didn't catch up. Then, we got an offensive spurt to give us a good lead going into the fourth quarter."

In Norton's 17-point first period, Lacey Wallingford and Hayli Bozarth each hit two baskets. Bozarth hit two free throws and Wallingford one charity toss. Taylor Rossi, Katharine Roy and Amanda Ray also each hit a basket.

In the second quarter, the Lady Jays totaled 14 more points on two baskets each by Wallingford and Laura Lee Baird, field goals by KaraJo Jones and Amanda Ray and two charity tosses by Hayli Bozarth.

Baird had the hot hand in the third quarter when she buried three three-point baskets, a two-point and two free throws for 13 of the Lady Jays' 15 points. Bozarth added two free tosses.

Norton tallied 16 more points in the fourth quarter on three baskets by Bozarth, two by Wallingford, a basket by Ray, a trey by Ashlie Stewart and free throw by Jones.

Baird ended with 17 points on 3 of 9 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 3 of 10 two-point tries for 30 percent and 6 of 19 overall for 32 percent. She was a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Bozarth tallied 16 points on 5 of 9 from the field for 56 percent and a perfect 6 of 6 charity tosses. Wallingford was Norton's third double figure scorer with 13 points on 6 of 10 from two-point range for 60 percent. She missed all three trey tries and ended with 6 of 13 overall for 46 percent. She hit her only free throw.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Jordan Dreher with 8 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 17 three-point tries for 24 percent, 20 of 43 two-point attempts for 47 percent and 24 of 60 overall for 40 percent. Oberlin hit 8 of 28 two-point tries for 29 percent and took no shots from long range.

From the charity stripe, the Lady Jays connected on 10 of 15 for 67 percent while the Lady Red Devils hit 9 of 17 charities for 53 percent.

Norton outrebounded Oberlin 21-19. The Lady Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 13 defensive boards compared to 7 offensive and 12 defensive by the Lady Red Devils.

Wallingford and Roy each grabbed 5 caroms, followed by Jones, 4; Stewart, 3; Bozarth, 2; Baird, Ray, 1 each.

Norton's aggressive defense stole the basketball from Oberlin 18 times while the Lady Jays allowed only 6 thefts. Wallingford led Norton in steals with 7, followed by Roy, 4; Stewart, Baird, 3 each; Bozarth, 1.

The Lady Jays had 14 assists compared to only 4 for the Lady

Red Devils. Baird had 5 assists, followed by Rossi, Roy, 3 each; Shelby Jones, KaraJo Jones, Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton had only 12 turnovers while causing Oberlin to turn the ball over a whopping 31 times!

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Oberlin 40-28.

The score was tied 8-all after one quarter, Norton outscored Oberlin 12-9 in the second quarter to take a 20-17 half-time advantage. A 9-5 score in the third quarter in Norton's favor made it 29-22. Norton outscored Oberlin 11-6 in the final stanza.

Kaitlyn Wolf led Norton in scoring with 13 points followed by Erin Terrell, 8; Raven Brown, 6; Sady Keilig, 4; Meaghan Peterson, 3; Kendra Engelbert, Shelby Jones, Dustyna Sprigg, 2 each.

Kiah Blau led Oberlin with 8 points.

"We were pretty rusty tonight but were able to keep going when we needed to," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi. "Our second half was much better."

"What we need to do is play in games and practice at the same speed. Our practice speed is too slow. We know what we need to do and this group of girls will work hard to reach their goals."

Next action

Norton will travel to Osborne for Mid-Continent League action this evening, beginning at 4 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 6 0 1-1 13; Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 1 0 0-0 2; Ashlie Stewart 0 1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 3 3 2-2 17; KaraJo Jones 1 0 1-3 3; Hayli Bozarth 5 0 6-6 16; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-3 6; Game Totals 20 4 10-15 62.

Oberlin Girls

Brandi Diederich 0 0 2-4 2; Elisha Jones 1 0 0-2 2; Erin Jones 0 0 2-4 2; Jordan Dreher 4 0 0-0 8; Annamarie Larue 1 0 0-2 3; Cindy Murray 1 0 2-2 4; Adrienne Pauls 0 0 2-2 2; Mary Olson 1 0 1-3 3; Game Totals 8 0 9-17 25.

Boys drop thriller, 52-47

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team, which has no starters returning from last season, played a quality Oberlin quintet down to the wire before losing 52-47 on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The Blue Jays led 6-5 after one quarter and 18-12 at intermission. A 21-13 third quarter in Oberlin's favor allowed the Red Devils to take a slim 33-31 lead.

Norton's Landon Hamel, who led all scorers with 21 points, scored early in the fourth period to tie the score at 33-all and the score was tied again at 35-all before Oberlin went on a 15-4 run to take a 50-39 advantage with 3:14 remaining in the game.

The Blue Jays would not give up and continued to battle the Red Devils the rest of the way. Norton outscored the visitors 8-2 in the final minutes but couldn't quite close the gap.

Hamel hit two baskets and two free throws and Luke Ninemire swished a basket in the final minutes. Hamel's final basket came when he grabbed the ball and dribbled the entire length of the court for a layup that made it 50-47 with 10 seconds remaining. Two Oberlin free throws by Logan Fortin made the final 52-47.

Both teams hit 21 field goals in the game and Norton actually outscored Oberlin by 1 point on field goals since the Jays hit one more three-point shot than the Red Devils. Oberlin's additional points came on 9 free throws compared to 3 for Norton.

"I was pleased with our effort. We played hard the whole game," said Norton coach Reusink.

"We aren't playing very intelligently and not keeping our

composure. Hopefully, we will improve with experience."

"We're not playing many guys since we don't have much depth."

"We have a lot of little things we have to work on to get better. Hopefully, we'll get better with experience."

Hamel led Norton with 21 points as he hit one two-point basket in the first quarter, two shots from long range and a two-point basket in the second quarter, another basket and free throws in the third period and three baskets and two charities in the final stanza.

Hamel hit 2 of 4 from long range and 6 of 12 from two-point land for 50 percent accuracy from the field. He also swished 3 of 7 free throws for 43 percent.

Ashton Draper and Zac Dreher were next high scorers for Norton with 8 points each. Draper swished 4 of 4 two-point shots but missed all four trey tries. Dreher connected on 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent accuracy.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Toby Peters, who did not score in the first half but tallied 20 after intermission. Lucas Juenemann hit 10 points for the Red Devils' other double figure scorer.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 10 from long range for 20 percent, 19 of 40 two-point tries for 48 percent and 21 of 50 overall for 42 percent. Oberlin swished 1 of 10 from beyond the arc for 10 percent, 20 of 36 two-point tries for 55 percent and 21 of 46 overall for 47 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton connected on 3 of 14 for 21 percent and Oberlin swished 9 of 21 attempts for 43 percent.

Norton edged Oberlin 26-25 in rebounding. The Blue Jays had 8 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds compared to 7 offensive and 18 defensive for the Red Devils.

Dakota Dreher led Norton in rebounds with 10, followed by Draper, Hamel, 4 each; Zac Dreher, 3; Jordan Wahlmeier, J.D. Gall, 2 each; Ninemire, 1.

The Blue Jays had 14 assists. Leaders were Hamel and Gall with 5 each, followed by Dakota Dreher, Wahlmeier, Draper, Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Norton also had 9 steals, led by Hamel with 4. He was followed by Dakota Dreher, Gall, 2 each; Zac Dreher, 1.

The Blue Jays had 20 turnovers but Norton's aggressive defense caused the Red Devils to give up the ball a grand total of 32 times!

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys quintet defeated Oberlin 43-32.

Norton held quarter leads of 13-6, 25-14 and 31-22.

Dillon McConney led scoring for Norton with 15 points, followed by Tye Nickell, 7; Luke Ninemire, Jordan Wahlmeier, 6 each; Marcus Herman, 3; Dakota Dreher, Cole Archer, Alec Gilgenbach, 2 each.

Wiley Farr and Nolan Wasson each scored 8 points for the visitors.

Next action

Norton will travel to Osborne for Mid-Continent League play this evening. Games will begin at 4 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 2 0 0-2 4; Jordan Wahlmeier 0 0 0-3 0; Ashton Draper 4 0 0-8; Luke Ninemire 2 0 0-1 4; Landon Hamel 6 2 3-7 21; J.D. Gall 1 0 0-1 2; Zac Dreher 4 0 0-8; Game Totals 19 2 3-14 47.

Oberlin Boys

Lucas Juenemann 3 0 4-6 10; Toby Peters 9 0 2-5 20; Jacob Fortin 1 1 0-3 5; Josh Ritter 1 0 0-2 2; Logan Fortin 2 0 2-3 6; Sam Stapp 2 0 0-4 4; Dakota Soderlund 2 0 1-2 5; Game Totals 20 1 9-21 52.



Norton junior Amanda Ray reached for the basketball in an effort to steal the ball from Oberlin's Mary Olson during Tuesday evening's win over the Lady Red Devils in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Honor shows Will hit the right note

By DICK BOYD

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David Will, instrumental music instructor for Norton Community High School, has been named the 17th recipient of the prestigious "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award, presented annually by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

Mr. Will received the plaque for the honor between the Norton-Oberlin basketball games in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday evening. Making the presentation on behalf of the Blue Jay Booster Club was Norton Activities Director Jeff Wallingford.

In addition to a loud applause from the crowd, Mr. Will also received a musical applause from his Norton pep band seated high in the stands and playing peppy music throughout the evening.

"Mr. Will has been teaching instrumental music for 37 years with 21 of those years in USD 211," said current "Voice of the Blue Jays" announcer Eric Farber over the public address system.

"Mr. Will is a tremendous supporter of all programs in Norton. He believes that the more a student participates in activities, the more the student gains from his or her high school education."

"He also believes that the more



Minutes after receiving the "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award between Tuesday night's basketball games, Norton instrumental music instructor David Will was belting out a tune on his trumpet to assist his NCHS pep band in supporting the Blue Jay athletes on the hardwoods!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

we adults support our students in their activities, the more they will participate!

"With these beliefs and a lot of time and dedication, Mr. Will has helped to continue the strong and incredible music tradition for the band program in Norton."



Norton's instrumental music instructor David Will, left, received the 17th annual "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award Tuesday evening from the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club between the Norton-Oberlin basketball games. At right is Norton Activities Director Jeff Wallingford, who made the plaque presentation on behalf of the booster club.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Northern Valley Ladies fall to Rock Hills 45-34

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies hosted Rock Hills on the basketball court and, as coach Chuck Zimmerman said, "treated them very well as we were defeated 34-45 on a night where we out rebounded our opponent by 12, 37-25, but 17 of those were offensive rebounds, which means we were missing our shots. As a team we shot a cold 24 percent."

The coach continued, "This is not going to be good enough as the season progresses as we now get into the heart of our schedule with the league tournament coming up

and many bigger schools who will just smile when they see we are struggling shooting the ball. We will have to correct this before much longer."

The coach said rebounding was the best it's been all season as Alison Cole led with 12 while Brittney Braun and Christina Anderson each pulled down 8 and Karen Wenzl grabbed 4.

Deflects were tipped by Staci Dole with 5 and Anderson with 4 while Megan Cole and Wenzl each got 3.

Steals were then taken by An-

derson and M. Cole with 3 each. Assists were handed out by M. Cole with 3 with Dole and Anderson each finding 2.

"The highlight of the evening was the play of our junior varsity as they showed great improvement... hitting a basket with just a few seconds left to win, 12-13," the coach said. Scoring for the varsity ladies were: Karen Wenzl 3; Megan Cole 4; Alison Cole 12; Kenzie Chandler 0; Staci Dole 5; Melissa Hawks 0; Christian Anderson 10; Brittney Braun 0; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 0.