

Lady Jays tarnish Golden Eagles, 51-34

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team jumped out to a big first quarter lead on Friday night in WaKeeney versus the Trego Community girls, saw the Lady Golden Eagles rally and tie the score at halftime, then pulled away for good after intermission for a 51-34 victory.

Norton held Trego to only two field goals in the first quarter while outscoring them 12-4. Hayli Bozarth hit two baskets and three free throws, Ashlie Stewart drained a three-point shot and Taylor Rossi connected on a two-point shot for Norton.

The Lady Jays also scored 10 points in the second quarter but the Lady Golden Eagles tallied 18 points to tie the score at 22-all by halftime. Norton's points came on two baskets by Lacey Wallingford and one each by Rossi, Laura Lee Baird and KaraJo Jones.

Norton scored the first eight points of the third quarter to take a 30-22 advantage and led 34-27 at the end of the period. Wallingford and Baird each hit two more baskets in the third stanza and Katharine Roy and Bozarth connected on a basket each.

Trego hit the first basket of the fourth quarter, then Norton went on an 11-0 run before the Lady Golden Eagles scored again with 3:56 left in the game. Norton outscored Trego 17-7 in the period. Wallingford hit three more baskets and two charities, Bozarth swished three more baskets and Baird hit one two-point shot for the Lady Jays' final points.

"The first half we got off to a good start, then were standing around and not attacking the basket in the second quarter," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"We played with more intensity in the second half. We got some steals and layups off transition and

did a better job on the boards. "We came out and challenged them and didn't give them a chance to get back in it."

"Trego has a better team than their record shows."

Leading scorers for Norton were Wallingford and Bozarth, both with 16 points each. Wallingford hit 7 of 11 two point tries for 64 percent accuracy, missed her only trey try and was 7 of 12 overall for 58 percent. She was 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Bozarth swished 6 of 15 shot attempts for 40 percent and was 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent.

Elizabeth Schoenberger and Catie Riedel each scored 8 points for Trego.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 13 tries from beyond the arc for 8 percent, 21 of 48 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 22 of 61 overall for 36 percent.

Trego hit 2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent, 11 of 33 two-point tries for 33 percent and 13 of 37 overall for 35 percent.

The Lady Jays hit 6 of 9 free throw tries for 67 percent and the Lady Golden Eagles connected on 6 of 8 charities for 75 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 27-23. The Lady Jays pulled down 13 offensive and 14 defensive caroms compared to 6 offensive and 17 defensive boards for Trego.

Bozarth led Norton in rebounding with 9, followed by Baird, 7; Wallingford, 4; Jones, Ray, 2 each; Roy, Rossi, Stewart, 1 each.

The Lady Jays' aggressive defense forced 28 Trego turnovers while Norton gave up the ball just 13 times. Norton had 17 steals compared to just 6 for Trego. Rossi and Baird were steals leaders with 4 each, followed by Wallingford, Roy, Jones, 2 each; Stewart, Bozarth, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 11 assists compared to 10 for Trego. Rossi led in assists

with 4, followed by Roy, 2; Wallingford, Baird, Jones, Bozarth, Ray, 1 each.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity rallied to defeat Trego 29-28.

The young Lady Jays trailed by quarters 11-6, 14-10 and 25-17 but outscored the young Lady Golden Eagles 12-3 in the fourth period to win by one point!

Kaitlyn Wolf led Norton in scoring with 15 points, followed by Shelby Jones, 5; Raven Brown, 4; Lacy Keilig, 3; Kaylen Rossi, 2.

Lexi Riedel led Trego with 12 points.

"Tonight's outcome was more to our liking," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Our girls played with better intensity and were able to keep scratching and clawing our way back into it."

"Our girls did a good job of doing what was asked of them. They have been putting in extra practice time so, hopefully, it is starting to pay off."

C-team

The Norton girls C-team took an early lead over Trego in their three-quarter game but the Lady Jays were outscored in the third quarter and lost 25-21.

Norton led 12-3 after one quarter and 19-8 at halftime but was outscored 17-2 in the third and final period.

Dustyna Sprigg was leading scorer for Norton with 7 points, followed by Meaghan Peterson, 5; Sady Keilig, 4; Caren Thomson, Erin Terrell, 2 each; Tiffany Eagleburger, 1.

Haley Dietz led Trego with 11 points.

"We started with a tough full court press and got some nice transition baskets," said Norton assistant girls coach Joan Bolt.

"We played as flat in the second half as we played well in the first quarter. We lost our composure



Norton seniors Amanda Ray, No.55, and Hayli Bozarth applied defensive pressure during the Lady Jay's Mid-Continent League win over Trego Community on Friday night in WaKeeney. Norton's aggressive defense forced 28 Trego turnovers in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

and Trego picked up their defense. We got flustered and just couldn't get it together. We need to work on patience and communication.

"Our girls are doing some good things in spurts. We will work on keeping defensive intensity and being patient on offense."

Next action

The No.2 seeded Norton Lady

Jays will host No.7 Stockton this evening at 7 p.m. in a Mid-Continent League Tournament first round contest in Stull Gymnasium.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls
Lacey Wallingford 7 0 2-2 16;
Katharine Roy 1 0 0-0 2; Taylor Rossi 2 0 0-0 4; Ashlie Stewart 0

1 0-0 3; Laura Lee Baird 4 0 0-0 8; KaraJo Jones 1 0 0-1 2; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 4-6 16; Game Totals 21 1 6-9 51.

Trego Girls

Lexi Riedel 1 1 0-1 5; Elizabeth Schoenberger 2 0 4-7 8; Olivia Fabrizius 2 1 0-0 7; Kirsten Locke 2 0 2-2 6; Catie Riedel 4 0 0-0 8; Game Totals 11 2 6-8 34.

Blue Jay boys lose on Trego court

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team fell behind early and could never catch up in a Mid-Continent League game on Friday night versus Trego Community in WaKeeney.

Trego took a 19-3 first quarter lead and scored 19 more points compared to 10 for Norton in the second period to lead 38-13 at intermission. After a 10-3 third quarter in favor of the Golden Eagles the score stood at 48-16. Norton did not give up and outscored Trego 9-6 in the fourth quarter to cut the final margin of victory by three points to 54-25.

The Blue Jays are playing with only one senior, post Zac Dreher, and no returning starters. In contrast, the Golden Eagles are playing six seniors, have only one loss and are seeded No. 1 in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament, which began on Monday.

Norton's lack of experience was evident against the veteran Trego quintet.

"We did not play very well, which was disappointing and we got beat badly by a better team than we are," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"I saw some good things, especially early but, as soon as things got tough, we put our heads down, quit doing things the way we are taught and lost total confidence."

"Right now our young men just need to believe in themselves and our system to have any chance of winning games."

Norton's only points in the first quarter came on a basket by Dreher and free throw by J.D. Gall. In the second period, Gall hit two baskets, Landon Hamel swished three free throws, Ashton Draper connected on two charities and Tye Nickell hit one free toss.

Hamel hit Norton's only third quarter basket and Gall added a free throw. In the fourth quarter, Gall hit a basket from long range and two charities and Hamel hit a two-point basket and two free throws.

Gall was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points. He hit 1 of 2 shots from long range for 50 percent, 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent and 3 of 5 overall for 60 percent. He also hit 4 of 6 free throws for 67 percent.

Hamel added 9 points on 0 for 2 from long range, 2 of 7 two-point attempts for 29 percent and 2 of 9 overall for 22 percent. He hit 5 of 8 free throws for 63 percent.

Senior guard Spencer Hemmert, who is the leading scorer in the *Salina Journal* area in all classes, led scoring for the Golden Eagles with 23 points.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 7 from beyond the arc for 14 percent, 5 of 18 two-point tries for 28 percent and 6 of 25 overall for 24 percent.

Trego connected on 4 of 9 from long range for 44 percent, 16 of 28 two-point tries for 57 percent and 20 of 37 overall for 54 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 12 of 21 for 57 percent and Trego swished 10 of 23 for 44 percent.

Norton pulled down 22 rebounds and Trego grabbed 36. The Blue Jays had 5 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds while the Golden Eagles pulled down 18 on offense and 18 on defense.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Dreher with 8, followed by Draper, 6; Gall, Jordan Wahlmeier, 3 each; Hamel, 2.

Norton had 9 steals compared to 2 for Trego. Hamel and Gall each had 3 thefts, Tye Nickell had 2 and Dreher had 1.

The Blue Jays had 7 assists and the Golden Eagles had 8. Assists leader for Norton was Wahlmeier with 3, followed by Draper, Luke Ninemire, Hamel, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton players blocked four Trego shots. Wahlmeier had 2 rejections and Draper and Hamel had one each.

The Blue Jays had 25 turnovers and the Golden Eagles lost the ball 16 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys team lost to Trego by a 39-34 score.

The score was tied 10-all after one quarter but Trego took an 18-13 half-time lead and was on top 35-22 after three periods.

The young Blue Jays outscored the young Golden Eagles 12-4 in the fourth quarter but it was too little, too late.

Jordan Wahlmeier and Dillon McConney each scored 9 points for Norton, followed by Zach Hartwell and Tye Nickell, 5 each;

Marcus Herman, 4; Luke Ninemire, 2.

Chad Uhrich led Trego with 12 points.

Next action

The Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament is being held this week. No.7 seed Norton played No.2 seed Phillipsburg on Monday evening.

Results were not available at press time.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys
Jordan Wahlmeier 0 0 0-2 0;
Ashton Draper 0 0 2-2 2; Tye Nickell 0 0 1-3 1; Landon Hamel 2 0 5-8 9; J.D. Gall 2 1 4-6 11; Zac Dreher 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 5 1 12-21 25.

Trego Boys

Chad Uhrich 0 0 1-2 1; Eric Cunningham 4 0 1-4 9; Casey Flax 2 1 1-3 8; Brad Pfannenstiel 0 0 2-2 2; Dylan Sherfick 1 0 3-7 5; Spencer Hemmert 6 3 2-2 23; Scott Pfannenstiel 0 0 0-2 0; Ryan Pfannenstiel 1 0 0-0 2; Brandon Eberle 2 0 0-1 4; Game Totals 16 4 10-23 54.

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