

Norton ladies get by stubborn Osborne 45-36

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The No. 2 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team defeated a stubborn No. 3 seeded Osborne quintet 45-36 in the championship semi-finals of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Norton trailed 11-9 after one quarter but outscored the Lady Bulldogs 13-7 in the second quarter to take a 22-18 lead at halftime. The Lady Jays still couldn't pull away in the third quarter where they outscored the Lady Bulldogs 11-10 to take a 33-28 advantage into the final quarter.

Norton's aggressive defense kept Osborne from hitting a single

field goal in the fourth period where the Lady Bulldogs picked up just 8 points on free throws. Norton tallied 12 more points to end with a 9 point final margin of victory.

"There is no question, this was a big win for us," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka. "Our girls played hard all night long and deserved to win. We held them to just 22 percent shooting from the field and that is just a tremendous effort.

"Offensively, we did a good job of executing but just didn't shoot well from the perimeter despite having great looks all night long.

"These girls have had a lot of adversity this year but just keep fighting. We are so proud

of them!"

Norton's 9 first quarter points came on a three-point basket by Laura Lee Baird, two baskets by Lacey Wallingford and a basket by Hayli Bozarth.

Having little success shooting from the perimeter, Norton went inside to Bozarth the next three quarters and she responded with 18 more points. Bozarth hit four baskets and a free throw in the second quarter. Ashlie Stewart hit one basket and Baird connected on two free throws.

In the third stanza, Bozarth and KaraJo Jones each hit one basket and two free throws and Katharine Roy connected on a basket and one charity toss.

Bozarth swished two more

baskets and a free throw in the final quarter. Baird hit a basket and three free throws and Amanda Ray hit a basket.

Bozarth was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points on 8 of 14 from the field for 57 percent and 4 of 10 free throws for 40 percent.

Leading scoring for Osborne was Emily Girard with 9 points; Paige Noel added 8.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 11 long range shots for 9 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44 percent and 16 of 45 overall for 36 percent. The Lady Bulldogs hit 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 8 of 38 two-point attempts for 21 percent and 11 of 50 overall for 22 percent.

From the free throw line, Nor-

ton was 12 of 25 for 48 percent and Osborne was 11 of 16 for 69 percent.

Norton grabbed 8 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 23 total. Osborne pulled down 19 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 35 total.

Wallingford was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Jones, Bozarth, 5 each; Stewart, 3; Roy, Baird, 2 each.

The Lady Jays had 7 steals compared to 2 for the Lady Bulldogs. Baird and Jones each had 2 thefts while Wallingford, Bozarth and Amanda Ray each had 1.

Norton had 9 offensive assists while Osborne had 10. Jones was assists leader with 3, followed by Roy, Bozarth, 2 each; Stewart,

Ray, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had only 5 turnovers in the game while the Lady Bulldogs gave up the ball 12 times.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 2 0 0-0 4; Katharine Roy 1 0 1-4 3; Ashlie Stewart 1 0 0-3 2; Laura Lee Baird 1 1 5-6 10; KaraJo Jones 1 0 2-2 4; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 4-10 20; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 15 1 12-25 45.

Osborne Girls

Jeni Wolters 0 1 0-0 3; Paige Noel 0 1 5-6 8; Andrea Cady 0 0 0-20; Emily Girard 4 0 1-29; Katie Wolters 3 0 1-27; Blake Nichols 1 0 0-0 2; Jordyn Sturgeon 0 1 4-7; Game Totals 8 3 11-16 36.

Good effort by Norton, but boys fall short

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The No. 7 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team outscored No. 6 seeded Ellis in two of the four quarters when they played at Ellis on Thursday evening in the consolation semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament but the game ended with the Blue Jays on the losing end of a 46-37 score.

"This is the best we have played for a complete game," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"We still struggled at times putting the ball in the basket and didn't finish our defensive effort with rebounds but, overall, we played well.

"We overcame some adversity with Landon Hamel out with sickness and Dakota Dreher still out nursing a knee.

"We started two freshmen, Jordan Wahlmeier and Tye Nickell, and they stepped in and did a nice job along with the rest of our bench."

With two baskets each by Zac Dreher and Nickell and a basket from beyond the arc by Ashton

Draper, Norton led 11-8 after the first quarter.

A 15-4 second quarter by the home team put the Jays behind 23-15 at halftime. Norton's only baskets in that period came on two shots by Dreher.

The Blue Jays battled the Railroaders hard in the third quarter where they outscored Ellis 12-10 but still trailed 33-27 with one period remaining. Norton's third quarter points came on three-point baskets by J.D. Gall and Nickell, a basket and free throw by Wahlmeier, another basket by Dreher and a free throw by Marcus Herman.

In the fourth quarter, Dreher hit a free throw and Gall stole the ball and drove for two more Norton points to cut the Ellis lead to 36-30 with 5:31 left. Dreher swished a two-point basket to reduce the margin to four points at 36-32. After Ellis scored again, Draper matched it with a Norton basket on the other end to make it 38-34 with 3:39 remaining.

After Ellis hit another free throw to stretch the margin to five points, the Railroaders started

feeding Matt Erbert, their 6'3", 280 pound all-state football lineman, the ball on the post and Norton had no one big enough to keep him from the basket.

The Blue Jays fouled Erbert with 2:26 left and he hit a charity to make the score 40-34. Erbert scored the Railroaders' final six points on three baskets inside. Norton's final points came on a free throw by Nickell and a basket after a steal by Gall.

Gall hit two baskets in the fourth period, Dreher hit a basket and charity, Draper hit a basket and Nickell had the one free throw.

Leading scorer for Norton was Dreher with 13 points on 6 of 11 shots from two-point range for 55 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Ellis was Erbert with 15.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 13 from long range for 23 percent, 12 of 34 two-point tries for 35 percent and 15 of 47 overall for 32 percent.

Ellis swished 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 19 of 39 two-point attempts for 49

percent and 20 of 42 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 4 of 8 for 50 percent and Ellis was 5 of 17 for 29 percent.

Norton had 7 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 23 total. Ellis grabbed 16 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 35 total.

Draper and Gall led Norton in rebounds with 5 each, followed by Nickell, Dreher, 4 each; Luke Ninemire, Marcus Herman, 2 each; Wahlmeier, 1.

Norton had 10 steals and Ellis had 16. Gall was thefts leader with

6, followed by Dreher, 2; Draper, Nickell, 1 each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 10 offensive assists compared to 9 for Ellis. Gall led with 5 assists, followed by Nickell, 2; Wahlmeier, Draper, Herman, 1 each.

Dreher blocked two shots. Norton had 16 turnovers and Ellis had 18.

The loss dropped Norton into the seventh place game on Saturday morning in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays where they defeated Smith Center.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 1-1 3; Ashton Draper 1 1 0-0 5; Tye Nickell 2 1 1-28; J.D. Gall 2 1 0-0 7; Marcus Herman 0 0 1-3 1; Zac Dreher 6 0 1-2 13; Game Totals 12 3 4-8 37.

Ellis Boys

Dylan Pfeifer 4 0 1-3 9; Kyle Hadley 1 0 0-0 2; Kyle Fox 0 0 3-4 3; Aaron Gnad 1 1 0-0 5; Jacob Kinderknecht 4 0 0-4 8; Monte Honas 1 0 0-2 2; Gideon Fuchs 1 0 0-0 2; Matt Erbert 7 0 1-2 15; Game Totals 19 1 5-17 46.

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Kearney Dual in Kearney 5 p.m. Today
Norton Varsity in Mid-Continent League Tournament in Osborne 10 a.m. Saturday
Norton Junior Varsity in Arapahoe Invitational in Arapahoe, Neb. 10 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton vs. Goodland V, JV in Stull Gymnasium, Norton 5 p.m. Today
Norton vs. Stockton V, JV in Stockton 5 p.m. Friday
Norton Girls C-team vs. Colby in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, Norton, 6 p.m. Mon.
Norton vs. Smith Center V, JV, C in Smith Center 4 p.m. Tuesday
Northern Valley vs. Heartland in Almena 4 p.m. Today
Northern Valley vs. Western Plains in Almena 4 p.m. Friday
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb. in Alma 4 p.m. Tuesday
Logan vs. Rock Hills in Logan 4 p.m. Today
Logan vs. Thunder Ridge in Logan 4 p.m. Friday
Logan vs. Stockton in Stockton 4:30 p.m. Tuesday

How did Norton end up in the conference tourney? See page 10



Help us find Norton County's "Sweetheart Couple"

We need your help! Simply fill out the ballot, fill in the information and then cut it out of the paper and take it to any of the businesses listed below. Couples must be at least 21 years old, married and live in Norton County. On February 13, the winning couple will be announced in The Telegram, and will be recipients of gifts from the advertisers listed on this page. There is no essay to write, just fill in the ballot and that's it. The luck of the draw will determine the winner. All entries will be placed in a large box from which one ballot will be selected. This ad will run in a different form on January 27 and February 3, meaning you can vote more than once. READY? SET? VOTE!! Employees of the Norton Telegram are not eligible.

I VOTE FOR:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Deposit at any of the businesses listed below

Drop your ballot off at any of the following merchants

(Must be the actual ballot in this ad; no copies, no mail-in ballots):

- ♥Hidden Dragon Chinese Restaurant
- ♥Norton Theatre
- ♥Garden Gate Florals, Etc.
- ♥Jamboree Foods
- ♥Attitudes
- ♥Fit To Go
- ♥Town and Country Kitchen
- ♥Twice Sold Treasures
- ♥Russ' Jewelry and Repair
- ♥Hillcrest Motel
- ♥Kowpoke Supply
- ♥Razor's Edge
- ♥Pizza Hut, Wingstreet, Taco Bell
- ♥Downtown Car Wash LLC
- ♥O'Brien's Pit Stop
- ♥Norton Shop and Save
- ♥Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse
- ♥The Norton Telegram