



The Norton boys' defense held No.5 seeded Smith Center to just 35 points while the Blue Jay offense scored 48 for a Saturday morning victory in the Mid-Continent League basketball tournament in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Pictured for Norton are, Ashton Draper, No. 12; Zac Dreher, No.44 and Landon Hamel, No. 22.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



The Lady Jays' Hayli Bozarth out muscled a Phillipsburg player for the rebound during Norton's Mid-Continent League basketball tournament championship win over the Lady Panthers on Saturday evening in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Other Norton players pictured are, from left, Lacey Wallingford, Laura Lee Baird and KaraJo Jones

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Blue Jays wing Goodland Cowgirls, 65-20

By DICK BOYD

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Following a hard-fought Mid-Continent League Tournament championship last week, the Norton Community High School girls basketball team needed a breather and they got one Tuesday evening with a 65-20 win over Goodland in Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

It was one of those nights for the 10-1 Lady Jays when everything seemed to go right and the Cowgirls were unable to slow them down. When you hit 71 percent of your two-point shots, 100 percent from the free throw line, double the rebounds on the opposition, dominate in steals and assists and have just five turnovers, victory is assured.

Norton led 14-5, 30-18 and 48-20 by quarters en route to the 45 point win.

"Our defense wasn't as good as I like in the first half but we did much better in the second half," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. "We got our offense and fast break going in the second half when we got a lot of steals."

"We were able to play a lot of girls in the second half and that

was fun for them.

"We needed a win like this with all the adversity we've had with injuries."

"We hope to keep it up because we've got three tough league games coming in the near future."

Norton's Hayli Bozarth was unstoppable again under the basket. Norton hit 14 points in the first quarter and Bozarth hit 6 of them on three baskets. Laura Lee Baird, who missed just one two-point basket try in the game, started the contest with two first quarter baskets. Lacey Wallingford and KaraJo Jones each hit a basket as well. The Lady Jays added 16 more points to their total in the second quarter. Bozarth and Baird each hit two more baskets, Amanda Ray hit a basket and two free throws and Wallingford and Ashlie Stewart each contributed a basket.

Norton kept the pressure on the Goodland defense in the third quarter when the Lady Jays hit shots from all over the floor. Bozarth and Baird each hit three more baskets, Wallingford connected on two more shots and Jones hit

another basket as Norton totaled 18 points in the period compared to just 2 for the visitors to extend their lead to 28 points.

With reserves seeing lots of action, Norton scored 17 more points in the fourth quarter while holding Goodland scoreless. Stewart hit two baskets and a free throw, Ray swished two more baskets and Hannah Waggoner, Baird, Lacy Keilig and Bozarth each hit a basket.

Bozarth led Norton in scoring with 18 points on 9 of 14 from the field for 65 percent accuracy. Baird was right behind her with 16 points on 8 of 9 from two-point range for a red hot 89 percent shooting! She missed three try tries which dropped her to a still excellent 67 percent.

Wallingford and Ray each scored 8 points and did not miss from two-point range. Wallingford hit 4 of 4, missed her only try try and finished with 4 of 5 for 80 percent. Ray hit a perfect 3 of 3 from two-point land and a perfect 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Leading scorer for Goodland was Ashley Archer with 7 points. Jade Herl added 6 and Chelsie

Gausman hit 5.

As a team, Norton missed all five long range shots but hit a blazing 34 of 48 two-point tries for 71 percent and was 34 of 53 overall for 64 percent.

Goodland hit 2 of 10 for 20 percent from beyond the arc, 6 of 24 two-point attempts for 25 percent and 8 of 34 overall for 24 percent. From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 3 of 3 for 100 percent and the Cowgirls hit 2 of 5 for 40 percent.

Norton out rebounded Goodland by a whopping 28 to 14 margin. Eight different Lady Jays pulled down rebounds. The leader was Bozarth with 8, followed by Baird, 5; Wallingford, Stewart, Ray, 3 each; Waggoner, Jones, Kaitlyn Wolf, 2 each.

The aggressive Lady Jay defense recorded 13 steals compared to the Cowgirls' 2 thefts. Eight different Norton girls had steals. Baird was the leader with 4, followed by Jones, Bozarth, 2 each; Wallingford, Waggoner, Stewart, Wolf, Ray, 1 each. Norton had almost triple the assists recorded by Goodland. The Lady Jays had 20 assists compared to 7 by the Cow-

girls. Norton had 5 turnovers and Goodland lost the ball 16 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity quintet also had a good night of basketball as they outscored the Goodland girls 56-14.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 13-5, 30-7 and 46-12.

Erin Terrell and Kaitlyn Wolf led Norton in scoring with 13 points each, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 10; Sady Keilig, 8; Kendra Engelbert, 6; Lacy Keilig, 4; Kylie Nuzum, 2.

Alexis Bateman led Goodland with 6 points.

"This was our best outing to date," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"Our girls hustled like crazy people. Both offense and defense looked very good. "These girls have been staying after practice every night working on offense and defense. It looks like that extra work is starting to pay dividends."

Next action

Norton's next competition will be today in Stockton in makeup games which were postponed from December due to inclement

weather.

Games will begin at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 4 0 0-0 8; Hannah Waggoner 1 0 0-0 2; Ashlie Stewart 3 0 1-1 7; Laura Lee Baird 8 0 0-0 16; Lacy Keilig 1 0 0-0 2; KaraJo Jones 2 0 0-0 4; Hayli Bozarth 9 0 0-0 18; Amanda Ray 3 0 2-2 8; Game Totals 31 0 3-3 65.

Goodland Girls

Ashley Archer 3 0 1-1 7; Jade Herl 1 1 1-2 6; Alexis Bateman 0 0 0-0 2; Chelsie Gausman 1 1 0-0 5; Whitney Shields 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 6 2 2-5 20.

Norton boys fall 60-28 to Goodland

By DICK BOYD

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The young, inexperienced Norton Community High School boys basketball team, playing with just one senior member, got off to a good start again but soon found a lid on the basket in a 60-28 loss to Goodland in Stull Gymnasium in Norton on Tuesday evening.

The Blue Jays got some good shots but, time after time, the ball would start to go in the basket and bounce back out. The result was 17 percent shooting accuracy compared to Goodland's 44 percent.

Seven players scored for each team but two players stood out in the Cowboy offense. Seniors Greg Farris and Brandon Rome scored 19 and 15 points, respectively. Without their 34 points, theoretically, the Blue Jays would have been the winners. But, Farris and Rome were very much present and their presence made all the difference in the world.

Norton's best quarter was the first when the Blue Jays scored 12 points but still trailed 22-12. Senior post Zac Dreher hit two baskets and two free throws and junior guard J.D. Gall and freshman guard Tye Nickell each buried a three-point shot.

The Blue Jays kept shooting in the second quarter but did not score and Goodland added 12 more points to their total to make it a 34-12 advantage for the visiting Cowboys at intermission. Norton tallied 9 points in the

third quarter on a shot from beyond the arc by junior guard Ashton Draper, a basket and two free throws by freshman post Jordan Wahlmeier and the only basket of the night by junior point guard Landon Hamel, the Blue Jays' leading scorer for the season. Meanwhile, the Cowboys added 19 more points to make their total 53 with one quarter remaining.

Blue Jay sophomore reserve post Luke Ninemire scored his only points of the game and the only points for Norton in the final stanza when he threw in 5 of 6 free throws and the Blue Jays' only basket of the period for a total of 7 points. Goodland also scored 7 points in the quarter.

Ninemire turned out to be the leading scorer for Norton in the game on 1 of 3 from the field for 33 percent and 5 of 6 charities for 83 percent and 7 points. Dreher tallied 6 points on 2 of 6 field goal tries for 33 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

"I was disappointed in the way we played," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We had trouble shooting the ball the whole game."

"We are a lot better than we showed."

"Once things got out of control, we didn't play with confidence or effort."

"On the positive side, we did a lot of things right."

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 15 from beyond the arc for 20 per-

cent, 5 of 33 two point attempts for 15 percent and 8 of 48 overall for 17 percent.

Goodland connected on 5 of 12 from beyond the arc for 42 percent, 20 of 45 two-point tries for 44 percent and 25 of 57 overall for 44 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit an outstanding 9 of 10 for 90 percent compared to Goodland's 5 of 6 for 83 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 7 offensive and 16 defensive rebounds for 23 total. The Cowboys grabbed 8 offensive and 26 defensive caroms for 34 total.

Jordan Wahlmeier was leading rebounder for Norton with 4, followed by Luke Ninemire, Zach Hartwell, Tye Nickell, Landon Hamel, J.D. Gall, 3 each; Dillon McConney, 2; Marcus Herman, Zac Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had 5 steals and Goodland had 12. Hamel had 3 thefts, Hartwell and Gall, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 6 offensive assists compared to 25 for Goodland. Gall led with 3 assists, followed by 2 for Nickell and 1 for Hamel.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Goodland had 11.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys team showed some promise for the future by defeating Goodland 45-40.

The young Cowboys led 12-10 after one quarter and 26-24 at intermission but Norton outscored them 6-3 in the third quarter to take a slim 30-29 lead. A 15-11 fourth quarter in Norton's favor resulted in the five point victory for the locals.

Dakota Dreher and Jordan Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 12 points each, followed by Luke Ninemire, 8; Marcus Herman, 5; Dillon McConney, 4; Cole Archer, Tye Nickell, 2 each.

Ryan Irvin and Devon Garrett each scored 6 points to lead Goodland.

Next action

Norton will play Stockton this evening in Stockton in makeup games from December when they were postponed due to inclement weather.

Play will begin at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 2-2 4; Ashton Draper 0 1 0-0 3; Luke Ninemire 1 0 5-6 7; Tye Nickell 0 1 0-0 3; Landon Hamel 1 0 0-0 2; J.D. Gall 0 1 0-0 3; Zac Dreher 2 0 2-2 6; Game Totals 5 3 9-10 28.

Goodland Boys

Adam Duell 1 0 0-0 2; Dillion Trachsel 1 0 0-0 2; Brock Wilkens 1 1 0-0 5; Brandon Rome 5 1 2-2 15; Greg Farris 4 3 2-2 19; Travis Angelo 3 0 0-0 6; David Murray 5 0 1-2 11; Game Totals 20 5 5-6 60.

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Congratulations! to Dick Boyd. See Page 1!