

# Lady Blue Jays bring home 77-25 victory

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team had one of those nights on Tuesday when everything went right and, unfortunately for the Lady Red Devils from Oberlin, it happened on their home court.

In a trip outside the Mid-Continent League, the Lady Blue Jays traveled to Oberlin to play their long-time rival from the Northwest Kansas League.

From the opening whistle, Norton's game was clicking on all cylinders as the Lady Jays ran up a 30-6 first quarter lead en route to a 77-25 victory.

Without the reserves playing the final quarter and a half and the continuous clock after a 30 point lead at the start of the fourth quarter, the final margin of victory could have been larger.

"We played very well tonight," said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka.

"Offensively, we got off to a great start and played well all night long.

"On defense, it was another great effort by our girls.

"It was nice we were able to play a lot of girls and a lot of different combinations.

"We have a big game Thursday night here against Phillipsburg. It should be a good one!"

Laura Lee Baird led scoring for Norton in the first quarter and the game. She hit five two-point baskets and one from beyond the arc for 13 points in the first quarter. Ashlie Stewart hit two baskets and two free throws, Hayli Bozarth connected on two baskets and a charity, Lacey Wallingford hit two baskets and KaraJo Jones swished a basket for the Lady Jays in the period.

Twenty-three more points were

scored by Norton in the second quarter to extend their lead to 53-10 by halftime. Bozarth hit two more baskets and a free throw, Wallingford buried a three-pointer and two charities, Baird connected on another long range shot and a two-point basket, Amanda Ray hit two baskets, Lacy Keilig connected for a basket and Stewart and Jones each hit a shot from the charity stripe.

Bozarth hit four more baskets in the third quarter for 8 of the Lady Jays' 18 points that extended the lead to 71-16. Baird buried another three-pointer before retiring for the evening, Stewart swished a two-point basket and charity, and Keilig and Ray each hit another basket.

Norton was outscored 9-6 in the fourth period. Keilig hit two more baskets and Kaitlyn Wolf hit a pair of charities for the Lady Jays' points.

For the game, Baird hit 21 points on 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent, a blistering 6 of 7 from two-point land for 86 percent and 9 of 12 overall for a net smoking 75 percent!

Bozarth was also on target for the game, hitting a red hot 8 of 9 from the field for 89 percent and 2 of 4 free throws for 18 points!

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Erin Jones with 7 points.

Norton's team shooting average was also tremendous. The Lady Jays swished 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 27 of 42 two-point tries for 64 percent and 31 of 50 overall for 62 percent!

Meanwhile, Oberlin hit 1 of 7 three-point tries for 14 percent, 10 of 33 two-point attempts for 30 percent and 11 of 40 overall for 28 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 11 of 20 for 55 percent and the Lady Red Devils connected on



Norton senior guard Laura Lee Baird brought the ball downcourt during the Lady Jays' win at Oberlin on Tuesday evening. Baird finished the game with 21 points on 75 percent shooting for the night!



All night long during Norton's big win at Oberlin on Tuesday, the Lady Blue Jays wanted the basketball and knew what to do with it when they got it. Above, junior Amanda Ray went down on the hardwoods to gain possession of a loose ball.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

2 of 2 for 100 percent.

Norton edged Oberlin in rebounds 23-22. The Lady Jays grabbed 9 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and the Lady Red Devils pulled down 13 offensive and 9 defensive boards.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Wallingford with 6, followed by Wolf, 4; Jones, Bozarth, 3 each; Baird, Keilig, Ray, 2 each; Stewart, 1.

Eight different Norton players stole the ball at least once in the game. Norton had 21 thefts compared to 5 for the Lady Red Devils. Baird was the leader with 6 steals, followed by Stewart, 5; Bozarth, 4; Wallingford, 2; Keilig, Jones, Wolf, Ray, 1 each.

Nine Lady Jays recorded at least one of Norton's 22 offensive

assists. Leading the way with 7 assists was Stewart, followed by Hannah Waggoner, Baird, 3 each; Wallingford, Roy, Jones, 2 each; Wolf, Bozarth, Ray, 1 each.

Oberlin had 6 assists. Norton turned the ball over 14 times and the Lady Devils gave up the ball 31 times.

### Lady Jays Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity quintet defeated Oberlin 37-32.

They held quarter leads of 8-5, 22-7 and 28-23.

Leading scorer for Norton was Shelby Jones with 11, followed by Kaitlyn Wolf, 10; Raven Brown, Dustyna Sprigg, 4 each; Kaylen Rossi, Kendra Engelbert, Sady Keilig, Lacy Keilig, 2 each.

Erin Jones and Jordan Dreher

each tallied 7 for the Lady Red Devils.

"This was a great test for us tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Oberlin made a big run on us in the second half, mostly due to our lack of running an effective offense.

"We did step it up at the end of the game and hit a couple of big baskets to get the lead and hold on for the win."

### Next action

Norton hosted Phillipsburg in Mid-Continent League play last night but results were not available at press time.

Norton will return to play versus Northwest Kansas League squads on Tuesday when the Blue Jays travel to Hoxie for girls and boys

varsity, junior varsity games, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### BOX SCORE Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 2 1 2-2 9; Ashlie Stewart 3 0 4-7 10; Laura Lee Baird 6 3 0-0 21; Lacy Keilig 4 0 0-1 8; KaraJo Jones 1 0 1-2 3; Kaitlyn Wolf 0 0 2-4 2; Hayli Bozarth 8 0 2-4 18; Amanda Ray 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 27 4 11-20 77.

### Oberlin Girls

Brandi Diederich 1 0 0-0 2; Ashley Horton 1 0 0-0 2; Erin Jones 2 10-0 7; Jordan Dreher 2 0 0-0 4; Annamarie Larue 1 0 0-0 2; Adrienne Pauls 1 0 0-0 2; Mary Olson 0 0 2-2 2; Kiah Blau 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 10 1 2-2 25.

# Norton boys fall 62-41 in Oberlin's Red Devil gym

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
The Norton Community High School boys basketball team had 22 turnovers on Tuesday night in a non-league game at Northwest Kansas League member Oberlin and couldn't make up for the resulting baskets by the Red Devils in a 62-41 loss.

After falling behind 18-2 after one quarter and 32-8 by halftime, Norton played much better in the second half where they beat the Red Devils 18-16 in the third quarter and 15-14 in the fourth period to outscore Oberlin 33-30 in the second half.

The first half deficit was just too much for the inexperienced Norton quintet to overcome after intermission against the veteran Oberlin five. Only three Blue Jay lettermen returned this season and none were starters.

Landon Hamel led Norton in scoring and hit the Jays' only first quarter basket. Ashton Draper swished two baskets and Dakota Dreher hit another for Norton in the second quarter.

Hamel led the way in the third quarter, hitting four two-point baskets, one three-pointer and a free throw for 12 points and Draper connected on three more baskets.

At one point late in the third quarter, Norton went on a 10-0 run as Draper and Hamel alternated hitting baskets.

In the fourth quarter, Jordan Wahlmeier hit five free throws, Hamel hit another basket and two charities, Draper and Luke Ninemire each connected for a basket and J.D. Gall hit two charities.

"We just played poorly in the first half," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"Offensively, we played with no confidence and we did not follow the defensive principles of our system, especially when things got tough."

Hamel hit 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 6 of 12 two-point shots for 50 percent and 7 of 15 overall for 47 percent

accuracy. He also hit 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent and finished with 18 points in the game.

Draper hit 6 of 9 two-point tries for 67 percent, missed his only trey try and finished 6 of 10 overall for an excellent 60 percent accuracy. He missed his only two free throws and totaled 12 points in the contest.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Lucas Juenemann with 22; Dakota Soderlund added 12 and Toby Peters 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 11 from long range for 9 percent, 14 of 36 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 15 of 47 overall for 32 percent.

Oberlin swished 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 25 of 43 two-point tries for 58 percent and 26 of 48 overall for 54 percent.

From the free throw line, the

Blue Jays connected on 10 of 15 for 67 percent and the Red Devils hit 9 of 15 for 60 percent.

Norton outrebounded Oberlin 29-24. The Blue Jays grabbed 8 offensive and 21 defensive caroms while the Red Devils pulled down 6 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Dakota Dreher led Norton in rebounds with 7, followed by Zac Dreher, 6; Ashton Draper, Landon Hamel, 4 each; Jordan Wahlmeier, J.D. Gall, 3 each; Luke Ninemire, Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Norton had 7 steals and Oberlin had 9. Gall was the leader with 3, followed by Hamel, Zac Dreher, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had 8 assists compared to 16 for the Red Devils. Hamel led with 4, followed by Nickell, 2; Draper, Zac Dreher, 1 each.

### Junior varsity

Norton was victorious in the

boys junior varsity game by a 26-18 score.

The young Blue Jays trailed 10-7 after one quarter but were on top 16-14 at intermission. Norton led 19-16 after the low-scoring third period.

Jordan Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 9 points, followed by Dakota Dreher, 7; Dillon McConney, 6; Alec Gilgenbach, 2; Luke Ninemire, Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Dakota Soderlund led Oberlin with 9.

### BOX SCORE Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 1 0 0-0 2; Jordan Wahlmeier 0 0 5-7 5; Ashton Draper 6 0 2-12; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-0 2; Landon Hamel 6 1 3-4 18; J.D. Gall 0 0 2-2 2; Game Totals 14 1 10-15 41.

### Oberlin Boys

Lucas Juenemann 9 1 1-1 22; Toby Peters 5 0 0-3 10; Logan Fortin 2 0 4-5 8; Wiley Farr 1 0 0-0 2; Nolan Wasson 1 0 0-0 2; Sam Stapp 5 0 2-4 12; Dakota Soderlund 2 0 2-6; Game Totals 25 1 9-15 62.



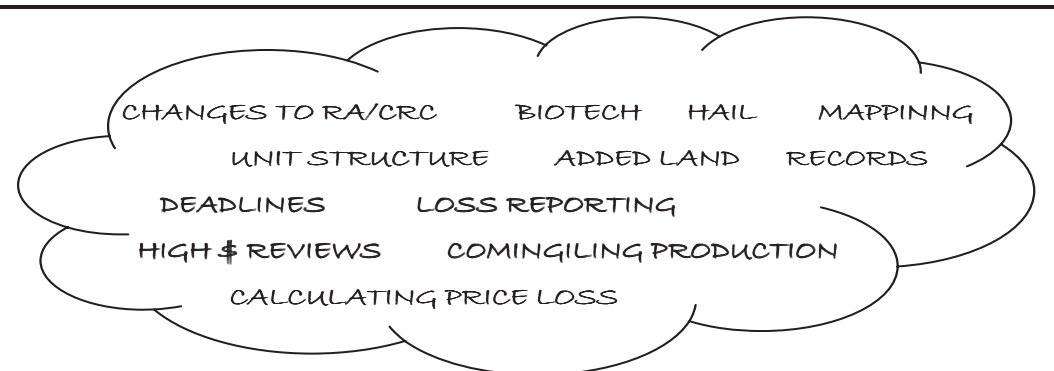
Blue Jay junior Ashton Draper got position inside an Oberlin player to pull down a rebound during Norton's game Tuesday on the Red Devils' home court. In addition to rebounding well, Draper hit 60 percent of his shots and scored 12 points in the game.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior guard Landon Hamel left no doubt who would get this rebound during the Blue Jays' game at Oberlin on Tuesday evening. Hamel also led Norton in scoring with 18 points.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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Feb. 24 Grainfield 4-H Building - 6:30 PM CST  
March 2 Goodland 4-H Building - Noon MST

All meetings include a meal, RSVP at least 5 days before "your" meeting.

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