

Blue Jays hand Panther ladies first setback

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team survived a tough challenge by Phillipsburg in a makeup game Thursday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium with a 57-47 Mid-Continent League victory.

It was the first league loss for the Lady Panthers so the win put the Lady Blue Jays on top of the standings at this point.

Norton led by just 14-12 after one quarter but outscored Phillipsburg 17-13 in the second period to take a 31-25 halftime lead. The defensively oriented third quarter ended with the Lady Jays outscoring the Lady Panthers 8-6 to make it a 39-31 contest.

Phillipsburg continued to hang around in the fourth period when Norton couldn't pull away despite scoring 18 points. The Lady Panthers made it interesting by scoring 16 points of their own.

Only two Norton players scored in the first quarter. Hayli Bozarth hit two baskets and four free throws and Laura Lee Baird connected on a three-point and two-point basket and one free throw.

Five different Norton players tallied in the second quarter. Baird threw in two more baskets and a free throw, Bozarth connected on two more baskets, Lacey Wallingford hit a basket and two charities, KaraJo Jones swished a basket and free throw and Katharine Roy hit one charity.

In the low-scoring third quarter, Baird hit two shots from long range and Amanda Ray hit one two-point basket for the Lady Jays. Phillipsburg hit two field goals and two free throws.

Early in the fourth quarter, Norton extended the lead to 43-31 on baskets by Ray and Stewart and, after a basket and free throw by Bozarth and another basket by Stewart, stretched the lead to 14 points at 50-36 with 4:24 left.

Phillipsburg didn't fold, however, and got the final margin of victory down to 10 points.

Five Lady Jays scored in the fourth stanza. Stewart led the

way with three baskets and two free throws. Wallingford hit a basket and two charities, Bozarth swished a field goal and free throw, Ray connected on a field goal and Baird hit one charity.

"Overall, we played well," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka. "We played hard but Phillipsburg has some good athletes. They hurt us on the boards in the first half but we did a better job in the second half.

"We played good down the stretch and hit some free throws when we needed them.

"We also got some good help off the bench.

"This was a good league win for us.

"We should get another good test when we play at Hoxie on Tuesday. They are ranked No.2 in the state in Class 1A."

Baird led scoring for Norton with 18 points on 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 3 of 9 two-point tries for 33 percent, 6 of 16 overall for 38 percent and 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Bozarth continued to score in the paint as she hit 15 points on 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and 5 of 8 from the charity stripe for 63 percent.

Leading scorer for Phillipsburg was Lindsay Dusin with 15 points; Emilie Coca added 10 points.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 3 of 11 from beyond the arc for 27 percent, 16 of 33 two-point attempts for 48 percent and 19 of 44 overall for 43 percent.

The Lady Panthers swished 4 of 11 from long range for 36 percent, 13 of 41 two-point tries for 32 percent and 17 of 52 overall for 33 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 16 of 21 for an excellent 76 percent and Phillipsburg hit 9 of 18 for 50 percent.

Both teams had 32 rebounds. Norton grabbed 5 offensive and 27 defensive caroms and Phillipsburg pulled down 12 offensive and 20 defensive boards.

Hayli Bozarth had a double-double, pulling down 18 rebounds

in addition to her 15 points. Other Norton rebounders were: Wallingford, 7; Baird, 4; Roy, 2; Stewart, 1.

The Lady Jays had 8 steals and the Lady Panthers had 9. Bozarth led with 3, followed by Baird, Jones, 2 each; Ray, 1.

Norton had 12 offensive assists and Phillipsburg had 11. Stewart was the leader with 6, followed by Baird, 3; Bozarth, 2; Jones, 1.

Norton had 11 turnovers and Phillipsburg turned the ball over 12 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated Phillipsburg 40-27.

Norton held quarter leads of 6-4, 15-11 and 27-23.

Leading scorer for the young Lady Jays was Kaitlyn Wolf with 18 points, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 6; Sady Keilig, Shelby Jones, Lacy Keilig, 3 each; Hannah Waggoner, Erin Terrell, Kylie Nuzum, 2 each; Kaylen Rossi, 1.

Leading the Phillipsburg scoring was Megan Suchsland with 9 points.

"We had a very good effort tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi. "The second half was a great display of hustle.

"We are still having issues with blocking out but our girls did a great job of going after loose balls. We love to see bodies flying all over the floor.

"We need to play the entire game like we did the last quarter."

C-team

The Norton girls C-team defeated Phillipsburg 25-22.

Norton held quarter leads of 8-4, 16-10 and 22-14. Leading scorer for Norton was Dustyna Sprigg with 10 points, followed by Caren Thomson, Erin Terrell, 4 each; Sady Keilig, 3; Kaylen Rossi, Tiffany Eagleburger, 2 each.

Leslie Norton led Phillipsburg with 7 points.

"Our defense is beginning to talk and our offense was nice and patient tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach Joan Bolt.

"We need to continue to work on improving our blocking out.

"Our girls did a lot of good things tonight. Their patience and composure kept them controlled in the fourth quarter and ultimately ended in a good win for us."

Next action

Norton will travel to Hoxie to play junior varsity and varsity contests this evening, beginning at 4:45 p.m. The junior varsity

girls games will be first, followed by the junior varsity boys, varsity girls and varsity boys contests. Just two quarters will be played in the junior varsity games.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls
Lacey Wallingford 2 0 4-4 8;
Katharine Roy 0 0 1-2 1; Ashlie Stewart 3 0 2-28; Laura Lee Baird 3 3 3-4 18; KaraJo Jones, 10 1-13;

Hayli Bozarth 5 0 5-8 15; Amanda Ray 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 16 3 16-21 57.

Phillipsburg Girls

Makenzie Weinman 0 3 0-0 9; Lindsay Dusin 3 1 6-10 15; Raegan Vanderplas 3 0 0-0 6; Samantha Voorhees 1 0 0-0 2; Nikki Swatzell 2 0 1-3 5; Emilie Coca 4 0 2-5 10; Game Totals 13 4 9-18 47.



If there's such a thing as a scramble in basketball, this may be it. Norton and Phillipsburg girls players went up for a rebound during their contest here Thursday night and the Lady Jays' Lacey Wallingford, left, and Hayli Bozarth made sure Norton got the ball. In the middle among the Norton players is Amanda Ray and at right is Nortons Ashlie Stewart, No. 14. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Boys suffer 60-29 loss to Panthers

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team played better on Thursday evening in a makeup game in Stull Gymnasium in Norton but had trouble hitting the basket and lost a 60-29 Mid-Continent League contest to an athletic Phillipsburg quintet.

The Blue Jays hit just 22 percent of their field goal tries compared to 40 percent by the visitors.

The Panthers held quarter leads of 15-7, 34-17 and 50-26.

"We played good ball and had opportunities but couldn't score," said Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink.

"We handled their press defense but just couldn't finish plays. Our boys are doing what we ask them to do but just can't finish by scoring. You have to give Phillipsburg a lot of credit. They came in here and hit shots on us."

Landon Hamel, Ashton Draper and Zac Dreher each hit baskets and J.D. Gall swished a free throw for Norton's first quarter points. Dreher hit three more baskets, Jordan Wahlmeier connected on a basket and Hamel hit two free throws for Norton's 10 second quarter points.

In the third period, Gall hit a basket and three charities, Hamel hit another basket and Dakota Dreher

scored from two-point range for the Blue Jays' 9 points.

Norton had just three points in the final quarter on a basket by Zac Dreher and free throw by Wahlmeier. Leading scorer for the Blue Jays was Zac Dreher with 10 points. He hit 5 of 9 shots for 56 percent accuracy.

Ben Suchsland led Phillipsburg with 18 points; Dylan Frantz hit 15 and Steven Craig tallied 14

As a team, the Blue Jays hit 11 of 42 two-point tries for 26 percent, missed all 9 shots from beyond the arc and finished with 11 of 51 for 22 percent.

The Panthers connected on 5 of 15 from long range for 33 percent, 19 of 45 two-point tries for 42 percent and 24 of 60 overall for 40 percent. From the charity stripe, Norton hit a creditable 7 of 11 for 64 percent. Phillipsburg connected on 7 of 12 charities for 58 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 21 total. The Panthers grabbed 15 offensive and 26 defensive caroms for 41 total. Ashton Draper was Norton's rebounding leader with 8, followed by Zac Dreher, 4; Dakota Dreher, Jordan Wahlmeier, Luke Ninemire, Landon Hamel, 2 each; Alec Gilgenbach, 1.

The Blue Jays had 8 steals compared to 7 for the Panthers. Gall was the leader with 3, followed by

Hamel, 2; Dakota Dreher, Dillon McConney, Draper, 1 each.

Norton had 4 offensive assists and Phillipsburg got credit for 25. Dakota Dreher, Ninemire, Hamel and Gall each had 1 assist.

Neither team had many turnovers. Norton had 10 and Phillipsburg had 13.

Junior varsity

Norton lost the junior varsity boys contest by a 49-43 score.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters: 13-11, 28-21 and 35-27. Jordan Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 15 points, followed by Luke Ninemire, 9; Dillon McConney, 8; Alec Gilgenbach, 4; Cole Archer, Tye Nickell, Marcus Herman, 2 each; Dakota Dreher, 1. Justin Hoft led Phillipsburg with 9 points; Charles Howell, Dustin Aherin, Nick Smith and Skye Long each hit 8 points.

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 1 0 0-0 2; Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 1-2 3; Ashton Draper 1 0 0-0 2; Landon Hamel 2 0 2-3 6; J.D. Gall 1 0 4-6 6; Zac Dreher 5 0 0-0 10; Game Totals 11 0 7-11 29.

Phillipsburg Boys

Trevor Smith 1 0 1-2 3; Dylan Frantz 1 3 4-6 15; Ben Suchsland 9 0 0-0 18; Michael Iman 0 0 2-4 2; Tanner Thompson 0 2 0-0 6; Steven Craig 7 0 0-0 14; Skye Long 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 19 5 7-12 60.

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High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:

Norton in Class 1-2-3A Regional Wrestling Tournament in Ellis ...2 p.m. Fri., 11 a.m. Sat.

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Hoxie in Hoxie 4:45 p.m. Today

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Ellis in Norton 5 p.m. Friday

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-team vs. Plainville

"Senior Night" in Norton 4 p.m. Monday

Northern Valley Girls and Boys vs. Hill City in Hill City 5 p.m. Today

Northern Valley Girls and Boys vs. Palco in Almena 4 p.m. Friday

Logan Girls and Boys vs. Trego Community in WaKeeney 4 p.m. Today

Northern Valley and Logan Girls and Boys in Regionals Monday-Saturday TBA