



# Norton Blue Jay girls roll to 51-14 victory

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team had lots of extra reasons to want to defeat Plainville in a rare Monday game in the NCHS Stull Gym and they did so by outscoring the Lady Cardinals 51-14.

After losing a two-point game to Ellis on Friday night, Norton needed a win over Plainville in this final league game of the season to ensure at least a tie for the Mid-Continent League championship. On top of that, it was "Senior Night" for six Norton girls.

The Lady Jays did not disappoint their loyal fans as they jumped out to a 19-4 first quarter lead, added 19 more points in the second quarter to take a 38-6 halftime advantage and scored 13 more points in the third period to extend their lead to 51-14.

Neither team scored in the time-shortened fourth quarter during which the scoreboard clock ran continuously since Norton led by more than 30 points at the start of the quarter. The Norton reserves played the fourth quarter.

Laura Lee Baird hit two three-point shots and a two-pointer, Katharine Roy buried a trey, Lacey Wallingford and Hayli Bozarth each hit two baskets in the first quarter.

Bozarth added three more two-point baskets, Baird hit two more, Ashlie Stewart hit a shot from beyond the arc and a two-pointer and Roy and Amanda Ray each hit baskets for the Lady Jays in the second quarter.

Making Norton's 13 third quarter points were Baird with a trey and two-point basket, Bozarth with a basket and three free throws, Stewart with another basket and KaraJo Jones with a free throw.

"It's nice to get back to winning," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka.

"We played with more energy tonight and got off to a good start. We were playing good defense and got some steals and easy baskets at the start of the game.

"This was a nice way for our seniors to go out in their last regular season home game."

The Norton seniors and their parents were honored with a special ceremony prior to the game. Lady Jay senior players are: Lacey Wallingford, Katharine Roy, Taylor Rossi, Laura Lee Baird, KaraJo Jones and Hayli Bozarth.

Student manager Hannah Fulton and cheerleader Kayla Scheetz, both seniors, were also honored.

Taylor Rossi received a season-ending injury earlier in the year.

Baird was leading scorer for Norton with 17 points and Bozarth hit 15. Kylee Pywell and Amanda Carey each scored 4 points for the Lady Cardinals.

Baird hit 3 of 5 shots from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 4 of 8 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 7 of 13 overall for 54 percent accuracy. Bozarth connected on 6 of 17 two-point tries for 35 percent and was 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

As a team, Norton swished 5 of 16 three-point shots for 31 percent, 16 of 48 two-point tries for 33 percent and 21 of 64 overall for 33 percent.

Plainville missed all 8 trey tries, hit 6 of 38 two-point shots for 16 percent and was 6 of 46 overall for 13 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 4 of 8 for 50 percent and Plainville swished 2 of 8 for 25 percent.

The Lady Jays outbounded the Lady Cardinals 38-26. Norton had 12 offensive and 26 defensive caroms and Plainville pulled down 7 offensive and 19 defensive boards.

Ten different Norton girls

grabbed at least one rebound. Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Ray with 8, followed by Bozarth, Jones, 7 each; Wallingford, 4; Roy, Baird, 3 each; Stewart, Kaitlyn Wolf, 2 each; Hannah Waggoner, Shelby Jones, 1 each.

Norton had 14 steals and Plainville had 7. Stewart was the leader with 4, followed by Wallingford, Waggoner, Baird, Bozarth, 2 each; Roy, KaraJo Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays recorded 8 offensive assists compared to 4 for the Lady Cardinals. Stewart led with 3, followed by KaraJo Jones, 2; Wallingford, Baird, Bozarth, 1 each.

Norton had just 11 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 20 times.

### Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Plainville 35-25.

Norton trailed 10-4 after one quarter and 12-10 at halftime. The young Lady Jays outscored Plainville 12-6 in the third quarter to take a 22-18 lead and also outscored the visitors 13-7 in the final stanza.

Leading scorer for Norton was Hannah Waggoner with 15 points, followed by Lacy Keilig, 7; Sady Keilig, Dustyna Sprigg, 4 each; Raven Brown, Kaitlyn Wolf, 2 each; Erin Terrell, 1.

Dani Winters tallied 9 points for Plainville.

"Once again a bad first half was followed by a good half," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"During the first half, we did not value the ball and did not hustle. In the second half, we found a group that gelled, started getting steals and got us the lead. Then, we were able to keep the press going and hold on for the win."

### C-team

The Norton girls C-team de-



Shooting against the Norton girls' defense was almost impossible for the Plainville girls in Monday night's contest in the NCHS Stull Gym as they hit just 13 percent of their attempts. Above, a Lady Cardinal tried with no success to penetrate the defense to hit a basket over the Lady Jays' Laura Lee Baird, left, and her teammates.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

feated Plainville 33-20.

Norton held quarter leads of 16-2, 24-8 and 29-15.

Leading scorer for the young Lady Jays was Erin Terrell with 8 points, followed by Caren Thomson, 6; Kaylen Rossi, Sady Keilig, Meaghan Peterson, 5 each; Dustyna Sprigg, 4.

Dani Winters was also the leading scorer for Plainville in this contest with 6 points.

"Our C-team girls played well

for the home crowd," said Norton assistant girls coach Joan Bolt.

"We put it to them on the press defense and came up with some good steals.

"We are also getting more comfortable with our zone offense.

"Our freshman girls held their own well on the court tonight."

### BOX SCORE

Lacey Wallingford 2 0 0-4; Katharine Roy 1 1 0-0 5; Hannah

Waggoner 0 0-20; Ashlie Stewart 2 1 0-0 7; Laura Lee Baird 4 3 0-0 17; KaraJo Jones, 0 0 1-2 1; Hayli Bozarth 6 0 3-4 15; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 16 5 4-8 51.

### Plainville Girls

Taylor Hixon 1 0 0-2; Lauren Buresh 1 0 0-0 2; Amanda Brungardt 0 0 0-2 0; Kylee Pywell 2 0 0-2 4; Amanda Casey 1 0 2-4 4; Kendra Husmann 1 0 0-2; Game Totals 6 0 2-8 14.

# Blue Jay boys fall short in effort to reign in Cardinals

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played well enough to win against Plainville in Mid-Continent League action in the NCHS Stull Gym on "Senior Night" in Norton on Monday evening but a Cardinal quintet that was red hot from three-point land held off the Blue Jays to win 62-52.

In a tight contest, Norton outscored the visitors by one point in the first, second and fourth quarters but the Cardinals came out of the dressing room for the third quarter with hot hands that connected on four baskets from beyond the arc that made the difference in the game.

Landon Hamel hit two two-point baskets, J.D. Gall buried a three-pointer, Jordan Wahlmeier and Ashton Draper each hit a

basket and Luke Ninemire tallied on a free throw for Norton in the first quarter to give the Blue Jays a 12-11 lead.

Zac Dreher and Hamel each hit two more baskets, Draper hit two more shots plus two free throws and Tye Nickell connected on a basket for Norton's 16 second quarter points that put the Blue Jays ahead 28-26 at halftime.

With five two-point baskets along with four from beyond the arc plus a free throw, Plainville surprised Norton with 23 points in the third quarter and the Blue Jays were only able to come up with 10 on baskets by Draper, Gall and Zac Dreher, two free throws by Zac and charities by Hamel and Wahlmeier.

When the period ended, the Blue Jays found themselves trailing 49-38. Norton continued to play hard in the fourth quarter and outscored Plainville 14-13 but

could not make up for the third quarter deficit.

Gall ended the game with three baskets in the fourth quarter. Hamel connected on two shots, Draper hit another basket and Zac Dreher added two charities.

"We played hard and outplayed them and deserved to win," said coach Reusink.

"We had a dry spell in the third quarter and they hit some three-point shots that were big. This was as much effort as we have played with in a game. I was proud of our high level of play."

Hamel was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points. He hit 6 of 14 two-point shots for 43 percent but missed all four three-point tries and was 6 of 18 overall for 33 percent. He hit 1 of 3 charities for the same percentage.

Draper ended with 12 points on 5 of 8 two-point tries for 63 percent. He was a perfect 2 of 2

from the free throw line.

Gall finished with 11 points on 1 of 2 from long range, 4 of 8 two-point attempts and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent.

Zac Dreher, Norton's only senior boy player, was honored prior to the game. He was the fourth Norton player who scored in double figures. He hit 10 points on 3 of 10 two-point shots for 30 percent and was a perfect 4 of 4 from the charity stripe.

Freshman Andrew Casey led the Cardinals as he poured in 25 points, nearly half of their total.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 8 from beyond the arc for 13 percent, 20 of 49 two-point tries for 41 percent and 21 of 57 overall for 37 percent.

Plainville connected on 6 of 15 from three-point range for 40 percent, 16 of 35 two-point attempts for 46 percent and 22 of 50 overall for 44 percent.

From the charity stripe, the Blue Jays connected on 9 of 16 for 56 percent and the Cardinals hit 12 of 18 for 67 percent.

Rebounding, steals, assists and turnovers were about the same for both teams.

Norton grabbed 12 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 27 total. Plainville pulled down 5 offensive and 25 defensive boards for 30 total.

Zac Dreher came close to a double-double with 8 rebounds, followed by Ashton Draper, 5; Jordan Wahlmeier, Landon Hamel, 4 each; J.D. Gall, Dakota Dreher, 2 each; Luke Ninemire, Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Both teams had 5 steals. Hamel led with 3 thefts and Wahlmeier had 2.

The Blue Jays had 16 assists and the Cardinals recorded 19. Hamel led in assists with 9, followed by Zac Dreher, 3; Wahlmeier, Nickell, 2 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 14 times.

### Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a 58-27 score.

The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 11-7, 24-14 and 42-

24.

Nine different players scored for Norton, led by Jodran Wahlmeier and Luke Ninemire with 9 points each. Dakota Dreher and Dillon McConney each tallied 8 points, followed by Zach Hartwell, 6; Tye Nickell, Marcus Herman, 5 each; Cole Archer, Alec Gilgenbach, 4 each.

Jameson Klein led Plainville with 7 points; Kyle Becker added 6.

### BOX SCORE

#### Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 1-3 3; Ashton Draper 5 0 2-2 12; Luke Ninemire 0 0 1-2 1; Tye Nickell 1 0 0-1 2; Landon Hamel 6 0 1-3 13; J.D. Gall 4 1 0-0 11; Zac Dreher 3 0 4-4 10; Game Totals 20 1 9-15 52.

#### Plainville Boys

Jaden Perkins 5 0 0-0 10; Alex Dreher 1 1 3-3 8; Brady Johnson 1 1 0-0 5; Conor Anderson 0 0 2-2 2; Ross Copeland 1 0 3-4 5; Andrew Casey 6 3 4-7 25; Bryan Brungardt 2 1 0-2 7; Game Totals 16 6 12-18 62.

## Norton basketball vs. Holcomb

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams will compete in the Class 3A Substate Tournament in Holcomb next week.

Teams in the tournament, in addition to Holcomb and Norton, will be Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Lakin, Cimarron, Phillipsburg, Southwestern Heights and Goodland.

### GIRLS

Thomas More Prep-Marian will be the only unbeaten team in the tournament with a 19-0 record and is seeded No. 1.

Southwestern Heights (18-1) is seeded No. 2 and Norton (16-4) is seeded No. 3. Cimarron and Phillipsburg, both 13-6 are seeded No. 4 and 5, respectively. Holcomb (9-11) is the No. 6 seed, Goodland (6-14) is No. 7 and Lakin (3-16) is No. 8.

First round games will be Monday evening at the site of the higher seeded team.

Holcomb will travel to Norton for a 6 p.m. game with the Lady Jays in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Goodland will travel to Southwestern Heights for a 7 p.m. con-

test, Phillipsburg will play at Cimarron at 6 p.m. and Lakin will travel to Hays for a 6 p.m. game with Thomas More Prep-Marian.

All girls games after Monday will be played at host Holcomb.

The semifinals will be on Thursday evening with the Thomas More Prep-Lakin and Cimarron-Phillipsburg winners and the Southwestern Heights-Goodland and Norton-Holcomb winners playing.

The winners of these games will play on Saturday at 6 p.m. for the championship and a berth in the Class 3A State Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.

### BOYS

Host team Holcomb (17-2) will bring the best record into the boys substate tournament and is seeded No. 1.

Southwestern Heights (15-4) is seeded No. 2 and Phillipsburg (14-5) is seeded No. 3.

The No. 4 seed is Thomas More Prep of Hays (13-6) and No. 5 is Lakin (11-8).

Goodland (9-11) is the No. 6 seed and Cimarron (6-13) is No. 7.

Norton (3-17) is seeded No. 8.

On Tuesday, Norton will travel to Holcomb to play a 6 p.m. contest, Cimarron will travel to Southwestern Heights to play a 7 p.m. game, Goodland will travel to Phillipsburg for a 7 p.m. game.

Lakin will travel to Hays to play Thomas More Prep at 7:30 p.m. on Monday.

All boys games after Tuesday will be played in Holcomb.

Winners of the Holcomb-Norton and Thomas More Prep-Lakin games will play on Friday in the semifinals. Winners of the Southwestern Heights-Cimarron and Phillipsburg-Goodland contests will also play in Friday's semifinals.

Winners of Friday's semifinal games will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in the championship finals with the winner advancing to the Class 3A State Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.



Norton's Luke Ninemire went high to pull down a rebound during the Blue Jays' exciting game Monday evening with Plainville in the NCHS Stull Gym. Also in the photo for Norton are Zac Dreher and J.D. Gall, No. 24.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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