

Boys basketball opening

Smith Center sees first loss after 79 straight wins

BY DICK BOYD
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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team didn't win many games last season but returns six lettermen, three of them starters, and the 2008-09 experience should pay dividends this time around.

The Blue Jays open the 2009-10 campaign on Saturday when they host Atwood in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Games will begin at 3 p.m. with the junior varsity boys contest in the Wilmett Kirk Memorial Gym. Also, at 3 p.m., the girls junior varsity game will begin in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

Returning starters for Norton are 5'10" senior guard Landon Hamel, 5'10" senior guard J.D. Gall and 6'1" senior forward Ashton Draper.

Other returning lettermen are 5'7" senior guard Marcus Herman, 6'1" sophomore post Jordan Wahlmeier and 5'8" sophomore guard Tye Nickell.

Dakota Dreher, a 5'10" junior, is also a returning letterman but is recovering from an injury and will not play this season.

Other members of the 2009-10 team are: Terrell Lane, 5'11"; Cole Archer, 6'; Luke Ninemire, 6'; juniors; Dillon McConney, 6'; Zach Hartwell, 5'4", sophomores; Chris Fisher, 5'4"; Ryan Bainter, 5'7"; Lane Archer, 5'9"; Jacob

Brooks, 5'11"; Andrew Ellis, 5'10"; John Renner, 5'10"; Dalton Miller, 5'10"; Dylan Sprigg, 6'1"; Javen Colip, 5'7"; Lane Bigge, 5'11", freshmen.

Norton lost only one senior off last season's team, so most of the statistics leaders return. Landon Hamel was leading scorer last year, averaging 12.7 points per game. J.D. Gall was third high scorer with an average of 6.5 points per contest and Ashton Draper was fourth best with an average of 6.1 points.

Draper hit an exceptional 81.8 percent of his free throws to lead the team in that category. Hamel was second high from the charity stripe at 57 percent.

Draper was also second high in rebounds with 124 for the season, an average of 6 per game.

Hamel was leader in steals with a total of 55. Gall had 37 thefts. Assists leader for the Blue Jays was Hamel with 59, followed by Gall, 48 and Tye Nickell, 27. Jordan Wahlmeier was second high in blocked shots with 7.

David Stover is an assistant coach again this season.

Student managers are Kylie Nuzum, Brae Bigge, Treven Rossi and David Cressler.

Coach's comments
"This year's team will be small but very athletic," said coach Reusink. "With improved depth and experience, we should be a more competitive group than we were a year ago."

"With four returning starters and two of them first team all-league, Plainville should be considered the favorite in the Mid-Continent League; however, most teams in the league have two or three starters returning which should make it very competitive."

Veteran head coach
Coach Reusink is beginning his 31st year of coaching high school boys teams and has compiled an overall record of 438 wins and 212 losses for an excellent 67 percent victory record. This is an average of 14.6 wins and 7 losses per year.

Under the tutelage of coach Reusink, the 2002-03 Norton quintet won the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-04 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-05 Blue Jays were 15-7.

The Norton boys' 2005-06 record was 12-8 and they finished second in the Mid-Continent League tournament. The 2006-07 squad was 14-7, tied for second in the league and placed second in the league tournament. The 2007-08 team went 15-7, placed third in the league and third in the league tournament but left Norton without any returning starters and only three lettermen for the 2008-09 season.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 224 wins and 166 losses.

The state high school football championships on Saturday produced some results of much interest to Norton fans.

In Class 2-1A, Smith Center's long unbeaten streak ended with a 20-12 overtime loss to Centralia. The Redmen had drawn national attention with their 79 game winning record and five straight state championships.

Smith Center trailed 6-0 after one quarter but a Schubart field goal and touchdown run by Stansbury in the second quarter put the Redmen on top 9-6 at halftime. The only scoring in the third quarter was a Centralia touchdown to give them a 12-9 lead.

A Schubart field goal with 49 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 12-all and sent it into overtime.

Centralia was given the ball first in the extra period and scored

on a 9-yard touchdown. Centralia's defense was able to stop Smith Center when they were given the pigskin and Centralia won 20-12.

In Class 3A in Hutchinson, Wichita Collegiate completed a perfect season with a 37-30 victory over Marysville. Just as they had in defeating Norton in substitute the previous week, Wichita Collegiate used a strong passing game and special teams to win the state championship.

The first quarter ended with Wichita Collegiate leading 14-10. LeMaster had a 19 yard pass from Jablonski for one touchdown and LeMaster returned a kickoff 99 yards for the other. Both teams scored once in the second period as Bailey caught a 23 yard pass from Jablonski to make the score 21-17 at intermission.

A Coughenour field goal and 80

yard punt return for a touchdown by LeMaster and another Marysville tally made it 31-23 after three quarters. Wichita Collegiate scored early in the fourth quarter on a 2 yard run by Taylor to extend the Spartans' advantage to 37-23. One last touchdown by Marysville made the final 37-30.

Other state championship scores were: Shawnee Mission Miega 28, Topeka Hayden 6, Class 4A; Hutchinson 52, Gardner-Edgerton 14, Class 5A and Olathe North 37, Wichita Heights 3, Class 6A.

In eight-man championships the previous Saturday, Quinter won the Eight-Man I championship by a 28-26 score over defending state champion Baileyville. In the Eight-Man II championship game, Hanover outscored Quivira Heights 66-36 to take the title.

Girls basketball will host Atwood Saturday

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team will open their 2009-10 season on Saturday when they host Atwood in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Games will begin at 3 p.m. with the junior varsity girls game, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

The Lady Jays lost six key senior players off last year's Mid-Continent League champion quintet, which lost in the substate to eventual state champion Southwestern Heights and finished with an outstanding 17-5 season record.

The only returning starter is letter winner 5'3" senior guard Ashlie Stewart, who was Norton's assists leader last season with 60.

The other returning letter winners are: Hannah Waggoner, 5' guard; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5'11" post and Amanda Ray, 5'10" post, all seniors.

Other team members are: Kendra Engelbert, 5'9", senior; Kaylen Rossi, 5'5"; Dustyna Sprigg, 5'8"; Meaghan Peterson, 5'5", juniors; Alyssa Boser, 5'4"; Tiffany Eagleburger, 5'4"; Erin Terrell, 5'10"; Caren Thomson, 5'8", sophomores; Alec Melvin, 5'5"; Kamilla Jones, 5'7"; Sierra Black, 5'4"; Brianna Karnopp, 5'6"; Teslee Nickell, 5'6"; Katherine Boteler, 5'3"; Katie Koch, 5'4", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this

season will be George Rossi and Joan Bolt.

Student managers will be Bryan Henry, Julia Kent and Carlo Jo Robinson.

Coach's comments
"Practices at this point have been going very well," said coach Jilka. "We are trying to stay very basic right now since we are so inexperienced."

"Offensively, we are going to struggle at times because right now we don't have a proven scorer. We are trying to find people who can consistently put the ball in the basket. It is just going to take time."

"Defensively, we feel we can be pretty good. We have some quickness and some height so that is a good combination."

"Overall, we just have to get people some experience at the varsity level and, hopefully, after Christmas we will be ready to go."

"The Mid-Continent League race is going to be very tough this year. Hill City, Trego, Smith Center, Phillipsburg and Osborne all have solid teams coming back. There is probably more balance in the league top to bottom than we have had for awhile."

"We can't afford let-ups and, if we can play hard every time out, we might end up surprising some people this year. Our seniors have shown great leadership so far and that needs to continue."

Long time tenure
In his 27 years as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays, coach Jilka's

teams have won 462 games and lost 150 for a 75 percent winning average. Jilka's Lady Jays have averaged 17 wins and just 5.6 losses per season.

Following their fourth place finish in the state tournament in 2000-01, coach Jilka's 2001-02 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the league. Norton compiled a 12-9 record in 2003-04 when they tied for second in the league and their season ended with a 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the substate tournament.

The season ended for the 2004-05 quintet with a loss to eventual champion Holcomb in the substate tournament. The Lady Jays were 17-5 that year and were undefeated league champions and also league tournament champions.

The 2005-06 Norton girls compiled an 18-2 record, were undefeated in the Mid-Continent League and runner-up in the league tournament. Their season came to a sudden close with a 44-33 loss to Riley County in the substate tournament.

The 2006-07 Lady Jays were 13-7 and also placed third in the league tournament. Their season ended with a 46-42 loss to Oberlin in the substate tournament.

The 2007-08 Norton girls won the substate championship and lost their first game in the state tournament 45-39 to Wichita Collegiate.

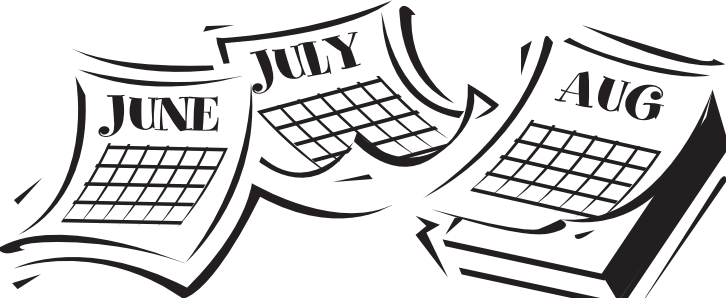
2009/10 Blue Jay Basketball schedule

Dec. 5 - Atwood JV/V, Here, 3 p.m.
Dec. 10-12 - Goodland Top-side Tipoff, TBA
Dec. 17 - Stockton JV/V, 5 p.m., Here
Dec. 18 - Phillipsburg C/JV/V 4 p.m., There
Dec. 19 - Quinter JV Tournament, 9 a.m.
Dec. 28 - Hill City C Tournament, TBA
Jan. 5 - Oberlin JV, V, 5 p.m., There
Jan. 8 - Osborne JV, V 4:30 p.m., Here
Jan. 9 - Phillipsburg C Girls Tourney, 9 a.m.
Jan. 15 - Trego C/JV/V, 4

p.m., Here
Jan. 16 - MCL Feather Bracket, TBA
Jan. 18 - MCL Girls Quarterfinals, TBA
Jan. 19 - MCL Boys Quarterfinals, TBA
Jan. 22 - MCL Semi-Finals, TBA
Jan. 23 - MCL Finals, TBA
Jan. 26 - Goodland C/JV/V, 4:45 p.m., There
Feb. 2 - Smith Center C/JV/V, 4 p.m., Here
Feb. 5 - Hill City JV/V, 4 p.m., There
Feb. 9 - Oberlin JV/V, 5 p.m., Here
Feb. 16 - Hoxie JV/V, 5 p.m.,

Here
Feb. 19 - Ellis JV/V, 4 p.m., There
Feb. 22 - Plainville JV/V, 5 p.m., There
Feb. 23 - Colby C/JV/V, 4:30 p.m., Here
March 1 - Sub-State Quarterfinals, Boys, TBA
March 2 - Sub-State Quarterfinals, Girls, TBA
March 4 - Sub-State Semifinals, Boys, TBA
March 5 - Sub-State Semifinals, Girls, TBA
March 6 - Sub-State Finals, TBA
March 10-13 - Class 3A State Tourney, Hutchinson

Community Calendar



Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA.

Events may be e-mailed to:
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or mailed to 215 South Kansas Avenue

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