

Lady Jays begin season vs. Atwood

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team stayed with Atwood in the first half of their season opening game in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Saturday but lost 47-41 when they sent the Lady Buffaloes to the free throw line on numerous occasions in the second half.

Norton had four more field goals in the game than their visitors but 26 fouls sent Atwood to the charity stripe too many times.

In the low scoring first half, Norton led 6-3 after one period and 15-12 at intermission. Atwood outscored the Lady Jays 19-8 in the third quarter to take a 31-23 lead. Norton outscored Atwood 18-16 in the fourth period but the Lady Jays needed more points to overcome the third quarter deficit.

Norton has only one returning starter, senior point guard Ashlie Stewart, from last season's 17-5 team and head coach Kevin Jilka has indicated it may take some games to give the newcomers enough experience to compete at a higher level.

"We've got a lot of work to do," said coach Jilka. "We didn't adjust very well to their defense and didn't execute very well offensively. We stood around a lot in the first half and took some bad shots.

"In the second half, we did a

lot of fouling. We have to learn to play smarter.

"In the last three minutes, we made a run at them but ran out of time.

"We have to learn how to play harder all the time.

"You have to realize this was just our first game of the season. Our girls will have to come to practice and work hard to get better."

Norton's only points in the first quarter came on a field goal and two free throws by senior post Kaitlyn Wolf and two charities by senior post Amanda Ray. Atwood's only points came on a three-point basket by senior Emily Chessmore. In fact, it was the only three-point basket made by either team in the contest.

Both quintets scored 9 points in the second quarter. Norton's points came on a basket and two free throws by Stewart, another basket and charity by Wolf and a basket by junior post Dustyna Sprigg.

Stewart, Sprigg, Wolf and sophomore post Erin Terrell each scored a basket in the Lady Jays' 8 point third period. Senior Jordan Mizer led the way for Atwood with three baskets and 4 free throws for 10 of their 19 points.

Stewart warmed up from the field in the fourth quarter for Norton, hitting five baskets and two free throws for 12 of Norton's 18 points. Ray connected on two

baskets and Wolf hit her fourth basket of the game.

Hillary Chvatal, a 6'1" sophomore post for the Lady Buffaloes, hit 10 free throws and 1 basket for 12 of their 16 points in the final period.

Ashlie Stewart had a good opening game for the Lady Jays as she hit 7 of 11 two-point baskets for a net-smoking 64 percent. She missed her three trey tries but still ended with a 50 percent night. She was also 4 of 7 from the free throw line for 57 percent and ended with 18 points.

Kaitlyn Wolf had a perfect shooting night from the field, hitting 4 of 4 shots for 100 percent. She also swished 3 of 6 free throws for 50 percent and ended with 11 points.

Chvatal was leading scorer for Atwood with 15 points and Mizer had 13.

Stewart and Wolf tied with Amanda Ray and senior guard Hannah Waggoner for high rebounder with 4 each. Dustyna Sprigg had 3, Kendra Engelbert and Terrell 2 each and Caren Thomson had 1 carom.

Waggoner was assists leader with 4, followed by Stewart, Wolf, 2 each; Sprigg, Ray, 1 each.

As a team, Norton missed all four three-point tries, swished 16 of 35 two-point shots for 46 percent and was 16 of 39 overall for 41 percent. Atwood hit 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 11 of 25 two-pointers for

44 percent and 12 of 27 overall for 44 percent.

From the charity stripe, the Lady Jays were 9 of 16 for 56 percent and the Lady Buffaloes were 22 of 35 for 63 percent.

Norton had 10 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 24 total and Atwood pulled down 10 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 23.

Norton had 2 steals and Atwood had 6. The Lady Jays had 10 assists compared to just 4 for the Lady Buffaloes. Norton had 17 turnovers and Atwood had 11.

Junior varsity won

Norton's junior varsity girls team defeated Atwood 57-21. Norton held quarter leads of 17-4, 34-13 and 45-17.

Caren Thomson was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Teslee Nickell, 12; Kaylen Rossi, 11; Meaghan Peterson, Kamilla Jones, 7 each; Tiffany Eagleburger, 5; Brianna Karnopp, 2. Tasia Reuber led Atwood with 7 points and Summer Castens scored 6.

"This was a great way to begin the season," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi. "The effort our girls gave was tremendous. I have not seen our girls go after rebounds like they did tonight.

"We still have a long way to go but, so far, this young team has been working hard and learning. Our girls don't get a lot of practice time of their own so they did a great job!"



Norton senior post Kaitlyn Wolf had a perfect shooting night on Saturday versus Atwood, hitting all four field goals she shot in the season opener and ending with 11 points.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 47

Ashlie Stewart 7 0-4 7 18; Erin Terrell 1 0 0-1 2; Dustyna Sprigg 2 0 0-0 4; Kaitlyn Wolf 4 0 3-6 11; Amanda Ray 2 0 2-2 6; Game Totals: 16 0 9-16 41

Atwood Girls 47

Whitney Green 0 0 1-2 1; Wendy Castens 2 0 3-4 7; Jill Bergling 1 0 0-2 2; Emily Chessmore 2 1 2-3 9; Hillary Chvatal 2 0 11-13 15; Jordan Mizer 4 0 5-11 13

Boys open season with an impressive win over Atwood



Norton sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier put up a jump shot over the outstretched arms of two Atwood players during the Blue Jays' win on Saturday evening in Norton. Wahlmeier hit 5 of 9 field goal attempts and ended with 11 points.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team opened the 2009-10 season with an impressive 61-31 win over Atwood in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Saturday evening.

After a 20-5 first quarter, Norton extended the lead to 38-20 at halftime and 47-28 after three periods.

The aggressive Norton defense held the Buffaloes to just 19 percent shooting from the field while outrebounding them as well.

"I was pleased with how we played, especially early in the game," said coach Reusink. "It was good to start the season with a win. We executed good on offense and rebounded pretty well.

"We got a little sloppy in the second half but maybe that's to be

expected since we have just had five practices with all our players due to Norton playing late into the football playoffs. Our athleticism showed up in the game.

"We have a lot to work on but the win was nice."

In the first quarter, senior point guard Landon Hamel led the way with three baskets and senior forward Ashton Draper hit two baskets and two free throws. Junior guard Terrell Lane hit a two-point basket and buried a three-point shot and senior guard J.D. Gall hit a two-point basket. Sophomore guard Tye Nickell hit a free throw.

In Norton's 18-point second quarter, Gall found the range on two three-point baskets, sophomore guard Dillon McConney swished a three-point shot and two-point basket, sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit a

two-point basket and free throw, junior forward Luke Ninemire hit a two-point basket and Draper hit another two-pointer.

Wahlmeier hit two more baskets in the third quarter and Gall hit another as well. Lane hit two free throws and McConney hit one charity.

In the final period, Hamel finished with a three-point and two-point basket, Wahlmeier hit two more baskets, Ninemire hit another and Gall showed that his three-point eye was still good as he dropped in another long range basket.

Gall was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on 3 of 5 from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 2 of 4 two-point shots for 50 percent and 5 of 9 overall for 56 percent. Wahlmeier and Hamel each had 11 points. Wahlmeier hit 5 of 9 shots for 55 percent and 1 of 4 free throws for 25 percent. Hamel swished 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 4 of 8 two-point tries for 50 percent and 5 of 13 overall for 39 percent.

Leading scorer for Atwood was senior Tyler Rall with 7 points. Sophomore Gabe Skolout tallied 6.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 15 shots from long range for 40 percent, 18 of 43 two-point tries for 42 percent and 24 of 58 overall for 41 percent.

The Buffaloes missed their three long range shots and hit 7 of 33 two-point shots for 21 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 7 of 21 for 33 percent and Atwood was 17 of 31 for 55 percent.

Norton pulled down 13 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for 39 total compared to 7 offensive and 20 defensive for 27 total for Atwood.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Terrell Lane with 10, followed by Ninemire, 7; Wahlmeier, 6; Draper, 5; Hamel, 5; McConney, 2; Nickell, 2; Gall, 1; Herman, 1.

Norton had 14 steals and Atwood had 8. Lane led in steals with 4, followed by Hamel, 3; Wahlmeier, 2; Gall, 2; Herman, 2; Nickell, 1.

The Blue Jays' teamwork was evident by the fact they had 28 offensive assists in the game. Lane and Herman led with 6 each, followed by Nickell, 4; Wahlmeier, 3; Hamel, 3; Gall, 3; McConney, 2; Draper, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers but their aggressive defense caused 30 Atwood miscues.

Junior varsity victorious

The Norton junior varsity boys defeated Atwood 50-38.

The young Blue Jays held quar-

ter leads of 16-6, 26-14 and 38-22.

Dillon McConney was leading scorer for the Jays with 12 points, followed by Luke Ninemire, 11; Zach Hartwell, 7; Jordan Wahlmeier, 6; Jacob Brooks, 6; Tye Nickell, 5; Lane Bigge 2; Andrew Ellis, 1.

For Atwood, Levi Wolters and

Damian Kogl each scored 6 and Gabe Skolout hit 5.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 61

Jordan Wahlmeier 5 0 1-4 11; Dillon McConney 1 1 1-2 6; Ashton Draper 3 0 2-2 8; Luke Ninemire 2 0 0-4 4; Tye Nickell 0 0 1-4 1; Landon Hamel 4 1 0-3 11; Terrell Lane 1 1 2-2 7; J.D.

Gall 2 3 0-0 13; Game totals: 18 67-21 61

Atwood Boys 31

Jayce Cook 0 0 4-8 4; James Remley 1 0 0-2; Keaton Aragabright 1 0 0-2; Gabe Skolout 2 0 2-3 6; Marcus Portschy 0 0 3-6 3; Tyler Rall 3 0 1-2 7; Collin Clark 0 0 5-10 5; Billy McCain 0 0 2-2 2; Game totals 7 0 17-31 31.

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