

# Boys finish seventh

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team finished seventh in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday, Saturday in Goodland.

After running into eventual champion Ottawa in the first round on Thursday and losing 81-38, the Blue Jays lost a close one to Sharon Springs by a 67-61 score on Friday in the consolation bracket.

On Saturday, they played their best game of the tournament when they outscored Weskan 56-48 to win seventh place.

Ottawa won the championship with a 75-51 win over McCook, Burlington placed third with a 68-46 win over Goodland and Wray outscored Sharon Springs 56-43 to place fifth.

Norton's Terrell Lane was named to the 10-person All-Tournament Team.

## Ottawa

The very aggressive Ottawa quintet held quarter leads of 18-5, 41-13 and 62-23.

Norton's only points in the first quarter came on a three-point basket by senior guard J.D. Gall and a two-point field goal by senior forward Ashton Draper.

Junior guard Terrell Lane scored on a three-point and two-point shot in the second period and sophomore guard Dillon McConney hit a basket and Gall swished a free shot for Norton's other points in the quarter.

Making Norton's 10 points in the third quarter were Gall on a trey and free throw, Lane on a trey, sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier on a two-point basket and Draper on a free throw.

Lane led the way for Norton in the fourth quarter, scoring 6 of the Blue Jays 15 points on four free throws and a basket. Senior point guard Landon Hamel hit a trey and two-point field goal and Draper and Wahlmeier each hit a basket.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lane with 14 points on 2 of 7 from long range for 28.6 percent, 2 of 6 two-point shots for 33.3 percent and 4 of 13 overall for 30.8 percent. He also hit 4 of 4 free throws.

Leading the points parade for Ottawa was Devin Martin with 13. Corbin Goedert added 11 and Keyoun Natt 10.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 17 from beyond the arc for 29.4 percent, 8 of 30 two-point attempts for 26.7 percent and 13 of 47 overall for 27.7 percent. Ottawa swished 4 of 14 trey tries for 28.8 percent, 32 of 56 two-point shots for 57.1 percent and 36 of 70 overall for 51.4 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 7 of 12 for 58.3 percent and Ottawa was 5 of 13 for 38.5 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 4 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds for 27 total. The Cyclones grabbed 15 offensive and 26 defensive caroms for 41 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Lane with 10, followed by Draper, 6; Wahlmeier, 5; McConney, 3; Luke Ninemire, 2; Gall, 1.

The Blue Jays had 5 steals and the Cyclones had 11. Lane led with 3, followed by Wahlmeier, Hamel, 1 each.

Gall, Marcus Herman and Wahlmeier each had 1 assist. Ottawa had 8 assists.

Norton had 23 turnovers and Ottawa had 12.

"Ottawa had a pretty good team but I don't think they were 40 points better than us," said coach Reusink. "We were intimidated from the start and I don't feel we competed very well."

## BOX SCORE

### Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 2 0 0-0 4; Dillon McConney 1 0 0-0 2; Ashton Draper 2 0 1-2 5; Landon Hamel 1 1 0-0 5; Terrell Lane 2 4-4 14; J.D. Gall 0 2 2-6 8; Game Totals 8 5 7-12 38.

### Ottawa Boys

Eric Messenger 1 0 0-0 2; Adam Fritts 1 0 0-0 2; Adam Hasty 2 1 1-1 8; Shane Steelman 1 1 0-0 5; Corbin Goedert 4 0 3-4 11; Conner Goedert 3 0 0-1 6; Kevin Barber 2 1 0-0 7; Dustin Burnett 0 1 0-0 3; Devin Martin 6 0 1-2 13; Keyoun Natt 5 0 0-1 10; James Peoples 3 0 0-3 6; Semi Ojeleye 4 0 0-1 8; Game Totals 32 4 5-13 81

### Sharon Springs

After the two teams played on even terms for the first quarter, Sharon Springs had two high scoring quarters and Norton only one, leading to a 6 point loss for the Blue Jays on Friday.

The score was 10-9 in favor of Sharon Springs after one period but the Wildcats outscored the Blue Jays 22-7 in the second quarter to take a 32-16 halftime lead. Both teams scored 14 points in the third quarter, then Norton tallied 31 points in the fourth period but could not make up the 16-point deficit going into the period.

Norton's 9 first quarter points came on baskets by Gall, sophomore guard Tye Nickell and a basket and free shot by Draper and two charities by senior guard Marcus Herman.

The Blue Jays' only points in the second quarter came on a basket and four free throws by Lane and free toss by McConney. Making up the 14 Norton points in the third period were Lane with two baskets from beyond the arc and two charities, Wahlmeier with two baskets and Draper with a basket.

Seven Norton players scored in the Jays 31 point fourth quarter. Gall hit a three and two-point basket and two free throws, Lane buried another three-point shot and two free throws, Hamel hit two two-point baskets and two charities, Nickell hit a two-pointer and free throw, Draper and Wahlmeier each hit two baskets and McConney hit a field goal.

With 27 seconds left in the game, Hamel injured an ankle on defense and did not play the rest of the tournament.

Lane was the leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 19 points on 3 of 5 long range shots for 60 percent, 1 of 6 two-point shots for 16.7 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36.4 percent. He also hit 8 of 9 free throw attempts for 89 percent.

Draper hit 11 points on 5 of 11 two-point shots for 45.5 percent and was 1 of 3 from the charity stripe for 33.3 percent.

Leading scorer for Sharon Springs was Tate Andrews with 42 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 12 from beyond the arc for 33.3 percent, 16 of 46 two-point tries for 34.8 percent and 20 of 58 overall for 34.5 percent. Sharon Springs swished 2 of 12 from long range for 16.7 percent, 24 of 53 two-pointers for 45.3 percent and 26 of 65 overall for 40 percent.

Norton hit 17 of 27 free throws for 63 percent and Sharon Springs connected on 13 of 24 charities for 54.2 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds for 33 total. The Wildcats grabbed 16 offensive and 33 defensive caroms for 49 total.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Hamel and Lane, each with 7, followed by Draper, 6; Wahlmeier, McConney, Nickell, Herman, 3 each; Cole Archer, 1.

Norton had 11 steals. Leader was Hamel with 4 thefts, followed by Gall, 3; Wahlmeier, Lane, 2 each. Sharon Springs had 5 thefts.

Lane had 2 assists for Norton. Sharon Springs had 6 assists.

Norton had 16 turnovers and Sharon Springs lost the ball 20 times.

"I was pretty disappointed how we came to play the first half," said coach Reusink.

"We let one player beat us because we didn't move our feet, rotate and help and didn't rebound.

"In the second half, we hit some shots and got momentum on our side but just couldn't get closer than six points.

"We need leadership and need to play harder from the start."

## BOX SCORE

### Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 4 0 0-0 8; Dillon McConney 1 0 1-3 3; Ashton Draper 4 0 1-3 9; Tye Nickell 2 0 1-2 5; Landon Hamel 2 0 2-4 6; Terrell Lane 1 3 8-9 19; J.D. Gall 2 1 2-2 9; Marcus Herman 0 0 2-3 2; Game Totals 16 4 17-26 61

Sharon Springs Boys

Eli Kuhlman 1 0 0-0 2; Tadd Andrews 3 0 0-0 6; Gavin Mote 1 1 1-3 6; Skyler Rains 1 0 1-4 3; Carson Bertrand 1 0 0-0 2; Coltin Baehler 1 0 0-0 2; Tate Andrews 13 1 11-15 40; Calvin Schmidt 2 0 0-2 4; Taylor Pearce 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 24 2 13-24 67

### Weskan

In Saturday's contest for seventh place, three-point baskets by Norton made the difference in an otherwise close battle. The Blue Jays buried four shots from beyond the arc and Weskan shot five from long range but got nothing to show for it.

Norton held quarter leads of 18-6, 31-18 and 41-35.

Lane led the way in scoring in the first quarter with three two-point shots and a trey for 9 points. Wahlmeier hit two baskets, Ninemire hit a basket and free shot and Gall swished one basket.

In Norton's 13-point second quarter, Jacob Brooks hit a basket and free throw, Gall drained a three-pointer, Lane hit another basket, Nickell connected on two free throws and Wahlmeier hit a basket and free throw.

The Jays scored 10 points in the third period on two treys by Lane, a basket by McConney and two charities by Wahlmeier.

Wahlmeier led the way in the final quarter when he hit five two-point shots and a free throw for 11 of the Jays 15 points. Gall added two free throws and Lane and Brooks each hit a charity.

Wahlmeier led Norton scoring with 20 points on 8 of 13 two-point baskets for 61.5 percent and 4 of 9 free throws for 44.4 percent. He missed one trey try. Lane finished with 18 points on 3 of 8 from beyond the arc for 37.5 percent, 4 of 8 two-point shots for 50 percent and 7 of 16 overall for 43.8 percent. From the char-



Blue Jay senior guard J.D. Gall is an excellent three-point shooter but showed his versatility as he drove the lane to shoot inside during Norton's close loss to Sharon Springs in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament semi-finals in Goodland on Friday. At left is Norton's Marcus Herman. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

ity stripe, Lane was 1 of 2 for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Weskan was Zach Hilgemann with 15 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 16 from long range for 25 percent, 16 of 41 two-point tries for 39 percent and 20 of 57 overall for 35.1 percent.

Weskan missed all 5 trey attempts, hit 17 of 46 two-point tries for 37 percent and was 17 of 51 overall for 33.3 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 12 of 22 for 54.5 percent and Weskan hit 14 of 23 charities for 60.9 percent.

The Blue Jays grabbed 16 of offensive and 23 defensive rebounds for 39 total compared to 12 offensive and 23 defensive caroms for 35 total for the Coyotes.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Lane with 14, followed by Wahlmeier, 10; Ninemire, Gall, 4 each; Brooks, 3; McConney, 2; Nickell, Hamel, 1 each.

Lane had 3 of Norton's 5 steals. Gall and Ninemire each had 1 theft.

Norton had 5 assists. Lane led with 3 and Ninemire and Gall had 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 18 turnovers and the Coyotes lost the ball 16 times.

"I was sure happy to get the win," said coach Reusink. "I was proud of the way we played.

"We were shorthanded since Landon Hamel's ankle injury in the previous game and Ashton Draper's absence to take an ACT test.

"We do need to do a better job of playing with the lead. They came back on us in the second half. We need to get better defensively. We were also inconsistent in rebounding."

## BOX SCORE

### Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 8 0 4-9 20; Dillon McConney 1 0 0-2; Luke

Ninemire 1 0 1-3 3; Tye Nickell 0 0 2-2 2; Terrell Lane 4 3 1-2 18; J.D. Gall 1 1 2-2 7; Jacob Brooks 1 0 2-4 4; Game Totals 16 4 12-22 56

## Weskan Boys

Matt Kuykendall 2 0 5-9 9; Samuel McKinney 2 0 0-1 4; Tyler Tipton 0 0 3-4 3; Nathan McKinney 2 0 1-3 5; Garrett Reiss 3 0 2-2 8; Wilson Cress 3 0 0-0 6; Hilgemann 5 0 3-4 13; Game Totals 17 0 14-23 48

## Next action

Norton will host Stockton to begin Mid-Continent League play on Thursday.

The C-team boys game (6 minute quarters) will begin at 4 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and will be followed by the boys junior varsity game.

The junior varsity girls game will begin at 5 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

## High School Sports This Week



### WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Stockton, Phillipsburg V, JV Duals, Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym..... 5 p.m. Friday  
Norton in Holiday Dual Tournament in Goodland ..... 9 a.m. Saturday

### BASKETBALL:

Norton Girls, Boys vs. Stockton V, JV, C-team Boys in Wilmeth Kirk and NCHS Stull Gyms..... 4 p.m. Thursday  
Norton Girls, Boys vs. Phillipsburg (V, JV, C) in Phillipsburg ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Norton Girls, Boys in Quinter JV Tournament in Quinter..... 9 a.m. Saturday  
Northern Valley Girls, Boys vs. Rock Hills in Quinter ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Logan Girls, Boys vs. Lucas-Luray in Logan ..... 4 p.m. Today  
Logan Girls, Boys vs. Thunder Ridge in Logan..... 4 p.m. Friday

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