

Lady Jays lose to Osborne

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team kept within striking distance of state ranked Osborne for three quarters of their Mid-Continent League game on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium but costly turnovers finally did them in and the visitors expanded their lead to win 52-31.

Osborne held quarter leads of 13-9, 27-17 and 37-25. The aggressive Lady Bulldog defense came up with 24 steals and limited the Lady Blue Jays to 33 percent field goal shooting.

Osborne is now 6-1 for the season with only a close loss to Beloit. Norton dropped to 4-4.

Despite the caliber of the Osborne quintet, Norton head coach Kevin Jilka felt his squad could have played much better and challenged Osborne more throughout the game.

"I was very disappointed; we didn't play like we can," said coach Jilka.

"Part of that was Osborne but you can't compete when they steal the ball 24 times. We panicked and lost our poise.

"They beat us in every phase of the game. We're better than that. We have to develop an attitude that we can compete with the better teams.

"We would come within 10 points of them and then they'd come up with a steal.

"We can't do it for them as coaches. Our players have to

believe they can compete to their capabilities. No one on our team played to their capabilities tonight.

"Our girls will come back and keep working."

Senior post Amanda Ray hit two baskets for Norton in the first quarter and senior point guard Ashlie Stewart hit a basket and three free throws.

Sophomore post Erin Terrell hit two baskets, Stewart buried a three-pointer and Ray swished a free throw for Norton in the second quarter.

Junior post Dustyna Sprigg hit a basket and free throw, Ray connected on a basket and charity and senior post Kaitlyn Wolf hit one basket for the Lady Jays in the third period.

Norton closed out scoring in the fourth quarter with two baskets by Terrell and a basket by senior guard Hannah Waggoner.

Leading scorers for Norton were Stewart, Terrell and Ray, each with 8 points.

Terrell hit 4 of 8 field goals for 50 percent; Ray swished 3 of 11 for 27 percent from the field and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent and Stewart hit 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 1 of 6 two-point tries for 17 percent, 2 of 8 overall for 25 percent and 3 of 6 free throws for 50 percent.

Emily Girard and Jordyn Sturgeon each scored 15 points for Osborne and Paige Noel added 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 per-

cent, 11 of 33 two point attempts for 33 percent and 12 of 36 overall for 33 percent.

Osborne swished 22 of 48 two-point tries for 46 percent and missed all three trey tries.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 6 of 10 for 60 percent and Osborne hit 8 of 16 for 50 percent.

Norton had 5 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 15 total. Osborne pulled down 12 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 24 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Ray with 5, followed by Waggoner, Terrell, Sprigg, 2 each; Kendra Engelbert, Kaylen Rossi, Stewart, Caren Thomson, 1 each.

Engelbert, Sprigg and Wolf each had 3 of the Lady Jays' 10 steals. Stewart had 1 theft.

Waggoner had 3 of Norton's 6 offensive assists. Engelbert, Rossi and Sprigg each had 1 assist. The Lady Bulldogs had 4 assists.

Norton had 27 turnovers and Osborne lost the ball 15 times.

Junior varsity won

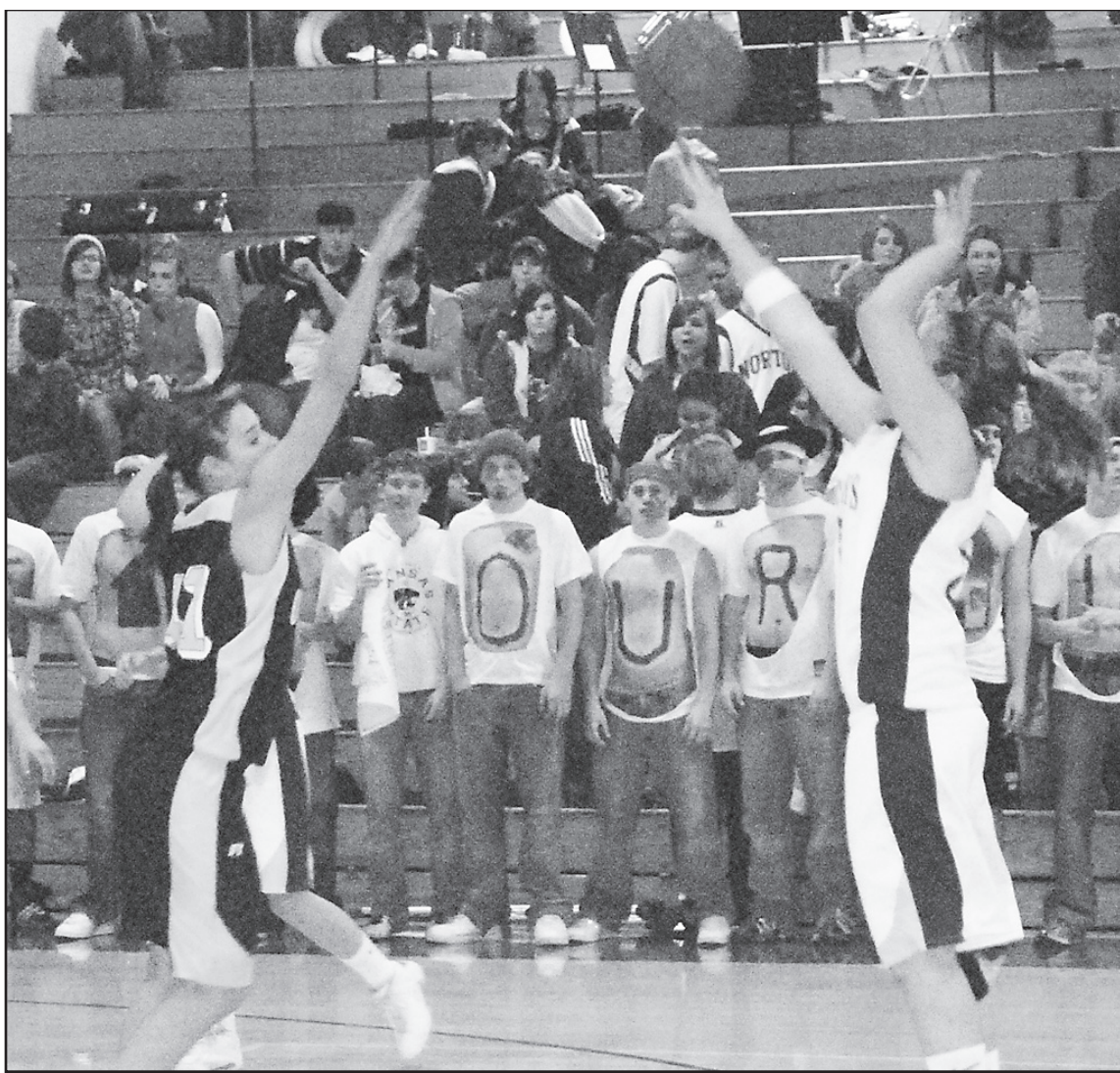
The Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Osborne 32-24.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-7, 26-13 and 26-21.

Leading scorer for Norton was Erin Terrell with 11 points, followed by Kaylen Rossi, 7; Kamilla Jones 6; Caren Thomson, Teslee Nickell, Dustyna Sprigg, Meaghan Peterson, 2 each.

Rachel St. Clair scored 9 points for Osborne.

"We established a good lead



Lady Blue Jay senior Amanda Ray put up a shot from the top of the key as an Osborne player tried unsuccessfully to block it on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Ray tied for leading scorer for Norton with 8 points and was leading rebounder with 5.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

and hung on for the win," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi.

"We played better at times. We still need to work on shooting as we missed too many easy shots.

"Our girls are starting to put together a more complete game."

Next action

The Norton girls and boys basketball teams will host Trego Community in Mid-Continent

League action on Friday.

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

BOX SCORES Norton Girls 31

Hannah Waggoner 1 0 0-0 2;

Ashlie Stewart 1 1 3-6 8; Erin Terrell 4 0 0-0 8; Dustyna Sprigg 1 0 1-1 3; Kaitlyn Wolf 1 0 0-0 2; Amanda Ray 3 0 2-3 8; Game Totals 11 1 6-10 31

Osborne Girls 52

Megan Burch 3 0 0-0 6; Paige Noel 4 0 2-5 10; Andrea Cady 1 0 0-0 2; Emily Girard 7 0 1-2 15; Katie Wolters 2 0 0-0 4; Jordyn Sturgeon 5 0 5-9 15; Game Totals 22 0 8-16 52



Norton senior Ashton Draper outbattled two Osborne players for a loose ball during the Blue Jays' win here on Friday night. Draper was also high scorer for Norton with 16 points.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays score another win

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team had one of those nights on Friday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium that teams dream about but seldom see as they rolled up a 28-9 lead in the first quarter and held a 44-15 advantage at intermission en route to a 64-29 Mid-Continent League victory over Osborne.

Needless to say, Norton head boys coach Doug Reusink was happy with what he saw.

"We played well," said the veteran mentor. "We hit shots early and that made it easy to play. We got more confidence as we went.

"We passed the ball better tonight and ran the floor pretty well."

The win extended Norton's season record to 5-3.

In the exiting first quarter, senior guard J.D. Gall buried a three-point shot and three two-pointers, junior guard Terrell Lane found the range on two shots from beyond the arc and a two-point attempt and sophomore guard Tye Nickell hit a three-point shot and two two-pointers.

Sophomore post Jordan Wahlmeier and senior guard Marcus Herman each hit a basket as well.

The Blue Jays' second quarter was another good one with 16 points being scored by six players. Senior forward Ashton Draper led the way with three baskets, Wahlmeier added two more field goals, Lane and freshman guard Jacob Brooks each hit a basket and Gall and junior forward Dakota Dreher each hit a free throw.

The scoring pace slowed somewhat in the third period when Norton outscored Osborne by just 14-6 to extend the lead to 58-25. Draper led the way in scoring with three more baskets and two chari-

ties, followed by Wahlmeier with two more baskets and Brooks with one.

Each team hit just one field goal in the fourth quarter. Wahlmeier tallied again and Draper and junior forward Cole Archer each hit two charities.

Leading scorers for Norton were Draper with 16 points on 6 of 10 from the field for 60 percent and 4 of 4 free throws for 100 percent. He missed his only trey try.

Wahlmeier added 12 points on 6 of 8 from the field for a net-smoking 75 percent.

Steven Mick was leading scorer for Osborne with 12 points.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 14 shots from three-point range for 29 percent, 22 of 36 two-point attempts for 61 percent and 26 of 50 overall for 52 percent.

Osborne connected on 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 10 of 32 two-point tries for 31 percent and 11 of 37 for 30 percent overall.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 8 of 12 for 67 percent and Osborne connected on 6 of 8 for 75 percent.

Norton outrebounded Osborne 30-18. The Blue Jays pulled down 7 offensive and 23 defensive caroms compared to 7 offensive and 11 defensive boards for the Bulldogs.

Lane and Wahlmeier each pulled down 6 rebounds, followed by Dreher, 5; Nickell, 4; Brooks, 4; McConney, Draper, Ninemire, Archer, Gall, 1 each.

Norton had 8 steals and Osborne had just 1. Gall led with 3 thefts, followed by Herman, 2; Wahlmeier, Nickell, Dreher, 1 each.

Offensive teamwork by Norton was evident by their 27 assists compared to only 10 by the Bulldogs. Lane led the way for Norton with 8 assists, followed by Gall,

5; Wahlmeier, Herman, Brooks, 3 each; Dreher, Nickell, 2 each; Draper, 1.

Wahlmeier blocked 2 shots.

Norton had just 3 turnovers while causing Osborne to lose the ball 15 times.

Junior varsity won, too

The Norton boys junior varsity defeated Osborne 29-18.

Osborne led 5-4 after one quarter but Norton outscored Osborne 13-1 in the second quarter to take a 17-6 halftime advantage. Both teams scored 6 points in the third quarter and 6 in the fourth quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was Luke Ninemire with 8, followed by Tye Nickell, 5; Zach Hartwell, 4; Jacob Brooks, 4; Chris Fisher, Dillon McConney, John Renner, Lane Bigge, 2 each.

Ethan Slothower led Osborne with 5 points.

Next action

The Norton boys and girls basketball teams will host Trego Community in Mid-Continent League action on Friday. The boys junior varsity game will begin at 5 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. The girls junior varsity game will begin at 5 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

BOX SCORE Norton Boys 64

Jordan Wahlmeier, 6 0 0-0 12; Ashton Draper 6 0 4-4 16; Cole Archer 0 0 2-2 2; Tye Nickell 2 1 0-0 7; Terrell Lane 2 2 0-10 10; J.D. Gall 3 1 1-2 10; Marcus Herman 1 0 0-0 2; Jacob Brooks 2 0 0-4 4; Dakota Dreher 0 0 1-4 1; Game Totals 22 4 8-12 64

Osborne Boys 29

Steven Mick 4 0 4-6 12; Seth Conway 1 0 0-2; Ethan Bertrand 2 1 0-0 7; Damon Schurr 3 0 2-2 8; Game Totals 10 1 6-8 29

Lady Huskies compete against Mankato Grizzlies, lose 55-39

By CHUCK ZIMMERMAN
Special to The Telegram

We traveled to Mankato to take on the Lady Grizzlies and started off in the fashion in which we are accustomed, a 10-3 lead. But then the Grizzlies started chipping away at our lead and caught us at the quarter and stayed even with us until halftime.

After half time we couldn't keep

up or more importantly couldn't keep from fouling and sent the Grizzlies to the line where they made 22 of 29 and, even though we outscored them from the field, 17-15, we couldn't match them from the line and lost 55-39.

Stats leaders in this game were Alison Cole with 10 deflects (6 blocks) and Erika Chandler with 2.

Steals honors went to Staci Dole and Christina Anderson with 2 each.

Rebounds were gathered by Alison Cole with 10 and Dole and Megan Cole with 5 each.

Assists were dished out by M. Cole, Dole and Anderson with 3 each.

Good news for Northern Valley

By CHUCK ZIMMERMAN
Special to The Telegram

The Lady Huskies took on the Knights of Lakeside Friday and there was a good news / bad news / good news scenario. The good news was we recorded 54 rebounds (that has to be somewhere close to a school record!!!).

The bad news is that 30 of them were offensive rebounds. Why is that bad news? Add the 17 defensive rebounds that Lakeside grabbed and that's 47 shots that we missed.

Our shooting percent was again in the low 30's which is not at all close to our average. The other good news - our defense finally woke up and played as it should have been playing all season.

We had just been playing defense these past six games just being there going through the motions. On this night we played defense the way we have played

the last two seasons, and the whole atmosphere on the floor was different.

Plus, our defense allowed us numerous easy baskets off of steals, the result a 53-42 victory in which our JV got to play quite a few minutes and contributed to the win.

The team had 27 deflects on this night, a very good total, and our seniors did as seniors are supposed to do and led in every defensive category. Christina Anderson and Alison Cole each had 7 deflects with Megan Cole tipping 5.

Megan Cole probably should not travel to Downs anytime soon as she picked the pockets of the Knights guards for 6 steals on her own, and I'm sure they have an arrest warrant out if anyone sees her in town. But, she had accomplices who joined in on the action as Alison, Staci Dole and

Anderson each took 3.

We had rebounding good news. We were all grabbing balls off the board as Alison Cole raked in 17 followed by Anderson with 11. Kenzie Chandler grabbed 7 along with Kayla Lowry with 6 to help the cause with just about everyone on the team grabbing at least one.

Assists were dished out by Anderson with 4 followed by Dole and K. Lowry with 2 each.

Needless to say, it was a breakout game one in which we hope to continue and even improve upon as we head into our Conference tournament which will be played in Palco.

We take on Western Plains on Tuesday and follow with Ness City on Thursday. Saturday's game will depend on the outcome of our first two games.

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Smith Center and Trego Community V, JV
in WaKeeney.....5 p.m. Thursday

Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions in Newton..... 11:15 a.m., Fri; 9 a.m. Sat.

Norton Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational in Elm Creek, Neb..... 2:30 p.m. Friday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Trego Community in Norton..... 5 p.m. Friday

Norton Girls Varsity in First Round Mid-Continent League Tournament..... TBA Monday

Norton Boys Varsity in First Round Mid-Continent League Tournament..... TBA Tuesday

Northern Valley Girls and Boys in Cheyenne Conference Tournament
in Palco.....TBA Jan. 12-16

Logan Girls and Boys in Cheyenne Conference Tournament
in Palco.....TBA Jan. 12-16