

Lady Jays beat Trego



Norton junior guard Kaylen Rossi dribbles past a Trego defender during the Lady Jays' Mid-Continent League win on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. Rossi led Norton in assists with six.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team put together a solid performance as they led from start to finish in a 56-37 Mid-Continent League victory over Trego Community on Friday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The win extended the Lady Jays' record to 5-4 prior to a first-round game at Osborne on Monday evening in the Mid-Continent League Tournament.

Norton lost to the No.2 seed Osborne quintet the previous Friday in Norton and, with a good performance against Trego, hoped to give the Lady Bulldogs a much better game this time around. Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time for today's paper.

In the win over the Lady Golden Eagles on Friday, the Norton girls left the nets smoking with 61 percent shooting and had only 10 turnovers in the game.

The Lady Jays jumped out to a 13-6 first quarter lead and outscored the visitors 15-10 in the second quarter to lead 28-16 at halftime. A 13-4 third quarter in Norton's favor extended the advantage to 41-20.

Senior point guard Ashlie Stewart and senior post Amanda Ray got scoring started for the Lady Jays, each hitting two baskets in the first quarter. Stewart added two free throws and Ray hit one charity. Senior post Kaitlyn Wolf also hit a basket.

In Norton's 15-point second quarter, sophomore post Erin Terrell hit three baskets, Stewart

buried a three and added another two-point field goal. Ray hit another basket and junior post Dustyna Sprigg hit a field goal.

Ray had her best scoring period in the third quarter with a trey and two two-point field goals. Junior guard Kaylen Rossi, Stewart and Wolf each hit one basket.

In the 15-point fourth quarter, six different girls tallied for Norton. Stewart had a field goal and two charities, Ray hit a field goal and one free toss, sophomore post Caren Thomson, Terrell and Wolf each hit a basket and Sprigg hit two charities.

"We played much better tonight," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. "We had only 10 turnovers compared to 27 against Osborne.

"We need to do a better job of taking care of the ball and tonight was a big step in the right direction. We needed this win to get our confidence back. We also shot the ball well and that made things easier.

"I'm proud of the way we bounced back and learned from our mistakes in the Osborne game. We have the ability to play this way and, hopefully, we will keep playing with confidence."

Stewart and Ray tied for scoring honors with 17 points each. Stewart hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 5 of 9 two-point tries for 56 percent, 6 of 13 overall for 46 percent and 4 of 5 from the free throw line for 80 percent.

Ray hit 1 of 1 from beyond the arc for 100 percent, 6 of 7 two-point attempts for a net sizzling 86 percent, 7 of 8 overall for 88 percent and was 2 of 4 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Lexi Riedel led Trego with 8 points; Kirsten Locke and Catie Riedel each had 7 points for the Lady Golden Eagles.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 21 of 31 two-point tries for 68 percent and 23 of 38 overall for 61 percent. Trego swished 16 of 39 two-point tries for 41 percent, missed both trey tries and was 16 of 41 overall for 39 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 8 of 13 for 62 percent and Trego connected on 5 of 14 for 36 percent.

The Lady Jays shot so well that they just had 4 offensive rebounds. They also had 9 defensive caroms for 13 total. Trego had 10 offensive and 7 defensive boards for 17 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Ray with 6, followed by Wolf, 3; Terrell, 2; Rossi, Sprigg, 1 each.

Norton had 10 steals and Trego had 5. Stewart had 5 thefts, followed by Sprigg, Ray, 2 each; Wolf, 1.

The Lady Jays had 10 assists and the Lady Golden Eagles had just 1. Rossi led Norton in assists with 6, followed by Kendra Engelbert, Stewart, Wolf, Ray, 1 each.

Norton had 10 turnovers and Trego gave up the ball 17 times.

Junior varsity

Norton's junior varsity girls team lost 25-21.

The young Lady Jays trailed 12-10 after one quarter but outscored the young Lady Golden Eagles 9-2 in the second quarter to take a 19-14 halftime lead. Norton did not score in the third period but Trego scored 2 points

and the Lady Jays led 19-16 with one quarter remaining. Trego scored 9 points in the final stanza compared to just 2 for Norton.

Leading scorer for Norton was Kamilla Jones with 9 points, followed by Dustyna Sprigg, 8; Erin Terrell, 4.

Kaylee Smith led Trego with 6.

"We just can't win with the offensive effort we had tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"The positive was that our defense was very good. The defense was the only aspect keeping us close. We have to be able to shoot the ball better and our girls must understand that to develop.

"Offensive skills take work outside of practice. We are a better team offensively than we demonstrated tonight."

Next action

The Lady Jays, seeded No.7 in the Mid-Continent League Tournament, played at No.2 Osborne on Monday evening in the first round of the tournament.

A win would put them in the championship semi-finals on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays in a 6 p.m. game versus the winner of the No.3 Hill City vs. No.6 Trego first round game which will not be played until this evening at 6 p.m.

A loss would put them in the consolation semi-finals versus the

loser of the Hill City-Trego game at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 56

Kaylen Rossi 1 0 0-0 2; Ashlie Stewart 5 1 4-5 17; Caren Thomson 1 0 0-1 2; Erin Terrell 4 0 0-0 8; Dustyna Sprigg 1 0 2-2 4; Kaitlyn Wolf 3 0 0-1 6; Amanda Ray 6 1 2-4 17; Game Totals 21 2 8-13 56

Trego Girls 37

Lexi Riedel 4 0 0-0 8; Hannah Dietz 3 0 0-0 6; Kirsten Locke 2 0 3-4 7; Rachael Newcomer 1 0 1-2 3; Stephanie Griffith 1 0 0-3 2; Catie Riedel 3 0 1-4 7; Kaylee Smith 1 0 0-0 2; Allison Carr 1 0 0-1 2; Game Totals 16 0 5-14 37

Blue Jays out-score Trego, overcome 3-point dry spell



The Norton Blue Jay basketball team takes pride in their defense. Here, Norton senior guard Marcus Herman covers a Trego player like a glove during Norton's Mid-Continent League victory here Friday night.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team overcame a game-long dry spell on three-point shooting and a third quarter dry spell on two-point shots to defeat Trego Community 42-33 in Mid-Continent League play on Friday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The Blue Jays were 0 for 21 from beyond the arc in the game and made up for it from two-point land most of the time, except the third quarter when the Golden Eagles caught them and took a temporary three-point lead.

Norton got off to a good start and was leading 12-6 after the first quarter. Sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit three baskets, senior forward Ashton Draper swished one field goal and sophomore guard Tye Nickell and senior guard J.D. Gall each hit two free throws in the period.

Norton scored only 7 points in the second quarter but held Trego to 8 and still led 19-14 at intermission. The Blue Jays' second period points came on baskets by Draper,

junior guard Terrell Lane and junior forward Dakota Dreher and Gall hit another free throw.

Gall hit his fourth free throw of the game in the first minute of the second half before Trego went on a 9-0 run to take a 23-20 lead with 3:56 left. Wahlmeier hit Norton's first basket of the quarter with 2:15 left.

Trego scored again, then Norton freshman guard Jacob Brooks hit his first basket of the game with 19 seconds left. Brooks' basket cut the Trego lead to one point at 25-24.

Norton took charge in the fourth quarter, outscoring the visitors 18-8 to pull away for the victory. Lane and Wahlmeier each hit baskets in the first minute and a half of the fourth stanza to put the Blue Jays ahead 28-25. Trego hit a basket that cut the lead to 28-27 but the Golden Eagles did not score again until they hit two baskets from beyond the arc in the final 50 seconds.

Meanwhile, Draper hit a basket, Gall fed Lane for two more points, Dakota Dreher hit a basket, Brooks hit another basket and

Lane hit three free throws. Gall hit another free throw and Wahlmeier another basket in the last minute to extend the final margin of victory to 9 points.

"We had pretty good defense in the game but struggled shooting,

especially from the perimeter," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"When we weren't shooting well, we didn't make adjustments to work the ball inside for better shots. Sometimes, you have to make an extra pass before you shoot.

"Although our defense was okay, it was inconsistent. We need to move our feet better on defense. We still held them to 33 points, which is a good effort."

Leading scorer for Norton was Wahlmeier with 12 points. He had a perfect night from the field as he hit 6 of 6 shots for 100 percent!

Lane, who is normally a dead-eye from beyond the arc, missed seven shots from that distance but sizzled the nets from closer range where he connected on 3 of 4 for 75 percent.

He also hit that many free throws and ended with 9 points.

Leading the scoring for Trego was freshman John Griffith with 11 points. Bobby Garrett tallied 10 points for the Golden Eagles.

As already noted, Norton missed all three point basket tries but hit an excellent 16 of 28 two-point attempts for 57 percent accuracy.

Trego hit 3 of 8 from long range for 38 percent, 9 of 16 two-point tries for 56 percent and 12 of 24 overall for 50 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays connected on 10 of 18 for 56 percent and the Golden Eagles hit 6 of 14 for 43 percent.

Norton dominated the backboards as the Blue Jays pulled down 10 offensive and 27 de-

fensive caroms for 37 total. The Golden Eagles grabbed just 3 offensive and 8 defensive boards for 11.

Lane was a horse on the boards for Norton, pulling down 2 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 12 total. He was followed by Jordan Wahlmeier, 7; Dakota Dreher, 7; Ashton Draper, 3; Marcus Herman, 3; Tye Nickell, 2; Jacob Brooks, 2; J.D. Gall, 1.

Norton had 5 steals and Trego had 1. Gall led in thefts with 2, followed by Draper, Herman, Dreher, 1 each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 11 offensive assists compared to 8 for the Golden Eagles. Lane led with 3, followed by Wahlmeier, Gall, Herman, 2 each; Brooks, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had only 5 turnovers and Trego had just 7.

Junior varsity

Only one half was played in the junior varsity game, which was won by Norton 24-13.

The young Blue Jays led 11-4 after one quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was Tye Nickell with 12 points, followed by Jacob Brooks, 6; Dillon McConney, 4; Dakota Dreher, 2. Chad Uhrich led Trego with 5 points.

Next action

Mid-Continent League Tour-

namment action is underway and the Norton boys, seeded No. 5, will travel to Stockton to play the No.4 seeded Tigers in a 7 p.m. first round contest this evening.

A win by the Blue Jays will move them into the championship semi-finals versus the winner of Tuesday's game between No.1 Ellis and No.8 Phillipsburg.

The game will begin at 4:30 p.m. and be played on Friday in Gross Coliseum in Hays. Phillipsburg advanced to the game with Ellis by beating No.9 Osborne in the Saturday's feather bracket contest.

A loss by Norton at Stockton this evening, would put the Blue Jays in the consolation semi-finals at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday versus the Ellis/Phillipsburg loser.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 42

Jordan Wahlmeier 6 0 0-0 12; Ashton Draper 3 0 0-0 6; Tye Nickell 0 0 2-2 2; Terrell Lane 3 0 3-4 9; J.D. Gall 0 0 5-11 5; Jacob Brooks 2 0 0-0 4; Dakota Dreher 2 0 0-1 4; Game Totals 16 0 10-18 42

Trego Boys 33

Chad Uhrich 1 0 0-0 2; John Griffith 2 1 4-6 11; Bobby Garrett 3 1 1-2 10; Blake Fritts 1 0 0-2; Will Papes 0 1 0-0 3; Brandon Eberle 2 0 1-4 5; Game Totals 9 3 6-14 33

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2010 Norton AYSO Soccer Registration

EARLY REGISTRATION:
Friday, January 8 — 5-8 p.m.,
and Saturday, January 9 — 2-5 p.m.
Cost is \$35.00 Per Child

FINAL REGISTRATION:
Saturday, January 23 — 2-5 p.m.
Cost is \$40.00 Per Child
AGES: 4 1/2 to 19
We are planning on having an under 19 (ages 14 to 18) division

LOCATION FOR BOTH REGISTRATIONS WILL BE:
Norton County Economic Development Office
113 N. Norton, Suite B (next to NexTech)

We are in need of volunteers to fill several board positions as well as coaches and referees. Please consider donating your time and talents. For more information please contact:

Julie Baughman. (785) 877-2678
Deena Wentz. (785) 871-0442