

# Jays lose to Phillipsburg 54-39 in MCL tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The No. 5 seeded Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team traveled to WaKeeney on Thursday to play No. 8 seeded Phillipsburg in the consolation semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament and lost the contest by a 54-39 score.

For one half, the score was close and all indications were that it would be a tight contest in the second half as well and come down to the wire much as the earlier game between the two teams in Phillipsburg which went into overtime and was won 55-54 by the Blue Jays.

That did not happen, however, as the Panthers grabbed the momentum and pulled out for the win with the same number of points the last time around and the Blue Jays came up short of their last offensive performance against the Panthers.

Phillipsburg led 12-9 after one quarter. Both teams hit 15 points in the second quarter to make it a three-point advantage at 27-24 for the Panthers at intermission.

Phillipsburg put together a 17 point third period compared to just 8 points for Norton to stretch their advantage to 44-32. A 10-7 fourth quarter in favor of the Panthers extended the final margin of victory to 15 points.

Sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit three two-point baskets for Norton in the first quarter.

Freshman guard Jacob Brooks hit Norton's other two-point basket in the quarter and senior forward Ashton Draper added a free throw.

In Norton's 15-point second quarter, Wahlmeier added two more baskets, senior guard J.D. Gall hit a trey and two-point basket, junior forward Dakota Dreher hit a basket and free throw, Brooks hit another basket and sophomore guard Dillon McConney swished a free throw.

Junior guard Terrell Lane hit two two-point baskets, McConney hit a shot from beyond the arc and Draper hit a free throw for Norton's only third quarter points.

McConney drained another trey and Wahlmeier and Lane each hit another basket for the Blue Jays' fourth quarter points.

"I was disappointed in our play the entire game," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "We were lucky to be down by only three points at halftime.

"We just had no intensity. Nobody was stepping up to make plays on a consistent basis.

"We weren't defending like we normally do. We started feeling sorry for ourselves and not focusing on playing good basketball.

"We need to put this one behind us."

Wahlmeier was the only Norton player who hit baskets consistently in the game. He connected on 6 of 9 shots from the field for an excellent 67 percent accuracy and led the team with 12 points.

Leading scorer for Phillipsburg was Justin Hoft with 13 points; Trevor Smith and Skye Long each added 12 points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 8 long range shots for 38 percent, 13 of 36 two-point tries for 36 percent and 16 of 44 overall for 36 percent. Phillipsburg connected

on 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 24 of 41 two-point attempts for 59 percent and 25 of 46 overall for 54 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 4 of 11 for 36 percent and the Panthers hit 5 of 11 for 45 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 34-20. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 12 defensive caroms while the Panthers grabbed 9 offensive and 25 defensive boards.

Dakota Dreher was leading rebounder for Norton with 6, followed by Terrell Lane, 5; Jacob Brooks, 4; Jordan Wahlmeier, 3; J.D. Gall, Dillon McConney, 1 each.

Both teams had 9 steals. Lane led Norton with 3 thefts, followed by Tye Nickell, 2; McConney, Draper, Brooks, Dreher, 1 each.

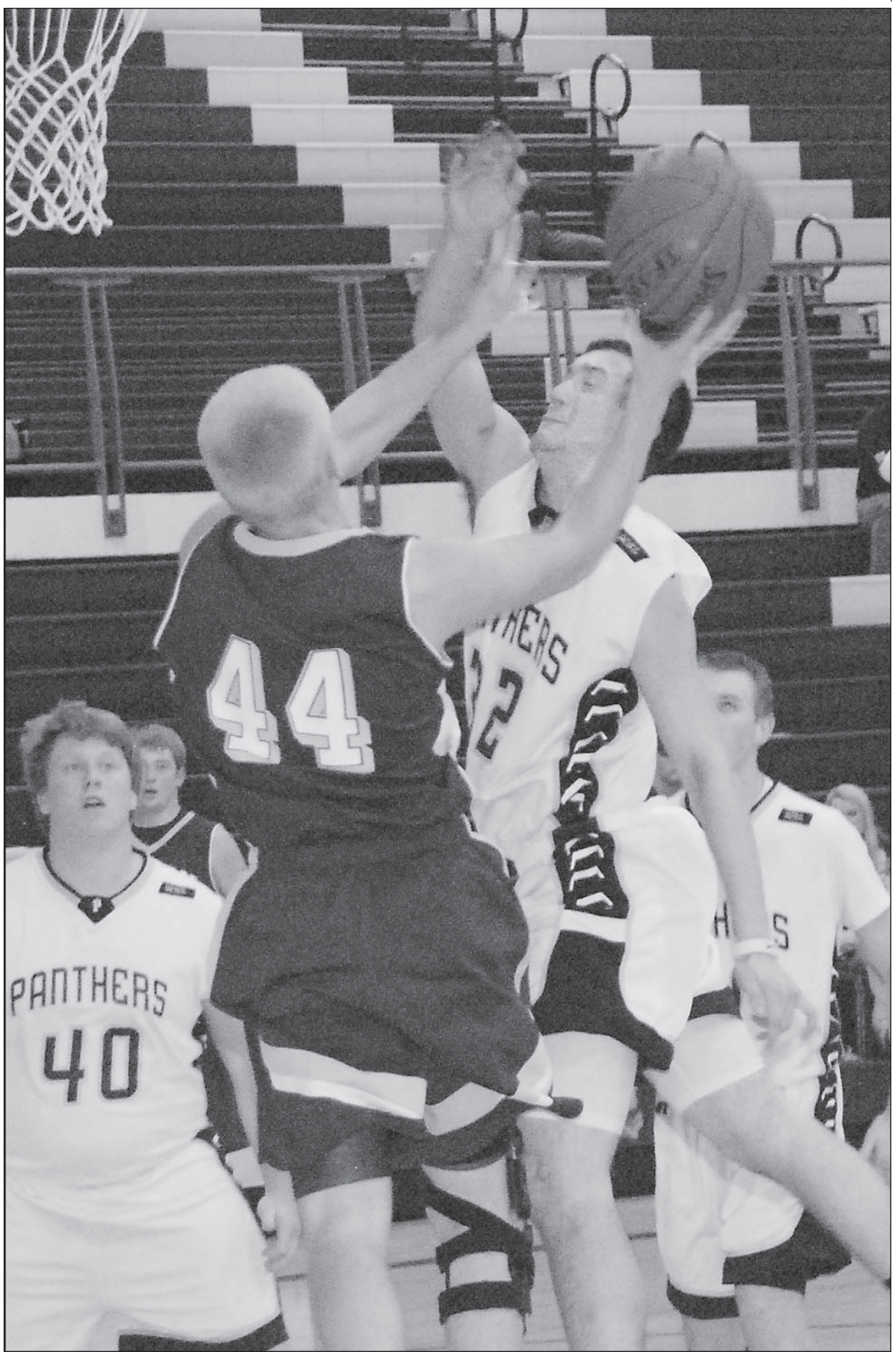
The Blue Jays had just 9 assists compared to 17 for the Panthers. Marcus Herman and Brooks each had 2 assists, followed by Wahlmeier, Nickell, Lane, Gall, Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had 16 turnovers and Phillipsburg lost the ball 12 times.

### BOX SCORE

**Norton Boys 39**  
Jordan Wahlmeier 6 0 0-1 12; Dillon McConney 0 2 1-2 7; Ashton Draper 0 0 1-2 1; Terrell Lane 3 0 0-0 6; J.D. Gall 1 1 0-0 5; Jacob Brooks 2 0 0-0 4; Dakota Dreher 1 0 2-6 4; Game Totals 13 3 4-11 39

**Phillipsburg Boys 54**  
Trevor Smith 6 0 0-1 12; Justin Hoft 4 1 2-2 13; Dustin Aherin 3 0 1-5 7; Steven Craig 4 0 0-0 8; Cody Derr 1 0 0-0 2; Skye Long 5 0 2-3 12; Game Totals 23 1 5-11 54



Norton junior forward Dakota Dreher made a good move to the basket but didn't score when a Phillipsburg player fouled him and put him on the free throw line. The action took place when the Blue Jays played the Panthers in the consolation semi-finals of the Mid-Continent League Tournament in WaKeeney last Thursday.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Blue Jays beat Trego, win seventh place in tournament

By DICK BOYD

*nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*  
The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team got off to a fast start, had to hold off a determined Trego Community five, then took off again to beat the Golden Eagles 57-44 and win seventh place in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

The Blue Jays led 14-5 after one quarter and stretched their lead to 20-5 before Trego scored again. Norton outscored Trego by just 17-16 in the second quarter but still had a comfortable 31-21 advantage at halftime.

The Golden Eagles wouldn't give up and outscored the Blue Jays 15-10 in the third quarter to cut the Norton advantage to 41-36. With under five minutes to go in the third period, Trego had reduced the Norton lead to 33-32 but Norton responded. Sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier scored inside and junior guard Terrell Lane drove in for two more points to make it 37-32. With 1:35 left in the period, sophomore guard Tye Nickell stole the ball and drove the length of the court for two more Norton points and a 39-34 lead. Freshman guard Jacob Brooks hit his only basket before time ran out in the quarter.

Junior forward Dakota Dreher also hit his only basket of the game in the period.

Norton outscored Trego 16-8 in the final stanza to win going away.

Wahlmeier and senior forward Ashton Draper each hit a basket to start the fourth quarter and extend the Blue Jay lead to 45-36. Wahlmeier and Draper each hit another basket in the final stanza and Wahlmeier added two free throws. Norton also got two more baskets from Lane and one from Gall.

Norton's first quarter points came on three baskets by Wahlmeier, one from Draper, one from junior forward Luke Ninemire, a free throw by Gall and shot from beyond the arc by Lane.

In the second quarter, Lane drained two three-point shots and Gall buried two treys as well plus a two-point basket. Wahlmeier also hit a basket and free throw.

"I was pleased with how we played," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"Our defensive intensity at the start of the game was much better and we were hitting shots. We lost our intensity level at halftime and let them get close in the third quarter but then we did some good things and came back for the win.

"In the fourth quarter, we got the ball inside better and we also changed defenses and that helped."

With the win, Norton extended their season record to 7-5.

Norton had three scorers in

double figures. The Blue Jays were led by Wahlmeier with 17 points on a perfect 7 of 7 shots from the field for 100 percent accuracy and 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Lane added 15 points on 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and 6 of 12 overall for 50 percent.

Gall scored 11 points on 2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent, 2 of 3 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 4 of 7 overall for 57 percent. Gall also hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Brandon Eberle led Trego with 13 points and Chad Uhrich added 11.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 14 trey tries for 35 percent, 19 of 26 two-point attempts for a net smoking 73 percent and 24 of 40 overall for 60 percent.

Trego swished 1 of 6 from long range for 16 percent, 13 of 34 two-point tries for 38 percent and 14 of 40 overall for 35 percent.

From the charity stripe, the Blue Jays were 4 of 9 for 44 percent and the Golden Eagles were 15 of 25 for 60 percent.

Both teams grabbed 21 rebounds. Norton had 4 offensive and 17 defensive caroms and Trego had 8 offensive and 13 defensive.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Terrell Lane with 7, followed by Jacob Brooks, 3; Jordan Wahlmeier, Ashton Draper, Luke

Ninemire, Dakota Dreher, 2 each; Dillon McConney, Tye Nickell, J.D. Gall, 1 each.

Norton had 9 steals and the ball was stolen only 3 times from the Blue Jays. Wahlmeier led in thefts with 3, followed by Nickell, Gall, 2 each; McConney, Lane, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 16 offensive assists compared to 10 for the Golden Eagles. Gall was assists leader with 4, followed by Lane, Marcus Herman, 3 each; Nickell, 2; Wahlmeier, McConney, Brooks, Dreher, 1 each.

Wahlmeier blocked 3 Trego shots and Brooks rejected 1.

Norton had 13 turnovers and

Trego had 10.

**Other tournament results**  
Hill City defeated Stockton 47-44 for the boys championship. Plainville placed third with a 67-51 win over Ellis and Phillipsburg edged Smith Center 61-59 in overtime for fifth.

**Next action**  
Norton will travel to Goodland today for C-team boys, junior varsity and varsity girls and boys games, beginning at 4:45 p.m. with the C-team boys game, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games, all in Max Jones Fieldhouse. The boys junior varsity game will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the junior high gym, fol-

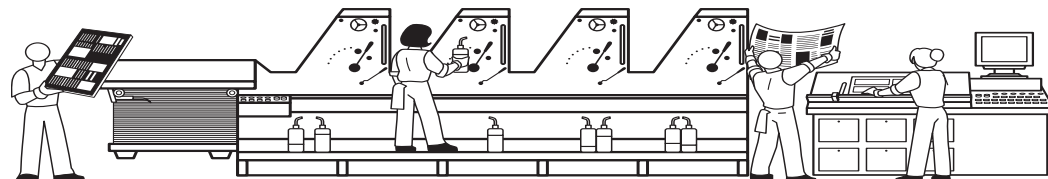
lowed by the girls junior varsity contest.

### BOX SCORE

**Norton Boys 57**  
Jordan Wahlmeier, 7 0 3-4 17; Ashton Draper 3 0 0-0 6; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-0 2; Tye Nickell 1 0 0-2 2; Terrell Lane 3 3 0-1 15; J.D. Gall 2 2 1-2 11; Jacob Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Dakota Dreher 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 19 5 4-9 57

**Trego Boys 44**  
Chad Uhrich 5 0 1-5 11; John Griffith 1 1 4-6 9; Bobby Garrett 1 0 2-2 4; Blake Fritts 1 0 1-2 3; Will Papes 0 0 4-4 4; Curtis Satran 0 0 0-2 0; Brandon Eberle 5 0 3-4 13; Game Totals 13 1 15-25 44

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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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## High School Sports This Week



### WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Kearney Dual at Wilmetth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton ..... 6 p.m. Today  
Norton Varsity in Mid-Continent League Tournament in Phillipsburg . 10 a.m. Saturday  
Norton Junior Varsity in Arapahoe Invitational in Arapahoe, Neb..... 10 a.m. Saturday

### BASKETBALL:

Norton vs. Goodland in Goodland C, JV, V..... 4:45 p.m. Today  
Norton vs. Smith Center in Norton JV, V ..... 5 p.m. Tuesday  
Northern Valley vs. Heartland Christian in Colby ..... 4 p.m. Today  
Northern Valley vs. Western Plains in Alma ..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Northern Valley vs. Alma in Alma..... 4 p.m. Tuesday  
Logan vs. Rock Hills in Mankato ..... 4 p.m. Today  
Logan vs. Thunder Ridge in Kensington..... 4 p.m. Friday  
Logan vs. Stockton in Logan..... 4 p.m. Tuesday