

Blue Jays rally to win 48-37 against Oberlin

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team trailed at halftime during their game on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium with a visiting Oberlin quintet but dominated second half play to win 48-37.

The visiting Red Devils led 12-10 after one quarter and 28-19 at intermission but the Blue Jay defense limited them to no field goals in the third quarter and just four in the fourth quarter. Norton outscored Oberlin 12-1 in the third period and 17-8 in the final quarter.

The Blue Jays outshot and out rebounded the Red Devils, hitting 50 percent of their shots compared to 40 percent for Oberlin and taking a 34-18 advantage on the boards.

Senior forward Ashton Draper and sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier each hit two baskets and Wahlmeier added two free throws for Norton's 10 first quarter points.

In the second period, Wahlmeier hit two more baskets, sophomore guard Dillon McConney connected on a field goal and junior guard Terrell Lane buried a three-pointer for 9 total points.

Since Oberlin tallied only 1 point, the Blue Jays needed only 12 third quarter points to take a 31-29 lead. Lane hit another trey plus a two-point basket, freshman guard Jacob Brooks and Draper each hit two-point field goals and Wahlmeier contributed another

basket and free throw.

Norton continued to build momentum in the fourth quarter by outscoring the visitors 17-8 to extend their final margin of victory to 11 points. Wahlmeier added two more baskets and a free throw, Draper connected for two more field goals, Lane hit another basket, senior guard J.D. Gall drained a two-point and three-point basket and sophomore guard Tye Nickell hit a free throw.

"They hit shots and we struggled with their half court trap defense early in the game and that put us in a tough position," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"In the second quarter, we panicked and made some bad decisions that put us in quite a hole. Our goal in the second half was to take one possession at a time and we did a good job of that. We played solid defense, our inside players finished better on offense and we rebounded better.

"It was definitely a tale of two halves."

Norton ended with three double figure scorers. The leader was Wahlmeier with 18 points on a deadeye 7 of 9 shots from the field for 78 percent and 4 of 7 free throws for 57 percent.

Both Draper and Lane added 10 points. Draper hit 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and Lane hit 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 2 of 4 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent.

Leading scorer for Oberlin was Josh Ritter with 14 points; Dakota Soderlund added 11.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 9 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 17 of 31 two-point tries for 55 percent and 20 of 40 overall for 50 percent. Oberlin swished 3 of 10 from long range for 30 percent, 11 of 25 two-point tries for 44 percent and 14 of 35 overall for 40 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 5 of 11 for 45 percent and Oberlin swished 6 of 16 for 38 percent.

The Blue Jays owned the backboards, outrebounding the Red Devils 34-18. Norton grabbed 13 offensive rebounds and 21 defensive. Oberlin pulled down 5 offensive and 13 defensive caroms.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Lane with 10, followed by Wahlmeier, 9; Draper, 8; Brooks, 3; McConney, Marcus Herman, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had 10 steals and the Red Devils had 11. Wahlmeier led with 4 thefts, followed by Gall, Brooks, 2 each; Draper, Herman, 1 each.

Norton had 14 offensive assists and Oberlin had 10. Lane and Herman each had 4 assists, followed by Wahlmeier, 3; McConney, Draper, Gall, 1 each.

Both teams had 20 turnovers.

Wahlmeier blocked 2 shots.

Junior varsity

Norton won the boys junior varsity game by a 41-22 score. The Blue Jays held quarter



Norton senior forward Ashton Draper pulled down one of his eight rebounds while senior guard Marcus Herman blocked out during the Blue Jays' win over Oberlin here on Tuesday evening. Junior guard Terrell Lane, right, grabbed 10 rebounds as Norton dominated the boards.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

leads of 15-6, 26-11 and 29-15.

Leading scorer for Norton was Jacob Brooks with 11 points, followed by Cole Archer, Tye Nickell, 6 points each; Dillon McConney 5; Dalton Miller, 4; Luke Ninemire, Andrew Ellis, John Renner, Javen Colip, 2 each; Lane Archer, 1.

Garrett Berry led Oberlin with 6 points.

Next action

Norton will host Hoxie in

games on Tuesday. The boys junior varsity game will be in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gymnasium, beginning at 5 p.m. The junior varsity girls game will also begin at 5 p.m. and will be held in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium and will be followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 48
Jordan Wahlmeier 7 0 4-7 18; Dillon McConney 1 0 0-0 2;

Ashton Draper 5 0 0-0 10; Tye Nickell 0 0 1-4 1; Terrell Lane 2 0 0-0 10; J.D. Gall 1 1 0-0 5; Jacob Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 17 3 5-11 48

Oberlin Boys 37

Wiley Farr 1 0 2-4 4; Dalton Jones 1 0 1-2 3; Josh Ritter 3 2 2-4 14; Keithen Fortin 1 0 0-2 2; Nolan Wasson 1 0 1-3 3; Dakota Soderlund 4 1 0-1 11; Game Totals 11 3 6-16 37

Lady Blue Jays hold off Lady Red Devils, win 37-32



Norton senior guard/post Amanda Ray was covered by two Oberlin players so looked to pass off to a teammate during the Lady Jays' win here on Tuesday. When she did shoot, Ray hit 78 percent of her shots and ended with 17 points.

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team held a comfortable lead over a visiting Oberlin quintet for three quarters before the Lady Red Devils made a game of it and the Lady Jays held them off for a 37-32 victory on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Norton held quarter advantages

of 6-3, 16-8 and 29-20 until Oberlin went on an 11-0 run to start the fourth quarter and tie the score at 31-all with 3:49 remaining in the game. The Lady Jays buckled down and limited the Lady Red Devils to just one free throw point the rest of the way to win by five points.

"It was a nice win. We played good for three quarters but lost our composure and made some silly turnovers," said coach Jilka.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

"We made some big free throws the rest of the way and played better defense when we had to.

"Overall, we weren't physical enough on rebounds. We weren't blocking out well enough.

"I'm proud of the way we hung in there for the win. We've been in a lot of close games this season and it was good to get the victory. Hopefully, we can build on this and be ready for Hoxie on Tuesday."

Senior post/guard Amanda Ray was leading scorer for Norton with 17 points on a net-smoking 7 of 9 shots from the field for 78 percent accuracy and 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Ray scored all six of Norton's first quarter points on three field goals and added two more baskets during the Lady Jays' 10-point second period. Sophomore post Erin Terrell hit Norton's other two second quarter baskets and junior forward Dustyna Sprigg hit two of two from the free throw line.

Terrell hit two baskets, senior point guard Ashlie Stewart swished two baskets, senior post Kaitlyn Wolf connected for one field goal and Ray hit another basket for Norton's 13 third quarter points.

Sprigg got the fourth quarter started for Norton with her only basket to extend the Lady Jay lead to 31-20 but Oberlin, with the help of their full court press, got on a hot streak and scored the next 11 points to tie the score at 31-all.

Ray hit three free throws in the next minute to make it 34-31. After Oberlin hit a free throw, Terrell hit Ray inside for a basket with 45 seconds left to give Norton a 36-32 advantage. After a Lady Red Devil turnover, Sprigg added the final Norton point at the free throw line.

Senior Adrienne Pauls was the only double figure scorer for Oberlin as she hit 15 points, 9 of them coming in the third quarter.

As a team, Norton hit an excellent 58 percent on 15 of 26 two-point shots. The Lady Jays missed all four trey tries and ended with 15 of 30 overall for an even 50 percent.

Oberlin hit 2 of 5 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 9 of 39 two-point tries for 23 percent and 11 of 44 overall for 25 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 7 of 11 for 64 percent and the Lady Red Devils connected on 8 of 16 for 50 percent.

Norton had 2 offensive and 13 defensive rebounds for 15 total. Oberlin pulled down 8 offensive and 6 defensive caroms for 14 total.

Terrell was leading rebounder for the Lady Jays with 5, followed by Sprigg, 3; Ray, 3; Stewart, 2; Wolf, 1; Kendra Engelbert, 1.

The Lady Jays' Sprigg had 4 assists, followed by Stewart, 3;

Engelbert, 2; Terrell, 2; Wolf, 1; Ray 1 for a total of 13. The Lady Red Devils had 6 assists.

Norton had 8 steals compared to 4 for Oberlin. Ray was steals leader with 4, followed by Stewart, Wolf, 2 each.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Oberlin had 9.

Junior varsity

The girls junior varsity showed improvement in the close 23-22 loss to Oberlin.

Norton led 2-1 after one quarter but trailed 11-5 at intermission. The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Red Devils 7-6 in the third period but still trailed 17-12.

They almost caught Oberlin in the fourth quarter when they outscored them 10-6 to just miss a win.

Leading scorers for Norton were Teslee Nickell and Meaghan Peterson with 5 points each, followed by Caren Thomson, Tiffany Eagleburger, 3 each; Alec Melvin, Kamilla Jones, Brianna Karnopp, 2 each.

Tiffany Anderson led Oberlin with 7 points.

"The previous two games for us have been horrible, so my confidence was low," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach

George Rossi.

"Even though we did not win tonight, we played much better. We played with intensity and enthusiasm. Our biggest downfall is shooting. We took good shots but they would not fall, especially in the first half.

"In the second half, we moved the ball well and got very good looks."

Next action

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BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 37
Ashlie Stewart 2 0 0-1 4; Erin Terrell 4 0 0-0 8; Dustyna Sprigg 1 0 4-6 6; Kaitlyn Wolf 1 0 0-0 2; Amanda Ray 7 0 3-4 17; Game Totals 15 0 7-11 37

Oberlin Girls 32

Jessica Fredrickson 0 0 1-2 1; Kiah Blau 3 0 0-0 6; Jordan Dreher 0 1 1-2 4; Adrienne Pauls 5 1 2-4 15; Mary Olson 1 0 4-8 6; Game Totals 9 2 8-16 32



Lady Jay forward Dustyna Sprigg got by Oberlin defenders to go high for two points during Norton's victory here on Tuesday. Sprigg was assists leader and tied for second high rebounder for the Lady Jays in the game.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd