

Jays outscore Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team outscored a visiting Hoxie quintet in three of the four quarters on Tuesday evening and that was enough to post a 65-43 Blue Jay victory.

Norton led 17-9 after one quarter but the Indians played them even at 11-11 in the second quarter for a 28-20 halftime score.

Norton tallied 18 points in the third quarter compared to just 11 for the visitors to extend their advantage to 46-31 and extended the final margin of victory even more with a 19-12 fourth quarter in their favor.

Both teams hit over 50 percent of their shots but Norton got off almost twice as many attempts as Hoxie. Also, the Blue Jays dominated the backboards, pulling down more than twice as many caroms as the Indians.

Norton's 17 points in the first quarter came on two two-point baskets and two free throws by junior guard Terrell Lane, a basket from long range and two-point field goal from senior guard J.D.

Gall and single two-point baskets by senior forward Ashton Draper, sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier and freshman guard Jacob Brooks.

In the Blue Jays' 11-point second quarter, all but one basket came from beyond the arc as Lane, Gall and sophomore guard Tye Nickell each buried a trey! Wahlmeier added a two-point field goal.

Draper warmed up after intermission and his jump shot was deadly. After hitting just one basket in the first quarter, he connected on four in the third period and three in the fourth period.

Lane hit another three-point basket and a two pointer and Gall buried his third trey of the contest in the third quarter.

In addition to Draper's three baskets, Nickell buried another three-point shot, sophomore guard Dillon McConney also swished a shot from beyond the arc, Brooks put in two two-point baskets and a free throw and Lane hit two charities in the fourth quarter.

"They had a solid team but I still thought we should have been up big by halftime," said coach Reusink. "We were not very good offensively or defensively in the first half but did better in the second half. We were getting the ball inside, especially to Ashton, who was hitting his shots. In addition, we got some key baskets from the perimeter after halftime.

"Right now, we are not very mentally tough; not very disciplined. We will have to play better to go very far in the post-season."

The Norton boys are now 11-6 for the season and the Hoxie boys fell to 10-9.

Leading scorers for Norton were Draper and Lane, each with 16 points.

Draper had a big night from the field, hitting 8 of 9 shots for a net blistering 89 percent accuracy.

Lane hit 2 of 9 long range shots for 22 percent, 3 of 5 two-point shots for 60 percent and 5 of 14 overall for 36 percent.

He was 4 of 6 from the free throw line for 67 percent accuracy.

J.D. Gall was a third double figure scorer for Norton. He hit 11 points before leaving the game with a leg injury. Gall drained his third shot from beyond the arc with 2:39 remaining in the third quarter to give the Blue Jays a 41-29 lead but was injured on the play and did not return.

J.D. hit 3 of 5 shots from beyond the arc for 60 percent, 1 of 2 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 4 of 7 overall for 57 percent.

Jaxsen Moss led Hoxie with

17 points.

As a team, Norton hit 8 of 19 three-point tries for 42 percent, 18 of 29 two-point tries for 62 percent and 16 of 48 overall for an excellent 54 percent.

Hoxie shot just as well but didn't take as many shots. The Indians swished 2 of 5 from long range for 40 percent, 13 of 22 two-point attempts for 59 percent and 15 of 27 overall for 56 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 5 of 7 for 71 percent and Hoxie swished 11 of 17 for 65 percent.

Norton dominated the backboards. The Blue Jays grabbed 12 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 29 total compared to only 2 offensive and 11 defensive boards for 13 total for Hoxie.

Draper and Brooks led Norton in rebounds with 7 each, followed by Wahlmeier, 5; Lane, 4; Gall, McConney, 2 each; Herman, Nickell, 1 each.

Lane and Brooks each had 3 of Norton's 10 steals. Wahlmeier had 2 thefts while Gall and Nickell each had 1.

The Blue Jays had 16 offensive assists. Lane led with 7, followed by Wahlmeier, Gall, Herman, Brooks, 2 each; Nickell, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers and Hoxie had 16.

Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a 19-14 score.

Only one half was played.

Jacob Brooks let the Blue Jays in scoring with 7 points, followed by Tye Nickell, 5; Dillon McConney, 4; Luke Ninemire, 3.

Jay Niermeier led Hoxie with 6 points.

Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity boys and girls teams will travel to Ellis today for Mid-Continent League action, beginning at 5 p.m.

BOX SCORE Norton Boys 65



Norton senior forward Ashton Draper had the radar on his jump shot adjusted almost perfectly Tuesday night as he hit a blazing 8 of 9 shots for 89 percent accuracy and 16 points in the Blue Jays' win over Hoxie here.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Jordan Wahlmeier 3 0 0-0 6;
Dillon McConney 0 1 0-0 3;

Ashton Draper 8 0 0-0 16; Tye Nickell 0 2 0-0 6; Terrell Lane 3 2 4-6 16; J.D. Gall 1 3 0-0 11; Jacob

Brooks 3 0 1-1 7; Game Totals 18 8 5-7 65

Hoxie Boys 43
Troy Ostmeier 1 2 0-0 8; C. Taylor 2 0 1-1 5; Luke Friess 1

0 1-3 3; Casey Heim 3 0 2-2 8; Taylor Rall 1 0 0-0 2; Jaxsen Moss 5 0 7-11 17; Game Totals 13 2 11-17 43

Norton to hosting Regional Wrestling Tournament

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School is hosting the annual Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium today and beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

Seven of the top ten ranked teams in the state and 45 of the 84 state ranked individual wrestlers are competing for berths in next week's state tournament in Hays.

Norton is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A.

Other state ranked teams here are Phillipsburg, No. 3; Hoxie, No. 4; Goodland, No. 5; Oakley, No. 6; Smith Center, No. 7 and Thomas More Prep of Hays, No. 9.

Other teams competing here are Atwood, Belleville, Beloit, Cheylin, Ellis, Hill City, Mankato-Rock Hills, Oberlin,

Osborne, Plainville, Pike Valley, St. Francis, Stockton, Trego Community.

"This is the toughest regional wrestling tournament in the state, without a doubt," Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson told the Blue Jay Booster Club during their meeting Wednesday evening.

"It will be very, very competitive. Every weight class has at least one state-ranked wrestler and six weight classes have four wrestlers who are state ranked.

"Chances are that some former state medalists won't make it out of this regional.

"We have a lot of good individual records but we'll have to come out and wrestle well or we won't move on.

"One thing in our favor is that none of the teams here have wrestled the competition we have. Also, we are healthier overall than

we were at this time last year."

Norton's seven state ranked wrestlers are: John Risewick, No. 2, 103; Troy Bainter, No. 3, 125; Billy Broeckelman, No. 5, 130; Kaenon Keiswetter, No. 1, 145; Landon Keiswetter, No. 4, 152; Spencer Shirk, No. 2, 160 and Zane Perez, No. 3, 171.

The Blue Jays' potential wrestling lineup for the tournament with records is: freshman John Risewick, 103, 22-10; sophomore R.J. Ellis, 112, 12-14; freshman Carson McKenna, 119, 12-11; junior Troy Bainter, 125, 29-5; junior Billy Broeckelman, 130, 17-5; junior Brett Terrell, 135, 14-9; senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140, 25-12; senior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145, 29-5; junior Landon Keiswetter, 152, 29-6; junior Spencer Shirk, 160, 26-2; senior Zane Perez, 171, 26-3; junior Kaid McKenna, 189, 29-7; senior Casey Robison, 215,

17-14 and senior Tyler Cook, 285, 20-14.

Other state-ranked wrestlers expected are: Drew Jones, Hoxie, No. 3; Jonathan Walker, Thomas More Prep, No. 6, 103 pounds; Dylan Schumacher, TMP, No. 1; Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, No. 2; Gage Younger, Ellis, No. 3; Austin Avelar, Goodland, No. 4, 112 pounds; Cole Werner, Plainville, No. 2; Carlos Galloway, Stockton, No. 3; Chris Cemen, Phillipsburg, No. 5; Garth Griffith, Atwood, No. 6, 119 pounds; Andrew Peterson, Oakley, No. 2; Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, No. 4, 125 pounds; Colt Rogers, Smith Center, No. 1; Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie, No. 6, 130; Jace Campbell, Oakley, No. 1; Kale Newell, Smith Center, No. 2; Terrance Lamb, St. Francis, No. 3, 135 pounds; Danny Floyd, Osborne, No. 1; Nathan Deeds, Goodland, No. 4; Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg, No. 5, 140

pounds; Trevor Oliver, Osborne, No. 2; Eric Albers, Oakley, No. 3; Kevin Wolters, Atwood, No. 4, 145 pounds; Lorenzo Delgado, Goodland, No. 2; Thomas Ratchow, Phillipsburg, No. 5; Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, No. 6, 152 pounds; Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, No. 4; Brandon Morgan, Phillipsburg, No. 5; Braden Mayes, Beloit, No. 6, 160 pounds; Matt Atwood, Smith Center, No. 2; Paul Starr, Goodland, No. 4; Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, No. 5, 171 pounds; Preston Werth, TMP, No. 2; Zach Jacobs, Phillipsburg, No. 5, 189 pounds; Ethan Jirak, Oakley, No. 1, 215 pounds; Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, No. 1; Jay Cotter, Goodland, No. 3; Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, No. 4, 285.

The tournament began with the first round at 2 p.m. today, followed by the championship quarterfinals at 5 p.m., consolation first round at 6:30 p.m. and

championship semifinals at 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling will continue Saturday at 11 a.m. with the consolation cross bracketing, followed by the consolation quarterfinals at 1 p.m., consolation semifinals at 3 p.m., consolation finals on two mats at 5 p.m. and championship finals on one mat at 6:30 p.m.

Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight.

The top four wrestlers in each weight will qualify for the state tournament next weekend in Hays.

Admission is \$3 for students, \$4 for adults on Friday; \$5 for students, \$7 for adults all day Saturday and \$3 for students and \$4 for adults for Saturday evening's action.

Hamel to play for Hutch juco

By DICK BOYD

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Landon Hamel, outstanding 5'10", 170 pound senior wide receiver and defensive back for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Hutchinson Community College.

Hamel is an all-state, all-league performer who lettered three years for coach Lucas Melvin's Blue Jay grid squad. He was a unanimous first team All-Mid-Continent League selection on offense by vote of league coaches this season and on defense he was chosen first team as a kick returner. Hamel was a second team league choice on offense last season.

He was also named to the Class 3A All-State Football Team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

Landon was selected to the Super Eleven by the Hays Daily News, to the first team on defense by the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and received honorable mention in the Topeka Capital-Journal at the end of this season.

Despite not playing a running back, Landon was second high in all-purpose yardage for the Blue Jays this season. He had 599 yards on punt returns and kickoff returns, 558 yards on pass receptions and 78 yards rushing for a total of 1,235 yards. Landon scored 8 touchdowns and had 6 pass interceptions. He was second leading tackler for Norton with 85 total stops.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Landon," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "He'll have to earn his way on a team in a tough conference but, if he works hard and gets in the weight room consistently, he will have a good chance to play as a freshman.

"If he has two good years with Hutchinson Community College, he can make a jump to a bigger school for his next two years.

"I'm excited for Landon. He'll be representing our Blue Jays, school and community. He has a chance to go outside our area and show how we play football here."

Hutchinson plays in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference, which is considered

to be the premier junior college football conference in the nation. The Blue Dragons have been coached the past three years by Rion Rhoades. They have compiled a 7-4 record each of the past two seasons. In 2008, they were Regional runner-up. Last season they defeated Mexico Military Institute in the Salt City Bowl and finished the season ranked No. 13 in the nation.

"We are excited to have Landon on board with us," said coach Rhoades. "We will probably play him at defensive back to start. When he visited here, we felt like he was a good fit.

"He comes from a good program in Norton. We've seen him the last two years at our summer camp when coach Melvin brings the players down.

"We feel good about this year's recruiting class. In fact, the last three classes have been good."

The quality of the Hutchinson football program is evidenced by the fact that four of their players from last season have signed to play at Kansas State University.

Landon is the son of Melanie Mortensen and Jan Hamel.

Landon Hamel signs with Hutchinson Community College



Norton Community High School senior football player Landon Hamel signed a letter of intent to play football for Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson. Pictured with him are his mother Melanie Mortensen and Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. Not pictured is his father Jan Hamel.

— Telegram Photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations **Boxler Insurance Agency, Inc.**

Jon Boxler and David Davis from . . .
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