

Jays struggle at Ellis

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team had trouble offensively in the first half but rallied in the second half to take the lead briefly before losing 55-43 to Ellis in Mid-Continent League play Friday night in Ellis.

Both teams scored 10 points in the first quarter but Norton was outscored 10-6 in the second period to trail 20-16 at halftime.

Both teams scored 15 points in the third quarter, which left the Blue Jays still trailing by 4 points at 35-31. A 20-12 fourth quarter in the Railroaders' favor led to the 12-point loss.

Norton's 10 first quarter points came on baskets by sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier, sophomore guard Dillon McConney, senior forward Ashton Draper, sophomore guard Tye Nickell and freshman guard Jacob Brooks.

In the second quarter, the Blue Jays' only points came on two baskets and two free throws by Draper.

Wahlmeier lit up the scoreboard for Norton in the second half, hitting three baskets and three free throws in the third quarter and two baskets and a charity in the final period.

Draper hit two more baskets in the third quarter and one in the fourth. Junior guard Terrell Lane hit a basket in the third and another in the fourth period.

Nickell connected on another field goal and free throw in the final stanza.

"We struggled on offense in the

first half against their box and one defense," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "In the second half, we executed better on offense and got the lead but didn't rebound on the defensive end.

"We seem to be close to making steps to being a good team but just aren't consistent enough and don't play smart enough to make that happen."

Leading scorer for Norton was Wahlmeier with 16 points on 6 of 10 field goals for 60 percent accuracy and 4 of 8 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

Draper scored 14 points on 6 of 9 from the field for 67 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 free throws.

Leading scorer for Ellis was 6'4", 290 pound senior center Matt Erbert who scored 30 points on 11 field goals and 8 of 10 free throws.

As a team, the Blue Jays hit 18 of 41 two-point shots for 44 percent but missed all 7 three-point tries and ended 18 of 48 overall for 38 percent.

Ellis hit 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 18 of 39 two-point tries for 44 percent and 19 of 43 overall for 44 percent.

Over the free throw line, Norton swished 7 of 13 for 54 percent. The Railroaders went to the charity stripe 25 times and hit 16 for 64 percent.

Norton grabbed 7 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 22 total. Ellis pulled down 12 offensive and 23 defensive caroms for 35 total.

Wahlmeier and Nickell led Norton in rebounds with 5 each,

followed by Lane, 4; Draper, Marcus Herman, 3 each; Jacob Brooks, 2.

The Jays had 6 steals and the Railroaders had 3. Wahlmeier led Norton with 3 thefts, followed by Nickell, 2; Lane, 1.

Both teams had 9 assists. Nickell led Norton with 3, followed by Lane, Brooks, 2 each; Wahlmeier, Herman, 1 each.

Norton had 10 turnovers and Ellis had 12.

Junior varsity
Norton lost the boys junior varsity game by a 45-39 score.

Norton trailed 12-11 after one quarter but the young Blue Jays led 19-14 at halftime. Ellis outscored Norton 19-5 in the third period to take a 35-24 lead. Norton outscored Ellis 15-10 in the fourth quarter to lose by just 6 points.

Leading scorers for Norton were Zach Hartwell, Cole Archer and Jacob Brooks, each with 8 points, followed by Dillon McConney, 6; Luke Ninemire, 4; Lane Archer, Dalton Miller, 2 each; Tye Nickell, 1.

L. Lohrmeyer led Ellis with 12 points; Daniel Honas added 11 and T. Walters 10.

C-team
Norton lost the boys C-team game by a 59-44 score.

The Blue Jays trailed 19-15 after one quarter but were ahead 32-30 at halftime. Both teams scored just 9 points in the third quarter which left Norton still on top by two points at 41-39 but Norton was outscored 20-3 in the fourth period.

Leading scorer for Norton was John Renner with 15 points, fol-



Norton senior guard J.D. Gall alertly stole a Hoxie pass and drove the length of the court to score a Blue Jay basket in Norton's win here last Tuesday. Gall scored 11 points before leaving the game with a leg injury after burying a three-point shot. He did not play in Friday's game at Ellis but did play Monday at Plainville.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

lowed by Dylan Sprigg, 9; Zach Hartwell, Andrew Ellis, 5 each; Dalton Miller, 4; Lane Archer, Lane Bigge, Ryan Bainter, 2 each.

C. Pfeifer led Ellis with 17 points; B. Hudson scored 13 and J. Mick 11.

Next action

Norton boys and girls teams traveled to Plainville on Monday evening. Results were not available at the Norton Telegram press time.

Today, Norton will host Colby

in boys C-team, junior varsity and varsity girls and boys games. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., the boys C-team game will be held in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed by the boys junior varsity contest.

Also beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium, the junior varsity girls game will be played, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 43
Jordan Wahlmeier 6 0 4-8 16; Dillon McConney 10 0-0 2; Ashton Draper 6 0 2-14; Tye Nickell 2 0 1-2 5; Jacob Brooks 1 0 0-1 2; Terrell Lane 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 18 0 7-13 43

Ellis Boys 55
Dylan Pfeifer 1 1 2-4 7; Ryan Weber 1 0 0-0 2; Jared Herl 2 0 1-4 5; Aaron Gnad 2 0 3-6 7; Gideon Fuchs 1 0 2-2 4; Matt Erbert 11 0 8-10 30; Game Totals 18 1 16-25 55

Northern Valley Huskies lose to Hill City 39-30

By DANA PAXTON

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The Northern Valley boys Huskies basketball team lost to the Hill City Ringnecks 30-39 Tuesday 39-30 on their home court.

In the first quarter, Dusty Eagleburger hit a two pointer and one beyond the arc. Colton Lowry and Austin Herman each sank a ball for two.

The Ringnecks outscored the Huskies by one for an ending

quarter score of 10-9.

The second quarter belonged to the Huskies who were the only team to score. Lowry made a three-pointer and both Eagleburger and Bryant Tharman made two points for a total of 7 points in the quarter. The half time score stood at 16-10 in the Huskies' favor.

The Ringnecks gained momentum in the third quarter, scoring 9 points. Northern Valley's Eagle-

burger hit one for two and made one of three free throws followed by Lowry's two-pointer.

The score by the end of the third quarter was 21-19 in favor of the Huskies.

The fourth quarter was the turning point of the game as the Ringnecks outscored the Huskies 20-9. Eagleburger made a two point shot and sank three of four free throws followed by two each made by Lowry and Herman.

Coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We contained them for most of the game. They stepped up and hit three big three-pointers in the fourth quarter.

"I'm proud of the way our boys played and hung in the game against a very good team."

The leading scorer for Northern Valley was Dusty Eagleburger with 15 points. He had a three-pointer, four two-point shots and four out of six free throws. Colton

Lowry tallied 9 points with three, two-point baskets and one beyond the arc followed by Austin Herman, 4; and Bryant Tharman, 2.

In the junior varsity game, Northern Valley lost 66-21 to Hill City. The leading scorer was Tyler Montgomery with 6 points.

Northern Valley played Victoria in the regional first round on Monday evening. February 22-27 are regionals, followed by Sub-State March 1-6 and state on March 10-16.

Go support your local teams as they battle it out.

Colorado School of Mines signs Perez

By DICK BOYD

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Zane Perez, an outstanding 5'9", 180 pound senior fullback, defensive back for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo.

A three-year letterman, Zane received post-season honors this year from the league, large daily newspapers and coaches association.

Perez received a double first team honor this season by vote of the Mid-Continent League coaches. In addition to being named to the first team on offense as a fullback, he received first team honors on defense as a defensive back.

He was a second team defensive selection by the league last season.

Zane was chosen to the Class

3A first team by the Topeka Capital-Journal, received honorable mention on defense from the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and was named to the All-Class first team by the Hays Daily News.

He was also selected as a defensive back to the Class 3A All-State Football Team by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

This past season, Zane was fourth leading tackler for Norton with 76 stops and had 913 yards of total offense rushing, pass receiving and returning kickoffs. He scored 10 touchdowns.

"This is an excellent opportunity for Zane to get a four-year education at an excellent university," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "It will be challenging both athletically and academically.

"If he works as hard as he has here, he will have great success in both areas.

"Colorado School of Mines has

a successful football program that wants good student-athletes.

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

Colorado School of Mines is a four-year university with emphasis on engineering, an interest of Zane's.

They play in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Their head coach the past 10 years has been Bob Stitt and they have had eight winning seasons during that decade.

They were 8-3 overall and 8-1 as the runner-up in the conference this season.

"Zane is a very good athlete and a very tough football player," said coach Stitt.

"We like to recruit wrestlers because of their work ethic and mental toughness. It's a great combination.

"Zane is our type player. We will play him on either side of the ball, whatever gives him the best chance to play.

"Both football and academics here are tough. The athletes who make it through are really successful."

What does coach Stitt expect for next season's team?

"We have our football program to the point that we re-load instead of re-building," he answered with confidence.

Zane is the son of Kelli and Rudy Perez.

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Zane Perez signs with Colorado School of Mines



Norton Community High School senior football player Zane Perez signed a letter of intent to play football for Colorado School of Mines in Golden, Colo. Pictured with him are, from left, his father Rudy, his mother Kelli and Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

~ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations *Bridges Group, Inc.* from... **INSURANCE**

High School Sports This Week

Norton Blue Jays

Northern Valley Huskies

Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:
Norton will compete in Class 3-2-1A State Tournament 10 a.m. Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum, Hays

BASKETBALL:
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Plainville in Plainville 5 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-team vs. Colby "Senior Night" in Norton 4:30 p.m. Today
Norton Varsity Boys in Sub-State Quarter-Finals 7 p.m. Monday, March 1 TBA
Norton Varsity Girls in Sub-State Quarter-Finals 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 TBA
Northern Valley Boys vs. Victoria in Regional First Round in Victoria 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22
Logan Boys vs. Natoma in Regional First Round in Natoma 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 22
Logan Girls vs. Victoria in Regional First Round in Logan 7 p.m. Today
Northern Valley Girls vs. Logan-Victoria Winner in Regional Semi-Finals in Palco Friday TBA