

# Aggressive defense leads Jays to victory

By DICK BOYD

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An aggressive man-to-man defense that held Colby to only three baskets and nine points in the first half helped the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team defeat the visiting Eagles 46-39 on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

"I was happy with our effort," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "Our defense was especially good in the first half."

"In the second half, we did things we needed to do to win the game. We held off their fourth quarter run by hitting our free throws down the stretch."

It was "Senior Night" so Norton senior boys basketball players and Dance Team members were honored along with their parents prior to the game.

Norton has three senior boys basketball players. They are Ashton Draper, son of Laurie Cliff and Denny Draper; J.D. Gall, son of Patty and John Gall and Marcus Herman, son of Claire and Joe Herman. All three have participated in basketball all four years of their high school careers.

There are two senior members of the Dance Team and they were honored along with their parents. They are Ashlie Stewart, daughter of Abi and Ron Delimont and Cindy and Mike Stewart and Bethany Winkel, daughter of Joanie and Darin Winkel.

Ashlie has been on the team for four years and this is Bethany's first year.

Both teams hit 15 points in the fourth quarter but Colby swished six field goals compared to four by Norton. The difference came at the charity stripe where the Blue Jays connected on 7 of 11. Colby hit 2 of 2 charities in the final stanza.

The score was tied 6-all after one quarter in which junior guard Terrell Lane hit two field goals and sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit one.

Lane found the range from three-point range in the second quarter, hitting two shots from beyond the arc. Wahlmeier hit Norton's other basket, a two-



Norton sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier beat a Colby player to a loose ball during the Blue Jays' win over the Eagles on Tuesday in Norton. Wahlmeier led Norton in steals with

pointer. Freshman guard Jacob Brooks hit three free throws in the period.

Lane continued to find the range on his shots in the third quarter when he connected on four two-point attempts. Wahlmeier hit two more baskets and senior guard J.D. Gall connected on one.

In the crucial fourth quarter, Lane hit a basket and 3 of 5 from the charity stripe. Senior forward Ashton Draper hit his only basket

of the game as did Brooks. Gall hit another basket and 2 of 2 from the line and senior guard Marcus Herman hit 2 of 4 charities.

Lane was leading scorer for Norton with 23 points on 2 of 7 from long range for 29 percent, 7 of 14 two-point tries for 50 percent and 9 of 21 overall for 43 percent. He also hit 3 of 5 free throws for 60 percent.

Braden McKee led Colby with 19 points.

As a team, Norton connected

six and rebounds with 10 and blocked two shots.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

on 2 of 11 from beyond the arc for 18 percent, 15 of 44 two-point attempts for 34 percent and 17 of 55 overall for 31 percent.

The Eagles hit 3 of 13 long range shots for 23 percent, 12 of 29 two-point tries for 41 percent and 15 of 42 overall for 36 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 10 of 17 for 59 percent and the Eagles swished 6 of 8 for 75 percent.

Norton edged Colby on the

backboards 27-26. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive caroms and took 19 defensive rebounds off the glass. The Eagles grabbed 4 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds.

Wahlmeier was leading rebounder for Norton with 10, followed by Lane, 9; Draper, 4; Brooks, 3; Gall, 1.

Norton had 12 steals and Colby had 6. Wahlmeier was steals leader with 6, followed by Lane, 3; Draper, Herman, Brooks, 1

## Blue Jays lose to Plainville in rare Monday game

By DICK BOYD

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Playing in a rare Monday night game turned out to be an off night for the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team who traveled to Plainville for their final Mid-Continent League contest of the season and suffered a 68-54 loss.

Despite out-rebounding the Cardinals, the Blue Jays could not keep up in the scoring department where they hit almost the same percentage but took fewer shots.

Norton trailed 22-12 after one quarter and Plainville outscored the Blue Jays 16-11 in the second period to take a 38-23 halftime advantage.

A 6-point Norton third quarter compared to 14 more points by the Cardinals put the game out of reach with a 52-29 advantage for the home team.

The Blue Jays put together a 25-point fourth quarter but it was too little, too late as Plainville added 16 more points to their total.

"It is pretty simple," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"We are not going to beat good teams until we start defending people and play hard for more than one or two possessions at a time."

Norton junior guard Terrell Lane had a big scoring first half when he hit two baskets from three-point range and two two-pointers for 10 of his game high 22 points.

Lane added two more baskets from beyond the arc and a free throw in the second quarter.

The Blue Jays' only points in the third quarter came on two baskets and a free throw by se-

nior forward Ashton Draper and another charity by Lane.

The fourth quarter saw sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier lead the way in scoring for Norton as he threw in 10 points on four baskets and two free throws after hitting only one basket in the previous three periods.

Freshman guard Jacob Brooks had also hit only one basket earlier but added two more along with a free throw.

Sophomore guard Dillon McConney hit his only two baskets of the game and Lane completed his 22-point night with two more baskets.

Lane's points came on 4 of 7 from beyond the arc for 57 percent accuracy, 4 of 12 two-point shots for 33 percent and 8 of 19 overall for 42 percent. He also hit 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent.

Wahlmeier ended with 12 points

on 5 of 11 shots for 45 percent and 2 of 2 charity tosses.

Leading scorer for Plainville was Jaden Perkins with 22 points; Jameson Klein added 16.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 12 long range shots for 33 percent, 18 of 42 two-point attempts for 43 percent and 22 of 54 overall for 41 percent.

Plainville swished 5 of 13 from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 24 of 51 two-point tries for 47 percent and 29 of 64 overall for 45 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 6 of 11 for 55 percent and the Cardinals connected on 5 of 10 for 50 percent.

Norton had 8 offensive and 28 defensive rebounds for 36 total. Plainville had 9 offensive and 23 defensive caroms for 31.

Lane was leading rebounder for Norton with 13 caroms and

was followed by Brooks, 9; Wahlmeier, Draper, 5 each; Herman, 2; McConney, Nickell, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 9 steals and the Cardinals had 10. Lane and Brooks each had 3 thefts, followed by Wahlmeier, Gall, Nickell, 1 each.

Norton had 9 offensive assists but Plainville had 16. Assists leader for Norton was Brooks with 3, followed by Nickell, 2; Wahlmeier, Lane, Gall, Herman, 1 each.

Wahlmeier blocked 4 Cardinal shots.

The Blue Jays had 16 turnovers and the Cardinals gave up the ball 12 times.

**Junior varsity**

The Norton junior varsity boys defeated Plainville 53-20.

Norton led by quarters 16-5, 34-8 and 42-16.

Leading scorer for Norton was

each.

The Jays had 9 assists compared to 4 by the Eagles. Gall led Norton with 3 assists, followed by Lane, Herman, Wahlmeier, 2 each.

Wahlmeier blocked 2 Eagle shots.

Norton had just 9 turnovers and Colby lost the ball 20 times to the aggressive Blue Jay defense.

With the victory, Norton will take a 12-8 record into the sub-state tournament next week. Colby's record fell to 7-13.

**Junior varsity**

The Norton junior varsity boys team lost to Colby 53-38.

Norton trailed 12-5 after one quarter before outscoring Colby 12-4 in the second quarter to take a 17-16 halftime lead.

A 14-11 third quarter in Norton's favor stretched the Blue Jay lead to 31-27 but Colby had a big fourth quarter, outscoring Norton 26-7 for the 15-point win.

Dillon McConney led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by Luke Ninemire, 8; Zach Hartwell, 6; John Renner, Dalton Miller, 4 each; Cole Archer, Jacob Brooks, 2 each; Tye Nickell, Lane Bigge, 1 each.

Justin Slavens led Colby with 11 points.

**C-team contest**

Norton lost the boys C-team game by a 43-17 score.

The Blue Jays trailed by quarters 13-4, 24-6 and 34-17.

Leading scorer for Norton was John Renner with 8 points, followed by Lane Archer, Dalton Miller, Dylan Sprigg, 2 each; Zach Hartwell, Andrew Ellis, Lane Bigge, 1 each.

Zane Winger scored 8 points for Colby.

**BOX SCORE**

**Norton Boys 46**

Jordan Wahlmeier 4 0 0-2 8; Ashton Draper 1 0 0-0 2; Terrell Lane 7 2 3-5 23; J.D. Gall 2 0 2-2 6; Marcus Herman 0 0 2-4 2; Jacob Brooks 1 0 3-4 5; Game Totals 15 2 10-17 46

**Colby Boys 39**

Andrew Ketchum 2 0 0-0 4; Chaz Winger 1 0 1-2 3; Kale Arnbarger 0 2 0-0 6; Ryley Haas 0 1 0-0 3; Braden McKee 7 0 5-6 19; Spencer Tubbs 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 12 3 6-8 39

## Huskies defeat Heartland

By DANA PAXTON

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Last Thursday, the Northern Valley boys basketball team defeated Heartland Christian 54-50 in overtime.

In the first quarter, Dusty Eagleburger hit one from beyond the arc, followed by a two pointer.

Assisting him were Austin Herman with two and Michael Callaway with two.

It was a gallant effort but Heartland Christian outscored them. The score at the end of the first quarter was 14-9.

The Huskies were warmed up and ready for the second quarter. Colton Lowry led the scoring with four two-point baskets and one beyond the arc. Gunnar Hays also sank a three pointer, and Eagleburger and Zachary Vincent each added two more points to the

tally. Heartland Christian held on but not enough to keep the lead. The halftime score was 27-25 in favor of the Huskies.

In the third quarter, the Huskies lost some steam but still outscored Heartland.

Once again, Lowry was the high point maker with four two-point baskets, the only points made by the Huskies in the quarter. The score at the end of the third quarter was 35-30.

In the final quarter of the game, Heartland Christian got fired up scoring 16 points to Northern Valley's 11 points. Lowry and Eagleburger each scored four points, Herman had two points and Tyler Montgomery made one of two free throws. This put the game into overtime with the score standing at 46 all.

In the extra period, Lowry hit

one from beyond the arc and made one of three free throws. Herman and Eagleburger added two more each to the tally for a total of 8 points.

Heartland Christian was unable to score the baskets they needed, handing the win to the Huskies.

Coach Chuck Fessenden said, "Foul trouble was an issue for both teams. We had chances to put the game away in regulation but couldn't get the job done. Lucky for us Colton Lowry hit a big '3' in overtime."

The leading Northern Valley scorer was Colton Lowry with 27 points, ten two-pointers, two three-pointers and one of three free throws.

Eagleburger had 13, followed by Herman, 6; Hays, 3; Callaway and Vincent, 2 each; and Montgomery with 1 point.

## Huskies lose to Palco 71-47

By DANA PAXTON

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The Northern Valley boys basketball team lost to Palco 71-47 last Friday.

The first quarter of the game belonged to the Huskies. Dusty Eagleburger scored one from beyond the arc, two two-pointers and two of four free throws for a total of 9 points.

Austin Herman sank a two-pointer and made one free throw. Tyler Montgomery added two more to the tally. Northern Valley's 14-6 lead was a great start to the game.

In the second quarter, the Huskies lost their steam scoring only 8 points to Palco's 22. Michael Callaway made four and Montgomery added two more. The third quarter was better for the

Huskies but not good enough to take the lead. Colton Lowry had a two-pointer, two of two free throws and one from beyond the arc. Eagleburger and Montgomery each had two points. Northern Valley scored a total of 11 points but Palco's 23 kept them in the lead. The third quarter's ending score was 51-33.

In the fourth and final quarter not much changed. Husky Eagleburger had a three-pointer, a two-pointer and one of four free throws. Montgomery had a two-pointer and one free throw and Phillip Compton sank one for two points. Lowry, Herman, and Calen Bach each made one of two free throws for a total of 14 points for the quarter. Palco's steam held up for a total of 20 more points to win the game.

Coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We played well early in the game but their defensive pressure started to have an effect on us. They shot the ball well and we gave up some easy baskets. We will have to regroup before Monday when we travel to Victoria."

The leading scorer for the Huskies was Dusty Eagleburger with 17, four two-pointers, two beyond the arc and three of seven free throws. Colton Lowry had 10 followed by Tyler Montgomery, 9; Michael Callaway and Austin Herman, 4 each; and Phillip Compton with 2.

The Northern Valley junior varsity team lost to Palco 51-40. Gunnar Hays was the high point scorer with 11 points.