

Blue Jay boys end season with loss to Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

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The No. 3 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team hosted No. 6 seeded Smith Center in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Monday evening in the first round of the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament and suffered a season-ending 44-36 loss.

It was a close game throughout with neither team hitting very well from the field but the Redmen making the difference at the free throw line. Norton hit one more field goal than the visitors but Smith Center connected on nine more free throws.

The Blue Jays held a 9-4 lead after one quarter and 22-15 advantage at halftime but the Redmen outscored them 16-3 in the third quarter to make it a tight ball game.

Norton trailed 31-25 at the start of the fourth quarter but baskets by senior forward Ashton Draper and junior guard Terrell Lane in the first minute of the period cut the Redmen's lead to 31-29. A free throw by Dillon Corbett and basket by Spencer Vandergiesen put Smith Center ahead 34-29 but Lane and sophomore forward Jordan Wahlmeier answered with Norton baskets to bring it to 34-33 with 5:10 left in the game.

Unfortunately for the Blue Jays, they did not hit another field goal the rest of the game. Norton's final points came on a free throw by Draper and two charities by Lane. Meanwhile, Corbett hit the Redmen's final field goal of the game and Smith Center hit eight of eight free throws the rest of the way to win by eight points.

Lane hit a three-point and two two-point baskets for Norton in the first quarter and freshman guard Jacob Brooks hit his only basket of the contest.

In Norton's 13-point second period, Lane hit three more baskets, Draper hit a basket and free throw and sophomore guard Tye Nickell and senior guard Marcus Herman each connected for a basket.

Lane's lone basket and a free throw by Wahlmeier were Norton's only third quarter points.

"I was disappointed at halftime and told our players we were not playing as well as we can in any phase of the game," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"We were making some poor decisions both passing and shooting. We weren't playing with any confidence.

"We practiced so well this past week that I don't know how we lost this game."

Smith Center extended their

record to 8-12 and advanced to Thursday's semi-final game versus No. 2 seed Beloit who defeated St. John's Military 74-53.

Norton's season ended with a 12-9 record.

In other first round games, No. 1 seed Minneapolis outscored No. 8 Ellsworth 43-26 and No. 4 Hoisington defeated No. 5 Phillipsburg 60-52.

On Thursday in Beloit, Minneapolis played Hoisington and Beloit played Smith Center. The winners will play Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Beloit for the championship and a berth in the Class 3A State Basketball Tournament in Hutchinson next week.

Lane was leading scorer for the Blue Jays against Smith Center, hitting 21 points on 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 8 of 15 two-point shots for 53 percent and 9 of 18 overall for 50 percent. He was a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Corbett led Smith Center with 18 points.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 9 from long range for 11 percent, 14 of 39 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

The Redmen hit 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 12 of 32 two-point tries for 38 percent and 14 of 40 overall for

35 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on just 5 of 15 for 33 percent while the Redmen swished 14 of 21 for 67 percent.

The Blue Jays had 9 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 24 total and Smith Center pulled down 6 offensive and 22 defensive caroms for 28 total.

Jordan Wahlmeier was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Terrell Lane, Marcus Herman, Jacob Brooks, 4 each; J.D. Gall, 2; Dillon McConney, Ashton Draper, Tye Nickell, 1 each.

Norton had 8 steals and Smith Center had 7. Lane and Brooks each had 3 thefts, followed by Draper, Herman, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 7 assists and the Redmen had 6. Wahlmeier, Gall and Brooks each had 2 assists and Lane had 1.

Wahlmeier, Draper, Lane and Brooks each blocked one shot.

Norton had 13 turnovers and Smith Center had 18.

Seniors Ashton Draper, J.D. Gall and Marcus Herman played their final high school basketball game for Norton.

"Our three seniors did a lot of good things for us," said coach Reusink.

"We have some good players coming back next year but we'll



Norton junior guard Terrell Lane continued to lead the Blue Jays in scoring on Monday evening during the first round of the Sub-State Basketball Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton versus Smith Center. He is shown here hitting a jump shot over a Smith Center defender's outstretched arm. Lane ended the game with 21 points and had four rebounds, three steals and blocked a Redman shot.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

have to get better defensively.

"If the returning players work hard, we should have a good season."

Coach Reusink thanked the players, fans and assistant coach David Stover for all they did for the team this season.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys 36

Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 1-6 3; Ashton Draper 2 0 2-5 6; Tye Nickell 1 0 0-0 2; Terrell Lane

8 1 2-2 21; J.D. Gall 0 0 0-2 0; Marcus Herman 1 0 0 0 2; Jacob Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 14 1 5-15 36

Smith Center Boys 44

Alex Habelmann 1 2 2-2 10; Trevor Overmiller 0 0 4-4 4; Payton Buckmaster 1 0 0-0 2; Jace Winder 1 0 0-1 2; Kale Terrill 1 0 0-0 2; Dillon Corbett 5 0 8-13 18; Spencer Vandergiesen 3 0 0-1 6; Game Totals 12 2 14-21 44



Norton senior post Kaitlyn Wolf had a good night scoring inside against Beloit on Tuesday evening in the Sub-State Basketball Tournament in Beloit. She finished with 12 points and had three rebounds and two steals. At right is senior Lady Jay guard Kendra Engelbert.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Jays lose to Trojans 50-32

By DICK BOYD

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The No. 6 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team opened Sub-State Tournament play Tuesday evening in Beloit versus the No. 3 seeded Lady Trojans and lost 50-32 to end their season.

The game was much closer than the final score indicates. Both teams hit 14 field goals from two-point range. Beloit hit just one three-point basket and Norton did not attempt any shots from beyond the arc.

The difference in the scores came from the free throw line where Beloit hit an unbelievable 19 of 22 for a net-smoking 86 percent!

Norton could just not keep up with the charity accuracy by the Beloit girls. The Lady Jays went to the charity stripe 13 times but could only hit 4 for 31 percent.

Norton successfully worked the ball inside to senior post Kaitlyn Wolf in the first half. Kaitlyn hit three baskets in the first quarter and senior point guard Ashlie Stewart hit two baskets to give Norton a 10-9 lead.

Two more baskets by Wolf and two free throws by junior forward Dustyna Sprigg accounted for all of the Lady Jays' points in the second quarter while Beloit threw in 18 to take a 27-16 halftime lead.

The aggressive Norton defense limited the Lady Trojans to just

two baskets in each of the final two quarters but Beloit made up for it at the free throw line where they swished 15 of 16.

Beloit outscored Norton by just 11-10 in the third quarter to lead 38-26.

The Lady Jays' points came on three more baskets by Stewart, another by Wolf and senior post Amanda Ray's two free throws.

Beloit's free throw exhibition continued in the fourth quarter when they hit just two baskets out of 12 points scored.

Norton scored just 6 points on baskets by Stewart, sophomore post Erin Terrell and Ray in the final period.

"We played well but we just didn't have enough offensive power," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka.

"We couldn't get the big baskets when we needed them. We executed our offense very well and got good shots but couldn't score.

"I'm proud of our girls; they played hard.

"You have to give Beloit credit for hitting their free throws.

"Our girls went through a lot of adversity this year but never complained. They didn't quit and that's what I'm most proud of. It was a pleasure to coach them.

"We'll lose four seniors who played a lot of good basketball for us but we'll have some good returning players as well."

Seniors who played their last Lady Jay basketball on Tuesday evening were Kendra Engelbert, Ashlie Stewart, Kaitlyn Wolf and Amanda Ray.

The Norton girls ended the season with a 9-12 record.

In other girls first round tournament games, No. 2 seed Minneapolis defeated No. 7 seeded Ellsworth 56-28 and No. 4 seeded Hoisington edged No. 5 seeded Phillipsburg 43-41.

This evening in Beloit, Hoisington will play No. 1 seed Smith Center, who received a first round bye, at 6 p.m. and Minneapolis will play Beloit at 7:30 p.m. Winners will play Saturday for the championship and a berth in next week's Class 3A State Tournament in Hutchinson.

Leading scorers for Norton versus Beloit on Tuesday evening were Stewart and Wolf, both with 12 points.

Stewart hit 6 of 9 shots from the field for 67 percent accuracy and Wolf swished 6 of 10 for 60 percent.

Leading the scoring for Beloit was Cami Engelbert with 12 points.

As a team, Norton hit 14 of 31 two-point shots for 45 percent and did not shoot from beyond the arc.

Beloit hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 14 of 27 two-point attempts for 52 percent and 15 of 31 overall for 48 percent.

The Lady Jays grabbed 6 offensive and 6 defensive rebounds for 12 total. The Lady Trojans pulled down 7 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 19 total.

Terrell and Wolf each had 3 rebounds, followed by Stewart, Sprigg, Ray, 2 each.

Sprigg had 4 of Norton's 7 steals. Wolf had 2 and Stewart had 1. Beloit had 4 thefts.

The Lady Jays had 13 assists and the Lady Trojans had 10.

Assists leader for Norton was Ray with 5, followed by Stewart, 3; Terrell, Sprigg, 2 each; Wolf, 1.

Norton had 22 turnovers and Beloit gave up the ball 14 times on turnovers.

Coach Jilka thanked the players, fans and assistant coach George Rossi for all they did for the team during the 2009-10 season.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls 32

Ashlie Stewart 6 0 0 4 12; Erin Terrell 1 0 0-2 2; Dustyna Sprigg 0 0 2-4 2; Kaitlyn Wolf 6 0 0-1 12; Amanda Ray 1 0 2-2 4; Game Totals 14 0 4-13 32

Beloit Girls 50

Emily Pahls 3 0 3-4 9; Nicole Tyson 1 0 2-2 4; Bailey Brown 0 0 5-6 5; Kelly Shamburg 2 1 2-2 9; Kalli Kruse 0 0 5-6 5; Cami Engelbert 5 0 2-2 12; Kim Mealiff 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 14 1 19-22 50

Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Champions

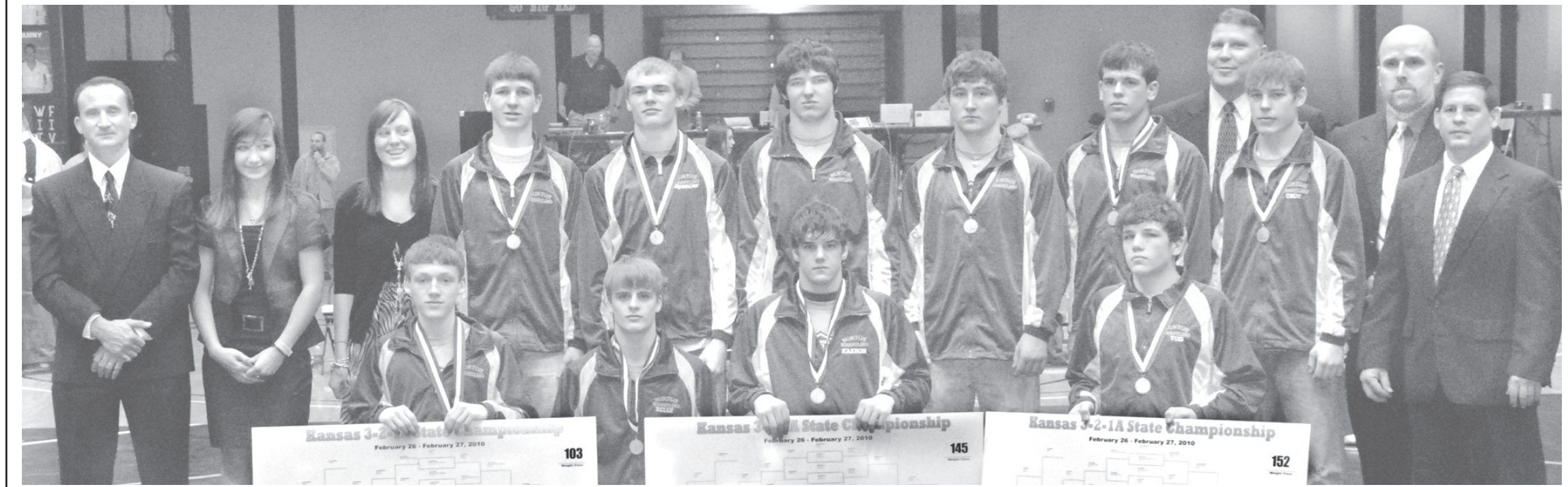


Photo re-printed due to technical problems

CLASS 3-2-1A STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS -- The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured Saturday evening after winning the championship

of the State Wrestling Tournament in the Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Pictured are, from left, front row: John Risewick, Billy Broeckelman, Kaenon Keiswetter, Landon "Tug" Keiswetter; back row: Assistant Coach Shane Miller, Manager Juliana Miller, Manager Alexis

Lively, Connor Pfannenstiel, Spencer Shirk, Tyler Cook, Kaid McKenna, Zane Perez, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Troy Bainter, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Head Coach Bill Johnson.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd