



Blue Jay basketball opens this week

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team will have their top two scorers returning from last season's 12-9 squad when coach Doug Reusink's Blue Jays open their 2010-11 season on Thursday in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

Norton will open versus McCook at 3 p.m. in the Junior High Gym.

Returning for the Blue Jays are senior Terrell Lane, 5'11" senior guard, and Jordan Wahlmeier, 6'3" junior post. Lane was leading scorer last year with 14.9 points per game and leading rebounder with 9.6 caroms per

contest. Wahlmeier was second in both, hitting 11 points per game and grabbing 5.6 rebounds per contest.

Lane hit 74 percent from the free throw line and led the team in steals and assists.

Wahlmeier was the most accurate field goal shooter with a 53.7 percent average. He led the team in blocked shots and was second high in steals.

The four other returning lettermen are: 5'11" senior Dakota Dreher, who averaged 2.7 points and 3.7 rebounds; 5'9" junior Tye Nickell, who averaged 2.1 points and 1.4 rebounds; 6' junior Dillon McConney, who averaged 2.7 points and 1.5 rebounds and 6'2" sophomore Jacob Brooks,

who averaged 3.6 points and 3.2 rebounds.

Brooks was second best in field goal accuracy at 46.4 percent and fourth best in rebounding. McConney led the team in three-point shooting with an average of 46.7 percent.

Other members of the 2010-11 Norton boys basketball team are: Luke Ninemire, 6'; Cole Archer, 6', seniors; Zach Hartwell, 5'6"; Trey Millan, 5'9"; Taylor Meder, 5'11"; Dallas Greenwood, 6', juniors; John Renner, 6'; Ryan Bainter, 5'9"; Carson McKenna, 5'11"; Andrew Ellis, 6'1"; Lane Bigge, 6', sophomores; Drew Schrum, 5'4"; Trever Lewis, 5'9"; Marc Miller, 5'10"; Toby Nickell, 5'5"; Tanner Furbush,

5'10"; Travis Cressler, 5'11"; Damian Lawson, 6'; Gabe Bird, 5'11"; Zach Bird, 5'11", freshmen.

David Stover is the assistant coach again this season.

David Cressler is the student manager.

Coach's comments

"We are not very big but we do have some pretty good athletes, which should make us competitive with anyone we play," said coach Reusink. "We are also short of depth to start so will need some young men from last year's junior varsity team to step up and help us.

"I think the Mid-Continent League will be tough and pretty balanced because most teams

have at least three starters returning. My pick to win would be Plainville but you can't count out Hill City with the record they had last season.

"We finished in the middle of the pack last year so, hopefully, we can improve on that."

Reusink is veteran coach

Veteran head coach Coach Reusink is beginning his 32nd year of coaching high school boys basketball teams and has compiled an overall record of 450 wins and 221 losses for an excellent 67 percent victory record. This is an average of 14.5 wins and 7.1 losses per year.

Under the tutelage of coach Reusink, the 2002-03 Norton quintet won the Class 3A state basketball

championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-04 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-05 Blue Jays were 15-7.

The Norton boys' 2005-06 record was 12-8 and they finished second in the Mid-Continent League tournament. The 2006-07 squad was 14-7, tied for second in the league and placed second in the league tournament. The 2007-08 team went 15-7, placed third in the league and third in the league tournament but left Norton without any returning starters and only three lettermen for the 2008-09 season.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 236 wins and 175 losses.

Lady Jays will compete in tournament to open season

By DICK BOYD

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Head basketball coach Kevin Jilka will have no returning starters from his Norton Community High School girls basketball team but five returning letter winners when the Lady Jays tipoff against McCook at 5 p.m. on Thursday in the Junior High Gym in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland in the opening round of the three-day Topside Tip-Off Tournament.

Returning letter winners for the Lady Jays are: Kaylen Rossi, 5'5"; Dustyna Sprigg, 5'9", seniors; Erin Terrell, 5'10"; Caren Thomson, 5'8", juniors; Kamilla Jones, 5'8", sophomores.

Terrell was second high in

rebounds for Norton last season with 80 total and averaged six points per game for fourth best on the team. She was second most accurate field goal shooter on the team, hitting 51.4 percent of her shots.

Sprigg was fourth best in rebounds with 48, fourth in steals with 21 and fourth in assists with 20.

Other members of the 2010-11 Lady Jay basketball team are: Abby Bainter, 5'6", junior; Tawni Griffey, 5'4"; Alec Melvin, 5'6", sophomores; Marisa Maddy, 5'2"; Katelyn Engelbert, 5'9"; Cristine Nelson, 5'7"; Bailey Ambrosier, 5'8"; Johnnye Ruder, 5'5"; Rickele Green, 5'7"; Darcy

Bainter, 5'6"; Elizabeth Saulsbury, 5'5", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this season will be George Rossi and Joan Bolt.

Student manager will be Bryan Henry.

Coach's comments

"We just don't have a lot of experience or depth right now and, hopefully, we can develop that as the season goes along," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we have to find some people who want to and can score.

"Defensively, we can be pretty good. Defense is going to have to keep us in the games and give us a chance to win in the fourth

quarter.

"This group has been working hard and we quite possibly could surprise some teams this year.

"As far as the Mid-Continent League is concerned, I feel that the strongest teams will be Smith Center and Hill City.

"The league is definitely up this year as there are some very good teams from top to bottom. It will be interesting to see how we will stack up against them."

Long time tenure

In his 28 years as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays, coach Jilka's teams have won 471 games and lost 162 for a 74.4 percent winning average. Jilka's Lady Jays have averaged 16.8 wins and just

5.8 losses per season.

Following their fourth place finish in the state tournament in 2000-01, coach Jilka's 2001-02 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the league. Norton compiled a 12-9 record in 2003-04 when they tied for second in the league and their season ended with a 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the substate tournament.

The season ended for the 2004-05 quintet with a loss to eventual champion Holcomb in the substate tournament. The Lady Jays were 17-5 that year and were undefeated league champions and also league tournament champions.

The 2005-06 Norton girls compiled an 18-2 record, were undefeated in the Mid-Continent League and runner-up in the league tournament. Their season came to a sudden close with a 44-33 loss to Riley County in the substate tournament.

The 2006-07 Lady Jays were 13-7 and also placed third in the league tournament. Their season ended with a 46-42 loss to Oberlin in the substate tournament.

The 2007-08 Norton girls won the substate championship and lost their first game in the state tournament 45-39 to Wichita Collegiate.

Norton Blue Jay boys and girls basketball schedules

- Dec. 9-10-11 - Goodland Topside Tip-Off TBA
- Dec. 16 - Stockton 5 p.m. There
- Dec. 17 - Phillipsburg 4 p.m. Here
- Dec. 18 - JV Tournament at Trego with Oakley, Quinter 9 a.m.
- Dec. 29 - Boys C Tournament at Hill City TBA
- Jan. 4 - Oberlin 4 p.m. Here
- Jan. 7 - Osborne 4 p.m. There
- Jan. 11 - Plainville 4 p.m. Here
- Jan. 14 - Trego Community 5 p.m. in WaKeeney
- Jan. 15 - MCL Feather Bracket Games TBA
- Jan. 17 - MCL Quarterfinal Boys TBA
- Jan. 18 - MCL Quarterfinal Girls TBA
- Jan. 21 - MCL Semi-Finals Boys, Girls TBA
- Jan. 22 - MCL Finals Boys, Girls TBA
- Jan. 25 - Goodland 4 p.m. Here
- Feb. 1 - Smith Center 5 p.m. There
- Feb. 4 - Hill City 4 p.m. Here
- Feb. 8 - Oberlin 5 p.m. There
- Feb. 11 - Atwood 6:30 p.m. There
- Feb. 15 - Hoxie 6:30 p.m. There
- Feb. 18 - Ellis 4 p.m. Here
- Feb. 22 - Colby 4:30 p.m. There
- March 1-5 - Sub-State Girls, Boys TBA
- March 9-12 - State Championship, Boys, Girls in Hutchinson

Husky girls start their basketball season

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies open this season with eight players on the team. We took on the challenge of playing Rawlins County which will end up having one of the best big players in Northwest Kansas and we could not stop her from rebounding or scoring as we played hard but went down in defeat 49-21.

We did all we could^ sandwiched her defensively, but her teammates just threw the ball up to her which we couldn't stop or she reached higher on offensive shots missed by her teammates than we could and put them back in for scores. We did our best against a talented player she just got the better of us on this night.

Defensively, Erika Chandler led the team in deflects with 9 followed by Staci Dole with 6.

Steals were led by Kenzie Chandler who took 4 from the Buffalos with Dole swiping 2.

Rebound leader was E Chandler who took 3 off the boards while Ashley Constable, K Chandler and Dole each grabbed 2.

Kenzie Chandler found two teammates open for scores to lead in assists.

The team will have to continue to improve as we will be working to get all our players involved, both offensively and defensively.

	3pt	2pt	Ft	Reb	St	Ast	Def
Ashley Constable	0	2	0	2	0	0	1
Jasmine Drone	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Kenzie Chandler	0	0	1	2	4	2	0
Staci Dole	0	4	2	2	2	1	6
Amber Kinderknecht	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Erika Chandler	3	0	1	3	1	1	9
DaKota Hilburn	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brittney Shutte	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

100% of Proceeds are Donated to God's Pantry

FOURTH ANNUAL

~2010 Christmas~

COOKIE CONTEST

A fund raiser for God's Pantry

Brought to you by *The Norton Telegram* with co-sponsorship from

Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, End Zone and the Norton Theatre

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

at The Norton Telegram Office
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton

Entries must be received by
Noon on December 10
Voting will be from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$5.00 for each entry;
25 cents for each vote

WITH UNLIMITED ENTRIES AND UNLIMITED VOTING ALLOWED

After voting and sampling your favorite cookies for 25¢ per vote, any quantity of cookies can be purchased for 25¢ each (containers will be available)

Anyone can enter, anyone can vote

Cookies must be homemade and have at least 2 dozen per entry



PRIZES

There are two categories — ages 13 and older, and ages 12 and younger. The cookie makers in each category with the most votes will win a prize. There are also prizes for second and third place as well.

Prizes for both age categories have been donated by End Zone, Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, the Norton Theatre and *The Norton Telegram*.

We will also be collecting
canned and non-perishable food for God's Pantry