

Lady Jays finish sixth in Tournament

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team finished in sixth place in the 22nd annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

The Lady Jays lost a low-scoring 33-30 first round game to McCook on Thursday and that dropped them into the consolation bracket on Friday where they fashioned a 53-44 win over Sharon Springs.

On Saturday, Norton met Goodland on their home court and the Lady Cowboys led most of the way in a 39-31 victory that gave the Lady Jays the sixth place finish.

Ottawa won the team championship with a 50-47 victory over Burlington.

Third place was Wray with a 61-55 win over McCook.

Weskan won seventh by a 52-45 score over Sharon Springs.

Norton's Dustyna Sprigg was named to the All-Tournament Team along with Jordan Baldwin, Alexis Roecker, both of Ottawa; Gretchen Sehnert, McCook; Ashley Archer, Jade Herl, both of Goodland; Alexis Hinkhouse, Bailey Tillitson, both of Burlington; Jamie Delgado, Wray and Hallie Kuhlman, Sharon Springs.

Herl won the three-point contest and the Ottawa cheerleaders won the Spirit Award.

McCook won the free throw contest with 30 of 49 for 61.22 percent.

McCook

Norton held a slight 8-6 lead after the first quarter. Sophomore Tawni Griffey hit two field goals and junior Erin Terrell and senior Dustyna Sprigg each hit a basket for the Lady Jays.

In the second quarter, Norton scored just 4 points on baskets by Terrell and freshman Katelyn Engelbert. McCook tallied just 5 points and Norton still led 12-11 at intermission.

The Lady Jays led 23-20 after the third quarter when Sprigg scored four field goals, junior Caren Thomson hit one two-point and Terrell added a free toss as Norton outscored McCook 11-9.

The score was tied several times in the fourth quarter but the Lady Bison edged ahead with three baskets in the final four minutes. Norton had the ball with time running out but a last second shot missed the mark and the Lady Jays lost 33-30.

Leading scorer for Norton was Sprigg with 12 points on 5 of 8

two-point shots for 62.5 percent and 2 of 2 free throws. Griffey added 8 points on 3 of 9 on two point tries for 33 percent and 2 of 3 free throws.

Gretchen Sehnert led McCook with 11 points. Emilyne Nichols scored 8 for the Lady Bison.

As a team, Norton missed all 9 treys, hit 12 of 27 two-point attempts for 44.4 percent and was 12 of 36 overall for 33 percent.

McCook scored on 2 of 12 from beyond the arc for 16.7 percent, 10 of 35 two point tries for 28.6 percent and 12 of 47 overall for 25.5 percent.

Norton had 5 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for 31 total.

McCook pulled down 11 offensive and 23 defensive rebounds for 34 total.

Thomson led Norton in rebounding with 7, followed by Terrell, Sprigg, 6 each; Griffey, Kamilla Jones, 4 each; Kaylen Rossi, 3; Engelbert, 1.

Griffey had 4 of Norton's 6 steals. Terrell and Sprigg each had 1 theft. The Lady Bison had 10 steals.

Terrell and Thomson each had 1 assist. McCook had 4 assists.

The Lady Jays had 25 turnovers and the Lady Bison lost the ball 22 times.

"It was a struggle all night long for us," said coach Jilka. "Our girls played hard but we made a lot of dumb turnovers that we need to cut down on."

"Offensively, we didn't do very well at all. In the second half, we did a better job and got some easy baskets. I was disappointed in our ability to handle their press. We weren't very aggressive in attacking it."

"Defensively, we did a good job but gave up too many offensive rebounds. "We have some work to do in some areas and we need to improve in them."

BOX SCORE:

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 3 0 2-3 Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-2; Kaylen Rossi 0 0 0-2 0; Erin Terrell 2 0 1-2 5; Dustyna Sprigg 5 0 1-2 12; Kamilla Jones 0 0 1-2 1; Caren Thomson 1 0 0-1 2; Game Totals 12 0 5-14 30.

McCook Girls

Meagan Garfield 0 0 1-2 1; Gretchen Sehart 4 10-0 11; Laura Brooks 100-0 2; Rachel Goltl 10 0-2 2; Brooklynn Trew 1 0 0-0 2; Kassidy Gillen 102-2 4; Emilyne Nichols 1 4-4 8; Megan Ruppert 0 1 0-0 3; Game Totals 10 2 7-12 33.

Sharon Springs

Griffey hit a three-point basket with time running out in the first quarter to put Norton ahead 8-7 after one period.



Norton Lady Jay senior Dustyna Sprigg gets a screen from a teammate to swish a jumper in the paint during Norton's game versus Goodland on Saturday in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland. Sprigg was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points and was also chosen to the All-Tournament Team.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

In the second quarter, Griffey added two more treys and Engelbert buried a three-pointer as Norton outscored Sharon Springs 18-8 to lead 26-15 at halftime. A 14-5 third quarter in Norton's favor extended the Lady Jay lead to 40-20. Terrell scored 8 points in the period and Rossi hit a trey.

Sharon Springs rallied in the final stanza and outscored Norton 24-13 but it was too little, too late as Norton hit enough free throws to hold them off and win 53-44.

Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points. She hit 4 of 9 from three-point land for 44.4 percent and 4 of 4 free throws for 100 percent.

Terrell added 14 points on 3 of 5 two-point tries for 60 percent and 8 of 12 charity tosses for 67 percent.

Leading scorer for the Lady Wildcats was Hallie Kuhlman with 21 points. Hayley Pletcher added 15.

As a team, Norton swished 6 of 17 from beyond the arc for 35.3 percent, 9 of 21 two-point tries for 42.9 percent and 15 of 38 overall for 39.5 percent.

Sharon Springs hit 3 of 27 from long range for 11.1 percent, 13 of

26 two-point tries for 50 percent and 16 of 53 overall for 30.2 percent.

Norton had 9 offensive and 29 defensive rebounds for 38 total. Sharon Springs pulled down 12 offensive and 22 defensive carsoms for 34 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Sprigg with 10, followed by Terrell, 9; Griffey, 6; Rossi, 5; Engelbert, 4; Thomson, 2; Jones, Alec Melvin, 1 each.

Terrell and Jones each had 1 steal. The Lady Wildcats had 4 thefts.

Norton had 6 assists. Terrell and Sprigg each had 2 and Griffey and Thomson each had 1. Sharon Springs had 1 assist.

Each team had only 12 turnovers.

"We improved from our first game with McCook," said coach Jilka.

"We got in foul trouble early and had to go to our bench but they helped."

"I had us in a zone defense after the first quarter and that took Sharon Springs out of their rhythm."

"We executed well in the second half but lost our poise and had to make enough free throws

to win.

"We're learning every time out. I was disappointed with our defense. We weren't helping very well and not moving our feet. We have to play better defense."

BOX SCORE:

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 4 0 4-4 16; Katelyn Engelbert 1 1 0-2 5; Kaylen Rossi 1 1 0-4 5; Erin Terrell 0 3 8-12 14; Dustyna Sprigg 0 1 3-6 5; Kamilla Jones 0 1 2-6 4; Caren Thomson 0 2 0-0 4; Game Totals 6 9 17-33 53.

Sharon Springs Girls

LaKay Steele 0 2 1-3 5; Hallie Kuhlman 2 5 5-10 2 5; Hayley Pletcher 1 5 2-3 15; Giselle Gonzalez 0 1 1-2 3; Game Totals 3 13 9-20 44.

Goodland

Norton played Goodland a close first half but the Lady Cowboys had the upper hand in the third quarter and a Lady Jay fourth quarter rally fell short.

Norton trailed 10-8 after one quarter on the strength of two baskets from beyond the arc by Griffey. The Lady Jays continued to stay close in the second period and trailed by just 17-14 at halftime.

A 10-2 third quarter advantage by Goodland gave them a 27-16 lead heading into the fourth period.

The Lady Cowboys stretched their advantage to 33-18 in the fourth quarter but the Lady Jays made a furious rally. Sprigg hit a short jumper in the paint, Griffey added 2 more points at the 2:52 mark and Sprigg hit another jumper with 2:00 showing. Sprigg buried a trey with 1:46 on the scoreboard clock to make it a 33-27 game.

Jade Herl hit two free throws for Goodland with 34 seconds remaining but Terrell scored inside with 19 seconds left. Herl hit two more charities and Terrell matched them with a basket at the other end of the court. Herl went to the line a third straight time and connected twice again to make the final 39-31 in favor of the Lady Cowboys.

Dustyna Sprigg was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points on 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 4 of 10 two-point shots for 40 percent and 5 of 15 overall for 33 percent. She hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Griffey was the other Norton girl in double scoring figures. She hit 10 points on 2 of 5 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 2 of 4 two-point tries for 50 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44.4 percent.

Terrell hit 4 of 8 two-point tries for 50 percent and 8 points.

Jade Herl was leading scorer for Goodland with 13 points; Ashley

Archer added 12.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 14 trey tries for 21.4 percent, 10 of 28 two-point shots for 35.7 percent and 13 of 42 overall for 31 percent.

Goodland missed all 5 trey attempts, hit 15 of 36 two-point tries for 41.7 percent and was 15 of 41 overall for 36.6 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 2 of 9 for 22.2 percent and Goodland connected on 9 of 12 for 75 percent.

The Lady Jays grabbed 5 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds for 17 total. Terrell led with 6, followed by Thomson, 4; Griffey, Sprigg, Jones, 2 each; Rossi, 1.

Goodland had 11 offensive, 26 defensive and 37 total rebounds.

Terrell had Norton's only steal. Goodland had 3 thefts.

Rossi had the Lady Jays' only assist. The Lady Cowboys had 4 assists.

Norton had 7 turnovers and Goodland had 11.

"We were tentative offensively in the game until the fourth quarter," said coach Jilka. "We did better then."

"We're not shooting our free throws very well. We struggle with our confidence when we miss shots and get down on ourselves."

"They outthrustled us and got all the loose balls. We can't afford this."

"I'm happy with our progress. Hopefully, we can win a couple of league games before Christmas."

BOX SCORE:

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 2 0-0 10; Erin Terrell 0 4 0-1 8; Dustyna Sprigg 1 4 1-2 12; Kamilla Jones 0 0 1-2 1; Game Totals 3 10 2-9 31.

Goodland Girls

Ashley Archer 0 6 0-0 12; Jennifer Rome 0 2 0-0 4; Jade Herl 0 2 9-10 13; Hope Cochran 0 0-0 2 0; Brianna White 0 2 0-0 4; Paige Phillips 0 3 0-0 6; Game Totals 0 15 9-12 39.

Next action

Norton will travel to Stockton on Thursday to begin Mid-Continent League action. Games are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

On Friday, Norton will host Phillipsburg in Mid-Continent League play. Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team boys contest in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed by the junior varsity boys game.

Games in Stull Gymnasium will begin at 4:45 p.m. with the junior varsity girls, followed by the varsity girls around 6:15 and varsity boys around 8 p.m.

Blue Jay wrestling team earns runner-up at Clay Center

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team turned in another strong early season performance on Saturday by placing runner-up in the tough Clay Center Invitational Round Robin Tournament.

Andale, who is ranked No. 2 in the state in Class 4A, won the championship with 143.5 points. The Norton Blue Jays are ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A and were just 3.5 points behind Andale with a total of 140.

Host team Clay Center, who is ranked No. 1 in the state in 4A, placed third with 125 points. They were followed by Topeka Seaman, 104.5; Beloit, 72.5; Junction City, 57.5; Holton, 53; Salina South, 49; Marysville, 38; Rock Creek, 17.5; Ellsworth, 17.

Norton had four individual champions: sophomore John Risewick, 112; senior Troy Bainter, 130; senior Brett Terrell, 135 and senior Spencer Shirk, 171.

Risewick and Bainter had 5-0 records for the day and Terrell and Shirk were each 4-0.

Bainter was a champion in the tourney last season at 125 and Shirk was the 160 pound champion in 2009.

Blue Jay senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter was runner-up at 160 with a 4-1 record. He was

a tourney champion at 152 last season.

Placing third for Norton were junior Justin Waggoner, 3-1 record, 125 and senior Billy Broeckelman, 3-1 record, 140.

Results of other Norton wrestlers were: junior Cayleb Campbell, fourth place, 3-2 record, 189; freshman Branson Addington, sixth place, 1-3 record, 103; junior R.J. Ellis, sixth place, 1-3 record, 119; sophomore Eli Bozarth, DNP, 0-4 record, 145; senior Rylee Stanley, eighth place, 1-4 record, 152; senior Josh Asbury, DNP, 0-3 record, 285.

The Norton coaches named Brett Terrell "Wrestler of the Week" for the Blue Jay varsity in honor of his performance at Clay Center.

"Brett is unranked in 3-2-1A but he continues to make huge improvements. He knocked off two 4-A state ranked wrestlers to claim the 135 pound tournament title," said coach Johnson. "He defeated No. 4 ranked Jayde Kolterman of Clay Center in a very intense, hard fought match in the pool finals. He backed that up with a dominating 7-1 victory over No. 6 ranked Kyle Armstrong of Andale."

Norton had a 38-22 won-loss record in the tournament and a 26-11 pin ratio.

Coach's comments

"Overall, we saw some posi-

tive things happen in this tournament," said coach Johnson.

"Anytime you put 13 wrestlers on the mat with a possible five matches in one day, there is a whole lot that can go wrong, too."

"This tournament is very close every year with the championship race normally between Norton, Andale and Clay Center."

"It is a grueling tournament for us. Our wrestlers are at a disadvantage since we weigh in at 5 a.m. before traveling to Clay Center. It is a credit to our wrestlers' persistence and toughness that they do so well in this tournament. It's both physically and mentally draining but we know it will help later in the season."

"Tournaments like this make the regional and state seem a lot less taxing. The more wrestlers with different styles to whom we can expose our wrestlers, the more well rounded and able to adapt they will be at the state tournament."

Coach Johnson also praised Cayleb Campbell for his performance in the tournament. "Campbell came from an 0-2 season start the week before to 3-2 in a much tougher bracket at Clay Center."

Individual matches

103 - Branson Addington was pinned in 1:24 by Kevin Perez, Junction City; lost a 7-0 decision

to Tyler Miles, Andale, decisioned Tyler Nienke, Ellsworth, 10-5 and was decisioned 3-2 by Jake Roberts, Clay Center, to place sixth.

112 - John Risewick drew a bye; pinned Josiah Endreshak, Salina South, in 19 seconds; pinned Konner Cue, Marysville, in 1:09; pinned Marshall Barkow, Ellsworth, in 16 seconds; pinned Justin Twombly, Holton, in 3:01 and pinned Ethan Wessling, Beloit, to win the gold medal.

119 - R.J. Ellis lost an 11-3 major decision to Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit; lost a 13-4 major decision to Zach Pittman, Seaman; won a 15-5 major decision over Garrett Lambrecht, Holton, and lost a 7-4 decision to Desi Thomas, Junction City, to place sixth.

125 - Justin Waggoner won an 11-4 decision over Brandon Chapman, Clay Center; was pinned in 34 seconds by Bret Simmons, Seaman; pinned Shawn Gill, Junction City, in 1:33 and pinned Shane Schaaake, Rock Creek, in 2:01 to place third.

130 - Troy Bainter pinned Brett Rickley, Clay Center, in 26 seconds; pinned Mo Rojas, Ellsworth, in 1:55; pinned John Menabb, Salina South, in 1:16; pinned Andrew Millsap, Junction City, in 1:45; pinned Lane Lassiter, Holton, in 1:30 and pinned Millsap again, this time in 30 seconds, to earn the gold medal.