



Norton junior Jordan Wahlmeier put up a jump shot over a Burlington defender during the Blue Jays' contest with the Colorado team on Friday in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland. Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 15 points and was also chosen to the All-Tournament Team.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays place seventh in Tip-Off

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team placed seventh in the very competitive 22nd annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

In their first game of the season and the tournament, Norton played an outstanding McCook team on Thursday and lost 87-36.

In the consolation bracket on Friday, the Blue Jays played Burlington, Colo. even throughout their game until the end when the Cougars scored several baskets to come away with a 54-47 win.

On Saturday, Norton played their best game of the tournament against Sharon Springs and defeated them 80-63 to place seventh.

Ottawa won the championship with an 86-47 win over McCook. Third place went to Wray with a 45-38 victory over Goodland. Weskan won fifth with a 63-39 win over Burlington.

The Blue Jays' Jordan Wahlmeier was named to the All-Tournament Team along with Conner Larson, McCook; Gavin Mote, Sharon Springs; Ben Jones, Jarret Cure, both of Wray; Semi Ojeyele, Adam Hasty, both of Ottawa; Robert Cowan, Goodland; Luke Prochaska, Burlington and Samuel McKinney, Weskan.

Larson and Dylan Pralle, Burlington, won the three-point contest.

Ottawa won the free throw award with 42 of 59 for 71.19 percent and Ottawa's cheerleaders won the Spirit Award.

McCook
In this particular game, McCook was on fire from the three-point line and that helped them move away from Norton. The Bison hit 18 two-point shots but also 15 of 30 for 50 percent from beyond the arc!

They held quarter leads of 22-11, 48-18 and 72-31.

Leading scorer for Norton was junior Dillon McConney with 14 points on 7 of 12 shots for 58.3 percent accuracy. Dillon started the game with three baskets in the first quarter, hit one in the second, two in the third and one in the fourth quarter.

Junior Jordan Wahlmeier added 9 points on 3 of 14 field goals and 3 of 5 free throws.

Norton's only three-point baskets came on two shots by senior Terrell Lane, who ended with six points.

Connor Larson led the way for McCook with 30 points on 6 of 8 three-pointers, 5 of 10 two-point shots and 2 of 2 from the line.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 16 three-point shots for 12.5 percent, 13 of 42 two-pointers for 31 percent and 15 of 58 overall for 25.9 percent.

In addition to 50 percent from beyond the arc, McCook hit 18 of 39 two-point tries for 46.2 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 4 of 16 for 25 percent and the Bison connected on 6 of 10 for 60 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 9 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds for 36 total compared to the Bisons' 12 offensive and 39 defensive for 51 total.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Terrell Lane with 12, followed by McConney, 6; Dakota Dreher, 5; Tye Nickell, 3; Andrew Ellis, 3; John Renner, 1; Luke Ninemire, 1; Jacob Brooks, 1.

Norton had 4 steals and McCook had 8. Nickell, Lane and Brooks each had 1 steal.

In the assists department, Norton had 3 and McCook had 10. Wahlmeier, Lane and Brooks each had 1 assist.

Norton had 20 turnovers and McCook had 14.

"This was not a very good start to the season," said coach Reusink.

"We missed easy shots early and failed to get back on defense and pick up their shooters.

"They shot the ball extremely well, especially from the three-point line. We continued to panic, showing no discipline to try to do things correctly and things got completely away from us. They are not that much better than us."

BOX SCORE:
Norton Boys
Dakota Dreher 20-14; Jordan Wahlmeier

30-3-59; Dillon McConney 7 0-0-14; John Renner 0 0-1-2 1; Cole Archer 0 0-0-20; Tye Nickell 10-0-2; Terrell Lane 0 20-1 6; Jacob Brooks 0 0-0-20; Andrew Ellis 0 0-0-20; Game Totals 13 2 4-16 36.

McCook Boys
Cody Jankovits 0 3 0-1 9; Cody Wudtke 7 0 1-2 15; Drew Shields 0 1 2-2 5; Keith Wallace 2 0-0-4; Sean Backer 0 2 0-0 6; Connor Larson 5 6 2-2 30; Mack Alspaugh 3 1 1-2 10; Zayne Gillen 0 2 0-0 6; Tate Stang 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 18 15 6-10 87.

Burlington
Norton's first quarter against Burlington was their best when they outscored the Cougars 17-11. The Blue Jays had balanced scoring with Dakota Dreher hitting two field goals and two charities, Jordan Wahlmeier and Terrell Lane each hitting a basket and two free throws and Tye Nickell swishing a basket and 1 charity.

Burlington outscored Norton 14-8, however, in the second quarter to tie the score at 25-all at intermission. Norton's points came on baskets by Wahlmeier, Luke Ninemire and Jacob Brooks and two charities by Nickell.

Both teams scored 10 points in the third period to make the score 35-all. The Blue Jays got their points from a triple by Lane, two-point basket and free throw by Wahlmeier, two charities by Dreher and McConney's only basket of the game.

Both teams hit four field goals in the fourth quarter but free throws made the difference in the final score. Norton had three charities compared to 12 by Burlington.

Leading scorer for Norton was Wahlmeier with 15 points on 5 of 9 field goals for 55.6 percent and 5 of 7 free throws for 71.4 percent. Lane added 12 points on 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 2 of 9 two-point shots for 22.2 percent and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent.

Burlington had three scorers in double figures. Blake Thomas and Luke Prochaska each hit 13 and Coley David dropped in 12 points.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 12 trey tries for 16.7 percent, 13 of 37 two-point tries for 35.1 percent and 15 of 49 overall for 30.6 percent.

Burlington made 3 of 16 from beyond the arc for 18.8 percent, 13 of 35 two-point shots for 37.1 percent and 16 of 51 overall for 31.4 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 15 of 24 for 62.5 percent and Burlington was 19 of 28 for 67.9 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 16 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for 42 total while the Cougars grabbed 14 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 35 total.

Wahlmeier and Lane were top rebounders for Norton with 12 apiece.

Norton had 9 steals and Burlington had 7. Nickell led the Blue Jays with 3 thefts while Lane had 2 and Dreher, Wahlmeier, McConney and Brooks each had 1.

The Blue Jays had 9 assists. Lane was the leader with 3, followed by McConney, Brooks, 2 each; Wahlmeier, Nickell, 1 each.

Norton had 29 turnovers and Burlington lost the ball 20 times.

"I was really pleased with the level of our effort," said coach Reusink. "It was good.

"We got in foul trouble and that hurt because we aren't very deep.

"We needed to make some plays and baskets down the stretch and weren't able to do that."

BOX SCORE:
Norton Boys
Dakota Dreher 20-4-58; Jordan Wahlmeier 50-5-7 15; Dillon McConney 10-0-0-2; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-0 2; Tye Nickell 1 0 3-5 5; Terrell Lane 2 2-2-3 12; Jacob Brooks 1 0 1-4 3; Game Totals 13 2 15-24 47.

Burlington Boys
Chandler Reams 2 0 0-2 4; Coley David 3 0 6-8 12; Blake Thomas 2 2 3-4 13; Luke Prochaska 6 0 1-4 13; Dylan Pralle 0 1 2-2 5; Spencer Cure 0 0 2-4 2; Marcos Lazo 1 0 0-0 2; Patrick Carson 0 0 3-4 3; Game Totals 14 3 17-27 54.

Sharon Springs
Norton won seventh place in the tournament on Saturday with a solid 80-63 victory over Sharon Springs.

The game wasn't won, however, until the fourth quarter when Norton outscored the Wildcats 24-6 to win going away.

Norton led 21-15 after the first quarter in which Nickell hit a trey and two two-point baskets, Wahlmeier swished two two-pointers and two free throws, Dreher drained a trey and charity and McConney and Brooks each hit a basket.

Both teams scored 21 in the second period and Norton maintained the six-point margin at 42-36. Wahlmeier hit four more baskets and a free throw, Nickell scored on a trey and two-point shot, Brooks put in two more baskets and Dreher found the range on another three-point shot.

The Blue Jays were outscored 21-14 in the third quarter and trailed 57-56 with one period remaining. Brooks hit three more baskets and two free throws, Wahlmeier swished two more baskets and a charity and Nickell hit a free throw in the period.

Norton took over in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Wildcats 20-2 until they scored again with 1:17 left in the game.

For the quarter, Norton outpointed Sharon Springs 24-6. Wahlmeier and McConney each hit three more baskets and two free throws, Brooks threw in two more baskets, Zach Hartwell swished a shot and Nickell added two free tosses.

Wahlmeier finished the game with 28 points on a net-smoking 11 of 15 field goals for 73.3 percent and a perfect 6 of 6 from the charity stripe.

Brooks added 18 points on 8 of 12 shots for 67 percent and 2 of 3 charities for 67 percent. Nickell scored 15 on 2 of 3 from long range for 67 percent, 3 of 7 two-point shots for 42.9 percent and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent. He was also 3 of 6 from the free throw line for 50 percent.

As a team, Norton tallied on 4 of 8 from long range for 50 percent, 27 of 43 two-point tries for 62.8 percent and 31 of 51 overall for 60.8 percent.

Sharon Springs hit 10 of 16 from beyond the arc for 62.5 percent, 15 of 31 two-point shots for 48.4 percent and 25 of 47 overall for 53.2 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton was 14 of 21 for 66.7 percent and Sharon Springs was 3 of 9 for 33 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 26 defensive rebounds for 34 total. The Wildcats grabbed 3 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 15 total.

Wahlmeier and McConney each pulled down 10 rebounds, followed by Brooks, 7; Nickell, 3; Dreher, Ninemire, 2 each.

Wahlmeier, McConney and Brooks each had 1 steal; Sharon Springs had 9 thefts.

McConney and Brooks each had 3 of Norton's 10 assists. Wahlmeier and Nickell each had 2 assists. Sharon Springs had 5 assists.

Turnovers were pretty even, Norton with 20 and Sharon Springs with 19.

"I'm happy with the win," said coach Reusink. "We did some really good things, especially on offense.

"We did a terrible job of defending against their three-point shots.

"Our effort has been good the last two games but we are making silly mistakes, errors and turnovers. We'll have to eliminate those but it was good to have a win."

BOX SCORE:
Norton Boys
Dakota Dreher 0 2 10 27; Jordan Wahlmeier 11 0 6-6 28; Dillon McConney 4 0 2-9 10; Zach Hartwell 1 0 0-0 2; Tye Nickell 3 2 3-5 15; Jacob Brooks 8 0 2-3 18; Game Totals 17 4 14-21 80.

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.

Huskies start their basketball season with a big victory

The Northern Valley High School boys basketball team took on Rawlins County December 3 and won 51-44.

In the first quarter, Dusty Eagleburger was the only Husky to score with a two point shot. Rawlins County did a bit better scoring four, 2 pointers ending the quarter 10-2 in favor of Rawlins County.

The Huskies really picked it up in the second quarter. Austin Herman had four two pointers followed by Gunnar Hays's three pointer, Colton Lowry hit three of four free throws and Bryant Tharman also had a two point basket. Rawlins Co. slowed a bit scoring three two point baskets and three of six free throws. This ended the quarter 19-18 with Rawlins Co. still leading.

The third quarter was a draw with Rawlins Co. scoring six points and the Huskies also scoring six, ---Montgomery with four and Herman with two. This put the score at 25-24, the Huskies following by one.

The fourth quarter was the best for the Huskies. Eagleburger had a two point basket and he also made seven out of 12 free throws

followed by Herman with two 2 pointers and two free throws. Lowry added to the tally with a two pointer and three of four free throws, Tharman with a two pointer and two free throws out of three and Hays with a three point shot. This was a total of 27 points for Northern Valley in this quarter. Rawlins Co. made a total of 19 points in the quarter, not enough to hold on to the lead and the final score left the Huskies as the winners with a score of 51-44. Head Coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We struggled on offense during the first quarter but our defense kept us in the game. We did a good job of hitting free throws in the fourth quarter. We went 14 of 18. This was a great way to start the season.

Leading rebounder was Austin Herman with 8. Leading assists was also Herman with four followed by Eagleburger with 3.

In the Junior Varsity game, Northern Valley lost to Rawlins Co. 52-47. The leading scorers in this game were Hunter Chandler and Ian Vincent both with 10. The leading rebounder was Tyler Montgomery with 11.

Northern Valley had first loss of the season against La Crosse five

Last Tuesday the Northern Valley boys senior high basketball team took on LaCrosse and lost 54-28.

In the first quarter, Colton Lowry led the scoring by hitting a two pointer and making one of two free throws followed by Austin Herman making a two point shot. Lacrosse had a total of 13 for the quarter. Ten of the points were two point baskets and they also had three free throws ending the quarter with Lacrosse in the lead, 13-5.

In the second quarter, the Huskies picked up momentum when Dusty Eagleburger hit a two pointer and three of four free throws followed by a three pointer shot by Lowry and a two pointer by Herman. LaCrosse never slowed down scoring 13 more in this quarter. The first half ended with Lacrosse leading, 26-15.

The Huskies let off a little in the third quarter, only scoring seven. Two each by Lowry, Herman and Eagleburger. The last point Northern Valley made this

quarter was brought in by Bryant Tharman with one of two free throws. Lacrosse continued on a roll with 11 more points added to the board. The third quarter ended with LaCrosse still in the lead 37-22.

In the final quarter of play, Northern Valley put up six more points. Eagleburger hit two, 2 pointers and sunk both of his free throws to be the only Husky to score in the final quarter. LaCrosse kept it up by scoring 17 more points ending the game with a win of 55-28 over the Huskies.

Northern Valley Head Coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We really struggles on offense. We did not execute in the transition game or in the half court. We also shot the ball very poorly. We have a lot of work to do before the next game."

The leading rebounder for the Huskies was Lowry with 7 followed by Herman and Tharman with six each.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Phillipsburg, Smith Center V, JV Duals in Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Friday
Norton in MCL Dual Wrestling Tournament in Ellis 9 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Girls, Boys vs. Stockton in Stockton. 5 p.m. Thursday
Norton Girls, Boys vs. Phillipsburg (V, JV, C-team Boys), 4 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk and 4:45 p.m. in Stull Gymnasium on Friday
Norton Girls, Boys in JV Tournament vs. Trego, Oakley, Quinter in WaKeeney 9 a.m. on Saturday
Northern Valley Girls, Boys vs. Rock Hills in Mankato 4:30 p.m. Friday
Logan Girls, Boys vs. Thunder Ridge in Kensington 4 p.m. Friday