Lady Jays win MCL opener at Stockton

### By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team opened Mid-Continent League play on Thursday evening with a satisfying 48-18 win over Stockton at Stockton.

Norton held quarter leads of 20-2, 30-5 and 42-10.

Three statistics that stood out were steals, turnovers and assists. The Lady Jays had a whopping 27 steals compared to 4 for the Lady Tigers. Norton had just 12 turnovers and Stockton had 37.

Offensive assists for Norton totaled 18 compared to 7 for Stockton.

Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was Erin Terrell with 18 points on 8 of 15 from two-point range for 53 percent and 2 of 6 free throws for 33 percent.

Norton's other double figure scorer was Tawni Griffey who swished 2 of 6 from long range for 33 percent and 3 of 8 twopoint tries for 38 percent and 12 points.

Leading scorers for Stockton were Brown and Ott, each with 5 points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 16 from beyond the arc for 19 percent, 18 of 42 two-point tries for 43 percent and 21 of 58 overall for 36 percent.

Stockton was accurate on 2 of 4 trey tries for 50 percent, 5 of 18 two-point attempts for 28 percent and 7 of 22 overall for 32 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 3 of 9 for 33 percent and the Lady Tigers hit 2 of 6 for 33 percent.

Norton pulled down 11 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 26 total. Stockton grabbed 6 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 23 total.

Erin Terrell was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Dustya Sprigg, 6; Caren Thomson, 4; Kamilla Jones, 3; Tawni Griffey, Alec Melvin, 2 each; Katelyn Engelbert, Kaylen Rossi, 1 each.

Steals leader for Norton was Terrell with 10, followed by Griffey, Thomson, 5 each; Rossi, Sprigg, 3 each; Melvin, 1.

Rossi was the Lady Jays' assists leader with 6, followed by Terrell, Sprigg, 3 each; Griffey, Engelbert, 2 each; Melvin, Thomson, 1 each.

"Overall, our girls played very well," said coach Jilka. "Defensively, we did a great job

all night. We forced a lot of turnovers and got some easy baskets to start the game. "Offensively, we still struggled

at times but, if we play this hard, good things will continue to happen. "We can't rest on what we did

### Junior varsity

tonight."

The Norton girls junior varsity defeated Stockton 23-17. The score was tied 6-all after

one quarter but the Lady Tigers led 12-6 at halftime. After a 5-1 third quarter in Norton's favor,

the Lady Jays trailed 13-11. Norton outscored Stockton

12-4 in the final stanza.

Bailey Ambrosier led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Johnnye Ruder, 6; Abby Bainter, 4; Alec Melvin, 3; Darcy Bainter, 2.

Paige Pedigo led Stockton with 6.

"It is always good to start with a victory; however, the game was fairly ugly," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

"Our girls let nerves and low hustle get the best of them in the 0-1 5; K. Scott 0 0 0-1 0; Game first half. The second half was Totals 5 2 2-6 18. much better.

"Our girls did a great job on defense and settled down better on offense.

"This group works very hard

and they just need game experience."

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### **BOX SCORE: Norton Girls**

Tawni Griffey 320-112; Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2; Kaylen Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Erin Terrell 8 0 2-6 18; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Dustyna Sprigg 200-04; Caren Thomson 301-27; Game Totals 1833-948.

### **Stockton Girls**

H. Lindsey 200-04; A. Conyac 0 1 0-0 3; M. Schleicher 0 0 1-2 1; S. Brown 201-25; S. Ott 11

Blue Jays barely lose to Stockton in league opener

### By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School bovs basketball team suffered a disappointing 55-53 loss to Stockton on Thursday on the Tigers' home court.

In their Mid-Continent League season opener, Norton battled Stockton throughout the game and the lead changed hands a number of times but the Tigers survived with a two-point advantage.

Norton led 13-12 after one quarter but trailed 25-24 at intermission. The third quarter belonged to Norton as the Blue Jays outscored the Tigers 17-13 to take a 41-38 lead into the final period.

The situation reversed, however, as Stockton tallied 17 points compared to 12 for Norton in the fourth quarter to earn the slim victory.

Jacob Brooks was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points on 9 of 12 from two-point land for a net-smoking 75 percent and 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

Terrell Lane added 9 points on 4 of 5 two-point tries for a red-hot 80 percent accuracy and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scoring for the Tigers was Smith with 17 points.

As a team, Norton missed all 9

shots from beyond the arc, hit 24 of 48 from two-point range for 50 percent and ended with 24 of 57 for 42 percent overall.

The Tigers hit 1 of 10 from long range for 10 percent, 21 of 45 twopoint tries for 46.7 percent and 22 of 55 overall for 40 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 9 for 55.6 percent and Stockton found the range on 10 of 19 for 52.2 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 35-28. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 20 defensive caroms while the Tigers grabbed 15 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds.

Terrell Lane led Norton in rebounding with 6, followed by Da-

kota Dreher, Jordan Wahlmeier, 5 each; Jacob Brooks, 4; Dillon McConney, Luke Ninemire, 3 each; Tye Nickell, 2.

McConney had 4 of Norton's 8 steals. Brooks had 2 thefts while Wahlmeier and Nickell had 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 12 assists and the Tigers had 5. Lane led with 4, followed by Dreher, 3; Wahlmeier, Nickell, 2 each; Brooks, 1.

Norton had 14 turnovers and Stockton lost the ball 8 times.

"This was a tough loss," said coach Reusink. "Our boys are competing well but just are not playing consistent enough on both ends of the floor to get wins.

"At times, some of our guys are just not playing with the confidence they need to get into the win column.

"We just need to keep plugging away."

### Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a score of 43-35.

The Blue Javs held quarter advantages of 13-9, 20-14 and 28-22.

Lane Bigge led scoring for Norton with 12 points, followed by Jacob Brooks, 6; Zach Hartwell, 6; Carson McKenna, 5; Andrew Ellis, 5; Trey Millan, 3; John Renner, 2; Tanner Furbush, 2; Ryan Bainter, 1; Trever Lewis,

K. Beougher and D. Page led Stockton with 8 points each. **BOX SCORE:** 

### **Norton Boys**

Dakota Dreher 200-04; Jordan Wahlmeier 201-15; Dillon Mc-Conney 200-14; Luke Ninemire 2 0 0-0 4; Tye Nickell 3 0 1-2 7; Terrell Lane 4 0 1-2 9; Jacob Brooks 9 0 2-3 20; Game Totals 2405-953.

### **Stockton Boys**

Bellerive 2 0 0-1 4; Wieden 2 00-04; Kriley 210-07; Miller 6 0 2-4 14; Smith 6 0 5-10 17; Niblock100-02; Prockish203-47; Game Totals 21 1 10-19 55.

# The Norton Blue Jays redeem themselves against Phillipsburg

### By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton Community High School boys basketball team rebounded from a disheartening two point loss to Stockton on Thursday with a 26-point victory over longtime rival Phillipsburg on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

After jumping out to a 14-6 lead in the first quarter, the Blue Jays outscored the Panthers 18-10 in

ton connected on 16 of 24 for 67 percent and Phillipsburg found the range on 7 of 19 for 36 percent.

Norton outrebounded Phillipsburg 33-31. The Blue Jays pulled down 11 offensive and 22 defensive caroms compared to 13 offensive and 18 defensive for the Panthers.

Lane led with 11 boards, followed by Brooks, 10; Tye Nickell, Dillon McConney, 4 each; Wahl-

The Panthers led 6-4 after one quarter and the score was tied 13-all at halftime. Phillipsburg outscored the Blue Jays 14-13 in the third period to take a 27-26 advantage and outpointed Norton 6-4 in the final stanza.

Andrew Ellis led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by John Renner, 7; Carson McKenna, 5; Trey Millan, Jacob Brooks, 3 each; Taylor Meder, 2.

Ratzlatt led the Panthers with 9.

# Norton girls lose to Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Alow-scoring third quarter led to a 42-37 loss to Phillipsburg by the Norton Community High School girls basketball team in Mid-Continent League action on Friday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Norton trailed by just 6-5 after a low scoring first quarter and outscored the Lady Panthers 13-12 in the second period to tie the score at 18-all at halftime.

The Lady Jays were outscored 12-6 in the third period and trailed 30-24 with one quarter remaining. A13-12 fourth quarter in Norton's favor wasn't enough to overtake the Lady Panthers.

Phillipsburg was 13 of 19 for 68 percent and 6 more critical points from the line.

Norton pulled down 15 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 29 total while Phillipsburg grabbed 21 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 39 total.

Terrell was leading rebounder for Norton with 13, followed by Sprigg, 7; Thomson, 5; Engelbert, 2; Griffey, Rossi, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 12 steals and the Lady Panthers had 14. Terrell had 7 steals, followed by Sprigg, 2; Griffey, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

### Christmas break." Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls lost to Phillipsburg by a score of 33-12.

Norton trailed by quarters 5-3, 14-7 and 25-11.

Johnnye Ruder led Norton in scoring with 4 points, followed by Alec Melvin, 3; Katelyn Engelbert, Rickele Green, 2 each; Bailey Ambrosier, 1.

Gower led the Lady Panthers with 12 points.

"We were horrible in all aspects of the game," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi.

the second period to lead 32-16 at intermission.

A 15-10 third quarter and another 15-10 fourth quarter made the final 62-36.

Terrell Lane was on target for Norton, hitting 56 percent from the field and scoring 22 points. He hit 4 of 9 from long range for 44 percent and 5 of 7 two-point attempts for 71 percent!

Jacob Brooks added 13 points on 4 of 8 from two-point land for 50 percent and 5 of 6 free throws for 83 percent.

Jordan Wahlmeier scored 9 points on 4 of 8 from two-point range and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Phillipsburg was Newlan with 11.

As a team, the Blue Jays swished 4 of 13 trey tries for 30 percent, 17 of 35 two-point tries for 48 percent and 21 of 48 overall for 43 percent.

Phillipsburg hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 13 of 41 two-point tries for 31 percent and 14 of 45 overall for 31 percent.

From the free throw line, Nor-

meier, 3; Dreher, 1. The Blue Jays had 7 blocks

in the game. Brooks, Lane and Wahlmeier each rejected two shots and Dreher blocked one.

McConney led Norton in steals with 4, followed by Nickell, Brooks, 2 each; Dreher, Wahlmeier, Hartwell, 1 each. The Blue Jays had 11 steals compared to only 3 for Phillipsburg.

Dreher had 5 of Norton's 15 assists, followed by McConney, Lane, 4 each; Brooks, 2. Phillipsburg recorded 10 assists.

Norton had 11 turnovers and Phillipsburg had 13.

"This was a good win for us as we bounced back from the Stockton loss," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

'I thought we played well defensively and we had some boys step up and hit shots which helped us get a nice lead.

"In the second half, it got ugly at times but we were able to keep them from getting back in the game."

### Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys lost to Phillipsburg 33-30.

C-team

The Norton C-team was defeated 41-21 by Phillipsburg.

The young Panthers held quarter leads of 16-0, 29-8 and 35-10

Marc Miller was leading scorer for Norton with 7 points, followed by Drew Schrum, 4; Tanner Furbush, 4; Travis Cressler, 2; Damian Lawson, 2; Gabriel Bird, 2.

Olliff led Phillipsburg with 10 and Hoover added 9.

### **BOX SCORE:**

### **Norton Boys**

Dakota Dreher 104-76; Jordan Wahlmeier 4 0 1-2 9; Dillon Mc-Conney 202-26; Zach Hartwell0 00-10; Tye Nickell 103-55; Terrell Lane 540-022; Jacob Brooks 405-613; Lane Bigge 001-21; Game Totals 17 4 16-25 62.

### Phillipsburg Boys

S. Newlan 403-411; T. Smith 2 01-55; S. Derr 202-46; J. Dusin 2 1 0-2 7; B. Eller 2 0 0-2 4; L. Crist 0 0 1-2 1; C. Derr 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 13 17-19 36.

Leading scorer for Norton was Tawni Griffey with 11 points on 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 4 of 9 two-point shots for 44 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent.

Caren Thomson added 8 points on the strength of 4 of 6 field goals for 67 percent accuracy.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 8 trey tries for 25 percent, 12 of 36 twopoint attempts for 33 percent and 14 of 42 overall for 33 percent.

Phillipsburg hit 1 of 1 from beyond the arc for 100 percent, 13 of 42 two-point tries for 31 percent and 14 of 43 overall for 32 percent.

From the charity stripe, Norton was 7 of 16 for 44 percent and

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Both teams had 13 offensive assists. Griffey led with 5, followed by Sprigg, 3; Terrell, Jones, 2 each; Rossi, 1.

Norton had 21 turnovers and the Lady Jay defense caused 26 Phillipsburg turnovers.

"We just didn't play very well tonight," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we shot the ball poorly. When you are 4 of 26 in the lane from the field, that isn't going to get it done.

"Free throws continue to be a problem and that is just confidence in yourself and it really hurts us.

"Defensively, we were okay but giving up 21 offensive rebounds is not a good sign.

"All of these problems can be fixed and we are just going to have to work on them during the

"Our fundamental skills are very lacking.

"The good thing is that these girls, hopefully, want to get better and understand that wishing won't do it. Only hard work will get them there.'

### **BOX SCORE: Norton Girls**

Tawni Griffey 4 1 0-0 11; Kaylen Rossi 0 0 1-2 1; Erin Terrell 2 0 3-9 7; Dustyna Sprigg 2 0 2-3 6; Kamilla Jones 0 1 1-2 4; Caren Thomson 400-08; Game Totals 1227-1637.

### **Phillipsburg Girls**

J. Kellerman 0 0 4-4 4; R. Vanderplas 2 1 6-10 13; N. Bowman 1 0 2-2 4; M. Suchsland 4 0 1-29; M. Dusin 100-02; R. Bartels 300-06; B. Badger 200-14; Game Totals 13 1 13-19 42.

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## Huskies win by only one point

On December 13, the Northern Valley Huskies boys basketball team took on Hodgeman County in a close game and the Huskies won 41-40.

The first quarter started slowly with Northern Valley scoring only two points when Bryant Tharman hit one basket. Hodgeman Co. had one 3 pointer and two, 2 pointers ending the quarter 7-2 in favor of Hodgeman Co.

The Huskies picked up the pace in the second quarter. Top scorer was Dusty Eagleburger with a two point basket and he also hit all three of his free throws followed by Colton Lowry, Austin Herman and Tharman each making two. Hodgeman Co. returned with a three pointer, a couple of two pointers and two free throws ending the quarter leading 16-13.

In the third quarter Northern Valley scored 15 points. Herman had one three point shot and two, 2 pointers followed by Lowry who made three, 2 pointers and Eagleburger adding two more to the tally. Hodgeman Co. kept the pressure on and scored 14 more points. The score at the end of the quarter left the Huskies trailing 30-28.

It all came down to the final quarter and the Huskies pulled it off by scoring 13 points to Hodgeman County's 10 points.

Herman for the Huskies hit three, 2 pointers and one of two free throws followed by Eagleburger, 2; Tharman, 2, which won the game by one point 41-40.

Head coach Chuck Fesenden said, "We played our best game of the year against a good Hodgeman Co. team. We were very solid on the defensive end of the floor. Our offensive execution is getting much better. The players are starting to come together as a team."

The leading rebounder was Bryant Tharman with 4. Leading in assists was Austin Herman with 4 and the leader for steals was Colton Lowry with 6.

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