

Blue Jays have a close win over Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team traveled to Hoxie for non-league play on Tuesday evening and returned with a 56-52 win over a quality Indian quintet.

The Blue Jays held a slim 13-11 lead after one quarter but extended it in the second quarter when they outscored the home team 17-5 to take a 30-16 advantage at halftime.

To Hoxie's credit, they battled back in the second half, outscoring Norton 14-9 to cut the Blue Jay lead to 39-30 by the end of the third quarter.

The Indians scored the first four points of the fourth period but the Blue Jays never let them get any closer until a three-point Hoxie basket at the buzzer cut the final margin of victory down to four points.

In the 13-point first quarter, junior forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit three baskets, junior guard Dillon McConney and sophomore guard Jacob Brooks each hit a basket and junior guard Zach Hartwell hit a basket and free throw.

McConney was on target from beyond the arc in the second quarter when he connected on three shots from long range for 9 of Norton's 17 points. Wahlmeier hit a basket and free throw and Brooks hit his second basket of the night.

Norton went into halftime feeling especially good when Hartwell buried a three point shot at the buzzer!

Several three-point baskets helped Hoxie outscore Norton 14-9 in the third quarter. The Blue Jays' only points came on a basket and three charities by Wahlmeier, another basket by Brooks and a basket by senior post Luke Ninemire.

Four more three-point baskets in the fourth quarter boosted the Indians' offensive output as they outscored Norton 22-17. The importance of hitting free throws was evident as the Blue Jays connected on 9 of 11 from the charity stripe to hold off the Indians!

Senior guard Terrell Lane hit his first two baskets of the game in the fourth period along with 3 of 4 charities. Brooks sank 4 of 4 free tosses and McConney was 2 of 2. McConney and junior guard Tye Nickell each hit a basket, as well.

"This was a good win on the road against a team that had been playing well with some quality wins," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"We played well in the first half, especially on the defensive end. We lost momentum in the second half but were able to hold off their runs and hit free throws down the stretch to win."

The victory extended Norton's season record to 10-8.



Norton's Zach Hartwell, left, and Luke Ninemire scramble for the basketball with a Hoxie player during the Blue Jays' win over the Indians on Tuesday night in Hoxie.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The Norton boys are improving game-by-game and have now won 8 out of their last 10 games!

Leading scorer for Norton was McConney with 15 points on 3 of 4 from beyond the arc for a net-smoking 75 percent, 2 of 5 two-point tries for 40 percent and 5 of 9 overall for 56 percent accuracy.

Wahlmeier was just behind

McConney with 14 points for the night. He hit 5 of 11 two-point tries for 46 percent and 4 of 5 from the charity stripe for 80 percent.

Norton's third double figure scorer was Brooks with 10 points on 3 of 7 two-point tries for 43 percent and a perfect 4 of 4 free throws. He missed his only trey try.

Hoxie's leading scorer was

Jaxsen Moss, who threw in 24 points.

As a team, Norton connected on 4 of 9 shots from beyond the arc for 45 percent, 15 of 34 two-point tries for 44 percent and 19 of 43 for 44 percent overall.

Hoxie hit 7 of 20 trey tries for 35 percent, 14 of 23 two-point attempts for 61 percent and 21 of 43 for 49 percent overall.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 14 of 19 for 74 percent compared to Hoxie's 3 of 10 for 30 percent.

The Blue Jays pulled down 13 offensive and 19 defensive rebounds for 32 total while limiting the Indians to just 8 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 20 total.

Lane led Norton in rebounds with 9, followed by Brooks, 8; Wahlmeier, 7; McConney, 6; Ninemire, Hartwell, 1 each.

Norton blocked 4 Hoxie shots. Wahlmeier and McConney each rejected 2.

The Blue Jays had 12 steals and the Indians had just 7 thefts. Nickell led with 4 steals, followed by Wahlmeier, Brooks, 3 each; McConney, Hartwell, 1 each.

Norton recorded 13 offensive assists and Hoxie had 7. Assists leader was Brooks with 5, followed by Lane, 3; McConney, Nickell, 2 each; Wahlmeier, 1.

Both teams had 18 turnovers.

Junior varsity

Only two quarters were played in the boys junior varsity game

and Norton edged Hoxie 15-13.

The score was tied 9-all after one quarter.

Leading scorer for Norton was John Renner with 6 points, followed by Trey Millan, 5; Zach Hartwell, 2; Carson McKenna, 2.

Kade Spreser led Hoxie with 4 points and Jay Niermeier hit 3.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys basketball teams will host Ellis this evening.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton.

Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team boys game, followed by the junior varsity boys game in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. At 4:45 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym, the girls junior varsity game will begin, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 5 0 4-5 14; Dillon McConney 2 3 2-2 15; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-0 2; Zach Hartwell 1 1 1-1 6; Tye Nickell 1 0 0-1 2; Terrell Lane 2 0 3-6 7; Jacob Brooks 3 0 4-4 10; Game Totals 15 4 14-19 56.

Hoxie Boys

Troy Ostmeier 0 1 0-0 3; Cayle Taylor 1 0 0-2 2; Colton Spreser 1 0 0-0 2; Luke Friess 3 0 0-0 6; Chase Kennedy 0 0 0-2 0; Kade Spreser 1 4 1-2 15; Jaxsen Moss 8 2 2-4 24; Game Totals 14 7 3-10 52.



Norton's Dustyna Sprigg emerged from a crowd of Hoxie defenders to hit one of her five baskets in the loss to the No. 2 state ranked Lady Indians on Tuesday in Hoxie.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Tough loss to Hoxie for Lady Jays

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team learned early in their non-league 61-29 loss at Hoxie on Tuesday evening why the Lady Indians are ranked No. 2 in the state.

Hoxie came out with a full court press defense and a precision passing and cutting offense that ended with easy layups and the Lady Jays played shocked for the first half.

The first quarter ended with Hoxie leading 21-3 and a 14-3 second quarter in favor of the Lady Indians extended their advantage to 35-9 at halftime.

After getting over their shock, the Lady Jays played the Lady Indians even in the second half but couldn't make up for the damage done in the first half.

Norton's only points in the first period came on a basket by senior guard Kaylen Rossi and free throw by senior guard Dustyna Sprigg.

To start the second quarter, Rossi hit a free throw and sophomore guard Alec Melvin scored on a fast break for the first points of the quarter but Norton was scoreless the rest of the way while Hoxie tallied 14 more points.

Sprigg and sophomore guard Tawni Griffey hit some key bas-

kets for Norton in the third quarter where Norton was outscored by just 20-17. Sprigg hit four baskets from close range and Griffey added a basket from beyond the arc and two more two-pointers for her only points of the game. Junior post Caren Thomson hit her first basket of the game.

Defenses prevailed in the fourth quarter when both teams scored just six points. Sprigg and Thomson each hit a basket and free throw for the Lady Jays.

"Hoxie showed us why they are one of the better teams in the state," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. "We lost our poise from their pressure the first half and didn't do what we do. We played better in the second half but didn't play very good defense all night. We gave up too many easy baskets."

"I'm proud of our girls for coming back in the second half and not quitting."

"Hopefully, we can get our team to Hoxie's level if we work hard."

"We must learn from this game and come out tonight on Senior Night and play well against Ellis."

Leading scorer for Norton was Dustyna Sprigg with 12 points on 5 of 11 from the field for 45 percent accuracy and 2 of 4 free

throws for 50 percent.

Top scorer for Hoxie was Kristina Farber with 18 points, 12 of them coming in the first half.

As a team, Norton hit 11 of 41 treys for 27 percent, 11 of 33 two-point tries for 33 percent, and 12 of 37 overall for 32 percent. Hoxie swished 2 of 8 from long range for 25 percent, 26 of 41 two-point attempts for 63 percent and 28 of 49 for 57 percent overall.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 4 of 10 for 40 percent and Hoxie hit 3 of 3 for 100 percent.

Norton pulled down 7 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 27 total. Hoxie grabbed 3 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 19.

Thomson was leading rebounder for the Lady Jays with 7, followed by Griffey, 5; Sprigg, 5; Katelyn Engelbert, 3; Bailey Ambrosier, 3; Alec Melvin, 3; Rossi, 1.

Thomson had Norton's only two steals; Hoxie had 14 thefts.

The Lady Jays had 9 offensive assists and the Lady Indians had 22.

Rossi was assists leader for Norton with 4, followed by Griffey, 2; Sprigg, 2; Thomson, 1.

Norton had 26 turnovers and Hoxie had 14.

Junior post Erin Terrell has missed the last two Norton games

due to a cracked metatarsal in her foot.

The Norton girls are now 9-8 for the season.

There was no junior varsity girls game.

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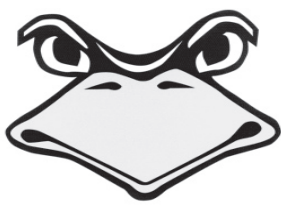
GAME STATISTICS

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 1 0-0 7; Kaylen Rossi 1 0 1-2 3; Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 0-1 0; Alec Melvin 1 0 0-0 2; Dustyna Sprigg 5 0 2-4 12; Caren Thomson 2 0 1-3 5; Game Totals 11 1 4-10 29.

Hoxie Girls

Mackenzie Mense 3 0 2-2 8; Sarah Farber 1 0 0-0 2; Shelby Heim 3 0 0-0 6; ShayLinn Kaus 3 0 0-0 6; Danel Stithem 1 1 0-0 5; Kristina Farber 9 0 0-0 18; Gabi Spreser 2 1 1-1 8; Madi Niblock 1 0 0-0 2; Natasha Allmer 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 26 2 3-3 61.



Go Norton Blue Jays!!!

Five gold medal wrestling winners

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers completed a very outstanding season with some excellent performances in the annual Bill Voss Novice Tournament on Saturday in Colby.

All 11 Blue Jay wrestlers earned individual medals and five won gold medals.

Winning championships were: Alec Hager, 112; Cody Temmel, 125; Austin Hager, 135; Cole Renner, 160 and Dalton Miller, 171.

Ethan Ross, 103 and Jared Bohl, 152, each placed runner-up.

Cody Ellis, 140, placed third and fourth place finishers were Garret Otter, 103; Treven Rossi, 152 and Lucas Engel, 171.

As a team, Norton compiled an impressive 27-10 won-loss record.

Team scores were not compiled.

"This was one of our best tournament showings," said Norton assistant wrestling coach Shane Miller.

"It is always nice to finish on a

'high note'.

"I was particularly pleased with us winning many close matches and being able to come from behind in several matches. This is how you want to be able to wrestle late in the season."

Match results

103 - Ethan Ross was seeded No. 3. He shutout C. Hecker, Hays, 6-0 and pinned No. 2 seed R. Ritter, Oakley, in :38. In the championship match, he was decided 19-5 by No. 1 seed D. Coomes, Phillipsburg.

103 - Garret Otter was seeded No. 5. He lost a 17-2 decision to No. 4 seed C. Ramsey, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, he won a 21-4 decision over J. Rowland, Garden City and pinned Ritter in 2:25. In the consolation championship, he wrestled Hecker and was pinned in 2:36 to finish fourth.

112 - Alec Hager was seeded No. 2. After drawing a bye, he pinned B. Schoenthaler, Trego, in 3:45 to reach the championship match. He pinned No. 4 seed G. Pfeifer, Hill City, in 3:34 to win the title.

125 - Cody Temmel wrestled in

a round-robin format. He pinned B. Rose, Colby, in 4:42; drew a bye; pinned D. McKinney, Hoxie, in 1:21; pinned C. Roselund, Scott City, in 2:25 and pinned D. Yarbrough, Goodland, in :42 to win the championship.

135 - Austin Hager was seeded No. 2. He pinned J. Staab, Hays, in :49; pinned No. 3 seed H. Carbal, Hays, in 1:10 and decided No. 1 seed J. Sedbrook, Hays, 6-5 to win the championship.

140 - Cody Ellis was seeded No. 3. He lost a 7-6 decision to B. Blew, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then pinned No. 4 seed J. Margheim, Oakley, in 1:11. In the consolation championship match he pinned No. 2 seed K. Savory, Holcomb, in 1:56 to place third.

152 - Jared Bohl decided No. 2 seed K. Scheibler, Hays, 7-5 and decided A. Seltman, Hill City, 8-4. In the championship match, he was pinned in 1:00 by No. 4 seed A. Werth, Thomas More Prep of Hays, and placed runner-up.

152 - Treven Rossi decided No. 2 seed E. Mangels, Holcomb, 7-4 but lost a 12-5 decision to

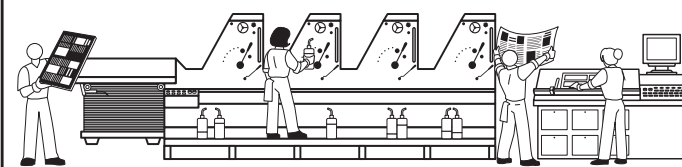
No. 3 seed C. Wright, Atwood. In the consolation bracket, he decided K. Bohn, Phillipsburg, 2-1, then wrestled M. Sagastizado, Garden City, in the consolation championship match and lost a 9-1 decision to place fourth.

160 - Cole Renner pinned No. 1 seed B. Sandoval, Garden City, in :43; pinned No. 5 seed R. Clark, Trego, in 3:14 and pinned No. 3 seed T. Haller, Hugoton, in 2:45 to win the title.

171 - Dalton Miller wrestled in a round-robin format. He pinned M. Quinonez, Garden City, in 1:20; pinned Harper, Hugoton, in 3:56; pinned D. Christensen, Phillipsburg, in :36; drew a bye; and pinned T. Strutt, Colby, in 2:34 to win the championship.

171 - Lucas Engel also wrestled in a round-robin format. He drew a bye; lost an 8-6 decision to J. Rodriguez, Garden City; was pinned in 5:58 by C. Weigel, Hays; won a 7-3 decision over J. Whisnant, Goodland and was pinned in 5:12 by C. Bruggeman, Phillipsburg, to place fourth.

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