

Lady Jays finish seventh in Topside Tip-Off tourney

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team saved their best performance until Saturday's finals to finish seventh in the 23rd annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament held Thursday, Friday and Saturday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland.

In their opener on Thursday, the Lady Jays lost 32-23 to Sharon Springs, which dropped them into the consolation side. On Friday, they lost to Wray, Colo. 54-42, then defeated Goodland 56-42 on Saturday.

Also on Saturday, Ottawa defeated Burlington, Colo., 48-37 to win the championship, McCook outscored Sharon Springs 63-45 for third and Wray defeated Weskan 55-42 for the consolation championship.

Norton junior Tawni Griffey was named to the All-Tournament Team along with Jordan Baldwin, Maggie Bones, both of Ottawa; Allie Satterly, Ori Swiatkowski, both of Burlington; Emilyne Nichols, Megan Ruppert, both of McCook; Jessica Schneider, Wray; Haylay Pletcher, Sharon Springs; Samara Rehfeld, Weskan.

Baldwin won the three-point contest. Goodland won the free throw award by hitting 36 of 55 for 65 percent. Ottawa's cheerleaders won the Spirit Award.

Sharon Springs

In the season opening loss to Sharon Springs, only three Norton girls scored. Junior guard Tawni Griffey hit 14 points on 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 4 of 15 two-point tries for 27 percent and 6 of 22 overall for 27 percent.

Sophomore forward Katelyn Engelbert hit 6 points on 1 of 3 trey tries for 33 percent, 1 of 9 two-point attempts for 11 percent and 2 of 12 overall for 17 percent. She also hit 1 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Rounding out Norton's scoring was senior Caren Thomson with 3 points on 1 of 3 two-point tries for 33 percent and 1

of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Sharon Springs was junior Tatum Elder with 10 points, followed by Hayley Pletcher, 9; Rachael Kuhlman, 6; Jenna Krieh, 5; Jordan Compton, 2.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 12 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 6 of 38 two-point tries for 16 percent and 9 of 50 overall for 18 percent.

Sharon Springs found the range on just 1 of 15 from beyond the arc for 11 percent, 12 of 18 two-point tries for 67 percent and 13 of 33 overall for 39 percent.

Norton hit 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent and Sharon Springs swished 5 of 8 charities for 63 percent. The Lady Jays had 4 offensive and 11 defensive rebounds for 15 total. Sharon Springs pulled down 7 offensive and 24 defensive caroms for 31 total.

Engelbert led Norton in rebounding with 7, followed by Teslee Nickell, 3; Kamilla Jones, 2; Tawni Griffey, Alec Melvin, Caren Thomson, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 12 steals compared to just 2 for Sharon Springs. Griffey led in steals with 5, followed by Engelbert, 3; Jones, Thomson, 2 each. Norton had 15 turnovers but Sharon Springs had 21.

Norton had 4 assists and Sharon Springs had 10. Engelbert had 2 assists, followed by Griffey, 1; Melvin, 1.

"It's hard to win when you only hit 18 percent of your shots," said coach Jilka. "We'd miss a couple of shots and then wouldn't look to score. We have to have confidence in our shooting. We missed a ton of shots underneath.

"Our defense can also do better and we will."

Wray

In the loss to Wray, Norton held a 20-11 lead with 4:00 remaining in the first half but did not score again and Wray tied the score at 20-all by intermission. The Lady Jays were outscored 18-12 in the third period

to trail 38-32 and fell even farther behind in the fourth stanza.

"We couldn't recover from our scoring drought in the second quarter," said coach Jilka. "We have to be more consistent in getting the ball to the right place. We also need to get tougher both mentally and physically."

Griffey led Norton in scoring with 16 points on 4 of 10 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 1 of 11 two-point tries for 9 percent and 5 of 21 overall for 24 percent. She hit 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent.

Engelbert tallied 9 points on 1 of 3 trey tries for 33 percent, 3 of 11 two-point attempts for 27 percent and 4 of 14 overall for 29 percent.

Thomson added 7 points on 3 of 12 two-point shots for 25 percent and 1 of 3 from the line for 33 percent. Nickell and Jones each hit 4 points and Melvin scored 2.

Jessica Schneider led Wray in scoring with 19 points; Brittany Bard added 12.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 13 from long range for 45 percent, 11 of 50 two-point attempts for 22 percent and 16 of 63 overall for 25 percent.

Wray missed both trey tries but swished 23 of 36 two-point attempts for 54 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 15 for 33 percent and Wray swished 8 of 15 for 53 percent.

Norton had 11 offensive and 9 defensive rebounds for 20 total. Wray pulled down 8 offensive and 22 defensive caroms for 30 total.

Melvin led Norton in rebounding with 7, followed by Engelbert, 5; Thomson, 3; Jones, 2; Ambrosier, 2; Nickell, 1.

The Lady Jays had 16 steals compared to just 9 for Wray. Griffey led with 4 thefts, followed by Jones, 3; Thomson, 3; Engelbert, 2; Ambrosier, 2; Nickell, 1; Melvin, 1.

Jones had 2 of Norton's 4 assists. Griffey and Engelbert each had 1 assist. Wray had 7 assists.

Norton had 16 turnovers but Wray lost the ball 28 times.

Goodland

The Lady Jays had two really good scoring quarters, the second and fourth, and it was enough to defeat Goodland 56-42 on Saturday.

Norton trailed 16-13 after the first quarter but outscored the Lady Cowgirls 22-12 in the second period as six different girls scored. At halftime, Norton led 35-28.

Goodland edged Norton 10-6 in the third quarter but the Lady Jays still led 41-38 and outscored the Lady Cowgirls 15-4 in the final stanza to win by 14 points.

Griffey led Norton in scoring with 23 points on 4 of 5 from beyond the arc for a net smoking 80 percent accuracy and 3 of 8 from two-point range for 38 percent and a perfect 5 of 5 from the charity stripe.

Engelbert also scored in double figures as she hit 2 of 4 trey tries for 50 percent, and 3 of 7 from two-point land for 43 percent and 12 points.

Thomson and Ambrosier each scored 6 points, followed by Melvin, 4; Jones, 3; Nickell, 2.

M'Lynn Hinger led Goodland in scoring with 17 points.

As a team, Norton hit 7 of 12 long range shots for 58 percent, 12 of 32 two-point tries for 38 percent and 19 of 44 overall for 43 percent.

Goodland scored on 1 of 8 from beyond the arc for 13 percent, 14 of 46 two-point attempts for 30 percent and 15 of 54 overall for 28 percent.

Both teams hit 11 free throws. Norton was 11 of 14 for 79 percent and Goodland was 11 of 13 for 85 percent.

The Lady Jays pulled down 5 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 23 total.

Goodland grabbed 15 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 31 total.

Thomson led Norton in rebounding with 7, followed by Griffey, 4; Melvin, 4; Ambrosier, 3; Jones, 3; Engelbert, 2.



Norton junior point guard Tawni Griffey drives around a Wray, Colo. player to take a shot at the basket during last weekend's Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland. Griffey was selected to the All-Tournament Team following the three games played by the Lady Jays to open the 2011-12 season.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton had 7 steals and Goodland had 5 thefts. Engelbert had 4 steals, followed by Melvin, 2; Griffey, 1.

The Lady Jays had 11 assists compared to just 2 for Goodland. Engelbert led in assists with 4, followed by Griffey, 3; Thomson, 3; Melvin, 1.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Goodland lost the ball 19 times. "It was by far our best game of the tournament," said coach Jilka.

"Offensively, we shot the ball much better and had more girls looking to score. Also, we did a good job of breaking their press and scoring out of it.

"Defensively, we are getting better. We're not where we would like to be yet but we showed signs of being more aggressive on the defensive end.

"The good thing about this tournament is that we got better each game and that is what you

want to do.

"We have two league games this week with Stockton and Phillipsburg and then finish the year at Cambridge so we are going to need to be ready for those three games. Our girls learned a lot last week and we hope it carries over to this week."

Next action

Norton will begin Mid-Continent League play by hosting Stockton today in both girls and boys action. The boys C-team game will begin at 4 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and will be followed by the boys junior varsity game.

The junior varsity girls contest will begin at 4:45 p.m. in Stull Gym, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

Norton girls and boys will play at Phillipsburg on Friday and at Cambridge on Tuesday.

Wrestlers place 8th in Clay Center Invite

By Dick Boyd

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With cancellation of the Hoxie Invitational due to inclement weather the Saturday before, the Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team opened the 2011-12 season last Saturday in the very tough Clay Center Invitational Round Robin Tournament, where they placed eighth.

This year's Norton Blue Jay wrestling team is one of the least experienced in years so starting the season in such a strong tournament made things even more difficult for them.

Although Norton placed eighth, it should be pointed out that the Blue Jays were just 15 points out of fifth. Andale repeated as the team champion with 162.50 points, followed by Seaman, 150.50; Clay Center, 103.50; Holton, 103.50; Salina South, 79.50; Beloit, 79; Marysville, 72; Norton, 64; Junction City, 57.50; Ellsworth, 27.50; Rock Creek, 23.

Norton had one champion, junior John Risewick (4-0) at 126 pounds. Sophomore Alec Hager (3-2) placed third at 120 and sophomore Kolton Harting (2-1) was third at 182. Senior Justin Waggoner (2-2) finished fourth at 132. Sophomore Branson Addington (3-1) placed fifth at 106 and senior R.J. Ellis (2-3) finished fifth at 138. Sophomore Ethan Ross (1-3) was sixth at 113. Not placing were: juniors Cody Ellis (1-3), 145 and Lucas Engel (0-3), 170 and sophomore Cole Renner (0-3), 160.

Wrestler of the Week

The Norton coaches named

John Risewick "Wrestler of the Week" in recognition of his championship performance in the tournament.

Coach's comments

"We entered just 10 wrestlers due to multiple injuries in practices," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "We're a young team. It would be unfair to compare this year's wrestlers with our wrestlers the past couple of years. They were senior led with multiple state placers. I encourage all our fans to readjust their thinking. We need to compare these young men to how they did last year. Most were on the junior varsity.

"That doesn't mean my expectations for them are below average. I still expect them to work hard throughout the season and do the best that they possibly can. Like with all young teams, we're learning on the fly.

"I was not at all satisfied with our conditioning or technique at this first tournament. I can assure you that we'll be working very hard in practice to correct a lot of mistakes made on Saturday.

"The competition at Clay Center was much better than what we normally start with. Normally, we can work the kinks out and knock the rust off in the first tournament. By the way we looked Saturday, we have a lot of rust to knock off. This was just a start of the season. We're not at all happy. We made an enormous amount of mistakes. We froze up and didn't finish matches. Some matches we would not score many points in the first period then would score a lot in the next two periods or vice versa. We

were not consistent in all three periods in some matches."

Individual matches

106 - Branson Addington won an 11-2 major decision over Shilo Schaake, Rock Creek; lost a 4-2 decision to Tyler Irwin, Salina South; won an 8-5 decision over Ty Nienke, Ellsworth and pinned Brandon Bramlage, Junction City, in 2:03.

113 - Ethan Ross was pinned in :45 by Tyler Miles, Andale; was pinned in :24 by Ethan Wessling, Beloit; won an 8-4 decision over Cole Hogan, Clay Center and was pinned in 3:20 by Randall Thomas, Rock Creek.

120 - Alec Hager pinned Marc Reiss, Rock Creek, in 4:41; pinned Bud Maus, Junction City, in 3:05; was pinned by Ty Kolterman, Clay Center, in 3:40; lost a 15-4 decision to Zach Pittman, Seaman and pinned Jordan Booth, Holton, in :59.

126 - John Risewick won an 11-1 major decision over Marshall Barkow, Ellsworth, won a 16-0 technical fall over Jonathan Boucher, Seaman; pinned Jonathan Ruiz, Junction City, in 1:00 and pinned Brandon Chapman, Clay Center, in 3:20.

132 - Justin Waggoner won a 9-6 decision over Tyler Rockwell, Marysville; won a 13-10 decision over Matt Echevarria, Junction City; was pinned in 1:49 by Lane Lassiter, Holton and was pinned in 2:20 by Tyler Watts, Beloit.

138 - R.J. Ellis lost a 13-6 decision to Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit; lost an 8-4 decision to Geoff Garrison, Seaman; shutout Zach Martin, Ellsworth, 6-0; lost a 3-1 decision to Sam Wilson,

Rock Creek and decided Kyle Mick, Holton, 8-2.

145 - Cody Ellis lost a 16-9 decision to Brandon Fuller, Seaman; was pinned in 1:09 by Eddie Creek, Marysville; pinned Cole Hoover, Salina South, in 3:05 and lost a 5-4 decision to Aren Bibbs, Junction City.

160 - Cole Renner was pinned in 2:55 by Colton Duhr, Andale; lost a 9-3 decision to Jacob Ewing, Holton and lost a 10-4 decision to Jesse Nelson, Marysville.

170 - Lucas Engel lost a 9-0 decision to Trevor Sutton, Rock Creek; was pinned in 2:59 by Clay Cosand, Beloit and lost a 5-0 decision to James Denton, Junction City.

182 - Kolton Harting pinned Dave Luebecke, Marysville, in 1:44; was pinned in 1:55 by Brady Munsch, Salina South and won a 13-6 decision over Branden Watson, Seaman.

Next action

This Friday, Norton will compete in the annual Mid-Continent League Dual Tournament in Plainville, beginning at 3 p.m.

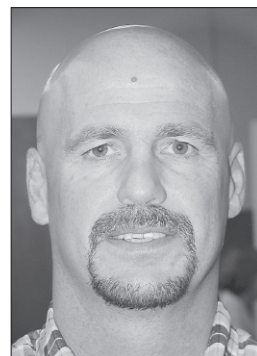
On Saturday, the Blue Jay wrestlers will compete in the Goodland Holiday Classic in the Max Jones Fieldhouse, beginning at 9 a.m.

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High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton in MCL Dual Wrestling Tournament in Plainville 3 p.m. Friday
Norton in Holiday Classic in Goodland 9 a.m. Saturday
Norton vs. Phillipsburg Dual in Wilmeth Kirk Gym 6 p.m. Tuesday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Girls, Boys vs. Stockton (V, JV, C-team Boys) in Norton 4 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and 4:45 p.m. in Stull Gym Today
Norton Girls, Boys vs. Phillipsburg in Phillipsburg 6:15 p.m. Friday
Norton Girls, Boys in JV Tournament vs. Trego, Oakley, Quinter in Norton 9 a.m. Saturday
Norton Girls, Boys vs. Cambridge in Cambridge 6:30 p.m. Tuesday
Northern Valley Girls and Boys vs. Lakeside in Almena 6 p.m. Friday
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Rock Hills in Mankato 4 p.m. Friday

BOWLING

Ladies Inter-City Standings as of Dec. 5
1. Animal Health- 44.5 wins, 15.5 losses
2. BEB & Assoc.- 40.5 wins, 19.5 losses
3. Geezeretts- 34 wins, 26 losses
4. Nelson Bros.- 30 wins, 30 losses
5. Logan Gals- 21.5 wins, 38.5 losses
High Line: Carol Ross-171, Kathleen Berlier-166, Donna VanKooten-155, BEB & Assoc.-426, BEB & Assoc.-414, BEB & Assoc.-399.

High Line Handicap: Carol Ross-234, Donna VanKooten-226, Kathleen Berlier-217, Geezeretts-626, Geezeretts-603, Animal Health-595.
High Series: Kathleen Berlier-461, Donna VanKooten-443, Becky Williams-423, BEB & Assoc.-1239, Geezeretts-1106, Animal Health-955.
High Series Handicap: Donna VanKooten-656, Kathleen Berlier-614, Carol Ross-609, Geezeretts-1820, BEB & Assoc.-1716, Animal Health-1645.