

# Norton upsets Smith Center in MCL tourney

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

It looked as if the seedings had been reversed as the No.7 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team upset the No.2 seeded and No.8 state ranked Smith Center quintet 65-58 on the Redmen's home court in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Monday evening.

Shooting more accurately than they have all season and playing their usual aggressive defense, the Blue Jays jumped out to an early lead and never let up the pressure.

Norton held quarter leads of 16-12, 33-28 and 49-44 and outscored the Redmen 16-14 in the fourth quarter.

As a team, the Blue Jays wished a net-smoking 54 percent of their field goal attempts from both three-point and two-point range. Meanwhile, the Redmen connected on a reasonable 42 percent.

Norton also outrebounded the Redmen and had more steals.

"The league is pretty balanced but we shot better tonight," said head coach Doug Reusink. "It's the best we've played offensively and the best we've shot all season."

"Our defense was good, too. We pressured the ball and got backside help.

"I'm pleased with everybody's performance."

Senior point guard Tye Nickell led the Blue Jay shooting exhibition. He hit 3 of 5 shots

from beyond the arc for 60 percent, was a perfect 2 for 2 from two-point range and finished 5 of 7 overall for 71 percent accuracy. After hitting 1 of 2 free throws, he scored 14 points.

Shooting from closer range and also hitting 14 points was senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier who hit 5 of 11 two-point shots for 45 percent and 4 of 12 free throws for 34 percent.

Junior guard Jacob Brooks was a third Norton player who scored in double figures. He hit 2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent, 3 of 11 two-point tries for 27 percent and 5 of 15 overall for 34 percent and 12 points.

Leading scorer for Smith Center was Trevor Overmiller with 13 points, followed by Alex Hobelmann with 12 and Nathan Cox with 11.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 11 from beyond the arc for 55 percent, 19 of 35 two-point shots for 54 percent and 25 of 46 overall for 54 percent.

Smith Center swished 8 of 13 long range shots for 62 percent, 14 of 39 two-point tries for 36 percent and 22 of 52 overall for 42 percent.

From the free throw line, the Jays hit 9 of 25 for 36 percent and the Redmen swished 6 of 10 for 60 percent.

Norton had 5 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds for 32 total. Smith Center collected 8 offensive caroms and 18 defensive for 26 total.

Wahlmeier led Norton in rebounding with 10, followed by

Dalton Miller, 7; Brooks, 5; Dillon McConney, 4; Nickell, 2; Andrew Ellis, 2; Carson McKenna, 1; Zach Hartwell, 1.

Wahlmeier blocked 4 Smith Center shots and McConney rejected 1.

The Blue Jays had 12 steals compared to 7 for the Redmen. McConney led in thefts with 4, followed by Nickell, Brooks, Wahlmeier, 2 each; Ellis, Miller, 1 each.

Norton had 12 offensive assists compared to 14 for Smith Center. Brooks was assists leader with 4, followed by Hartwell, Miller, McKenna, 2 each; Nickell, Ellis, 1 each.

Both teams had 16 turnovers.

### Norton boys

Tye Nickell 2 3 1-2 14; Jacob Brooks 3 20-2 12; Zach Hartwell 0 1 0-0 3; Jordan Wahlmeier 5 0 4-12 14; Dillon McConney 4 0 0-0 8; Andrew Ellis 0 0 1-2 1; Dalton Miller 3 0 1-2 7; Carson McKenna 2 0 2-5 6; Game Totals 19 6 9-25 65.

### Smith Center boys

Alex Hobelmann 1 3 1-2 12; Trevor Overmiller 2 3 0-0 13; Zach Linn 1 2 0-0 8; Kale Terrill 1 0 2-4 4; Kody Molzahn 0 0 2-2 2; Nathan Cox 5 0 1-2 11; Grady Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Payton Buckmaster 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 14 8 6-10 58.

### Results of other games

In other MCL first round boys tournament games on Tuesday, No.1 seed Plainville defeated No.8 Trego 73-37, No.4 Ellis outscored No.5 Phillipsburg 49-46 and No.3 Hill City edged



Defense played an important part in the Norton boys' upset win over Smith Center in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Tuesday on the Redmen's home court. Shown above surrounding a Smith Center player and making it very difficult for him to shoot are, from left, Jordan Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, Jacob Brooks and Carson McKenna.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

No.6 Stockton 63-62.

In semi-final championship contests in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Friday, Plainville will play Ellis at 4:30

p.m. and Norton will play Hill City at 7:30 p.m.

The winners will advance to the championship finals at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum.

Losers of the first round games played in the consolation on Thursday. Trego boys played Phillipsburg at 7:30 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

Smith Center boys played Stockton at 7:30 p.m. in Osborne.

The Norton girls played Ellis at 6 p.m. on Thursday in the Stull Gym in Norton. The Osborne girls played Plainville at 6 p.m. on Thursday in Osborne.

Results of Thursday games were not available at the Telegram's press time.

# Norton girls fall in first-round play

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The No.6 seeded Norton Community High School girls basketball team played the No.3 seeded Phillipsburg quintet on even terms before the Lady Panthers finally pulled away for a 45-37 victory in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament on Monday in Phillipsburg.

Norton lost to Phillipsburg on the same Chuck Newlin Gym by 27 points earlier this season but Monday's game was much closer and more contested.

Norton trailed by just 7-6 after the first quarter and led briefly in the second quarter before the Lady Panthers finished with a spurt to take a 17-11 halftime lead.

The Lady Jays came out of the locker room fired up for the third quarter and, led by senior post Erin Terrell, went on a 9-0 run to take a 20-17 lead with 5:37 remaining in the period. Phillipsburg scored their first three baskets of the second half to lead 23-20. Junior point guard Tawni Griffey tallied for the Lady Jays but the Lady Panthers matched it at the other end to put the lead at 25-22.

Terrell answered with a basket for Norton and was fouled in the process. She missed the free throw but the Lady Jays trailed by just 25-24. Three more Lady Panther baskets extended the Phillipsburg lead to 31-24 with one quarter remaining. Terrell scored 8 of Norton's 13 points

in the third period.

The fourth quarter was a standoff with Phillipsburg edging Norton 14-13. Griffey hit 7 of Norton's fourth period points.

Rebounds, assists and turnovers were about equal for the two teams but the Lady Panthers outshot the Lady Jays from the field and free throw line.

"We were very proud of the effort our girls gave tonight," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka.

"Offensively, we didn't take care of the ball like we had been and, again, we didn't shoot the ball very well. Our players have to have more confidence in their shooting.

"Defensively, we did a good job. We rebounded much better, limiting them to only eight offensive rebounds. At times, we just have to get tougher and go get the ball on rebounds. We competed much better though and that is what we are after.

"We need to play more consistently against Ellis on Thursday."

Ellis is the No.7 seed in the tournament. They lost 71-60 to No.2 Hill City on Monday. In other first round games, No.1 seed Smith Center defeated No.8 Plainville 71-32 and No.5 Trego outscored No.4 Osborne 71-57.

Plainville defeated No.9 Stockton 34-29 in Saturday's feather bracket.

Norton hosted Ellis in a 6 p.m. game on Thursday in the

NCHS Stull Gym. Results were not available at the Telegram's press time.

In Monday's game with Phillipsburg, Griffey was leading scorer with 12 points on 2 of 9 from beyond the arc for 22 percent, 3 of 8 two-point shots for 38 percent and 5 of 17 overall for 29 percent. Terrell was next with 11 points on 5 of 7 from the field for a net-smoking 71 percent accuracy. She hit 1 of 5 from the free throw line for 20 percent.

Leading scorer for Phillipsburg was Raegan Vanderplas with 17 points.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 16 from long range for 13 percent, 13 of 33 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 15 of 49 overall for 31 percent.

Phillipsburg connected on 1 of 4 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 16 of 38 two-point tries for 42 percent and 17 of 42 overall for 40 percent.

From the charity stripe, the Lady Jays hit 5 of 11 for 45 percent and the Lady Panthers swished 10 of 28 for 36 percent.

Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 23 total. Phillipsburg grabbed 8 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 24 total.

Bailey Ambrosier and Erin Terrell led Norton in rebounds with 5 each, followed by Katelyn Engelbert, 4; Caren Thomson, 4; Teslee Nickell, 3; Kamilla Jones, 2.

Both teams had 10 assists.

# Northern Valley basketball loses to Stockton

By Mike Stephens

mstephens@nwkansas.com

The Northern Valley boys varsity basketball team lost a heart-breaker on a last second shot to Stockton on Tuesday 58-57.

In the first quarter, senior guard Gunnar Hays led the way with two 3-pointers and the Huskies led after one, 10-4.

Northern Valley extended its lead scoring 19 points in the second quarter led by Hays and senior Daniel Field. Hays and Field contributed five points each and the Huskies went into halftime leading Stockton 29-17.

In the third quarter, Northern Valley continued its offensive surge, pouring in 17 points in the frame led by Field with six points and sophomore Jordan Baird with five points. The Huskies led Stockton by 13 points going into the final stanza, 46-33.

In the fourth quarter, the bottom fell out for Northern Valley. The Huskies managed only 11 points in the quarter and were plagued by ten missed free throws, fouls, and untimely turnovers. Stockton, however, caught fire in the fourth with a dominating 25 point performance and completed the comeback with a last second shot for the one point victory, 58-57.

"We played a good solid game for three quarters," explained Huskies head coach Chuck Fessenden. "Our kids played their best offensive game

of the season. Hopefully, this will be something that we can build on as the year goes on."

In the junior varsity game the Northern Valley boys fared much better, beating Stockton 42-37. The Huskies' leading scorer was Jordan Baird with 16 points and Hunter Chandler and Ian Vincent controlled the glass with six and five rebounds, respectively.

## Community Calendar

Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA. Events may be e-mailed to: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com or mailed to 215 South Kansas Avenue

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