

Lady Jays defeat Plainville in league action

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team overcame a second quarter cold shooting spell and left the nets smoking from three-point land in a 48-30 Mid-Continent League victory on Tuesday night in Plainville.

The Lady Jays' defense allowed Plainville just 2 baskets in a first quarter which ended with Norton leading 14-4 but Norton scored only 5 points and Plainville tallied 11 in the second period to narrow the Lady Jay lead to 19-15 at halftime.

It was a different story in the second half where Norton outscored Plainville 14-8 in the third period and 15-7 in the final stanza.

Baskets from beyond the arc were the highlight for Norton as the Lady Jays swished 8 of 13 for 62 percent accuracy. Junior point guard Tawni Griffey led the way with a perfect 4 of 4 from long range. She added 2 of 3 from two-point land for 67 percent and was 6 of 7 overall for a sharpshooting 86 percent! Tawni also hit 1 of 1 free throws for 17 total points.

Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert was also accurate from beyond the arc. She buried 3 of 5 long range shots for 60 percent. She added 2 of 9 two-point attempts for 22 percent and was 5 of 14 overall for 36 percent and 13 points.

Junior guard Kamilla Jones completed the three-point barrage with 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent. She also hit 1 of 1 from two-point land and was 2 of 5 overall for 40 percent and 5 points.

Senior post Erin Terrell was the third Norton player who scored in double figures. She hit 5 of 9 two-point shots for 56 percent and was 1 of 2 from the charity stripe for a total of 11 points.

Other than the three-point shooting, coach Jilka was not that happy with the way his girls played. "It was a win," he said. "We didn't execute very well. We did a lot of standing around."

"Defense kept us in the game. We rebounded decently for us and the three point baskets helped. We had just played three games last week in the league tournament and to play again on Tuesday on the road was tough but you have to always be ready to play. It's a win and we'll take it."

"We're 5 and 5 now and it's our third win in a row so our girls are gaining some confidence."

As noted, Norton hit 8 of 13 long range shots for 62 percent. The Lady Jays also swished 11 of 28 two-point shots for 39 percent and were 19 of 41 overall for 42 percent. The Lady Cardinals scored on 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent and hit the exact same number



The Norton Lady Jays' Erin Terrell cheers for teammate Alec Melvin as she wins the battle for a loose ball during Norton's win at Plainville on Tuesday evening.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

of two-point shots as Norton. Hitting 11 of 28 for the same 39 percent from two-point range, the Lady Cardinals were 13 of 36 overall for 36 percent.

Leading scorer for Plainville was Allison Sears with 8

points.

Both teams hit 2 free throws. Norton was 2 of 4 from the charity stripe for 50 percent and Plainville was 2 of 9 for 22 percent.

Norton outrebounded Plainville 21-15.

The Lady Jays grabbed 6 offensive and 15 defensive caroms. The Lady Cardinals pulled down 6 offensive and 9 defensive rebounds.

Eight different Norton girls grabbed at least one rebound. Engelbert was the leader with 8, followed by Terrell, 3; Caren Thomson, 3; Teslee Nickell, 2; Jones, 2; Griffey, 1; Bailey Ambrosier, 1; Alec Melvin, 1.

Jones had 2 of Norton's 5 steals, followed by Engelbert, Nickell and Terrell, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 15 offensive assists compared to 6 for the Lady Cardinals. Engelbert led with 5 assists, followed by Griffey, 4; Jones, 2; Nickell, Terrell, Melvin, Thomson, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 22 times. **Junior varsity** Norton's junior varsity girls team lost a 31-28 game when a Plainville girl hit a shot at the buzzer in overtime of a three-quarter long game.

Norton led 5-0 after one quarter, 10-9 after two quarters and the score was tied at 19-all after the end of the third quarter. Plainville outscored Norton 12-9 in the overtime.

Leading scorer for Norton was Bailey Ambrosier with 13 points, followed by Alec Melvin, 8; Johnnye Ruder, 4; Teslee Nickell, 2; Darcy Bainter, 1.

Danee Plante led Plainville with 11 points; Brianna Casey scored 8 points.

"We had pretty much a lack of effort and concentration to-night," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi. "We were not ready to play."

"Even though the buzzer beater from Plainville gave them the win, that was not what lost the game for us. We did that throughout the game by not making easy shots or taking care of the ball plus not playing good defense was our undoing."

Next action

Norton will host Trego Community in Mid-Continent League basketball action this evening. Games will begin at 4:45 p.m. at two locations. The junior varsity boys game will be played in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. The junior varsity girls game will be played in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

Norton Girls 48

Tawni Griffey 2 4 1-2 17; Katelyn Engelbert 2 3 0-0 13; Erin Terrell 5 0 1-2 11; Kamilla Jones 1 1 0-0 5; Caren Thomson 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 11 8 2-5 48.

Plainville Girls 30

Katelyn Frederking 1 0 0-0 2; Hannah Friend 2 0 1-3 5; Shelbe Pywell 2 0 1-2 5; Courtney Copeland 0 2 0-0 6; Kim Junkermeier 1 0 0-0 2; Brianna Casey 1 0 0-3 2; Allison Sears 4 0 0-1 8; Game Totals 11 2 2-9 30.

Northern Valley varsity boys struggle in loss to Rock Hills

By Mike Stephens

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Superstition or coincidence, Friday the 13th was a bad day for the Northern Valley boys varsity basketball team. The Huskies struggled to convert on the offensive end and fell to Rock Hills, 47-31.

Northern Valley jumped out to an early first quarter lead. Sophomore Ian Vincent led the way scoring three points and the Huskies were ahead of Rock Hills, 7-4.

In the second quarter, Northern Valley went ice cold scoring only two points from senior Tyler Montgomery and Rock Hills poured in 12 points and the Huskies went into halftime trailing by seven, 16-9.

Northern Valley came out of the break shooting a little better paced by Montgomery's five points. Rock Hills, however, put up 15 points and the Huskies found themselves trailing by 11 points going into the final quarter, 31 to 20.

Rock Hills ran away in the fourth quarter, scoring 16 points and allowing Northern Valley only 11 points. Sophomore Hunter Chandler and senior Daniel Field contributed four points each to the Huskies fourth quarter effort but it wasn't enough as Rock Hills cruised to the 16 point victory.

Huskies head coach Chuck Fessenden praised the team's defensive effort.

"We played really solid defense in the

first half. We were able to get some good shots but could not hit them," said Fessenden. "The difference in the fouls began to hurt us and played a big factor in the second half."

Sophomore Jordan Baird was the Huskies leading rebounder with four boards in the game.

In junior varsity action, Northern Valley pulled out an impressive overtime win beating Rock Hills 46-45.

Freshman Matt Stutsman scored 15 points and Vincent added 14 points to the win.

Vincent also led the way in rebounding pulling down 12 boards and Chandler brought in 11 rebounds.



Northern Valley Junior Jon Compton defends a Rock Hills player Friday evening. Though Rock Hills defeated the varsity team, the Huskies Junior Varsity defeated Rock Hills in overtime, 46-45.

-Photo courtesy of Rayleen Osborn

Norton 7th graders wrap up basketball season

By Cheri Brooks

The Norton seventh grade girls basketball wrapped up their season Saturday, Dec. 10, at the Smith Center Tournament. They took on Beloit in the first game of the tournament and lost 27-17.

After the first quarter, Beloit led 10 to two. However, Norton didn't give up and put seven points up on the board to make the halftime score 18-9 Beloit. The third quarter scoring was fairly even with Norton scoring six points and Beloit scoring eight points.

The Trojans were up 26-15 after three quarters. The final quarter was very low scoring. Norton only added two points to their previous 15 to make their final score 17. Beloit only added a free throw for one point in the final stanza for a total of 27 points.

Even though Norton lost by 10 points, 27-17, it was a close ball game. Unfortunately, that first quarter hurt us along with not making our free throws.

The Lady Jays only connected on one of six attempted free throws. Caitlyn Cox was the leading scorer with 11 points. Baylee Miller added four points and Miah Melvin hit a field goal for two points to round out the scoring. Taryn Post and Josie Wilson were Beloit's leading scorers with six points each. Caitlyn Cox was Norton's leading rebounder for the game. Baylee Miller had the most steals for the Lady Jays.

Since Norton lost its first game against Beloit, it sent the Lady Jays to the loser's bracket to face Smith Center since they lost to Republic County. The girls came out ready to play and were able to put up 10 points

in the first quarter compared to Smith Center's three points.

Baylee Miller and Miah Melvin were successful with two shots behind the charity stripe in the second quarter to bring the halftime score to 16 points. Smith Center was only able to connect on one field goal in the second quarter and was unsuccessful on four free throws, bringing its score to five points at half.

In the third quarter, Miah Melvin hit two field goals and Caitlyn Cox knocked down a free throw for a total of five points. Smith Center only connected on one field goal. Even though Smith Center was down 21 to seven after three quarters, they did not give up, scoring six points in the fourth quarter to Norton's two points.

Norton was able to hold on for the win, 23-13. Baylee Miller was Norton's leading scorer

in the game with 10 points. She connected on two three-pointers and two layups off steals.

Miah Melvin also hit a three-pointer and two field goals for a total of seven points. Caitlyn Cox rounded out our scoring with six points by making two field goals and sinking two of her four free throws.

There were numerous girls going to the boards in this particular game as well. Caitlyn Cox was the leading rebounder but Baylee Miller, Kendra Cadwalader, and Jena Risewick were right behind her. Miah Melvin and Baylee Miller did a great job of getting in the passing lane and stealing the dribble from the Redmen, and they were the leading defensive stealers of the game.

The Lady Jays were able to force the Redmen into 17 turnovers for the game. Cambry McGuire was the Lady Red-

men's leading scorer with six points, Rebecca McDowell added three points, and Mikayla Dietz and Dayton Befort each added two points.

The seventh graders ended their season with an impressive eight wins and only three losses.

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