

# Norton varsity takes 72-66 victory over Trego

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team held a comfortable lead for three quarters in Mid-Continent League play on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gym until the visiting Golden Eagles made a run at them and the Blue Jays hit enough free throws to hold them off for a 72-66 victory.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-11, 29-22 and 47-41 but Trego refused to go away and played the Blue Jays even at 25-all in the fourth quarter.

Free throws played a big part of the win for Norton. The Blue Jays hit a whopping 30 of 43 charities for 70 percent accuracy! Trego hit a higher percentage from the free throw line but didn't have as many trips. The Golden Eagles swished 13 of 15 charities for 87 percent.

Norton was outscored eight to three on field goals in the fourth quarter but the Blue Jays connected on 18 of 25 charities in the period for 72 percent.

Trego's furious fourth quarter rally was fueled by junior John Griffith who scored 18 of the Golden Eagles' 25 final points. Griffith hit three shots from beyond the arc, five two-point shots and 4 of 5 free throws in the final stanza and ended with 30 points for the game, almost half of his team's total.

The Norton lead was down to 69-66 after Griffith hit two free throws with 12.6 seconds left in the game but Blue Jay junior guard Jacob Brooks hit a free throw and junior guard Dalton Miller swished two charities in

the closing seconds to extend the final margin of victory to 6 points.

Norton's scoring was spread out evenly with five players scoring in double figures and a sixth tallying 8 points. Leading the way for the Blue Jays was Jacob Brooks with 16 points on 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 3 of 8 two-point shots for 38 percent and 4 of 11 overall for 36 percent. He was deadly from the free throw line where he hit 79 percent on 7 of 9.

Senior guard Tye Nickell scored 12 points. He hit his only trey try, was 1 of 5 from two-point range for 20 percent and 2 of 6 overall for 33 percent. He was also deadly from the free throw line where he swished 7 of 10 for 70 percent.

Tallying 11 points was senior guard Zach Hartwell who hit 2 of 6 from long range for 33 percent and connected on a net-smoking 5 of 6 free throws for 83 percent.

Senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier scored 10 points on 3 of 8 from the field for 38 percent and 4 of 8 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Dalton Miller also scored 10 points. He hit 3 of 7 from two point range for 43 percent and drained a perfect 4 of 4 free throws.

Andrew Ellis, a junior forward, scored 8 points on 3 of 4 from the field for 75 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Senior post Alec Gilgenbach scored Norton's other 5 points on 2 of 4 from the field for 50 percent and 1 of 4 from the



Norton junior forward Andrew Ellis scores for the Blue Jays during their Mid-Continent League win over Trego Community on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gym. Ellis hit 3 of 4 shots from the field for 75 percent accuracy and was a perfect 2 of 2 at the free throw line.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

charity stripe for 25 percent.

"I'm happy with the win but still think we can play smarter," said coach Reusink.

"We didn't have the energy

we had at Plainville on Tuesday and got tentative defensively at the end. We let them bring the game to us.

"We did a good job of hitting

free throws down the stretch.

"We had a double digit lead several times in the game but just didn't finish strong enough."

The victory put Norton's season record at 6-5.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 11 from beyond the arc for 36 percent, 15 of 36 two-point tries for 42 percent and 19 of 47 overall for 40 percent. Trego swished 5 of 12 from long range for 42 percent, 19 of 31 two-point attempts for 61 percent and 24 of 43 overall for 56 percent.

Norton outrebounded Trego 22-13. The Blue Jays pulled down 8 offensive and 14 defensive caroms and the Golden Eagles grabbed 3 offensive and 10 defensive boards.

Brooks was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Miller, 4; Wahlmeier, 3; Gilgenbach, 3; Carson McKenna, 2; Nickell, Hartwell, Ellis, 1 each.

Norton had 7 steals and Trego had 3. Nickell led with 4 thefts, followed by Wahlmeier, 2; Brooks, 1.

The Blue Jays had 4 offensive assists compared to 5 for the Golden Eagles. Brooks led with 2, followed by Wahlmeier, Miller, 1 each.

Norton had 12 turnovers and Trego lost the ball 9 times.

Trego had 27 fouls, almost double Norton's 14.

## Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated Trego 59-31.

Norton held quarter leads of 11-7, 32-13 and 42-16.

Leading scorer for the Blue Jays was Conor Cox with 13 points, followed by Tanner Furbush, 11; Ryan Bainter, 10;

Drew Schrum, 7; Andrew Ellis, 7; John Renner, 3; Marc Miller, 2; Damian Lawson, 2; Lane Bigge, 2; Jordan Karnopp, 2.

Isaiah Fabrizio led Trego with 13 points.

## Next action

Norton will travel to Goodland today for non-league action.

Games will be played in Max Jones Field House. The boys C-team game will begin at 4:45 p.m. in the junior high gym, followed by the boys junior varsity game. The boys varsity contest is scheduled for 8 p.m. in the field house.

On Thursday, Norton will host Stockton in Mid-Continent League games which were postponed from December due to inclement weather.

There will be no C-team boys contest. The junior varsity girls and boys games will both begin at 4:45 p.m. The junior varsity boys game will be played in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

The girls junior varsity game will be held in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

## Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 1 1 7-10 12; Jacob Brooks 3 1 7-9 16; Zach Hartwell 0 2 5-6 11; Jordan Wahlmeier 3 0 4-8 10; Andrew Ellis 3 0 2-2 8; Dalton Miller 3 0 4-4 10; Alec Gilgenbach 2 0 1-4 5; Game Totals 15 4 30-43 72.

## Trego Boys

Devon Ghumm 3 0 1-1 7; John Griffith 9 2 6-7 30; Clayton Riedel 3 2 2-2 14; Brad Pfannstiel 0 1 2-2 5; Blake Fritts 3 0 2-3 8; Jacob Weber 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 19 5 13-15 66.

# Norton varsity girls can't catch up to Trego in league play

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team trailed visiting Trego Community by just a few points for most of their Mid-Continent League game on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gym, then saw a rally fall just short in a 50-48 loss.

After Norton trailed 16-9 after one quarter and 22-18 at intermission, Lady Jay junior point guard Tawni Griffey sparked the Norton offense in the second half but just couldn't get a final three-point shot to fall at the buzzer.

Griffey, who hit just one basket in the first half, came out sizzling the nets after intermission. She opened the third quarter by burying a three-point basket that quickly brought Norton within one point of the visitors at 22-21.

Trego put on a full-court press that caused some Norton turnovers and the Lady Golden Eagles extended their lead to 29-21. Griffey hit another shot from beyond the arc at the 6:40 mark, then a two-pointer and another three-point basket with 5:00 left in the third period to make it a 31-29 game. Several Trego baskets pushed their lead to 37-30 but two free throws by Norton's senior post Erin Terrell made it a 37-32 contest with one quarter remaining.

Griffey started the fourth quarter as she had the

third by burying her fourth three-point basket of the game to cut the visitors' lead to 37-35. Trego turned the ball over and junior guard Kamilla Jones swished a two-point set shot to tie the score at 37-all!

Griffey connected on a two-point basket and Norton led 39-37 with 5:50 left in the game. The Trego girls met the challenge, however, as they hit three baskets in a row to lead 43-39. Griffey hit another two-point basket but a three-point basket by Trego extended their lead to 46-41. A Griffey free throw with 1:07 left cut the Trego advantage to 46-42. After a Lady Golden Eagle missed a free throw, Griffey buried another three-point shot to cut the visitors' lead to 46-45 with 35.2 seconds left.

After another missed Trego charity, the Lady Golden Eagles hit two free throws to extend their lead to 48-45 but Griffey came through again with a basket from beyond the arc that tied the score at 48-all as the Norton crowd went wild!

Two free throws by Hannah Dietz, who was Trego's leading scorer, put them ahead 50-48 with 3.4 seconds left. A final shot by Griffey at the buzzer bounced off the rim and the Lady Jays' rally fell two points short!

"It was a great game and both teams had their chances to win it," said coach Jilka. "We fell behind in the first half when we didn't play good enough defense. They jumped on us early but we fought them the rest of the game. It was nip and tuck the rest of the way. We lost the ball three times against their press to start the second half but we fought back.

"We played hard and did a lot of good things. We had our chances and didn't get it done. It just wasn't to be.

"We will have to re-group and get ready to play at Goodland on Tuesday."

Griffey finished the game with 27 points on 6 of 13 from

beyond the arc for 46 percent, 4 of 10 two-point tries for 40 percent and 10 of 23 overall for 43 percent. She also hit 1 of 2 free throws.

Terrell was the only other Norton player in double scoring figures. She hit 3 of 15 from the field for 20 percent but 6 of 9 free throws for 67 percent and finished with 11 points.

Hannah Dietz scored 17 points for Trego and Haley Dietz added 14.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 15 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 9 of 36 two-point tries for 25 percent and 15 of 51 overall for 29 percent.

The Lady Golden Eagles hit 3 of 15 from long range for 20 percent, 19 of 36 two-point attempts for 53 percent and 22 of 51 overall for 43 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays connected on 10 of 16 for 63 percent and Trego swished 3 of 8 for 38 percent.

Norton grabbed 17 offensive and 10 defensive rebounds for 27 total and Trego pulled down 18 offensive and 11 defensive caroms for 29 total.

Terrell had a double-double as she had 11 rebounds, followed by Jones, 6; Griffey, 3; Katelyn Engelbert, 3; Teslee Nickell, 2; Caren Thomson, 2.

The Lady Jays had 6 steals and the Lady Golden Eagles had 5. Engelbert and Nickell led Norton in 2 thefts each while Terrell and Jones each had 1.

Norton had 10 offensive assists and Trego recorded 13. Griffey led Norton with 3 assists, followed by Engelbert, Terrell, Jones, 2 each; Nickell, 1.

The Lady Jays had 15 turnovers and the Lady Golden Eagles lost the ball 10 times.

## Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls outscored Trego 44-32.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-2, 24-9 and 36-17.

Bailey Ambrosier led the Lady Jays in scoring with 14 points, followed by Darcy Bainter, 7; Johnnye Ruder, 6; Alec Melvin, 5; Marisa Maddy, 4; Katie Bohl,

4; Teslee Nickell, 4.

Allyson Denning led Trego with 16 points.

"Our girls played well tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi. "We took better shots and made much better passes.

"We still need to take care of the ball better to eliminate silly turnovers.

"Our girls from the bench did a good job, too. "This is a step in the right direction."

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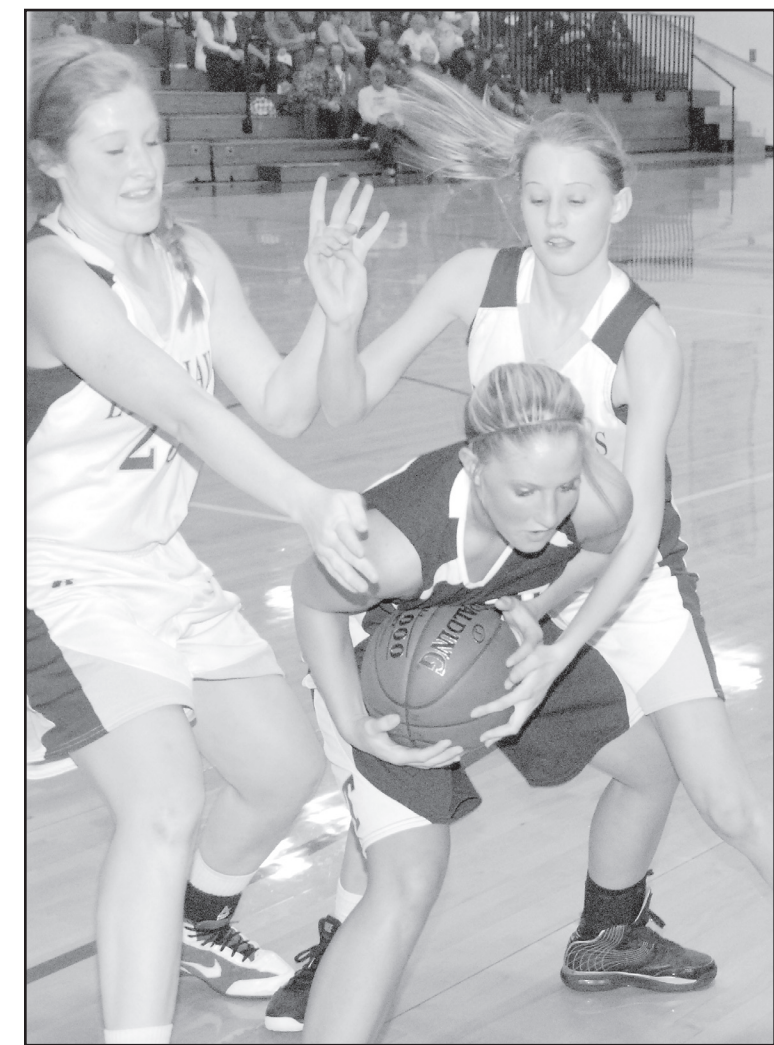
The junior varsity girls and boys games will both begin at 4:45 p.m. The junior varsity boys game will be played at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and the junior varsity girls game will be held in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

## Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 4 6 1-2 27; Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 2-4 4; Teslee Nickell 1 0 1-1 3; Erin Terrell 3 0 6-9 12; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 10 6 10-16 48.

## Trego Girls

Lexi Riedel 2 0 0-1 4; Haley Dietz 7 0 0-0 14; Hannah Dietz 3 3 2-4 17; Jerris Reeder 1 0 0-0 2; Allison Carr 1 0 0-0 2; Hailey Weigel 2 0 0-2 4; Bailee Fritts 3 0 1-1 7; Game Totals 19 3 3-8 50.



Norton's Erin Terrell, left, and Kamilla Jones try to steal the ball from a Trego player as time runs out on the Lady Jays in their 50-48 Mid-Continent League loss on Friday in Norton.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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