

# Blue Jays take down Goodland 73-70 on the road

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team won a 73-70 shootout at Goodland on Tuesday evening but the final score was as close as the Cowboys came to the Blue Jays after a 10-all first quarter.

Six Norton players scored in the second quarter as the Blue Jays took a 33-20 halftime lead.

The home team picked up the scoring in the third quarter but Norton had a 24-21 edge to increase the Blue Jays' lead to 57-41. To Goodland's credit, they didn't give up and outscored Norton 29-16 in the final quarter to make it close at the end.

Norton led by 12 points at 66-54 with three minutes left in the game but Goodland narrowed the lead to 70-63 with 35 seconds remaining. Norton's senior guard Tye Nickell hit two free throws and senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier swished one charity for Norton's final 3 points.

Goodland's Ryan Hillmer hit a three-point shot with 20 seconds left, then added a two-point basket after Wahlmeier's free throw. Hillmer was fouled while shooting but missed the free throw. Taylen Smith, who led Goodland in scoring with 19 points, hit a two-point basket at the buzzer to cut Norton's final margin of victory down to 3 points.

The Norton victory was good to see after the Blue Jays let a 21-12 halftime lead dissolve into a 49-41 loss to the Cowboys earlier this season in the Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland.

"I'm happy with the win on the road," said Norton head

boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "We did some good things throughout the game, especially offensively, but we're not doing the things we need to do down the stretch."

"We've played them twice and should know how they play and what to do to stop them and finish strong."

With the win, Norton extended their season record to 7-5.

Eight different players scored for Norton. Leading the way was junior guard Jacob Brooks with 19 points on 1 of 1 from beyond the arc, 5 of 9 two-point attempts for 56 percent and 6 of 10 overall for 60 percent. He also hit 6 of 9 free throws for 67 percent.

Wahlmeier added 18 points on 8 of 11 from the field for 73 percent and 2 of 8 free throws for 25 percent.

Also scoring in double figures with 13 points was senior guard Zach Hartwell who was a perfect 3 of 3 from beyond the arc and 1 of 1 from two-point range for a perfect 4 of 4 shots from the field. He kept the record perfect at the free throw line where he connected on 2 of 2 charities.

Senior guard Dillon McConney also shot well, hitting 4 of 5 from the field for 80 percent.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 5 from long range for 80 percent, 24 of 44 two-point tries for 55 percent and 28 of 49 overall for an outstanding 57 percent.

The Cowboys hit 6 of 14 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 21 of 45 two-point attempts for 47 percent and 27 of 59 overall for 46 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 13 of 27 for 48 percent and Goodland was 10 of 15 for 67 percent.

Both teams had 27 rebounds.

Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 18 defensive caroms and Goodland grabbed 14 offensive and 13 defensive boards.

Wahlmeier led Norton in rebounds with 9, followed by Brooks, 6; Alec Gilgenbach, 6; Nickell, 2; Hartwell, McConney, Andrew Ellis, Dalton Miller, 1 each.

The Norton Blue Jays blocked a season-high 8 Goodland shots. Wahlmeier rejected 5, followed by Brooks, McConney, Gilgenbach, 1 each.

Norton had 8 steals compared to 6 for the Cowboys. Wahlmeier led with 3 thefts, followed by Brooks, 2; Nickell, Hartwell, McConney, 1 each.

Norton recorded 19 offensive assists and Goodland had 13. Nickell and Wahlmeier were assists leaders for Norton with 4 each, followed by Brooks, 3; Hartwell, McConney, Ellis, Miller, 2 each.

The Blue Jays had 19 turnovers and the Cowboys lost the ball 13 times.

### Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity lost to Goodland by a score of 47-33.

Norton trailed by quarters: 17-2, 34-10 and 42-25.

Leading scorers for Norton were: Tanner Furbush, Lane Bigge, 6 points each, followed by John Renner, Drew Schrum, Andrew Ellis, Conor Cox, 4 each; Marc Miller, 3; Ryan Bainter, 2.

Scoring leader for Goodland was Gannon Ihrig with 11 points.

### C-team game

Norton won the boys C-team game by a score of 45-39 in overtime.

The young Blue Jays led 8-6 after one quarter but trailed 16-

14 at intermission, led 25-24 after three periods and were outscored 13-12 by the home team in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 37-all and send it into overtime.

Norton outscored Goodland 8-2 in the extra period to earn the win.

Leading scorer for Norton was Conor Cox with 21 points, including 4 in overtime, followed by Damian Lawson, 7; Jordan Karnopp, 6; Connor Griffey, 4; Marc Miller, 3; Kobbie Unterseher, Trevor Lewis, 2 each.

Dax Ruhs led Goodland in scoring with 17 points.

### Next action

Norton hosted Stockton last evening in games postponed from December due to inclement weather but scores were not available at the Telegram's press time.

Next action for Norton will be this Tuesday when the Blue Jays host the Redmen from Smith Center. The C-team boys game will begin at 4 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and will be followed by the boys junior varsity contest.

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

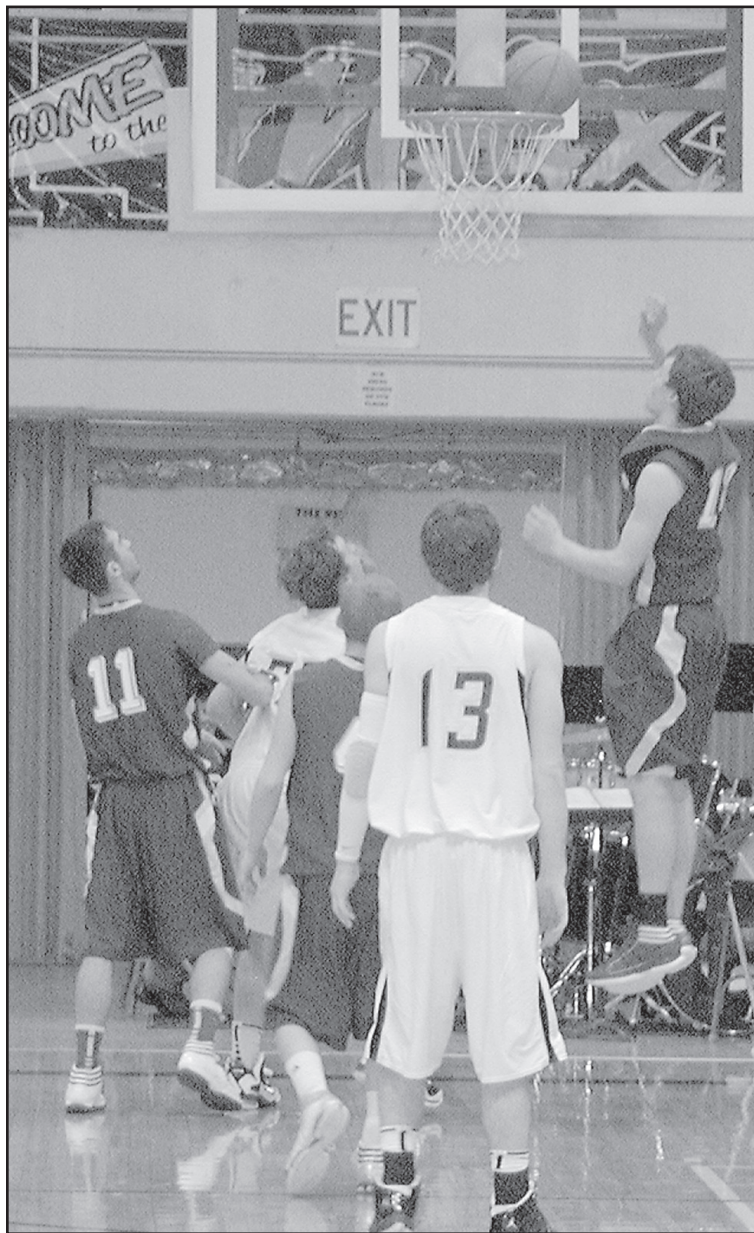
### Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 2 0 2-3 6; Jacob Brooks 5 1 6-9 19; Zach Hartwell 1 3 2-2 13; Jordan Wahlmeier 8 0 2-8 18; Dillon McConney 4 0 0-0 8; Andrew Ellis 1 0 0-0 2; Dalton Miller 0 0 1-2 1; Alec Gilgenbach 3 0 0-3 6; Game Totals 24 4 13-27 73.

### Goodland Boys

Gage Ihrig 2 3 0-13; Gannon Ihrig 1 1 0-0 5; Ryan Hillmer 5 1 3-5 16; Reed Bellamy 2 0

3-4 7; Blaine Luther 1 1 0-0 5; Smith 8 0 3-4 19; Game Totals Parker Sieck 2 0 1-2 5; Tayen 21 6 10-15 70.



Norton senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier scores inside during the Blue Jays' win over Goodland on Tuesday in the Max Jones Field House in Goodland. Also shown for Norton are, from left, senior guards Dillon McConney and Zach Hartwell.

- Photo courtesy of the Goodland Star-News

# Varsity Lady Jays basketball claims win over Goodland

By Dick Boyd

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Hitting 43 percent from the field and 62 percent from the free throw line, the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team outscored Goodland 43-23 on Tuesday evening at Max Jones Field House in Goodland.

The Norton defense also limited Goodland to 23 percent shooting from the field.

It was the second meeting of the year for the two teams. The Lady Jays also defeated the Cowgirls 56-42 in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland in December.

Norton led the entire game, building quarter leads of 12-8, 20-13 and 31-19.

"This is a tough place for us to play but we did some good things on offense and played good solid defense all night long," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka.

"We gave up too many offensive rebounds the first half but did better in the second half."

"This was a good win after a tough loss on Friday to Trego. We came back and did what we had to do to win."

"We're now even for the season at 6-6 and that's good."

Senior post Erin Terrell was a steady scorer throughout the game for the Lady Jays. She hit two baskets in the first and third quarter, a single basket in the second period and finished with two baskets and two free throws in the final stanza. She hit 7 of 15 attempts for 47 percent accuracy and 2 of 4 from the free throw line for 50 percent and 16 points.

Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert hit 8 points on 1 of 1 from long range, 1 of 4 two-point tries and 2 of 5 overall for 40 percent. She also swished 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Senior post Caren Thomson was a perfect 3 of 3 from the field for 100 percent and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe for 50 percent and 7 points.

Also scoring 7 points with the same percentages was sophomore post Bailey Ambrosier.

Leading scorer for Goodland was Berkley White with 10 points.

As a team, the Lady Jays connected on 1 of 6 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 16 of 34 two-point tries for 47 percent

and 17 of 40 overall for 43 percent.

The Cowgirls missed all 7 trey tries, hit 10 of 36 two-point attempts for 28 percent and 10 of 43 overall for 23 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 8 of 13 for 62 percent and Goodland found the range on 3 of 8 for 38 percent.

Norton pulled down 7 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds for 19 total. Goodland grabbed 9 offensive and 13 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Terrell had a double-double with 11 rebounds, followed by Engelbert, 4; Tawni Griffey, Ambrosier, Kamilla Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 13 offensive assists compared to 8 for the Cowgirls. Griffey led Norton with 5 assists, followed by Engelbert, 3; Terrell, 2; Teslee Nikcell, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

Griffey had 2 of Norton's 3 steals; Terrell had the other theft.

Norton had 11 turnovers and Goodland lost the ball 15 times.

### Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity lost to Goodland 33-29.

The Lady Jays led 13-9 after one quarter but trailed 23-22 at halftime. A 5-3 third quarter in Norton's favor put the Lady Jays back on top 27-26 but the Cowgirls outscored the Lady Jays 7-2 in the final stanza for

the win.

Leading scorer for Norton was Johnnye Ruder with 10 points, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 8; Darcy Bainter, 5; Alec Melvin, 4; Katie Bohl, 2.

Leading scorer for Goodland was Carlee Cooper with 8 points; Taryn Bedore added 7.

"Our first half was one of our best of the year," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi. "We were not able to maintain that momentum in the second half."

"Our girls played with more intensity than we have but we just need to put it together for four quarters."

### Next action

Norton hosted Stockton last evening in games postponed from December due to inclement weather but scores were not available at the Telegram's press time.

Next action for Norton will be this Tuesday when the Blue Jays host the Redmen from Smith Center. The junior varsity girls game will begin at 4:45 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym and will be followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

### Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 20 1-1 5; Katelyn Engelbert 1 1 3-4 8; Bailey Ambrosier 3 0 1-2 7; Erin Terrell 7 0 2-16; Caren Thomson 3 0 1-2 7; Game Totals 16 1 8-13 43.



Lady Jay sophomore Katelyn Engelbert displays good defense as she challenges a Goodland girl trying to decide what to do with the basketball during Norton's win over the Cowgirls on Tuesday in Max Jones Field House in Goodland.

-Photo courtesy of the Goodland Star-News

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