

# Blue Jays outscore Smith Center in home hoops

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team continued their winning streak on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym when they outscored the visiting Smith Center quintet 74-66.

The Blue Jays limited their fouls, found the range from three-point land and hit more free throws than the visitors.

Senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier and junior guard Jacob Brooks are normally the highest scorers for Norton but senior guard Zach Hartwell joined them on Tuesday night. Hartwell chose to shoot only from beyond the arc and, to the delight of the Norton crowd, was very successful. Hartwell hit 5 of 9 long range shots for 56 percent accuracy, missed his only two-point try and ended 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent. From the free throw line, he was a perfect 4 of 4 and ended with 19 points.

Brooks also had a good shooting night to lead all Norton scorers with 22 points. He hit 4 of 6 from beyond the arc for 67 percent, 3 of 9 two-point tries for 33 percent and 7 of 15 overall for 47 percent. He was 4 of 8 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Wahlmeier used his normal moves around the basket that frustrate the opponents to tally 15 points. He hit 7 of 17 two-point shots for 41 percent and was 1 of 6 from the free throw line for 17 percent.

Alex Hobelmann led Smith Center with 18 points; Kale Terrill added 16 and Payton Buckmaster hit 10.

Hartwell got the Norton crowd in the game right from the start when he buried a three-point basket. A Brooks free throw, basket by Wahlmeier, try by Brooks and two-point basket by senior guard Dillon McConney put Norton on top 11-2.

McConney hit another basket, Wahlmeier added a free

throw, senior guard Tye Nickell swished a basket and Brooks hit a tip-in at the buzzer to end the first quarter with Norton leading 18-12.

Wahlmeier led the way in the second quarter when he hit three more baskets. Hartwell and Nickell each hit nothing but net from three-point range and Brooks hit a two-point basket and free throw as both teams scored 15 points and Norton maintained the six-point lead at 33-27.

The Redmen hit only one shot from beyond the arc in the first half but after intermission they unsuccessfully tried to keep up with the long range bombs put up by the Blue Jays. Norton hit 24 points in the third quarter with 18 of their points coming from beyond the arc! Hartwell and Brooks each buried three long range baskets and Wahlmeier added two baskets.

Norton continued to shoot well in the fourth quarter but focused on two-points and, with the Redmen fouling, went to the free throw line 16 times, hitting 9 of the charities.

Brooks and McConney each hit a basket and two free throws, Hartwell hit his four free throws, Nickell connected on a basket and one charity and Wahlmeier hit one basket.

Smith Center outscored Norton 18-17 in the fourth quarter but it was too little, too late for the Redmen.

"Both teams shot the ball well tonight," said coach Reusink. "We did a nice job offensively and made shots."

"The negative is that we didn't make defensive stops down the stretch but they have some good offensive players."

"We were patient on offense late in the game and were able to get the right guys on the free throw line. And, we did okay hitting our free throws at the end."

"We played the entire game without losing our intensity, which had been a problem the last several games. We stayed

pretty focused and sharp.

"We've now won 8 of our last 10 games with our only losses coming to Plainville."

The win over Smith Center extended Norton's season record so far to 9-5.

As a team, Norton hit 10 of 20 three-point shots for 50 percent, 16 of 35 two-point shots for 46 percent and 26 of 55 overall for 47 percent.

Smith Center connected on 5 of 9 from beyond the arc for 56 percent, 22 of 38 two-point tries for 58 percent and 27 of 47 overall for 57 percent.

Norton hit more free throws than Smith Center. The Blue Jays swished 12 of 25 charities for 48 percent and the Redmen cashed in 7 of 10 for 70 percent.

Norton outrebounded Smith Center 27-19. The Blue Jays grabbed 13 offensive and 14 defensive caroms compared to 4 offensive and 15 defensive for the visitors.

Wahlmeier had another double-double as he pulled down 12 rebounds, followed by Brooks, 7; McConney, 4; Joe LeClair, 2; Hartwell, Alec Gilgenbach, 1 each.

Wahlmeier blocked 2 shots and McConney rejected 1.

Both teams had 11 offensive assists. Nickell led with 4, followed by Hartwell, Wahlmeier, 2 each; Brooks, McConney, Dalton Miller, 1 each.

Norton had just 1 turnover in the game compared to 12 for the Redmen.

### Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity lost to Smith Center by a score of 44-31.

Norton trailed by quarters 14-8, 19-11 and 40-11.

Leading scorer for Norton was Tanner Furbush with 11 points, followed by John Renner, 6; Carson McKenna, 6; Dalton Miller, 3; Ryan Bainter, 2; Conor Cox, 2; Lane Bigge, 1.

Taylor Zabel led the Redmen with 14 points.

### C-team



Norton senior guard Zach Hartwell had a career scoring night on Tuesday during the Blue Jays' win over Smith Center in the NCHS Stull Gym. Choosing to rip the nets from long range, here he is shown shooting one of 9 shots he took from beyond the arc. He hit 5 of them for an incredible 56 percent, was a perfect 4 of 4 from the free throw line and ended with 19 points.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The Norton C-team lost to Smith Center by a score of 29-18.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters 3-2, 12-6 and 19-11.

Leading scorer for Norton was Trevor Lewis with 6 points, followed by Connor Griffey, 5; Jordan Karnopp, 3; Kobie Unterseher, 2; Conor Cox, 2.

Mason Buckmaster led the Redmen with 8 points.

### Next action

The Norton boys and girls played Mid-Continent League games with Hill City today in Hill City.

Scores were not available at the Telegram's press time.

On Tuesday, Norton will play non-league games with Oberlin in Oberlin, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

### Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 2 1 1-4 8; Jacob Brooks 3 4 4-8 22; Zach

Hartwell 0 5 4-4 19; Jordan Wahlmeier 7 0 1-6 15; Dillon McConney 3 0 2-3 8; Alec Gilgenbach 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 16 10 12-25 74.

### Smith Center Boys

Alex Hobelmann 6 2 0-0 18; Trevor Overmiller 0 2 2-2 8; Kale Terrill 5 1 3-5 16; Kody Molzahn 2 0 0-0 4; Nathan Cox 4 0 0-0 8; Grady Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Payton Buckmaster 4 0 2-2 10; Game Totals 22 5 7-10 66.

# JV wrestlers place sixth at Arapahoe

By Dick Boyd

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Entering 9 out of 14 weight classes, the Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers placed sixth in the varsity Arapahoe Warrior Invitational Wrestling Tournament last Saturday.

Winning the championship was Eustis-Farnam with 141 points, followed by Arapahoe, 127; Cozad JV, 118; Pleasanton, 107; Elwood, 106; Norton JV, 98; Elm Creek, 84; SEM, 74; Axtell, 35; Waunita-Palisade/Hitchcock Co., 32; Unified JV 1, 8; Arapahoe JV, 4; Eustis-Farnam JV, 0; Unified JV2, 0.

Norton freshman Jared Tallent won the championship of the 126 pound weight class. Sophomore Garret Otter was runner-up at 113. Placing third for Norton were freshman Dalton Vanover, 120; sophomore Toby Nickell, 132; freshman Kendall Miller, 138.

Placing fifth for Norton were: junior Javen Colip, 145; freshman Christian Boser, 152; freshman Stewart Whitney, 160; sophomore Michael Johnson, 220.

Freshman Derek Rowh wrestled for the Unified JV 1 team and placed sixth at 126 pounds. Sophomore Cody Temmel also wrestled with the Unified JV 1 team and placed seventh at 132 pounds.

"For the most part, I was pleased with our performance," said Norton assistant wrestling coach Shane Miller. "We had a good week of practice and our young guys are getting better with the little things we want them to do."

"It is always good to see them hit a move in competition that

we repeat 100 times in practice.

"We still are inexperienced in a lot of areas but are gaining the confidence to try some new things during competition. I was proud of our approach to the beginning of the tournament. In round robin formats, your toughest match could be your first one so you need to be mentally ready. We did a better job of preparing ourselves to wrestle. We continue to have about four or five wrestlers place in the top four of tournaments."

"This week we had Jared Tallent back from injury that occurred prior to Christmas. Jared picked up right where he left off. He had four matches with four pins. In his final match, he dominated and pinned state qualifier Walter Flint from Elwood."

"It is good to have Jared back and, for his efforts, he is named 'Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week'."

Named the "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament was Dalton Meier, Elm Creek, 195 pounds.

### Norton individual results

113 - Garret Otter won a 15-3 major decision over Dalton Loeffelholz, Pleasanton; drew a bye; was pinned in 2:27 by Yansy Claffin, Eustis-Farnam, to place second.

120 - Dalton Vanover pinned Zack Wright, W. Palisade/Hitchcock Co., in 2:47; drew a bye; was pinned in :20 by Aaron Hueftie, Eustis-Farnam; lost a 10-4 decision to Cole Remmen-ga, Elwood and pinned Dylan Wells, Axtell, in 3:22 to place third.

126 - Jared Tallent pinned Nate Clapp, Axtell, in 1:19; pinned Jovi Wear, Cozad JV, in 3:56; pinned Blake Eckhout,

Pleasanton, in 4:36 and pinned Walter Flint, Elwood, in 5:38 to win the championship.

132 - Toby Nickell pinned Jake Neal, Pleasanton, in 1:27; drew a bye; lost a 10-3 decision to Junior Escamilla, Cozad JV and won an 8-7 decision over Jake Buhning, SEM, to place third

138 - Kendall Miller pinned Bryce Brown, SEM, in 2:35; lost a 10-5 decision to Anthony Shimmmin, Arapahoe; won a 9-1 major decision over Dallas Johnson, Axtell and won an 8-0 major decision over Mickey Ericson, W. Palisade/Hitchcock Co., to place third.

145 - Javen Colip was pinned in 3:37 by Tyler Green, Eustis-Farnam JV; won a 12-5 decision over Neil Henderson, Cozad JV; was pinned in :46 by Aaron Winberg, Pleasanton and pinned Chantz Klein, SEM, in 1:13 to place fifth.

152 - Christian Boser was pinned in :53 by Mitchell Kubert, Elwood; was pinned in 1:09 by Calvin Frerichs, SEM; was pinned in 3:53 by Tyler Kipp, Arapahoe; drew a bye and was pinned in 3:06 by Lance Taylor, Axtell, to place fifth.

160 - Stewart Whitney was pinned in 3:27 by Nate Lemmer, Cozad JV; was pinned in 1:51 by Aramando Tapia, Pleasanton; lost an 8-5 decision to Francisco Guido, SEM; was pinned in 1:00 by Patrick Gardner, Arapahoe, and drew a bye to place fifth.

220 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:03 by Justin Stamford, Cozad JV; was pinned in :27 by Shane Robbins, Eustis-Farnam; was pinned in :53 by Jordan Riley, Axtell; pinned Dillon Nichols, UJ 1, in :16 and

was pinned in 2:50 by Michael Winberg, Pleasanton, to place fifth.

126 - Derek Rowh was pinned in :38 by Hayden Geis, Elm Creek; was pinned in 1:40 by Walter Flint, Elwood; pinned Louis Morales, UJ 2, in 5:41 and was pinned in 1:26 by Jovi Wear, Cozad JV, to place sixth.

132 - Cody Temmel was pinned in :57 by Wyatt Kipp, Arapahoe; decided Jake Buhning, SEM, 11-5; lost an 11-7 decision to Deon Wilson, Elwood, and drew a bye to place seventh.

### Next action

The Norton junior varsity wrestlers will join the varsity wrestlers in a dual with Smith Center this evening in the Wil-meth Kirk Memorial Gym, beginning at 6 p.m.

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton's two senior wrestlers: R.J. Ellis and Cayleb Campbell.

Both junior varsity and varsity wrestlers will also compete Saturday in the annual Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

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