

Lady Jays varsity holds onto lead over Oberlin

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team jumped out to a big first half lead and maintained it in the second half to defeat Oberlin 53-35 in non-league play on Tuesday evening in Oberlin.

After a fairly even first quarter, Norton led 17-14 then outscored Oberlin 19-2 in the second period to lead 36-16 at intermission.

Neither team could hit the basket in the third period where Oberlin outscored Norton 4-2, then both teams tallied 15 points in the final stanza as the Lady Jays held onto their big lead.

Norton junior point guard Tawni Griffey did most of the scoring for Norton, hitting seven field goals, five of them from beyond the arc for a total of 21 points. She made all of her field goals in the first half, hitting two long range shots in the first quarter and three from beyond the arc and two two-point baskets in the second period. Her only points in the second half were two on free throws.

Griffey hit 5 of 11 trey tries for 45 percent, 2 of 8 two-point attempts for 25 percent and 7 of 19 overall for 37 percent. From the charity stripe, she was 2 of 4 for 50 percent.

Senior post Erin Terrell ended with 9 points on 4 of 7 from the field for 57 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent. Adding 8 points was senior post Caren Thomson, who was 3 of

6 from the field for 50 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 free throws.

Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert tallied 7 points on 1 of 5 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent and 3 of 8 overall for 38 percent.

Miki Dorshorst led Oberlin with 10 points; Darbi Rouse added 8 and Brianna Klima scored 6.

"We played awfully well in the first half," said coach Jilka. "We had only two turnovers in the first half."

"We played hard and were much more aggressive on both offense and defense. We had a good inside game on offense."

"We're not where we want to be but gained some more confidence with this win. We will need to keep playing this well against a good Atwood team on Friday."

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 20 from three-point range for 30 percent, 13 of 36 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 19 of 56 overall for 34 percent.

Oberlin missed all 9 shots from long range, hit 16 of 48 two-point tries for 33 percent and was 16 of 57 overall for 28 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays swished 9 of 19 for 47 percent and the Lady Red Devils made 3 of 5 for 60 percent.

Norton had 21 total rebounds compared to 25 for Oberlin. Terrell was leading rebounder with 6, followed by Nickell, 5; Thomson, 5; Kamilla Jones, 3;

Bailey Ambrosier, 1; Alec Melvin, 1.

Griffey had 2 of Norton's 3 steals; Jones had the other theft. Oberlin recorded 8 steals.

The Lady Jays had 14 offensive assists and Oberlin had 5. Griffey led with 5 assists, followed by Jones, 4; Nickell, 2; Engelbert, 1; Johnnye Ruder, 1; Terrell, 1.

Norton had 8 turnovers and Oberlin lost the ball 9 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity defeated Oberlin by a score of 44-33.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 17-3, 23-14 and 33-27.

Johnnye Ruder and Teslee Nickell each scored 13 points for Norton, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 10; Darcy Bainter, 5; Alec Melvin, 3.

Demi Murray led Oberlin with 13 points; Kariah Castle added 8.

"Tonight, I am very proud of our girls," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi. "We have been working very hard in practice and tonight it started to show. Some of our girls really did a great job of taking care of the ball. This is a great step forward."

"We need to keep it up in practice and transfer it to the game."

Next action

Norton will host Atwood in non-league play today. Games will be played in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus and in the NCHS Stull



Norton senior Caren Thomson, No. 33, and junior Alec Melvin, No. 24 battle Oberlin for the ball during the Lady Jays' win over the Lady Red Devils on Tuesday in Oberlin. Hurrying to help out for Norton is sophomore Johnnye Ruder, No. 21.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Gym.

The boys junior varsity game will be held in the Kirk Gym, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

The girls junior varsity game will also begin at 4:45 p.m. in the Stull Gym. It will be followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity contests in the

same gym.

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 5 2-4 21;

Katelyn Engelbert 2 1 0-0 7;

Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 3-6 3;

Teslee Nickell 1 0 0-1 2; Erin Terrell 4 0 1-2 9; Alec Melvin 1 0 1-4 3; Caren Thomson 3 0 2-2 8; Game Totals 13 6 9-19 53.

Oberlin Girls

Darbi Rouse 4 0 0-1 8; Alexis Hissong 2 0 0-0 4; Demi Murray 1 0 0-0 2; Miki Dorshorst 5 0 0-0 10; Brianna Klima 2 0 2-2 6; Shawn Baker 1 0 0-0 2; Hannah May 1 0 1-2 3; Game Totals 16 0 3-5 35.

Northern Valley runner commits to Colby Community College

By Dick Boyd

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Senior Gunnar Hays, an outstanding track and cross country runner for Northern Valley High School, has signed a letter of intent to compete in both sports for Colby Community College.

With his senior track season still ahead of him, Gunnar has already had an excellent high school career. A 1600 meter and 3200 meter runner in track, Gunnar was the 3200 regional champion his sophomore year and also won two gold medals in the 1600.

In his junior season, Gunnar won both the regional and state cross country races in Class 1A, was regional champion in the 3200 meters and regional runner-up in the 1600 meters and placed third in both races in the state meet. He set personal records of 10:03.31 in the 3200 and 4:36.27 in the 1600 meters.

He repeated last fall as regional and state champion in Class 1A in cross country and set a personal record time of 16:45.

"Gunnar has matured as a runner," said Northern Valley cross country coach Kirk Kasson. "He has shown consistent improvement and seems to be able to peak at the right time. He led his cross country team to the state meet. He is also a leader in the classroom and was selected Homecoming King."

"Gunnar has been a valuable asset to our track program since his freshman year," said Northern Valley head track and field coach Chuck Fessen-

den.

"As a freshman, he placed sixth in the regional track meet and was able to run under 10:50 in the 3200 meters.

"His dedication, desire and work ethic have helped him improve throughout his career. He has been dedicated to the weight room during the summer. Gunnar's off season workouts have been challenging and done on a consistent basis. The hard work has paid off on the track."

"He was a state qualifier as a sophomore. He had a great junior year by placing in the 1600, 3200 and 3200 meter relay. We are looking forward to him having an outstanding senior year."

James Ortiz is in his third season as head coach for the Colby Community College men's track and field and cross country programs. In his first two seasons at Colby, he has led the men's teams to record-setting finishes at the National Junior College Athletic Association Championships. His men have earned national finishes of 11th place in cross country, 15th place in indoor track and field and 23rd place in outdoor track and field. Coach Ortiz was also named 2011 Region VI Indoor Track and Field Men's Coach of the Year.

Coach Ortiz's programs have experienced academic success as well as athletic success. In 2010-11, the Colby track and field program was named NJCAA Coaches Association Academic Team of the Year. The previous year, his men's teams swept the national awards for all four running sports - cross country, half marathon, indoor

and outdoor track and field.

Gunnar has been selected to the Class 1A Academic All State Cross Country Team for the second year in a row.

He has also been chosen to compete in the special run that will precede this year's Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game.

Gunnar will study criminal justice at Colby Community College.

He is the son of Ranelle and Gale Hays of Almena.

Gunnar is the first cross country-track athlete signed for the upcoming season by Colby Community College. "When you can get a two-time state champion for your first signee, you're excited about who will come after," said coach Ortiz. "After Gunnar won the state cross country race last year, he caught our eye. When we realized it was his first cross country season, we knew right off the bat we had to have him on our team."

Gunnar is joining a Colby team that continues to do well nationally. "They're taking notice in the NJCAA. Our runners know they are making history for Colby Community College," said coach Ortiz.

"Gunnar is a good start to making next year even better."

"In addition to being a good runner, Gunnar is good academically, too. You don't have to worry about his grades. He'll enter college with at least 18 credit hours."

High school wrestling schedule is changed

This week's high school wrestling schedule for Norton has been changed.

The Norton Community High School wrestlers were scheduled to host Smith Center here last night but that competition was canceled.

Instead, the NCHS wrestlers will travel to Plainville today to wrestle duals versus Plainville and Smith Center, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The original Thursday dual with Smith Center was also "Senior Night" for the Norton wrestlers. Now, the senior wrestlers and their parents will be recognized at halftime of the boys varsity basketball game versus Hoxie next Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Gunnar Hays signs with Colby Community College



Gunnar Hays, outstanding senior track and cross country runner for Northern Valley High School, is shown signing a letter of intent to run track and cross country for Colby Community College. Pictured are, from left, front row: his mother Ranelle Hays, Gunnar, his father Gale Hays; back row: Chuck Zimmerman, former Northern Valley track distance coach; James Ortiz, head track and cross country coach at Colby Community College; Kirk Kasson, head Northern Valley cross country coach; Chuck Fessenden, head Northern Valley track and field coach.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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