

# Lady Jays take loss to No. 2 Hoxie at home

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team was defeated 75-38 by a very aggressive, quick No.2 state ranked Hoxie quintet on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym.

The Lady Indians opened the game with a full court defensive press that smothered the Norton girls' offense and allowed the visitors to take advantage of many early turnovers.

After taking a 30-7 lead by the end of the first period, Hoxie's coach called off the press and Norton played them fairly even, trailing by just 14-13 in the second quarter.

Hoxie responded with 19 more points in the third quarter while Norton was able to score only 9 more and trailed 63-29. The Lady Jays were also outscored 12-9 in the fourth quarter.

"We hoped to get off to a better start against them but we weren't aggressive against their press," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. "You like to give yourself a chance."

"You have to give them credit. They are an excellent team and are well coached."

"Once we got into the flow of the game, we did some good things offensively but defensively they really hurt us in transition. We just weren't very aggressive defensively."

"We played hard once we got by the initial shock."

"We have two league games left Thursday and Friday and we'll find out what we're made of."

Norton is now 8-9 for the season and the impressive Hoxie quintet is still unbeaten.

Two Lady Jays scored in double figures. Junior point guard Tawni Griffey hit 2 of 6 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 2 of 4 two-point shots for 50 percent and 4 of 10 overall for 40 percent. She was a perfect 2 of 2 on free throws and finished with



Lady Blue Jay senior post Caren Thomson scores inside during Norton's game in the NCHS Stull Gym versus Hoxie on Tuesday evening. Thomson hit 5 of 7 shots for 71 percent accuracy and added a free throw to finish with 11 points.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

12 points.

Senior post Caren Thomson had a good shooting night, hitting 5 of 7 shots for 71 percent accuracy and 1 of 2 from the

line for 11 points.

Hoxie had four girls in double figures: Carly Heim, 16; Danel Stithem, 13; Gabi Spresser, 12; Kristina Farber, 10.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 8 from long range for 38 percent, 12 of 23 two-point tries for 52 percent and 15 of 31 overall for 48 percent.

Hoxie scored on 7 of 18 three-point attempts for 39 percent, 22 of 36 two-point tries for 61 percent and 29 of 54 overall for 54 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 5 of 10 for 50 percent and Hoxie connected on 10 of 14 for 71 percent.

The Lady Jays had 4 offensive and 11 defensive rebounds for 15 total. The Lady Indians pulled down 11 offensive and 8 defensive caroms for 19 total.

Erin Terrell led Norton in rebounding with 4, followed by Katelyn Engelbert, 3; Kamilla Jones, 3; Bailey Ambrosier, 2; Tawni Griffey, 2; Thomson, 1.

Norton had 4 steals and Hoxie had 11. Thomson led Norton with 2 thefts, followed by Jones, 1; Ambrosier, 1.

The Lady Jays had just 4 offensive assists compared to 21 for the Lady Indians. Jones had 2 assists and Alec Melvin and Griffey each had 1.

Norton had 21 turnovers and Hoxie lost the ball 13 times.

## Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls team lost to Hoxie 50-29.

Norton led 12-5 after one quarter but was outscored 12-6 in the second quarter to lead by just 18-17 at intermission. Norton tallied only 3 points in the third period compared to 16 for the visitors and trailed 33-21. Seventeen more Hoxie points in the final stanza and only 8 by Norton extended the final margin of victory.

Bailey Ambrosier led Norton in scoring with 11 points, followed by Alec Melvin, 6; John-nye Ruder, 5; Teslee Nickell, 4; Katie Bohl, 2; Sierra Griffith, 1. Natasha Almer was high scorer for Hoxie with 13 points; Kelsey Kelch scored 10.

"The first half was as good a half as we have played all year," said coach Rossi.

"We just had too many breakdowns in the second half and teams like Hoxie make you pay for mistakes."

"We are doing a lot of good

things. I was very pleased with our hustle in the first half. Now, let's play four quarters like that."

## Next action

On Thursday, the Norton girls and boys basketball teams traveled to Hill City for makeup games due to inclement weather earlier. Results were not available for the Telegram's press time.

The Blue Jay girls and boys teams will travel to Ellis today to complete Mid-Continent League play for the season. Games will begin at 4:45 p.m.

On Tuesday, Norton girls and boys teams will host Colby in the final regular season contests.

The C-team boys game will begin at 4 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus, followed by the junior varsity boys game at the same location.

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

It will be "Senior Night" for the Norton girls and boys basketball teams and the senior players will be honored along with their parents. Senior girls are Erin Terrell and Caren Thomson. Senior boys are Tye Nickell, Zach Hartwell, Jordan Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, Joe LeClair and Alec Gilgenbach.

## Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 2 2-2 12; Katelyn Engelbert 3 0 0-0 6; Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 1-2 1; Teslee Nickell 1 0 0-0 2; Erin Terrell 1 0 1-2 3; Kamilla Jones 0 1 0-2 3; Caren Thomson 5 0 1-2 11; Game Totals 12 3 5-10 38.

## Hoxie Girls

Shelby Heim 1 2 0-0 8; Gabi Spresser 3 2 0-0 12; Danel Stithem 1 3 2-2 13; Kristina Farber 3 0 4-7 10; Carly Heim 7 0 2-2 16; Lexi Schamberger 3 0 1-1 7; Natasha Allmer 4 0 1-2 9; Game Totals 22 7 10-14 75.

# Winning streak ends for Norton boys basketball team

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team's winning streak came to an end after six victories in a row on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym when a solid, accurate shooting Hoxie quintet came to town and outscored them 55-35.

The No.9 state ranked Indians dominated the first half, then held off the Blue Jays in the second half.

The Blue Jays were more accurate from the free throw line, grabbed more rebounds, had more steals, less turnovers and more assists than the visitors but failed in a major category: field goal shooting.

The Indians hit an even 50 percent from everywhere on the court while the Blue Jays managed just 31 percent. Both teams took about the same number of field goal attempts.

"We knew they were a good team and had good shooters but we made them look good," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "We did not defend very well. We got beat off the dribble and were out of position all night."

"Offensively, we got good shots early but couldn't get them to go down. Then, we tried to hurry to catch up instead of being patient. We need to get tougher mentally."

With the loss, Norton's record is now 11-6.

Norton hit just four baskets and one free throw in the first quarter compared to six two-point baskets and two from beyond the arc by Hoxie as they took an 18-9 lead. Norton's only points came on two baskets and a free throw by junior guard Jacob Brooks and two baskets by senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier.

The cold-shooting Norton players became frigid in the second quarter when they were outscored 12-4 and their only points came on baskets by Brooks and senior guard Dillon McConney, making the score at halftime 30-13.

Norton's best quarter was the third where Hoxie edged them by just 16-14 but still led 46-27. Brooks hit two more baskets and a free throw, Wahlmeier hit 1 free throw, McConney hit a basket and charity, junior forward Andrew Ellis buried a three-point shot and junior guard Carson McKenna stole the ball and drove for two points.

The Blue Jays held the Indians to just 9 points in the fourth stanza but scored just 8 themselves. Ellis threw in two more baskets, senior post Joe LeClair and McKenna each hit a basket to complete Norton's scoring.

Brooks was Norton's only double figure scorer, finishing with 12 points. Although he missed all 3 trey tries, he connected on 5 of 10 two-point attempts for 50 percent and was 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent accuracy.

Wahlmeier, who has had several double-doubles in scoring and rebounding, had one of those nights when the ball kept bouncing away from the

basket. He hit just 2 of 9 shots from the field for 22 percent and was 1 of 4 from the free throw line for 25 percent and ended with just 5 points.

Ellis was Norton's second highest scorer with 7 points on 1 of 2 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 2 of 3 two-point tries for 67 percent and 3 of 5 overall for 60 percent accuracy.

Brooks and senior guard Zach Hartwell have been very accurate from three-point range but neither was able to swish a trey in the game.

Kade Spresser was leading scorer for Hoxie with 17 points; Chase Kennedy and Jaxsen Moss each added 10 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 1 of 11 from beyond the arc for 9 percent, 14 of 37 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

Hoxie tallied on 4 of 9 trey tries for 45 percent, 21 of 41 two-point shots for 51 percent and 25 of 50 overall for 50 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 4 of 8 for 50 percent and Hoxie connected on 1 of 4 for 25 percent.

As noted earlier, Norton outrebounded Hoxie. The Blue Jays pulled down 12 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 28 total. The Indians grabbed 8 offensive and 16 defensive boards for 24 total.

Brooks was leading rebounder for Norton with 9, followed by Wahlmeier, 7; McConney, 5; Tye Nickell, 4; Ellis, 2; Dalton Miller, 1.

Norton had 6 steals and Hoxie stole the ball just twice. McKenna led in thefts with 2, followed by Nickell, McConney, Ellis, Miller, 1 each.

Norton was credited with 3 offensive assists and Hoxie with none. Brooks, Wahlmeier and McConney each had 1 assist.

The Blue Jays had just 5 turnovers in the game and Hoxie lost the ball 9 times.

## Junior varsity

Norton edged Hoxie 24-23 in the junior varsity boys game where only two quarters were played.

The score was tied at 15-all after one quarter and Norton outscored Hoxie 9-8 in the second and final quarter.

Tanner Furbush buried a three-point basket at the buzzer to earn the Norton victory!

Furbush finished with 6 points in the game and Drew Schrum also tallied 6, followed by John Renner, 4; Dalton Miller, 4; Andrew Ellis, 3; Carson McKenna, 1.

Connor Katt led Hoxie with 11 points.

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Norton junior guard Carson McKenna flies through the air to hit a layup after stealing the ball at the other end of the court during the Blue Jays' game with Hoxie in the NCHS Stull Gym on Tuesday evening. McKenna had two thefts for scores in the contest.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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## Norton Boys

Jacob Brooks 5 0 2-3 12; Jordan Wahlmeier 2 0 1-4 5; Dillon McConney 2 0 1-1 5; Joe LeClair 1 0 0-0 2; Andrew Ellis 2 1 0-0 7; Carson McKenna 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 14 1 4-9 35.

## Hoxie Boys

Colton Spresser 3 0 0-0 6; Tyler Kaus 2 0 0-0 4; Kade Spresser 5 2 1-2 17; Chase Kennedy 5 0 0-0 10; Luke Friess 4 0 2-8; Jaxsen Moss 2 2 0-0 10; Game Totals 21 4 1-4 55.