

# Lady Jays varsity outscores Hill City in league action

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School varsity girls basketball team got off to a great start in makeup play on Thursday in Hill City by outscores the home standing Lady Ringnecks 16-5 in the first quarter and continuing on to win 38-33 in Mid-Continent League action.

Hill City was competitive the final three quarters but could never make up for the first period deficit.

Junior point guard Tawni Griffey buried two shots from beyond the arc and a two-point basket during the initial Lady Jay blitz.

Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert also swished a shot from three-point range along with a two-point basket and senior post Caren Thomson scored on a two-point attempt. Senior post Erin Terrell added a free throw.

On the strength of two three-point baskets, Hill City out-

scored Norton 11-8 in the second quarter but the Lady Jays still had a comfortable 24-15 lead at intermission.

Terrell hit two baskets in the quarter and sophomore post Bailey Ambrosier and Griffey each hit one two-point.

The third quarter was a defensive one in which Hill City had a 6-2 advantage but Norton still led 26-21 with one quarter remaining. Norton's only points in the period came on a basket by Terrell.

Four different girls scored for the Lady Jays in the hard-fought final stanza where both teams scored 12 points.

Engelbert hit two baskets and two free throws, Terrell and junior guard Kamilla Jones each swished a basket and Griffey added two free throws.

"That was the hardest we've played all year," said a happy Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. "We were very proud of the effort of our players, especially after the last two losses."

"Offensively, the first half we were really good; in the second half we stood around but we made some plays when we needed to."

"Defensively, it was by far our best effort. Our girls really got after it all night long."

"We don't have much time to rest since we go to Ellis on Friday and we will need the same effort."

With the win, Norton evened their season record at 9-9.

Griffey led Norton in scoring with 12 points on 2 of 4 from long range for 50 percent, 2 of 8 two-point attempts for 25 percent, 4 of 12 overall for 33 percent and 2 of 2 free throws for 100 percent.

Engelbert was right behind her with 11 points on 1 of 1 from beyond the arc for 100 percent, 3 of 12 two-point tries for 25 percent, 4 of 13 overall for 31 percent and 2 of 3 charities for 67 percent.

Terrell added 9 points on 4 of 13 from the field for 31 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50

percent.

Leading scorer for Hill City was Kelsey Keith with 9 points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 12 of 41 two-point tries for 29 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

The Lady Ringnecks swished 4 of 15 long range shots for 27 percent, 9 of 23 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 13 of 38 for 34 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 5 of 8 for 63 percent and Hill City hit 3 of 8 for 36 percent.

Norton out-rebounded Hill City 27-19. The Lady Jays pulled down 14 offensive and 13 defensive caroms and the Lady Ringnecks grabbed 5 offensive and 14 defensive boards.

Terrell led Norton with 11 rebounds, followed by Engelbert, Jones, 7 each; Ambrosier, 2.

Norton had 11 steals and Hill City had 8 thefts. Griffey led the Lady Jays with 4 steals, followed by Engelbert, 3; Ambrosier, Terrell, Jones, Thomson, 1

each.

The Lady Jays were credited with 12 offensive assists compared to 7 for Hill City. Assists leader for Norton was Griffey with 5, followed by Jones, 3; Engelbert, 2; Ambrosier, Terrell, 1 each.

Norton had 10 turnovers and Hill City lost the ball 15 times due to the aggressive Lady Jay defense.

## Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls quintet defeated Hill City 47-32.

Norton held quarter advantages of 10-7, 24-11 and 35-25.

All eight girls scored for the Lady Jays.

Alec Melvin led Norton scoring with 12 points, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 8; Teslee Nickell, 8; Darcy Bainter, 7; Johnnye Ruder, 6; Marisa Madddy, 2; Sierra Griffith, 2; Katie Bohl, 2.

Darian Pimlott and Leslie Van Loenen each scored 6 points for Hill City; Brittany Lee and Shannon Toll each hit 5.

"This was a game we have been looking for," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi. "Our girls put together four quarters of solid basketball."

"The scoring was spread among eight girls, so everyone was involved. Our girls have had very good practices and it is really starting to show up in games."

## Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 2 2-2 12; Katelyn Engelbert 3 1 2-3 11; Bailey Ambrosier 1 0 0-1 2; Erin Terrell 4 0 1-2 9; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Caren Thomson 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 12 3 5-8 38.

## Hill City Girls

Darrian Collins 0 0 1-4 1; Megan Gansel 0 1 0-0 3; Shelby Stewart 0 2 0-0 6; Tiffany Russell 2 0 0-0 4; Kelsey Keith 2 1 2-4 9; Maegen Gosselin 1 0 0-0 2; McKenzie Cooper 1 0 0-0 2; Haley Dinkel 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 9 4 3-8 33.

# Blue Jay varsity loses close game to Hill City, 54-52

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played well enough to win against Mid-Continent League foe Hill City on the Ringnecks' home court in a makeup game Thursday evening but a basket at the end allowed the home team to escape with a 54-52 win.

There were several ties in the game but Norton was ahead most of the way.

Hill City took a 47-45 lead on a three point basket by Adam Pfeifer late in the game but senior guard Tye Nickell answered with his only trey of the game and junior guard Jacob Brooks followed with a two-point basket that put Norton back in the lead by 50-47 with 3:36 left in the contest.

After a Hill City basket, Brooks stole the ball and drove for a layup to make it 52-49 at the 1:32 mark.

Solomon Wilson answered for the Ringnecks with a two-point basket that cut the Norton lead to 52-51 and he followed that with a 3 point basket with 2 seconds left that hit nothing but net and

suddenly propeled the Hill City quintet to a 54-52 win, breaking the hearts of the large Blue Jay crowd!

"It was a tough loss," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, who saw his team fall to 11-7 for the year. Hill City is now 13-4 for the season, which is winding down.

"Hill City has a good team but we made some dumb plays on the offensive end down the stretch."

"We competed and played hard but just didn't play very smart."

The Blue Jays got off to a great start by outscores Hill City 20-13 in the first quarter. Junior guard Jacob Brooks hit a trey and two two-point baskets, senior guard Zach Hartwell drained a three-pointer, senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier and senior guard Tye Nickell each hit a basket and free throw and senior guard Dillon McConney and junior forward Andrew Ellis each hit a basket.

It turned out to be Norton's best scoring quarter of the game.

Wahlmeier led the way for the Blue Jays in the second quarter when he threw in three two-point baskets and a trey and Brooks and Ellis each hit a

basket for 13 Norton points. Hill City scored 16 in the period but Norton still led 33-29.

Wahlmeier continued to score in the third quarter when he hit four more baskets and a charity for 9 of Norton's 12 points. Senior post Alec Gilgenbach hit a two-point basket and Nickell added a free throw for Norton's only other points in the quarter.

Meanwhile, Hill City tallied 15 points to further cut into the Blue Jay lead.

Wahlmeier did not score again. Norton's seven final quarter points came on the two baskets by Brooks and trey by Nickell.

Wahlmeier led the Blue Jays in scoring with 21 points on 1 of 1 from beyond the arc for 100 percent, 8 of 15 two-point shots for 53 percent, 9 of 16 overall for 56 percent and 2 of 4 free throws for 50 percent.

Brooks also finished in double figures with 13 points on 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 5 of 8 two-point shots for 63 percent and 6 of 11 overall for 55 percent.

Hill City's leading scorer was Wilson with 19 points; Shane Jones hit 15

and Adam Pfeifer added 13.

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 14 three-point tries for 29 percent, 18 of 33 two-point attempts for 55 percent and 22 of 47 overall for an excellent 47 percent accuracy.

Hill City connected on 4 of 13 from beyond the arc for 31 percent, 19 of 42 two-point tries for 45 percent and 23 of 55 overall for 42 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 4 of 8 for 50 percent and Hill City hit 4 of 7 for 57 percent.

Both teams pulled down 28 rebounds. Norton grabbed 4 offensive and 24 defensive caroms and Hill City had 9 offensive and 19 defensive boards.

McConney was leading rebounder for Norton with 9, followed by Wahlmeier, 8; Brooks, 4; Nickell, 2; Gilgenbach, 2; Hartwell, 1; Ellis, 1; McKenna, 1.

Wahlmeier blocked 2 Hill City shots.

The Blue Jays had 3 steals and the Ringnecks had 2 thefts. Brooks, Wahlmeier and McConney each had 1 steal.

Norton had 12 offensive assists and Hill City had just 3. Nickell has assists leader with 4, followed by Brooks, 3; Hartwell, 2; McConney, 2; Ellis, 1.

The Blue Jays had just 4 turnovers in the contest and the Ringnecks lost the ball 7 times.

## Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys defeated Hill City 39-25.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-8, 22-12 and 32-18.

Leading scorer for Norton was Dalton Miller with 10 points, followed by Connor Cox, 8; Tanner Furbush, 7; Andrew Ellis, 5; Drew Schrum, 3; Carson McKenna, 2; Lane Bigge, 2.

Greg Billips led Hill City with 10 points.

## Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 1 1 2-3 7; Jacob Brooks 5 1 0-1 13; Zach Hartwell 0 1 0-0 3; Jordan Wahlmeier 8 1 2-4 21; Dillon McConney 1 0 0-0 2; Andrew Ellis 2 0 0-0 4; Alec Gilgenbach 1 0 0-0 2; Game Total 18 4 4-8 52.

## Hill City Boys

Matt Craig 2 0 1-1 5; Solomon Wilson 6 2 1-2 19; Adam Pfeifer 5 1 0-1 13; Shane Jones 5 1 2-3 15; Greg Billips 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 19 4 4-7 54.

# Norton boys basketball loses to Ellis in final league game

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team played hard at Ellis on Friday night but the Railroaders stayed enough ahead of them the entire game to win 52-45 in the final Mid-Continent League game of the season.

Ellis outscores Norton 14-11 in the first quarter and 13-6 in the second period to lead 27-17 at intermission.

The Blue Jays' best quarter was the third when they outscores the Railroaders 17-12 to cut the Ellis advantage to 39-34. Junior guard Jacob Brooks, who had not scored since hitting two baskets in the first quarter, buried two shots from beyond the arc in the third period to give the Blue Jay offense a spark.

Also hitting three two-point baskets in the same quarter was senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier, who played sparingly after an injury in the first half and had not yet scored. Senior guard Tye Nickell also hit a three-point and two-point basket in the third quarter.

Most of Norton's offense in the final stanza came from Brooks, who hit another trey and three two-point baskets for 9 of the Blue Jays' 11 points but it wasn't enough to catch the Railroaders who hit 13 more points to win by seven.

"We played hard and battled hard but faced adversity when Wahlmeier went out early in the game," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "But our players stepped up."

"We had some lapses after making some good plays and forced some things but I can't fault our effort. We competed but just didn't play our best."

Brooks finished with 19 points on 3 of 8 from beyond the arc for 38 percent, 5 of 8 two-point attempts for 63 percent and 8 of 16 overall for 50 percent accuracy.

Leading scorer for Ellis was Tyler Walters with 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit 5 of 16 long range shots for 31 percent, 14 of 31 two-point tries for 45 percent and 19 of 47 overall for 41 percent.

Ellis shot about the same from the field. The Railroaders hit 7 of 16 from beyond the arc for 44 percent, 11 of 29 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 18 of 45 overall for 40 percent.

The difference in scoring came at the free throw line where Norton hit 2 of 9 for 22 percent and Ellis swished 9 of 11 for 82 percent!

Rebounding was almost even. The Blue Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 23 total. The Railroaders grabbed 6 offensive and 16 defensive boards for 22 total.

Brooks was leading rebounder

for Norton with 9, followed by Nickell, 5; Wahlmeier, 3; Dillon McConney, 3; Andrew Ellis, 2; Alec Gilgenbach, 1.

Ellis blocked 1 shot.

Norton had 8 steals compared to just 1 by Ellis. McConney was thefts leader with 3, followed by Nickell, 2; Brooks, 2, Ellis, 1.

The Blue Jays had 8 offensive assists and Ellis had none. Nickell was the leader with 5 assists, followed by Ellis, 2; Brooks, 1.

Norton had 10 turnovers but Ellis lost the ball 16 times to the aggressive Blue Jay defense.

## Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity was outsourced 53-42.

The young Blue Jays trailed by quarters 13-4, 28-18 and 42-29.

Leading scorer for Norton was John Renner with 10 points, followed by Andrew Ellis, 7; Drew Schrum, 6; Lane Bigge, 6; Connor Cox, 4; Dalton Miller,

3; Carson McKenna, 3; Ryan Bainter, 3.

Scott Pfeifer led Ellis with 16 points; Josh Tway and Nick Gehring each tallied 11.

## Next action

Today, the 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. in the NCHS Stull Gym 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.

Boys Sub-State Tournament play will begin next Monday and girls will play their first Sub-State games on Tuesday. Scott City will be the host city.

## Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 1 1 0-0 5; Jacob Brooks 5 3 0-0 19; Jordan Wahlmeier 3 0 0-3 6; Dillon McConney 2 0 2-4 6; Andrew Ellis 2 1 0-0 7; Alec Gilgenbach 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 14 5 2-9 45.

## Ellis Boys

Cole Pfeifer 0 1 0-0 3; Blake Hudson 1 2 0-0 8; Brayden Werth 0 2 0-0 6; Jared Mick 0 0 3-4 3; Thatcher Brown 2 0 4-4 8; Tyler Walters 3 2 2-3 14; Luke Lohrmeyer 4 0 0-0 8; Nick Gehring 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 11 7 9-11 52.

# Norton varsity girls unable to overcome Ellis on the road

By Dick Boyd

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After a solid victory over Hill City in a makeup game on Thursday night, the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team was unable to produce another win when they traveled to Ellis on Friday night.

The Lady Jays had one of their poor shooting nights, hitting only 23 percent from the field as they were outsourced 38-26 by the Lady Railroaders.

Norton was outsourced 11-9 in the first quarter and 8-6 in the second quarter to trail 19-15 at halftime. A 14-4 third quarter in Ellis' favor put Norton behind 33-19 and a 7-5 fourth quarter in Norton's favor didn't help nearly enough.

"I was very disappointed in our play at Ellis after we did a great job against Hill City in all areas," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka.

"We didn't come ready to play and didn't do anything right. We didn't shoot well from either the field or the line. Offensively, we didn't attack the basket and defensively we just got out-hustled all night long."

"We must forget this one and move on to get ready to play Colby on Tuesday."

Norton had no double figure scorers in the game. Leading scorer for Norton was senior post Erin Terrell with 8 points. She was followed by sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert, who scored 7 points.

Terrell was 3 of 9 from the field for 33 percent and 2 of 9 from the charity stripe for 22 percent.

Engelbert swished 2 of 8 two-point tries for 25 percent but made 3 of 4 free throws for 75 percent.

Leading scorer for Ellis was Bailey Hensley with 11 points; Mikayla

Gottschalk added 10.

As a team, Norton missed all 3 long range shots, hit 8 of 32 two-point tries for 25 percent and was 8 of 35 overall for 23 percent.

Ellis swished 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 17 of 38 two-point attempts for 45 percent and 18 of 43 overall for 42 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays shot 23 times but hit only 10 for 43 percent. The Lady Railroaders connected on just 1 of 5 charities for 20 percent.

Norton had 9 offensive and 9 defensive rebounds for 18 total and Ellis grabbed 6 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 20 total.

Terrell led Norton in rebounds with 9, followed by Tawni Griffey, 4; Caren Thomson, 4; Bailey Ambrosier, 1.

The Lady Jays had 13 steals and the Lady Railroaders recorded 11 thefts.

Griffey and Engelbert each had 4 steals, followed by Kamilla Jones, 3; Terrell, 2.

Norton recorded 8 offensive assists compared to 11 for Ellis. Griffey, Engelbert and Jones each had 2 assists while Teslee Nickell and Alec Melvin each had 1.

Both teams had 21 turnovers.

## Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity was defeated 46-28.

The young Lady Jays trailed by quarters 9-8, 21-11 and 31-24.

Alec Melvin led Norton scorers with 9 points, followed by Marisa Madddy, 5; Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Johnnye Ruder, 3; Darcy Bainter, 3; Sierra Griffith, 2; Teslee Nickell, 2.

Megan Honas led Ellis with 17 points.

"Our girls played with good hustle and intensity but the turnover bug bit

us again," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi. "It hurts when we have so many turnovers because those are missed opportunities to score."

"Our girls have improved in a lot of areas but need to work all the time to get better."

## Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 1 0 1-2 3; Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 3-4 7; Bailey Ambrosier 1 0 1-3 3; Erin Terrell 3 0 2-9 8; Kamilla Jones 0 0 2-3 2; Caren Thomson 1 0 1-2 3; Game Totals 8 0 10-23 26.

## Hill City Girls

Sara Mick 2 1 0-0 7; Becca Aschenbrenner 1 0 0-0 2; Bailey Hensley 5 0 1-3 11; Sidney Gottschalk 1 0 0-0 2; Kaleigh Soneson 2 0 0-0 4; Stephanie Greenway 1 0 0-2 2; Mikayla Gottschalk 5 0 0-0 10; Game Totals 17 1 1-5 38.