

# Blue Jays lose final game of regular season play

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team played one exceptional quarter on Tuesday night but it didn't help enough to allow them to outscore the visiting Colby quintet who defeated them 55-44 in the regular season finale on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym.

The Blue Jays dug a hole in the first quarter when they scored just 6 points on two baskets from beyond the arc by senior guard Zach Hartwell while the Eagles poured in 17 points.

The second quarter was the good one for the home team as they tallied 20 points compared to 13 by the visitors to cut Colby's halftime lead to 30-26

Senior guard Tye Nickell hit 9 points on a trey, two two-point baskets and 2 of 3 free throws. Junior guard Jacob Brooks also buried a three-pointer and a two-point basket as well as 1 of 2 charities for 8 points.

Junior guard Dalton Miller hit a basket and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe and Hartwell added 2 of 2 free tosses.

After the hot shooting second quarter, the Blue Jays offense cooled off in the third quarter and was only able to produce 5 more points compared to 12 for Colby and Norton trailed 42-31 with just one quarter remaining.

Norton's only third period points came on baskets by senior guard Dillon McConney and junior guard Carson McKenna and 1 of 2 charities from Nickell.

The fourth quarter was better, thanks to three baskets and

a free throw from Brooks, two more baskets by McKenna and one basket by McConney for 13 points, which was too little, too late, however, with the Eagles also tallying 13 points.

Norton senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier, who was injured in the Ellis game on Friday night, did not play in the game.

"We're not playing very well right now," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink. "We played hard and had good defense but I was disappointed that some of our boys had the opportunity to pick up the slack for Wahlmeier's absence and didn't."

Jacob Brooks was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points on 1 of 4 from trey distance for 25 percent, 4 of 9 two-point tries for 45 percent, 5 of 13 overall for 39 percent and 2 of 3 from the charity stripe for 67 percent.

Also scoring in double figures was senior guard Tye Nickell who hit 10 points on 1 of 3 from beyond the arc for 33 percent, 2 of 9 two-point attempts for 22 percent, 3 of 12 overall for 25 percent and 3 of 5 free throws for 60 percent.

Leading Colby was Todd Kane with 14 points.

As a team, Norton swished 4 of 17 from long range for 24 percent, 12 of 33 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 16 of 50 overall for 32 percent.

Colby hit 1 of 9 trey tries for 11 percent, 21 of 39 two-point tries for 54 percent and 22 of 48 overall for 46 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 8 of 16 for 50 percent and Colby hit 10 of 18 for 56 percent.

Both teams pulled down 24 rebounds. Norton grabbed 13 offensive and 11 defensive carsoms and Colby had 7 offensive and 17 defensive boards.

Brooks led Norton in rebounds with 8, followed by McKenna and Nickell, 4 each; Miller, 3; McConney and Andrew Ellis, 2 each; Alec Gilgenbach, 1.

Gilgenbach also blocked 1 Colby shot.

Norton had 9 steals compared to 7 by Colby. Nickell led in steals with 3, followed by Brooks, 2; Hartwell, McConney, Ellis, McKenna, 1 each.

The Blue Jays were credited with 8 offensive assists and Colby had 6. McKenna was assists leader with 3, followed by McConney, 2; Nickell, Hartwell, Miller, 1 each.

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

### Senior Night

It was "Senior Night" for Norton. Honored along with their parents were senior players Tye Nickell, Zach Hartwell, Jordan Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, Joe LeClair and Alec Gilgenbach, cheerleader Rhees Carlson and dance team members Brae Bigge, Mariah Farber and Kylie Nuzum.

### Junior Varsity

The Norton junior varsity boys basketball team defeated Colby 42-26.

Norton led by quarters 14-8, 23-14 and 27-18.

Leading scorer for the young Blue Jays was Dalton Miller with 17 points, followed by Marc Miller, 6; John Renner, 5; Carson McKenna, 5; Conor Cox, 4; Drew Schrum, 3; Lane Bigge, 2.

Reed Stephens led Colby

with 10 points; Russ Ashton and Marc Bremenkamp each added 6.

### C-team boys

Norton lost a close boys C-team game to Colby by a score of 54-51.

The Blue Jays led 11-7 after one quarter but trailed 25-20 at halftime. In the very competitive third quarter, Colby edged Norton 17-16 to lead 42-36. The Blue Jays outscored the Eagles 15-12 in the fourth quarter but it wasn't quite enough to come up with the win.

Leading scorer for Norton was Marc Miller with 15 points, followed by Connor Griffey, 9; Trevor Lewis, 9; Damian Lawson, 6; Conor Cox, 6; Jordan Karnopp, 4; Noah Johnson, 2.

Russ Ashton led Colby with 26 points.

### Next action

The Norton boys will begin Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament play on Monday when the No.3 seeded Blue Jays (11-9) host No.6 seeded Southwestern Heights (9-10) in a 6 p.m. game in the NCHS Stull Gym.

### Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 2 1 3-5 10; Jacob Brooks 4 1 2-3 13; Zach Hartwell 0 2 2-2 8; Dillon McConney 2 0 0-2 4; Dalton Miller, 1 0 1-2 3; Carson McKenna 3 0 0-0 6; Alec Gilgenbach 0 0 0-2 0; Game Totals 12 4 8-16 44.

### Colby Boys

Luke Cox 2 0 0-2 4; Zane Winger 3 0 0-0 6; Todd Kane 2 1 7-7 14; Marc Bremenkamp 1 0 0-0 2; Braden Sager 4 0 1-3 9; Dalaan Organ 9 0 2-6 20; Game Totals 21 1 10-18 55.



Norton senior guard Tye Nickell drives inside for a layup during the Blue Jays' game with Colby on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym, while Norton senior guard Dillon McConney looks on. Nickell scored 10 points, pulled down 4 rebounds and led his team in steals with 3.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Junior varsity wrestlers take 11 medals in tournament

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers completed their regular season on a positive note on Saturday, February 11 with 11 wrestlers earning individual medals, four of these gold, in the annual Bill Voss Novice Wrestling Tournament in Colby.

"This was one of our best tournament showings," said Norton assistant high school wrestling coach Shane Miller. "It's always nice to finish on a high note. Like our varsity squad, we rarely had our full roster on any given weekend. This kept us from placing in a few tournaments but we had some great performances by many individuals.

"In this tournament, we had a couple of varsity wrestlers entered and they performed well. Their contribution, mixed in with some of our junior varsity wrestlers who have been fairly consistent all year, led to a good tournament day.

"Our total win-loss record for the tournament was 26 wins and 14 losses.

"The tournament also awards the most improved lower weight and most improved upper weight wrestlers awards. We were fortunate to win both of these awards. Jared Tallent won the lower weight and Cole Renner won the upper weight.

"I am very pleased with the progress of this group. The year began with probably one of our most inexperienced groups in recent years. We knew the season would have some growing pains but many of the wrestlers gained some valuable experience and I expect them to be vying for varsity spots next season. Several of these wrestlers have the potential to do very well and contribute a great deal to the tradition of Norton Wrestling."

Team scores were not compiled for the tournament.

Winning gold medals for Norton were freshman Caysean Campbell, 106; freshman Jared Tallent, 126; sophomore Cole Renner, 160 and junior Lucas Engel, 170.

Three Blue Jay wrestlers had runner-up finishes. They were sophomore Ethan Ross, 113; freshman Dalton Vanover, 120 and freshman Kendall Miller, 138.

Placing third for Norton were freshman Derek Rowh, 126; sophomore Toby Nickell, 132 and junior Javen Colip, 145.

Sophomore Michael Johnson finished in fourth place at 195 pounds.

Also competing for the Blue Jays were sophomore Garret Otter, 113; sophomore Cody Temmel, 132 and freshman Christian Boser, 152.

### Match results

106 - Caysean Campbell was seeded No.1. He defeated No.5 seed Jacob Thorell, Hays and No.2 seed Chris Vividor, Garden City, to win the championship.

113 - Garret Otter was seeded No.5. He lost to Caleb Hecker, Hays; defeated Grant Romme, Thomas More Prep-Hays and lost to No.2 seed Chase Ramsey, Scott City.

Ethan Ross was seeded No.6. He defeated No.3 seed Russ Kohl, Hays; defeated No.2 seed Ramsey, to place runner-up.

120 - Dalton Vanover was seeded No.3. He defeated No.2 seed Brandon Taylor, Hays; was defeated by No.1 seed Brett Schroeder, Colby and defeated No.4 seed Skyler Underhill, Phillipsburg, to place runner-up.

126 - Jared Tallent was seeded No.1. He defeated Cairo Quinonez, Garden City; defeated Issac

Coomes, Phillipsburg and defeated Derek Rowh of Norton to win the gold medal.

Derek Rowh was seeded No.2. He lost to Coomes and defeated Quinonez before losing to teammate Tallent to place third.

132 - Toby Nickell was seeded No. 3. He defeated Kyle Finley, Colby; lost to No.2 seed Brandon Schoenthaler, Trego; defeated No.1 seed Tathan Burkhart, Hays and defeated Ricky Milke, Goodland, to place third.

Cody Temmel wrestled a feather bracket match versus Milke and was defeated.

138 - Kendall Miller was seeded No.1. He defeated John Stabb, Hays; defeated No.5 seed Allanso Hermosillo, Scott City and lost to No.3 seed Austin Schissler, Colby, to place runner-up.

145 - Javen Colip lost to No.2 seed Brandon Gaede, Colby; defeated Brandon Verlinden, Goodland; defeated No.4 seed Jerod Standley, Garden City and defeated Ashley Coleman, Colby, to place third.

152 - Christian Boser was seeded No. 5. He lost to Joey Arellano, Garden City; defeated David Moeder, TMP; and lost to No.3 seed Jeff House, Goodland.

160 - Cole Renner was seeded No.1. He defeated Shane Ohlrogge, Colby; defeated Jesse Steele, Garden City and defeated Randall Long, Garden City,

to win the gold medal.

170 - Lucas Engel was seeded No.5. He defeated No. 4 seed Matt Marez, Garden City; defeated No.1 seed Mikial Freeman, Goodland and defeated No.2 seed Jay Ziegelmeier, Colby, to win the gold medal.

195 - Michael Johnson lost to No.1 seed Jordan Dietze, Hays; lost to Joe Pfeifer, Hays, and placed fourth.

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# Huskies barely miss victory in Natoma game

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Huskies boys varsity basketball team had one of its better offensive performances when they hooked up with the Natoma Tigers on Friday, Feb. 10 but came up just short of the victory, losing 56-54.

The Huskies and Tigers were evenly matched as they closed out the first quarter tied at 14. Junior Tyson Callaway led the Huskies with six points in the quarter.

Second quarter, Natoma kept the pressure on and Northern Valley cooled off a little. Senior Tyler Montgomery scored five points keeping the Huskies within six points at the break, 31-25 Tigers.

The Huskies turned the tables in the third quarter, scoring 17 points and holding the Tigers to just 11 points. Sophomore Jordan Baird drained two 3-pointers, Montgomery added five

more points and Callaway went four for four from the charity stripe and the Huskies and Tigers were tied at 42 going into the fourth.

Senior Gunnar Hays was clutch in the fourth, scoring eight points including two 3-pointers but Natoma was two points better, hitting a fade away jumper at the end for a big win.

"We did a much better job of getting the ball into the lane than we did the first time we played Natoma," explained Huskies head coach Chuck Fessenden.

"This resulted in a higher shooting percentage. We had our best night at the line by hitting 80 percent. Tyler Montgomery gave us a big night with 15 points and seven rebounds," said Fessenden.

"Unfortunately, Natoma was able to hit a fade away jumper at the end of the game for the win."

In the junior varsity game, Natoma won another close one, squeezing by the Huskies 39-36.

Sophomores Ian Vincent and Hunter Chandler led the Huskies offensive charge with eight and six points respectively. The

same duo led Northern Valley in rebounding as well, Vincent with six and Chandler with five rebounds.

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