

Norton girls end regular season with Colby loss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team ended their 2011-12 regular season on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym with a 58-26 loss to an excellent Colby quintet.

The Lady Jays were no match for the Lady Eagles who were better in all categories but especially in field goal shooting. Norton was able to hit only 31 percent from the field compared to Colby's 45 percent.

Colby jumped out to a big early lead, allowing Norton only 2 points in the first quarter on a basket by junior point guard Tawni Griffey as the Lady Eagles took a 10-2 advantage.

Norton had a lot more offense in the second quarter but so did Colby, outscoring the Lady Jays 19-12 to lead 29-14 at halftime. Norton's points came on a basket and two free throws by senior post Caren Thomson, a trey and free throw by Griffey and a basket each by junior guard Kamilla Jones and junior guard Teslee Nickell.

It didn't get any better for Norton in the second half. The Lady Jays were only able to score 8 points in the third quarter while Colby threw in 19 more points to stretch the visitors' lead to 48-22. Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert scored her only points of the game as she hit three baskets and senior post Erin Terrell, who played sparingly after picking up two early fouls, hit her first basket of the contest.

Norton's shooting problems continued in the fourth period when the Lady Jays hit just 4 points on baskets by Griffey and Terrell. Meanwhile, the Lady Eagles swished 10 more points.

Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 8 points on 1 of 7 from beyond the arc for 14 percent, 2 of 4 two-point tries for 50 percent, 3 of 11 overall for 27 percent and 1 of 2 free throws.

"We don't play very consistent because we have weaknesses in a lot of areas," said Norton head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. "We can't play a full game at a consistent level. Turnovers will hurt us for a period of time and then something else. We have to play more consistent for 32 minutes."

"We didn't take care of the ball, we didn't shoot it very well and our defense was not good enough. We're not as aggressive as I would like to see."

"I'm not taking anything away from Colby; there're good team."

"We must forget this loss. The regular season is over and everyone begins sub-state play with 0-0 records. We'll try to win three next week and go to state. I've seen it done before in this situation."

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 8 from beyond the arc for 13 percent, 10 of 28 two-point tries for 36

percent and 11 of 36 overall for 31 percent. Colby swished 6 of 10 trey tries for 60 percent, 15 of 37 two-point attempts for 41 percent and 21 of 47 overall for 45 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays hit 3 of 5 for 60 percent and the Lady Eagles swished 10 of 14 for 71 percent.

Norton had 6 offensive and 9 defensive rebounds for 15 total. Colby pulled down 13 offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 29 total.

Seven different Norton girls grabbed at least one rebound. Terrell was leading rebounder for Norton with 4, followed by Engelbert, 3; Griffey, 2; Nickell, 2; Jones, 2; Bailey Ambrosier, 1; Thomson, 1.

The Lady Jays had 9 steals and the Lady Eagles recorded 12 thefts. Griffey and Engelbert each had 2 steals and Nickell, Terrell and Thomson each had 1.

Norton had 8 offensive assists and Colby had 15. Jones was assists leader for the Lady Jays with 3, followed by Griffey, 2; Engelbert, Nickell, Thomson, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Colby lost the ball 8 times.

Senior Night

It was "Senior Night" for Norton. Honored along with their parents were senior players Erin Terrell and Caren Thomson, manager Bryan Henry, cheerleader Rhee Carlson and dance team members Brae Bigge, Mariah Farber and Kylie Nuzum.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Colby 42-30.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-5, 30-22 and 34-24.

Leading scorer for the young Lady Jays was Alec Melvin with 9 points, followed by Teslee Nickell, 8; Bailey Ambrosier, 7; Johnnye Ruder, 6; Darcy Bainter, 6; Katie Bohl, 4; Sierra Griffey, 2.

Morgan Mengel was leading scorer for Colby with 8 points; McKenna Ortner hit 7 and Haileigh Shull tallied 6.

"What a way to end a junior varsity season!" said Norton assistant girls basketball coach George Rossi. "We knew our girls were capable of coming out and playing the way we did. Tonight, the game was four quarters of intense basketball. Our girls did a great job of attacking their press and played great defense."

"I am very happy for these girls. They worked hard all year and tonight they put it all together."

The Norton junior varsity girls compiled an 8-6 record this season.

Next action

The Norton girls will begin Class 3A Sub-State Tournament action on Tuesday when the No.6



The Lady Jays' junior point Tawni Griffey was closely guarded by a Colby defender as she brought the ball into Norton territory during their contest on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym. Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 8 points, grabbed 2 rebounds, had 2 steals and 2 assists.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

seeded Lady Jays travel to No.3 seeded Phillipsburg to play a 7 p.m. contest.

Norton's record is 9-11 and Phillipsburg has a 14-5 mark.

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 2 1 1-2 8; Katelyn Engelbert 3 0 0-0 6; Teslee Nickell 1 0 0-1 2; Erin Terrell 2 0 0-0 4; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Caren Thomson 1

0 2-2 4; Game Totals 10 1 3-5 26.

Colby Girls

Haileigh Shull 4 0 4-4 12; McKenna Ortner 3 0 2-2 8; Brenna McKee 0 0 0-2 0; Kenzie Curry 2 3 0-0 13; Morgan Bell; 3 1 2-2 11; Lauren Bell 2 2 0-2 10; Karly Kriss 1 0 2-2 4; Game Totals 15 6 10-14 58.

Basketball teams headed for sub-state tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams will enter the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament next week.

The host team is Scott City but first round games will be played

at the higher seeded school.

Teams in the tournament, in addition to Norton and Scott City are: Goodland, Lakin, Cimarron, Holcomb, Phillipsburg and Southwestern Heights.

BOYS

First round boys games will be on Monday.

Norton (11-9) is seeded No.3 and will host No.6 seed Southwestern Heights (9-10) in a 6 p.m. game in the NCHS Stull Gym.

In other first round games on Monday, No.1 seeded Scott City (19-1) will host No. 8 seeded Goodland (6-13) at 7 p.m.; No.4

seeded Lakin (10-10) will host No.5 seeded Cimarron (10-10) at 7 p.m.; No.2 seeded Holcomb (13-7) will host No.7 seeded Phillipsburg (8-11) at 6 p.m.

It will be a single elimination tournament.

Winners of Monday games will play in Thursday's semifinals in Scott City.

The Scott City/Goodland and Lakin/Cimarron winners will play and the Holcomb/Phillipsburg and Norton/Southwestern Heights winners will play.

The championship game will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Scott City with the winner ad-

vancing to the Class 3A State Championship Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.

GIRLS

First round girls games will be on Tuesday.

The Norton girls (9-11) are seeded No.6 and will travel to No.3 seeded Phillipsburg (14-5) for a 7 p.m. game.

In other first round games on Tuesday, No.1 seeded Southwestern Heights (17-2) will host No.8 seeded Goodland (0-19) at 6 p.m.; No.4 seeded Holcomb (14-6) will host No.5 seeded Lakin (9-11) at 7 p.m.; No.2 seeded Cimarron (17-2)

will host No.7 seeded Scott City (6-14) at 7 p.m.

It will be a single elimination tournament.

Winners of Tuesday's games will play in Friday's semi-finals in Scott City. The Southwestern Heights/Goodland and Holcomb/Lakin winners will play and the Cimarron/Scott City and Norton/Phillipsburg winners will play.

The championship game will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Scott City with the winner advancing to the Class 3A State Championship Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.

Lady Jay commits to volleyball with Cloud County College team

By Dick Boyd

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Erin Terrell, a 5'10" senior multi-sport star for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play volleyball next season for Cloud County Community College in Concordia.

Erin has been an All-Mid-Continent League volleyball player for the Lady Jays but is also an outstanding basketball and track athlete.

"Erin will be a great asset to the Cloud County volleyball program," said Norton head girls volleyball coach Kevin Jilka. "She has outstanding skills and loves the game of volleyball."

"This being my first year as head coach of the Norton volleyball team, Erin provided great leadership and we knew we could count on her both off and on the court."

"Even though teams knew we were setting her most of the time for kills, she would come through with points."

"We wish her well at Cloud County. They are getting a great player and a great person."

Marquis Clark will begin his third year as head volleyball coach at Cloud County when games begin this fall. Needless to say, he is happy to have recruited Erin for his team.

"We have kept our eye on Erin since her junior year in high school," said coach Clark. "We love her size and talent. She is very competitive and has a strong arm. She has everything that you

look for in a player.

"She should play right off on the outside for us. As an outside hitter, she'll be able to attack the ball."

"We expect big things from Erin."

Coach Clark said he will have some good returnees for his team this fall and he hopes to have a solid recruiting class to go with them.

Playing in one of the toughest volleyball leagues in the state, Erin was named second team All-Mid-Continent League this season, just missing the first team by two points!

She was also honorable men-

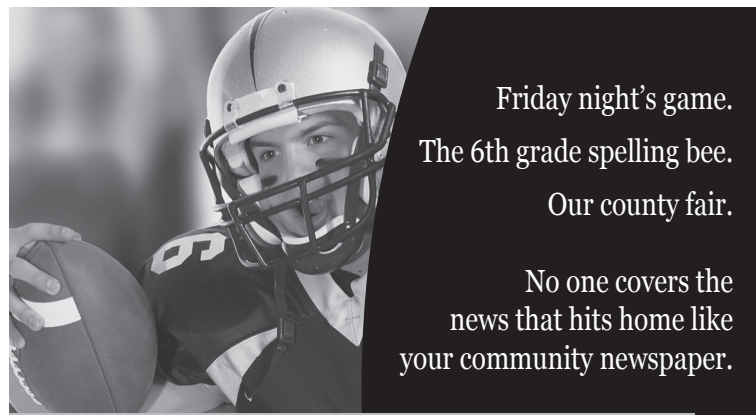
tion all-league her sophomore and junior seasons.

Erin was chosen to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star Volleyball Classic in Colby at the end of the season.

Erin is also a basketball and track letter winner. She was a second team All-Mid-Continent League basketball player following her junior season.

In her senior season for the Lady Jays, Erin led the volleyball team with 440 kills, 155 digs and served 92 percent with 25 aces.

She is the daughter of Mike Terrell and Jennifer Boller. Her step-father is Toby Boller.



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Erin Terrell signs with Cloud County Community College



Norton Community High School senior volleyball player Erin Terrell has signed a letter of intent to play volleyball this fall for Cloud County Community College in Concordia. She is pictured here with her father, Mike Terrell, at left and her mother Jennifer Boller and step-father Toby Boller. Standing is NCHS head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations from the . . .

Norton Blue Jay Booster Club