

Norton boys basketball season opens with a win

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team opened their 2012-13 season with an impressive 48-35 win over Goodland on Friday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym.

Defense was the name of the game for the Blue Jays as they limited the visiting Cowboys to 8 or less points in three quarters. Goodland's best scoring quarter was the third when they hit just four field goals but all four were three-pointers.

Goodland actually led 8-5 after a first quarter which saw them hit two shots from beyond the arc in addition to a two-point basket. Norton's only first quarter points came on a three-pointer by senior forward Andrew Ellis and a two-point basket by senior guard Jacob Brooks.

The Norton defense held Goodland to just 8 more points in the second quarter while the Blue Jays put together their best quarter of the game by scoring 17 points to take a 22-16 lead at intermission. Senior forward Dalton Miller scored his first points of the season by swishing four baskets while Brooks hit a two and a three-pointer and Ellis and senior forward Lane Bigge each hit two-point shots.

Goodland came out in the third period and played Norton on even terms, outscoring the Blue Jays 13-11 to cut Norton's lead to 33-29 with one period left. Ellis hit another three and a two point shot, Bigge swished two more baskets and junior forward Tanner Furbush hit a two-pointer.

The Cowboys concentrated on fouling in the fourth quarter in an attempt to get the ball but the strategy did not work. The Blue Jays hit 11 free throws as they outscored the visitors 15-6 to win going away.

Brooks went to the charity stripe the most for Norton in the final period, swishing 6 of 8 free throws in addition to hitting one basket. Miller hit another basket and two charities. Ellis, Bigge and sophomore center Conor Cox each hit a free throw.

"We played great defensively and did a great job on the boards," said coach Reusink. "We also had a real team effort offensively. Jacob was not shooting the ball very well but the rest of the players stepped up and helped the cause."

Brooks led Norton in scoring with 15 points. He hit 1 of 9 three point shots for 11 percent, 3 of 10 two-point tries for 30 percent and 4 of 19 overall for 21 percent. He swished 6 of 8 free throws, however, for 75 percent.

Two other Norton players scored in double figures. Miller tallied 12 points on 5 of 8 from the field for 63 percent and 2 of 2 from the charity stripe.

Ellis finished with 11 points on 2 of 5 from beyond the arc for 40 percent, 2 of 3 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent. He was 1 of 2 from the line.



Norton senior guard Jacob Brooks drives past Goodland defenders to score during the Blue Jays' 48-35 season opening win on Friday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym. Brooks led Norton in scoring with 15 points.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Leading scorer for Goodland was Gage Ihrig with 13 points, 9 of them coming on three-point baskets. Gannon Ihrig added 10 points for the Cowboys.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 17 from beyond the

arc for 18 percent, 14 of 37 two-point tries for 38 percent and 17 of 54 overall for 32 percent.

Goodland found the range on 6 of 20 three-point tries for 30 percent, 6 of 30 two-point attempts for 20 percent and 12 of 50 overall for 24 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 11 of 20 for 55 percent and the Cowboys swished 5 of 8 for 63 percent.

Norton owned the boards, outrebounding Goodland 43-22. The Blue Jays had 13 offensive and 30 defensive rebounds compared to 5 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for the visitors.

Ellis and Miller each had 9 rebounds and Brooks had 8. They were followed by Carson McKenna, 7; Bigge, 7; Furbush, 2; Cox, 1.

The Blue Jays had 12 steals while the Cowboys had just 5. McKenna led in steals with 4, followed by Brooks, 3; Miller, 2; Drew Schrum, Ellis, Bigge, 1 each.

Norton had 5 assists and Goodland had 8. Brooks led with 3 assists, followed by Schrum and McKenna, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 16 turnovers and the Cowboys lost the ball 13 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity also defeated Goodland but by only a 38-36 score.

The young Blue Jays led by quarters 12-2, 21-19 and 32-25.

Leading scorers for Norton were Marc Miller and Jordan Karnopp with 8 points each, followed by Drew Schrum, 7; Tanner Furbush, 5; Trever Lewis, 3; Breven Sondergaard, 2; Conor Cox, 2; Quinton Porter, 2; Derick Campbell, 1.

Adam Simmerman led Goodland with 17 points.

C-team

Goodland won the C-team game 31-16. They held quarter leads of 10-2, 21-2 and 26-8. Norton outscored the visitors 14-10 in the second half but couldn't make up the first half deficit.

Leading scorers for Norton were Quinton Porter and Noah Johnson, each with 4 points, followed by Connor Griffey, 3; Derick Campbell, 2; Kobie Unterseher, 2; Jeremy Ulmer, 2.

Luke Avila led Goodland with 12 points.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 3 1 6-8 15; Conor Cox 0 0 1-4 1; Andrew Ellis 2 2 1-2 11; Dalton Miller 5 0 2-2 12; Tanner Furbush 1 0 0-0 2; Lane Bigge 3 0 1-2 7; Totals 14 3 20 11 48.

Goodland boys

Ruben Lazaro 2 0 1-2 5; Gage Ihrig 2 3 0-0 13; Gannon Ihrig 1 2 2-4 10; Adam Simmerman 0 1 2-2 5; Jaron Lake 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 6 6 5-8 35.

Next action

Norton opened play in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament on Thursday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland when they played Oakley. Results were not available at the Norton Telegram press time.

The Blue Jays will also play at 5 p.m. on Friday and again on Saturday with time depending on Friday's results.

Lady Jays first game ends in loss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team opened their 2012-13 season with a 49-27 loss to Goodland in the NCHS Stull Gym on Friday evening.

New head coach George Rossi is glad to get the opener in the books since he knows more about his team's strengths as well as weaknesses.

Despite trailing 16-7 after one quarter, 24-9 at halftime and 37-16 after three periods, coach Rossi's Lady Jays played even with the visitors in the fourth quarter where they were outscored 12-11.

"Both the girls and I were nervous before the game," said coach Rossi. "Once play started, we weren't as aggressive as I would like to see. We knew we had a shooting problem but we didn't look to score, passing up some open shots. We didn't shoot with purpose. We need to be working on that."

"We mishandled a lot of lose balls; they weren't steals."

"To our girls credit, we made a run in the fourth quarter and tried to get back in it. We saw some good things and we will be working on them."

"This was a good game for both the players and coaches. Both have a lot to learn."

Junior Bailey Ambrosier hit two baskets and junior Johnnye Ruder hit one basket for Norton in the first quarter. The Lady

Jays' only points in the second period came on two free throws by sophomore Katie Bohl.

Norton scored seven points in the third quarter when junior Katelyn Engelbert, senior Kamilla Jones and Ambrosier each hit a basket and senior Alec Melvin swished a free throw.

The Lady Jays' 11 points in the final period came on two more baskets and a free throw by Engelbert, a three-point basket by Ruder and a shot from beyond the arc by junior Darcy Bainter.

Engelbert was leading scorer for Norton with 7 points on 3 of 12 attempts for 25 percent and 1 of 3 free throws for 33 percent. Ambrosier and Ruder each scored 6 points. Ambrosier hit 3 of 5 two-point baskets for 60 percent and Ruder swished 2 of 5 three-point tries.

Leading scorer for the Lady Cowgirls was Kate-Lynn King with 18 points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 7 three-point shots for 43 percent, 7 of 35 two-point attempts for 20 percent and 10 of 42 overall for 24 percent.

Goodland hit 1 of 8 from long range for 13 percent, 18 of 43 two-point tries for 42 percent and 19 of 51 overall for 37 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays scored on 4 of 14 for 29 percent. Goodland was 10 of 17 from the charity stripe for 59 percent.

Norton grabbed 10 offensive

and 22 defensive rebounds for 32 total compared to 11 offensive boards and 24 defensive for 35 for Goodland.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Engelbert with 12, followed by Ambrosier, 6; Bainter, 5; Kamilla Jones, 5; Alec Melvin, 3; Katie Bohl, 1.

Norton had 5 assists. Ruder led with 2, followed by Engelbert, Hanna Brooks and Jones, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 8 steals. Engelbert led with 3, followed by Ambrosier, 2; Jones, 2; Bainter, 1.

Norton had 27 turnovers compared to 19 for the visitors.

Junior varsity

Goodland won the junior varsity game by a score of 30-23.

Norton led 13-5 after the first quarter and the score was tied 13-all at intermission. Both teams scored 4 points in the third quarter to leave the score tied at 17-all. Norton was outscored 13-6 in the fourth quarter.

Leading scorers for Norton were Hanna Brooks and Sierra Griffith, each with 9 points, followed by Peyton Renner, Casey Ambrosier, 2 each; Molly Maddy, 1.

Ellie House and Nicole Sederstrom each scored 6 points to lead the Lady Cowgirls.

C-team

Only two quarters were played in the C-team game, which was won by Goodland by a score of 16-11.

Leading scorer for Norton

was Lexi Voss with 5 points, followed by Molly Maddy, Alexus Hartwell, Lauren Mordecai, 2 each.

Grace Cole led Goodland with 11 points.

Norton Girls

Katelyn Engelbert 3 0 1-3 7; Darcy Bainter 0 1 0-0 3; Katie Bohl 0 0 2-2 2; Bailey Ambrosier 3 0 0-5 6; Johnnye Ruder 0 2 0-1 6; Alec Melvin 0 0 1-3 1; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 7 3 4-14 27.

Goodland Girls

Hope Cochran 1 1 1-2 6; Brianna White 3 0 2-4 8; Maddie Mayer 1 0 0-0 2; Faith Biermann 1 0 0-0 2; Ellie House 0 0 1-2 1; Paige Phillips 3 0 1-1 7; Megan Siruta 2 0 1-2 5; Kate-Lynn King 7 0 4-6 18; Totals 18 1 10-17 49.

Next action

The Lady Jays began competition in the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament on Thursday in the Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland when they played Wray, Colo. Results were not available at the Norton Telegram press time.

The Norton girls will also play at 3 p.m. on Friday and again on Saturday with time depending on Friday's results.



Norton junior Katelyn Engelbert goes between two Goodland players to pull down one of her game-high 12 rebounds during the Lady Jays' loss to the Lady Cowgirls on Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gym. She was also leading scorer for Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

BASKETBALL:

Norton Girls, Boys in Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Norton Girls, Boys vs. Stockton in Stockton 4:45 p.m. Tuesday
Northern Valley Boys in Purple and Gold Tourney in WaKeeney TBA Monday through Saturday
Logan Girls, Boys in Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster TBA Today, Friday and Saturday

WRESTLING:

Norton Junior Varsity Wrestlers in Southern Valley Invitational in Oxford 3:30 p.m. Friday
Norton Varsity Wrestlers in Clay Center Invitational in Clay Center 9 a.m. Saturday



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