

Wrestlers earn victory over Phillipsburg

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers traveled to Phillipsburg on Tuesday, Dec. 18 and returned with a 37-30 victory over the Panthers.

The team winner depended on the outcome of the 285 pound match where Norton's junior exchange student Andre Valencia wrestled Connor Boxler. Norton was leading 31-30 when the heavyweight match began.

"All the pressure was on our foreign exchange student An-

dre," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson. "Andre scored the first takedown and looked to be able to manhandle the younger looking Phillipsburg wrestler. But, Andre could not finish him off in the first period. With one minute gone in the second period, Andre finally found a half nelson and turned him to his back to record the dual winning fall."

Winning gold medals for Norton, in addition to Valencia, were: sophomore Caysen Campbell, 106; junior

Ethan Ross, 113; senior John Risewick, 132; sophomore Jared Tallent, 138; senior Cody Ellis, 152; senior Jared Bohl, 160 and senior Lucas Engel, 220.

"The dual started and ended well for us but many of the matches in between were not good," said coach Johnson. "The start of the dual saw a rematch at 106 from the previous Friday's league tournament. Caysen Campbell scored five points in the first period on No.2 state ranked Kyle Witmer, a senior. He then wrestled very

smart to pull off a huge 6-5 win, giving us a 3-0 lead to start the dual.

"We then built a 28-12 lead through the 160 pound match before the wheels fell off the bus. It all came down to the final match and Andre came through for the Blue Jays."

Individual matches

106 - Caysen Campbell won a 6-5 decision over Kyle Witmer.

113 - Ethan Ross won a forfeit over George Klink.

120 - Branson Addington lost

a 1-0 decision to Riley Juenemann.

126 - Weston Erbert was pinned in 4:47 by Mason Banister.

132 - John Risewick won a 10-2 major decision over Caleb Studley.

138 - Jared Tallent won a 17-2 technical fall over Derick Coomes.

145 - Gavin Lively lost a 2-1 decision to Isaac Coomes.

152 - Cody Ellis pinned Austin Chavez in 2:00.

160 - Jared Bohl won an 11-0

major decision over Hunter Kohler.

170 - Cole Renner was pinned in 2:40 by Dylan Kitner.

182 - Kolton Harting was pinned in 2:51 by Jacey Minkler.

195 - Chandler Sumner forfeited to Luke Jacobs.

220 - Lucas Engel won a 6-4 decision over Seth Boswell.

285 - Andre Valencia pinned Connor Boxler in 3:02.

Lady Jays boost their win record against Cambridge

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team extended their early season record to 5-2 with a 59-26 win over Cambridge on Tuesday evening, Dec. 18 in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

The score was tied at 7-all with 3:00 left in the first quarter but the Lady Jays outscored the Lady Trojans the rest of the way. Norton held quarter leads of 13-8, 24-13 and 42-17.

Norton led Cambridge in every category, except free throws, which was a non-factor in the outcome. Field goal shooting was exceptional as the Lady Jays hit 25 of 54 shots for 46 percent compared to 11 of 37 for 30 percent for Cambridge.

Norton's shooting percentage was helped tremendously by junior Bailey Ambrosier's perfect shooting night from the floor. Ambrosier's only points in the

first half were two free throws but she hit 7 of 7 field goals after intermission to end the game with 16 points.

Senior point guard Tawni Griffey, who normally leads the Lady Jays in points, was second high with 12 points, which included two baskets from beyond the arc.

"We started slow but it was a good win going into the holiday break," said head coach George Rossi. "Our girls have gotten some confidence they didn't have at the start of the season."

"We're doing things now in games that we talk about in practice."

"We played quite a few girls and had no letdowns. Everybody stepped up. When other girls came in, we just kept clicking."

"We're going in the right direction right now."

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 15 trey tries for 27 percent, 21 of

39 two-point attempts for 54 percent and 25 of 54 overall for 46 percent. Cambridge missed three shots from beyond the arc, swished 11 of 34 two-point tries for 32 percent and was 11 of 37 overall for 30 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 5 of 11 for 45 percent and Cambridge hit 4 of 6 for 67 percent.

Norton pulled down 13 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 28 total. Cambridge grabbed 9 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 23 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Katelyn Engelbert with 10, followed by Griffey, 5; Ambrosier, 5; Alec Melvin, 3; Darcy Bainter, 2; Katie Bohl, 2; Johnnye Ruder, 1.

Norton's aggressive defense stole the ball 15 times compared to 8 thefts by the Lady Trojans.

The opportunistic Norton defense also caused 32 turnovers

while the Lady Jays gave up the ball themselves just 18 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls defeated Cambridge by a score of 38-20.

Norton held quarter leads of 6-4, 21-4 and 34-10.

Leading scorers for the Lady Jays were Peyton Renner and Sierra Griffith, each with 8 points. They were followed by Katie Bohl, 6; Hannah Brooks, Casey Ambrosier, Lexi Voss, 4 each; Marisa Maddy, 2; Molly Maddy, 2.

Mallory Patterson led Cambridge with 6 while Jade Krutsinger tallied 4.

"Our girls showed improvement while running the offense tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "Our patience paid off."

"We are also looking better on defense."

"We were winded a few times so conditioning will be a big

part of practices over the holiday break.

"We will have to be ready to play when we return. We'll play at Osborne on Friday, Jan. 4."

C-team

The C-teams played just two quarters and Norton won 13-9.

The Lady Jays scored 8 points in the first quarter and 5 in the second period.

Cambridge scored 1 in the first quarter and 8 in the final period.

Lauren Mordecai led Norton in scoring with 6 points, followed by Lexi Voss, 3; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Molly Maddy, 2.

Taryn Huxoll and Michaela Holdcroft each tallied 4 for Cambridge.

"This particular group showed improvement since our last C-team game against Goodland," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Books.

"We executed better on offense and created numerous

turnovers on defense.

"We still need to work on perfecting our basic fundamentals, such as lay-ups and eliminating turnovers."

"The C-team games are great opportunities for these girls to get a chance to gain more confidence."

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 3 2 0-0 12; Katelyn Engelbert 3 0 1-2 7; Darcy Bainter 1 0 0-0 2; Katie Bohl 1 0 1-4 3; Bailey Ambrosier 7 0 2-5 16; Johnnye Ruder 3 0 0-0 6; Alec Melvin 2 0 1-2 5; Kamilla Jones 1 2 0-0 8; Totals 21 4 5-13 59.

Cambridge girls

Kadee Long 3 0 3-4 9; Mikayla Kent 1 0 0-0 2; Sloan Johnson 2 0 1-2 5; Taylor Cross 2 0 0-0 4; Sheldon Cross 1 0 0-0 2; Emily Whipple 2 0 0-0 4; Totals 11 0 4-6 26.

Blue Jay boys suffer loss to Cambridge five

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team just didn't put up enough shots in a pre-holiday season game with a visiting Cambridge five on Tuesday, Dec. 18 in the NCHS Stull Gym and suffered a 47-36 loss.

The Blue Jays shot a reasonable 36 percent from the floor but took 13 less shots than the Trojans, who hit 40 percent.

Holding down scoring by Cambridge senior Zane Peterson would have helped. Peterson did not score in the first quarter and had just 5 points at halftime but hit four baskets in the third quarter and three in the final period to end with 19.

Norton led 9-4 after a slow first quarter for both squads and 20-19 at intermission but there seemed to be no stopping Peterson in the second half. With Peterson leading the way, Norton was outscored 14-8 in the third quarter and trailed 33-28 with one period remaining. It was identical to the third period, with the Blue Jays being outscored by the same 14-8 score.

Norton senior Jacob Brooks kept the Blue Jays in the game by hitting 2 of 6 from long range for 33 percent, 4 of 11 two-point tries for 36 percent and 6 of 17

overall for 35 percent. He was 1 of 3 from the charity stripe and ended with 15 points.

Senior Andrew Ellis was Norton's only other double figure scorer. He hit 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 2 of 2 from two-point land for 100 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent. He was 1 of 2 from the free throw line and scored 11 points.

"I was very disappointed in how we played tonight," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We did a terrible job of passing the ball against their zone defense and that created too many turnovers."

"We also panic when we get behind. We lack discipline when things get tough. We need to learn to stay the course."

As a team, Norton hit 4 of 16 trey tries for 25 percent, 10 of 23 two-point tries for 44 percent and 14 of 39 overall for 36 percent. Cambridge swished just 2 of 15 from long range for 13 percent but hit 19 of 37 from two-point land for 51 percent and ended 21 of 52 overall for 40 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 4 of 9 for 44 percent and Cambridge was 3 of 5 for 60 percent.

Norton was outrebounded 29-20. The Blue Jays pulled down

3 offensive and 17 defensive boards compared to 8 offensive and 21 defensive caroms by the visitors.

Brooks was leading rebounder with 8, followed by Ellis, 3; Carson McKenna, 3; Conor Cox, 2; Tanner Furbush, 2; Lane Bigge, 2.

The Blue Jays suffered 17 turnovers while the Trojans lost the ball just 12 times.

Both teams had 9 steals. Brooks led Norton with 3, followed by Dalton Miller, 2 and Cox, Ellis, McKenna, Bigge, 1 each.

Norton had 8 assists and Cambridge recorded 7. Brooks was assists leader with 5, followed by Drew Schrum, 2 and Miller, 1.

Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity contest by a 50-28 score.

The young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 15-8, 28-16 and 40-24.

Leading scorer for Norton was Tanner Furbush with 15 points, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 9; Drew Schrum 7; Trevor Lewis, 7; Marc Miller, 4; Connor Griffey, 3; Derick Campbell, 2; Jordan Karnopp, 2; Conor Cox, 1.

Taylor Kubik led Cambridge with 9 points and Evan Jones scored 8.

Joe Green Tournament at Hill City

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School C-team boys basketball team will compete on Friday, Saturday and Monday, Dec. 28-29-31 in the annual Joe Green Invitational Tournament at the High School in Hill City.

Competing in addition to Norton and Hill City will be teams from Northern Valley, Lakeside, Ness City, Phillipsburg, Oakley and Stockton.

Play will begin today with the Hill City vs. Stockton game at 1 p.m., followed by Northern Valley vs. Ness City, 2:30 p.m.; Phillipsburg vs. Oakley, 4 p.m. and Norton vs. Lakeside, 5:30 p.m.

The winners of the Hill City-

Stockton and Northern Valley-Ness City games will play in the semi-finals at 4 p.m. on Saturday and the winners of the Phillipsburg-Oakley and Norton-Lakeside games will play at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Losers of the Hill City-Stockton and Northern Valley-Ness City games will play at 1 p.m. on Saturday in the consolation bracket and losers of the Phillipsburg-Oakley and Norton-Lakeside games will play at 2:30 p.m. in the consolation bracket on Saturday.

Winners of the championship semi-finals games will play for the championship at 2:30 p.m. on Monday and losers of the championship semi-finals will play at 1 p.m. on Monday for

third place.

Winners of games in the consolation bracket will play for fifth place at 11:30 a.m. on Monday and losers of those contests will play at 10 a.m. on Monday for seventh.

Medals will be presented to members of the top three teams. A 10-member All-Tournament Team will be chosen by the Hill City Booster Club and each player honored will receive a medal.

This holiday basketball tournament has evolved from its original concept as a freshman boys tournament and is now played each year in honor of longtime Hill City High School Coach and Athletic Director Joe Green.

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