

# Junior Huskies take it all

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team finished the season in grand style by winning the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament played February 7 and 9, in Brewster.

"The boys played their best basketball of the season winning first place," said head coach Jim Cole.

In the first round, Northern Valley played against a very tough Damar squad and came away with a 12 point victory, 42-30.

Huskies scoring - First Round: Carson Wallace - 12 points, Caden Kinderknecht - 8 points, Riley Sides - 8 points, Drake Shearer - 8 points, Damian Wellman - 4 points, Briely Yocum - 2 points.

In the semi-finals, the Huskies played great defense against the Logan Trojans, winning by 10 points, 32-22.

Huskies scoring - Semi-finals: Carson Wallace - 13 points, Briely Yocum - 8 points, Caden Kinderknecht - 6 points, Riley Sides - 3 points, Damian Well-

man - 2 points.

In the Championship game, the Huskies shot the ball very well, according to coach Cole, beating Grinnell/Wheatland by eight points, 42-34.

Huskies scoring - Championship: Riley Sides - 16 points, Carson Wallace - 8 points, Caden Kinderknecht - 7 points, Drake Shearer - 5 points, Briely Yocum - 4 points, Damian Wellman - 2 points.

"The six boys on the A-team played great defense in the tournament and each contributed on offense in the three games. Our team play was excellent," said coach Cole. "We did a good job of passing the ball to the open man and then hitting our shots. The A-boys had a fantastic season finishing with a record of 14-1."

Carson Wallace led the Huskies in scoring in the tournament with 33 points, followed by Riley Sides with 27 points and Caden Kinderknecht had 21 points.

### B-team Boys (13-1)

The B-team's season of perfection came to an end in the championship game, but the

Huskies had a great season and finished with a 13-1 record.

In the first round, the Huskies had a bye and in the semi-final game they made easy work of Triplains/Brewster, cruising to a 20 point win, 33-13.

Huskies scoring - Semi-Finals: Ross Cole - 14 points, Caden Bach - 7 points, Kale Cox - 4 points, Nick Stutsman - 4 points, Brady Rogers - 2 points, Aidan Baird - 2 points.

In the championship game, the Huskies went up against a tall and talented Golden Plains squad. The smaller Huskies fell behind 17-2 early in the second quarter before mounting a furious comeback, but came up just short losing 36-30.

"The boys never gave up, playing harder when they got behind," said coach Cole.

Ross Cole and Caden Bach led the Huskies in scoring in the two games with 27 and 21 points, respectively.

Huskies scoring - Championship: Caden Bach - 14 points, Ross Cole - 13 points, Nick Stutsman - 3 points.



The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team closed out a fantastic 14-1 season by winning the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster last week. (Front row left to right) Caden Kinderknecht, Drake Shearer and Riley Sides. (Back row left to right) Coach Brad Cox, Carson Wallace, Damian Wellman, Briely Yocum and Head Coach Jim Cole.

-Photo courtesy of Sommer Yocum

# Hoxie Indians edge out Norton Blue Jays for the win

By Dick Boyd

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Two evenly matched boys basketball teams, Norton and Hoxie, met on Tuesday evening in Hoxie and the Indians edged out a 60-57 hard-fought overtime victory over the visiting Blue Jays, who led by several points for most of the game.

Norton led the No.9 state ranked Indians 16-15, 25-21 and 38-35 by quarters but Hoxie outscored Norton 19-16 in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 54-44 and send the game into overtime.

The fourth period was nip and tuck with each team enjoying a lead of a few points. Norton was on top 52-50 after Jacob Brooks hit a free throw but a Hoxie free toss with 59 seconds left cut the Norton lead to 52-51.

The Blue Jays' Dalton Miller hit two charities with ice water in his veins at the 48 second mark to put Norton ahead 54-51. It looked as if the Norton lead would hold for the Blue Jay victory until the Indians' Ken-

neddy put up a desperation three-point shot with four seconds left in regulation and the ball went through the hoop as the Hoxie fans went wild!

The 54-all score created a four-minute overtime. Spresser scored for Hoxie to start the overtime but Brooks hit a two-pointer for Norton to tie the score at 56-56. Spresser hit another two-point basket to put the Indians ahead 58-56 with 1:55 left. With less than a minute remaining in the extra period, Brooks was fouled and went to the line. He hit the first charity but missed the second to make it 58-57. With 33 seconds showing on the clock, a Hoxie free throw made the score 59-57 and another Indian charity with 14 seconds left made it 60-57.

A last-second three-point basket attempt by Norton missed the mark and Hoxie had survived and won their 12th straight game.

Andrew Ellis led the way in Norton's solid 16-point first quarter with three baskets and

a free throw. Brooks hit a basket and free throw, and Drew Schrum, Miller and Carson McKenna each hit baskets.

Norton hit only 9 points in the second quarter but good defense limited Hoxie to just 6 points. Brooks hit two baskets and a free throw. Ellis and Lane Bigge each hit one basket.

Ellis hit two more baskets, Brooks, Miller and Bigge each hit one basket and Schrum buried a three-pointer for Norton's 13 third quarter points.

Brooks led the way in the 16-point fourth quarter with two baskets and three charities. Ellis hit a shot from beyond the arc, Bigge hit another basket and Miller hit a basket and two free throws.

"We played a very good game but just could not find a way to win it," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"I was pleased with how we played on both ends of the floor.

"It was a tough loss but these guys need to keep their heads up

for the games we have remaining."

Jacob Brooks was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points. He hit 7 of 17 two-point field goal tries for 41 percent accuracy and was 6 of 10 from the free throw line for 60 percent.

Andrew Ellis was second high scorer for the Blue Jays with 16 points. He hit 1 of 4 from long range for 25 percent, 6 of 9 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 7 of 13 overall for 54 percent. He was 1 of 2 from the free throw line.

Spresser led Hoxie with 22 points. Kennedy scored 12, which included his big three-point basket at the buzzer. Katt added 11 points.

Statistics for the two teams were very similar. Norton hit 2 of 9 shots from beyond the arc for 22 percent, 21 of 46 two-point shots for 46 percent and 23 of 55 overall for 42 percent.

Hoxie hit 4 of 17 from long range for 24 percent, 19 of 41 two-point baskets for 46 percent and 23 of 58 overall for 40 per-

cent.

From the free throw line, North swished 9 of 14 for 64 percent and Hoxie tallied on 10 of 22 for 46 percent.

Norton had 33 total rebounds compared to 36 for Hoxie. The Blue Jays had 26 defensive rebounds but only 7 offensive caroms. The Indians grabbed 19 offensive rebounds and 17 defensive boards.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Brooks and Bigge with 8 each, followed by Ellis, 7; Miller, 4; Tanner Furbush, 4; Scrum, 2.

Norton had 4 steals and Hoxie had 3. Brooks had 3 thefts and Miller had 1.

The Blue Jays had 11 offensive assists compared to 13 for Hoxie. Miller was assists leader with 5, followed by Brooks, 4; Ellis, 1; McKenna, 1.

Brooks blocked 2 shots. Norton had 15 turnovers and Hoxie lost the ball 9 times.

### Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a score of 47-41 in

overtime.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-11, 20-17 and 29-28. Hoxie outscored Norton 12-11 to tie the score at 40-all at the end of regulation.

The young Blue Jays outscored the young Indians 7-1 in the extra period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Conor Cox with 13 points, followed by Trever Lewis, 12; Marc Miller, 8; Breven Sondergaard, 5; Jordan Karnopp, 5; Kobie Unterseher, 2; Tanner Furbush, 2.

J. Heim led Hoxie with 13 points.

### Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 7 0 6-10 20; Drew Schrum 1 1 0-0 5; Andrew Ellis 6 1 1-2 16; Dalton Miller 3 0 2-2 8; Carson McKenna 1 0 0-0 2; Lane Bigge 3 0 0-0 6; Totals 21 2 9-14 57.

### Hoxie boys

Katt 1 2 3-4 11; Ewers 3 0 0-0 6; Jo. Heim 0 1 1-2 4; Spresser 10 0 2-5 22; Kennedy 3 1 3-9 12; Kaus 1 0 0-0 2; Smith 1 0 1-2 3; Totals 19 4 10-22 60.

# Norton Lady Jays lose to the Hoxie Indians

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team gave it their all in a contest with No.2 state ranked and unbeaten Hoxie before losing 73-49 on Tuesday in Hoxie.

It was Hoxie's smallest victory margin of the season.

Hoxie did not overwhelm Norton but just had a few extra points in each period.

The Lady Jays were outscored 20-14 in the first quarter and 15-11 in the second period for a 35-25 halftime deficit. Hoxie scored 19 points in the third period compared to 11 for Norton to lead 54-36. The Lady Indians also tallied 19 in the fourth period while Norton hit 13.

Norton's first quarter points came on a trey and two-point basket by Tawni Griffey, a shot from beyond the arc by Johnnye Rudder and two-point baskets by Katelyn Engelbert, Katie Bohl and Kamilla Jones.

Griffey's best quarter was the second when she hit a shot from long range and two two-point baskets. Engelbert and Bailey Ambrosier each hit a basket as well.

Griffey hit a two-point basket and three of three from the charity stripe in the third period. Alec Melvin swished two shots and Engelbert hit another.

Griffey hit her third trey in the final stanza. Ambrosier hit a basket and two charities and Engelbert, Bohl and Melvin each hit a basket.

"This was an extremely hard fought game," said coach Rossi.

"Without question, Hoxie has

one of the best teams in the state and we gave it our all the entire game.

"Our girls did an outstanding job of attacking their press but did not do a good job of finishing.

"Our hustle in the first half was the best we have had all season. Hoxie just had too much for us in the second half.

"This group of girls plays with such heart. This game will help us the rest of the season. We need to fix what we did wrong and our girls know exactly what that is."

Tawni Griffey was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points. She hit 3 of 6 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 4 of 6 two-point tries for 60 percent and 7 of 12 overall for an outstanding 58 percent accuracy.

Spresser led Hoxie with 20 points; Schamberger added 14.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 4 of 9 long range shots for 44 percent, 16 of 41 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 20 of 50 overall for 40 percent.

The Lady Indians swished 8 of 19 from beyond the arc for 42 percent, 20 of 39 two-point tries for 51 percent and 28 of 58 overall for 48 percent.

From the free throw line, the Lady Jays converted 5 of 9 for 56 percent and the Lady Indians hit 9 of 19 for 47 percent.

Norton had 25 rebounds and Hoxie grabbed 35. The Lady Jays pulled down 6 offensive and 19 defensive caroms while the Lady Indians had 13 offensive and 22 defensive boards.

Katelyn Engelbert was leading rebounder with 12, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 6; Katie Bohl, 2; Alec Melvin, 2; Tawni Griffey, Johnnye Ruder, Kamil-

la Jones, 1 each.

Norton had 6 steals and Hoxie had 13 thefts. Griffey had 3 steals, Melvin had 2 and Engelbert had 1.

The Lady Jays had 11 offensive assists. Griffey led with 6, followed by Jones, 2; Darcy Bainter, Ambrosier, Ruder, 1 each.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Hoxie had 13.

### Junior varsity

Norton was outscored 48-26 in the junior varsity game.

The Lady Jays trailed by quarters 18-6, 28-17 and 41-23. Leading scorer for Norton was Katie Bohl with 6 points, followed by Casey Ambrosier, 5; Sierra Griffith, 5; Lexi Voss, 3; Marisa Maddy, 2; Hanna Brooks, 2; Lauren Mordecai, 2; Peyton Renner, 1.

Hoyt led Hoxie with 13 points.

"The score did not do our game justice," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We did an outstanding job statistically and shot well. I was so pleased with our effort.

"We broke their press all night but again could not finish our easy baskets. Our girls played with a lot of hustle.

"When our girls get their shooting down, they will be a very strong team that will be fun to watch."

### Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 4 3 3-3 20; Katelyn Engelbert 4 0 0-0 8; Katie Bohl 2 0 0-2 4; Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 2-2 6; Johnnye Ruder 0 1 0-0 3; Alec Melvin 3 0 0-1 6; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 16 4 5-8 49.

### Hoxie girls

Spresser 2 5 1-2 20; Hoyt 2 0 0-0 6; Stithem 2 1 2-4 9; S. Far-

ber 1 0 2-2 4; McKenna 1 0 0-0 2; C. Heim 4 0 1-2 9; K. Farber 4 0 1-5 9; Schamberger 6 0 2-3 14; Totals 20 8 9-18 73.

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