

Norton Blue Jays boys basketball wrap up

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team played very hard and was very competitive in their recently completed 2012-13 season, which included a number of very close losses to outstanding teams.

The Blue Jay boys opened the season on a winning note on Friday, Nov. 30 when they hosted the Goodland Cowboys and put together an impressive 48-35 win. Defense was the name of the game for Norton, who limited Goodland to 8 or less points in three quarters.

Norton had four returning lettermen: Jacob Brooks, 6'2" senior guard; Dalton Miller, 6'2" senior guard; Andrew Ellis, 6'2" senior forward and Carson McKenna, 5'10" senior guard.

Brooks was the only returning starter. He was a second team All-Mid-Continent League selection as a junior.

Other senior members of the team were John Renner, 6' guard/forward; Ryan Bainter, 6' guard and Lane Bigge, 6' center.

Assistant coaches were David Stover and Chris Henson.

Student managers were Jesika Smith and Sheridan Dillehay.

Brooks, Miller and Ellis led the way in scoring in their big win over Goodland as they tallied 15, 12 and 11 points, respectively.

"We played great defensively and did a great job on the boards," said coach Reusink of the season opening win.

Norton traveled to Goodland the next weekend for the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament. On Thursday, Dec. 6, Norton outscored Oakley from the field but lost a 61-49 contest from the free throw line. Brooks scored 20 points.

On Friday, Norton had a very close game with Wray, Colo. before losing 42-38. "We are capable but don't have the confidence right now to get the job done on the offensive end," said coach Reusink. Brooks scored 27 points to lead the Blue Jays.

On Saturday, Norton earned their second win of the season by outscoring Burlington, Colo., 54-38 to place seventh in the tournament. Norton jumped out to an impressive 31-15 halftime lead and maintained it in the second half. Brooks scored 25 points. "We played much better," said coach Reusink. "We started with a lot more intensity than the night before."

Things got even better for Norton on Tuesday, Dec. 11 when the Blue Jays traveled to Stockton to play the unbeaten

and No.6 state ranked Tigers. In a hard-fought game that went down to the wire, Norton won 60-57 on two baskets by Brooks in the closing seconds! Brooks ended the game with 26 points.

"This was a great win on the road over a team that we weren't supposed to beat," said coach Reusink.

On Friday, Dec. 14, Norton hosted an excellent Phillipsburg five in the NCHS Stull Gym. The Blue Jays stayed with the Panthers in the first half but let it get away in the second half in a 56-43 loss. Brooks scored 12 points and Miller added 11.

Norton also hosted Cambridge on Tuesday, Dec. 18 and was not aggressive enough offensively in a 47-36 loss. The Blue Jays shot well enough but didn't put up enough shots. Norton took 13 less shots than the visitors. Brooks scored 15 and Ellis added 11 points.

On Friday, Jan. 4, Norton traveled to Osborne. Despite a slow start, the Blue Jays finished strong to begin the new year with a 53-43 win. "We got a bad start but our young men kept battling," said coach Reusink. "We played very good defense and rebounded well in the third quarter to get the lead." Brooks scored 29 points. Miller added 12 points on a perfect 6 of 6 field goal tries.

An excellent Plainville five came to Norton on Tuesday, Jan. 8 and the Blue Jays came very close to handing the Cardinals their second loss of the season. Just as they had in football, Plainville was able to leave town with a victory. The score was tied 34-all late in the game but the Cardinals escaped with a 37-34 win. Brooks led Norton with 10 points.

On Friday, Jan. 11, Norton journeyed to WaKeeney to play Trego Community. The Blue Jays fell too far behind in the first quarter, then played the Golden Eagles even the next three quarters in a 62-44 loss. Brooks scored 15 points and Miller added 11.

The Mid-Continent League Tournament was next and Norton was seeded No.6. That meant they had to travel to Smith Center on Monday, Jan. 14 to play the No.3 seeded Redmen on their home court where they are always hard to beat.

The Blue Jays had a chance for an upset win and came within striking distance several times before losing 68-64. Smith Center led by just 60-58 with 2:41 remaining in the game. "We played hard but not smart enough," said coach Reusink. "If we can get this kind of



Norton senior guard Jacob Brooks drives past Phillipsburg's Sean Newlan during their hard-fought Mid-Continent League game this season. Brooks was leading scorer for the Blue Jays, averaging 17.6 points per game. He was also rebound, steals, offensive assists and shot blocking leader for Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

effort, we can get some wins." Brooks led with 19 points, followed by Carson McKenna with 13 and Ellis with 11.

The loss to Smith Center dropped Norton into the consolation bracket. On Thursday, they had a return game with Trego Community, which was played in Plainville. The Blue Jays were determined to avenge the earlier loss and they did. It took overtime to do it but Norton won 45-38. Drew Schrum led Norton with 12 points, seven of them coming on free throws in the extra period!

The win over Trego allowed Norton to play for fifth place on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Their opponent was No.4 seed Stockton who had suffered another loss and was still unhappy about their first one to the Blue Jays. Field goal shooting was about even but the Tigers' 13 of 16 at the free throw line made the difference and they prevailed 50-35. Brooks led Norton with 15 points.

Later in the season, Stockton won their Sub-State Tournament and competed in the State Tournament, where they placed fourth and compiled an 18-8 final record.

On Friday, Jan. 25, Norton traveled to Colby to play the Class 4A Eagles. The Blue Jays continued to play hard in a 50-41 loss. Norton stayed close the entire game but was outshot from the field and free throw line and outrebounded. Norton had more steals and fewer turnovers. Brooks scored 14 points.

Norton returned to Smith Center on Tuesday, Jan. 29 for another hotly contested battle

between the two rivals. Again, the Redmen were victorious, this time by a 67-60 score. Norton shot an excellent 45 percent from the field but couldn't match the Redmen's 63 percent accuracy. Brooks scored 28 points. "We played hard in the second half but just had too many turnovers," said coach Reusink.

Norton hosted Hill City on Friday, Feb 1 in the NCHS Stull Gym. The Blue Jays matched the Ringnecks basket for basket until the fourth quarter when cold shooting led to a 51-45 loss. Statistics, other than scoring, were almost the same for both teams. "We play hard but don't always make good decisions," said coach Reusink. "We have to be more patient to make plays." Miller led Norton in scoring with 12 points; Ellis added 10.

On Saturday, Feb. 2, Norton traveled to Atwood and returned with one of their biggest wins of the season. The score was tied 28-all at halftime but Norton's 30 third quarter points led to an impressive 78-54 victory!

"We came out in the third quarter with a great offensive effort to get a much needed win," said coach Reusink. "We have been fighting hard and the persistence finally paid off." Norton hit 54 percent from the field and 71 percent from the free throw line. Four players scored in double figures: Brooks hit 20, Ellis 14, Miller 13 and Schrum 10.

The Blue Jays returned home for another win on Tuesday, Feb. 5 where they overcame 23 turnovers and made plays at the end for a 44-41 win over Oberlin. The lead traded back and forth throughout the game until

the Blue Jays prevailed. Ellis hit 6 of 7 free throws and scored 14 points.

With two more wins under their belts, Norton traveled with confidence on Tuesday, Feb. 12 to play No.9 state ranked Hoxie. Norton led by several points most of the game. The Blue Jays held quarter advantages of 16-15, 25-21 and 38-35 but Hoxie outscored them 19-16 in the fourth quarter to tie the score at 54-all and send it into overtime. After Miller hit two free throws with 54 seconds left in regulation, Norton led 54-51 but a three-point basket by Hoxie tied the score. The Indians outscored the Blue Jays in overtime for a 60-57 win, their 12th win in a row.

Brooks scored 20 points and Ellis added 16. Norton hit 42 percent from the field and Hoxie just 40 percent. Other statistics, except for the final score, were even. Hoxie continued on to a trip to the state tournament where a loss to Stockton ended their season.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, Norton hosted Ellis on "Senior Night" in the NCHS Stull Gym and continued to play well but a big second half fell just short and the Railroaders won 65-64. Norton trailed 40-23 at halftime but outscored Ellis 18-8 in the third period, then tallied 23 more points in the fourth quarter while holding Ellis to 17. A three-point basket by Andrew Ellis put Norton ahead 64-62 with 59.9 seconds left in the game but the Railroaders won the game on three free throws.

"We've played hard the last two games but have just come up empty," said coach Reusink. I feel sorry for our young men that we've played so hard and couldn't get a win." Norton outscored Ellis from the field but the difference was at the free throw line. The Blue Jays converted 7 of 11 charity tosses for 64 percent but the Railroaders swished 14 of 17 for 82 percent. Rebounding was even. Brooks led Norton with 23 points.

Seniors and parents were honored during the evening.

Senior players were Jacob Brooks, Dalton Miller, Andrew Ellis, Carson McKenna, John Renner, Ryan Bainter and Lane Bigge.

Senior dance team members were Sami Gordon, Shelbi McKenna, Kelsey Mordecai and Teal Stewart. Senior cheerlead-

ers were Sierra Black, Katherine Boteler and Katie Koch.

It was time for the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament and Norton was the host. First round games were played at the higher-seeds so No. 6 seed Norton had to travel to play No.3 seed Hoisington on Tuesday, Feb. 26. It was not a good night for the Blue Jays, who had been playing well and had hoped for an upset win and return to the NCHS Stull Gym for the semi-finals.

The Blue Jays found a lid on the basket and suffered a season-ending 72-30 loss. It was not a good time for Norton to hit a season low 31 percent from the field and 19 percent from the free throw line. In comparison, Hoisington left the nets smoking on 65 percent field goals and 71 percent free throws. Brooks scored 14 points.

"We just lost our composure when things got tough," said coach Reusink. "We need to be more patient."

"We will miss our seniors. They were good young men who played hard."

"We also appreciated the support all season long by our Norton fans."

Season statistics

Leading scorer for the Norton boys was Jacob Brooks with an average of 17.6 points per contest. Second high scorer was Andrew Ellis at 7.8 points while Dalton Miller averaged 6.9 points.

Brooks was also leading free throw shooter at 75.3 percent. Dalton Miller hit 69.2 percent from the charity stripe, Drew Schrum hit 58.3 percent and Andrew Ellis 53.8 percent.

Conor Cox and Lane Bigge led in field goal percentage, each hitting 50 percent. Miller hit 46.5 percent from the floor and Brooks 36.7 percent. Miller was accurate 51.5 percent of the time on two-point baskets.

Brooks was also leading rebounder, averaging 6.9 caroms per game. Tanner Furbush was second high with 3.7 boards per game. Ellis averaged 3.3 rebounds, Miller 3.1 and Bigge 3. Brooks blocked 21 shots and Cox rejected 12.

Brooks also led in steals with 66. McKenna had 33 thefts, Schrum had 28, Miller 23 and Ellis 22.

Brooks was also offensive assists leader with 54, followed by Miller, 33; Ellis, 30; McKenna, 28; Schrum, 28.

GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL NOXIOUS WEEDS

The Kansas Noxious Weed Law K.S.A. 2-1314 et seq requires all persons who own or supervise land in Kansas to control and eradicate all weeds declared noxious by legislative action. The weeds declared noxious are: field bindweed, musk thistle, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, bur ragweed, Canada thistle, leafy spurge, hoary cress, quack grass, Russian, Knapweed, kudzu and pignut. Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to every person who owns or supervises land in Norton County that noxious weeds growing or found on such land shall be controlled and eradicated. Control is defined as preventing the production of viable seed and the vegetative spread of the plant.

FAILURE TO OBSERVE THIS NOTICE MAY RESULT IN THE COUNTY:

(1.) Serving a legal notice requiring control of the noxious weeds within a minimum of five days. Failure to control the noxious weeds within the time period allowed may result in the county treating the noxious weeds at the landowners expense and placing a lien on the property if the bill is not paid within 30 days or,
(2.) Filing criminal charges for non-compliance. Conviction for non-compliance may result in a fine of \$100 per day of non-compliance with a maximum fine of \$1500.

The public is also hereby notified that it is a violation of the Kansas Noxious Weed Law to barter, sell or give away infested nursery stock or livestock feed unless the feed is fed on the farm where grown or sold to a commercial processor that will destroy the viability of the noxious weed seed. Custom harvesting machines must be labeled with a label provided by the Kansas Department of Agriculture and must be free of all weed seed and litter when entering the State and when leaving a field infested with noxious weeds.

Additional information may be obtained from the Norton County Noxious Weed Department or by contacting the Kansas Department of Agriculture, 901 S. Kansas, Topeka, KS 66612.

Sunflower Shootout provides excitement

By Dick Boyd

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In two exciting games in the third annual Sunflower Shootout in Smith Center on Saturday, March 16, the North Central Kansas senior girls won 103-77 and the mid-Continent League senior boys won 96-92.

In the girls game, the North Central Kansas girls all-stars led 55-38 en route to their 103-77 win. Brittany Kirchoff of Thunder Ridge and Claire Bruna of Hanover scored 22 and 21 points, respectively. They were followed by Kora Bergstrom, Pike Valley, 12; Devin Nutsch, Belleville, 10; Danel Stithem, Hoxie, 9; Angela Ritter, Golden Plains, 8; LaShae Hedstrom, Belleville, 7; Samantha L'Ecuyer, Washington County, 6; Danica Casey, Natoma, 4; Megan Stegman, Washington County, 3.

Coaches were Scott Romeiser of Washington County and Ryan Doebele of Hanover.

Smith Center's Sydney Benoit led the Mid-Continent League girls with 28 points. She was followed by Norton's

Tawni Griffey with 15 and the Lady Red's Trena Cox with 11. Also scoring were Alexis Ryan, Smith Center, 8; Shelbe Pywell, Plainville, 6; Hannah Friend, Plainville, 3; Shelby Stewart, Hill City, 3; Bailey Hensley, Ellis, 2; Bailee Fritts, Trego, 1. McKenzie Cooper, Hill City, also played for the MCL girls.

Perry Mick of Ellis and Brad Roadhouse of Osborne were the coaches.

Three records were set in the girls game. The 101 points scored by the North Central Kansas girls, the 178 total points scored by both teams and Benoit's 28 points were all firsts.

The Mid-Continent League boys snapped a two game losing streak with their 96-92 victory.

The MCL squad led 49-31 at halftime but the North Central Kansas boys outscored them 61-47 in the second half to make it close.

Norton's Jacob Brooks led the MCL offense with 15 points, followed by Tyler Walters, Ellis, 13 and Koby Beougher, Stockton, 13. Trego's John Grif-

fith and Phillipsburg's Seth Derr each scored 9 points. Hill City's Solomon Wilson and Luke Lohmeyer of Ellis hit 8 points each, followed by Sean Newlan, Phillipsburg, 7; Payton Buckmaster, Smith Center, 7; Nolan Weiser, Plainville, 6.

Coaches were Keith Sides of Phillipsburg and Lance Ziegler of Trego.

Trenton Kuhlman of Belleville led the NCK boys with 19 points, followed by Wyatt Flinn, Rock Hills, 13; Todd Kane, Colby, 11; Chase Wilkens, Washington County, 10; Seth

Armbrister, Palco, 10; Quinton Isaacson, Pike Valley, 9; Tyler Bruggeman, Oberlin, 6; Trevor Lowe, Thunder Ridge, 5; Cade Huncovsky, Pike Valley, 4; Phillip Murphy, Natoma, 3.

Their coaches were Kurt Grafel, Natoma and Chris Drees, Palco.

The 96 points scored by the MCL was a record along with the total of 188 points scored by both teams.

Winners of the three-point contests were Danica Casey and Koby Beougher.

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