

Lady Jays to open season

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team will open their 2013-14 season this Friday at Goodland in Max Jones Field House with games beginning at 4:45 p.m. Central Time.

The girls junior varsity contest will begin at 4:45 p.m., followed by the girls varsity at 6:30 p.m. and boys varsity at 8 p.m.

Games will be played at the same time in the Junior High Gym. The boys C-team contest will begin at 4:45 p.m., followed by the boys junior varsity game at 6:30 p.m. and the girls C-team contest at 8 p.m.

Second year head coach George Rossi has welcomed 22 girls to this year's Lady Jay team, including eight letter winners and two starters from last season's 12-10 season.

Returning starters are Bailey Ambrosier, 5'9" senior and Katelyn Engelbert, 5'10" senior. Other letter winners are: Marisa Maddy, 5'3"; Darcy Bainter, 5'8"; Johnnye Ruder, 5'6", seniors; Katie Bohl, 6', junior and Peyton Renner, 5'7"; Hanna

Brooks, 5'6", sophomores.

Other team members are: Erin Archer, 5'5"; Adrienne Hager, 5'4", juniors; Casey Ambrosier, 5'10"; Alexis Hartwell, 5'2"; Kylie Perez, 5'; Molly Maddy, 5'4"; Lexi Voss, 5'9", sophomores; Caitlyn Cox, 5'10"; Brittany Wright, 5'10"; Baylee Miller, 5'5"; Miah Melvin, 5'5"; Kira Robertson, 5'7"; Trae Braun, 5'6"; Kristen Dole, 5'6", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this season will be Joan Bolt and Cheri Brooks.

Raenee Patterson and Dakota Rose are the student managers.

Bailey Ambrosier plays post and was chosen honorable mention All-Mid-Continent League following last season. She was second high scorer with a 9 point average last season and led Norton in field goal percentage, hitting 58 percent of her attempts. She was also second leading rebounder with 143 cars for an average of 6.5 per contest.

Engelbert was leading rebounder with 151 total rebounds or an average of 6.9 boards per game. Engelbert was second in steals with 27 and Ambrosier

next with 25. Engelbert was third high scorer with an average of 6 points per game.

Fourth high scorer was Ruder with an average of 5.1 points per game. Ruder had 18 offensive assists and Engelbert 14 assists.

Norton played very well last season under first year head coach Rossi. Their quality opponents included Hoxie, who completed the season 26-0 for their second state championship in a row and Smith Center, who finished 24-2 with their first state title in school history.

Coach Rossi followed Kevin Jilka, who had coached for 30 years in Norton and guided Lady Jay teams to 489 wins and only 185 losses for a winning percentage of 73 percent.

Coach Rossi is no stranger to Norton athletics. He was coach Jilka's assistant coach for 22 years. Before that, he was the junior high assistant coach for Joan Bolt for three years. He is also the cross country head coach, was the assistant junior high track coach for 24 years and is now the head junior high track coach.

Coach's comments

"We return several seniors with a lot of varsity experience," said coach Rossi. "Johnnye and Darcy saw a lot of playing time last year as well. Marisa has had very good practices this year and is a tough defensive presence on the floor."

"We lost our leading scorer from last year and our point guard Tawni Griffey. Johnnye has been working very diligently at the point and we also have freshman Miah Melvin and Peyton Renner who have been working at the one spot."

"Our seniors are great leaders and have been setting a good example at practice. The young girls have been doing a good job in practice. We have been spending a good amount of time getting into basketball shape. We are not there yet but it is a long season and I have been pleased with most of our practices."

"Our league will be tough this year with several good teams, such as Smith Center, Phillipsburg and Ellis just to name a few. We hope we can compete with those teams."

Norton Girls and Boys Basketball Schedule

Friday, Dec. 6 - Goodland, Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.
 Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 12 -13-14 - Topside Tip-Off - Goodland TBA
 Tuesday, Dec. 17 - Stockton Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Friday, Dec. 20 - Phillipsburg Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 21 - NQOT JV Tourney, Girls, Boys - Oakley 9 a.m.
 Saturday, Dec. 28 - C Boys Tourney - Hill City 1 p.m.
 Monday, Dec. 30 - C Boys Tourney - Hill City 1 p.m.
 Tuesday, Dec. 31 - C Boys Tourney - Hill City TBD
 Tuesday, Jan. 7 - Cambridge, Girls, Boys There 5 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 11 - C Girls Tourney - Phillipsburg 9 a.m.
 Monday, Jan. 13 - MCL Quarterfinal (Girls) TBA TBD
 Tuesday, Jan. 14 - MCL Quarterfinal (Boys) TBA TBD
 Thursday, Jan. 16 - Backside MCL Games - Stockton TBD
 Friday, Jan. 17 - MCL Semifinals, Girls, Boys, FHSU, Hays
 Saturday, Jan. 18 - MCL Finals, Girls, Boys, FHSU, Hays
 Tuesday, Jan. 21 - Plainville, Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.
 Thursday, Jan. 23 - Phillipsburg, Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, Jan. 28 - Trego Community, Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Friday, Jan. 31 - Colby, Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 4 - Smith Center, Girls, Boys, Here 4:45 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 7 - Hill City, Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 11 - Oberlin, Girls, Boys There 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 14 - Osborne, Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Tuesday, Feb. 18 - Hoxie, Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.
 Friday, Feb. 21 - Ellis, Girls, Boys, There 5 p.m.
 Monday, March 3 - Sub-State, Boys Away TBD
 Tuesday, March 4 - Sub-State, Girls Away TBD
 Thursday, March 6 - Sub-State, Boys Away TBD
 Friday, March 7 - Sub-State, Girls Away TBD
 Saturday, March 8 - Sub-State, Girls, Boys Away TBD
 Wednesday, March 12 - State, Boys Away TBD
 Thursday, March 13 - State, Girls Away TBD
 Friday, March 14 - State, Boys Away TBD
 Friday, March 14 - State, Girls Away TBD
 Saturday, March 15 - State, Boys, Girls Away TBD

Norton Blue Jays to play Goodland in season opener

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School boys basketball team will open the 2013-14 season this Friday when they travel to Goodland for games beginning at 4:45 p.m. in the Max Jones Field House.

Girls junior varsity and varsity games will be played prior to the boys varsity contest, starting at around 8 p.m. Central Time.

Being played at the same time in the Jr. High Gym will be the Boys C-team game, beginning at 4:45 p.m., followed by the boys junior varsity at 6:30 p.m. and girls C-team at 8 p.m.

Coach Doug Reusink has welcomed 23 boys for this season's

Blue Jay basketball squad. Five lettermen are included. They are Marc Miller, 6' senior; Drew Schrum, 5'10" senior; Tanner Furbush, 6'1" senior; Trever Lewis, 5'8" senior and Conor Cox, 6'5" junior.

Other squad members are: Breven Sondergaard, 6'1"; Connor Griffey, 6'1"; Kobie Unterseher, 6'; Derick Campbell, 5'8"; Jordan Karnopp, 6'1"; Gin Lee, 5'7" and Tyler Kuhn, 6'4", juniors; Quinton Porter, 5'10"; Brendon Frack, 6'; Andrew Bashford, 5'10" and James Berry, 6'2", sophomores; Tyus Henson, 5'8"; Koby McEwen, 5'9"; Will Ellis, 5'8"; Landon Porter, 5'9"; Mitchell Hickman, 5'6"; Cruz Leon, 5'11" and

Owen Brown, 6', freshman.

Drew Schrum has been a part time starter. He averaged 3.2 points, 1.7 rebounds and 1.5 assists last season. Tanner Furbush averaged 3.4 points and 3.7 rebounds per contest. Conor Cox scored an average of 2.5 points and averaged 2.2 rebounds per game.

David Stover and Chris Henson will be assistant coaches again this season.

Coach's comments

"We start the season with very few players who have varsity experience," said coach Reusink. "We have a number of boys who played junior varsity for us last year who will be competing for minutes. Right

now we are looking for those players to show some consistency in what they are asked to do."

"Stockton is the team to beat in the league if they can withstand some injuries they have had. Every other team has good players returning; there will be no easy games."

Reusink is veteran coach

Head coach Reusink is beginning his 35th year of coaching high school boys basketball teams and has compiled an overall record of 481 wins and 254 losses for an excellent 65 percent victory record. This is an average of 14 wins and 7.5 losses per season.

Under the tutelage of coach Reusink, the 2002-03 Norton

quintet won the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-04 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-05 Blue Jays were 15-7.

The Norton boys' 2005-06 record was 12-8 and they finished second in the Mid-Continent League tournament. The 2006-07 squad was 14-7, tied for second in the league and placed second in the league tournament. The 2007-08 Blue Jays went 15-7, placed third in the league and third in the league tournament but left Norton without any returning starters and only three lettermen for 2008-09.

The next two seasons, Norton

compiled identical 12-9 records before finishing 12-10 in 2011-2012 when they defeated a state ranked team, lost some close games to state ranked teams and finished runner-up in the Mid-Continent League tournament.

Last season's team played much better than their final 7-14 record. They played ranked teams close and even defeated Stockton, who later placed fourth in the state tournament. One of their biggest wins was a 78-54 victory in Atwood. The Blue Jays also matched state ranked Hoxie basket for basket before losing in overtime.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 267 wins and 208 losses.



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Community Calendar

Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA. Events may be e-mailed to: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com or mailed to 215 South Kansas Avenue

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