

No. 1 Hoxie girls too much for Lady Jays

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team got a good start against defending state champion and No.1 state ranked Hoxie on Tuesday evening in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton but the Lady Indians prevailed in the end by a score of 64-26.

With Katie Bohl hitting a basket and free throw, Bailey Ambrosier scoring on a field goal and Darcy Bainter burying a three-pointer, Norton led 8-5 with 4:50 left in the first period but Hoxie took over from there. The Lady Jays did not score again in the quarter and the Lady Indians added 8 more points to their score to lead 13-8.

Norton had their lowest scoring quarter in the second when they put in just 5 points and Hoxie added 19 to their total to lead 32-13 at intermission.

Norton's best quarter was the third where they scored 9 points but Hoxie added 20 more to their total to lead 52-22. A 12-4 fourth quarter in Hoxie's favor stretched the final margin of victory to 38 points.

"They are a fun team to watch but not when you're on the other bench," said Norton head coach George Rossi. "They have a lot of girls who know how to play ball and play well together."

"We started well but had a letdown in the second quarter."

"I was happy that we were able to break their press but we just had a hard time matching their pace in the game. Lots of people want to be like Hoxie on the basketball floor but don't want to work that hard. They play a lot in the summer."

The quality of the Hoxie team is evident in their game statistics. They hit 56 percent of all their shots from the field and 80 percent from the free throw line. Norton found the range on 10 of 42 overall for 24 percent. The Lady Jays were 4 of 7 from the charity stripe for 57 percent.

Leading scorers for Norton were Katie Bohl and Darcy Bainter, each with 5 points on 29 per-



Norton sisters Bailey Ambrosier, left, and Casey Ambrosier battle for a loose ball during the Lady Jays game with No.1 state ranked Hoxie on Tuesday in Norton. At right, ready to go after the ball is Norton's Katelyn Engelbert.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

cent shooting.

Natasha Allmer led Hoxie in scoring with 17 points. Carly Heim tallied 16, Kristina Farber hit 12 and Gabi Spreser scored 11.

The Lady Jays pulled down 4 offensive rebounds and 14 defensive caroms for 18 totals. The Lady Indians grabbed 4 offensive but 24 defensive boards for 28 total.

Katelyn Engelbert, Darcy Bainter, Katie Bohl and Bailey Ambrosier each pulled down 3 rebounds, followed by Caitlyn Cox, Hanna Brooks, 2 each; Marisa Maddy, Peyton Renner, 1 each.

Johnnye Ruder had 2 of Norton's 4 offensive assists. Bohl and Ambrosier each had 1 assist.

Norton had 4 steals, led by Bainter with 2, followed by Ruder and Miah Melvin, 1 each. Hoxie

recorded 7 thefts.

Norton had 18 turnovers and Hoxie lost the ball 14 times.

Junior varsity

Two quarters of junior varsity basketball were played and Norton won 23-12. The young Lady Jays led 10-5 after the first period.

Caitlyn Cox led Norton in scoring with 6 points, followed by Miah Melvin, 5; Lexi Voss, 4; Peyton Renner, Hanna Brooks, Casey Ambrosier, Baylee Miller, 2 each.

Kelsey Geerdes led Hoxie with 4 points.

"Our girls played fantastic defense tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We made Hoxie earn the shot they got and did a great job on offense of feeding the ball to the post players."

"I just love how aggressively our junior varsity girls play!"

Norton girls

Caitlyn Cox 0 0 2-2 2, Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-4, Peyton Renner 2 0 0-0 4, Darcy Bainter 1 1 0-0 5, Katie Bohl 2 0 1-1 5, Bailey Ambrosier 1 0 1-2 3, Johnnye Ruder 0 1 0-2 3; Totals 8 2 4-7 26.

Hoxie girls

Gabi Spreser 3 1 2-2 11, Carly Heim 6 1 1-1 16, Kristina Farber 5 0-2 12, Lexi Schamberger 4 0 0-0 8, Natasha Allmer 7 0 3-5 17; Totals 25 2 8-10 64.

Next action

Norton will play at Ellis this evening, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Blue Jays will also host Smith Center this Monday evening in games postponed due to inclement weather. The boys junior varsity game will begin at 4:45 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. The girls junior varsity contest will begin at 4:45 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the girls varsity and boys varsity games.

Since these will be the final regular season contests, it will be "Senior Night" for the Norton basketball players and their parents.

Norton boys lose to state-ranked Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team hosted the No.2 state ranked Hoxie quintet on Tuesday in the NCHS Stull Gym and lost a hard fought contest by a score of 54-41.

Norton trailed by just 15-9 after one quarter and, after a 12-8 second quarter in Hoxie's favor, was behind by just 27-17.

The Blue Jays played the Indians close in the third period, scoring 15 points compared to 18 for the visitors. With the score 45-32, both teams scored 9 points in the final stanza.

"Despite the loss, I was happy with how we played," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "If we'd played this well against some teams that weren't as good, we'd have more wins."

"They are a very good basketball team; the best we've played this season."

"The second half, we made stops but couldn't score."

"We didn't make the plays we needed to win."

Sophomore point guard Quinton Porter had another good game, scoring 19 points. He hit 2 of 2 from three-point range, 5 of 9 two-point attempts for

56 percent and 7 of 11 overall for 64 percent accuracy. He swished 3 of 5 free throws for 60 percent.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 8 from long range for a net smoking 75 percent, 9 of 30 two-point tries for 30 percent and 15 of 38 overall for 39 percent.

The Indians swished just 2 of 11 from three-point range for 18 percent but made up for it with 22 of 44 two-point tries for 50 percent accuracy. They were 24 of 55 overall for 44 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 9 for 56 percent and Hoxie hit 4 of 7 for 57 percent.

Norton pulled down 2 offensive and 18 defensive rebounds for 20 total. Hoxie grabbed 10 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for 28 total.

Tanner Furbush led Norton in rebounds with 6, followed by Quinton Porter, 4; Conor Cox, 4; Kobie Unterseher, 2; Drew Schrum, 2; Marc Miller, 1; Jordan Karnopp, 1.

The Blue Jays had 3 steals and the Indians had 9 thefts. Breven Sondergaard, Quinton Porter and Landon Porter each had 1 theft for Norton.

Norton had 11 offensive assists, led by Drew Schrum with 6 and followed by Quinton Por-

ter, 3; Marc Miller, 2.

The Blue Jays suffered 16 turnovers and the Indians lost the ball just 7 times.

Conor Cox blocked 2 shots and Quinton Porter rejected 1.

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity dominated the Hoxie junior varsity, defeating them 58-32.

Deon Lyle was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 8; Landon Porter, 7; James Berry, 7; Jordan Karnopp, 6; Kobie Unterseher, 4; Koby McEwen, 2; Connor Griffey, 2; Derick Campbell, 2.

Leading scorer for Hoxie was Jake Heim with 8 points.

Norton boys

Breven Sondergaard 1 0 0-0 2, Quinton Porter 5 2 3-5 19, Marc Miller 0 2 0-0 6, Kobie Unterseher 1 0 0-0 2, Drew Schrum 1 1 0-0 5, Conor Cox 1 0 0-0 2, Tanner Furbush 0 0 2-4 2, Landon Porter 0 1 0-0 3; Totals 9 6 5-9 41.

Hoxie boys

Connor Katt 2 1 1-2 8, Tyler Ewers 1 0 0-0 2, Kade Spreser 11 0 1-1 23, Chase Kennedy 2 1 2-2 9, Tanner Smith 3 0 0-0 6,

Mitchel Johnson 3 0 0-2 6; Totals 22 2 4-7 54.

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Since these will be the final regular season contests, it will be "Senior Night" for the Norton basketball players and their parents.

Norton point guard Quinton Porter glides under a Hoxie player's attempt to block his shot during action by the Blue Jays versus No.2 state ranked Hoxie in Norton on Tuesday. Porter avoided the Indian defense enough to lead the Blue Jays in scoring with 19 points.



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