

Score favors Norton against Smith Center

By **DICK BOYD**

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Statistics as well as the score were in favor of the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team at the end of their game with Smith Center in the NCHS Stull Gym on Monday evening.

In a makeup contest, Norton outscored the visiting Redmen 45-35.

The Blue Jays outshot Smith Center and had more steals, less turnovers and more blocked shots. Rebounds were the only statistic where the visitors had the edge.

Since it was "Senior Night" for Norton, senior players and cheerleaders and their parents were honored. Norton's senior players are Marc Miller, Drew Schrum, Tanner Furbush and Trever Lewis. Brandy Davis is a senior cheerleader and Jared Shelton is a senior yell leader.

After a close first quarter that saw Schrum hit 4 of Norton's 7 points, the visiting Redmen led by a slim 8-7 margin. With Furbush and Deon Lyle hitting 4 points each and Conor Cox and Quinton Porter each hitting a basket, Norton scored 12 points in the second period while Smith Center added 10 to their total as Norton led 19-18 at halftime.

The third quarter was a big one for the Blue Jays as they

outscored the Redmen 13-5 to stretch their lead to 32-23. Schrum led scoring with 4 points, followed by Lyle with a 3 and Porter, Cox and Furbush each with another two-point basket. Smith Center hit only two baskets in the period.

The fourth quarter saw Norton finish with 13 more points as the Redmen contested with 12 scores. With Smith Center fouling in an attempt to get the ball, Norton shot 15 free throws in the final quarter, hitting 7 of them. Furbush added three field goals to the total.

"We played hard defensively although we're still not rebounding defensively the way we should," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"On offense, we made some bad decisions at times but still did some good things, too."

"Free throws helped us down the stretch."

"Winning three of our last four games should help our confidence heading into post-season play."

Coach Reusink praised the four senior players on the team for always working hard and said they would be missed.

Tanner Furbush had an especially good "Senior Night" performance. He hit 6 of 12 from the field for 50 percent and 3 of 4 free throw attempts for 75 per-



It was "Senior Night" for the Norton Blue Jays on Monday when they hosted Smith Center. Senior Marc Miller, who is considered to be the best defensive player for Norton, is pictured giving extra effort to outhustle a Redman to grab a loose ball and contribute to the victory!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

cent and 15 points.

Drew Schrum also played well in his Norton home finale. He hit 3 of 4 from the field on two-point shots for 75 percent, was 3 of 5 from the charity stripe for 60 percent and 9 points.

Mason Buckmaster led the

Redmen with 11 points.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 6 from beyond the arc for 17 percent, 15 of 34 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 16 of 40 overall for 40 percent.

Smith Center swished just 2 of 10 from long range for 20

percent, 11 of 39 two-point tries for 28 percent and 13 of 49 overall for 27 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 12 of 20 for 60 percent and the Redmen tallied on 7 of 10 for 70 percent.

Norton had 4 offensive and 17 defensive rebounds for 21 total compared to 8 offensive and 19 defensive for 27 total for the Redmen.

Conor Cox had quite a night on the floor, leading Norton in rebounds with 9 and blocking 8 Smith Center shots! Conor is the shot-blocking leader in Class 3A.

Also pulling down rebounds for the Blue Jays were Furbush, 4; Deon Lyle, 2; Quinton Porter, 2; Breven Sondergaard, Marc Miller, Kobie Unterseher, Drew Schrum, 1 each.

Quinton Porter had 2 of Norton's 3 offensive assists. Trever Lewis was credited with Norton's other assist.

The Blue Jays had 8 steals and the Redmen had just 4. Schrum led with 3 thefts, followed by Furbush, 2; Quinton Porter, 1; Trever Lewis, 1; Landon Porter, 1.

Norton had 15 turnovers but Smith Center lost the ball 18 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity basketball team completed

their season with an impressive 53-37 victory over Smith Center.

Norton held quarter leads of 15-4, 33-16 and 46-33.

Breven Sondergaard led the Blue Jays in scoring with 22 points, followed by Jordan Karnopp, 13; Derick Campbell, 5; James Berry, 4; Landon Porter, 3; Deon Lyle, Koby McEwen, Connor Griffey, Kobie Unterseher, 2 each.

Leading Smith Center was Gavin Overmiller with 8 points.

Norton boys

Deon Lyle 2 1 0-1 7, Quinton Porter 3 0 2-2 8, Marc Miller 0 0 2-4 2, Drew Schrum 3 0 3-5 9, Conor Cox 2 0 1-2 5, Tanner Furbush 5 0 3-4 13, Landon Porter 0 0 1-2 1; Totals 15 1 12-20 45.

Smith Center boys

Nick Lehmkuhl 2 0 2-4 6, Kody Molzahn 0 1 2-2 5, Mason Buckmaster 5 0 1-2 11, Cole Lorenzen 2 0 0-4, Gavin Overmiller 1 1 2-2 7, Thayne Benoit 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 11 2 7-10 35.

Next action

This was the final regular season game for Norton.

The Blue Jays will begin Class 3A Sub-State Tournament action on Monday when they travel to Hays to play Thomas More Prep in a 7 p.m. first round game.

Lady Jays lose to Lady Red in delayed play

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team stayed with Smith Center for one half but could not keep up after intermission in a 44-35 loss in the NCHS Stull Gym on Monday night in a weather-delayed game.

Katelyn Engelbert got the Lady Jays going early by hitting three baskets in the first quarter, which ended with the visitors leading 15-10. Both teams hit just 7 points in the second quarter and Engelbert swished two more baskets for Norton.

The Lady Jays' downfall came in the third period when they hit just 6 points, which included Engelbert's final basket. Smith Center scored 12 points in the period to lead 34-23.

Norton played Smith Center evenly again in the final stanza but barely outscored the Lady Red 12-10 and was unable to rally for a win. The Lady Jay offense in the fourth quarter got a boost from two three-point baskets by Darcy Bainter and one from long range by Johnnye Ruder.

The Lady Red hit only two field goals in the final period but were accurate from the free throw line where they hit 6 of 7 charities.

It was "Senior Night" for NCHS and the senior players and cheerleaders and their parents were honored. Senior players are Marisa Maddy, Katelyn Engelbert, Darcy Bainter, Bailey Ambrosier and Johnnye Ruder.

Norton's only senior cheerleader is Brandy Davis. Jared Shelton is a senior yell leader.

"We played hard but they were more physical than us," said Norton head girls basketball coach George Rossi.

"I hate to see these senior girls go; they're very special to me."

"They've always been a close group."

"They're also great scholars. Every one of them will go on in life and be successful."

He said he had enjoyed coaching the senior girls, not only in basketball, also in track and cross country.

Katelyn Engelbert was Norton's only double figure scorer. She scored 12 points on 6 of 8 shots from the field for a net shooting 75 percent accuracy!

Johnnye Ruder added 7 points on 1 of 9 trey tries, 2 of 3 two-point attempts and 3 of 12 overall for 25 percent.

Darcy Bainter was next with 6 points on 2 of 3 from long range for an excellent 67 percent.

High scorer for Smith Center was Sierra Kuhn with 12 points.

Field goal shooting percentag-

es were about the same for both teams and the number of shots was similar.

Norton hit only 3 of 19 from beyond the arc for 16 percent and Smith Center was 2 of 13 for 15 percent. On two-point shots, the Lady Jays swished 11 of 26 for 42 percent and the Lady Red hit 14 of 34 for 41 percent.

A difference was at the free throw line where Norton hit 4 of 10 for 40 percent and Smith Center was 10 of 13 for 77 percent.

The Lady Red also had an advantage rebounding. Norton pulled down 4 offensive and 19 defensive boards for 23 total compared to 10 offensive and 22 defensive for 32 total for the visitors.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Katie Bohl and Johnnye Ruder, each with 5, followed by Katelyn Engelbert, 4; Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Darcy Bainter, 3; Caitlyn Cox, 1; Marisa Maddy, 1.

Ruder was credited with 6 of Norton's 8 offensive assists. Bailey Ambrosier had the other two assists.

The Lady Jays had 8 steals and the Lady Red had 6. Ruder led Norton with 3 thefts, followed by Engelbert, 2; Maddy, Bainter, Bailey Ambrosier, 1 each.

Norton had 15 turnovers and Smith Center lost the ball 18

times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity led Smith Center for three quarters before losing 38-36.

Norton held quarter leads of 13-4, 21-15 and 32-27 but was outscored 11-4 in the final period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Caitlyn Cox with 10 points, followed by Hanna Brooks, 9; Baylee Miller, 9; Lexus Hartwell, 4; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Lexi Voss, 2.

Mikayla Dietz led the Lady Red with 11 points.

"Our girls played hard and again led most of the game but came up short by not handling Smith Center's press at the end," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"It hurt a little not having a full roster due to illness. Some of our girls had to step it up and for the most part did a good job."

"We had a great season, finishing 13-3 and I am looking forward to watching them next season."

Norton girls

Caitlyn Cox 2 0 1-2 5, Katelyn Engelbert 6 0 0-0 12, Darcy Bainter 0 2 0-0 6, Katie Bohl 1 0 1-6 3, Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 2-2 2, Johnnye Ruder 2 1 0-0 7; Totals 11 3 4-10 35.

Smith Center girls

Addison Kingsbury 1 1 0-0 5, Kaitlin Albert 1 0 0-0 2, Lynzee



Katelyn Engelbert showed senior leadership on "Senior Night" for the Lady Jays against Smith Center as she poured in 12 points on 75 percent shooting!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Community Calendar



Please submit your events for the Community Calendar

which is printed in the Monday EXTRA.

Events may be e-mailed to:

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