

# Norton roundballers season wrap up

By DICK BOYD

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Although the Norton Community High School boys basketball team had five returning lettermen for the 2013-14 season, there were very few players with varsity experience and that caused them to struggle much of the time.

Welcomed by veteran head coach Doug Reusink were lettermen Marc Miller, Drew Schrum, Tanner Furbush, Trevor Lewis, all seniors and Conor Cox, a junior.

Returning as assistant coaches were David Stover and Chris Henson. Student manager was Ruby Shirley.

Norton opened the season at Goodland on Friday, Dec. 6. The Blue Jays led by quarters 16-12, 30-25 and 38-33 but the Cowboys rallied in the final stanza to win 54-49. Goodland hit 11 free throws compared to 3 for Norton in the fourth quarter where both hit four field goals. Drew Schrum was leading scorer for Norton with 20 points and Conor Cox added 9. "I was very pleased with how we played in this first game," said coach Reusink. "Offensively, some boys stepped up; we had some trouble on defense."

Norton returned to Goodland three more times in the next week to play in the annual Top-side Tip-Off Tournament. On Thursday, Norton played an outstanding team from McCook and lost 56-29. Marc Miller led Norton in scoring with 7 points.

On Friday, the Blue Jays got their first victory of the young season when they dominated Wray, Colo. to win going away. Norton limited Wray to four points in each of the first two quarters to take a 15-8 halftime lead, then tallied 23 points in the third quarter. Tanner Furbush led the way in scoring as he hit 53 percent from the field in scoring 19 points.

The Blue Jays completed the weekend by outscoring Burlington, Colo. 32-27 to place fifth in the tournament. Furbush led the way in scoring again as he totaled 16 points.

Norton's first home contest of the season came on Tuesday, Dec. 17 when the Blue Jays hosted state-ranked and unbeaten Stockton in the NCHS Stull Gym. Norton played hard and all statistics were the same except for shooting. Stockton hit 38 percent from the field and Norton only 20 percent; the result was a 41-26 loss. Sophomore Quinton Porter led Norton in scoring with 9 points. Furbush was in foul trouble so saw limited action.

On Friday, Dec. 20, Norton traveled to Phillipsburg for more Mid-Continent League play. The Blue Jays played the Panthers close for three quarters before Panther free throws and Norton cold shooting allowed Phillipsburg to pull ahead for a 59-39 victory. Norton led 19-18 at halftime and Phillipsburg led 39-34 after three periods. Phillipsburg finished with 12 of 12 free throws in the fourth stanza. Porter led Norton with 15 points; Miller added 11. "We're doing some good things but having trouble learning how to win," said coach Reusink.

Norton opened the new year on Tuesday, Jan. 7 when the Blue Jays traveled to Cambridge, Neb. Norton led most of the way but free throws down the stretch allowed Cambridge to win 48-43. Cambridge hit 13 of 17 charities and Norton hit just 1 of 6 in the game. The Blue Jays led in the fourth quarter until Cambridge moved ahead with 3:20 remaining. Furbush had another good scoring night, swishing 8 of 10 from the field for a net smoking 80 percent accuracy and tallied 17 points. Norton was hurt by 24 turnovers.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Mid-Continent League Tournament began and Norton was seeded No.8. The Blue Jays traveled to play No.1 seed Plainville. Norton played hard but lost 60-43. Porter led Norton with 12 points, followed by Cox, 9; Miller, 8 and Breven Sondergaard, 8. All four hit 45 percent or better. "We battled to the end," said coach Reusink. "We are making small steps at getting better."

Norton traveled to Stockton on Thursday for a consolation game with No.4 seed Stockton, who had beaten them earlier in Norton. The Blue Jays redeemed themselves and proved that they were better than the lowest seed with a 36-34 win!

It was a close game with the lead changing hands numerous times. In the end, Porter hit a three-point and a two-point basket to put Norton ahead 34-32. With 6.9 seconds left, Schrum calmly swished two free throws and two charities by Stockton in the final seconds weren't enough.

Furbush led Norton with 11 points and Porter ended with 9. "It was nice to see our players step up and make shots and free throws late," said coach Reusink.

On Saturday, Norton traveled to Hays to play No.6 seed Ellis in Gross Memorial Coliseum. The Blue Jays played well again and came from behind to beat



Norton's senior guard Tanner Furbush outmuscles a Thomas More Prep player for a rebound during Class 3A Sub-State Tournament play in Hays. Furbush was the leading rebounder for Norton in the game as well as for the season. He was also second leading scorer for the Blue Jays.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

No.6 Ellis by a score of 49-44 and place fifth. Norton trailed by quarters 14-7, 23-15 and 38-33 after Porter hit a three-point shot at the buzzer. The fourth quarter was all Norton. The Blue Jays allowed Ellis just two field goals and 6 points in the final stanza. Porter led Norton in scoring with 17 points and freshman Tyus Henson added 10 points.

"What a great effort by these young men," said coach Reusink. "We were down eight points at the half but just kept battling!"

Norton traveled to Plainville to play the talented Cardinals for the second time on Tuesday, Jan. 21. The Blue Jays battled hard but lost 61-45. Porter, Schrum and Furbush each scored 10 points. Norton outrebounded Plainville 30-22.

Plainville continued on to place second in the Class 2A state tournament and finish 23-3 for the season.

Norton hosted Phillipsburg in the NCHS Stull Gym on Thursday, Jan. 23. The Blue Jays battled even on the boards but were unable to outshoot the Panthers from the field or the line in a 53-41 Mid-Continent League loss. Norton never gave up, outscoring the Panthers 18-9

in the fourth quarter. They limited Phillipsburg to just one field goal in the final stanza.

On Tuesday, Jan. 28, Norton hosted Trego Community and broke away in the third quarter to win 58-41 and run their record to 5-8. Porter led Norton with 17 points. "We needed this win to keep up our confidence," said coach Reusink. "A lot of players contributed."

After the win over Trego, inclement weather hit the Norton area, causing the postponement of the game in Norton with Colby on January 31 until Monday, Feb. 10 and the game in Norton with Smith Center scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 4 until Monday, Feb. 24.

On Friday, Feb. 7, Norton traveled to Hill City for another Mid-Continent League contest. The Blue Jays ran into a hot shooting Ringneck quintet and suffered a 61-33 loss. Neither team hit well from three-point range but Hill City was 26 of 45 from two-point land for a net smoking 58 percent. Norton was just 11 of 27 for 41 percent. Schrum was leading scorer for Norton with 10 points.

On Monday, Feb. 10, Norton hosted Colby in the postponed game. The Blue Jays battled hard but stayed just a few points

behind the Eagles in a 64-59 loss. Furbush hit 17 points, Schrum scored 14 and Henson added 10.

The next night, Tuesday, Feb. 11, Norton traveled to Oberlin and, for the second straight night, Norton took the game to the wire but just came up short 46-40. The score was 27-all after three quarters. Porter led Norton with 11 points; Furbush added 8.

The Blue Jays got back on the winning side on Friday, Feb. 14 when they hosted Osborne in the NCHS Gym. Free throws made the difference for Norton in an impressive 45-30 win. Norton hit 20 of 30 charities for 67 percent accuracy. Porter was 7 for 8 and Schrum was a perfect 4 of 4 free throws in the fourth quarter. Porter ended the game with 16 points and Schrum added 12. "We played hard; better than we have been, especially on defense," said coach Reusink. "This was the smartest game we've played this season. We got in foul trouble so needed our bench and they did a nice job. We hit free throws down the stretch to seal the deal."

The No.2 state ranked Hoxie Indians came to town on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Norton lost a hard fought contest 54-41. "Despite the loss, I was happy the way we played," said coach Reusink. "If we'd played this well against some teams that weren't as good, we'd have more wins. Hoxie is a very good basketball team; the best we've played this season." Porter led Norton with 19 points.

Hoxie continued on to place second in the state tournament in Class 1A,I and finish with a 24-2 season.

On Friday, Jan. 21, Norton traveled to Ellis and proved once again that they could beat the Railroaders, just as they had in the league tournament. With both teams hitting 18 field goals, Norton hit three more from downtown and three more free throws to win 55-50. Nine different Norton players scored. Schrum led with 17 points, followed by Furbush with 11 and Porter with 9. "With nine players contributing, it was definitely a team victory," said coach Reusink.

The postponed game with longtime rival Smith Center was played on Monday, Feb. 24 in the NCHS Stull Gym. It was "Senior Night" and the Blue Jays were ready for the Redmen and earned their second victory in a row by a score of 45-35. Norton outshot Smith Center, had more steals, less turnovers and more blocked shots. Re-

bounds were the only statistic where the visitors had the edge.

Honored with their parents were senior players Marc Miller, Drew Schrum, Tanner Furbush and Trevor Lewis, senior cheerleader Brandy Davis and senior yell leader Jared Shelton.

Furbush scored 15 points and Schrum added 9.

Coach Reusink praised his four senior players for always working hard and said they'll be missed. "Winning three of the last four games should help our confidence," said the coach.

The win over Smith Center was the final regular season contest. Norton was seeded No.6 in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament, hosted by Hoisington. The Blue Jays traveled to Thomas More Prep in Hays on Monday, March 3 to play the No.3 seeded Monarchs.

Junior Deon Lyle, who had been elevated from the junior varsity, and Schrum were shooting on target but the rest of the team had a cold shooting night and that led to a 58-37 loss and 8-13 final record. Lyle hit 54 percent from the field and ended with 18 points; Schrum added 11.

"Many thanks to the Norton crowd who made the trip to Hays," said coach Reusink. "We really appreciate the support they gave us all year long. We will miss our four seniors. They gave us some great effort along the way."

## Season statistics

Leading scorer for the Norton boys for the season was Quinton Porter with an average of 9 points per contest, followed by Furbush averaging 8 points and Schrum 7.7 points.

Leading free throw shooters were Schrum, 65 percent; Henson, 64 percent; Quinton Porter, 63 percent; Furbush, 54 percent; Miller, 54 percent.

Most accurate field goal shooter was Lyle with 44 percent accuracy, despite playing only three varsity games. He was followed by Landon Porter, 42 percent; Sondergaard, 40 percent; Schrum, 37 percent; Henson, 36 percent; Quinton Porter, 34 percent.

Furbush was leading rebounder for the season, averaging 7.5 per contest. He was followed by Cox with an average of 6.7 boards.

Offensive assists leader was Schrum with 2.3 per game. Quinton Porter and Henson averaged 1.7 assists.

Cox was the leading shot blocker in Class 3A, ending the season averaging 3.3 blocks per game.

## Blue Jays golf season to tee off

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School 2014 golf team will open their season on Tuesday, April 8 in the Redmen Invitational in Smith Center, beginning at 1 p.m.

Coach David Stover's Blue Jays will be in a rebuilding year with only one returning letterman: senior Garret Otter.

Other squad members are: Ty Burns, senior; Derek Rowh, junior; James Berry, Skylar Johnson, Nick Peterson, Quinton Porter, sophomores; Will Ellis, Mitchell Hickman, Layton Miller, Landon Porter, freshman.

"We are going to be a very young and inexperienced team this season," said coach Stover. "With only one returning let-

terman, we will look to make improvement as this group gains tournament experience as the season progresses.

"As far as the Mid-Continent League race, Phillipsburg, Ellis, Plainville and Thomas More Prep should all have very competitive squads and the league as a whole should be very competitive."

Don Burge will be the assistant golf coach this season.

Last season Norton opened with a championship finish in the Redmen Invitational in Smith Center, followed by sixth in the Goodland Invitational, fifth in the Norton Invitational, sixth in the I-70 Invitational, seventh in the TMP Invitational, sixth in the Colby Invitational, fifth in the Hill City Invitation-

al, fifth in the two-man and sixth in the four-man in the Phillipsburg Invitational, fifth in the Mid-Continent League Tournament and sixth in the Regional Tournament.

The Norton Invitational Tournament will be held on Thursday, April 24 on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton.

Tee off time will be 3 p.m.

Norton will also host the Norton JV Invitational Tournament on Tuesday, May 6 with tee off time also set for 3 p.m.

In addition, Norton will be the site of the Class 3A Regional Golf Tournament this year.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m.

**Coach's background**  
Coach Stover is a graduate of

St. John's of Beloit High School and Fort Hays State University.

He is completing his 25th year of teaching. After teaching six years at Macksville, he is in his 19th year of teaching and coaching in Norton.

He has been the Norton Community High School head golf coach during his entire tenure at Norton and has also been boys assistant basketball coach all 19 years.

Coach Stover was an assistant Norton high school football coach for five years. Prior to that, he was Norton junior high assistant football coach for five years and Norton junior high head football coach for five years.

## Norton wrestler competes in Senior Classic

Norton Community High School senior Branson Addington, the Blue Jays' only state champion on this year's state championship team, wrestled in the prestigious 2014 Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Senior Classic last Friday evening in the Kansas Expo Centre in Topeka.

Wrestling at 113 pounds, Branson was a member of the

Class 1-2-3-4A wrestlers who were supposed to compete against the best from Class 5-6A. The large schools didn't have a wrestler in his weight, so his opponent was Josiah Seaton, Bonner Springs, who was voted the Class 4A Wrestler of the Year. In what was considered an exhibition match, Branson wrestled well but lost by a 10-0 decision.

"I was proud of Branson," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "He went out and competed with hardly any practice time against a very good wrestler."

Branson compiled a 32-6 record this season and defeated a previously unbeaten and No.1 state ranked wrestler for the state championship.

The only other area wres-

tlar in the Classic was Michael Dusin of Phillipsburg. In the 145 pound weight class, he edged Dylan Beckner, Wichita Northwest, by a 3-2 score.

The small schools won the dual 15-12 but the final score was affected by the fact that the large schools had no entries at some weights and there were a number of exhibition matches.

## Golf Season Schedule

Tues., April 8 - Redmen Invitational, Smith Center, 1 p.m.  
Tues., April 15 - Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
Thurs., April 17 - Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
Mon., April 21 - Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
Thurs., April 24 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.  
Tues., April 29 - Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 1 p.m.  
Thurs., May 1 - I-70 Invitational, Ellis/Trego, 9 a.m.  
Mon., May 5 - TMP Invitational, Hays (Smoky Hill) 9 a.m.  
Tues., May 6 - Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., May 8 - Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., May 8 - Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.  
Fri., May 9 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
Mon., May 12 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., May 15 - MCL Tournament, Smith Center, 1 p.m.  
Mon., May 19 - Regional Tournament, Norton, 9 a.m.  
Tues., May 27 - State Golf, Cheney, 9 a.m.

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