



Party goes at the annual Senior Citizen Christmas Party, hosted by the women of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, look over the selection of tree ornaments decorating a centerpiece. The women of St. Francis made sure that everyone had an ornament to take home as a memento of the day.

Woman wins \$50 in contest

Lots of people were looking but Barb Goeken of Norton was the only one who found her number in last week's Christmas on Us section in Tuesday's edition of *The Norton Telegram*.



Barb Goeken

Ms. Goeken found her number, No. 617087, in the Hot Shots ad on Page 3 of the Christmas on Us section. Her sharp eyes earned her \$50 in spendable scrip.

She had gotten her winning ticket at Town and Country and plans to use her winnings to buy some groceries and take her cat to Countryside Vet, which makes everyone but the cat happy.

Someone got No. 5341636 at the Sewing Box but they didn't find the number in the Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse ad.

Another ticket, No. 599068, was picked up at the Norton Homestore and could have been

found in the Felton's Building Center ad.

Ticket No. 456704 came with groceries from Shop and Save and could have been found in the Russ' Jewelry ad while No. 9331916 came from Jamboree and turned up in the Norton Shop and Save ad.

Someone got No. 601719 at Moffet Drug but didn't see the number in the Pace Family Fitness ad on Tuesday.

Prairie Wind Eye Care gave out ticket No. 609009 that was picked out of the bucket and it could have been found in the Countryside Veterinary ad.

A Shop and Save shopper got No. 648275 and it wound up in the Norton County Coop ad.

So far *The Norton Telegram* and Norton merchants have given away \$100 in spendable script.

There is still \$400 left to give away and the C section in today's paper will have more numbers.

Check them out and win. The numbers are big enough to see, but you have to check each ad carefully. Some are at the top, some in the middle, some at the bottom and a few go in sideways.

On Saturday, Dec. 20, *The Norton Telegram* and Norton merchants will give away any unclaimed \$50 instant prizes plus \$1,500 to one lucky winner and \$500 to a second person.

The big drawing will be held at 2 p.m. in the street between Moffet Drug and Russ' Jewelry and the First State Bank. You have to be present — or at least your ticket has to be present — to win.

Come join the fun. Win now and win on Saturday, Dec. 20.

Scrip money can be spent at any of the merchants participating in the Norton Christmas on Us contest.

Blue Jay girls start season on Thursday

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team will open the 2003-'04 season on Thursday when they play Weskan at 3 p.m. in the opening round of the Topside Tipoff at the Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland.

Also competing in the tournament will be teams from Goodland; Burlington, Colo.; Holyoke, Colo.; McCook; Ottawa and Wray, Colo.

Winners of the Weskan-Norton and Ottawa-Holyoke games will play at 3 p.m. on Friday and winners of the Goodland-Burlington and McCook-Wray games will play at 7 p.m. on Friday in the championship semi-finals. Losers will play at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., respectively, in the consolation bracket.

The championship game will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Max Jones Fieldhouse. The third place game will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The consolation championship and seventh place games will be at 12 noon on Saturday.

Coach Jilka has five returning letter winners, four of whom were starters last season.

Returning starters are Anna Berry, 5'10" center, senior; Amber Engelbert, 5'8" forward, junior; Chelsea Cox, 6' center; Whitney Newell, 5'5" guard, sophomores. The other letter winner is Karlie Jones, 5'4" sophomore guard.

Other varsity team members are: Nicole Wolf, 5'8", senior; Jessi Duscher, 5'5"; Staci Reeves, 5'8", juniors; Dane'e Payne, 5'7"; Amanda Antrim, 5'1"; Klaire Mann, 5'4"; Amber Overlease, 5'4"; Chelle Donovan, 5'3"; Becca Ebert, 5'10"; Darci Darling, 5'10", sophomores.

Freshmen members of the

team are Lacey Roe, 5'6"; Maggie Nielsen, 5'8"; Dana Hillebrand, 5'6"; Morgan Kauten, 5'7"; Ashley Traxler, 5'10"; Jessica Ebner, 5'5"; Laura Delimont, 5'6".

Assistant coaches this season are George Rossi and Joan Bolt. Student managers are Jacky Cobia'n and Brenda Combs.

"We are looking forward to this year," said Coach Jilka. "Our team is still very young but we have had some experience and that will go a long way toward helping us this season."

"Our practices have been very good. Our girls are working hard and we are far ahead of last year at this time. Consistency is a big key for us right now. Shooting the basketball and being aggressive are two things we want to improve on and, so far, we have been doing that."

"Finding players to come off the bench and contribute is our problem area now and that's something we are working on and trying to develop."

"We have the capability of stepping up and surprising some teams this year."

Coach Jilka is beginning his 22nd season as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays. During his tenure, the Norton girls have compiled 369 wins and 114 losses.

The 2000-'01 team compiled an 18-7 record en route to a fourth place finish in the Class 3A State Tournament.

Coach Jilka's 2001-2002 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the MCL. After losing eight seniors from that squad, Coach Jilka had to start over last season with only three returning letter winners, none of whom were starters. The Lady Jays finished just 4-16 but learned many valuable lessons that will help them this season.

Norton boys ready for basketball season

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team will open the 2003-2004 season on Thursday when they play Weskan at 5 p.m. Central Time in the opening round of the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament at the Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland.

Also competing in the tournament will be teams from Goodland; Burlington, Colo.; Holyoke, Colo.; McCook; Ottawa and Wray, Colo.

In other first round games on Thursday, Holyoke will play Ottawa at 3 p.m. in the Junior High Gym, which is also in the fieldhouse; Wray will play McCook at 7 p.m. in the Junior High Gym and Goodland will play Burlington at 9 p.m. in Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Winners of the Weskan-Norton and Holyoke-Ottawa games will play in Friday's semi-finals at 5 p.m. and winners of the Wray-McCook and Goodland-Burlington games will play at 9 p.m. The losers will also play in the consolation bracket at the same times.

The championship finals will be at 8 p.m. in Max Jones Fieldhouse

on Saturday and the third place game at 4 p.m. in the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The consolation championship game will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday in the Junior High Gym and the seventh place game at 2 p.m.

Coach Reusink has eight returning lettermen from last season's Class 3A State Champion Norton quintet but only one returning starter, Kyle Kats, 5'10" junior point guard.

The other returning lettermen are: Charlie Foley, 5'7" guard; Dan Roeder, 5'11" forward; Jared Sloan, 6'4" center; Brian Luft, 5'11" forward; Jared Foley, 6' guard, seniors; Ryan Maddy, 6'1" forward and Aaron Overlease, 5'10" forward, juniors.

Kats received honorable mention on the Mid-Continent League All-League team last season. He averaged 7.4 points per game and 3.6 rebounds per contest. He was the team's assists leader with three per game and led the team in steals with 82 thefts.

Kats played a key role in the jays' 22-5 season. Norton also won the league title for the fifth straight year and tied for the league championship.

Maddy and Sloan saw a lot of playing time last season. Maddy

averaged 5.7 points and 3.3 rebounds per game and Sloan had 5.3 points and 3.7 rebounds per contest.

Other members of the 2003-2004 Blue Jay boys squad are: Jason Green, 5'10"; Justin Shirk, 6'11"; Josh Jackson, 6'2"; Nick Evans, 5'11"; Derek Volgamore, 5'11", juniors; Heath Vincent, 6'6"; Greg Wilson, 5'9"; Nathan Morse, 5'9"; Brady Linner, 5'11", sophomores; Jared Engelbert, 5'8"; Lucas Bailey, 5'8"; Nic Lewis, 6'; Brian Juenemann, 5'9"; Corey Rutherford, 6'1"; Mathew Shepard, 6'4"; Brandon Quintana, 5'10"; Aaron Daniels, 5'9"; Blake Wolf, 5'8", freshmen.

Returning as assistant coaches this year are David Stover and Todd Fulton. Student managers are Kayleigh Brooks and Kayla Peterson.

"We have high expectations for this season coming off last year's

state championship," said Coach Reusink. "We lost some very good players but I think we also have some good players to replace them."

"Right now, we need to get better defensively but we are very athletic so that should improve. We also need to develop some depth."

Coach Reusink said he expects the league to be better this year and very balanced. He said that Trego and Phillipsburg have the most talent returning but that Ellis is always tough and Plainville could be a surprise team.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 147 wins and 115 losses. He is beginning his 25th year of coaching high school boys teams and has compiled an overall record of 361 wins and 161 losses for an outstanding 69.2 percent victory record. This is an average of 15 wins and 6.7 losses per year.

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