

Girls advance in tournament



Norton's Becca Ebert, No. 22, (above) brought down a rebound and prepared to throw the ball to Anna Berry at left during the Lady Jays' season opening basketball victory over Weskan on Thursday. Later in the boys game

Norton players (below) got in position for a rebound during the Jays' win over Weskan. Pictured are (from left) Heath Vincent, Ryan Maddy, No. 22, and Dan Roeder, No. 14.

By DICK BOYD

Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team started the 2003-2004 season on a winning note in the first round of the Topside Tipoff Tournament on Thursday in Goodland by outscoring Weskan 60-31.

The Lady Jays led throughout the contest. They were on top by quarters: 19-6, 29-13 and 39-26. They outscored Weskan 21-5 in the fourth stanza.

Coach Jilka has five returning letter winners, four of whom were starters last season. Returning starters are Anna Berry, 5'10" senior center; Amber Engelbert, 5'8" junior forward; Chelsea Cox, 6' sophomore center and Whitney Newell, 5'5" sophomore guard. The other returning letter winner is Karlie Jones, 5'4" sophomore guard. All contributed to the win.

Leading scorer was Newell who tallied 20 points on 6 of 8 from beyond the arc for 75 percent accuracy and 1 of 2 two-pointers for 50 percent. Newell's six three-point baskets tied her for the tournament record.

Berry threw in 13 points on 5 of 6 field goals for 83 percent accuracy and 3 of 4 charities for 75 percent. Cox hit 12 points on 5 of 7 field goals for 71 percent and 2 of 3 free throws for 67 percent.

Jones scored 10 points on 1 of 6 three-pointers for 17 percent and 3 of 9 two-pointers for 33 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent. Chelle Donovan, a 5'3" sophomore guard, hit 1 of 1 treys and 1 of 1 two-point shots for 5 points.

Stacey Horn was leading scorer for Weskan with 12 points, followed by Kristi Barber, 11; Whitney DuBois, 4; Jade Sexson, 2; Hannah Lawless, 2.

As a team, Norton hit 8 of 21 treys, 15 of 35 two-point shots and 23 of 56 overall for 41 percent.

Weskan missed three treys, tallied on 10 of 20 two-point shots and hit 10 of 23 overall.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 3 of 4 for 75 percent and Weskan swished 11 of 17.

Weskan had 30 rebounds. Norton had 12 offensive and 13 defensive caroms.

Berry and Cox led rebounding with 5 each, followed by Engel-

bert, 3; Klaire Mann, 2; Jones, 2; Newell, 1; Becca Ebert, 1; Stacy Reeves, 1.

Norton had a whopping 24 steals and Weskan had just 4 thefts. Jones led with 8, followed by Berry, 6; Newell, 4; Engelbert, 2; Overlease, Donovan, Ebert, Reeves, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 17 assists compared to 4 for Weskan. Engelbert led with 5, followed by Jones, 4; Newell, 2; Donovan, 2; Ebert, 2; Mann, 1; Cox, 1.

Norton had 15 turnovers while Weskan had 36.

"We took our lumps last season. I'm glad to see that our hard work is paying off," said Coach Jilka. "We worked hard tonight and did a lot of good things. We got in some foul trouble but our girls came off the bench and played well even though they haven't had experience at the varsity level.

"We hustled hard and made some great steals. We had a decent defense. Our three-point shooting was good too. And, we held our turnovers to 15.

"We were a little inconsistent at times. We're still young and make mistakes. We have a lot of things to work on but it's good to start the season with a win. We're already way ahead of where we were at this time last season."

Results of other first round games on Thursday were Ottawa over Holyoke, Colo., 67-31; Goodland over Burlington, Colo., 100-35; and McCook over Wray, Colo., 53-34.

Norton will play Ottawa at 3 p.m. today in the semi-finals. The championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday. The third place game will be at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

BOX SCORES:

Norton girls 60			
	FGs	FTs	TP
Newell	7	0-0	20
Cox	5	2-3	12
Donovan	2	0-0	5
Jones	4	1-2	10
Berry	5	3-4	13
Totals	23	6-9	60

Weskan girls 31

Barber	5	1-2	11
Sexson	1	0-0	2
DuBois	2	0-0	4
Lawless	0	2-2	2
Hershberger	0	0-2	0
Horn	2	8-11	12
Totals	10	11-17	31

Blue Jays take out Weskan

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team picked up where they left off last season when they won the Class 3A State Championship by defeating Weskan 60-53 in the first round of the Topside Tipoff Tournament on Thursday in Goodland.

The Blue Jays returned eight lettermen but only one starter, Kyle Kats, 5'10" junior point guard. The other starters last night were lettermen Jered Sloan, 6'4" senior center; Dan Roeder, 5'11" senior forward; Ryan Maddy, 6'1" junior forward and Aaron Overlease, 5'10" junior guard. All five contributed points early as the Blue Jays jumped out to a 25-3 lead by the end of the first quarter.

Weskan, who also played in the Class 1A State Tournament last season, did not fold; however, and outscored Norton the next three quarters.

Weskan tallied 18 points in the second quarter compared to 10 for Norton to cut the Blue Jays' lead to 35-21 at intermission. The Coyotes outscored the Blue Jays 15-12 in the third period to drop the Norton advantage down to 47-36, then tallied 17 points in the final quarter compared to 13 for Norton.

"We got off to a great start but lost our intensity," said Coach Reusink. "We didn't have that killer instinct and couldn't put them away.

"I was pretty happy with our defense and our offensive execution wasn't bad except later in the game. We need to get better fundamentally, especially when passing the ball."

Eight different players scored for Norton. Leading scorer was Sloan with 14 points on 6 of 9 field goals for 67 percent and 2 of 2 free throws. Maddy threw in 12 points on 1 of 3 treys for 33 percent, 3 of



8 from two point range for 38 percent and 3 of 6 free throws for 50 percent.

Kats tallied 8 points on 1 of 2 three-pointers for 50 percent, 1 of 3 two-pointers for 33 percent and 3 of 5 charities for 60 percent. Roeder, Overlease and Brian Luft, a 5'11" senior forward, each scored 6 points in the game.

Leading scorer for Weskan was 5'10" junior forward Nolan Cox who scored 23 points. He was followed by 6'1" senior forward Laran Steele with 15.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 9 three-point shots for 22 percent, 20 of 39 two-point shots for 51 percent and 22 of 48 overall for 46 percent.

Weskan scored on 4 of 9 three-pointers for 44 percent, 13 of 30 two-pointers for 43 percent and 17 of 39 overall for 44 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 14 of 22 for 64 percent and Weskan swished 15 of 24 for 63 percent.

The Blue Jays dominated the

backboards, pulling down 39 rebounds compared to 26 for Weskan. The Jays grabbed 15 offensive and 24 defensive caroms. The Coyotes pulled down 11 offensive and 15 defensive caroms. Maddy was leading rebounder for Norton with 10, followed by Sloan, 8; Kats, 4; Roeder, 2; Heath Vincent, 2; Foley, Overlease, Luft, 1 each.

Norton had 12 steals compared to 14 for Weskan. Kats and Maddy had 3 thefts each, followed by Overlease and Luft, 2 each; Roeder and Sloan, 1 each.

Norton had 6 assists and Weskan had 3. Kats led with 2, followed by Foley, Luft, Sloan, and Vincent, 1 each.

The Jays blocked 6 shots. Roeder had 3 blocks, Sloan had 2 and Vincent had 1.

Norton turned the ball over 26 times and Weskan lost it 23 times.

In other first round games on Thursday, Ottawa defeated Holyoke, Colo., 82-63; McCook outscored Wray, Colo., 76-58; and

Goodland rolled over Burlington, Colo., 92-60.

Norton will play Ottawa at 5 p.m. today in the semi-finals. The championship finals will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday and the third place game will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

BOX SCORES:

Norton 60			
	FGs	FTs	TP
Foley	1	2-4	4
Kats	2	3-5	8
Roeder	2	2-3	6
Overlease	3	0-0	6
Luft	3	0-0	6
Maddy	4	3-6	12
Sloan	6	2-2	14
inent	1	2-2	4
Totals	22	14-22	60

Weskan 53			
	FGs	FTs	TP
G. Cox	1	0-0	2
B. Cox	2	1-1	6
M. Sexton	0	0-2	0
N. Cox	8	4-4	23
S. Sexson	1	3-8	5
Steele	5	5-5	15
DuBois	0	2-4	2
Totals	17	15-24	53

Logan girls take out Eastern Heights 53-32 in opener

The Lady Trojans began their season with a bang as they outplayed Eastern Heights 53-32 last Friday night in Logan.

"It's always great to start the season off with a win," said Coach Linda Nighswonger. "All and all, I was pleased with our efforts, although we didn't rebound as well as we would have liked.

"Eastern Heights put a lot of pressure on Valerie and Michaela. The other team members shot well

from the field.

"I am very proud of the way the girls came together and worked as a team tonight!"

Candace Thompson led scoring with 5 two-pointers and 1 foul shot for 11 points. She was followed by Val Jackson, 9 points; Jenny Noel, 8 points; Lanee Webb, 7 points; Kati Chestnut and Vanessa VanDiest, 6 points apiece; Megan Brumbaugh, 4 points; and Michaela Berg, 2 points. As a

team, Logan made 41 percent of their field goals to the Mustangs' 28 percent.

Rebounding honors went to Jackson with 10, and Thompson and Webb with 4 each. Logan's ladies grabbed a total of 27 rebounds.

Out of 12 team steals, Jackson snagged 3, while VanDiest, Brumbaugh, Noel and Thompson each grabbed 2.

Making assists were Jackson, 3;

and Chestnut, Noel and Thompson, 2 each.

Jackson blocked 4 of Eastern Heights shots, while Chestnut blocked 1.

The Lady Trojans will compete in the Phillipsburg Round Robin from Dec. 9 to Dec. 13.

Logan 53, Eastern Heights 32

Score by quarters:					
Logan	12	16	11	14	53
E. Heights	5	4	10	13	32

Jennings downs Kensington 58-56

The Coyotes just barely edged Kensington 58-56 for the victory in last Friday's season opening basketball game at home.

Jennings held the lead throughout the game, capturing a 19-9 lead in the first quarter, 37-20 in the second, 44-33 in the third and 58-56 for the victory.

"We did pretty good until half time," said Coach Chris Henson. "But then we let them get back in the game. After the half, we had three starters in foul trouble, so we had to have some of the younger kids come out.

"We let them get too many second chance points and were lucky to come away with the win. We held on though.

"Hopefully we'll improve with every game, which is one of our goals for the season."

Adam Miller and Adam Wahlmeier led scoring — Miller with 7 two-pointers and 8 of 9 from the foul line for 22 points, and

Wahlmeier with 5 three-pointers and a two-pointer for 17 points. Also scoring were Grant Bailey, 10; Brett McKenna, 4; Marcus McKenna, 3; and Nick Wahlmeier, 2. As a team, the Coyotes shot 48 percent of their two-pointers, 58 percent of their three-pointers, and 43 percent of their foul shots.

Rebounding honors went to Miller with 7, B. McKenna with 6, and N. Wahlmeier with 5.

Bailey was the steal leader with 7.

B. McKenna found 6 teammates open for a basket, while Bailey made 5 assists and A. Wahlmeier, 4.

The junior varsity also won its game against Kensington, 33-23.

Scoring were Kyle Kinser, 10 points; Brian Miller and Josh Vahling, 8 apiece; M. McKenna, 4; and Seth Ritter, 1.

The Coyotes's are competing in the Palco Tournament this week.

Jennings 58, Kensington 56

Score by quarters:					
Jennings	19	18	7	14	58
K-ton	9	11	13	23	56

Kensington (56)

Buzz Rice 4 2-4 18, Garrett Levin 3 0-4 8 10, Austin Panter 4 0-0 2 8, Kyle Bienthoff 1 0 5-6 7, Zach Lamont 0 1 2-2 5, Jess Rietzke 0 0 5-6 5, Grant Levin 1 0 1-2 3.

Jennings (58)

Adam Miller 7 0 8-9 22, Adam Wahlmeier 1 5 0-2 17, Grant Bailey 3 1 1-2 10, Brett McKenna 2 0-0 4 4, Marcus McKenna 0 1 0-2 3, Nick Wahlmeier 1 0 0-0 2, Kyle Kinser 0 0-0 2 0.