

# Boys take third place in Topside Tipoff tourney

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team put together a solid team performance on Saturday to defeat host team Goodland 64-58 to place third in the Topside Tipoff Basketball Tournament in Goodland.

All seven Norton players who saw action scored and pulled down at least one rebound and five of them had at least one assist.

Although Goodland held a slight 11-7 lead after the first quarter, the Blue Jays erupted for 25 points in the second quarter to take a 32-27 halftime advantage. Heath Vincent, a 6'6" sophomore center, led the way with four baskets. Vincent added two more baskets and a free throw in Norton's 16 point third quarter when the Blue Jays extended their lead to 48-38. He added 2 of 2 free throws in the fourth period to end the game with 15 points, high for the team.

Vincent replaced senior center Jered Sloan who did not play due to back problems. Vincent hit 6 of 10 field goal attempts for 60 percent accuracy and was 3 of 4 from the charity stripe for 75 percent.

Ryan Maddy, a 6'1" junior forward, and Dan Roeder, a 5'11" senior forward, each tallied 12 points for Norton. Maddy hit 5 of 10 from the field for 50 percent and a perfect 2 of 2 free throws. Roeder connected on 1 of 2 three point shots for 50 percent, 3 of 4 two-point shots for 75 percent and 4 of 6 overall for 67 percent. He was 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent, and 4 of 6 overall for 67 percent. He was 3 of 4 from the free throw line for 75 percent.

Aaron Overlease, a 5'10" junior guard, was a fourth Norton player scoring in double figures as he hit 10 points on 2 of 5 trey tries for 40 percent, 2 of 3 two-point attempts for 67 percent and 4 of 8 overall for 50 percent.

Every single Norton player who scored from the field hit 50 percent or better as the Blue Jays swished 3 of 8 three-point tries for 38 percent, 20 of 34 two-point shots for 59 percent and 23 of 42 for 55 percent overall.

Jase Herl, a 5'11" sophomore, led Goodland in scoring with 23 points. Derrick Raymer, a 6'1" junior, scored 13 points and Bobby Miller, a 6'1" sophomore, added 12.

Norton senior guard Charlie Foley did not score from the field but played an instrumental part in the Jays' victory in the fourth quarter when he hit 7 of 8 free throw attempts for 88 percent accuracy at the line. In fact, the Blue Jays hit 12 of 14 charities in the final period to deny any Cowboy hopes for a rally.

Goodland hit only 3 of 12 trey tries for 25 percent, 18 of 37 two-point attempts for 49 percent and 21 of 49 overall for 43 percent. From the line, the Cowboys were 13 of 20 for 65 percent.

"This was a great win for us," said Coach Reusink. "It was definitely a team effort. Sloan was out with back problems and everyone else really picked up their level of play."

"We did a great job on the boards all night long and hit free throws well in the fourth quarter to seal the win."

"We still have a lot of work to do in learning to take care of the basketball but I'm confident that will come."

Norton outrebounded Goodland 26-20. The Jays had 4 offensive and 22 defensive rebounds and the Cowboys pulled down 6 offensive and 14 defensive caroms. Vincent was the leader with 8 rebounds, followed by Kyle Kats, 6; Roeder, 5; Maddy, 3;



Norton's Charlie Foley, left, and Kyle Kats put a blanket on Ottawa's Lee Baldwin as the Blue Jays run the full court press during their 67-57 semi-finals loss in the Topside Tipoff Tournament in Goodland. Foley and Kats each had two steals in the contest. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd)

Brian Luft, 2; Overlease, 1; Foley, 1.

Vincent blocked two shots and Kats rejected one. Kats had six of Norton's seven steals. Roeder had the other theft.

The Blue Jays had 16 offensive assists. Kats recorded eight, followed by Foley, three; Luft and Maddy, two each and Overlease, one.

Norton had 20 turnovers and Goodland had 15.

#### Next action

Next action for the 2-1 Norton Community High School boys basketball team will also include freshmen and junior varsity games. The Blue Jays will travel to Phillipsburg on Friday to begin Mid-Continent League play. Games will begin at 4 p.m.

#### Norton boys 64

Foley 0 0 7-8 7, Kats 2 0 0-0 4, Roeder 3 1 3-4 12, Overlease 2 2 0-0 10, Luft 2 0 0-0 4, Maddy 5 0 2-2 12, Vincent 6 0 3-4 15, Totals 20 3 15-18 64

#### Goodland boys 58

Herl 7 2 3-3 23, Raymer 4 0 5-9 13, Tedford 1 1 3-4 8, Doke 1 0 0-0 2, Miller 5 0 2-4 12, Totals 18 2 13-20 58

#### Semi-finals loss

After defeating Weskan 60-53 in the first round of the tournament, Norton played Ottawa in Friday's semi-finals and lost by a score of 67-57.

Ottawa ran a full court pressing defense the entire game and that seemed to bother the Jays some. "We didn't handle their pressure too badly but we didn't score baskets off it either," said Coach Reusink.

Ottawa held a 26-13 lead after one quarter. Norton had a slight 11-10 scoring edge in the second period to make the halftime tally 36-24. Ottawa extended their lead to 56-37 by outscoring Norton 20-13 in the third period. The Blue Jays rallied in the fourth quarter, outscoring Ottawa 20-11, but the deficit was too large to overcome.

"We had Kyle Kats and Jered Sloan on the bench in foul trouble much of the game and that hurt but our reserves played well," said Coach Reusink. "We hung in there and battled to the end."

Ryan Maddy was leading scorer for Norton. He hit 1 of 2 three-point shots for 50 percent, 5 of 12 two-pointers for 42 percent and 6 of 14 overall for 43 percent. He was also 1 of 3 from the free throw line.

Kyle Kats hit 12 points on 2 of 4 three-point attempts for 50 percent, 2 of 8 two-point shots for 25

percent and 4 of 12 overall for 33 percent. He hit a perfect 2 of 2 from the free throw line.

Aaron Overlease hit 10 points on 2 of 3 three-pointers for 67 percent, 2 of 6 two-point attempts for 33 percent and 4 of 9 overall for 44 percent.

Jered Sloan hit 3 of 6 from the field for 50 percent and 2 of 2 charities for 8 points.

Lee Baldwin was the leading scorer for Ottawa with 22 points. Clint Bones added 13 and Caleb Blakesley hit 10.

As a team, Norton hit 7 of 12 three-point shots for 58 percent, 14 of 39 two-point attempts for 36 percent and 21 of 51 overall for 41 percent.

Ottawa swished 8 of 18 three-point shots for 44 percent, 176 of 40 two-pointers for 43 percent and 25 of 58 overall for 43 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 8 of 15 for 53 percent compared to 9 of 21 for 43 percent by Ottawa.

Norton was outrebounded 48-34. The Jays had 9 offensive and 25 defensive caroms while Ottawa had 21 offensive and 27 defensive rebounds.

Maddy was the leader with 10 caroms, followed by Sloan, 5; Heath Vincent, 4; Kats, 3; Charlie Foley, 2; Dan Roeder, 2; Brian Luft, 1.

Norton had 10 assists. Leader was Kats with 3, followed by Roeder, 2; Foley, Overlease, Luft, Sloan, Vincent, 1 each. Ottawa had 9 assists.

Foley and Kats each had 2 of Norton's 6 steals. Overlease and Luft had 1 each. Ottawa had 8 steals. Sloan blocked two shots. Both teams had 15 turnovers.

#### Norton boys 57

Foley 0 2 1-2 7, Kats 2 2 2-2 12, Roeder 0 0 2-2 2, Overlease 2 2 0-0 10, Luft 1 0 0-2 2, Maddy 5 1 1-3 14, Sloan 3 0 2-2 8, Vincent 1 0 0-2 2, Totals 14 7 8-15 57

#### Ottawa boys 67

Waldron 2 1 0-3 7, Sheffield 0 3 0-1 9, Hendrix 0 1 1-4 4, Baldwin 4 3 5-6 22, Nation 1 0 0-0 2, Bones 6 0 1-2 13, Blakesley 4 0 2-5 10, Totals 17 8 9-21 67

In other semi-finals games on Friday, McCook defeated Goodland 59-56 on the championship side, Holyoke outscored Weskan 82-79 and Wray beat Burlington 83-73 in the consolation bracket.

Ottawa won the championship with a 72-61 victory over McCook on Saturday. Wray defeated Holyoke 71-62 for the consolation championship and Weskan beat Burlington 79-67 for seventh.

## Huskies fall 66-37 to Hill City

The Northern Valley Huskies were defeated 66-37 by Hill City Friday night in Alma.

"One of our goals going into this game was to not have a single digit scoring quarter," said Coach Jason Dibble. "I do not think we could have picked a worse night for shots not to fall to reach our goal. We improved our 2 point percentage, but once we got behind I told our kids to keep shooting to get back into the game. I figured some of those 3s would start to fall, but they just never did."

"The positive side to shooting 30 3-point attempts was that we were not forcing shots. We actually moved the ball around much better than the first game to get that many shot opportunities. Another thing that I didn't realize until I watched the film was how many turnovers we had, 25, and how many we forced, 29. We definitely had some success in our normal press and half court traps, but were forced to totally deny late in the game and gave up some easy transition baskets."

"I think we are headed in the right direction defensively while offensively we just need to get some shots to fall."

Joey Copper led scoring for the Huskies with 5 two-pointers and 2 foul shots for 12. He was followed by Jesse Hilburn, 10; Garth Gebhard, 7; Avery Thalheim and Thomas Ostmeyer, 3 apiece; and Cole Kinderknecht, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Copper with 8, Hilburn with 7, and Kinderknecht with 6. Ost-



Northern Valley sophomore Cole Kinderknecht puts in a basket in the game against Hill City on Friday in Alma. Kinderknecht also had 6 rebounds in the game. — Telegram photo by Susie Marble

meyer made 3, while Gebhard, Thalheim and Andrew Sheley each made 2, and Randal Conner made 1.

Sheley led steals at 2, while Hilburn and Thalheim led assists with 3 apiece.

The junior varsity was also defeated by Hill City, losing 48-13.

"We struggled a lot in the first quarter against their man defense because we still have not fully grasped the entries into our offense," said Coach Chuck Fessenden. "I think once we are able to do that the players will be more successful and more aggressive on the offensive end of the floor."

"Avery and Cole came in the second quarter and sparked the offense with a few baskets. The fourth we figured out that we could get the ball into the post on

our secondary break and Scott scored some points in the paint.

"I keep telling the players to make up for mistakes by playing hard on the defensive end and rebounding."

Scoring for the Huskies were Scott Shearer, 6; Thalheim, 3; Kinderknecht, 2; and Cody Lowry and Sheley, 1 apiece.

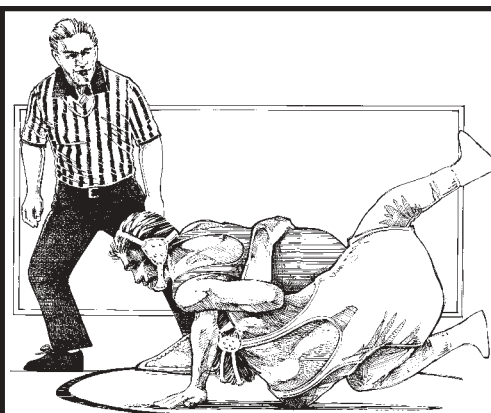
Rebounding honors went to Sheley with 5.

The Northern Valley Huskies will host Smith Center tonight in Alma.

#### Northern Valley

Joey Copper 5 0 2-2 12, Jesse Hilburn 3 1 2-1 10, Garth Gebhard 1 1 2-2 7, Avery Thalheim 0 1 1-0 3, Thomas Ostmeyer 1 0 6-1 3, Cole Kinderknecht 1 0 0-0 2, Andrew Sheley 0 0 1-0 0.

## Go, Norton Blue Jays!



### Wrestling Fri., Dec. 19

Norton Blue Jays

VERSUS

Phillipsburg Panthers and Stockton Tigers

Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, Norton Beginning at 6 P.M.

Norton versus Stockton Stockton versus Phillipsburg SENIOR NIGHT ACTIVITIES Norton versus Phillipsburg

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M. Dual Tournament in Goodland



### Basketball Fri., Dec. 19

Norton Blue Jays

VERSUS

Phillipsburg Panthers

4:00 p.m.

Chuck Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20 Junior Varsity Tournament Beginning 9 A.M. in Norton

Boys and Girls Games at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and NCHS Memorial Gym C-Team Boys Tournament December 29, 30, 31 in Hill City

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## Norton girl named All-American

Stef Sloan, a sophomore from Norton, has received All-American honors as a member of the volleyball team at Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson.

Stef has been named an All-Area Second Team Division One Volleyball All-American. Earlier she was named First Team All-Region and First Team All-Conference. During the season, she was named to the All-Tournament

Teams at the Hutchinson Invitational Tournament, Hesston Tournament and Iowa Western Tournament.

Hutchinson finished the season ranked No. 16 in the nation. The Blue Dragons compiled a 6-2 record in the Jayhawk West Conference and an overall season record of 41-7.

Stef played in 108 games. She had 306 kills, a hitting percentage of .277, 39 solo blocks and 22

block assists. She had 332 digs which is an average of 3.07 digs per game. She averaged 91 percent in serving with 42 aces. She was 90 percent in passing.

"Stef has been a dominant presence on our squad for the past two years," said Hutchinson Coach Ronda Shirley. "She has worked hard to improve her overall game and has played a huge role in our team's success."