

Junior High girls beat Hill City teams

The Norton seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams took down Hill City on Dec. 4. The seventh graders smashed the Broncos 49-15, while the eighth graders walked away with a 33-21 victory.

Seventh grade

"We changed our press for this game and I was really pleased with how we executed those changes," said Coach Kim Pakkebeir. "I also feel that we are starting to do a better job of running a zone offense.

"These girls work really hard and that has been evident from the results we've been having."

Laura Lee Baird led scoring with 15 points, followed by KaraJo Jones, 10 points; Hayli Bozarth, 8; Wiyanna Paxton, 6; Taylor Rossi and Kayla Foley, 4 apiece; and Ashley Colip, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Foley and Jones, who each had 5. They were followed by Bozarth and Paxton, 4 apiece; Baird, Colip and Amanda Delimont, 2 each; and Rossi, 1.

Steal leaders were Baird with 7 and Paxton with 5. Baird led assists with 6.

The seventh grade Lady Jays held a 7-0 record after this game.

Eighth grade

"In this game, you could see that we are starting to become more comfortable with our offensive and defensive schemes as we, statistically, were a little better than the Broncos in each category," said Coach Chuck Zimmerman.

Boys win, lose games

The Norton Junior High boys basketball teams split games with Hill City on Dec. 4 with the eighth grade taking a win of 42-32 and the seventh grade losing 35-17.

Eighth grade

Norton's eighth grade Junior Jays opened the game with a 8-0 run, but then Hill City answered with 2 three-pointers to make it an 8-6 game. The quarter ended with Norton leading 17-14. After a high-scoring first quarter, both teams cooled off and headed into half-time with a 22-21 tally.

The third quarter started much like the second ended. The Broncos continued to battle, but Jared Cox made a last second put-back to put Norton up 32-30.

Finally in the fourth quarter Norton was able to shut-down Hill City, allowing them only 1 two-point bucket. The Blue Jays added 10 more points to make the final score 42-32.

"Jared Cox stepped up and really pitched in offensively when two of our starters were on the bench in four trouble," said Coach Lucas Melvin. "We came out and played excellent in the first minutes of the game, but then let up.

"They hit 3 three-pointers early and got the confidence they needed to play us.

"I think Tanner Griffith and Preston Herman did a great job filling in for two of our top six players who did not make the trip.

"We didn't play a complete game again for the second straight time. But, we got the win and hopefully we are over that problem and will start playing a whole 24 minutes again."

Wes Georgeson led scoring with 17 points, followed by Cox, 13; Logan Kats, 7; and Herman, 5.

Seventh grade

The seventh grade varsity was beaten 35-17.

"We picked a bad night to have a cold shooting night," said Coach Jim Myers. "Hill City is an excellent team and their half court trap defense really caused us problems.

"This is probably the best team we have played all year. This league has some very good seventh grade boys basketball teams."

Zac Dreher led scoring with 5 points, followed by Brock Lauer, 4 points; Brad Nuzum, Matt Stanley, Zach Bainter, and Jordan Bebb, 2 points apiece.

Rebounding honors went to Dreher, who grabbed 16. Bainter led steals with 5.

The seventh grade junior varsity won their game against the Broncos 27-25.

Leading scorers were Lauer with 8 points and Kyle Mindrup with 3 points.

"We handled their pressure and got a few points by beating their presses. We just basically had better control of ourselves, which resulted in fewer turnovers. And because of the improved play, we came out on top 33-21."

Chantille Campbell led scoring with 12 points, followed by Megan Kats, 6 points; Jessica Strickland, 4; Courtney LeClair, 3; and Courtney Cox, Kylie Morel, Haley Jones and Thea Wiseman, 2 points apiece.

Deflect leader was Jones with 3, followed by McKenzie Linner, Morel, Wiseman and Campbell all with 2.

Steals leader was Campbell with 4, while Kats and Morel each took 3.

Rebounds were gathered in by Campbell with 7, followed by Strickland with 4 and LeClair with 3.

Assist leaders were Morel and

Campbell with 3 each.

The junior varsity suffered their first defeat of the season as the Broncos pulled out to an early 8-2 lead, which Norton couldn't overcome, losing 18-15 in only two quarters.

Lacy Ellis led scoring with 4 points, followed by Delimont, Bryttani Porter, Ashley Smith Maybon, Linner and LeClair, 2 each; and Hannah Fulton, 1.

Junior varsity basketball tourney to be held here on Saturday

Norton will host a Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament on Saturday.

In the girls bracket, Norton will play Quinter at 9 a.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym and Oakley will play Trego at 9 a.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

The winners will play in the NCHS Memorial Gym at 1 p.m. for the championship and the losers will play in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym

at 1 p.m. for third.

In the boys bracket, Norton will play Quinter at 10:30 a.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym and Oakley will play Trego at 10:30 a.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

The championship game will be played at 2:30 p.m. in the NCHS Memorial Gym and the third place contest will be at 2:30 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

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Pending approval from the Kansas Corporation Commission, broadband capabilities will soon be available in Norton. We're committed to expanding broadband to 81 mostly rural Kansas communities by year-end 2004 so that you can begin enjoying the benefits of high-speed Internet access.

The benefits of broadband technology for rural Kansans are nearly endless. Whether it's a student going online to access an interactive lecture from a university hundreds of miles away, a rural physician sharing x-rays or a sonogram in real time with a consulting specialist at a metropolitan hospital or a small business owner hoping to expand into the global marketplace, dependable broadband access is a vital component in their success.

SBC Kansas has invested more than \$170 million in infrastructure improvements to deliver high-speed access to more Kansans and stimulate local economic growth to keep Kansas competitive.

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Darin Miller
Director, External Affairs

