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The newspapers of Norton County have been saved for posterity on microfilm. Copies of the *Norton Champion* date back to 1884 and the *Courier* to 1886. The *Norton Weekly Telegram* starts in 1906 and the *Norton Daily Telegram* in 1907. Steve and Cynthia Haynes, owners of the *Norton Telegram*, since September 2002, have put these microfilm files on permanent loan to the Norton Public Library. Ron Temple, vice president of the Norton County Genealogical Society and Walta Russ, researcher, examined some of the files before they were placed in their new storage space at the Library. These files will be available to the public. Mr. Temple said, "These files give us a magnificent bunch of history of Norton County." The librarians will assist anyone needing help examining the microfilm whether it's looking for birth records, wedding dates or obituaries. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Girls take second, boys third in junior varsity tournament

By DICK BOYD  
The Norton girls placed second and the Norton boys third in the Norton Community High School Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament held Saturday in Norton.

**Girls results**  
Coach George Rossi's Norton girls defeated Quinter 28-22 in the first round, then lost the championship game to Oakley by a score of 29-19.  
Norton trailed 6-4 after the first quarter but the score was tied at 12-all after the first half. Norton outscored Quinter 10-2 in the third period to take a 22-14 lead into the fourth quarter where Quinter tallied 8 points and Norton hit 6.

Leading scorer for Norton was Amber Overlease with 7 points, followed by Morgan Kauten, 6; Dane' Payne, 5; Stacy Reeves, 4; Amanda Antrim, Jessi Duscher and Darci Darling, 2 each.

Kesler, Machen, Korida Hill, Evans and Karissa Hill each scored 4 points for Quinter.

"We started slowly but came around in the third quarter and really played well on offense to get a lead and then hang on for the win," said Coach Rossi.

In the loss to Oakley, Norton trailed by quarters 8-4, 19-10 and 27-10.

Leading scorer for Norton was Chelle Donovan with 5, followed by Overlease, 4; Duscher, 4; Reeves, 4; Antrim, 2.

Baalman led Oakley scoring with 10 points.

"We really came out flat against Oakley and stayed that way for the game," said Coach Rossi. "We didn't come out of the brain fog long enough to catch up."

"We need to analyze this game and work on shooting a great deal in order to get better."

Oakley beat Trego 33-23 to reach the championship game.

## Freshman team to Hill City

The Norton Community High School boys freshmen basketball team will compete in the annual Joe Green Invitational Tournament on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in Hill City.

Teams competing in addition to Norton and Hill City, are Phillipsburg, Palco, Quinter, Oberlin, Osborne and Plainville. Phillipsburg is seeded No. 1 and will play No. 8 seed Palco at 1 p.m. on Monday. No. 4 seeded Norton will play

No. 5 Quinter at 2:30 p.m. Oberlin is seeded No. 2 and will play No. 7 Osborne at 4 p.m. The final game of the day will be at 5:30 p.m. between No. 3 seed Hill City and No. 6 Plainville.

Semi-finals for both the championship and consolation side of the bracket will be on Tuesday with the championship, third, fifth and seventh place games set for Wednesday.

Quinter outscored Trego 34-21 to place third.

**Boys results**  
Coach David Stover's Norton boys held an 11-6 lead after the first quarter of their first round game with Quinter but were outscored 15-6 in the second quarter to trail 21-17 at intermission. Quinter also had a 12-9 scoring edge in the third period to take a 33-26 advantage into the final stanza. The teams played on even terms in the fourth quarter, both scoring 13 points, to make the final score 46-39.

Justin Shirk was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Derek Volgamore, 6; Jason Green, 5; Nick Evans, 4; Nathan Morse, 4; Nic Lewis, 4; Brian Juenemann, 3; Josh Jackson, 2.

Schmidtberger led Quinter in scoring with 11 points.

"It was a battle from beginning to end," said Coach Stover. "Both teams competed extremely hard throughout the entire game."

"Our execution fell off from time to time and Quinter was able to make plays at the end of the

game to earn a victory."

Norton defeated Trego 55-34 to place third in the tournament.

The Blue Jays held quarter leads of 12-10, 31-16 and 39-27. A 16-7 fourth quarter in Norton's favor extended the margin of victory to 21 points.

Evans led Norton in scoring with 13 points, followed by Green, 9; Morse, 9; Jackson, 8; Lewis, 7; Volgamore, 4; Jared Engelbert, 3; Greg Wilson, 2.

Oborny led Trego in scoring with 10 points. Geist added 8.

"Our players gave a great effort from start to finish," said Coach Stover. "We were able to get some offensive production throughout the contest and our defense was able to create offense for us with a solid performance."

"Overall, we received positive efforts from every player throughout the day. This tournament will give us a solid base on which to build as we work to improve as the season progresses."

Oakley defeated Trego 55-48 in the other first round game but lost the championship contest to Quinter.

# Almena City Council hears from Nex-Tech representative

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• Heard from Scott Sproul of Rural Telephone about changes in Nex-Tech's prices and cable line-up. Mr. Sproul told the council that the basic package for cable television was going to be raised 3 percent or in most cases about \$1. He said the Denver stations would no longer be available, but that Almena would have new stations out of Wichita to take their place. In addition to the new ABC and WB stations, Almena would gain two new channels — The Food Network and C-SPAN. He said telephone and Internet services will remain the same.  
• Received a clarification from

Mrs. Hanlon about a report she gave at the last meeting. She said the \$1,000 for the restrooms at Roadside Park is estimated to come from \$450 given by the county, \$300 from the PRIDE Blue Ribbon Project, and \$250 that they hoped to earn at the pancake feed. Mrs. Hanlon did not say if they reached the goal.

• Learned that County Attorney Doug Sebelius didn't have an answer to the problem of Mike Hawks' sewer backing up when the lines were cleaned. A council member said the city's insurance adjuster didn't seem to want to cooperate with Mr. Sebelius, nor did Utility Maintenance Contrac-

tors, which cleaned out the lines..

• Went into closed session for 10 minutes to discuss Christmas bonuses for Mrs. Ingram and Bill Alexander. The council decided to give them each \$75, which will have to be spent in Almena.

• Gave the Almena Area Chamber of Commerce \$500 for help with the purchase of Christmas lights.

• Thanked everyone who contributed to the purchase of the lights and for taking the time to help with putting them up.

The next Almena City Council meeting will be held on Monday, Jan. 5.

# Commissioners look at trends for student drinking and smoking

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in the last 30 days has declined more than 11 percent since 1998.  
• The percentage of students who said they have had more than a few sips of alcohol has decreased 19 percent since 1997.  
• The percentage of students who reported that it would be very easy to get alcohol has decreased 23 percent since 1997.  
The commissioners thanked her for the information and said they appreciated the work she and her group have been doing.  
In other business, the commissioners:  
• Re-appointed Dennis Gilhousen and Jennie Goldsby to four-year terms on the hospital board at the request of Norton County Hospital Administrator Richard Miller.  
• Heard from County Health Nurse Gina Frack that her agency is still in the red because money from the state, which is owed her department, has not arrived yet.  
• Learned that the county is out of flu vaccine but has 100 doses of pediatric vaccine coming within a few days. Ms. Frack said that she is also expecting to get about 150 more doses of adult vaccine soon.  
"It's been a nightmare," she told the commissioners.  
• Talked to Marion Otter, New Almemo, who has a problem with a deed to a lot in New Almemo. He

would like to have his name on the top of the deed and pay the taxes — 76 cents. The commissioners suggested talking to the person who's name is on the top of the deed to not pay the taxes and let it go to sale.

• Went over what happens at the Supreme Court with County Attorney Doug Sebelius. The county's case on large hog operations will be heard by the judges at 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 29. He said it would be good for the commissioners to be there if possible even though they won't be able to speak.

• Heard from Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan, who said that his crew is working to

upgrade county roads to keep as much farm machinery off the highways as much as possible.

• Asked Mr. Brannan to check the driveway on the south side of the courthouse for underground hollow spots. There are three holes developing in the area, Commissioner John Miller said.

• Told *The Norton Telegram* Publisher Cynthia Haynes to talk to Mr. Sebelius about an accident which had occurred at the landfill the week before since it could be the cause of litigation.

• Heard from Emergency Preparedness Head Alvin Mapes that he is still trying to get certified by the state for emergency management.

# Two players named all-team in Topside-Tipoff Tournament

Ryan Maddy, a 6'1" junior forward, and Karlie Jones, a 5'4" sophomore guard, were Norton players named to the All-Tournament Teams in the Topside-Tipoff Tournament in Goodland.

Also named to the boys team were Brandon Bard, Whoy; Laran Steele, Weskan; Seth Sholes, Burlington; Paul Putz and Willie Williams, McCook; Regan Murray, Holyoke; Clint Bones and Lee

Baldwin, Ottawa and Derrick Raymer, Goodland.

Named to the girls team along with Jones were Lisa Friehe and Maggie Jones, McCook; Corie Flores, Wray; Caitlyn Smith and Megan Ramsey, Ottawa; Amanda Bennett, Holyoke; Whitney Archer and Jessica Osborn, Goodland and Stacey Horn, Weskan.

The Norton boys placed third and the Lady Jays fourth.

# Seventh-grade boys win one, lose three; take second in Smith Center tourney

The Norton seventh grade basketball team was defeated 39-26 by Ellis on Dec. 12, beat Beloit 31-20 but lost 29-21 to Belleville for second place in the Smith Center Tournament on Dec. 13, and then was outscored 26-9 by Victoria on Dec. 18.

**Ellis**  
"The key in this game was probably the early foul trouble," said Coach Jim Myers. "Because of sickness we had a thin bench anyway. The kids that came in and played gave a strong effort."

"We hit six three-pointers as Ellis packed their zone defense against us. That kept us close."

Scoring for Norton were Breyer Simmons, 9 points; Matt Stanley, 7; Zach Bainter and Jordan Bebb, 3 each; and Brad Nuzum and Zac Dreher, 2 apiece.

Rebounding honors went to Dreher with 10 and Stanley with 8. Also grabbing rebounds were Nuzum with 4, Bebb with 3, and Simmons and Bainter with 1 apiece.

Making steals for the Blue Jays were Bainter with 3 and Stanley with 2.

Norton won the junior varsity game 39-26.

**Smith Center Tournament**  
The Jays went up against Beloit first, winning 31-20.

"The kids played hard in this game," said the coach. "We were a little short handed, but the kids stepped up and got a nice first round win over Beloit."

"I'm really proud of the kids as some were still fighting through the sickness that has hit our team for the last three weeks."

Brock Lauer led scoring with 9 points, followed by Nuzum with 8, Dreher with 6, Bainter with 4, and Stanley and Simmons with 2 apiece.

Rebounding honors went to Nuzum with 9 and Stanley and Lauer with 7 apiece. Others grabbing rebounds were Dreher, 6; Simmons, 4; and Bainter, 2.

Making thefts were Stanley with 6, Nuzum with 4, Dreher with 2, and Simmons and Bainter with

1 each.

In the championship round, Norton was beaten by Belleville 29-21.

"Belleville is a very good team," said Coach Myers. "They beat Smith Center in the first round by 30 points, so I knew they would be a handful."

"I thought we played them very well and actually led most of the first half. My kids have battled all year long and gave great effort through a tough schedule."

"I just take my hat off to them for their team effort and desire. Second place in this tough tournament is pretty good for these kids!"

Scoring for Norton were Stanley with 7 points, Nuzum and Dreher with 4 each, Bainter with 3, Simmons with 2, and Lauer with 1.

Rebounding honors went to Dreher with 11. He was followed by Lauer with 4, Simmons with 3, Nuzum with 2, and Stanley and Bainter with 1 apiece.

Making steals were Nuzum, 2; and Bainter, Dreher and Lauer with 1 each.

**Victoria**

"This was a game where we had trouble getting into a flow on offense," said the coach. "Victoria's pressure defense contributed to this."

"I thank the parents for their support and Coach Jones for helping me this year. We really enjoyed working with the kids!"

Scoring for Norton were Nuzum with 5, and Dreher and Lauer with 2 each.

Rebounding honors went to Dreher and Lauer with 7 apiece and Nuzum with 6. Also grabbing rebounds for the Jays were Stanley, 2; and Simmons, Bainter and Bebb with 1 apiece.

Making steals were Dreher and Lauer, 4 each; Nuzum, 3; and Stanley, Simmons, Bainter and Bebb, 1 each.

The junior varsity lost 10-4.

# Seventh-grade girls team suffers first loss of season

The seventh grade junior Lady Jays were handed their first loss of the season when they were defeated 29-20 by Ellis on Dec. 11.

"I think the shooting statistics tell a large part of the story for this game," said Coach Kim Pakkeber. "We created plenty of shooting opportunities, but we struggled with actually making our shots count."

"This was a good match up. If we played again today, it might have the opposite outcome."

Scoring for Norton were Laura Lee Baird, 8 points; KaraJo Jones, 5 points; Wiyanna Paxton, 4 points; Ashley Colip, 2 points; and Kayla Foley, 1 point.

Hayli Bozarth led rebounds with 6, followed by Jones, 5; Baird, Colip, and Paxton, 3 each; and Taylor Rossi and Foley, 1 each.

Making steals were Bozarth with 3, Rossi with 2, and Baird, Colip, Foley and Jones with 1 apiece.

Rossi and Colip made the team's only 2 assists.



**Nobody covers the Blue Jays like we do!**  
THE NORTON TELEGRAM