

THE OBERLIN HERALD —
Sports

Norton, Atwood fall to Oberlin

The Decatur Community High girls jumped to 6-2 for the season with victories over Norton and Atwood last week.

On Tuesday, the girls traveled to Blue Jay country and downed the Birds 51-29. Friday the girls were on their home court when the Atwood Buffaloes stormed the gymnasium, only to take home a 47-38 loss.

On Tuesday, the girls took down the Blue Jays with excellent second and fourth quarters in a road game.

In the first quarter, neither team seemed to be able to mount much of an offense. At the end of the period, Oberlin led 8-6 by a one-basket margin. In the second quarter, Oberlin was able to keep the Blue Jays away from the basket except for free throws.

The hapless home team only scored one field goal and three free throws for 5 points while the Devils racked up 14 points.

In the third quarter, Norton was again able to get to the basket and outscored Oberlin 13-11. However, in the fourth quarter, the Devils shut down the home team. Norton hit a pair of field goals and a free throw for another 5 points while Oberlin hit and hit and hit for 18 points and the win.

Despite their victory, the Devils' free throw percentage was only 37.5 percent, or nine out of 24, while the Blue Jays hit 50 percent of the 14 free throws they were allowed.

"Our defense, especially our press, was a key to this game," Coach Paul Nepodal said. "We continue to struggle at the free-throw line, but our improvements in other areas seem to carry us for now. Overall, it was a good win for these girls."

Scoring were Abby Ream, 13 points; Jamie Elwood, 10; Kelsey Dorshorst, 9; Lindsay Fortin, 8; Sarah Ruf, 6; Rena Unger, 3; and Kortney Stapp, 2.

The leading rebounders were Stapp with six and Dorshorst with four. The team had 16 steals.

On Friday, it was time for Oberlin

to play the host as the Atwood girls came to town.

This time, the girls were better able to hit their free throws and downed 54.5 percent or 12 out of 22. Atwood also did well on free throws, hitting 13 of 25.

It seemed that someone was at the free-throw line all night.

"Sometimes it is better to win ugly than to lose pretty," Coach Nepodal said. "Our girls continue to play well on defense, while our offense struggles at times. Atwood always comes ready to play, so this was a good league win for us."

Despite five chances at the free-throw line, Atwood was only able to score 2 points on one field goal in the first quarter. Oberlin likewise had five opportunities for charity shots and was able to make a pair plus a couple of field goals to lead 6-2 after one.

Each team spent a lot of time at the free-throw line in the second quarter, and each made a few, so that at the end of the quarter both had another 12 points. At the half Oberlin led 18-14.

In the third quarter, Oberlin didn't get any free opportunities but did hit six field goals for 12 points. Atwood also got few free passes but was still able to come up with 10 points.

Both teams had nine free throws in the last quarter. Oberlin made six and Atwood seven. Each team hit a three-point shot but Oberlin hit more field goals and outscored the Buffaloes 17-14.

Scoring were Stapp, 12; Ream, 10; Dorshorst, 8; Unger, 5; Elwood and Ruf, 4 each; and Kerrie Olson and Fortin, 2 each. Stapp hit the three-pointer.

Ruf was the leading rebounder with 10 followed by Elwood with nine and Ream with eight.

The girls were to travel to Hoxie on Tuesday and will play host to the Quinter Bulldogs on Friday with a 6:30 p.m. start.

Next week, the girls will be in the annual Oberlin Invitational, starting on Tuesday and continuing on Friday and Saturday.

One win, one loss for young Devils

The Oberlin junior varsity boys basketball team beat Atwood on Friday, but lost to Norton last Tuesday to take their record to 2-3.

Last Tuesday, the boys from Decatur Community High traveled to Norton but lost 63-26 to the tough Blue Jays.

The Norton team dominated the game, outscoring Oberlin in every quarter 16-5, 17-5, 15-10 and 15-6.

"We did not play well at all," Coach Keith Grafel said. "The Christmas break seemed to cause us some shooting problems. Overall, it was not a very good game."

"We hope we get ourselves back into a better playing mode. It was a game we will just forget and prepare for the remainder of the season."

Scoring were David Morris, 7; Jesse Juenemann, 6; Chase Juenemann, 4; Andy Inman, 3; and Lance Fortin, Chase McKittrick and Zane Pauls, 2 each.

It was a different story Saturday, when Oberlin's junior varsity sent Atwood home with a 58-31 loss.

Oberlin dominated the first half, outscoring the young Buffaloes 18-4 and 20-5 in the first two quarters for an impressive 38-9 lead.

In the second half, the Buffaloes did better, outscoring Oberlin 13-11 in the third quarter and coming in even at 9-9 in the fourth.

"We played pretty well," Coach Grafel said. "Atwood was really short-handed with injuries and other things, and we played a great first half against them."

"Atwood came back and played us even during the second half, and I thought they played pretty well late."

"Our starters did a nice job of scoring, and we got 16 points from our freshman subs."

"We seem to be really struggling at the free-throw line, and we're hoping that will straighten itself out. Our game focus was a lot better and our defense did a pretty good job most of the time."

"It was a nice win for our junior varsity players."

Scoring were McKittrick, 12; Inman, 10; Fortin and Morris, 8 each; C. Juenemann and Pauls, 6; and Joe Mondero, Teryn Grafel, Jason Thomas and Andy Anderson, 2 each.

Fortin had a pair of three-pointers and McKittrick had one.

Kid wrestlers get medals

Oberlin kid wrestlers attended a meet in Hoxie on Jan. 4 and brought home six medals. Fourteen went to St. Francis on Saturday and brought home 10 awards.

At Hoxie, Dayton Dreher took first in the 6-and-under 55-pound class.

Dakota Cook in the 8-and-under 88-pound and Jacob LaRue in the 10-and-under 110/120-pound classes came in second.

Fourth places were won by Konner Witt, 6-and-under 40 pounds; Ryan May, 8-and-under 61 pounds; and Troy Warta, 10-and-under 76 pounds.

Chris Anderson wrestled but he did not place.

taken by Clay Andersen, 10-and-under 73 pounds, and Dreher, 6-and-under 55 pounds.

Second places were taken by Troy Juenemann, 6-and-under 43 pounds; Troy Warta, 10-and-under 76 pounds; and Daniel Jordan, 10-and-under 79 pounds.

Third place went to Justin Williams, 10-and-under 100 pounds; Mike Kasson, 6-and-under 45 pounds; and Brent Juenemann, 8-and-under 61 pounds.

Zach May, 8-and-under 64 pounds, and Jacob Fortin, 12-and-under 76 pounds, took fourth places.

Kade Brown, Chris Anderson, Witt and Kaden Macfee, attended the St. Francis meet but did not place.



JOE MONDERO wasn't dancing, but working hard during a freshman basketball game against Norton earlier in the month.

—Herald photo by Brad Larson.

Junior varsity girls lose to Norton, Atwood

The Oberlin junior varsity basketball girls fell to Norton and Atwood last week.

Last Tuesday, the Decatur Community High teams traveled to Norton, where the junior varsity girls lost 23-16.

The Oberlin girls did well in the fourth quarter, scoring four baskets, a pair of free throws and 10 points. Unfortunately, they only scored one field goal and four free throws in the first three quarters.

In the first quarter, Oberlin landed a pair of free throws while Norton hit three baskets and a free throw for a 7-2 lead. In the second quarter, Norton was only able to sink a pair of free throws while Oberlin hit a basket and a free throw for 3 points. At the half Norton led 9-5.

Jennings girls restart season with losses

The Jennings High girls lost to Brewster, Cheylin and Northern Valley last week in their first games since the Christmas break.

Last Monday, the girls played host to the tough Brewster Bulldogs and fell 81-23.

"The Lady Coyotes struggled in the first half again Brewster's full-court press, resulting in numerous easy buckets for the Lady Bulldogs," Coach Cheri Brooks said. "We were too timid and failed to take care of the ball. Even though Brewster scored several easy buckets off their press, we were able to slow them down and made them take more shots from the outside. I was pleased with the way we adjusted defensively."

Scoring were Sara Kier, 6 points; Tiffany Wheeler and Elise Kinser,

The third quarter was Oberlin's worst. The team was only able to sink a single free throw while the Norton girls hit four baskets for 8 points.

In the final quarter, however, Oberlin let loose. Kaitlyn Stapp, who had only sunk one basket previously, knocked in three while Christa Hardy put up a basket and a free throw and Kelly Olson sank one out of two charity shots to give Oberlin 10 points in the quarter to Norton's 6.

Scoring were Stapp, 8; Kerrie Olson and Hardy, 3 each; and Leah Marietta and Kelly Olson, 1 each.

Lydia Karnopp was the leading rebounder with 10 followed by Stapp with seven.

Lora Marietta, Stapp and Kerrie Olson each had two steals.

4 each; Nakita Graf, Peggy Foster, Adrienne Vacura and Courtney Gillespie, 2 each; and Christina Coiner, 1.

Foster was the top rebounder with five, followed by Vacura, Kier and Graf with two each.

On Tuesday the girls traveled to Bird City to take on the Cheylin Cougars but lost 68-25.

Scoring were Foster, 6; Graf, 5; Coiner, Kier and Gillespie, 4 each; and Kinser, 2.

Foster was the chief rebounder with six; followed by Graf and Gillespie, 5 each; and Wheeler, four.

Graf had three steals while Foster and Coiner had one each.

While they didn't win on Friday, the Jennings girls felt more like they were in the game when they trav-

Devils lose for first time

The first loss is always the hardest, whether it's the first game of the season or the last.

For the Oberlin Red Devils, with six victories on the board, it was the seventh game — the one last Tuesday — the one against Norton — that hurt.

The Decatur Community High boys had beat Oakley, Golden Plains, St. Francis (twice), Atwood and Hill City before falling 65-39 to the Blue Jays.

The good news is that on Friday, the Red Devils came back to beat the Atwood Buffaloes 72-50 and take their record to 7-1.

Tuesday, it was turnovers, 23 of them, that cost the Devils the game. Poor shooting also contributed to the loss.

"We turned the ball over 23 times and shot a poor 29 percent," Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Norton's defense was tough and our offensive execution was very sluggish."

The Devils out rebounded the Jays 35-30, but with the home team only giving up five turnovers, Norton raised its record to 3-3.

The game seemed pretty even in the first quarter, as Norton edged the Devils 12-11. In the second quarter, however, the Jays took control and outshot the visitors to lead 15-7 and have a 27-18 lead at the half.

The third and fourth quarters followed suit, as Norton outplayed Oberlin 19-14 in the third and 19-7 in the final quarter.

Scoring were Ryan Ruf, 17 points; Egan Grafel, 11; Kyle Inman, 8; David Morris, 2; and Matt Mondero, 1.

Grafel was the rebound leader with 12, followed by Inman and Ruf, seven each; Mondero, six; Lance Fortin, two; and Chase Juenemann, one.

Fortin, Chase McKittrick, Ruf and Mondero all contributed an assist, and Fortin and Ruf had one

steal each.

On Friday, the Devils redeemed themselves with a second victory over Atwood, a team they had beat 84-50 on Dec. 13 on their way to winning the Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster. This time, the victory was a little less spectacular, 72-50, but no less sweet.

Oberlin dominated the game, outscoring the Buffaloes in every quarter.

The first quarter was fairly even, with Oberlin hitting 16 points and Atwood 13.

By the second quarter, the Devils had hit their stride and were able to outscore the visitors 18-8 to lead 34-21 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Devils scored 16 and the Buffaloes 11. In the fourth, it was 22-18.

The Devils still had trouble with turnovers, 22 of them, but luckily, so did the Buffaloes with 19.

Again Oberlin was the better rebounding team, with 35 to Atwood's 30.

Scoring were Ruf, 25; Inman, 15; Grafel, 12; Fortin, 11; Mondero, 5; and McKittrick and Zane Pauls, 2 each.

Grafel was the top rebounder with 13 followed by Ruf, 10; Inman, six; Fortin, three; Mondero, two; and McKittrick, one.

Ruf and Mondero each had three assists, Grafel had a pair and Juenemann and McKittrick had one each. Ruf had six steals while Inman and McKittrick each had two and Grafel, Oberlin's tallest player at 6-foot, 6-inches, blocked seven shots.

On Tuesday, the Devils were to travel to Hoxie to take on the Indians. On Friday, the Quinter Bulldogs will be in town for a league game starting at 8 p.m. for the boys.

Next Tuesday, the annual Oberlin Basketball Invitational will get started. The games will continue on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 24-25.

rowed the Atwood lead to two, 25-23.

In the fourth quarter, the Buffaloes figured out what was wrong and hit 13 points while the Devils put up another 10.

Scoring were Stapp, 13; Karnopp, 8; Leah Marietta, 5; Anne Wasson, Danica May and Megan Barrett, 2 each; and Kerrie Olson, 1.

Stapp was the leading rebounder with 14, followed by Kerrie Olson with four and Karnopp and Kelly Olson, three each.

The junior varsity was to play in Hoxie on Tuesday and should be on the court Friday when Quinter comes to town. The team will have next week off during the Oberlin Invitational Basketball Tournament.

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