

# Girls down Norton

The Decatur Community High girls had a tough time with the Norton Blue Jays Tuesday, but they won in overtime 55-52 to thrill the home crowd, then turned around and downed the Atwood Buffaloes 60-48 in Atwood.

On Tuesday the Lady Devils started out behind as the Blue Jays outscored them 8-12 in the first quarter and 13-11 in the second to take a 25-19 Norton lead at the half.

In the third quarter, however, the Oberlin started edging forward, outscoring Norton 10-9. In the fourth quarter, the girls in red went ahead, outscoring the blue birds 17-9 to take a three point, 46-43, lead with three seconds to go.

At the gun, Whitney Newell must have had a prayer on her lips as she heaved the ball towards the Norton basket. Her "Hail Mary" toss swooshed right through and Norton tied the game at 46.

The Oberlin boys team, which was getting ready to take the court, edged back to the doors as the girls went into overtime.

Despite another three-pointer by Newell, the Blue Jays couldn't keep from fouling and the fouls and turnovers cost them the game. Rena Unger put in three out of six, Abby Ream sunk two out of two and Kelsy Dorshorst dropped one out of four for six charity shots and a 55-52 victory. The Blue Jays had 34 turnovers, 23 of them in the second half.

"The girls played extremely hard after the first quarter," Coach Paul Nepodal said. "It was a good win for Oberlin and for our girls. They scored this one with hard work and believing in each other."

Scoring were Unger, 14; Jamie Elwood, 12 including a pair of three-pointers; Ream, 8; Kaitlyn Stapp, 7; Dorshorst, 6; and Lauren Fortin and Kerrie Olson, 4 each.

Leading rebounders were Dorshorst, 11, and Unger, ten.

On Friday the girls took their record to 6-2 with a 60-48 league victory over Atwood.

This time there was no bad first quarter as the Lady Devils outscored



**LOOKING FOR AN OPEN PLAYER,** Rena Unger dribbled the ball on Tuesday as the Oberlin Lady Red Devils downed the Norton Blue Jays in an overtime game.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

the Buffaloes 12-10 in the first. The Buffaloes came back in the second to outscore Oberlin 13-11 to tie the game at 23-all at the half. In the third quarter the Devils were able to edge the Buffaloes 17-16.

In the fourth quarter, Oberlin shut down the home team allowing the Buffaloes to only score three field goals and four out of nine charity shots. While Atwood was scoring 9 points, Oberlin was hitting 20 with six field goals and eight out of 13 free throws.

"This win finishes off a good week for our program," Coach Nepodal said. "A win on the road is always good, but especially at Atwood, which is always a tough

place to play.

"Next week doesn't get any easier as we play two of our toughest games against Hoxie and Quinter, so we will have to pick it up a notch to compete."

On Tuesday the girls were to play Hoxie at home and on Friday they will travel to Quinter for a 6:30 p.m. start.

Scoring against Atwood were Ream, 14 including two three-pointers; Elwood, 13 including a three pointer; Stapp and Fortin, 9 each; Dorshorst and Unger, 6 each; and Olson, 3.

Unger was the leading rebounder with seven while Elwood had six.

# Devils crush Atwood in 72-30 runaway victory

After a tough outing on Tuesday the Decatur Community High boys basketball team headed for Atwood and turned the Buffaloes into buffalo burgers with a 72-30 victory.

Atwood is a league school so the victory was especially sweet for Coach Dick Ahlberg's Red Devils. "We shot the ball tonight," he said. "Matt Mondero made eight of 10 shots and Chase McKittrick had five three-point shots."

The Devils started off tough, outshooting the Buffaloes 18-9 in the first quarter and 22-5 in the second for a huge 40-14 lead at the half.

After the break those Devils from Oberlin didn't let up on the reeling Buffaloes. Oberlin outscored Atwood 24-12 in the third quarter and 8-4 in the fourth.

The Red Devils outrebounded the home team 27-16 and had only 10 turnovers while Atwood had 14.

Oberlin got to use many of its younger players so most of the team had a chance to contribute.

The Buffaloes had only one player in double figures while Oberlin had four out of its eight scorers in double digits.

"That's good balance," Coach Ahlberg said.

Scoring were Egan Grafel, 21; Matt Mondero, 17; Chase McKittrick, 15; Lance Fortin, 10; Jason Thomas, 3; and Chase Juenemann, Andy Anderson and Josh Fortin, 2 each.

Grafel led in rebounding with 12 followed by L. Fortin and Mondero, four each; Jesse Juenemann, three;

C. Juenemann, two; and Anderson and Andy Inman, one each.

L. Fortin led the assists with four followed by C. Juenemann, McKittrick and Grafel, three each, and J. Juenemann and Mondero, one each.

L. Fortin also led the thieves with three steals while C. Juenemann, Grafel and Mondero had a pair each, and J. Juenemann and Anderson had one apiece.

Coach Ahlberg warned against overconfidence, however, as Oberlin has to take on Hoxie and Quinter this week. Both are tough teams, Coach Ahlberg said.

On Tuesday the Hoxie Indians were to be in Oberlin and on Friday the Devils travel to Quinter to take on the Bulldogs at about 8 p.m.

# Class 3A champion Norton overcomes Oberlin boys team

Norton won the Class 3A state basketball tournament last year, and despite the loss of four starters, Oberlin fans couldn't see much change on Tuesday as the Blue Jays downed the home team 61-35.

The Decatur Community High boys entered the contest with a 5-1 record, losing only to Oakley in their first outing.

Norton came into the contest with a 4-1 record, but the closeness of the records didn't make any difference on Tuesday.

"Norton played a nice, solid game," Oberlin Coach Dick Ahlberg said. "Their defense took us out of our offense. We really passed the ball poorly."

The Norton defense kept Oberlin players at bay and allowed only four Red Devils to score. Egan Grafel, Oberlin's big man, was the only one to hit in double digits.

Matt Mondero, who usually does well for the Devils, was held to just four baskets.

In the first quarter Mondero and Grafel each got a pair of baskets for 4 points each while Norton put in

four baskets and hit five out of five at the charity line to take a 13-8 lead.

In the second quarter, it was even worse as Grafel's pair of baskets and three free throws were the only scoring Oberlin had.

Norton had four men hit to outscore the Red Devils 15-7 for a 28-15 lead at the half.

The third quarter was better for Oberlin, as each team scored 15 and the Devils had four men hitting the basket.

The fourth period was almost a replay of the second, however, as Grafel hit one basket and three charity shots for the only 5 points Oberlin put up against 18 for Norton.

Scoring for Oberlin were Grafel,

21; Mondero, 8; and Lance Fortin and Chase McKittrick, 3 each.

Grafel also led in rebounds with 11, followed by Mondero, seven; Andy Anderson, five; Fortin, three; Chase Juenemann and McKittrick, two each; and Jesse Juenemann and Andy Inman, one each.

Mondero had three assists while Juenemann and Grafel had two each and McKittrick, one.

Fortin had two steals and Grafel and Mondero took away one each.

Each team had 24 rebounds but Oberlin's old bugaboo showed up again when the Devils had 24 turnovers to Norton's 14.

# Holdrege plans tournament

The 10th annual Holdrege Becton Dickinson Youth Basketball Tournament for girls and boys in fifth and sixth grades will be Friday and Saturday, March 5 and 6.

For seventh and eighth graders, the tournament will be Friday and

Saturday, March 19 and 20.

The entry fee is \$60, which guarantees three games and medals for the first three places.

For more information call Tom Ridenour at (308) 995-4600.

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