



Norton pitcher Logan Keiswetter (left) fires a fast ball during the Norton K-18 Baseball Team's game with Phillipsburg on Thursday. Blake Wolf (above) scores a run for the K-18 team after a single by Travis Ray. Umpire Jerry Hawks calls him safe. — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Legion baseball 2-2 at tourney

By DICK BOYD
The Norton American Legion Baseball Team placed fifth in the sixth annual Levi Hayden Memorial Baseball Tournament on Saturday and Sunday in Goodland.

Norton lost 7-2 to Wray, Colo. in their opener on Saturday. Their contest with Overbrook was postponed from Saturday evening until Sunday due to inclement weather. On Sunday, Norton defeated Overbrook 10-0, lost 4-0 to Burlington, then edged Goodland 4-3 in the fifth place game.

Imperial, Neb. defeated Overbrook 14-2 to win the championship and Burlington edged Wray 12-9 to place third.

"Games had a short time limit so none of them went the full seven innings," said Norton Coach Brandon Gay. "Our goal was to win the tournament and I don't think there's any doubt that this was within our reach. But, it didn't work out the way the bracket was set up. We had a couple of disappointing losses. We should have beaten Wray but played way below our ability and we had trouble hitting the phenomenal pitcher Burlington threw against us.

"Our pitching again was great. We were missing Dan Roeder but David Schlegel, Tyler Rutherford and Denton Bailey got us through the tournament.

"We went through a lot of frustrations in the tournament, first with our poor play against Wray and then with thunderstorms and the resulting rescheduled games and juggled plans. Because of the rescheduling, we had to play three games on Sunday without much sleep on Saturday night. More than anything, I was proud of how much heart we showed despite how tired we were."

Game with Wray
Wray took an early lead by scoring one run in the top of the first and one in the top of the second inning. Norton tied the game at 2-2 in the bottom of the third stanza when Josh Green walked, Eric Burton doubled, Rutherford singled and Brock McChesney singled and Green and Burton both scored.

Unfortunately, the Blue Jays were unable to score again and Wray broke the tie by scoring five runs in the top of the fifth inning to win 7-2.

Rutherford was leading hitter for Norton with two hits in four times at bat. Norton had six hits in the game.

Winning pitcher was K. Valko. He struck out four batters and walked three.

Schlegel was the losing pitcher. He gave up four hits, walked five and struck out two batters in 4 2/3 innings pitched. He was relieved by Bailey who pitched one third inning.

Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning when Green got on base via an error, Burton and Rutherford both walked and Green and Burton both scored.

The Blue Jays added two more runs in the second inning when Brian Luft singled, Bailey got on via a fielder's choice, Jared Mindrup walked, Green tripled and Bailey and Mindrup scored.

Norton's final six runs came in the third inning when Schlegel walked, McChesney doubled, Corey Look singled, Mindrup and Green walked, Burton got on base via an error, Rutherford singled and Schlegel, McChesney, Look, Mindrup, Green and Burton scored.

Rutherford allowed one hit, walked three batters and struck out six. David Woodward was the losing pitcher. He allowed five Norton hits, walked seven batters and struck out three.

Overbrook went on to place second in the tournament.

Game with Burlington
Burlington scored one run in the third inning and three in the fifth.

Norton had just three hits and one walk. Seven Norton batters struck out.

Losing pitcher was Bailey who gave up just four hits, walked two and struck out five batters.

Victory over Goodland
Goodland took a 2-0 lead with two runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Norton scored three runs in the top of the second inning when Luft and McChesney both walked, Dave Edgerton singled, Mindrup singled, Green walked, and Luft, McChesney and Edgerton scored to put Norton on top 3-2.

The Blue Jays' final run came in the top of the third inning when Rutherford singled and scored.

Goodland scored one more run in the bottom of the third inning. The fourth and fifth innings were scoreless, allowing Norton to win 4-3.

Winning pitcher was Bailey who gave up just two hits and one base on balls and struck out six Goodland batters. Norton had four hits, four walks and five strike outs.

The tournament is held in memory of Levi Hayden, who was a member of the Goodland American Legion team when he was killed in a car wreck on Feb. 21, 1997.

Joel Norman, Imperial, received the trophy for "Most Inspirational Player". This award was voted upon by coaches and umpires. Norton's Chris Wilson was nominated for the award. Proceeds from the tournament are used to fund a \$500 Levi Hayden Memorial Scholarship given to a Goodland American Legion player. This year's recipient was Jared Doke.

Next Action
Norton will host Plainville in a doubleheader at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6 p.m. this evening.

Norton K-18 loses to Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD
The Norton K-18 Baseball Team lost a doubleheader to Phillipsburg by scores of 6-4 and 7-3 on Thursday evening at John Ryan Field in Norton.

In the opener, Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning when Pat Burton singled, Aaron Daniels singled, Logan Keiswetter walked, Todd Zink and Chris Davis both singled and Daniels and Keiswetter scored.

Phillipsburg scored one run in the second inning so Norton led 2-1 after two stanzas. In the top of the third, Phillipsburg failed to score but Norton tallied two times in the bottom of the inning to take a 4-1 advantage. Burton doubled, Daniels, Logan Keiswetter, Todd Zink, Chris Davis and Todd Bolt all singled and Burton and Keiswetter scored.

Phillipsburg had a four run

fourth inning to take a 5-4 lead. Norton did not score again and Phillipsburg added a single run in the top of the fifth to make the final 6-4.

Norton had 10 hits in the game. Burton was leading hitter with a perfect 3 for 3. Daniels and Davis were a perfect 2 for 2 at the plate.

Burton was the losing pitcher. He gave up 12 hits, walked five batters and struck out five.

Thomas was the winning pitcher. He struck out three batters and walked two.

In the nightcap, Phillipsburg scored one run in the top of the first and four in the top of the second inning. Norton tallied one run in the bottom of the second when Bolt walked and was driven home by a single by Travis Ray.

The Panthers added another run in the top of the third inning. The Blue Jays' next run came in the

bottom of the fourth stanza when Blake Wolf singled and Ray singled him home. Both teams scored a run in the fifth and final inning to make it a 7-3 game. Norton's run came when Chris Davis walked and scored on a single by Todd Zink.

Norton had just five hits in the game. Ray was the leading hitter. He went a perfect 2 for 2 at the plate.

Losing pitcher was Logan Keiswetter. He gave up nine hits, struck out three batters and walked two.

Winning pitcher was Nam. He walked four batters and struck out one.

Next action
The Norton K-18 Baseball Team will travel to Stockton for a doubleheader tonight, beginning at 6:30 p.m..



Casey Robison of Nex-Tech takes a swing at a pitch in his Division II baseball team's second game of a double header with Kansasland Tire. Nex-Tech won the first game 7-3 and Kansasland Tire won the second game 10-3. — Telegram photo by Brandon Gay

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