

# Blue Jays have good year, become regional runnerup

By DICK BOYD

Despite having only two returning starters and eight lettermen from 2003's 11-1 squad, Coach Bruce Graber's 2004 Norton Community High School football team compiled an 8-3 record en route to a runner-up placing in the Mid-Continent League, District championship, Bi-District championship and Regional runner-up finish.

The Blue Jays opened the season 1-2 with losses to state-ranked Oakley and Smith Center, then put together a seven game winning streak before taking on No. 3 state ranked and unbeaten Southeast of Saline for the Regional championship. For the first time this season, Norton had trouble moving the ball on the ground against Southeast of Saline and was forced to go to the passing game. Southeast also had trouble running the ball against the "big hit" Blue Jay defense, which allowed them only 2.57 yards per carry, but completed enough passes to score through the airways and defeat Norton 21-7. The Trojans scored the first three times they had the ball but were shutout by the Blue Jay defense the rest of the contest.

"We really struggled early in the season in all phases of the game but we developed into an awfully good team who went out every Friday night and took on challenges," said Coach Graber. "We couldn't have asked more of them. This wasn't a team capable of blowing out teams; it was going to be a dogfight every game. With so many graduates off our team, we knew it would be a struggle. We lost a lot of talent and had a lot of holes to fill.

"It's been very rewarding to be around this group of young men. I'm proud of what they accomplished. Our coaches did an unbelievable job, too. They kept believing in our players and kept coaching and teaching them every week on the practice field. Our success was due to our coaches and the effort our players gave us.

"We as the coaching staff saw the growth and maturity of our players as leaders and teammates. Even juniors and seniors became better leaders. We just matured as athletes and people.

"In 31 years of coaching, I've never seen a team make the progress this one did. This team raised their level of play and earned their own mark in the history of Norton football."

For the season, Norton outscored opponents in every quarter for a total of 272 points while limiting opponents to 133 points for an average victory of 24.7 to 12.1. The Blue Jays rushed for 1,782 yards and passed for 921 yards for total offense of 2,703

yards. This is an average of 162 rushing yards, 83.7 passing yards and 245.7 total yards of offense per game.

While offense usually gets the glory, Norton's defense was the highlight of this season. The stingy "fighting Blue Jays" defense allowed opponents 1,272 yards rushing, 746 yards passing and 2,018 total yards. This is an average of just 115.6 yards rushing, 67.8 yards passing and 183.5 yards of total offense per game.

These defensive statistics compare very favorably with yards allowed by last season's veteran Norton team which gave up an average of 105.7 rushing yards, 58.8 passing yards and 164.4 total yards of offense.

The Blue Jay defense limited teams to less than three yards per rushing attempt throughout the season.

The 2004 Norton squad averaged 13.1 first downs a game while limiting opponents to 9.82 first downs. Last season's Blue Jays averaged 17.5 first downs while holding opponents to 7.8 first downs.

Norton lost only 15 fumbles in the 11 games for an average of just over one per game. The Blue Jays punted only 37 times for just over three per contest.

Leading the charge for the Norton defense this season was Blake Hillebrand, a 5-foot, 7-inch, 210-pound senior defensive tackle, who also started at guard on offense. He recorded 60 solo tackles and 32 assists for 92 total tackles. He was followed by senior linebacker Ryan Maddy, 55 solos, 31 assists, 86 total; sophomore linebacker Lance Roe, 62 solos, 12 assists, 74 total; sophomore linebacker Blake VanEaton, 50 solos, 21 assists, 71 total; senior defensive tackle Michael Sprigg, 37 solos, 33 assists, 70 total; junior defensive back Luke Pfannenstiel, 47 solos, 18 assists, 65 total; senior defensive end Paul Juenemann, 21 solos, 22 assists, 43 total; senior defensive end Justin Shirk, 19 solos, 17 assists, 36 total; junior defensive lineman Heath Vincent, 17 solos, 6 assists, 23 total; senior defensive back Seth Mills, 17 solos, 5 assists, 22 total; senior defensive back Kyle Kats, 15 solos, 5 assists, 20 total; senior linebacker Lucas Wiseman, 12 solos, 6 assists, 18 total; senior defensive back Aaron Overlease, 12 solos, 6 assists, 18 total; junior linebacker Andrew Ables, 11 solos, 5 assists, 16 total; senior defensive back Jason Green, 9 solos, 4 assists, 13 total; sophomore linebacker Nathan Broeckelman, 6 solos, 6 assists, 12 total; sophomore defensive tackle Matt Engel, 7 solos, 5 assists, 12 total; junior defensive back Clay Madden, 10 solos, 1



The Norton defense against the run was outstanding this season, limiting opposing teams to less than three yards per carry. The Blue Jay defenders are shown here during Norton's shutout of Ellis when they limited the Railroaders to 23 rushing yards on 25 carries. Pictured are, from

assist, 11 total.

Pfannenstiel led the defense with two pass interceptions, followed by Logan Kats, Maddy, Wiseman, Mills, Overlease, Kyle Kats, one each. Maddy and Shirk each blocked a kick. VanEaton, Maddy and Roe each recovered two fumbles, followed by Sprigg, Adam Krebsbach, Brian Juenemann, Broeckelman, Overlease, Shirk, Pfannenstiel, Ables, one each.

Leading the Norton offense this year was senior quarterback Seth Mills. He completed 73 of 138 passes for a 52.9 percent completion rate and 916 yards and a 12.5 yards per completion average. He rushed for 131 yards for total offense of 1,047 yards. He ran for eight touchdowns, more than any other Norton player, and passed for six touchdowns.

Senior tailback Aaron Overlease rushed for 645 yards in 10 games played, averaged 4.4 yards per carry and scored five touchdowns. He caught 13 passes for 106 yards, returned eight punts for 107 yards and two kickoffs for 24 yards for 882 yards of total offense.

Senior fullback Kyle Kats rushed for 493 yards and averaged 6.1 yards per carry. He returned five punts for 129 yards, three kickoffs for 50 yards, and caught nine passes for 97 yards for 769 yards of total offense. He rushed for six touchdowns, caught one touchdown pass and returned one punt for a touchdown.

Kats also completed the only pass he threw and punted four times for 138 yards and a 34.5 yards per punt average.

Sophomore Blake VanEaton, a reserve tailback, led the team in yards per carry with an average of 7.3 yards every time he carried the pigskin. He gained 349 yards on just 48 carries. He also had five pass receptions for 83 yards and five kickoff returns for 79 yards for 511 yards of total offense. He scored six rushing touchdowns.

Leading pass receiver was senior tight end Justin Shirk with 23 receptions for 355 yards and three touchdowns. He averaged 15.4 yards per catch. Second leading pass receiver was senior tight end

left, Ryan Maddy, No. 88; Blake Hillebrand, No. 55; Kyle Kats, No. 13; Paul Juenemann, No. 54 and Blake VanEaton, No. 20. Hillebrand and Maddy were the leading Norton tacklers for the season.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ryan Maddy with 12 catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns. Junior wide receiver Clay Madden had eight catches for 102 yards which was 12.8 yards per reception.

Sophomore punter Chris Davis averaged 30.8 yards on 29 punts and was good on 9 of 10 extra point tries for 90 percent accuracy. He missed on his only field goal attempt. Junior kicker William Wilhite kicked 16 of 20 extra point attempts for 80 percent accuracy and was a perfect 3 of 3 on field goal attempts.

Sprigg and Wilhite shared kickoff duties. Sprigg averaged 38.2 yards on 16 kickoffs and Wilhite averaged 47.6 yards on 10 kick-

offs. Mills and Kats each scored eight touchdowns to tie for high points with 48 each. VanEaton was third high scorer with 36 points on six touchdowns, followed by Overlease, 32; Wilhite, 25; Shirk, 24; Maddy, 12; Davis, 9; Wiseman, Roe, Pfannenstiel, Todd Bolt, 6 each.

The 10 seniors on this year's Norton football team were Jason Green, Kyle Kats, Seth Mills, Aaron Overlease, Lucas Wiseman, Paul Juenemann, Blake Hillebrand, Michael Sprigg, Justin Shirk and Ryan Maddy.

Assistant coaches again this season were Kevin Jilka, Todd Fulton, Lucas Melvin and Jason Jones.

## Eighth-grade girls are winning

The Norton Junior High eighth grade girls basketball team is undefeated so far, winning 49-17 over Stockton on Nov. 4 and 51-6 over Plainville on Nov. 11.

### STOCKTON

"Our 2004-'05 season started against Stockton with good results as the team effort was excellent and all members contributed in a positive way for a 49-17 victory," said Coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"Our defense led the way as we used it to smother the Tigers and in turn they turned the ball over 34 times many of which we turned into points.

"Our deflect leaders were Taylor Rossi with seven, followed closely by Laura Lee Baird with six. The team got touches on the ball a total of 24 times which is a great indicator that the team is hustling after the ball.

"Steal leaders were Baird and Rossi with five each, followed by Wyanna Paxton with four and KaraJo Jones with three. Rebounding honors went to Hayli Bozarth, who grabbed six, while Jones and Paxton each took four off the boards.

"The team did a very good job of finding the open girl as we had 15 assists, Baird found 4 teammates open for scores while Rossi found 3."

Scoring for Norton were Baird, 14; Bozarth, 10; Jones, 8; Paxton, 7; Rossi, 6; and Amanda Delimont, 4.

### PLAINVILLE

"We responded well after the

first game's disappointment of not executing our offenses and defenses as we know we can," said the coach. "We put on a pretty decent display of how junior high basketball has progressed in the last few years, with all the extra playing time they are receiving in the 'off season'.

"It was a total team effort as everyone was looking for the open shooter and helping out on defense if a teammate gambled and was out of position.

"Our deflect leaders were Baird with 5, followed by Bozarth with 4. Deflects often lead to steals and our steal leaders were Bozarth with 8, Baird with 5, and Jones with 3.

"Our defense ends with rebounding and we did well in forcing the Cardinals into errant shots as we gathered 32 total rebounds. Our leaders were Paxton with six followed closely by Ashley Colip, Jones and Bozarth with five each.

"One of the strengths of this team is their unselfishness as they look for the open teammate as well as most high school teams. This will result in many assists, if the shooter makes a shot. In this contest, Rossi found five teammates open for scores, while Baird found three.

"This game was a positive step forward in improving as the season progresses. We now go into a tough stretch of play."

Scoring for the Lady Jays were Bozarth with 11, Baird and Paxton with nine each; Jones and Colip

with eight apiece, and Delimont, Hannah Fulton, and Rossi with two each.

"Our junior varsity received its first taste of competition for the year as they took on the Plainville group and did well, coming away with a 32-5 victory," said Coach Zimmerman.

"Our deflect leader was Kayla Foley with five, followed by Hannah Waggoner with three.

"Steals were taken by Waggoner with four, and Fulton, Austine Dole and Delimont all with two.

"Rebounding was a key as we gathered 26 boards with Delimont and Foley raking in six each and Waggoner grabbing four.

"Assists were handed out by Beth Winkel and Kendra Engelbert with two each."

Scoring for Norton were Raven Brown, Foley and Waggoner with 8 points apiece, and Engelbert, Steph Eagleburger, Dole and Winkel, all with 2.

Other members of the 2004 eighth-grade basketball team are Stephanie Shepard and Jessica Gilgenbach. Anne Otte is the assistant coach.

### Norton Junior High Basketball Schedule

Nov. 23 — WaKeeney, there, 4:30 p.m.  
Dec. 2 — Hill City, here, 5:30 p.m.  
Dec. 9 — Ellis, here, 5:30 p.m.  
Dec. 11 — Smith Center, there, 9 a.m.  
Dec. 16 — Victoria, there, 5 p.m.  
Jan. 6 — Phillipsburg, here, eighth grade, 5:30 p.m.

## Bulletin Board Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

### Auto Service Repair

#### Problem Solved!

Complete Computer Diagnosis  
CAREFUL ATTENTION SETS  
OUR SERVICE SHOP  
APART FROM OTHERS  
-Tune-ups -Air Conditioner  
-Brakes -Exhaust System  
-Shocks -Radiator Repair

**WALTER**  
MOTOR COMPANY  
NORTON—1-800-479-3112 (877-3112)

### Guttering

## FLANDERS GUTTERING

"A better way to go"

**SPECIALIZING IN:**

- 5 inch seamless guttering
- Roofing • Windows
- Soffit and Fascia

**CALL FOR SPRING SPECIALS! FREE ESTIMATES**  
785-694-2865 or 785-462-0632

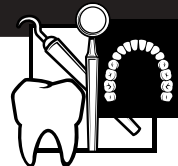
### Construction

**OVERLEASE CONSTRUCTION**  
785-877-2115  
410 South Street  
Remodeling • Additions • Custom Cabinets  
Call Greg Overlease for all your carpentry needs

### Auto Glass Repair

**NOVUS**  
AUTO GLASS REPAIR & REPLACEMENT  
Frank and Pauline Kaiser—Owners  
P.O. Box 93  
Long Island, KS 67447  
**888-247-5153**  
CALL MOBILE,  
WE COME TO YOU  
Insurance usually waives deductible on repairs

### Dental Diagnosis



**Western Kansas Center for Comprehensive Dental Diagnosis & Rehabilitation**

**JEFFREY M. RAYL, D.D.S.**

1690 W. 4th, Colby • 460-3999 or Toll Free 1-866-305-3999

- Comprehensive bite analysis
- TMJ/TMD diagnosis and rehabilitation
- I.V. Sedation for all dental procedures including surgical removal of wisdom teeth
- Detantl Implants: surgical placement and restoration
- Complete endodontic services (root canal) molar & anterior teeth
- Extensive cosmetic procedures
- Lasar periodontal (gum disease) therapy
- Esthetic crown and bridge restorations; all ceramic (no metal)
- General dental procedures; cleanings; tooth colored fillings, partial dentures, biologic dentures



### Great Investment

Wouldn't Your Ad

**Look!**

Great Here???

Call 877-3361

### Electric

**Bailey Electric**

Mark Bailey

Norccatur Kansas 67653

Cell: 785-871-1967  
Telephone: 785-693-4400

### Hot Opportunity

**LISTEN UP**

Wouldn't Your Ad Look Great Here—Call 877-3361



GIVE YOUR BUSINESS THE ATTENTION IT DESERVES!!

CALL . . .

Spaces Always Available:

- 1" per month — \$42.50
- 2" per month — \$76.50
- 3" — per month — \$103.50

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

785-877-3361