

# American Legion team competes in Zone Tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton American Legion baseball team completed its season by rallying to defeat Plainville and losing to Smith County and Phillipsburg, where a rally fell short, in the Zone Tournament on Saturday and Sunday in Osborne.

## Smith County

Unlike the final two games of the tournament, the Blue Jays did not hit well in their 10-2 opening loss to Smith County.

Norton had just five hits in the game. Norton's only runs came in the fourth when lead-off batter Logan Keiswetter doubled, Denton Bailey singled and both scored.

Smith County scored two in the first and one in the second to lead by 3-2 after four but added two more in the fifth and five in the sixth.

Leading hitter for Norton was Keiswetter who went two for three.

Jared Mindrup was the losing pitcher. He allowed nine hits, walked four and struck out five.

## Plainville

The Norton bats were more productive in the 18-16 win over Plainville in a three-hour game on Saturday.

Norton had 19 hits and came from behind four times to win.

Plainville scored one run in the bottom of the first to take a 1-0 lead.

The Blue Jays tallied three in the top of the second to go on top 3-1. Lead-off batter Korey Look, Bailey, Brock McChesney and Chris Davis singled to start Norton's half of the inning and Look, McChesney and Davis scored.

Plainville answered with five runs to take a 6-3 lead.

Norton cut the Cardinals' advantage to 6-5 with two in the third. Look walked, Bailey tripled and McChesney singled and Look and Bailey scored.

Two more by Plainville in the third extended the Cardinals' lead to 8-5.

Both teams were scoreless in the fourth but Norton tallied five in the fifth to take a 10-8 lead. McChesney and Davis walked, Mindrup singled, Daniels walked and Foley cleaned the bases with a grand slam home run. Durham singled later in the inning but did

not score.

Plainville regained the lead with three to put them ahead 11-10.

Norton moved back into the lead with two runs in the sixth to make it 12-11. Bailey doubled, McChesney walked, Davis and Daniels singled. Bailey and McChesney scored.

Plainville tacked on two more in the bottom of the sixth to edge ahead 13-12.

With one more time to bat in the seventh, the Blue Jays scored six on five hits, including a home run, to take an 18-13 advantage. Durham and Bailey walked to start the inning, then McChesney blasted the ball over the fence for a three-run home run. Not only did McChesney's home run put Norton on top 15-13 but it caused Plainville to change pitchers.

The change didn't help the Cardinals as Norton scored three more on four hits. Davis and Daniels both singled, Foley doubled and Keiswetter singled. Davis, Daniels and Foley scored.

Helped by three walks, Plainville scored three final runs but it wasn't enough and the Blue Jays won 18-16.

Norton collected 19 hits. Every official Norton batter had at least one hit. Bailey and McChesney were a perfect three for three at the plate. Davis was three for four.

Rutherford started on the mound for Norton. He was relieved with two outs in the second by Bailey, who pitched the rest of the way except for the final out of the game which came with Davis relieving. Bailey was the winning pitcher. He gave up 13 hits, walked five and struck out eight.

Dix was the losing pitcher.

## Phillipsburg

The win over Plainville allowed Norton to advance in the double-elimination tournament to a Sunday game against Phillipsburg, which they lost, 16-11, after an eight-run rally in the fifth to trail by 11-9.

Phillipsburg took a 1-0 lead in the first but Norton tied it at 1-1 all when Burton blasted a solo home run.

The Blue Jays went scoreless the next three innings while the Panthers scored three in the second, three in the third and four in the fourth to take an 11-1 lead.

The Blue Jay bats came alive in the fifth when Norton scored eight

on four hits, including a home run. Davis, Daniels and Durham walked, Foley tripled, Keiswetter walked, Burton was hit by a pitch and Look blasted a grand slam home run. Look's homer was followed by singles by Davis and Daniels.

Davis, Daniels, Durham, Foley, Keiswetter, Burton, Look and Davis scored to cut the Panther lead to 11-9 and give Blue Jay fans hope.

The Panthers scored three more in the sixth, however, on a home run by Abell to extend their lead to 14-9.

Norton scored two more in the sixth to cut the deficit to 14-11. Keiswetter singled, Mindrup doubled, Bailey singled and Keiswetter and Mindrup scored.

Phillipsburg added two runs in the seventh when Hadley hit a solo home run and Wickham also scored.

Davis got the bottom of the seventh inning started for Norton with a single to left field but was thrown out stealing second and the Jays' next two batters grounded out to end the game, 16-11.

Norton had 10 hits. Leading hitter for the Blue Jays was Keiswetter who was two for three. Look was two for four.

Rutherford was the losing pitcher. He was relieved by Davis in the third. With one out in the fifth, Keiswetter replaced Davis. Bailey relieved Keiswetter with one out in the seventh.

Phillipsburg had 12 hits, 10 walks and six Panthers struck out. Cole was the winning pitcher.

Joe Durham was the head coach of the Norton Legion team this season and Chris Bailey was his assistant coach.

"Our season got off to a bad start," said Coach Durham. "But, we ended the season with 11 hard charging, never-say-die boys who played their hearts out."

"Trying to get every member of the team together in one place at the same time was hard. Only seven boys showed up at our first practice."

"I kept recruiting but, for the first half of the season, we never had the same lineup except in a few games. Boys went to wrestling camp, football camp and even baseball camp, so we tried to plug holes where they had been."

"We didn't win our first game of



The Blue Jays' Jared Foley connects for a triple to drive in a run in Norton's eight-run fifth inning in their Zone Tournament game with Phillipsburg on Sunday in Osborne. Foley's hit caused the Panthers to change pitchers.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

the year until we played Plainville. Was that a relief! I was doused with our bucket of water. Man was that cold but it sure felt good.

"During the season, some members of the Norton K-18 team played for us when we needed players and some of our players had to quit due to work or family duties."

"My rock through all of this was my scorekeeper and fiance, Sarah Watkins. Being from the South, she had a way of saying words that kept our boys nice and loose. 'Sho nough' was her favorite saying."

"Nicknames are part of baseball. I'm not sure where they came from but every one of our players had one. Our players and their nicknames were: Logan Keiswetter, 'Muffin'; Jared Foley, 'Go Get Some'; Korey Look, 'Tiger'; Jordan Durham, 'Toast'; Aaron Daniels, 'McDaddy'; Denton Bailey, 'Beetle'; Pat Burton, 'Ompa'; Brock McChesney, 'Squawky'; Chris Davis, 'C.D.'; Corey Rutherford, 'Rut'; Jared Mindrup, 'Ripples'. One young man who played with us was not able to play in the Zone Tournament. He was Brian Ulmer, 'The Rook'."

"Wins and losses are how a coach is seen as a winner so, in that respect, I didn't do a good job. But, coaching these boys was 'sho nough' fun."

"Chris Bailey was one heck of an assistant coach. Before a game, I would ask him for his input on what he would do in some situations. We didn't always agree but we got along fabulously. Eric Burton helped coach until he had to report to the Air Force Academy. Eric Farber helped with the catchers to make them better and Craig Foley worked with our pitchers to help them improve."

"Richard Miller was our leader from the American Legion. He got us rooms for our tourneys so our boys didn't have to drive home late at night. The Legion stood behind these players all the way."

"Our team will lose just two players if everyone comes back next season but what a blow it will be to lose 'Go Get Some', our lead-off hitter who was an automatic double with his speed when he got on base and 'Squawky', who played the second half of the season with a possible torn rotator cup in his right shoulder. He never complained all season, never missed a practice or a game and

didn't tell me how badly he was hurt until the zone tourney."

"These are boys who love the game and they will be greatly missed."

"The Norton Recreation Commission holds summer baseball for the younger players so they are also learning to love the game and will help our team in coming years."



Norton's Korey Look, third from left, receives congratulations from his teammates after blasting a grand slam home run and crossing home plate in the fifth inning of the Blue Jays' Zone Tournament game with Phillipsburg on Sunday in Osborne. Among those congratulating him were Jordan Durham, left and Jared Minrup, right.



Norton's Aaron Daniels slides safely into home to score one of eight Norton runs tallied in the fifth inning of their Zone Tournament game with Phillipsburg on Sunday in Osborne.

## Kansas Shrine Bowl set for Saturday in Manhattan

The 32nd annual Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star football game will be held Saturday on Wagner Field in Kansas State University Stadium in Manhattan.

Pre-game ceremonies are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. with kick-off at 7 p.m.

Sixty-eight of the best high school football players in the state, including all of the Kansas Football Coaches Association's Top 11, have been selected to compete.

The two 34 player squads will represent the East and the West. Selection is made by a news media panel of about 40 and the game coaches following nomination by the players' coaches. There were 444 play-

ers nominated this year. The roster includes players from each of the state's six enrollment classifications, including eight-man.

Proceeds from the game are donated to the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals that provide expert, no-cost orthopedic and burn care treatment to children under 18.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl has generated more than \$2.25 million for the hospitals.

Both teams reported to camp on Friday. The West is at St. John's Military Academy in Salina and the East is at Emporia State University.

The players were flown to the

Shriners Hospital in St. Louis on Saturday to meet the children for whom they are playing. Through the years, this has been a meaningful trip for the players whose "strong legs run so weak legs may walk".

Both teams started practice in full pads on Sunday. They will practice two to three times a day to prepare for Saturday's game.

Five area seniors were chosen for the West squad — Austin Kingsbury, Smith Center; Matt Smith, Oakley; Ty Brunswig, Trego; Brock Lohr, Goodland and Mike Hester, Hays. Also selected was Matt Mayers, Southeast of Saline, Norton's regional playoff

opponent.

Coaches for this year's West team are Dan Adelhardt, Hesston, head coach; Randall Rath, Oakley; Lucas Aslin, Derby; Marvin Diener, Salina Central; Greg Slade, Rose Hill; Greg Rosenhagen, Conway Springs.

For the second straight year, Smoky Hills Public Television, Bunker Hill, and Kansas' other two public television stations, KTWU, Topeka, and KPTS, Wichita, will telecast the game live.

For more information on the 2005 Kansas Shrine Bowl, contact: Dave Mize (800) 530-5524 or go to [www.ksshine.com](http://www.ksshine.com).

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