



Norton junior tailback Blake VanEaton leaves a would-be Plainville tackler behind on the field as he runs into the end zone for a 14-yard touchdown in the third quarter of the Blue Jays 29-8 Mid-Continent League victory over the Cardinals on Friday night.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Jays to take on Redmen

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School football team will travel to Smith Center tonight for a 7 p.m. Mid-Continent League contest with the defending state champion Redmen.

It will be Homecoming for the No. 2 state ranked Smith Center eleven. Ranked No. 1 is Pittsburg Colgan, who the Redmen defeated in the state championship game last season, ending Colgan's long win streak.

Although Smith Center has only four returning starters on offense and five on defense, the Redmen have lots of talent among the 32 returning letter winners.

Smith Center has rolled easily over their first two opponents. Hill City, last Friday's opponent, suffered a 63-8 loss.

Taylor Jones, 6-foot, 2-inch, 200-pound senior running back and defensive back, was a first team All-Mid-Continent League selection last year on defense but he has been having a great season so far on offense. He ran for four touchdowns and caught a pass for another on Friday night.

Taylor Lyon, a 6-foot, 245-pound senior, anchors the Redmen's offensive and defensive lines. Also a senior, he was a sec-

ond team all-league selection on defense last year.

Also named all-league last season for Smith Center was senior Jake Nichols, a 6-foot, 175-pound offensive-defensive lineman. He was a second team defensive tackle.

Other returning starters are Micheal Hubbard, 6-2, 200-pound senior, offensive lineman and linebacker and Joe Windscheffel, 6-2, 200-pound sophomore, quarterback and defensive back.

After a season-opening loss to Class 2A state ranked Oakley, the Blue Jays outscored Plainville 29-8 last Friday. Norton rolled up 245 yards on the ground and 93 through the air for 338 yards of offense against Plainville. Norton averaged 5.7 yards per carry while the Blue Jay defense limited Plainville to 84 yards rushing and 75 yards passing for 159. The Cardinals averaged just 2.2 yards rushing.

Senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel had a good night passing as he completed seven of 10 aeriels. Junior fullback Chris Davis took advantage of big holes opened by the Norton line to gain 139 yards on just 10 carries for a 13.9 yards per carry average.

"A lot of good things happened

in the Plainville game," Coach Graber told the Blue Jay Booster Club during their meeting Wednesday evening.

"I was proud of our effort. Our level of play was so much better than the week before. We still made lots of mistakes which we must correct for the Smith Center game.

"We ran the option well and passed well and our defense had seven quarterback sacks and five other tackles for losses.

"Smith Center is a very good football team again. They graduated a lot of good athletes but they still have plenty on the team. They are sophomore-dominated but they will still come off the ball and hit you just as Smith Center teams do. As always in the past, they are very physical. We'll need to keep our pad level low.

"Offensively, we think we have a good game plan. We'll play hard and maybe some good things will happen."

Unfortunately, two Norton players — junior tailback and linebacker Blake VanEaton and senior offensive and defensive lineman Austin Brooks — who have seen lots of action in the first two games are not expected to play due to injuries suffered on the practice field this week.

Junior varsity blanks Plainville

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team recorded their second straight shutout of the season when they defeated Plainville 22-0 at Travis Field on Monday.

Norton kicked off and the Blue Jay defense held the Plainville offense to negative yards, forcing the Cardinals to punt.

Logan Kats returned the punt to the Plainville 45-yard line. Matt Stanley scored on a fullback dive on Norton's first offensive play from scrimmage. Kats ran the two-point conversion and Norton led 8-0.

On Plainville's next possession, the Blue Jays held the Cardinals to three-and-out again and forced another punt. Norton drove the ball into Plainville territory but turned the ball over.

The second quarter began with Plainville driving deep into Blue Jay territory but Travis Ray intercepted a pass on the goal line to stop the Cardinals' progress.

Norton took possession deep in their own territory and was forced to punt. The Norton defense continued its dominance and forced the Cardinals' drive to stall. The Jays took advantage and used the clock until Todd Bolt scored from 30 yards out. Kats ran the two-point conversion and Norton led 16-0 at halftime.

The third quarter was a defensive battle and the score remained

16-0 heading into the fourth, which turned out to be another defensive battle. When the Jays' defense held the Cardinals to three-and-out, Norton fumbled the ball right back to Plainville. It looked as if the Cardinals had a scoring drive started but Jordan Bebb intercepted a Cardinal pass.

That ignited the Blue Jay offense and they scored their final points on a 10-yard option run by Kats. The two-point conversion by Brad Nuzum came up short and Norton led 22-0. The Norton defense went on the field one last

time and had two sacks and a tackle for loss before time ran out.

"I thought we played okay tonight," said Norton Coach Lucas Melvin.

"We did not play as well as last week, partly because of mistakes, partly because of effort and also because Plainville played hard.

"Our defense played well and our offense moved the ball but turnovers stopped a lot of drives."

The Norton junior varsity will play Smith Center on Monday at Travis Field in Norton. Kickoff is 6:30 p.m.

Junior varsity volleyball team wins championship at Quinter

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team extended their perfect record to 9-0 by winning the championship of the Quinter Tournament on Saturday.

Wheatland

In their first match, Norton defeated Wheatland 25-10, 25-13.

Maggie Nielsen serving 17-18 with seven aces and three kills led the way from the service line. Hayli Bozarth added 5 points with kills and 5-6 with one ace from the service line.

"This was a nice match to get our girls loosened up and ready to play for the day," said Coach Peggy Cox.

"Wheatland just struggled the whole match trying to make our serves playable. When they did get the ball back over the net, libero Lacey Roe, along with Laura Delimont, Brianna Felton and Bozarth kept passes going to the setters. This allowed setters Courtney Cox and Katharine Roy to keep the ball in front of the hitters, who used this to their advantage by scoring points on kills."

Adding to the points in this match were Dana Hillebrand, one kill; Cox, one kill, 8-8 serving, two aces; Courtney LeClair, two kills, 8-9 serves, two aces; Roe, one kill; Felton, one kill, 5-6 serves, one ace. Roy and Cox recorded six and four assists, respectively. The team overall served 90 percent (team goal) with 13 aces.

Hill City

Norton defeated Hill City 25-27, 25-7, 15-9.

"In this match, we posted some great numbers," said Coach Cox.

"After losing the first game by two points, we took charge and coasted to an easy victory.

"In the first game, we served, passed, set and hit fairly well but couldn't put together more than

two or three points at a time.

"In the next two games, we focused on stringing points together from both the service and attacking front. Due to 'crowd participation', we also changed our serving strategy to keep Hill City guessing."

Posting numbers for the Lady Jays were: Maggie Nielsen, eight kills, 10-10 serves, two aces; Hayli Bozarth eight kills, 9-10, one ace; Courtney LeClair, four kills, one block, 9-10, four aces; Brianna Felton, four kills, 5-8 serves; Courtney Cox, two kills, 14 assists, 15-15 serves, two aces; Lacey Roe, one kill; Dana Hillebrand, one kill, two blocks; Katharine Roy, 12 assists, 8-10 serving, four aces.

Quinter

The Lady Jays outpointed Quinter 25-9, 19-25, 15-10.

"Maggie Nielsen continued serving strong as she posted a career high 10 aces and was 16-18," said Coach Cox.

"She also added five kills to her record along with teammate Hayli Bozarth who had five kills, 12-12 serves with two aces. Courtney LeClair led the way with seven kills, was 6-8 serving and had three aces.

"This match was a good one overall as Quinter was hitting at us. We struggled at different times with communication but, in the end, posted a win."

Adding to Norton's statistics were: Brianna Felton, three kills, 1-1 serving; Dana Hillebrand, one kill; Courtney Cox, 5-7 serves, two aces, 10 assists; Sara Lentz, 4-4 serving, one ace; Katharine Roy, 3-5 serves, two aces, six assists.

Oakley

Norton played the Lady Plainsmen in the semi-finals after winning their pool. The Lady Jays won 26-24, 25-20.

"Starting into tournament play,

we were a little sluggish," said Coach Cox.

"We had about an hour break waiting for the other pool matches to finish. Six players recorded kills but none really seemed to get us going. We managed to string two or three points together at a time which was good enough to win but this was not a memorable match."

Statistic leaders were Dana Hillebrand, two kills; Courtney Cox, one kill, 14 assists, 11-12 serves, two aces; Courtney LeClair, four kills, 7-8 serves, three aces; Maggie Nielsen, 6-8 serves, 6 kills; Hayli Bozarth, three kills, 8-10 serves, one ace; Brianna Felton, four kills, 4-6 serves; Katharine Roy, 5-6 serves, one ace, four assists.

Oberlin

Norton defeated Oberlin 26-24, 14-25, 15-9 to win the tournament.

"Although we lost the second game by 11 points, our girls kept their composure and won the final game by a decisive score," said Coach Cox.

"In this match, Oberlin threw different things at us, which kept us guessing. We didn't make any glaring mistakes; Oberlin just continued to get the ball back to us, forcing us to make an error.

"Fatigue started to play a factor so we really had to stay focused on fundamentals and capitalize on Oberlin's errors. Our girls prevailed, kept putting the ball back into Oberlin's defense and came out with a win.

"The tournament pointed out some things that we need to work on in practice. These are stringing points together, communication and being able to switch our serves from short to aggressive deep."

The Norton varsity will play at Stockton versus Stockton, Hoxie and Hill City on Tuesday and the junior varsity will play some matches. Play will begin at 4 p.m.

Norton ties for fifth in tennis

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School team tied for fifth in the eight-team Goodland Invitational Tennis Tournament on Tuesday.

With a quadrangular also on Tuesday in Phillipsburg, Coach Jim Green split his varsity team to compete at both places.

Scott City won the championship with 28 points, followed by Tribune, 22; Goodland, 21; Colby, 21; Norton, 20; Trego, 20; Ulysses, 18; Garden City, 7.

Jessica Cook played No. 1 singles for Norton and placed fifth. In pool play, she shutout Liz Erickson, Colby, 7-0; lost 7-0 to Leann Newcomer, Trego and lost 7-0 to Celina Govert, Tribune. She won fifth place by forfeit from Emma Kennedy, Garden City.

"Jessica was up against some very tough players," said Norton Assistant Coach Shawnee Branek. "She is taking more chances at hitting winners, especially with her serves and she managed to get a few aces."

Chelle Donovan and Hannah

Mills played No. 1 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed seventh.

They lost 7-6 (7-3) to Kaylie Duggar and Rashaan Wilson, Colby; lost 7-4 to Julia Albin and Samantha Augustine, Trego and defeated Lindsay Wineinger and Kyra Wendt, Tribune, 7-5. They won seventh place by forfeit over Johanna Prez and Amanda Seibert, Garden City.

Ashley Maybon played No. 2 singles for Norton and placed third individually. She defeated Gillian Zambriani, Colby, 7-2; lost to Cassie Dietz, Trego, 7-2, and defeated Morgan Schmidt, Tribune, 7-2.

In the finals, she defeated Trista Henderson, Scott City, 7-5 to place third.

"I was very impressed with Ashley's performance," said Coach Branek.

"Her confidence is strong and she is not afraid to go for the winning shots.

"She is normally on our junior varsity team and simply outplayed her varsity opponents."

Playing No. 2 doubles for

Norton were Gena Myers and Sara Campbell. They placed sixth.

They lost 7-1 to Stephanie Albers and Lindsey Wilson, Colby; defeated Dana Diec and Amanda Gosser, Trego, 7-1 and lost 7-5 to Colleen Fuller and Brittany Wendt, Tribune. In the finals, they lost 7-1 to Kali Rietcheck and Megan Stefan, Goodland, to place sixth.

"We need to work on our consistency with our doubles teams," said Coach Branek.


"The No. 1 doubles team won one of three matches played and their fourth match was forfeited and the one team they beat placed second.

"We know where we need to improve in the next week before the varsity plays again."

The Norton varsity tennis team will travel to WaKeeney for the Trego Invitational Tennis Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 24, beginning at 9 a.m.

Teams from Claflin, Hoisington, Osborne and Victoria will also compete.

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