

# Blue Jays beat Osborne 55-6 at Travis Field

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School football team was unstoppable in Mid-Continent League play Friday night by a visiting Osborne eleven who absorbed a 55-6 beating from the Blue Jays at Travis Field.

Eliminating mistakes that had hampered their play the first four games, the Blue Jays scored the first three times they had the ball and led 42-0 before the visitors scored.

Norton backs averaged eight yards per carry while the gang-tackling Blue Jay defense limited the Bulldogs to an average of 2.9 yards per attempt. Take away Osborne's 73 yard touchdown run by tailback Josh Conway and the Norton defense allowed just 1.2 yards per carry.

William Wilhite kicked off for Norton to start the game. Andrew Ables and Lance Roe tackled Conway on the 30-yard-line. With the absence of injured running back Casey Corbett, Osborne coach Clint Merritt moved Conway from quarterback to running back and Conway carried the ball 40 percent of the time.

With Conway carrying the ball, the Bulldogs earned one of their seven first downs in the game on the Osborne 41. The Norton defense stiffened, however, and Conway lost three yards, a pass was incomplete and a bad pitch cost the visitors two more yards. Osborne punted to the Norton 46 but a substitution infraction against the Blue Jays returned the ball to the Bulldogs.

They tried to run on their repeat fourth down and the Norton defense stopped them short of a first down, taking over on the Bulldog 44. On Norton's first offensive play from scrimmage, quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel ran the option, picked up some good blocking and ran through some potential tackles to score. Wilhite split the uprights and Norton led 7-0 with 9:20 left in the first quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, Wilhite boomed the ball into the end zone and the Bulldogs took over on their 20-yard-line. On first down, defensive tackle Davvid Stanley dropped running back Brady Lund for a four yard loss. Conway tried the Norton line but linebackers Lance Roe and Blake VanEaton dropped him for no gain. On third down, VanEaton intercepted a pass on the Osborne 21.

VanEaton ran for three yards, then Pfannenstiel connected with wide receiver Clay Madden for an 18-yard touchdown. Wilhite was perfect on the extra point kick and the Blue Jays led 14-0 with 7:30 left.

Conway returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 33. After Conway gained four yards on two carries, a bad pitch was recovered by linebacker Chris Davis on the Bulldog 25. Pfannenstiel ran the keeper to the 15, VanEaton ran around left end to the 6, Davis picked up a first down on the 5, then ran through a big hole over right guard for Norton's third touchdown. Wilhite added another point on another perfect kick and Norton led 21-0 with 5:23 left in the first quarter.

Again, Wilhite boomed the kickoff into the end zone and Osborne took over on their 20. The aggressive Norton defense limited the Bulldogs to three-and-out. A Blue Jay defender hit the punter and Osborne received the ball on their 39. Conway ran for 35 yards to the Norton 16 where defensive back Nathan Broeckelman tackled him. That was as far as the Bulldogs would advance. Lund ran for one yard, then defensive tackle Austin Brooks came charging in to sack the Osborne quarterback. Defensive back Pfannenstiel and Roe tackled Conway for no gain and the Bulldogs decided to try a field goal. Defensive tackle Heath Vincent had other ideas and he came roaring in to block the attempted kick.

Norton took over on the Blue Jay 40. A holding penalty halted the Norton attack and the Jays had to punt for the first time in the game. Davis punted and Lund received the ball on the 27. After

Conway gained two yards, Davvid Stanley tackled him back on the 18. An intentional grounding penalty against the Bulldogs moved the ball back to the 7. Osborne punted. The ball was kicked high and came down short, hitting a Norton player. The Bulldogs recovered the ball on their 6 with a new set of downs as the quarter ended with Norton leading 21-0.

## Second quarter

Lund gained nine yards on two carries but Brooks threw him for a one-yard loss and the Bulldogs were forced to punt again. This time, Broeckelman made a good reception, found his wall of blockers and they ushered him down the sidelines for a 45-yard touchdown! Wilhite was perfect again on the extra point kick and the Blue Jays led 28-0 with 10:23 remaining in the half.

Wilhite kicked off and Conway was smothered on the Osborne 19 by a whole host of Norton tacklers. Conway was stopped for no gain by Ables, then made six yards. Kevin LaRosh carried for one yard and the Bulldogs punted again. Pfannenstiel made a fair catch on the Norton 49. On first down, VanEaton got the call, ran over the right side of the line, reversed his field and sprinted untouched into the end zone. Wilhite's automatic kick made the score 35-0 with 8:26 left.

Brandon Grabast returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 27-yard-line. On first down, Conway found a crease in the Blue Jay defense and tight-rope walked the sidelines for a 73-yard touchdown. A bad center snap on the extra point kick kept the Bulldogs from scoring another point and the score remained 35-6 with 8:10 left in the first half.

On the ensuing kickoff, Conway's 73 yard run was forgotten by the Norton fans as VanEaton gathered in the pigskin on the Norton 10-yard-line, picked up some good blocks and sprinted 90 yards to the end zone! Wilhite's kick extended the Norton lead to 42-6 with 7:56 still left in the half.

Wilhite kicked into the end zone and Osborne took over on their 20. Conway lost a yard and was injured and helped from the field. Martin Hojda lost a yard as Vincent and Roe tackled him. Osborne punted and Pfannenstiel returned the ball. A blocking in the back penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the Norton 46 and Coach Graber sent in the Norton junior varsity.

Tailback Todd Bolt lost two yards but quarterback Logan Kats ran a keeper for a first down on the Osborne 22. On the next down, Bolt found a big hole over the left side of the line and burst through it for a touchdown. Wilhite kicked the extra point and Norton led 49-6 with 5:51 remaining. The time went fast the rest of the game as the 43 point lead put the continuous scoreboard clock rule into effect.

After an exchange of punts, the half ended with the Blue Jays enjoying a very comfortable 49-6 lead.

## Third quarter

The Norton junior varsity played the entire second half. After receiving the kickoff, the Blue Jays could not move the ball and had to punt. After an exchange of fumbles, Osborne punted back to Norton. Brian Juenemann made a nice 45-yard return to the Osborne 16. Quarterback Logan Kats ran a keeper to the 10. Running back Brad Nuzum ran to the 1 and scored on the next down.

Davis came in to try the extra point kick but it was blocked and Norton led 55-6 at the end of three quarters.

## Fourth quarter

After Wilhite's kickoff, Osborne moved the ball with the help of a pass interference penalty against the Blue Jays to the Norton 35 where Juenemann recovered a Bulldog fumble. With Kats, Nuzum and Brock Lauer running the ball, Norton moved downfield to the Osborne 11-yard-line where time ran out with the Blue Jays leading 55-6.

for Norton. Pfannenstiel gained 63 yards on 3 carries and VanEaton gained 62 yards on just 3 totes. They were followed by Davis, 3 for 9 yards; Bolt, 2 for 21; Kats, 6 for 80; Matt Stanley, 2 for minus 6; Brian Ulmer, 3 for 1; Nuzum, 5 for 18; Lauer, 3 for 9.

Madden had Norton's only pass reception for 18 yards and a touchdown. Broeckelman had 1 punt return for 45 yards and a touchdown and Juenemann had 1 for 42 yards.

VanEaton had 1 kickoff return for 90 yards and a touchdown and Kats had 1 for 12 yards.

Conway gained 125 net yards on 17 carries for Osborne.

"Our boys played extremely well. We jumped on them early," said Coach Graber.

"During our whole week of practice we focused on playing hard and we played hard and played well. I'm really proud of the way we played.

"After we got our third touchdown, we found out if we would continue to play hard and not drop off and we did. We prepared better for this game. We've shown progress every week and that's the idea. We started a new season tonight. We have some lofty goals for this season.

"We executed well physically but I'm most proud of the way we mentally prepared for the game.

"Our special teams played really, really well. On punt returns, we did a good job of catching the ball and getting to the wall. Our kickoff team has been great all year but we had never broken one for a touchdown.

"Our young players went in and scored two touchdowns and that was fun to see.

"Our talent level was better than theirs but you still have to go out and execute. In all fairness to Osborne, they are really beat up. Their tailback is hurt so they moved their quarterback to tailback. I feel for Clint Merritt. He's doing a great job with his players. He's working hard with his players.

"We need to keep this game in perspective. We know what it's like to be on the other end after last week. We need to forget the big score by which we won. We have to line up and play again this week."

Linebacker Lance Roe was leading tackler for the Blue Jays with seven solo tackles and five assists for 12 total. He was followed by Broeckelman, seven solos, one assist, eight total; Brooks, three solos, three assists, six total; Jared Cox, two solos, three assists, five total; Davvid Stanley, four solos, one assist, five total; Juenemann, one solo, three assists, four total; Vincent, two solos, two assists, four total; Ables, one solo, two assists, three total; Davis, two solos, one assist, three total; Dreher, two solos, one assist, three total; Matt Engel, two solos, one assist, three total; Nuzum, three solos; VanEaton, two solos, one assist, three total; Kats, two solos; Pfannenstiel, one solo, one assist, two total; Bolt, one solo; Wes Georgeson, one solo; Coady McMullen, one solo; Nathan Morse, one solo; Matt Stanley, one assist.

## Next action

Norton will travel to Stockton this evening for a 7 p.m. Mid-Continent League contest.

## GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Osborne	
9	First Downs	7
32-258	Yards Rushing	42-123
18	Yards Passing	0
276	Total Yards	123
1-2-0	Passes Compl.	0-6-1
2-2	Fumbles Lost	3-4
9-85	Penalties	2-16
3-30	Punts	6-24.5



Norton junior tailback Blake VanEaton returned an Osborne kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown. VanEaton also ran 51 yards from scrimmage for another Blue Jay tally in the 55-6 victory on Friday night in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Norton will travel to Stockton for Mid-Continent League play

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team will travel to Stockton this evening to play the Tigers in Mid-Continent League action.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Norton is 2-2 after thrashing a visiting Osborne team 55-6 last Friday evening. Stockton is 0-4 and lost 38-7 to county rival Plainville on Friday.

The Tigers have five returning senior starters from last season. Jeremy Nelson is a senior guard and defensive tackle and Heath Muir, a 5-9, 160 pound senior, is a speedy pass target. Muir also plays defensive back.

"Stockton is not a great team but they run the option on offense," Norton Head Coach Bruce Graber told the Blue Jay Booster Club on Wednesday evening.

"You can beat a team with superior talent if you run the option right. We haven't played much against the option this year so we worked on it a lot in practice this week.

"Defensively, we expect them to blitz a lot so we have worked on that, too.

"I was so proud of our effort last

Friday night and of the way we prepared. We continued to play hard the entire game against Osborne and didn't back off. Our junior varsity also did a superb job.

"It doesn't make any difference who you play, you must execute properly to win. We just need to line up with the same intensity this Friday as we had last week."

Norton will enter the game averaging 255 yards of offense per game. One-third of the yardage has been through the air. Senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel has an outstanding pass completion percentage. He has connected on 25 of 46 passes for 54.3 percent and is averaging 13.4 yards per completion.

Pfannenstiel's leading receiver is senior wide receiver Clay Madden with 9 catches for 139 yards and a 15.4 yards per catch average.

Senior tailback Blake VanEaton is the all-purpose yardage leader. He has carried the ball 42 times for 181 yards, caught six passes for 106 yards and has returned four kickoffs for 148 yards for a total of 435 yards in the four games played.

Junior fullback Chris Davis has played in just three games and has

gained 191 yards on 23 carries for an outstanding 8.3 yards per attempt. He is also the Norton punter and has averaged 33.3 yards on 10 punts.

Senior kicker William Wilhite has done a great job on kickoffs, extra point kicks and field goals. He is averaging 50.3 yards on 15 kickoffs and kicks into the end zone with regularity. He is perfect on extra point kicks, having kicked 10 of 10, and perfect on field goals, having made 2 of 2.

Leading tackler for the gang-tackling Blue Jay defense is junior defensive back Nathan Broeckelman with 27 solo tackles and 3 assists for 30 total stops. VanEaton plays linebacker on defense and has garnered 17 solos, 11 assists for 28 total tackles. Senior linebacker Lance Roe has 17 solos, 9 assists for 26 total tackles.

Coach Graber told the Blue Jay Boosters that his team appears to be in good physical condition and that only one player, freshman running back and linebacker Matt Stanley, is injured and will not be available for the game.

# Norton Junior varsity football team remains unbeaten with 42-8 win

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team extended their unbeaten streak to 4-0 on Monday evening with a 42-8 win over Osborne at Osborne.

Osborne scored on their opening possession but did not threaten the rest of the game.

Norton kicked off to start the game and Osborne put together a scoring drive as they converted two fourth downs and ate up seven plus minutes on the clock. The young Bulldogs also converted a two-point try to take an 8-0 lead.

The Blue Jays responded quickly. On Norton's second play from scrimmage after the Bulldog kickoff, tailback Todd Bolt took the ball 50 yards on a counter play to score Norton's first touchdown. Bolt scored two extra points on an option pitch from quarterback Logan Kats to tie the score at 8-8.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Norton defense stepped up and put Osborne in a third and 11 situation. The Bulldogs went to the air. Defensive back Jordan Durham was in great position and intercepted the ball. The Blue Jay offense scored again as Bolt hit paydirt. The extra points attempt failed but

Norton led 14-8.

After the kickoff, the Norton defense forced an Osborne punt. The Blue Jays put together a nice scoring drive and tallied from the 3-yard-line when Kats pitched to Bolt on an option to the left. Kats ran an option keeper for the two extra points to make it a 22-8 game.

Norton kicked off again to Osborne and, on third and long, the Bulldogs went to the air. The Blue Jay secondary was ready and this time defensive back Brian Juenemann stepped in front of a pass and took it back 38 yards for a touchdown. The extra points attempt was no good but Norton was on top 28-8 at halftime.

The second half began with Norton receiving the ball. The Blue Jays drove downfield, chewing up six plus minutes on the clock and scoring on a sweep left by Bolt. Two tries for extra points were successful but both were called back on penalties. On the third attempt from the 28-yard-line, Kats scrambled and bowled over a Bulldog defender to score the longest two-point conversion of the year and extend the Norton lead to 36-8.

The fourth quarter moved by

unevenly until a Norton defensive blitz forced the Osborne quarterback to make a poor decision. As defensive end Coady McMullen was hitting the Bulldog quarterback, he released a pass into the flat and linebacker Zach Dreher caught it and ran 27 yards for another Blue Jay touchdown. The point-after try failed, making the score 42-8.

Osborne tried to score on their last drive but the Norton defense, composed of mostly freshmen, stopped them on a fourth and seven from the Blue Jay 27-yard-line. The Jays then kneeled on the ball to end the game.

"Osborne came out and stuffed the ball down our throat on the first series," said Norton Coach Lucas Melvin.

"Their drive was a wake up call for our players and, after that, we took control of the game and they did not threaten again.

"I am proud of our players. They took that first punch and then stepped up to finish the game strong."

## Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team will play Stockton here at 6:30 p.m. on Monday.