

Norton Blue Jays shut out Stockton 40-0

By DICK BOYD

Norton's football team struck quickly and often in shutting out Stockton 40-0 in Mid-Continent League play Friday night in Stockton.

The Blue Jays scored four touchdowns in the first quarter for a 27-0 advantage and were leading 34-0 at halftime. Another touchdown with just 24 seconds gone in the third quarter made it 40-0 and put the continuous clock rule into effect.

Norton's offensive dominance is evidenced by the fact that they did not punt the entire game. The Blue Jay defense did not allow a Stockton first down until the second quarter and gave up only three first-and-tens to the Tigers in the first half.

Norton kicked off and forced Stockton to punt after three downs. Nathan Broeckelman returned the punt to the Stockton 22. After quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel passed to wide receiver Clay Madden on the 8, tailback Blake VanEaton ran four yards, then scored from the 4. William Wilhite kicked the extra point and Norton led 7-0 with 8:41 left.

After another three-and-out by Stockton, Pfannenstiel returned the punt for an apparent Norton touchdown. A penalty nullified the score, but Norton was back in the end zone two plays later. Fullback Roe ran for a first down on the Norton 46, then VanEaton found running room and sprinted untouched for his second touchdown. Wilhite's extra point kick missed its mark for the first time this season and the Blue Jays led 13-0 with 6 minutes remaining.

Stockton fumbled on first down after Wilhite's kickoff and Davvid Stanley recovered on the Tiger 24. Norton drove in for another score. VanEaton hit paydirt on a run around left end from the 4 for his third touchdown of the game. Wilhite's extra point kick was good this time and Norton led 20-0 with 3:55 left.

After another three-and-out for Stockton, Nathan Broeckelman made a fair catch on the Norton 38. The Blue Jays wasted little time scoring again. Pfannenstiel ran 28

yards to the Tiger 34. Six plays later Pfannenstiel connected with tight end Jared Cox and he dragged a Stockton player into the end zone for a 21-yard touchdown. Wilhite's extra point extended the Norton lead to 27-0 with 10 seconds left in the first quarter.

After the kickoff, Stockton made their three first downs of the first half as they drove to the Norton 40 where defensive end Matt Engel sacked quarterback Trey Kellner to put the ball back in Norton hands. On third down, Pfannenstiel passed to Cox who raced down the sidelines to the Stockton 13, breaking a tackle in the process. Roe scored from the 12 one play later after breaking three tackles. Wilhite's extra point kick made it 34-0 with 3:40 left in the first half.

Norton stopped Stockton again after the kickoff and the Norton junior varsity ran three plays on offense before halftime.

Pfannenstiel returned the second half kickoff 80 yards to the Stockton 20. On first down, Pfannenstiel ran a keeper for Norton's final touchdown. Wilhite missed the extra point kick attempt but Norton led 40-0 with just 24 seconds gone in the second half.

The 40-point lead put the continuous clock rule into effect. After the kickoff, Stockton drove into Norton territory before giving up the ball and the Norton junior varsity offense took over. The Norton reserves drove the ball on the Stockton varsity defense and reached the Tiger 15 as the third quarter ended.

The Stockton junior varsity entered the game. Norton fumbled and Stockton recovered on their 22. The Stockton varsity offense returned to the field and drove the ball downfield on the Norton junior varsity. It looked as if Stockton might score but they fumbled. Norton recovered on the five-yard-line with time running out and the Blue Jay junior varsity preserved the 40-0 shutout.

Norton rushed for 201 yards on just 27 carries for a 7.4 yards per carry average. The Blue Jay defense limited the Tigers to just 63

yards rushing on 40 tries for 1.5 yards per carry.

VanEaton was leading ball carrier for Norton with 94 yards on 7 carries for an average of 13.4 yards per carry.

Pfannenstiel completed 4 of 7 passes for 90 yards and a 57 percent completion rate.

Other ball carriers for Norton and yards gained were: Pfannenstiel, 3 for 42 yards; Roe, 3 for 26; Davis, 2 for 8; Nuzum, 2 for 7; Lauer, 2 for 1; Bolt, 4 for 27; Kats, 4 for minus 4.

Pass receivers for Norton were Madden, 1 for 15; VanEaton, 1 for 6; Cox, 2 for 71.

Broeckelman had 1 punt return for 19 and Pfannenstiel had 1 for 10.

Pfannenstiel had 1 kickoff return for 80 yards.

Wilhite had 7 kickoffs for a 48 yard average.

Dix was leading ball carrier for Stockton with 14 carries for 35 yards; Kellner had 13 for 25. Leading pass receiver for the Tigers was Wallen with 3 for 42.

Leading tacklers for Norton were linebacker Lance Roe and defensive tackle Heath Vincent with four solo tackles and four assists for eight total each. They were followed by Chris Davis, six solos, one assist, seven total; Davvid Stanley and Blake VanEaton, four solos, one assist, five total each; Brian Juenemann and Brett Thomson, four solos each; Matt Engel, three solos, one assist, four total; Todd Bolt, Austin Brooks and Zach Mannel, two solos, one assist, three total each; Andrew Ables, three solos; Nathan Broeckelman, Zach Dreher, Nathan Morse, Brian Ulmer, one solo, one assist, two total each; Travis Ray, two solos; Nish Millan, two assists; Jared Cox, Logan Kats, Clay Madden, Luke Pfannenstiel, one solo each; Brad Nuzum, one assist.

"We were pretty efficient offensively," said Norton Coach Bruce Graber.

"They played their stack defense a little differently than we expected but their 4-3 look was the same. They tried to blitz quite a bit early but we hurt them and they stopped it.



The swarming Norton defense was all over Stockton ball carriers throughout the Blue Jays' 40-0 shutout of the Tigers on Friday. Here, the Stockton quarterback Trey Kellner, No. 1, becomes a Blue Jay tackle sandwich as numerous Norton defenders, including Andrew Ables, No. 64, drop him for a loss.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

"We did a pretty good job most times on first down and that put us in a good position.

"I was disappointed that we lost the punt return for a touchdown. We had great walls on our punt returns. Our special teams did well. Our point-after protection was much better.

"Wilhite had a hard time getting the ball inside on extra point kicks but continued to kickoff well.

"Defensively, we did a nice job against their option. Our defensive ends played their best game of the year. They understood the technique to play the option and played with more intensity and were more physical.

"I was a little disappointed with

our pass coverage. We were there all the time but stood and watched the ball come down. This is an area we will have to shore up. Ellis will come in here passing.

"Everybody had a good game. We prepared knowing that they are struggling and yet we prepared the same and went out and got after them and didn't get comfortable when we got a big lead.

"Our players are enjoying success and having fun staying focused. If we continue to improve, we'll be at a level where we can be competitive with anybody left on our schedule. A lot of our goals are still in front of us.

"I was happy that our junior varsity was able to keep them out of

the end zone. We bent but didn't break and kept their goose egg on the scoreboard."

Next action

This is homecoming week for Norton. The Blue Jays will play Ellis on Friday at Travis Field with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

Ellis lost 24-21 to Trego in overtime last Friday night.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Stockton
13	First Downs	11
27-201	Yards Rushing	40-63
90	Yards Passing	64
291	Total Yards	127
4-7-0	Passes Compl.	5-9-0
1-1	Fumbles Lost	2-2
4-35	Penalties	2-10
0	Punts	3-33

Blue Jays defeat Stockton in Mid-Continent League football game

First quarter

Norton kicked off to start the game and Brian Juenemann made the tackle on the Stockton 16-yard-line. The swarming Norton defense jumped on the Tiger offense right away. Running back Cody Dix was stopped for no gain on first down, then quarterback Trey Kellner was sacked by defensive tackle Heath Vincent and linebacker Lance Roe.

The Tigers got off a short punt and Nathan Broeckelman returned the pigskin 19 yards to the Stockton 22. On first down, Norton quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel passed the ball to wide receiver Clay Madden. He made an excellent over-the-head catch and was stopped on the 8. Tailback Blake VanEaton plunged to the 4, then ran over right tackle on second down to score. William Wilhite booted the extra point and Norton led 7-0 with 8:41 remaining in the first quarter.

Leneal Weiser returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 25. Dix gained six yards, Nathan Palmer gained one before Roe tackled him, Kellner gained nothing and the Tigers punted.

Pfannenstiel received the punt, picked up a wall of blockers and ran untouched into the end zone for an apparent Norton touchdown. The Blue Jays were whistled for blocking in the back and the touchdown was nullified. On first down, fullback Roe found running room over left tackle for a first down on the Norton 46.

The next play, VanEaton put some moves on Tiger defenders as he ran over the right side of the line and sprinted untouched into the end zone. Wilhite's extra point kick was wide right, his first miss of the season, and the score was 13-0 with 6:00 remaining.

Weiser returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 23 where Andrew Ables tackled him. Stockton fumbled on first down and Davvid Stanley recovered for Norton on the 24. Pfannenstiel lost one yard to the

25, then VanEaton ran around right end for a first down on the 11. Fullback Chris Davis plunged to the 4, then VanEaton got the call again and took a pitch from Pfannenstiel, ran around left end, eluded a would-be tackler at the 3 and dived into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game. Wilhite split the uprights and the visiting Blue Jays led 20-0 with 3:55 left in the first quarter.

Weiser returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 28 where Juenemann again made the tackle. A Kellner pass was incomplete, Dix ran for four yards before Stanley tackled him and Kellner ran a keeper for no gain. Stockton punted and Broeckelman made a fair catch on the Norton 38.

Pfannenstiel ran the option over the right side and was stopped 28 yards later on the Tiger 34. A Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete, Davis rambled up the middle for five yards and another Pfannenstiel aerial missed its mark. A fourth down flat pass to VanEaton was good for six yards and a first down on the 23. VanEaton churned for two yards to the 21, then Pfannenstiel connected with tight end Jared Cox over the middle and he dragged a Tiger tackler into the end zone for the Blue Jays' fourth touchdown in as many tries. Wilhite was perfect on the extra point kick and, with 10 seconds left in the first quarter, Norton had extended their lead to 27-0.

Palmer returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 23 where Juenemann continued to elude Tiger blockers as he tackled Palmer on the 21. Vincent tackled Dix for no gain as the quarter ended with the Jays leading 27-0.

Second quarter

Palmer gained three yards before Davvid Stanley stopped him. The next down, the Tigers picked up their initial first down of the game when Kellner passed complete over the middle to tight end Kyle Wallen on the Stockton 41. VanEaton came charging in from

his linebacker spot to sack Kellner for a six yard loss. Dix ran for one yard before Vincent tackled him. Stockton lost five yards for illegal procedure but Norton was penalized for pass interference and the ball was moved to the Stockton 45. Kellner ran a keeper on the option for a first down on the Norton 44.

Two more keepers by Kellner produced another first down on the Norton 33. Dix gained just one yard, then VanEaton threw a Tiger runner for a one yard loss. A good pass rush by Broeckelman caused Kellner to misfire on an aerial, then Kellner was sacked by defensive end Matt Engel and Norton took over the pigskin on the 40.

After a Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete, Roe plunged for one yard. On third down, Pfannenstiel passed to Cox. He raced down the Norton sideline, ran out of the grasp of a potential tackler and was finally stopped on the Tiger 13! VanEaton ran for one yard, then Roe made one of the best runs of his career as he powered over the left side of the line and literally ran through three would-be tacklers, leaving them grasping air on the turf, as he sprinted into the end zone!

Wilhite was perfect again on the extra point kick and Norton led 34-0 with 3:40 left in the half.

Weiser returned Wilhite's kickoff to the Stockton 39. Kellner completed a slant pass to Weiser for eight yards and Broeckelman made the tackle. Dix ran for one yard before Vincent tackled him. The Tigers lost five yards for illegal procedure. Kellner went back to pass, got a good rush from Ables and Davvid Stanley and threw incomplete. Norton took over on the Stockton 44.

Coach Graber put in his junior varsity offense at this point. Brad Nuzum gained six yards in two carries and Brock Lauer was stopped for no gain as halftime arrived with the visiting Blue Jays dominating 34-0.

Third quarter

Stockton kicked off to Norton to start the second half and Pfannenstiel got a good return all the way to the Tiger 20. On first down, Pfannenstiel ran the keeper for a touchdown. Wilhite's extra point kick was wide right again and the Blue Jays were on top 40-0 with just 24 seconds gone in the second half.

The 40-point lead put the continuous clock rule into effect and the rest of the game went pretty fast.

Palmer returned Wilhite's kickoff and, once again, Juenemann made the tackle, this time on the 29. Coach Graber's plan was to play the Norton varsity defense one more series before retiring them for the night but it took longer than expected. With Palmer carrying the ball most of the time, the Tigers moved the ball all the

way to the Norton 31 where they had a first down. That was as far as they got, however, as Austin Brooks broke through the line to drop Palmer for a two yard loss, Dix was stopped for no gain by Davvid Stanley and Stanley sacked Kellner back on the Stockton 47. On fourth down, VanEaton blitzed and sacked Kellner and the Blue Jays' junior varsity offense took over.

Fullback Lauer gained one yard, tailback Todd Bolt ran to the 33 for a first down. Bolt gained eight yards on two more carries, then quarterback Logan Kats ran a keeper for a first down on the 19. Bolt gained six more yards but Kats was sacked on the 15 as the third quarter ended with Norton leading 40-0.

Fourth quarter

The Stockton junior varsity en-

tered the game at this point. Kats was sacked on the 18. Norton fumbled and Stockton recovered on their 22.

The Stockton varsity offense returned to the field. The Blue Jay junior varsity grudgingly gave ground as the Tiger varsity moved downfield. Stockton gained 66 of their 127 total yards in the game on this drive and reached the Norton 12 yard line with 2:46 remaining. A pass interference penalty against Norton moved the ball half the distance to the goal with 1:51 left. Dix ran for no gain and, on the next play, Stockton fumbled and Norton recovered on the 5 to preserve the shutout. Time ran out as Kats received the ball from the center and put a knee on the turf. Norton had extended their record to 3-2 with a 40-0 Mid-Continent League victory over Stockton.

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton vs. Ellis (homecoming here)	7 p.m., Friday
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg (away)	6:30 p.m., Monday
Northern Valley vs. Logan (here)	7 p.m., Friday
Logan vs. Northern Valley (away)	7 p.m., Friday

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Smith Center, Trego (in Smith Center) .	5 p.m., today
Norton Varsity in Scott City Tournament (at Scott City)	9 a.m., Saturday
Norton C-team vs. Phillipsburg (away)	5 p.m., Monday
Norton Varsity, Jr Varsity vs. Logan, Golden Plains (Sr. Night here)	4 p.m., Tuesday
Northern Valley vs. Golden Plains, Wheatland (in Grainfield)	3 p.m., today
Northern Valley in Hill City Tournament (in Hill City)	8:30 a.m., Saturday
Northern Valley vs. Stockton, Western Plains, Eastern Heights (in Stockton) ..	4 p.m., Tuesday
Logan vs. Kensington, Eastern Heights (here)	5 p.m., today
Logan in Cougar Invitational (in Mankato)	9 a.m., Saturday
Logan vs. Norton, Golden Plains (in Norton)	4 p.m., Tuesday

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton in Mid-Continent League Meet (in Phillipsburg)	4:30 p.m., Thursday
Northern Valley in Phillipsburg Invitational Meet	4:30 p.m., Thursday
Northern Valley in Riley County Invitational (in Leonardville)	10:30 a.m., Saturday

TENNIS:

Norton Varsity in Regional Tournament (in WaKeeney)	9 a.m., Monday
---	----------------