

Norton plays Ellis tonight

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team will celebrate homecoming this evening by playing Ellis in a league game, which will also be the final regular season contest.

Homecoming festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

The outcome of the game will make a lot of difference in the final league standings.

Both teams bring a 3-2 record into the contest but Norton is 3-1 in the league and Ellis is 2-2. The Blue Jays lost to unbeaten Oakley of the Northwest Kansas League and to unbeaten league powerhouse Smith Center. Both Oakley and Smith Center are state ranked. The Smith Center Redmen are the defending Class 2A state champions.

The Blue Jays have defeated Plainville, Osborne and Stockton.

The Railroaders defeated Hill City in their opener, then shutout Stockton 29-0. After a 24-7 loss to Phillipsburg, they defeated Quinter 26-19. Last Friday night, they lost 24-21 in overtime to Trego Community.

Trego scored twice in the first half to take a 14-0 lead at intermission but Ellis rallied in the second half. After junior Andrew Casey returned a punt 50 yards to score in the third quarter and Eric Gaschler kicked the extra point, it was a 14-7 game.

Trego scored in the fourth quarter to extend the Golden Eagle lead to 21-7 but Railroader junior quar-

terback Cole Erbert led his team to two touchdowns to tie the score at 21-all. Erbert ran one yard for a touchdown and the extra point kick failed. Next, Erbert passed 14 yards to senior Justin LaBarge for a touchdown and senior Daren Haas ran for two extra points to send the game into overtime.

The Golden Eagles got the ball first in overtime and scored on senior Andy Bartz's 22-yard field goal.

The Railroaders had a chance to send the game into a second overtime but missed a tying field goal.

Ellis has 14 returning lettermen which include nine offensive and eight defensive starters. The Railroaders' entire offensive line returns and is anchored by 6-foot, 262-pound junior offensive tackle Mike Hiss. Three all-Mid-Continent League players return. Gaschler is a 5-7, 188-pound senior running back who was honorable mention. Brett Mickelson is a 5-9, 202-pound junior offensive guard who was also honorable mention. Dylan Lang is a 6 foot, 165-pound tight end who was a second team all-league selection.

Although not an all-league choice, Erbert was a thorn in Norton's side last year when the Blue Jays traveled to Ellis with both teams sporting the same records as this season. Norton scored two touchdowns within 17 seconds in the fourth quarter to pull out a 14-0 win.

The Norton defense held the Railroaders to just 23 rushing



Norton tailback Blake VanEaton, No. 20, appears about to be tackled by three Stockton defenders during this action from Friday's 40-0 shutout of the Tigers by Norton.

yards on 25 carries but Erbert completed 17 of 34 passes for 208 yards and two interceptions.

Norton is coming off a 40-0 shutout of Stockton. The Tigers passed only nine times but completed five of them for 64 yards. The Blue Jays held Stockton to 63 yards rushing for 127 total yards of offense. Norton gained 201 yards rushing and 90 passing for 291 yards of offense.

Junior tailback Blake VanEaton was leading rusher for Norton with 94 yards on seven carries for an average of 13.4 yards per carry.

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

VanEaton is leading Norton rusher for the season with 275 yards on 49 attempts for a 5.6 yards per carry average. He is also the leading all-purpose Norton back with 112 yards of pass receptions and 148 yards in kickoff returns for 535 yards or over 100 yards per game average.

Pfannenstiel has completed 29 of 53 passes for 425 yards and a 54.7 percent completion rate.

But, VanEaton faked one way and went the other en route to a 54 yard touchdown, one of three the junior speedster tallied.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Leading pass receiver is senior wide receiver Clay Madden with 10 catches for 154 yards.

The Norton defense, which has limited opponents to an average of just 12 first downs, is led by senior linebacker Lance Roe with 34 total tackles, followed by junior linebacker VanEaton, 33 and junior defensive back Nathan Broeckelman with 32 stops.

"We played good hard, smash-mouth football from the start against Stockton although our pass coverage was not as good as it should have been," Coach Bruce

Graber told the Blue Jay Booster Club on Wednesday evening.

"Ellis has a quick team and they are unconventional. Their 3-5 defense is difficult to block. They return most of their players from a year ago.

"They hurt us with the pass last year and will come in and throw the ball all over just like a year ago. Their quarterback is a good one. He can throw or run."

Coach Graber said his Blue Jays are in good physical condition except for freshman running back Matt Stanley, who is still injured.

Norton junior varsity football team blanks Stockton

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team remained undefeated with a 46-0 shutout of Stockton on Monday evening at Travis Field in Norton.

"Our young men played very well against Stockton," said Norton Assistant Coach Lucas Melvin.

"Our defense dominated, not allowing Stockton to cross the 50-yard-line until late in the fourth quarter. Our offense moved the ball at will. We did not have to punt

the entire game."

Playing their last home game, the Blue Jays took the opening kickoff and drove downfield to score. Quarterback Logan Kats scored from one yard out, the two-point conversion try was not good and Norton led 6-0. Most of the yards on the drive were gained by tailback Todd Bolt.

After allowing a big return on the kickoff, the Blue Jay defense stepped up and made the Tigers go three-and-out. Norton drove for another score. This time Kats tallied on a 25 yard option run. Bolt

ran for two extra points and the Jays led 14-0 at the end of the first quarter.

After the kickoff, Norton held Stockton to negative yardage and forced the Tigers to punt. Kats returned the pigskin to the Tiger 25. On first down, Kats passed to tight end Wes Georgeson for a touchdown. The two point conversion was good on a pass from Kats to wide receiver Brian Juenemann and Norton led 22-0.

The Blue Jays kicked off again and allowed the Tigers one first down before stopping them short

on a fake punt. Kats pitched to Bolt to get Norton close to the goal line; however, on the next play, Norton fumbled and Stockton recovered. The Blue Jay defense proved strong again and forced a safety to extend the Norton advantage to 24-0.

Norton appeared to be driving for another touchdown with time running out in the second quarter until a Kats pass was intercepted.

Norton also received the ball to begin the second half. With the help of a 40-yard pickup by Bolton on pitch from Kats, the Blue Jays moved

downfield again. Running back Brad Nuzum scored from the 10 and also ran the two point conversion to extend the Norton lead to 32-0.

After the kickoff, the stingy Blue Jay defense forced another three and out. Juenemann returned Stockton's punt to the 10. On the next play, Nuzum hit pay dirt for his second touchdown of the game. The two-point conversion was good and Norton led 40-0.

On Stockton's next possession, Kats intercepted a Tiger pass and returned the ball to the Stockton 20. On the next play, Kats rolled out and passed to wide receiver Travis Ray for Norton's final touchdown. The two-point conversion attempt failed and the Blue Jays led 46-0 after three quarters.

The Blue Jay defense continued

to dominate in the fourth quarter but, despite a pass interception by Juenemann, the Norton offense was unable to capitalize.

With neither team scoring in the final stanza, the score remained 46-0 in favor of the unbeaten Blue Jays.

"This was the most complete game we have played this season," said Coach Melvin. "We seem to be peaking at the right time.

"We are really looking forward to our final junior varsity game of the season next week. Our players have a goal to be undefeated for the season and that is what they are working toward."

The Norton junior varsity football team will travel to Phillipsburg on Monday to play the Panthers in their final game.

Kickoff is set for 6:30 p.m.

Blue Jay junior varsity fourth in tennis

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team placed fourth in the Junior Varsity Girls Tennis Invitational on Saturday in Colby.

"We tied for third as a team but received fourth place after the tiebreaker decision," said Coach Shawnee Branek.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 45 points, followed by Colby, 41; Scott City, 25; Norton, 25; Goodland, 17; Liberal, 12; Tribune, 9.

Jessica Cook played No. 1 singles for Norton and placed second. She defeated Brittany Wendt, Tribune, 6-1; lost to Jodie Mongeau, Phillipsburg, 1-6 and defeated Shanna Webster, Goodland, 6-1 in pool play. Her 2-1 record was second best and qualified her for bracket play. She played Liz Erickson, Colby, who placed first in the other pool and defeated Erickson 6-2.

In the championship finals, she played Mongeau, the winner of Norton's pool, and lost 5-6 (1-7). "Jessica's final match was ex-

tremely close," said Coach Branek.

"She placed second after losing a tiebreaker."

The Lady Jays' No. 1 doubles team of Gena Myers and Sara Campbell placed fourth. They drew a bye, then lost to Kali Asher and Robbie Hadley, Phillipsburg, 4-6 and defeated Tristan Troyer and Mary Ann Schremmer, Phillipsburg, who were playing for Goodland, 6-3.

Myers and Campbell placed second in their pool and played Lindsey Wilson and Stephanie Albers, Colby, in their first bracket match. Wilson and Albers were champions of the other pool. Myers and Campbell lost 1-6. In their consolation match, they played Courtney Beard and Chelsy Troyer, Phillipsburg, who were playing for the combined team, and lost 5-6 (4-7).

"Gena and Sara had some close matches; unfortunately, they didn't turn out in our favor," said Coach Branek.

Tabitha Vincent placed fourth

for Norton in No. 2 singles. She defeated Morgan Moritz, Tribune, 6-5 (7-2), lost to Whitney Cole, Phillipsburg, 0-6 and outscored Hannah Blake, Goodland, 6-4 to place second in pool play. In bracket competition, she played Cyndi Rothfuss, Colby, the first place player in the other pool who was playing for the combined team, and lost 1-6. In her next bracket match, she lost to Tonia Hopkins, Scott City, 5-6 (5-7) to place fourth.

"Tabitha was up against some tough competition," said Coach Branek.

"I suspect she'll be a strong player for us the next couple of years. She has shown great consistency this season."

Tiffany Marx and Valerie Wagoner played No. 2 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed second. They defeated Jessica Pinto and Jennifer Fuller, Tribune, 6-1; lost to Kadie Hays and Brianna Miller, Phillipsburg, 1-6 and outscored Kathy Wood and Kaitlin Fugelberg, Goodland, 6-1 to place

second in pool play. In bracket play, they defeated Emily Dougherty and Gillian Zambrana, Colby, 6-2. Dougherty and Zambrana were first place finishers in the other pool.

In their final bracket match, Marx and Wagoner lost to Hays and Miller of Phillipsburg 4-6 to place second.

"I continue to be impressed with Tiffany's and Valerie's performance," said Coach Branek.

"They assert themselves and go for the winning shots."

Norton's Hannah Fulton and Stephanie Shepard played No. 2 doubles for the combined team and won one of three pool matches. They defeated Alajandro Alonzo and Carla Bosquez, Liberal, 6-4; lost to Kyra Smith and Tiffany Borland, Scott City, 3-6 and lost to Dougherty and Zambrana of Colby 0-6 to place third in their pool. In bracket play, they defeated Pinto and Fuller, Tribune, 6-5 (8-6). Next, they played Wood and Fugelberg of Goodland and lost 0-6 to place sixth.

Norton C-team defeats Hill City in volleyball

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team continued its winning ways with a victory over the Lady Ringnecks on Monday at Hill City.

Norton defeated Hill City 24-26, 25-15, 25-22, 25-5.

"This was a big win for us," said Coach Joan Bolt.

Leading serves for Norton was Ashley Colip with 17 points and seven aces, followed by Ashli

Hageman, 10 points, three aces; Thea Wiseman, 11 points, one ace; Amanda Delimont, 10 points, two aces; Lori Ebner, 8 points, one ace; Kayla Foley, 4 points, two aces; Lacy Ellis, 2 points, one ace.

Ellis, Hageman and Kylie Morel were passing leaders.

Leading setters were Colip with 10 assists and Wiseman with eight.

Morel led digs with eight, fol-

lowed by Charli Lawson, two; Wiseman and Foley, one each.

Ellis led kills with 11. Hageman was close behind with 10, followed by Foley, seven; Wiyanna Paxton, three; Lawson and Wiseman, two each; Morel and Colip, one each.

Hageman had one stuff.

The Norton C-team will complete its season on Monday versus Phillipsburg in Phillipsburg, beginning at 5 p.m.

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