

Blue Jays derail Ellis Railroaders 34-7

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team took advantage of Ellis turnovers and added some big plays to fashion a 34-7 victory over the Railroaders in the Blue Jays' Homecoming game on Friday.

Norton had to punt after its first possession but, on the Railroaders' second down, Blue Jay defenders surrounded the Ellis ball carrier. Norton linebacker Lance Roe emerged with the ball and ran for Norton's first touchdown. William Wilhite's extra point kick made it 7-0 with 8:44 left.

Eleven seconds later, the Blue Jays were back in the end zone. On Wilhite's kickoff, Andrew Casey inadvertently put his knee down on the turf while receiving the ball and he was ruled down on the 8-yard-line. Ellis fumbled on first down and defensive back Luke Pfannenstiel recovered on the 5. Tailback Blake VanEaton blasted around right end for a second Blue Jay touchdown. Wilhite's kick made it 14-0 with 8:33 left in the first quarter.

On Ellis' next possession, defensive back Nathan Broeckelman intercepted a Cole Erbert pass and returned the ball to the Norton 30. On first down, VanEaton found no running room in the middle so bounced outside and ran 70 yards for a third Blue Jay touchdown. Wilhite's kick made it 21-0 with 5:37 remaining in the first stanza.

After a fourth down Erbert-to-Casey pass was good to the Norton 18, the Railroaders fumbled and Roe recovered on the 17. After an exchange of punts, Norton had the ball on their 5-yard-line as the first quarter ended.

Norton had to punt but Pfannenstiel intercepted an Erbert pass and returned the ball to the Ellis 48. The Blue Jays drove to the 20 where an illegal block penalty stopped them and Ellis took over. The Railroaders punted but Norton fumbled on first down and



Norton defenders put pressure on Ellis quarterback Cole Erbert all night long during the Blue Jays' 34-7 Mid-Continent League victory on Friday night. Above, Norton line-

backer Andrew Ables, No. 64, applies pressure as Erbert just gets a pass released. Right behind him for Norton is defensive end Davvid Stanley, No. 74. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Ellis recovered on their 47. Ellis moved to the Norton 25, then Erbert surprised the Norton defense when he ran out of the shot gun to the Norton 1. Daren Haas ran in for the touchdown and Eric Gaschler kicked the extra point to make it 21-7 with 2:02 left in the half.

Norton kicked off to Ellis to start the third quarter and the Railroaders were forced to punt after one first down. The ball rolled dead on the Norton 12. The Blue Jays punted back to the Railroaders and they fumbled on first down. Norton recovered on the Blue Jay 48. With the help of a 33-yard pass from Pfannenstiel to Broeckelman, Norton drove to the Ellis 20 where a fourth down field goal try by Wilhite missed the mark.

On second down, Pfannenstiel intercepted an Erbert pass and ran 40 yards to score. Wilhite's extra point try was no good and Norton led 27-7 with 5:11 left in the third

quarter. The swarming Blue Jay defense forced another Ellis punt. Offsetting penalties caused a re-punt and a short kick ended on the Ellis 26. Norton was unable to punch in another touchdown as the third quarter ended.

But, Clay Madden intercepted an Erbert pass and returned the ball to the Ellis 23. Pfannenstiel passed to Broeckelman for Norton's final touchdown. Wilhite split the uprights and the Jays led 34-7 with 9:51 left.

Late in the game, Ellis made one more effort to score on the strength of several completed Erbert passes but ran out of downs on the Blue Jay 28 and the Norton junior varsity played the final minutes.

Norton had 136 yards rushing and 69 passing for 205 yards of total offense. The Blue Jay defense limited the Railroaders to 104 yards rushing on 38 carries for just 2.7 yards per carry. Norton especially wanted to play

better pass defense than they did last season when Erbert completed 17 of 34 aeriels for 50 percent and had two intercepted in Norton's 14-0 win at Ellis. The Blue Jays reached that goal as they limited Erbert to 13 of 38 completions for 34 percent and intercepted him four times. He passed for 121 yards compared to 208 last year.

Leading ground gainer for Norton was VanEaton with 97 yards on 14 carries for a 6.9 yards per carry average. He was followed by Pfannenstiel, 12 for 10 yards; Davis, 6 for 12; Brad Nuzum, 2 for 6; Brock Lauer, 1 for 4.

Broeckelman had three pass receptions for 63 yards; Davis had 1 for 6.

Broeckelman had one punt return for 3 and Pfannenstiel had 1 for 21. VanEaton had two kickoff returns for 32 yards.

Wilhite averaged 42.5 yards on 6 kickoffs.

Daren Haas was leading rusher for Ellis with 52 yards on 19 carries.

Lance Roe was leading tackler for Norton with 10 solos, 2 assists, 12 total, followed by Blake VanEaton, 9 solos, 2 assist, 11 total; Nathan Broeckelman, 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total; Luke Pfannenstiel, 6 solos, 1 assist, 7 total; Chris Davis, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; Andrew Ables, 5 solos, 1 assist, 6 total; Clay Madden and Heath Vincent, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total each; Austin Brooks, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Todd Bolt, 1 solo, 3 assists, 4 total; Brian Juenemann, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Matt Engel, 2 solos; Jared Cox, Jordan Durham, Brad Nuzum, Brett Thomson, John VanDoren, 1 solo each; Wes Georgeson, Logan Kats, 1 assist each.

"The score doesn't indicate the closeness of the game," said Coach Bruce Graber. "It was a battle all night long. We kept fight-

ing and clawing and trying to protect our lead. Sometimes you win that way but it was good for us.

"It was a good win for us. They are an awfully good team. They do things differently and that causes you some problems. We played great defensively. Our secondary came to play and was just outstanding. We knew they would throw the ball all over the field and they did but they didn't hurt us. That was the difference in the game. We also got a good rush on their quarterback; we didn't sack him that much but put pressure on him every time

"We also did a great job against their run game.

"Our defensive coaching staff had a great scheme prepared.

"Offensively, we got beat up front. Their linebackers were fast and we had trouble blocking them. They do a good job with their defense and make it hard to get out and block them.

"Our young men played hard throughout the game and that's important. If you don't play hard, anyone can beat you. I'm awfully proud of our players. We gave great effort. I told them to play for our team and for all those guys who won previous Homecoming games for Norton. That's what Homecoming is all about.

"We understand we didn't play that well offensively but our players aren't making excuses. We can go back to practice and they'll make those corrections."

Norton will begin district play this Friday when the Blue Jays play Thomas More Prep in Norton.

Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Ellis	
7	First Downs	12
35-136	Yards Rushing	38-104
69	Yards Passing	121
205	Total Yards	225
4-11-1	Passes Completed	13-38-4
2-3	Fumbles Lost	4-5
4-25	Penalties	5-41
6-33.6	Punts	5-32.8

Norton volleyball beats Liberal, loses to Colby, Hays

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School volleyball team defeated Liberal but lost to Colby and Hays on Oct. 3 in Hays.

Colby

Norton played Colby first and lost in two, 21-25, 22-25.

"When we played Colby the week before, we didn't pass or block well," said Coach Jill Lively.

"I was confident coming into this match because we have been blocking much better and playing with a lot more gusto. Colby played very smart and we didn't make adjustments defensively to come away with a win.

"We played well and very near our technical goals but we will have to achieve nearly all our statistical goals in order to beat Colby."

Statistics leaders were: serving — Chelsea Cox, 100 percent with 3 aces; Amanda Antrim, 100 percent, 1 ace; Alexi Wolf, 100 percent; Naomi Streck, 2 aces; passing — Antrim, 2.18; setting — Cox, 8 assists; Wolf, 7; hitting — Cox, 8 kills; Rachael Lentz, Whitney Newell, Rebecca Ebert, 3 each; Maggie Nielsen, 1; blocks — Cox, 3; Nielsen, 2; Ebert and Lentz, 1 each; digs — Klaire Mann, 8; Wolf, 4; Antrim, 3; Lentz and Cox, 2 each; Newell, 1.

Hays

Norton lost to Hays, 13-25, 23-25.

"Unfortunately, our passing game was very inconsistent in our match against Hays," said Coach Lively.

"We served well and were able to achieve five aces by target serv-

ing. "Our hitting was also good with 87 percent accuracy as a team and Newell and Cox pounding out kills more than 35 percent of the time.

"We made a comeback in the second game, thanks to Streck's serving but our streak didn't last.

"I think we just let Hays intimidate us for some reason and we really just needed to relax and play hard."

Statistics leaders were: Streck, 100 percent, 2 aces; Ebert, 100 percent, 1 ace; Wolf, 100 percent; Cox, 2 aces; passing — Antrim, 2.20; setting — Cox, 6 assists, Wolf, 3; hitting — Newell, 5 kills; Cox 4; Streck and Lentz, 1 each; blocks — Ebert, 2; Nielsen and Cox, 1 each; digs — Mann and Antrim, 4 each; Wolf, 2; Lentz, 1.

Liberal

The Lady Jays defeated Liberal 25-21, 25-19.

"This match was much more relaxed for us," said Coach Lively.

"We served very aggressively with six team aces and hit well, racking up 21 kills.

"Defensively, we made better judgments and kept the ball in play.

"Our serving and aggressive net play really forced Liberal to make a lot of errors.

"Our passing was again below our standards but I was very pleased to see our girls keep their focus and finish the match in two games."

Statistics leaders were: serving — Streck, 100 percent; Lentz, 3 aces; Antrim, Cox, Ebert, 1 ace each; passing — Mann, 1.83; setting — Wolf and Cox, 8 assists

each; hitting — Cox, 10 kills; Newell, 5; Ebert and Nielsen, 2 each; Streck and Lentz, 1 each; blocks — Ebert and Nielsen, 2

each; Lentz and Newell, 1 each; digs — Mann, 6; Wolf, 4; Antrim, 3; Lentz and Cox, 2 each; Newell, 1.

Volleyball Senior Night tonight

It will be Senior Night tonight for the volleyball team when the Lady Jays host Logan and Golden Plains in varsity and junior varsity matches.

Varsity matches will begin at 4 p.m. in the high school gym. Norton will play Golden Plains first, followed by Golden Plains versus Logan and then Norton versus Logan.

Junior varsity matches will also begin at 4 p.m. and will be held in the Wilmeth Kirk Memo-

rial Gym on East Campus. The match schedule will be the same as for the varsity matches.

Senior Lady Jays who will be honored are Alexi Wolf, Amanda Antrim, Danielle LeClair, Kayla Douglas, Naomi Streck, Rachael Lentz, Klaire Mann, Whitney Newell, Chelsea Cox, Darci Darling and Rebecca Ebert. Senior Manager Brenda Combs will also be honored.

Junior varsity girls extend season record to 18-1 with wins

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team extended their season record to 18-1 with wins over Hays and Liberal on Monday, October 3 in Hays.

"We continued to play strong defense and hit aggressively to take home wins over Class 5A Hays and Liberal," said Norton Junior Varsity Coach Peggy Cox.

Hays

In the first match against Hays, the Lady Jays won 25-17, 25-22.

"I was very pleased with how our girls came out for this match," said Coach Cox. "It's intimidating to play against a 5A team while another game is being played right beside you. This doesn't take into account that we had just played four matches two days before. We had prepared for this situation by bringing up Taylor Rossi to play with us both in the Oberlin Tournament and the Hays/Liberal matches. She stepped up in some key situations and showed poise and confidence in passing, setting and serving for us."

Passing from Lacey Roe, Brianna Felton, Hayli Bozarth and Taylor Rossi started the process for setters Katharine Roy and

Courtney Cox to set up 9 and 14 assists, respectively.

Hitters Felton (8 kills), Courtney LeClair (5 kills), Sara Lentz (5 kills), Bozarth (4 kills), Roy (1 kill) and Cox (1 kill) finished it off with a total of 23 kills.

Leading server was Bozarth with 15-16 with 2 aces, followed by Cox, 9-9, 3 aces; Roy, 7-8, 2 aces; Felton, 6-7.

"Overall, we served only 86 percent but, when a team serves 49 times, that does not allow for many misses," said Coach Cox.

Cox and Lentz added two points from one block apiece.

Liberal

Norton defeated Liberal 25-11, 21-25, 25-11.

"This is one of those matches where you feel it's the 'same song, second verse, could get better but it just got worse'," said Coach Cox. "This match was reminiscent of our St. Francis match the previous weekend. Liberal didn't come out very strong in the first game and we thought we would coast to an easy victory. Instead, Liberal put up a fight and beat us in the second game. We continued to struggle in the third game and finally went ahead 22-21 to take our first major lead. After that, we took

control with LeClair's serves to put us on top.

"During this match, we probably had more net calls, missed passes and service errors than we have had in the entire season. We were out of sync and struggled to string points together. But, the silver lining in all of this fiasco is that our girls did not give up and played all the way to the win.

"I am really proud of them and how they have played as a team. They know their role on the team and strive to play it to the best of their ability. When one struggles, the others fill in and step up their level of play. Laura Delimont is a perfect example of this. She hasn't played as much as the other girls but has increased her playing time by coming in and doing her job. I've put her into some situations where we need to turn some points our way and Laura will go back to the service line and put aces over.

"Roe, Felton, Bozarth and Rossi continue to pass at a consistent rate for the setters. While this match was a struggle, they continued to plug away and keep the ball alive."

Other statistics were: setting — Cox, 11 assists; Roy, 5; Rossi, 1; kills — Felton and Lentz, 6 each; Cox, 3; LeClair and Bozarth, 2

each; Roy and Roe, 1 each; blocks — LeClair, 3; Lentz, 2; Felton, 1; serving — LeClair, 14-15, 3 aces; Delimont, 9-10, 3 aces; Bozarth, 9-10; Cox, 6-6, 1 ace; Rossi, 5-6, 2 aces; Felton, 7-10, 1 ace; Roy, 5-7, 2 aces; Lentz, 5-6, 1 ace.

As a team, Norton served 86 percent with 13 aces.

Next action

Norton will play Golden Plains and Logan in varsity and junior varsity matches here today, beginning at 4 p.m.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton vs. Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays (here) 7 p.m., Friday
 Logan vs. Eastern Heights (in Agra) 7 p.m., Friday
 Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Arapahoe JV (away) 5:30 p.m., Monday

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Golden Plains, Logan (Sr. Night here) .. 4 p.m., today
 Norton Varsity in MCL Tournament (in Smith Center) 8:30 a.m., Saturday
 Northern Valley vs. Stockton, Western Plains, Eastern Heights (in Stockton) 4 p.m., today
 Northern Valley in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (in Kensington) 10 a.m., Saturday
 Logan Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Norton, Golden Plains (in Norton) 4 p.m., today
 Logan in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (in Kensington) 10 a.m., Saturday

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton in Lakeside Invitational (away) 4 p.m., Thursday
 Northern Valley in Wheatland Invitational (away) 3 p.m., Thursday