

Norton defeats Russell 35-6 in district football

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team dominated Russell on Friday night and defeated the Broncos 35-6 in district action at Russell.

With the win, Norton extended its season record to 6-2 and the Blue Jays assured themselves of playing a third district game this Thursday as well as a bi-district game next Tuesday.

Phillipsburg defeated Thomas More Prep of Hays 53-22 in the other district game on Friday. Norton and Phillipsburg will play in Norton on Thursday to decide the district champion.

The winner will play at home on Tuesday and the loser will play away. From then on, it will be a one-game season. If you lose, your season is over. If you continue to win, you will be state champion.

On Friday in Russell, the swarming Blue Jay defense had a good night from start to finish and had a shutout until the junior varsity fumbled and the Broncos scored against the Norton reserves.

Norton's offense was a little slow starting but, once they got going, there was no question that the Blue Jay offense was the dominant one.

Russell kicked off to start the game and both teams had to punt twice before the Blue Jays dented the end zone. Norton took over the ball on their own 10-yard-line to start the Jays' third possession.

With junior tailback Blake VanEaton gaining most of the yardage, the Jays drove downfield and were on the Bronco 11 after a 14 yard run by senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel as the first quarter ended in a scoreless tie.

On the second play of the second quarter, VanEaton followed blocks by right guard Pat Burton and right tackle Davvid Stanley to score from 10 yards out. Senior kicker William Wilhite kicked the extra point and Norton led 7-0 with 10:44 left in the second period.

After Wilhite's kickoff, Russell drove into Norton territory but linebacker VanEaton intercepted a Bronco pass and returned the ball to the Norton 49. Six plays later and the Blue Jays were in the end zone again. With VanEaton, Pfannenstiel and fullback Chris Davis gaining yardage, Norton moved on the ground to score.

VanEaton broke several tackles before being tackled just inside the end zone for Norton's second touchdown. Wilhite's kick made it 14-0 with 5:20 left in the first half.

After an exchange of punts, Norton started on their 38-yard line. With time running out, Norton went into their two-minute

drill and moved downfield. VanEaton gained big yardage to midfield, then Pfannenstiel completed passes to tight end Jared Cox and wide receiver Clay Madden. The pass to Madden was good to the Russell 25 with 11 seconds left. Wilhite tried a field goal but it fell short and Norton led 14-0 at halftime.

Wilhite kicked off to Russell to start the third quarter and the Blue Jay defense was more than equal to the occasion. After smothering the Bronco kickoff returner on the 13-yard line, the Norton defenders dropped a Bronco back for a one yard loss. Russell went to the air and defensive tackle Davvid Stanley intercepted on the 16!

Several plays later, Todd Bolt received the ball in the backfield on a gadget play and passed complete to tight end Jared Cox in the end zone for Norton's third touchdown. Wilhite split the uprights and the Jays led 21-0 with 9:00 left in the third quarter.

After Wilhite's kickoff, Norton forced another Bronco punt. Pfannenstiel returned the kick to the Russell 37. On first down, he ran a keeper to the 28 but fumbled and the Broncos recovered. With the help of two pass completions and a holding penalty against Norton, the Broncos moved downfield. They reached the Norton 3-yard-line but the Blue Jay defense was again equal to the occasion and took over the pigskin.

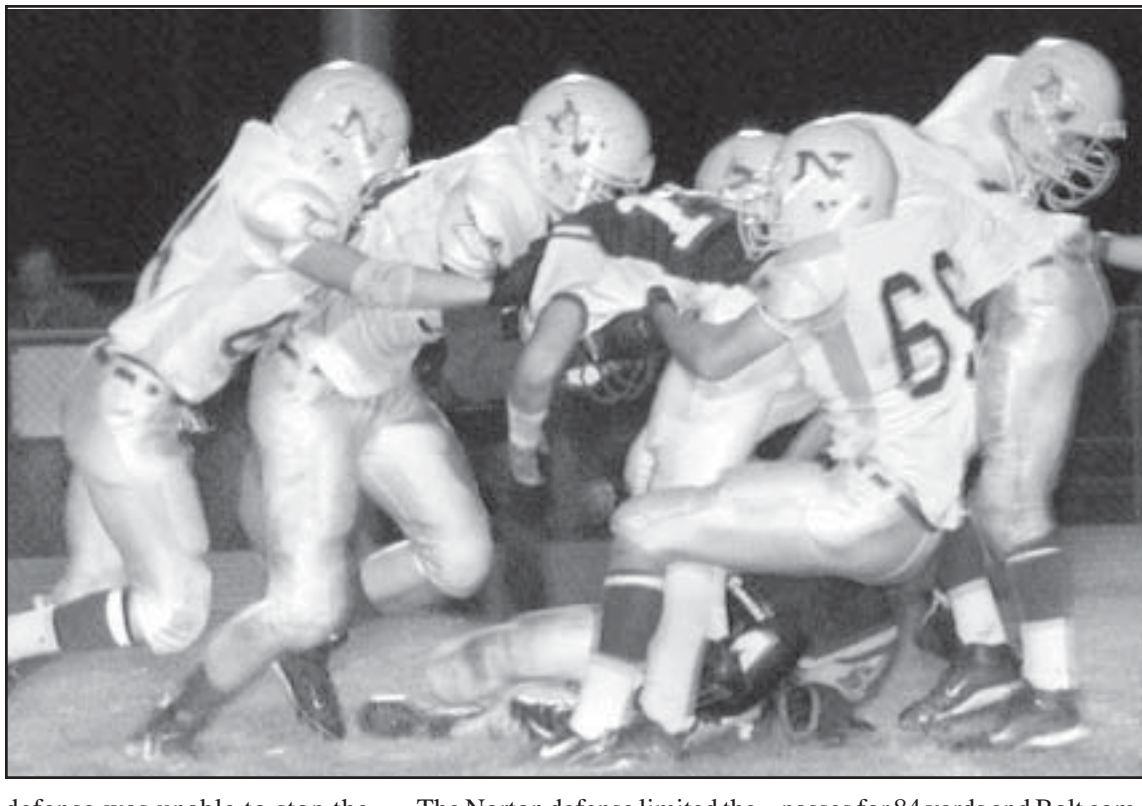
It took Norton six plays to move the ball 97 yards for another touchdown. Roe, Pfannenstiel and VanEaton carried the ball to the Russell 34, then Pfannenstiel threw a screen pass to VanEaton and he sprinted into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game. Wilhite's extra point kick extended Norton's lead to 28-0 with 2:37 remaining in the third period.

Norton forced another Russell punt and the Blue Jays had the ball on the Bronco 43 as the third quarter came to a close. Pfannenstiel quick kicked to the Bronco 9. The Norton defense stopped the Russell offense once again and they went into punt formation. It was a fake but the Norton defenders weren't fooled and the Russell back was tackled on the 15. Four plays later Bolt scored from the 5. Wilhite's kick made it 35-0 in favor of the Blue Jays with 6:01 left in the game.

After the kickoff, the Norton junior varsity played the rest of the game. They forced a Russell punt and Bolt returned the ball to the Norton 33. On first down, Norton fumbled and Russell recovered on the Norton 28. The junior varsity



The Norton defense continued to play very well in Friday's district football win at Russell. Above, linebacker Lance Roe and teammates sack Bronco quarterback Matt Cook. Below, Cook is sacked again. This time Matt Engel led the charge. Norton either sacked the quarterback or dropped backs for losses 10 times in the game and limited Russell to an average of 1.2 yards per carry.



defense was unable to stop the Russell varsity from scoring. The Broncos hit pay dirt from nine yards out on a pass from quarterback Matt Cook to Connor Driscoll. The extra point kick was no good and Norton led 35-6 with 2:47 left.

After the kickoff, the Norton junior varsity gained one first down before time ran out with the Blue Jays leading 35-6.

Norton more than doubled the offensive yardage on Russell. The Blue Jays rushed for 245 yards on 45 carries for a 5.4 yards per carry average and passed for 93 yards for 338 yards of offense.

The Norton defense limited the Broncos to 40 yards rushing on 33 carries for a 1.2 yards per carry average. Russell gained 113 yards passing, most of it on several long passes and ended with 153 yards of offense.

VanEaton had another good rushing night. He carried the ball 18 times for 133 yards and a 7.4 yards per carry average and scored three touchdowns. Other Norton rushers and yards gained were: Davis, 2 for 17; Pfannenstiel, 10 for 45; Roe, 5 for 19; Bolt, 2 for 8; Nuzum, 3 for 9; Stanley, 1 for 2; Kats, 3 for 12.

Pfannenstiel completed 5 of 10

passes for 84 yards and Bolt completed 1 for 1 for 9 yards.

Pass receivers for Norton were: Pfannenstiel, 1 for minus 12 when he caught his own pass which had been batted into the air by a defender; Cox, 2 for 23; Madden, 1 for 15; Roe, 1 for 5; VanEaton, 1 for 62.

Broeckelman had 1 punt return for no yards, Pfannenstiel had 1 for 9 yards and Bolt had 1 for 9.

VanEaton had 1 kickoff return for 19 yards and Bolt had 1 for 4. Wilhite averaged 43 yards on 5 kickoffs.

Davis had 3 punts for a 30 yard average and Pfannenstiel had 1 for

38. Tyler Zachman was leading ball carrier for Russell with 12 carries for 19 yards. Cody Lang was leading pass receiver with 3 catches for 71 yards.

"We had another good night defensively," said Coach Bruce Graber. "We didn't give them anything in their primary running game and were only out of position one time on pass defense."

"Offensively, we had great effort on the first play of our first couple of drives, then we were stopped. On our third drive we were able to go 90 yards in 11 plays to score and then came right back the next series to go 50 yards in 6 plays to score."

"We had a good two minute drill right before half but didn't get quite close enough for the field goal."

"In the second half, we picked up our offense. After our defense stopped them on our 3, we drove 97 yards to score. Pfannenstiel's screen pass to VanEaton was well executed. Luke got into great position, made a great throw and the linemen got in front of Blake and off he went. It was as well executed as any screen I've ever had."

"Their 3-5 defense was a bug-a-boo for us but we handled it a lot better than we did against Ellis. We definitely had a better offensive effort than we've had the last two weeks. There are still a lot of things we need to fix but we are feeling more comfortable offensively. We have to eliminate the little mistakes to keep drives alive."

Lance Roe continued to lead Norton tacklers from his linebacker position. He had six solos and four assists for 10 total tackles. Linebacker Blake VanEaton was right behind him with seven solos and two assists for nine total stops. They were followed by Nathan Broeckelman, seven solos; Austin Brooks, Matt Engel, three solos, three assists, six total each; Andrew Ables, Luke Pfannenstiel, three solos, one assist, four total each; Todd Bolt, Chris Davis, two solos, two assists, four total each; Jared Cox, one solo, two assists, three total; Clay Madden, two solos; Davvid Stanley, Heath Vincent, one solo, one assist, two total each; Zach Dreher, Logan Kats, Travis Ray, William Wilhite, one solo each.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Russell		
16	First Downs	10	
45-245	Yards Rushing	33-40	
93	Yards Passing	113	
338	Total Yards	53	
6-11-0	Passes Compl.	8-23-2	
2-2	Fumbles Lost	0-0	
4-20	Penalties	1-15	
4-32	Punts	7-34	

Norton Blue Jays control Russell Broncos for football win

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Blue Jays took control of their second district football game to beat the Russell Broncos 35-6 in Russell.

First quarter

Blake VanEaton returned the opening kickoff to the Norton 34-yard-line. Tailback VanEaton gained seven yards on first down but fullback Lance Roe picked up just two yards on two carries and Chris Davis punted.

The ball rolled dead on the Russell 25. Tyler Zachman gained five yards on first down and quarterback Matt Cook gained four on a keeper before Davvid Stanley tackled him. Zachman ran for a first down on the 36. Connor Driscoll ran for nine yards and Clay Madden came up from his defensive back position to tackle him.

Norton senior linebacker Lance Roe made sure the Broncos didn't get a first down. On second down and one, Roe met Lance Murphy at the line of scrimmage with a perfect form tackle and dropped him for no gain. On third and one, Roe tackled Tyler Zachman for a one yard loss and the Broncos were forced to punt.

Luke Pfannenstiel returned the punt to the Norton 33. Illegal procedure cost the Jays five yards. Fullback Chris Davis ran for three yards but two Pfannenstiel passes fell incomplete and Davis punted. The ball was downed on the Russell 48.

Norton linebacker VanEaton tackled Murphy for a one yard

loss, then Pfannenstiel came up from his defensive back position to drop Zachman for a seven yard loss back on the 40. Cook completed a short pass to tight end Colton Lang and the Broncos punted. The pigskin rolled dead on the Norton 10.

VanEaton ran around right end for eight yards, then fullback Roe plowed up the middle, broke several tackles and earned a first down on the 25. VanEaton took a pitch from Pfannenstiel and found running room around left end. He was tackled after a 33 yard gain to the Russell 42. VanEaton lost one yard and a pass fell incomplete but, on third down, VanEaton carried the pigskin to the 30 for another first down.

VanEaton gained nothing but Pfannenstiel gained five yards on a keeper. On third down, Pfannenstiel went back to pass but was forced out of the pocket. He weaved his way downfield and was tackled at the Bronco 11 as the quarter ended in a scoreless tie.

Second quarter

Pfannenstiel ran a keeper for one yard, then VanEaton followed blocking by right guard Pat Burton and right tackle Davvid Stanley to score Norton's first touchdown of the game. Kicker William Wilhite split the uprights and Norton led 7-0 with 10:44 left in the second period.

Wilhite kicked off and Jake Brown returned the ball to the 20 where Nathan Broeckelman tackled him. A pass was incomplete, then defensive end Andrew Ables

tackled quarterback Cook for no gain. Cook passed to Kale Wann for a first down on the 40. Norton lost five yards for being offside. Cook ran a keeper for four and one-half yards. On third down, he sneaked ahead to the 50 for a first down. Zachman gained two yards, then Connor Driscoll was tackled by defensive end Matt Engel after a one yard gain. Cook went to the air again and, this time, VanEaton alertly intercepted the aerial and returned the ball to the Norton 49.

Six plays later and the Blue Jays were in the end zone again. Pfannenstiel ran a keeper for a first down on the 35. VanEaton gained nine yards to the 26. Davis bulled for a first down on the 20. VanEaton gained nothing, then Pfannenstiel ran the keeper around left end to the 10. The next down, VanEaton broke several tackles as he ran through the Bronco defense and was tackled just inside the end zone for his second touchdown of the contest. Wilhite's extra point kick was perfect and Norton led 14-0 with 5:20 remaining in the half.

Larame Cline returned Wilhite's kickoff. He eluded several Norton tacklers and was finally stopped by Wilhite and Jared Cox on the Russell 39. Zachman ran for one yard, then VanEaton came charging in to sack Cook for a two yard loss. After an incomplete pass, Russell punted.

Pfannenstiel returned the ball to the Norton 37. Pfannenstiel was sacked on three straight passing attempts and Davis punted.

Russell was whistled for an unnecessary roughness penalty, which turned out to be their only penalty of the game. After losing 15 yards, the Broncos took over the ball on their 20-yard-line.

After an incomplete pass, Zachman was tackled by VanEaton for a two yard loss. Then, Roe and defensive tackle Austin Brooks tackled Zachman for a five yard loss. Russell punted, Broeckelman caught the ball and was tackled on the Norton 38 just as he received the pigskin. Pfannenstiel was sacked back on the 24 but VanEaton found running room around left end and was run out of bounds at midfield. Pfannenstiel passed to tight end Cox on the 31 for another first down. Next, Pfannenstiel connected with wide receiver Clay Madden on the 25. With 11 sec-

onds left in the first half, Wilhite tried a field goal but it was short and the two teams went to the locker rooms with Norton leading 14-0.

Third quarter

Jake Brown returned Wilhite's kickoff to start the second half and the aggressive Norton defense smothered him on the 13. Murphy tried the Blue Jay line on first down and Ables tackled him for a one yard loss. The Broncos went to the air and Davvid Stanley intercepted the aerial on the 16!

Pfannenstiel passed to Roe for a five yard gain to the 11. VanEaton churned to the 6 but an illegal procedure penalty cost Norton five yards. VanEaton gained two yards to the 9. The Blue Jays used some offensive imagination on the next play and it worked. The ball ended up in

Bolt's hands and he threw a perfect pass to tight end Cox in the end zone for Norton's third touchdown!


Wilhite's extra point kick was good again and the Jays led 21-0 with 9:00 left in the period.

The Norton defenders came charging downfield to smother the Bronco kickoff receiver on the Russell 19. Zachman lost one yard and Murphy made just one against the fired up Norton defenders. A pass fell incomplete and Pfannenstiel returned the punt to the Russell 37. On first down, Pfannenstiel ran the keeper to the 28 but fumbled and Russell recovered.


Cook completed a long pass to Jake Brown and he ran to the Norton 37. After a pass batted down by a Norton defender and an

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High School Sports This Week



**Norton
Blue Jays**



**Northern Valley
Huskies**



**Logan
Trojans**

FOOTBALL:
 Norton vs. Phillipsburg (district game here) 7 p.m., Thursday
 Northern Valley vs. Natoma (district game away) 7 p.m., Thursday
 NOTE: Bi-District football game will be played on Tuesday, November 1.
 Teams will be determined by Thursday's district games.

CROSS COUNTRY:
 Norton Cross Country boys team and one girl in State 3A Cross Country Meet
 (at Wamego) Boys run at 11 a.m., girls run at 12 noon
 Northern Valley Cross Country boys and girls teams in State 1A Cross Country Meet
 (at Wamego) Girls run at 9 a.m., boys run at 10 a.m.