

# Norton football team had another good year

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's 2005 edition of the Norton Community High School football team had another successful season, compiling a 6-4 record, tying for second in the tough Mid-Continent League and finishing as District and Bi-District runnerup.

After repeating early season losses to Oakley and Smith Center with a win over Plainville in between from the 2004 season, the Blue Jays put together a five game winning streak with victories over Osborne, Stockton, Ellis, Thomas More Prep of Hays and Russell.

Norton shutout Thomas More 21-0 and defeated Russell 35-6. Both were District 10 contests.

In the District 10 finale, the Blue Jays met the Phillipsburg Panthers, whom they had tied with for second in the MCL. Only the first six games in the league count in the league standings. The Panthers' only loss at that time was to Smith Center. The speed-oriented Phillipsburg team jumped out to a 16-0 lead. Norton played them even the rest of the way but could not make up the early deficit and lost 30-14 to place runnerup in District 10.

Norton moved on to Sub-District play and faced Riley County, who won their district and had lost only to unbeaten Silver Lake at that time. Another large Norton crowd followed the Blue Jays to Riley County. The contest was a defensive battle with neither team scoring in the first three quarters. The final period was a different story. Riley County took a 7-0 lead but the Blue Jays responded with two touchdowns to take a 14-7 advantage.

Riley County rallied, however, and scored a final touchdown and two-point conversion with 1:08 left in the game to win 15-14 and end the Blue Jays' season as Sub-District runnerup.

"I enjoyed working with these young men," said Coach Graber. "I'm really proud of them and the great attitudes they had."

"They never bickered and didn't



Norton junior tailback Blake VanEaton avoids two would-be Ellis tacklers to gain extra yardage during the Blue Jays' 34-7 Homecoming victory over the Railroaders on Fri-

day, October 7. VanEaton led Norton in all-purpose yards this season with 1,273 total yards rushing, pass receiving and returning kickoffs.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

for 1,724 yards and passed for 733 yards for total offense of 2,457 yards. This is an average of 172.4 rushing yards, 73.3 passing yards and 245.7 total yards of offense per game. This is the exact same average yards per game of last season's 8-3 Blue Jay squad.

Norton fielded another stingy, swarming defense which allowed opponents 1,580 yards rushing, 633 yards passing and 2,213 total yards. This is an average of just 158 yards rushing, 63.3 yards passing and 221.3 yards of total offense per game.

The Blue Jay defense limited teams to just 3.8 yards per rushing attempt throughout the season.

The 2005 Norton squad averaged 12.3 first downs a game while limiting opponents to 11.5 first downs. Last year's team av-

eraged 13.1 first downs.

Norton lost only 15 fumbles in the 10 games for an average of just 1.5 per game. The Blue Jays punted only 43 times for just over four per contest.

Leading tackler for the Norton defense this season was senior linebacker Lance Roe with 61 solos, 30 assists for 91 total stops. Roe was third high last season with 74 total tackles.

Second high tackler this season was junior defensive back Nathan Broeckelman with 60 solos, 13 assists for 73 total. Third high was junior linebacker Blake VanEaton with 47 solos, 16 assists, 63 total.

They were followed by junior linebacker Chris Davis, 36 solos, 13 assists, 49 total; senior linebacker/end Andrew Ables, 29 solos, 16 assists, 45 total; senior de-

fensive tackle Austin Brooks, 26 solos, 19 assists, 45 total; junior defensive end Matt Engel, 32 solos, 10 assists, 42 total; senior defensive tackle Heath Vincent, 25 solos, 16 assists, 41 total; senior defensive back Luke Pfannenstiel, 32 solos, 8 assists, 40 total; sophomore defensive back Todd Bolt, 22 solos, 9 assists, 31 total; senior defensive tackle/end Darvid Stanley, 21 solos, 7 assists, 28 total; senior defensive back Clay Madden, 19 solos, 2 assists, 21 total; sophomore linebacker Jared Cox, 12 solos, 6 assists, 18 total; sophomore defensive back Brian Juenemann, 8 solos, 4 assists, 12 total; junior defensive end Nic Lewis, 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total; sophomore defensive back Logan Kats, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; junior defensive end Brett Thomson, 6 solos; sophomore defensive tackle Zach Mannel, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; freshman linebacker Brad Nuzum, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; freshman linebacker Zach Dreher, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; senior defensive back Nathan Morse, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; sophomore defensive back Travis Ray, 4 solos; sophomore linebacker Brian Ulmer, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; junior defensive tackle Mark Scheetz, 2 assists; senior kicker William Wilhite, junior defensive back Jordan Durham, freshman defensive end Coady McMullen, 1 solo each; freshman linebacker Matt Stanley, sophomore defensive back Wes

Georgeson, 1 assist each. Pfannenstiel led the defense with three pass interceptions, followed by Madden, Broeckelman and VanEaton, two apiece and Stanley, Morse, Roe and Bolt, one each. Pfannenstiel also led in fumble recoveries with four, followed by Stanley and Roe, two each; Brooks, Broeckelman, Juenemann, Davis, Dreher, Ulmer, one each.

Vincent was the only Blue Jay to block a kick.

Leading Norton in all-purpose offensive yards was junior tailback VanEaton. He gained 778 yards rushing on 135 attempts for 5.8 yards per carry and 11 touchdowns. He caught 11 passes for 206 yards and two touchdowns and averaged 18.7 yards per catch. VanEaton also had 10 kickoff returns for 289 yards and one touchdown. His return average was 28.9 yards. VanEaton totaled 1,273 yards in the three categories. VanEaton's 14 touchdowns led Norton in points scored with 84.

Junior fullback Davis was second leading rusher for the Blue Jays with 311 yards on 46 carries for a 6.8 yards per attempt average. He scored three touchdowns.

Quarterback Pfannenstiel completed 48 of 107 passes for a 44.9 percent average and 724 total yards. He averaged 15.1 yards per completion and passed for eight touchdowns. He also rushed for three touchdowns. Pfannenstiel also returned eight kickoffs for 173 yards and a 21.6 yard average and seven punts for 68 yards and a 9.7 yard average.

Leading receiver was VanEaton but Madden caught 12 passes for 179 yards and a 14.9 yards per catch average and three touchdowns. Broeckelman caught nine passes for 123 yards and one touchdown and Cox grabbed seven for 138 yards and two touchdowns.

Broeckelman also returned six punts for 68 yards and an 11.3 yard average.

Senior kicker Wilhite had another good season. He kicked 30 of 33 extra points for a 90.9 percent average and was 2 of 4 on field goal tries. He also had 43 kickoffs for 2,059 yards and a 47.9 yard average.

Davis was the punter for Norton for the second straight season. He averaged 32.8 yards per kick on 37 for 1,213 yards.

The nine seniors on this year's Norton football team were Clay Madden, William Wilhite, Nathan Morse, Luke Pfannenstiel, Lance Roe, Austin Brooks, Andrew Ables, Heath Vincent, Davvid Stanley.

Assistant coaches again this season were Kevin Jilka, Todd Fulton, Lucas Melvin and Jason Jones.

## Northern Valley Junior High girls open basketball season 3-0 in Colt Classic

The Northern Valley Junior High girls basketball team opened its season 3-0 after defeating Lucas-Luray, Paradise and Eastern Heights in the Colt Classic in Agra on Nov. 7, 8 and 10.

"We started our season by going 3-0 and winning the Colt Classic in Agra," said Coach Jim Cole. "With four returning starters, we have an experienced junior high team. The girls did a good job of playing defense and using their fast break offense to score."

Against Lucas-Luray, the Junior Lady Huskies won 37-26.

Megan Cole led scoring with 15 points, followed by Christina Anderson, 12; Alison Cole, 4; Miriah Florence, 4; and Karen Wenzl, 2.

Northern Valley beat Paradise 55-27.

A. Cole led scoring with 15 points, followed by Anderson, 14; M. Cole, 11; Staci Dole, 6; Florence, 4; C.J. Woodmansee, 2; Kenzie Chandler, 2; and Wenzl, 1.

The Huskies beat Eastern Heights 44-11.

A. Cole led with 16 points, followed by Megan Cole, 12; Anderson, 4; Woodmansee, 4; Chandler, 4; Dole, 2; and Amber Sheley, 2.

Other members of the Northern Valley team are Melissa Hawks, Kenzi Husted, Ashley Constable,

Kynzie Stevens, Cassie Field, Kelsey Raburn, Kayla Field, Sarah Whitney, Savannah King and Pam Araujo.

Lisa Miller is the assistant coach.

### Northern Valley Junior High Basketball Schedule

Monday, Nov. 21 — Kensington, Kensington, 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Dec. 1 — Eastern Heights, Agra, 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Dec. 15 — Damar, Almena, 4:30 p.m.  
 Monday, Dec. 19 — Logan, Almena, 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Jan. 5 — Kensington, Almena, 4:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, Jan. 19 — Eastern Heights, Almena, 4:30 p.m.  
 Monday, Jan. 30 — Golden Plains, Rexford, 4 p.m.  
 Thursday, Feb. 2 — Damar, Damar, 4:30 p.m.  
 Friday, Monday, Thursday, Feb. 4, 6, 9 — Greater Northern Elementary Conference Tournament, Logan

## Junior High Husky basketball boys go 1-2

The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team went 1-2 at the Colt Classic in Agra on Nov. 7, 8 and 10, defeating Lucas-Luray, but getting beaten by Paradise and Eastern Heights.

"The junior high boys went 1-2 in the Colt Classic to finish in third place," said Coach Jim Cole. "The Huskies beat Lucas-Luray and lost to Paradise and Eastern Heights. The team improved with each

game and played more under control. We competed very hard and had a chance to win both games we lost. It was an exciting tournament."

The Junior Huskies beat Lucas-Luray 33-24.

Colton Lowry led scoring with 12 points, followed by Bryant Tharman, 6; Michael Callaway, 4; Jacob Gallentine, 3; Dusty Eagleburger, 3; Austin Herman, 2;

Brandon Towery, 2; and Hutch Gehrke, 1.

Northern Valley lost to Paradise 36-27.

Lowry led scoring with 12 points, followed by Gallentine, 5; Towery, 4; Gehrke, 2; Callaway, 2; and Eagleburger, 2.

In the final game, Eastern Heights edged out the Huskies 23-22.

Gallentine led scoring with 10

points, followed by Eagleburger, 6; Callaway, 2; Matthew Dole, 2; and Lowry, 2.

Other members of the team are Jonathan Mattison, Chris Pinzenscham, Gunnar Hays, Tyler Montgomery, Dillon Hogan, Jordan Herman, Samuel Field, Daniel Field, Calen Bach, Skyler Harris, Caleb Bach, Zachary Vincent, Zane Miller, Ethan Gallentine and Sean Braun.

## Norton graduate wrestling at Fort Hays

By DICK BOYD

James Annon from Norton is a red-shirt freshman 133-pound wrestler for Fort Hays State University.

Annon wrestled junior Derek Patterson in the annual Black & Gold Scrimmage and lost an exciting 3-2 match.

Annon's team won the scrimmage 17-16 when Andrew Ubben, a junior from Phillipsburg, won a 10-2 decision over sophomore Chris Eberwein in the 285-pound class.

Fort Hays is ranked No. 10 in the NCAA Division II Wrestling Coaches' Association pre-season Top-20 poll and Ubben is ranked No. 2 individually. Four Tiger wrestlers are ranked in the top eight.

Although redshirting last season, Annon competed in open tournaments and compiled a 4-6 record.

"I expect James to get better as the year goes along," said Fort Hays Coach Cody Bickley. "I expect James and Derek Patterson to

be real close battling for the 133 pound spot."

Annon was a three-time state placer for Norton Community High School and won state titles his junior and senior years.

He compiled a 128-23 record and was a four-year letterman for the Blue Jays. He also lettered three years in cross country.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Annon, Norton.

Annon competed in the Cowboy Open on Sunday at the University of Wyoming in Laramie

and the redshirt freshman placed third at 133 pounds in the 20-and-under division with a 5-1 record. In the third place match, he won an 8-4 decision over Matt McDiarmid of the United States Air Force Academy.

No team scores were kept. Next action for the Tiger wrestlers will be tomorrow when they compete at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley.

## Eighth-grade boys lose one, win one

The Norton eighth grade boys basketball team opened their season with a loss to Stockton on Nov. 3, but then rallied to take a win against Plainville on Nov. 10.

In the varsity game, Stockton dominated the first half, putting the Jays in a 32-7 deficit. Norton outscored the Tigers in the second half 22-17, but it wasn't enough. Stockton won 49-29.

"We played much better in the second half, but missed free throws," said Coach Lucas Melvin. "Turnovers killed any chance of us getting back in the game. Stockton has a lot of size and they are a good team."

Landon Hamel led scoring for the Jays with 12 points, followed by Kaenon Keiswetter, 6; J.D. Gall, 6; Connor Pfannenstiel, 3; and Robert Derauf, 2.

Keiswetter led rebounds at 3, while Hamel, Gall and Derauf each brought in two, and Pfannenstiel and Casey Robison grabbed 1 each.

Steals were made by Hamel, 8; Pfannenstiel, 5; Keiswetter, 4; and Robison and Derauf, 1 each.

Pfannenstiel made the team's only 3 assists.

The junior varsity won 12-3 in a half of play. Justin Chandler

and Ronne Tafoya each had 4 points, while Jacob Manel and Christopher Maddy each had 2.

Against Plainville, Norton came out on top 47-33.

"We played better this game," said Coach Melvin. "Plainville had two very good players and we had some trouble containing them (those two scored all but two of the Cardinals' points), but did good overall. Our offense finally got to clicking and that helped."

Hamel and Keiswetter led scoring. Hamel put in 15 points, while Keiswetter contributed another 14. Others scoring for Norton were Ashton Draper and Gall, 6 each; Derauf, 4; and Pfannenstiel, 2.

Rebounding honors went to Keiswetter with 5, followed by Draper and Derauf with 3 each, Pfannenstiel with 2, and Hamel and Gall with 1 each.

Steals were made by Hamel and Gall, 4 each; Keiswetter, 3; Pfannenstiel, 2; and Draper, 1.

Gall found 2 teammates open for a basket, while Hamel assisted 1.

The Junior Jays will host WaKeeney on Monday with play set to being at 5:30 p.m.