

Tough opener for Norton at home Friday

By DICK BOYD

New head coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team will open the 2006 season Friday when they host Smith Center in a 7 p.m. Mid-Continent League contest at Travis Field in Norton.

Coach Melvin was an assistant coach under Bruce Graber, who had been head coach of the Blue Jay gridders for 11 seasons. Coach Graber is the new head coach at El Dorado High School.

The Smith Center football team has been one of the strongest in the state the past two years, going undefeated and winning the Class 2A state championship both years.

"Smith Center and Phillipsburg will be the favorites in the Mid-Continent League," said coach Melvin this week. "Phillipsburg has an excellent senior class and the Redmen are armed with a terrific junior class. Both teams had great seasons last year and are poised to do the same this season. Ellis also has many returnees from a good team last season. Talent-wise, the rest of the league is more even."

Norton compiled a 6-4 record last year. After losing their opener to a strong Oakley eleven, the Blue Jays defeated Plainville 29-8. Next, they met the defending and eventual state champion Smith Center and were overpowered by the Redmen, as was everyone else. Norton won their next five games by large margins. After defeating Osborne, Stockton, Ellis, Thomas More Prep of Hays and Russell, the Blue Jays faced Phillipsburg in the final district contest. It was a hard fought battle but the Panthers prevailed 30-14 and moved on to play eventual state champion Southeast of Saline.

Norton played Riley County, champions of their district, for the bi-district championship. A disappointing last second 15-14 loss at Riley County ended the Blue Jays' season.

Despite losing nine senior lettermen, this year's Blue Jay squad has 16 lettermen. They are Nathan Broeckelman, wide receiver, defensive back; Blake VanEaton, running back, linebacker; Chris Davis, running back, linebacker, punter; Brian Juenemann, wide receiver, defensive back; Nic Lewis, offensive and defensive lineman; Matt Engel, offensive and defensive lineman; Brett Thomson, offensive and defensive lineman; Pat Burton, offensive and defensive lineman; Mark Scheetz, offensive and defensive lineman, seniors; Logan Kats, quarterback, defensive back; Jared Cox, tight end, linebacker; Travis Ray, wide receiver, defensive back; Wes Georgeson, wide receiver, defensive back; Todd Bolt, running back, linebacker; Zach Mannel, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, juniors; Zac Dreher, running back, linebacker, sophomore.

Blake VanEaton, Nathan Broeckelman and Chris Davis are returning starters on both sides of

the ball. Other returning starters are Jared Cox, tight end; Todd Bolt, defensive back; Nic Lewis, offensive lineman; Matt Engel, defensive end; Pat Burton, offensive lineman and Mark Scheetz, offensive lineman.

VanEaton was Norton's Rookie of the Year and Special Teams Player of the Year in 2004. He also received honorable mention as a linebacker in the Mid-Continent League.

Davis was honorable mention all-league as a punter in 2004 and Scheetz was Norton's Scout Team Player of the Year.

In 2005, VanEaton was Norton's Most Valuable Player and Most Valuable Offensive Back. He was third high in defensive statistics behind two seniors. VanEaton was also a first team Mid-Continent League linebacker and honorable mention running back.

Davis received honorable mention in the league as a linebacker and was named second team all-league as a punter. Broeckelman was a second team selection at defensive back by the Mid-Continent League coaches. Kats was named Norton's Scout Team Player of the Year.

VanEaton was the leading rusher for Norton last season from his tailback position. He gained 778 yards on 135 carries for a 5.8 yards per carry average and rushed for 11 touchdowns. VanEaton was also the leading pass receiver with 11 catches for 206 yards and an 18.7 yards per catch average. He caught two touchdown passes.

VanEaton was the leading kickoff returner for Norton with 289 yards on 10 returns and returned one kickoff for a touchdown. He had 1,273 all-purpose offensive yards.

VanEaton was also points leader for the Blue Jays with 84 points on his 14 touchdowns.

Defensively, VanEaton was also a team leader. He was third high in defensive points with 185 total behind two seniors. VanEaton had 52 solo tackles and 16 assists for 68 total and is the second leading returning tackler.

Broeckelman is the leading returning tackler. He had 60 solo tackles and 13 assists last year for 73 total.

Other squad members are: Lucas Bailey, offensive line, defensive line; Shane Mapes, offensive line, defensive line, seniors; Aaron Husted, tight end, defensive back; Levi Ninemire, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Preston Herman, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Jeff Soderlund, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Kyle Edgett, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, juniors; Brad Nuzum, running back, linebacker; Matt Stanley, running back, linebacker; Nish Millan, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Kyle Mindrup, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; John Van Doren, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Brock Lauer, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, sophomore;



Norton's new head football coach Lucas Melvin visits with his players and assistant coaches following the food drive scrimmage on Saturday morning. Coach Melvin said his players

have been working very hard in practice and that they enjoy playing the game of football.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Junior running back Todd Bolt eludes a potential tackler to gain yardage during the Norton food drive football scrimmage on Saturday morning. Among the defensive players

pursuing Bolt was Landon Hamel, No. 9, freshman defensive back.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Logan volleyball opens on Sept. 5

The Logan High School volleyball team will start its 2006 season Tuesday, Sept. 5 in a triangular against WaKeeney and Hill City in WaKeeney at 4:30 p.m.

On the team this year are:

• Seniors — Bethany Clements, 5 foot 3 inches; and Anne Hartman, 5-7.

• Juniors — Shelley Kemper, 5-10; Shaley Van Loenen, 5-8; Jenny Archer, 5-7; Leandra Sparks, 5-4; Aspen Larson, 5-8; and Savannah Sammons, 6-0.

• Sophomores — Anna Zillinger, 5-5; Kathryn Hartman, 5-4; Autumn Tien, 5-10; Carri Brobst, 5-8; and Jennifer Ruff, 5-7.

• Freshmen — Alaina Long, 5-1; Crystal Richard, 5-4; Dawn Archer, 5-4; Tiffany Clements, 5-6; RaeAnn Pinkerton, 5-2; and Holly Sparks, 5-7.

Coach Robin Van Laeys will be leading the team with the help of Assistant Coach Chris Delimont. Samantha Tien and Kodi Van Laeys are the team's managers.

Logan volleyball schedule

Sept. 5 — WaKeeney and Hill City, @ WaKeeney, 4:30 p.m.
 Sept. 12 — Stockton and Phillipsburg, @ Stockton, 5 p.m.
 Sept. 19 — Alma, Neb., and Northern Valley, @ Alma, 5 p.m.
 Sept. 23 — Osborne Round Robin, @ Osborne, 8 a.m.
 Sept. 26 — Palco and Western Plains, @ Logan, 4 p.m.
 Oct. 3 — Kensington and Eastern Heights, @ Kensington, 4 p.m.
 Oct. 7 — Cougar Invitational, @ Mankato, 9 a.m.
 Oct. 10 — Golden Plains and Norton, @ Rexford, 4 p.m.
 Oct. 14 — Cheyenne Conference, @ Palco, TBA
 Oct. 17 — Regional Tournament, TBA
 Oct. 21 — Sub-State, TBA
 Oct. 27 & 28 — State, @ Hays, TBA

Blue Jay Booster Club
 Will meet Every Wednesday in the High School Cafeteria
 Beginning Wed., August 30 at 7:30 p.m. through Fall Sports

There will be a charge of \$3.50 per plate

Tailgate Party Memberships Available
 Friday, September 1 at the Livestock Barn

Time to cheer on your teams

Norton football schedule

Friday, Sept. 1, Smith Center here 7 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 8, Trego Community there 7 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 15, Plainville there 7 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 22, Hill City (Homecoming) here 7 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 29, Ellis here 7 p.m.
 Friday, Oct. 6, Stockton there 7 p.m.
 Friday, Oct. 13, Beloit here 7 p.m.
 Friday, Oct. 20, Phillipsburg (Senior Night) here 7 p.m.
 Thursday, Oct. 26, Oberlin there 7 p.m.
 Tuesday, Oct. 31, Bi-District Game 7 p.m.
 Saturday, Nov. 3, Regional Game TBA
 Friday, Nov. 10, Sectional Game TBA
 Friday, Nov. 17, Sub-State Game TBA
 Saturday, Nov. 25 State Championship TBA

Junior Varsity Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 5 Smith Center there 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, Sept. 11 Trego Community here 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, Sept. 18 Plainville here 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, Sept. 25 Hill City there 6 p.m.
 Monday, Oct. 2 Phillipsburg there 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, Oct. 9 Stockton here 6:30 p.m.

High School Sports This Week

Norton
Blue Jays

Northern Valley
Huskies

Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:
 Norton Blue Jays vs. Smith Center Redmen 7 p.m., Friday, Travis Field, Norton
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Smith Center 6:30 p.m. Tues., Sept. 5 in Smith Center
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Palco 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
 Logan Trojans vs. Western Plains 7 p.m. Friday in Ransom

VOLLEYBALL:
 Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Colby and Osborne 4:30 p.m. Today in Colby
 Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Northern Valley/Phillipsburg, 5 p.m. Tues., Sept 5 in Phillipsburg
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Kensington/Western Plains . 4 p.m. today in Almena
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Norton/Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Tues., Sept. 5 in Phillipsburg
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Hill City/Trego 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 5 in WaKeeney

CROSS COUNTRY:
 Norton Cross Country Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday PDRA Golf Course
 (Competing teams will include Northern Valley)

TENNIS:
 Norton Lady Jays vs. Colby 9 a.m., Saturday in Colby
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Varsity Quad 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 5