

Blue Jays dine on Tiger in MCL Friday feast

By DICK BOYD

Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team scored every time they had the ball in the first half, then turned the game over to their junior varsity in the second half in an impressive 48-0 Mid-Continent League win over Stockton on the Tigers' field Friday night.

The Blue Jays rolled up 283 yards rushing, added 47 passing for 330 yards of offense. They averaged over six yards per carry rushing. Meanwhile, the aggressive Norton defense held Stockton to 23 yards rushing, minus three yards passing and 20 total yards of offense. The Tigers rushed for an average of .85 yard per carry.

Norton had 19 first downs and Stockton had two, one coming from a Norton penalty and the other late in the game versus the Blue Jay junior varsity.

Norton's senior tailback Blake VanEaton had another good game as he rushed for 132 yards on eight carries for a 16.5 yards per carry average.

Norton took the opening kickoff and it took the Jays just seven plays to go 58 yards for their first touchdown. Senior fullback Chris Davis carried the ball into the end zone from 14 yards out. Davis also kicked the extra point and it was 7-0 with 9:05 left.

After holding the Tigers, Norton moved 64 yards in six plays for their next score. This time junior tailback Todd Bolt hit paydirt from six yards out. After Davis' kick, it was 14-0 with 4:06 remaining in the first period.

With 9:55 left in the second quarter, the Jays completed a 74 yard drive in nine plays as Bolt hit the end zone again, this time from nine yards out. Davis split the up- rights and the Blue Jays lead had been extended to 21-0.

After another three-and-out by the Tigers, Norton drove 44 yards on four plays to score again. This time junior quarterback Logan Kats passed to sophomore tight end Zac Dreher for a 20 yard touchdown. The extra point kick by Davis was wide right and Norton led 27-0 with 6:33 remaining in the first half.

The gang-tackling Norton defense held once again but this time the Stockton punter was tackled on the Stockton 15 yard line before he could punt the ball. Kats passed to junior tight end Jared Cox for the Jays' fifth touchdown. Davis added the extra point with another booming kick and Norton was on top 34-0 with 4:44 left in the half.

The swarming Norton defense stopped Stockton again and the Jays moved 41 yards on four plays for their final touchdown of the first half. Senior tailback Blake VanEaton raced 5 yards for the score. Davis split the uprights and it was 41-0 with 1:30 remaining on the scoreboard clock.

After the kickoff by Davis, Stockton got their initial first down of the night due to a penalty against Norton. Time ran out in the first half with Norton leading 41-0.

The Norton junior varsity played the entire second half, which was shortened due to the continuous running of the scoreboard clock after one team leads by at least 40 points.

Neither team scored in the third quarter when Norton suffered their only turnover of the game on an intercepted pass. As the quarter neared an end, the Blue Jay junior varsity was on the Stockton 10 yard line. Freshman running back Zane Perez scored Norton's final touchdown from one yard out with 10:15 left in the game. Junior kicker Kyle Edgett booted the extra point, making the final score

48-0.

After the ensuing kickoff, Stockton got their second first down before turning the ball over on downs to the fired up Norton junior varsity defense. Sophomore running back Brad Nuzum ran 39 yards for an apparent Norton touchdown but it was called back due to a penalty against Norton.

"We played well," said coach Melvin. "We didn't give them anything and didn't look past them. We did what we had to do to make sure a team not as good as us didn't surprise us.

"We still had some missed tackles but, overall, I was proud of both our varsity and junior varsity players.

"I was glad the junior varsity got to play so much since their game with Stockton on Monday night was canceled due to a lack of Stockton players. So, this was their final game of the season.

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Nic Lewis, center; senior Pat Burton and sophomore Brock Lauer, guards; junior Preston Herman and senior Lucas Bailey, tackles; junior Jared Cox, tight end; senior Nathan Broeckelman and senior Brian Juenemann, wide receivers; senior Chris Davis, fullback; senior Blake VanEaton, tailback and junior Logan Kats, quarterback.

Starting on defense were: senior Brett Thomson and senior Matt Engel, ends; senior Mark Scheetz and junior Zach Mannel, tackles; VanEaton, Cox and sophomore Zac Dreher, linebackers; Broeckelman, junior Todd Bolt, Kats and junior Travis Ray, defensive backs.

First quarter

VanEaton returned the opening kickoff to the 42 yard line. Davis bulled for eight yards over left tackle, then ran up the middle for a first down on the Stockton 48. After Davis picked up eight more yards, VanEaton ran five to the 35. Then, VanEaton took a pitch from quarterback Kats and ran around left end for a first down on the 20. VanEaton drove to the 14, then Davis found a big hole on a counter off right tackle and scored the Jays' first touchdown of the night.

Davis kicked the extra point and Norton led 7-0 with 9:05 left.

Leneal Weiser returned Davis' kickoff and was tackled by Matt Stanley on the 32. Illegal procedure cost the Tigers five yards. Nathan Palmer tried the Norton line and got nothing. Stockton recovered their own fumble for a one yard gain. Palmer got the call again and five Norton players pummeled him to the ground for no gain. The Tigers punted and Nathan Broeckelman returned the ball to the Norton 36.

Kats passed to Davis for a first down on the Norton 47. Davis churned to the Stockton 45. VanEaton got the call and dodged a number of Tiger defenders who finally tackled him on the 15. Kats ran a keeper for one yard, then Bolt replaced VanEaton and ran to the 8. Bolt got the call again and responded with a touchdown run over right tackle. Davis split the uprights and the Jays led 14-0 with 4:06 left.

Stockton started on their 34 after another kickoff by Davis. Once again, the Tigers did not find a charitable Norton defense. After quarterback Trevor Winters was stopped for no gain, he threw an incomplete pass. Palmer gained four yards and Stockton punted. Broeckelman had a good return but Norton started this possession on their 26 due to a blocking in the back penalty.

Two straight illegal procedure penalties cost Norton 10 more



The Norton offense was unstoppable against Stockton on Friday night but the Blue Jay defense completely stopped the Tigers in their tracks. Stockton backs averaged .85 of a yard per carry against the swarming Jay defense. Above, Tiger running back Nathan Palmer was stopped for no gain and can barely be seen under the pile of

Norton defenders who eluded all Tiger blockers, including tackle Jake Prockish, No. 75. Tacklers on the pile for Norton are Brian Juenemann, No. 38; Zac Dreher, No. 88; Todd Bolt, Chris Davis and an unidentified Blue Jay, who is probably Zach Mannel or Mark Scheetz.

- Telegram Photo By Dick Boyd

yards. Broeckelman replaced Kats at quarterback and got nothing on a keeper. VanEaton raced 43 yards on second down to the Stockton 41. Matt Stanley replaced Davis and got one yard. Bolt replaced VanEaton and gained another yard. Bolt ran around left end for a first down on the 30 as the quarter ended with the Jays ahead 14-0.

Second quarter

Brockelman gained five yards and Bolt four, then Broeckelman ran a keeper to the 4. After a five yard illegal procedure penalty, Bolt ran over the left side for a nine yard touchdown. Davis split the uprights and Norton led 21-0 with 9:55 left.

Palmer returned Davis' kick off to the 25. After Palmer lost one yard to the swarming Norton defense, the Tigers lost five more on a delay of game. Gabe Duncan lost two more yards and Bellerive was sacked on the 10. The Tigers punted and the ball rolled dead on the Stockton 44.

Kats passed on first down but it was incomplete. VanEaton ran around left end for a first down on the 31. Next, VanEaton danced to the 20 for another first down. Kats went to the air and hit a wide-open tight end Zac Dreher for another Blue Jay touchdown. The extra point kick by Davis was wide right but the Jays had extended their lead to 27-0 with 6:33 left.

Palmer returned the kickoff but got just eight yards before Landon Hamel and Brian Juenemann came charging downfield to stop him in his tracks at the Stockton 23. Ty Winters gained two yards, then Davis came in from his linebacking spot to drop him after one yard. After an incomplete pass, Stockton went into punt formation. The punter was unable to get the punt off and was tackled on the Tiger 15.

Kats passed to tight end Jared Cox for another Blue Jay touchdown. Davis kicked the extra point and it was 34-0 with 4:44 remaining.

Weiser returned the kickoff to the 34. Tyler Johnston gained four yards before Broeckelman tackled him. Mark Scheetz put Winters on the turf after a three yard gain. Two straight passes fell incomplete and Norton took over on the Stockton 41.

Broeckelman was in at quarterback again. VanEaton gained four yards up the middle, then Bolt

weaved his way through Tiger defenders to the 10. Davis plowed for five yards, then VanEaton ran around left end and back inside for a touchdown. Davis kicked the extra point, making the Norton lead 41-0 with 1:30 remaining in the first half.

J.D. Gall kicked off for Norton and Weiser returned it to the 27 where Juenemann made the tackle. Bellerive was stopped for no gain but Norton was penalized for a personal foul. Bellerive went back to pass, was run out of the pocket and gained nine yards as the half ended with the Jays ahead 41-0.

Third quarter

The Norton junior varsity played the entire second half, which was shortened due to the continuous clock.

Weiser returned the kickoff to the 35. Palmer gained two yards but Johnston got nothing. A flat pass to Palmer resulted in a loss back to the 23 and Stockton punted.

Hamel returned the ball to the Stockton 40. Connor Pfannenstiel lost one yard on a quarterback keeper. Zane Perez gained three yards. Norton was penalized for a block in the back and the ball was moved back to the 50. A Pfannenstiel pass was intercepted by Jason Roth and returned to the Stockton 44.

Johnston lost one yard on two carries, then ran to the Norton 47. On fourth down, he lost two yards and Norton took over.

Stanley ran for seven yards and Brad Nuzum picked up a first down on the 38. Zane Perez gained four yards. Stanley ran to the 16 for a first down. Nuzum gained six more yards as the quarter ended with Norton on top 41-0.

Fourth quarter

Nuzum plowed for a first down on the 4. Pfannenstiel sneaked to the 3 and J.D. Gall powered to the 1. Perez ran into the end zone for Norton's final touchdown of the night. Kyle Edgett kicked the extra point and it was 48-0 with 10:15 left.

Palmer returned the kickoff to the 37. Johnston gained 13 yards

on two carries for Stockton's second first down of the night. Stockton recovered their own fumble for no gain and Johnston lost four yards. Bellerive gained four yards but gained nothing on fourth down and the Norton junior varsity took over with 4:10 left.

Stanley gained two, Nuzum nothing, Perez seven and Gall ran for a first down on the 41. Perez gained two yards to the 39. The next down, Nuzum ran around left end for an apparent touchdown but it was called back due to a block in the back penalty. That was the last play of the game and the Blue Jays traveled back to Norton with an impressive 48-0 victory.

Individual statistics

Rushers for Norton were: VanEaton, 8 carries for 132 yards; Davis, 6 for 44; Bolt, 7 for 63; Stanley, 4 for 26; Nuzum, 6 for 22; Broeckelman, 3 for 22; Perez, 5 for 6; Hamel, 1 for 4; Gall, 2 for 3; Kats, 1 for 2; Pfannenstiel, 2 for 1. Kats completed 3 of 4 passes for 75 percent and 47 yards. Receivers were: Dreher, 1 for 20; Cox, 1 for 26 and Davis, 1 for 11. Broeckelman had 2 punt returns for 27 yards and Perez had 1 for 15. VanEaton had 1 kickoff return for 22 yards.

Senior defensive back Brian Juenemann, junior defensive back Aaron Husted and freshman linebacker J.D. Gall tied for leading tacklers. They each had 3 solos and 1 assist for 4 total tackles. They were followed by: Matt Stanley, 1 solo, 2 assists, 3 total; Jared Cox, Zach Mannel, Zane Perez, Connor Pfannenstiel, Mark Scheetz, 2 solos each; Todd Bolt, Matt Engel, Brad Nuzum, Blake VanEaton, 1 solo, 1 assist each; Landon Hamel,

Travis Ray, 2 solos each; Nathan Broeckelman, Chris Davis, Robert Derauf, Logan Kats, Shane Mapes, Brett Thomson, 1 solo each; Ashton Draper, Zac Dreher, Wes Georgeson, John Van Doren, 1 assist each.

Next action

Norton completed the regular season with a 5-1 record. The Jays' only loss was 14-3 in the season opener against two-time defending state champion Smith Center. It was the fewest points the Redmen have scored in a game in the last two years but the Blue Jays could not generate enough offense for the win.

District play begins this Friday night when Norton hosts Beloit in a 7 p.m. game at Travis Field.

Beloit defeated Republic County 66-28 on Friday night.

"It gets a lot tougher from here but we'll take them one game at a time," said coach Melvin. "Beloit will be the best team we've played since Smith Center. They have defeated Sacred Heart of Salina and Ellsworth, both outstanding teams, and have lost only to Russell and Southeast of Saline, who are excellent teams.

"They have two outstanding running backs and they run the ball well. They run the double wing offense, the same as Plainville. It is deceptive."

Game statistics

Norton	Stockton	
19	First Downs	2
283	Yards Rushing	23
47	Yards Passing	-3
330	Total Yards	20
3-5-1	Passes Compl.	1-5-0
0-0	Fumbles Lost	0-2
6-50	Penalties	2-10
0-0	Punts	4-37

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Jayvee volleyball wins tourney at Oberlin

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity girls volleyball team won the championship of the Oberlin JV Tournament on Saturday, September 30 in Oberlin.

The Lady Jays defeated Oberlin 25-15, 25-20 in their opener. Next, they played St. Francis and outscored them 25-16, 25-12. In their third match, they faced Atwood and came out on top 25-16, 25-20. In the finals, they defeated Hoxie 25-17, 25-22 to win the championship and extend their season record to 18-6.

"This tournament showed how far we have come as a team this year," said Norton coach Jill Scott. "In our first 12 matches, we had to play three games nine times. Since the Hill City tournament on September 23, we have not had to play three game matches.

"Coming into a long day at a tournament, I was hoping our girls would play so well that we didn't have to play a third game all day. We won all four of our matches convincingly because we have really learned to play well as a team. One thing that we have worked on all year is cutting down on missed

serves because you are just giving the other team points. We really did well in serving in the tournament and averaged 90 percent.

"I told our girls early in the season that my biggest goal was to win at least 75 percent of our matches. I believe that was when we were 4-4.

"Before we played at Oberlin, I told our girls to get above 75 percent we had to win the rest of our matches this season. They answered that request convincingly in this tournament by taking all four matches in two games. I was so proud of them!!"

High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:	
Norton Blue Jays vs. Beloit Trojans	7 p.m. Friday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Golden Plains	7 p.m. Friday in Rexford
Logan Trojans vs. Lucas/Luray	7 p.m. Friday in Lucas
VOLLEYBALL:	
Norton Lady Jay Varsity vs. Logan and Golden Plains	4 p.m. Today in Rexford
Norton Lady Jay Varsity in Mid-Continent League Tournament ...	8 a.m. Saturday in Stockton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton, Western Plains and Eastern Heights	4 p.m. Today in Stockton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Cheyenne Conference Tournament	10 a.m. Saturday in Palco
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Class 1A Regional Tourney	Tuesday TBA
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Golden Plains and Norton	4 p.m. Today in Rexford
Logan Lady Trojans in Cheyenne Conference Tournament	10 a.m. Saturday in Palco
Logan Lady Trojans in Class 1A Regional Tourney	Tuesday TBA
CROSS COUNTRY:	
Norton Blue Jays in Lakeside Invitational	4 p.m. Thursday in Downs
Northern Valley Huskies (JH and HS) in Wheatland Invitational	3 p.m. Thursday in Wheatland