

Fort Hays was on Norton's football schedule in 1913

By DICK BOYD

The winning tradition in football at Norton Community High School goes back many years, all the way back into the early 1900s when the Blue Jays had so much trouble getting teams to play them that they put Fort Hays on the schedule.

The game with Fort Hays, which was called the Hays City Normal School at that time, was played on October 31, 1913. It was the third game of the season. Norton had already shutout Smith Center 28-0 and Colby 32-0. The college boys proved to be too strong for the Norton lads, however, and handed them a 33-6 loss.

The Sept. 24, 1913 issue of the Norton Daily Telegram over a month earlier had reported that "the Norton County High School has not arranged its football schedule for this year on account of the fact that the neighboring schools are decidedly slow in making dates with Norton. The local team defeated everything in western Kansas last year hence the extreme caution on the part of the other schools."

The 1912 team lost only to Oberlin by a 13-6 score but avenged that loss with a 16-8 victory later in the season.

The Norton football game with Fort Hays (Normal School) was brought to our attention in a letter from Charles Paynter, 11208 North 84th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona 85260. He had attended the Fort Hays homecoming football celebration this fall and enclosed with his letter a copy of the Fort Hays football schedules and results all the way back to 1913.

"As someone who graduated

Part 1 of a 2-part series

from Norton, played football for Norton and married a girl from Norton, I was fascinated by this old football schedule information," he writes. "I was astonished to learn, and I assume others would be as well, that four years before America entered World War I, Norton not only had a football team but was playing Fort Hays in football.

"One can only imagine the state of roads in western Kansas in 1913. Think of not only the roads but the absolute unreliability of automobiles, if anyone had one, in western Kansas circa 1913. We can only imagine the long gone small railroad lines serving western Kansas.

"Fort Hays needed to build a football team but apparently had no one to play. They probably contacted high schools in towns served by rail lines and traveled around to play the ones they could get to. The schedule shows Fort Hays also played Oakley and Oberlin. By 1915, Fort Hays was playing a college schedule as the enclosed shows.

"I am always amazed by the creativity of people and institutions in those days. They were more advanced than we think. But, where did Norton play? Did Norton have an official football field before World War I? Did players have uniforms, football shoes or whatever? I was blown away by this 1913 football schedule and Norton's participation and I share it with you for local interest."

Incidentally, Fort Hays defeated

Oberlin 35-3 and Oakley 96-0 that year. They lost 6-0 to Hays High and 23-0 to Cooper College and demolished the Salina "All Stars" 125-7 in their season finale.

According to local Norton sports authority Jack Ward, Norton had an official football field and it was the same location as the current practice field on the corner of North Second and West Warsaw. He says that around 1931 or 1932, Norton became the second high school in the state of Kansas to install lights for night games. Ward thinks Independence was the first.

He also told the Telegram that, in the late 30s, the field was moved to the current Jon Ryan baseball field location. From the photo accompanying this story, it is obvious that the players had uniforms; however, pads are not visible.

The Prairie Dog was the name of the Norton school annual at that time. The team was praised and each player's attributes described. "The football season of 1913 was one of the most successful in the History of the High School," the writer in the annual began. "The team was one of which every student should be proud, for they always played a strong, clean game. Although not undefeated, they lost but two games out of eight."

An example of player descriptions was this one about Lloyd Madden, an uncle of current Norton resident Bob Madden. "Lloyd Madden, left halfback, has played for three seasons, and his smashing and tackling were super-fine. He was also good in getting down the field under punts. He was one of the fastest men on the squad," said the annual writer.



This photo of the Norton County High School football team of 1913 is in the Norton County Museum. The team lost only two games, one of them to Fort Hays (Hays City Normal at that time). The team members and coaches were identified in the Prairie Dog high school annual as, from left, front row: R. Casey, Bud Phinney, Gwynne Payton, Lloyd Madden; second row: Ralph Newell, Floyd Kirk, Louis Hull, John Gilder, Russell Knapp, Hall Cope, Merle Smith; back row: Dr. C.E. Shifflett, Glen Sarvis, H. Stoddard, Ollie Reed, Clarence Bower, L. Stoddard, Coach Alfred Brown.

Coach of the team was Alfred A. Brown, who had just graduated from Kansas State Normal in the spring. He was one of seven teachers and taught mathematics in addition to coaching the gridders.

Brown's assistant was Dr. C.E. Shifflett. "He not only gives medical aid when needed, but is at every game, at home and abroad, with such a spirit that his very presence stimulates the boys to a degree that they will not give up," said the annual writer.

After Norton's season opening victory over Smith Center, the Daily Telegram said, "The game was cleanly played and the best of spirit and good nature was manifested by the contestants on both

sides. The visitors clearly showed lack of practice in the opening quarters but braced perceptibly at the last and held the local boys about even. The bright feature of the game from a Norton standpoint was the line plunging by the Captain and fullback Kirk, who seldom failed to go through the line for good gains and Smith, left end, who made several spectacular catches of forward passes.

"A good crowd was in attendance of the first game of the season and the boys came out with something to spare on the gate receipts.

"Aside from the last quarter the ball was always in play in Smith Center territory and there never

was any doubt of the outcome. It was a good practice for the local lads, a good time to witness them under fire and they responded in a way that thrilled the spectators.

"In making up the schedule for the year we understand that Oberlin has at last been secured for two games and these will perhaps be the most hotly contested events of the season."

Norton beat Colby and the Daily Telegram said, "Colby put up a good defense but Norton was too much for them. When the whistle blew the final score was 32-0 in favor of the Norton High."

Part 2 to appear in Friday's Telegram

Junior high girls' basketball report

Open season with 1-1 slate

The Norton 7th grade girls basketball team is 1-1 on the new season, opening with a win over Stockton 27-12 and losing to Smith Center 34-12.

In the victory over Stockton, Sadie Keilig was the top scorer with 15 points. Others chipping in were Caren Thomson 2; Kylie Nuzum 2; Tiffany Eagleburger 2; Brooklyn Winkel 2; Erin Terrell 2;

and Alexis Henson 2.

The girls went into the game a bit nervous, but performed very well. Defensively, they came out strong with Keilig leading the Blue Jays in steals, coming away with 7 for the night. Winkel had 3, and all sharing with 2 were Eagleburger, Bainter, and Henson. Rebounding leaders were Nuzum with 6 and Keilig and Bainter each

with 4.

In the loss to Smith Center, Thomson scored 4 points; Nuzum 2; Keilig 2; and Bainter 4.

Keilig was top rebounder with 8, while Nuzum grabbed 3 and Winkel and Terrell each with 2.

Steals found Keilig with 4 and Bainter with 2. Leading with deflects were Keilig with 3 and Thomson and Terrell 2 each.

Lose to Redmen by 7

The Norton 8th grade girls basketball Blue Jays played a tough, aggressive Smith Center team and were handed a 28-21 defeat.

The Redmen created some early turnovers, converting those into easy points which gave them a lead they never relinquished.

"We had a breakdown on our basic defensive coverage which also allowed them some easy bas-

kets," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

He said those items were eventually corrected and in the second half the Blue Jays were able to play with them.

The coach pointed to not enough deflects, explaining that alone shows that we must move better to create more havoc on the floor.

He said the team accumulated

12 steals and that each of these players took two away from the warriors — Kelsie Griffith, Diedra Kramer, Sophie Mills, Dustyna Sprigg and Lindsey Tacha.

Rebounding honors went to Sprigg, with 5 and Kramer with 4.

Scoring for Norton, said the coach, were: Rebekah Streck with 1; Kramer 11; Mills 6; and Sprigg 3.

Win one, lose one

The Norton Junior High junior varsity basketball girls beat Plainville 14-0 in two quarters, and lost to Smith Center's Redmen 23-18.

Vs. Plainville

The two-quarter game came at the request of Plainville. The Blue Jays hit the floor ready to play ball and came out with good intensity.

Coach Lynette Archer said Caren Thompson really has improved and will dominate the inside as she gets more experience. She also said Kyra Fulton has

guided the team with her leadership. Thompson and Kelsie Griffith took the lead in rebounding with 3 each. Rebekah Streck has 2 steals.

Scoring: Thompson 2; Allison Gass 4; Lindsey Tacha 6. (This adds up to 12, leaving a 2-point differential from the 14-0 stated score.)

The team will be at Phillipsburg on Nov. 14 at 5 p.m.

Vs. Smith Center

In the game with the Redmen, Norton was outsized but put up a

good fight, said coach Archer. "The shots were just not falling," she said.

"Our team is a mixture of 7th and 8th grade players and the ladies are getting used to playing together as well as being flexible in the positions they play," the coach said.

"We need to work on rebounds and blocking out," she said.

Scoring were: Kelsie Griffith 1; Caren Thompson 6; Kyra Fulton 3; Brae Bigge 2; Samantha Keenan 2; Alexis Hensen 2; Tiffany Eagleburger 2.

Peterson took 3 while Kaylen Rossi and Kramer each had 2.

Rebounds were grabbed by Sophie Mills with 5 and Kramer and Sprigg with 4 each.

Kyra Fulton, Rossi and Sprigg each found 2 teammates open for scores.

Scoring were: Kelsie Griffith 2; Kyra Fulton 2; Rebekah Streck 1; Diedra Kramer 6; Sophie Mills 7; Dustyna Sprigg 8; Meagan Peterson 2; and Lindsey Tacha 12.

Conference names volleyball's best

The Cheyenne Conference 2006 All-League Volleyball picks have been announced. Selected were:

First Team

Claire Cole, senior, Kensington
Kelli Cole, senior, Almena-Northern Valley
Amy Flax, senior, Ransom-Western Plains
Bailey Gehring, junior, Palco

Shelly Kemper, junior, Logan
Kelsey Rahjes, senior, Kensington.

Second Team

Bethany Clements, senior, Logan
Andrea Lowry, senior, Almena-Northern Valley
Ashley Lutters, junior, Ransom-Western Plains
Ashley Nix, senior, Agra-East-

ern Heights
Jayme Salmans, senior, Ransom-Western Plains

JoAnn Yoxall, junior, Kensington

Honorable Mention

Rachel Belisle, junior, Palco
Allison Cole, freshman, Almena-Northern Valley
Anne Hartman, a senior, from Logan

Seventh grade boys punish Tigers twice

The Norton 7th grade boys basketball team punished the Stockton Tigers, 38-13, while the jayvee boys claimed a 21-10 triumph.

"I thought the kids played pretty good on defense for no more practices than we had," said coach Jim Myers.

"This was a good win for us, but we have a lot to work on," he said. The coach added that 21 steals

showed that the team is working hard.

Norton was up 6-2 at the end of the first quarter, 18-3 at half and 29-7 going into the final quarter.

Scoring for Norton were Jordan Wahlmeier with 7, Dillon McConney 4, Tye Nickell 16, Joe LeClair 6, Seth Antrim 1, Casey Temmel 2 and Ben Gallegos 2. Connor Winters was top scorer for

Stockton with 3.

Jayvee team wins

Norton won 21-10 over the Stockton 'C' team in two quarters of play.

Scoring for Norton were Seth Antrim with 5, Taylor Meder 2, Robert Blecha 4, Casey Temmel 2, Alec Gilgenbach 6, and Mitchell Shelton 2. Stockton's scorers were Moll with 4 and Beougher 6.

Norton Schools

Staff Spotlight

Classified Employee



Kelly Lyon

Mrs. Kelly Lyon works in the office at EES and has been an employee of USD 211 for 14 years. Kelly and her husband, Kevin, have a daughter, Tosha, age 20. Woodworking is Mrs. Lyon's favorite free-time activity. When asked what she likes best about her job, she replied, "The Kids, they are awesome!"

Certified Employee



Belinda Thalheim

Mrs. Belinda Thalheim teaches grade 4 at EES. Mrs. Thalheim is in her 27th year of teaching and all have been in the Eisenhower School. She earned her B.S. degree at Fort Hays State University. She and her husband, Kent, have two sons (Austin 23 and Avery 18), a daughter-in-law Angela and a grandson. The favorite past times listed by Mrs. Thalheim are playing the piano, sewing, camping and being a grandmother. What she really likes about her job is when she sees the look of understanding and the faces of children light up when they understand something new.