

# History making wins for Legion baseball

By **DICK BOYD**

On Monday, April 30, the Norton American Legion baseball team played a high school team for the first time in history when they traveled to Minneapolis for a doubleheader, which they won.

The Blue Jay nine defeated Minneapolis 14-7 and 11-2 in two five-inning contests.

"This is the first year Minneapolis has had high school baseball and softball and they were looking for some games to fill their schedule," said Norton head coach Joe Durham.

"Our players were glad to play them since maybe in the future Norton will be able to field a high school team. We took 12 players and not one of those we took was out for any other sport. Our team did have one player who graduated last year, Nathan Morse, who is attending Kansas State University. "The effort our players showed in getting ready for these games was outstanding. From the first pitch, our young men played hard and clean.

"Coach Steve Jeltz brings a world of knowledge of how the game is supposed to be played and our hitting and fielding showed it. "Aaron Daniels, our lead off batter, went 8 for 8 in the two games.

"The only player on our team who did not make the trip was Logan Keiswetter, who is an outstanding runner on the Norton track team.

"Our goal this season is to cut down on our mistakes and errors and our players did just that with just two errors and two passed balls. Coach Jeltz has coached our players in the fundamentals of baseball and it really showed. We keep telling our players to just make the routine plays and that is what they did.

"Coach Jeltz has really preached the art of stealing bases this year and, in our two games so far, we have 45 stolen bases, double what we had last year.

"Chris Davis pitched shutout ball, striking out 9 of 13 batters he faced. Our Achilles heel this year will be our depth at pitching. We have two outstanding pitchers in Chris and Logan but, after that, we are a little thin. We are trying to teach more of our players to be pitchers and coach Kevin Jilka, who played college ball at Fort Hays State and holds most of their records, is helping them.

"Our players are like sponges this year. They want to get better and win and all the extra practices we have had so far are showing great dividends."

## OPENER

Norton scored one run in the top of the first when Aaron Daniels tripled and was driven home on a double by Chris Davis. Norton added two more runs in the top of the second when Matt Stanley and Andrew Soderlund walked and Daniels singled and Stanley and Soderlund both scored.

The Blue Jays ran across four more runs in the top of the third inning. Davis doubled, Jordan Durham was hit by a pitch, Nathan Morse singled, Stanley singled, Soderlund walked and Daniels doubled. Davis, Durham, Morse and Stanley all scored to extend the Norton lead to 7-0.

Six more Norton runs in the top of the fourth made it 13-0. Davis singled, Durham doubled, Morse singled, Stanley walked, Brian Ulmer singled, Daniels doubled and Todd Zink doubled. Davis, Durham, Morse, Stanley, Ulmer and Daniels all scored.

Minneapolis scored six runs in the bottom of the fourth on two hits and three walks. Norton tallied one final run in the top of the fifth when Durham walked, Morse singled, Stanley walked and Durham scored. Three walks allowed Minneapolis to score one run in the bottom of the fifth to make the final score 14-7

Norton had 14 hits in the game. Leading hitters were Daniels, who went 4 for 4, and Davis and Morse, both of whom batted 3 for 4. Davis was the winning pitcher. He hurled three innings, gave up just one hit, struck out seven batters and walked one.

Davis was relieved by Durham, who gave up two hits, fanned two batters and walked six.

## NIGHTCAP

Norton scored two runs in the top of the first when Daniels singled, Zink was hit by a pitch, Davis got on via a fielder's choice, Durham singled, Stanley walked and Daniels and Zink tallied.

Minneapolis scored one run in the bottom of the first on one hit and a walk.

Daniels doubled and Zink singled him home in the top of the second to extend the Norton lead to 3-1.

The Blue Jays put the game away for good with eight big runs in the top of the third inning to stretch the lead to 11-1. Durham singled, Morse got on base via an error, Stanley walked, Soderlund got on base via an error, Runnion tripled, Zink singled, Wolf singled and Davis got on base with a fielder's choice. Durham, Morse, Stanley, Soderlund, Runnion, Zink, Wolf and Davis scored.

Minneapolis scored one run in the bottom of the fourth on a walk and double to make the final score 11-2.

Norton had 11 hits in the game. Daniels and Zink were perfect at the plate. Daniels was 3 for 3 and Zink was 2 for 2. Durham was 2 for 3 with the bat.

Zink was the winning pitcher. In three innings, he gave up one hit, struck out two batters and walked four. Morse pitched for one and one-third innings. He gave up two hits, struck out two and walked two batters. Davis pitched two-thirds of the final inning, getting two strike outs to end the game.

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# Golfers place 4th in league tourney

By **DICK BOYD**

The Norton Community High School varsity golf team placed fourth in the six-man competition in the Mid-Continent League Tournament last Thursday in WaKeeney.

Phillipsburg won the championship with a 472 team score, followed by Trego, 520; Osborne, 538; Norton, 561; Ellis, 562; Plainville, 563; Hill City, 580; Stockton, 605; Smith Center, 645.

The Blue Jays were also fourth in four-man play. Phillipsburg was the winner with a 321, followed by Trego, 329; Ellis, 362; Norton, 364; Osborne, 382; Hill City, 391; Plainville, 396; Stockton, 437; Smith Center, 448.

seventh. Phillipsburg also won two-man with a 153, followed by Plainville, 167; Osborne, 168; Stockton, 176; Hill City, 189; Smith Center, 197; Norton, 198; Ellis, 204; Trego, 206.

J.D. Gall had a career-low tournament as he shot a 41/35-76 to place runner-up among individual medalists. He was beaten only by Jeff Jarvis, Phillipsburg, who shot a 69. Other Norton players on the four-man team and their scores were Michael Ward, 47/45-92; Preston Herman, 47/50-97; Marcus Herman, 52/47-99.

Also playing on Norton's four-man squad was Pat Burton, who shot a 53/47-100. Scoring for Norton's two-man team were Kyle Edgett, 45/52-97 and Kyle

Mindrup, 51/50-101. Also playing for the Blue Jay two-man team was Logan Kelly who shot a 51/52-103.

Individual medalists, in addition to Jarvis and Gall, were: Adrian Barker, Phillipsburg, 77; Nolan Smith, Trego, 77; Chris Schneider, Phillipsburg, 78; Adam Augustine, Ellis, 78; Joseph Monroe, Phillipsburg, 78; Blake Born, Hill City, 82; Shae Clark, Osborne, 82; Ryan Pfannenstiel, Trego, 83.

"Simply stated, we did not play good golf today," said Norton head coach David Stover. "We were blessed to have great scoring conditions and we did not take advan-

tage, especially at the top of the lineup.

"Once again, Phillipsburg showed their overall team strength in sweeping all individual and team honors to win the league title for the third consecutive year.

"The bright spot of the day for our Blue Jays was the performance of J.D. Gall. Riding an incredibly hot short game, J.D. was able to earn runner-up status and All-Mid-Continent League honors with a career low round.

"We will look to regroup for the Regional Tournament to be held Monday at Southwestern Heights."

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