

Norton K-18 team opens season in Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

The Norton K-18 baseball team opened the 2007 season on Tuesday with a trip to Smith Center where the Blue Jays lost a doubleheader, 18-17 and 7-3.

Players on this year's nine are: Landon Hamel, Zane Perez, Troy Bainter, Landon Keiswetter, Kaide McKenna, Ryan Blecha, Robert Blecha, Bill Broeckelman, Dakota Dreher, Brett Terrell, Kurt Douglas, Andrew Otter, Luke Ninemire, Trey Millan and Spencer Shirk.

Coaches are Ward Foley, Lamont Shirt and Rudy Perez.

Norton plays in the K-18 Wildcat North League. All scheduled game dates are two five inning games.

Norton got the opener off to a good start by scoring four runs on one hit in the top of the first inning. Bainter, Keiswetter and McKenna all walked and Ryan Blecha singled and Bainter, Keiswetter, Perez and McKenna all scored.

Smith Center failed to score and Norton added another run in the top of the second when Millan led off with a double and tallied to make it 5-0.

Again, the Redmen failed to score in the bottom of the inning.

The top of the third was a big one for the visiting Blue Jays who scored eight more runs on three hits to extend their lead to 13-0. Hamel and Dreher walked, McKenna got on base via an error, Blecha and Millan walked, Keiswetter and Perez singled, Hamel walked and Dreher doubled. Dreher, McKenna, Blecha, Millan, Keiswetter and

Perez all scored once and Hamel scored twice.

Smith Center did not give up and their players rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the third to cut Norton's lead to 13-7.

The Blue Jays were three up, three down in the top of the fourth and fifth innings and Smith Center tallied five more runs in the bottom of the fourth and one in the bottom of the fifth to tie the score at 13-all and send the game into extra innings.

In the top of the sixth, Norton scored one run when Hamel tripled and Ryan Blecha singled him home. The Redmen scored a run of their own in the bottom of the inning to tie the score again.

Norton's top of the batting order was up in the top of the seventh inning. Bainter, Keiswetter, and Perez all singled and Hamel doubled. Bainter, Keiswetter and Perez all scored to put Norton on top 17-14. Smith Center also tallied three runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score at 17-all and extend the game into the eighth inning.

Norton was three up, three down, however, and Smith Center tallied one run to win the game 18-17.

Norton had 11 hits and 10 walks in the game. Leading hitters were Perez, 2 for 3; Keiswetter, 2 for 3; Hamel, 2 for 3 and Ryan Blecha, 2 for 4.

Smith Center had 15 hits and 13 walks.

Hamel, McKenna, Dreher and Perez all shared time pitching for Norton. Atwood, Stansbury and Kirchhoff shared mound duties for

the Redmen.

After the three-hour marathon opener, the nightcap began. Norton took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first stanza when Bainter, Keiswetter, Perez and Hamel singled and Bainter and Keiswetter scored.

Smith Center did not score in the first two innings and Norton added one more run in the top of the third when Ryan Blecha got on base via a fielder's choice and Dreher tripled him home to make it 3-0.

Smith Center scored one run in the bottom of the inning.

Norton went scoreless the rest of the game, however, and Smith Center tallied six big runs in the bottom of the fourth to make the final 7-3 in the Redmen's favor.

Norton had eight hits and six walks in the game. Keiswetter and Dreher were leading hitters for the Blue Jays, both going 2 for 3 at the plate.

Smith Center had seven hits and six walks.

Bainter pitched three and one-third innings and Keiswetter finished the game on the mound for Norton. Kirchhoff pitched one and two-thirds innings for Smith Center and Fischer relieved him.

Next action

Norton hosted Hill City last night but results were not available at press time.

The Blue Jays will also host Stockton Tuesday evening. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m. at John Ryan Field in Elmwood Park.

2007 Norton K-18 Baseball Schedule

Tues., June 12..	Stockton	6:30 p.m. ...	Here
Fri., June 15	Plainville	6:30 p.m. ...	Here
Tues., June 19 .	Phillipsburg	6:30 p.m. .	There
Tues., June 26 .	Smith Center	6:30 p.m. .	Here
Fri., June 29	Stockton	6:30 p.m. .	There
Tues., July 3	Plainville	6:30 p.m. .	There
Fri., July 6	Phillipsburg	6:30 p.m. .	Here
Sat., July 7	Cambridge, Neb. ...	4 p.m.	There
Tues., July 10 ...	Hill City	6:30 p.m. .	There
Fri.-Sun., July 13-14-15	Sub-Regionals at Ellis		
Fri.-Sun., July 20-21-22	Regionals at Colby		
Fri.-Sun. & Tues., July 28-29-30-Aug. 1	State-Lucas		

LODGE NOTICES

American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63
Second and Fourth Monday
Joe Ballinger, Commander

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288
Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Dennis Gilhousen, President
Lee Smith, Secretary

Sons of the American Legion
Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.
James Railsback, Commander

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each month
Curt Archibald, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157
108 South Kansas, Norton
Thursday-7:30 p.m.
Fun Night—Last Thursday of each month
Randy Knoll, Noble Grand
Bill Cochran, Secretary

By JOY STALDER

Brian Bieghler and Chelsea Burton visited Velda Bieghler early in the week.

Guests of Bob and Phyllis Cass Sunday at a birthday dinner celebration for Bob were Alfred Cass and Helen Martin.

Guests of Carl and Audre DeVries over the Memorial Day and Alumni holidays were their family. Present over the weekend were Curtis DeVries, San Diego, Calif., Buddy and Ann Schwartz, Rochester, Kim and Zach Staly, Scottsbluff, Marcy and Zach Nelson, Johnathon and Aiden, Hershey, Nancy Wright, Cody and Cole, Mr. and Mrs. David DeVries, Ogallala, Andy and Laura DeVries, Raelyn, Ryanna, Reegan and Mike of Ogallala.

Saturday morning while they were here, the family helped Carl and Audre dress 158 chickens and the work was all done before lunch at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Earlier in the week they also helped Steve and Kay Shafer dress their chickens. They all attended church together on Sunday.

Guests of Julie Harper over the Memorial Day weekend were her family, Blaine Harper, Bridgewater, N. J., Mike and Cathy Harper, Kim and her friend Stephanie, St. Paul, Minn., Laurie Johnston, Saratoga, Wyo., and Dan Harper, Kearney.

Denise Johnson, Brian Olsen, Erin and Cason Falzone of Texas arrived on May 24 to spend the weekend with Milan and Diane Johnson. Denise came especially to attend her 20th class reunion.

Dana Tuss and Alex of Minneapolis, Minn., arrived on Saturday to visit with Milan and Diane Johnson and their guests.

Lee Evan Earl Coffey and friend Sally from Pleasant Heights, Calif., arrived in Beaver City on Thursday. Lee came especially to attend his 65th class reunion.

Sunday Milan and Diane Johnson and their family guests hosted a picnic in honor of Lee and Sally. Those coming to visit Uncle Lee were Larry and Alberta Johnson, Evergreen, Colo., Heath Johnson, Colorado; Steve and LaCreta Fisher, Beaver City, Chad, Carrie, Morgan, Kilton, Bryson and Evan Fisher, Imperial, Neb., Chad, Andrea, David, Jacob and Brody Coursey, La Vista, Neb., Caleb Fisher and friend Amanda, La Vista, Neb., Treg, Beth, Garison, Anna and Chet Fisher, Beaver City, Delores and Robert Hunt, Ravenna, Neb., Debbie Broadfoot, Riverdale, Neb., Donnie and Sharon Herren, Kearney, and Phil, Karen Coffey, Cheryl and daughters, Seward,

Neb. Cousins Cletus and Karen Coffey, Beaver City, Deanna Hotchkiss and husband, Shawnee Mission, were afternoon visitors.

Kristene Garey was a Sunday visitor of Denise, Dana and Erin.

Jason and Ruth Brown, Omaha, Sherry, Hannah and Allie Franklin, Hoxie, Kans., and Janet Schwanz, Oxford, were visitors of Dana Tuss at the Milan Johnson home Monday evening. Hannah and Allie played with Cason and Alex while their mothers went to eat in Norton.

Jim and Betty Pfannenstiel of Norton were Wednesday evening guests of Milan and Diane Johnson.

Milan and Diane Johnson attended the 40th wedding anniversary celebration of Bill and Betty Glennemeier at Norton on Saturday.

Several PEO sisters from Chapter BV Beaver City attended the State PEO convention in North Platte. Chapter BV was responsible for the hospitality room. Seven hundred were registered for the two-day convention.

Those attending were Candace Weaver, Dorothy Bottrell, Lorenda Forbes, Nancy Becker, Pat Dodson, Rogene Wenburg, Sharon Youngquist and Karla Warner. Janet McClain performed her duties as Guard and Donna Dixon was a delegate at the convention.

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ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

A bad storm came through Almena last Thursday afternoon. There was hail, rain and hard winds. Several gardens and wheat fields were damaged. This sure has been a bad year — weather-wise.

Irvin Shearer, Esther Marble's brother, called on her Sunday

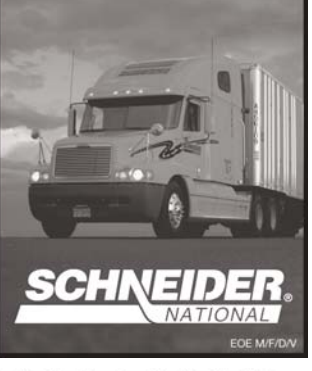
morning. Mr. Shearer said he and Jimmy Marble went to visit Greensburg. Mr. Marble's father, Galen Marble, took them around to see the damage. Jimmy said, "Dad, this looks worse than Iraq." Jimmy Marble has been to Iraq at least two times.

Esther Marble visited Alberta Geil Friday afternoon.

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