

K-18 scores 41 runs in two-game sweep of Hill City



Norton pitcher Zane Perez concentrated as he started to throw the ball to a Hill City batter during the second game of their doubleheader here on Thursday evening. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
The Norton K-18 baseball team evened their early season record at 2-2 with a doubleheader win over Hill City here on Thursday evening.

The young Blue Jays had an easy 25-3 victory in the opener but had to come from behind in the nightcap to pull out a 16-15 victory!

The games were played in 40 mile per hour winds and temperatures that dropped to 56 degrees, creating a challenge for players and fans alike.

OPENER

Norton held the visitors scoreless in the top of the first inning and tallied 21 runs in the bottom of the stanza as they batted around two and one-half times.

Troy Bainter walked and singled, Landon Keiswetter walked and singled twice, Zane Perez doubled twice and singled, Landon Hamel doubled twice and walked, Dakota Dreher singled three times, Kaid McKenna walked twice and got on base once via an error.

Trey Millan singled and tripled, Ryan Blecha singled once and Andrew Otter walked and singled.

Ryan Blecha scored once, Bainter, McKenna, Millan and Otter scored twice and Keiswetter, Perez, Hamel and Dreher scored three times.

Hill City also failed to score in the top of the second. Norton added four more runs in the bottom of the second to extend the Blue Jay lead to 25-0.

Bainter walked, Keiswetter and Perez both singled, Hamel and McKenna walked and Millan singled. Bainter, Keiswetter, Perez and Hamel all scored.

Hill City scored three runs in the top of the third but the league's 15 run lead rule after three innings ended the game with Norton leading 25-3.

Norton had 18 hits in the game and nine strike outs.

Leading hitters for Norton were Perez, 4 for 4; Keiswetter, 3 for 3; Dreher, 3 for 4; and Millan, 3 for 4.

Bainter pitched two innings and was the winning pitcher. He struck out five batters and walked four and gave up no hits. Millan relieved him for one inning. He struck out three, walked five and allowed one hit.

NIGHTCAP

The second game of the evening was a different story as the Blue Jays had to battle back to win.

Hill City scored four runs in the top of the first but Norton took a 6-4 lead on two hits and four walks in the bottom of the inning.

Bainter and Keiswetter both walked, Perez singled, Hamel walked, McKenna singled, Ryan Blecha walked and Bainter, Keiswetter, Hamel, McKenna and Blecha all scored.

Hill City regained the advantage in the top of the second when they scored seven more runs to take an 11-6 lead.

Norton scored just one run in the bottom of the inning. Bainter walked, Keiswetter singled, Hamel walked and Bainter tallied.

Hill City was three up, three down in the top of the third but the Blue Jays went down in the same fashion in the bottom of the stanza and the scoreboard remained 11-7.

The young Ringnecks got two hits in the top of the fourth but were held scoreless.

Norton edged ahead 12-11 with five big runs in the bottom of the fourth. Keiswetter, Brett Terrell and Hamel singled in quick succession, McKenna and Otter

walked and Ryan Blecha singled. Keiswetter, Terrell, Hamel, McKenna and Otter all scored.

Hill City responded with four more runs in the top of the fifth to regain the lead at 15-12.

Norton wasn't to be denied, however, and the Blue Jays tacked on four more runs in the bottom of the fifth and final inning to win 16-15.

Keiswetter walked but Perez doubled, Hamel tripled and Dreher singled and all four scored.

Norton had 10 hits in the game, nine walks and six strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Keiswetter, Perez and Hamel. All three were 2 for 2 at the plate.

Winning pitcher was McKenna, who struck out seven, walked eight and allowed four hits in two and one half innings.

Perez started on the mound and also pitched two and one half innings. He struck out three batters, walked six and gave up two hits.

Next action

Norton will host Stockton in a doubleheader this evening at John Ryan Field in Elmwood Park.

Games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. and two five inning games will be played.

Lady Storm opens season with win and loss vs. Hoisington

By DICK BOYD
Norton's Lady Storm fast pitch softball team opened the 2007 season splitting a doubleheader with Hoisington in Hill City on Sunday.

Playing for this year's team are: Chantille Campbell, Kayla Foley, Ashley Martinez, all of Norton; Brittney Anderson, Megan Jeffery, Kylie Cooper, all of Hill City; Lacey Roe, Norcatur; Kelsey Normandin, Plainville; Amelia Nickelson, Penokee; Courtney Balthazor, Damar; Elleigh Walker, Oberlin.

Coaches again this season are Kirk Foley, Erin Hill and Maggie Foley. Manager is Darin Campbell.

OPENER

Norton lost the first game 3-0. Hoisington had two hits and Norton had one.

"It was a real pitcher's duel," said manager Campbell. "There was a lot of good defense in the game."

Hoisington was designated the home team. Norton batters were three up, three down in the first three innings. In the top of the fourth, Norton got their only hit when Campbell singled but was unable to score.

After another three up, three down in the top of the fifth, Norton had five batters up in the top of the sixth. Despite the fact that Foley and Martinez both walked, they could not score.

The contest went into the bottom of the fifth inning with no

scores but Hoisington was able to tally three runs on three errors and one hit to win 3-0.

Norton had two walks and 12 Norton batters struck out.

Hoisington had four walks and five of their batters struck out. Normandin was the losing pitcher.

NIGHTCAP

The second game was much more exciting and went into an extra inning where the Lady Storm scored two runs to win 7-6.

"Even though more runs were scored, this game was another defensive battle," said manager Campbell. "Two well-matched teams played very competitively and it all came down to one final play."

"Our coaches were pleased with our execution the first time out."

Norton was the home team in this contest. Hoisington did not score in the top of the first and second innings. Norton scored their first run in the bottom of the second when Cooper got on base via an error and came home.

Hoisington tallied four runs on two hits, a walk and an error in the top of the third to take a 4-1 lead.

The Lady Storm scored twice in the bottom of the third when Foley walked, Balthazor singled and both came home.

Hoisington went scoreless in the top of the fourth and Norton tied the score at 4-4 with a run in the bottom of the stanza. Cooper led off with a single and scored on a sacrifice by Normandin.

In the top of the fifth, Hoisington got a single and a walk and took advantage of an error to score one run and go on top 5-4.

Foley walked and Campbell singled her home in the bottom of the inning to knot the score at 5-5.

All games are played within a 75-minute time limit rather than certain number of innings. The time limit had run out so the rules state that both teams were allowed to bat with their player who made the last out being placed on second base.

The Hoisington player designated for second base was able to score and give Hoisington a 6-5 lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, Anderson went to second base for Norton. Roe singled for the Lady Storm's fourth hit of the game and Anderson scored to tie the game at 6-6. Normandin followed with a single and Roe headed for third base. A throw to third got away from the Hoisington third baseman. Roe rounded third and sped for home plate where she slid in to score the winning run!

Leading hitters for Norton were Balthazor, Campbell, Cooper, Roe and Normandin, each going 1 for 3 at the plate.

Norton had four walks and 11 Norton batters struck out.

The Lady Storm had three pitchers in the contest. Roe pitched the first three innings, giving up three hits, walking three and striking out one batter. Cooper relieved her on

the mound and hurled for two innings. She allowed three hits, walked one batter and struck out two.

Normandin pitched the last inning. She gave up no hits, walked one and struck out one and was credited with the win.

"Roe and Cooper had never pitched in a game and both did

very well," said manager Darin Campbell.

Next action

Norton will play WaKeeney on Wednesday evening in Hill City, beginning at 6:30 p.m.. The WaKeeney team is in their first season and this will be their first game.

Norton's other upcoming games are: Sat., Sun., June 16-17, Father's Day Tournament in Russell; Sat., Sun., June 23-24, Colby Tournament; Sat., Sun., June 30, July 1, Regional Tournament in Hill City; Sat., Sun., July 14-15, Russell Tournament; Sat., Sun., July 21-22, State Tournament in Emporia.

Little League roundup

There has been a flurry of activity in the little league baseball ranks since late in May, and here is a glimpse of what caught the fans' eyes.

Division I, Ward Field May 30
Adventures 5, Here's Your Sign 14

Adventures players Nate Hartwell and Trenton Wright rounded the bases to start the Division I season off. Here's Your Sign's Andrew Davis and Jacob Green answered with one run each in the bottom of the 1st. Adventures was only able to answer back with one run each from Layton Miller, Nate Hartwell and Wyatt Cressler. Scoring two additional runs for Here's Your Sign included Jacob Green, Josh VanLaeys, Tyus Henson and Shayd Dix. Justis Posson, Andrew Davis, Trenton Chisham and Colton Greving each scored one additional run to total 14 for Here's Your Sign.

Husky Hogs 7, Endzone 8 May 30

Husky Hogs' Ross Cole, Nick Stutsman and Kade Unterseher started the night off by crossing the plate for one run each. Endzone only answered with one run by Landon Porter. Carson Wallace, Riley Sides, Caden Kinderknecht and Drake Shearer each scored one run.

Unfortunately, they were unable to hold off Endzone as Landon Porter scored an additional two runs with runs by Will Ellis, Jace Ruder, Mitchell Hickman, Dallas Gosselin and Ryan Johnson closing out the game.

Endzone 6, Here's Your Sign 12

June 5
Landon Porter, Will Ellis and Jace Ruder opened the evening for Endzone by each scoring one run. Here's Your Sign approached the plate and sent Colton Greving, Justis Posson, Andrew Davis, Jacob Green, Trenton Chisham and Tyson Gill to home for one run each. Additional runs by Landon Porter, Will Ellis and Jace Ruder brought the total to six runs for Endzone. Jacob Green scored two additional runs with Justis Posson, Andrew Davis, Trenton Chisham and Tyus Henson each scoring one run for Here's Your Sign.

Husky Hogs 3, Adventures 1 June 5

With three runs scored in the fifth inning by Drake Shearer, Caden Kinderknecht and Ross Cole, Husky Hogs were victorious over Adventures. Layton Miller scored the only run for Adventures.

Here's Your Sign 21, Adventures 17 June 7

With Jacob Green setting the pace with four runs scored, Here's Your Sign was on their way against Adventures in what proved to be the highest scoring game of the season to date. Tyus Henson and Josh VanLaeys were on Jacob's heels with three runs each. Scoring two runs each were Colton Greving, Justis Posson, Andrew Davis, Trenton Chisham and Tyson Gill. Adventures stepped up and answered with three runs each from Levi Kendall, Wyatt Cressler and Matt Vacura. Ryan Johnson and Nate Hartwell each scored two runs. Shady Dix, Michael Ball, Jarrett Wente and Layton Miller each crossed the plate one time each.

Endzone 13, Husky Hogs 6 June 7

Endzone not only battled the Husky Hogs, but also blowing dirt and dropping temperatures in this outing. Landon Porter, Jace Ruder and Collyn Auker warmed their bats scoring three runs each. Dallas Gosselin crossed the plate twice and Will Ellis and Jace Smothers scored one run each.

Husky Hogs remained scoreless until the fourth inning when Nick Stutsman, Caden Kinderknecht, Drake Shearer, Carson Wallace, Chris Lowry and Cooper Musman scored the only runs of the night for the home team.

Sunday, June 17, 2007

Happy Father's Day

This Friday is Father's Day

at the **First State Bank, Norton!**

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