

Norton Legion wins 1 of 2 vs. Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

The Norton American Legion baseball team split a doubleheader with Smith Center on Thursday evening at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The visitors won the opener 10-1 but Norton responded with a solid 9-6 win in the nightcap.

OPENER

Smith Center scored one run in the top of the first and five more in the top of the third to lead 6-0. Norton's only run came in the bottom of the fourth when Chris Davis doubled and Jordan

Durham singled him home.

One more run by the Raiders in the top of the fifth and three in the top of the sixth made the final 10-1.

Norton had six hits, one walk and five Blue Jay batters struck out. Logan Rynn was the only Norton batter with more than one hit. He was 2 for 2 at the plate.

Smith Center recorded 17 hits, six batters walked and three struck out.

Logan Keiswetter was the losing pitcher. He was relieved by Durham with one out in the top of

the sixth inning.

"Logan pitched most of the game but tonight was not his night," said Norton head coach Joe Durham. "They are a good hitting team and tonight they hit everything Logan tried.

"Some costly errors hurt our chances early in the game and we were not able to get enough runs to support Logan."

NIGHTCAP

The Blue Jays avenged the loss in the opener with an exciting come-from-behind 9-6 win in the nightcap.

Norton took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Keiswetter walked, Davis singled, Todd Zink doubled, Logan Tuxhorn and Nathan Morse both walked. Keiswetter, Davis and Zink all scored.

The visitors scored all six of their runs on six of their eight hits in the game in the top of the second to take a 6-3 lead.

The Blue Jays responded with two more runs in the bottom of the second to make it a 6-5 contest. Matt Stanley walked, Keiswetter singled, Davis doubled and

Durham singled. Stanley and Davis both crossed home plate.

Norton earned the victory with four big runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to make the final 9-6. Keiswetter and Davis both walked, Durham slammed a double, Zink and Tuxhorn both singled, Morse walked and Brian Ulmer singled. Keiswetter, Davis, Durham and Tuxhorn all scored.

The Norton bats were active in this game. The Blue Jays pounded out 10 hits, had seven walks and six struck out. Four different Norton players had two hits each. Durham and Zink were 2 for 3 and Davis and Tuxhorn were 2 for 2.

Davis was the winning pitcher. He allowed eight hits, walked just one batter and struck out eight Raiders.

"Chris pitched a complete game to win a thriller," said coach Durham. "Going into the bottom of the fourth, we knew it was make or break time. We got two runners on base with walks, then Jordan came through with a timely double into right center field to put us on top for the first time since the first inning.

"Then we got singles from Todd, Logan Tuxhorn and Brian as all nine of our players batted in the inning.

"In the top of the fifth, Chris finished with a flurry, allowing only four batters to come to the plate.

"Our team is becoming a real team, something Coach Steve Jeltz and I have preached from day one. The thing I like most about

our team right now is the improvement they have made.

"We might not win them all but we have become scrappers with a better attitude than at the beginning of the season.

"It was a beautiful night for baseball. The new scoreboard purchased with donations from Nextech, New Age and First Security Bank and Trust was turned on and everyone appreciated the complete information displayed. Mr. Don Bolt provided the public address system.

"Although he won't be able to play the rest of the season following his recent motorcycle accident, having Blake Wolf on the sidelines with us gave us a boost. Garrett Tacha was unable to play due to injury.

"He injured his arm behind the muscle in his shoulder and we won't know the extent of his injury until later."

Next action

Norton played at Stockton on Sunday evening but results were not available at press time.

The Blue Jays will host Plainville in a doubleheader on Wednesday, beginning at 6 p.m. at John Ryan Field in Elmwood Park.

"Plainville took their high school team to state competition in baseball and they are playing excellent ball right now," said coach Durham.

"They rarely make mistakes to beat themselves so we will have to continue to improve out play to have a chance to beat them."

Lady Storm 3-2 in Hill City tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Lady Storm 18 and under fast pitch girls softball team won three games in pool play before losing their final two games in the tournament played Saturday, June 30 and Sunday, July 1 in Hill City.

In their opener, they defeated WaKeeney 13-2, then outscored Hoisington 5-2 on Saturday. Norton beat the Wichita Stingers 6-2 on Sunday morning before losing 3-0 to Hutchinson and 8-1 to Garden City.

WAKEENEY

WaKeeney was the visiting team and scored one run in the top of the first inning.

The Lady Storm did not score in the bottom of the inning but tallied seven runs in the bottom of the second. Kylie Cooper singled, Lacey Roe walked, Tori Nuzum singled, Sara Favinger walked, Ashley Martinez singled, Courtney Balthazor and Kayla Foley both walked, Chantille Campbell doubled and Roe singled in her second time up in the inning. Cooper, Roe, Nuzum, Favinger, Martinez, Balthazor and Foley all scored to make it a 7-1 game.

In the top of the third, WaKeeney scored their final run.

Norton scored six more runs in the bottom of the third to win 13-2. Favinger was hit by a pitch and advanced to first and Megan Jeffery, Balthazor, Foley, Campbell and Cooper all walked

and all scored.

The Lady Storm had just three hits, 10 walks and no strike outs. Campbell, Cooper and Martinez each went 1 for 2.

Cooper was the winning pitcher. She allowed no hits, walked none and struck out two batters. Olivia Fabrizius was the losing pitcher.

"This is WaKeeney's first year as a team so they didn't have the experience of our team," said Norton team manager Darin Campbell.

"It was a pretty easy win for us."

HOISINGTON

For the second straight game, Norton's pitcher did not allow a hit. This time, the Lady Storm's hurler was a new player, Ashley Nuzum, sister of Tori. She also struck out five batters and walked just three.

Norton was the visiting team and scored one run in the top of the first when Campbell and Cooper both singled and Campbell scored.

Two more Norton runs in the top of the second extended the Lady Jays' lead to 3-0. Favinger and Ashley Nuzum both walked and both scored.

Norton added a run in the top of the third when Campbell singled and scored to make it 4-0.

Hoisington scored their only two runs in the bottom of the fourth to cut Norton's lead to 4-2 but one more Lady Jay run in the top of the seventh inning made the final 5-2. Janie Gunther walked and scored the final run.

Norton had four hits, three batters walked and five struck out. Campbell was the leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 4 at the plate.

The losing pitcher was Boxberger.

"This was a good, solid victory for our girls," said manager Campbell.

WICHITASTINGERS

Lacey Roe pitched the third straight no-hitter for the Lady Storm in their 6-2 win over Wichita. In addition to allowing no hits, she struck out five batters and walked five.

Norton scored all six of their runs in the second inning. Roe, Tori Nuzum, Favinger and Gunther all walked and Balthazor cleared the bases with a home run. Foley, Campbell and Roe followed with walks.

Roe, Nuzum, Favinger, Gunther, Balthazor and Foley all scored.

Wichita scored two runs in the third inning but it was too little, too late and Norton won their third straight game of the tournament.

Norton had just one hit in the game but 11 walks. No Norton batters struck out. Balthazor had Norton's only hit.

"Lacey pitched a fantastic game," said manager Campbell. "It's probably the best game I've ever seen her pitch.

"We were a little short of players so Megan Kats joined us and did a good job at first base."

HUTCHINSON

The 3-0 loss to Hutchinson featured some outstanding pitching and defensive play and only a few errors and walks on Norton's part made the difference.

Neither team had any hits. It was the fourth straight no-hitter for Norton pitching.

Tori Nuzum started on the mound for the Lady Storm and Kendra Mickelson relieved her.

Norton reached third base on three occasions but was unable to score. Hutchinson tallied twice in the second inning and once in the third.

Two Norton batters walked and five struck out. Eight Hutchinson batters walked and none struck out.

GARDEN CITY

In the 8-1 loss to Garden City, Norton trailed by just 3-1 after the first inning. Foley walked and Campbell singled her home for the Lady Storm's only hit in the game.

Garden City scored two more runs in the second, one in the third, one in the fourth and one in the sixth inning.

Mickelson pitched the entire game for Norton and only allowed four hits while walking six and striking out three.

Eight Norton batters walked and just two struck out.

Next action

After having last weekend off, the Lady Storm will return to action this Saturday and Sunday in a tournament in Russell.

K-18 baseball team goes 1-3 in road action

By DICK BOYD

The Norton K-18 baseball team lost a 13-3 game at Stockton on Friday, June 29 but defeated the Tigers 12-0 in the nightcap. Then, on Tuesday, July 3, the young Blue Jays traveled to Plainville, where they lost 11-1 and 14-0.

STOCKTON

In the opener, Stockton took a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Norton scored three runs in the top of the second. Robert Blecha and Andrew Otter both singled, Dakota Dreher walked, Brett Terrell doubled and Landon Keiswetter walked, Otter, Dreher and Terrell all scored to make it a 5-3 contest.

Stockton added one run in the bottom of the second to make it 6-3. The Tigers added seven more runs in the bottom of the third to make the final 13-3.

Norton had just two hits and two batters walked. Otter and Terrell were Norton's only hitters.

Troy Bainter was the losing pitcher. He gave up just two hits and walked nine batters. It was a different story in the nightcap when the Blue Jays shutout the Tigers 12-0.

Norton tallied five runs in the top of the first inning. Keiswetter walked, Bainter singled, Landon Hamel, Ryan Blecha and Otter all walked. Keiswetter, Bainter, Hamel, Blecha and Otter all scored.

The Blue Jays added three more runs in the top of the second when Keiswetter, Bainter, Hamel and Ryan Blecha all singled and Keiswetter, Bainter and Hamel crossed home plate to make it 8-0. Norton scored two more runs in

the top of the third when Terrell walked, Trey Millan singled and both tallied.

Norton's last two runs came in the top of the fourth when Hamel and Ryan Blecha both walked and both scored to make the final 12-0.

Norton had six hits and five walks. Leading hitter for the Blue Jays was Bainter, who went 2 for 3. Hamel was the winning pitcher. He allowed no Stockton hits and walked one batter.

PLAINVILLE

Norton scored their only run of the night in the top of the first inning in the opener when Bainter and Zane Perez both singled and Hamel tripled them home to give the Blue Jays an early 1-0 advantage.

Norton had only one more hit

the rest of the game and Plainville scored three runs in the bottom of the second, one in the bottom of the third and seven more in the bottom of the fourth to win 11-1.

Norton had four hits and one walk. Bainter, Perez, Hamel and Kaid McKenna each got one hit for Norton. Bainter was the losing pitcher. He gave up 11 hits and walked three batters. Dreher was the winning pitcher.

In the nightcap, Plainville scored three runs in the first inning, three in the second and eight in the third to win 14-0.

Norton had two hits and two Norton batters walked. McKenna and Bill Broeckelman each got one hit. Losing pitcher was Hamel. He gave up eight hits and walked six batters.

Phillipsburg readies for 'Biggest'

The 78th Kansas' Biggest Rodeo stampedes into Phillipsburg on Aug. 2 to Aug. 4, with hundreds of professional cowboys and cowgirls, all in the hunt for the championship gold buckle, and thousands of fans to see the action.

Rodeo spectators will converge on Phillipsburg to watch blazing hot rodeo competition between championship cowboys and cowgirls and the young gun contenders in seven rodeo events: bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie down roping, steer wrestling, team roping, women's barrel racing, and the grand finale, bull riding. Champions will be crowned in each of the events and each winner will receive a gold belt buckle and the honor of being called the 2007 Kansas' Biggest Rodeo champion.

In addition to the competition, fans will be treated to great en-

tertainment in the arena. Barrel man and rodeo clown John Harrison returns with his comic relief. Specialty act Tim "Wild Thang" Leopard makes his first trip to Phillipsburg with a team of three monkeys, dressed like cowboys, who ride three border collies.


Phillipsburg rodeo fans will see the return of their favorite personnel, too. Pro rodeo announcer Randy Corley will be at the helm; bullfighters Donnie Sparks and Greg Rumohr will protect bullriders, and Bennie Beutler and son Rhett will provide the bucking bulls and horses.

The rodeo begins each night at 8 p.m. at the arena located approximately two miles north of town on Hwy 183. Tickets are on sale at Tri-County Insurance, 785-543-2448. They are also available at the gate. For more information, go to www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com.

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- **2006 CHRYSLER 300 4 DOOR TOURING EDITION** — Silver with gray cloth bucket seats, 3.5 liter V-6, automatic overdrive, air, tilt and telescoping wheel, cruise, power seat, power sunroof, electronic stability control, all speed traction control, aluminum wheels, 15,000 miles.
- **2005 FORD TAURUS SE 4 DOOR SEDAN** — Light sage green metallic with neutral cloth bucket seats, 3.0 liter V-6, automatic overdrive, air, tilt, cruise, power seat, CD player, keyless entry, new tires, 45,000 miles.
- **2005 CHEVROLET EQUINOX 4 DOOR ALL WHEEL DRIVE** — Onyx black with light cashmere leather bucket seats, LT decor, 3400 Vortec V-6, automatic overdrive, air, tilt, cruise, power seat, heated front seat, power sunroof, power windows, locks and mirrors, stereo with 6 disc CD player, XM radio, sunscreen glass, 34,000 miles.
- **2004 DODGE DAKOTA CLUB CAB 2 WHEEL DRIVE** — Flame red with gray cloth 40/20/20 seating, 3.7 liter V-6, automatic overdrive, SLT sport plus with Stampede Edition, air, tilt, speed, power CD player, keyless entry, 39,000 miles.
- **2003 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER GT** — Black with ghost-rider decals and gray cloth bucket seats, 2.4 liter turbo engine, auto-stick-automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power seat, power sunroof, stereo with CD player, chrome wheels, new tires, 43,000 miles.
- **2006 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SE WAGON** — Linen gold metallic with khaki cloth, 7 passenger quad seating, 3.3 liter v-6, automatic overdrive, 3 zone front and rear air conditioning and heating, tilt, speed, power seat, stereo CD player, 9,000 miles.
- **2005 CHRYSLER TOWN AND COUNTRY LIMITED WAGON** — Bright silver metallic with gray leather 7 passenger Quad seating, 3800 V-6, automatic overdrive, dual control climate control with rear air conditioning and heating, heated front seats, power seats, side doors and liftgate, stereo CD player, steering wheel radio controls, GPS navigational radio, power sunroof, rear seat video system, Sirius satellite radio, sunscreen glass, 50,000 miles.
- **2005 CHRYSLER TOWN AND COUNTRY TOURING** — Stone white with gray cloth bucket seats, Quad seating, 3800 V-6, automatic overdrive, dual control climate control with rear air conditioning and heating, tilt, speed, power seat, power side doors and liftgate, stereo with CD player, steering wheel radio controls, aluminum wheels, 39,000 miles.
- **2002 DODGE RAM QUAD CAB SHORT BOX 2 WHEEL DRIVE** — Flame red with 40/20/40 seating, SLT decor, 4.7 V-8, automatic overdrive air, tilt, cruise, power seat, CD player, 20" chrome wheels, keyless entry, 33,000 miles.

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