

Unhappy Legion wins big



Landon Hamel was a hitting pitcher for the Norton K-18 baseball team during their 12-4 win over Phillipsburg at John Ryan Field in Norton on July 6. In addition to being the winning pitcher for the young Blue Jays, Hamel went 2 for 3 batting. He smashed a ground single past the shortstop in this photo. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
The Stockton American Legion baseball team found out on Sunday evening how hard it is to beat an unhappy Norton nine when they hosted the Blue Jays for a doubleheader.

After Norton was forced by the umpire to forfeit the opener after two innings, the fired up Blue Jays pounded the ball for a season-high 19 hits and a very impressive 10-2 victory.

OPENER
Norton scored two runs in the top of the first inning when Logan Keiswetter singled and Chris Davis doubled him home.

Post-Fourth of July fireworks started in the bottom of the first when one Stockton player scored and a second runner appeared to Norton players and coaches to be out at home but the umpire called him safe.

"I have never seen anything like this," said Norton head coach Joe Durham.

"It was a close play at home plate and the runner was out but the umpire called the runner safe. Our catcher, Jordan Durham, said, 'Oh my God' and the umpire threw him out. Coach Steve Jeltz, who played in the major leagues for 10 years, was beside himself and asked the umpire why he had thrown Durham out. Before coach Jeltz had a chance to state his case, the umpire had thrown him out. Before I could get out onto the field to get Steve, the umpire had for-

feited the game to Stockton. "Our players were a little upset but team captain Chris Davis did a good job of keeping our players focused. I give the Stockton players and coaches credit as they didn't say a thing. Their recreation commissioner was present and got things under control so that we could play the second game.

"Our players never lost their cool and didn't say a word. It was an unfortunate incident that should never have happened but, hopefully, our players learned a valuable lesson. The sad part about the whole thing was that both teams wanted to play. The game was shaping up to be a good game."

NIGHTCAP
In the top of the first, Norton's first three hitters earned hits. Aaron Daniels singled, Keiswetter singled and Davis doubled. Keiswetter was the only one to score but the Blue Jays had made a statement. Keiswetter was on the mound for Norton and he set the Tigers down one, two, three with two strike outs.

In the bottom of the second stanza, Stockton tied the score at 1-all by getting two hits and two walks. The Blue Jays took a 2-1 lead in the top of the third when the top of the order came up again and Daniels singled and Keiswetter doubled him home.

Three more Norton runs in the top of the fourth made it 5-1. Garrett Tacha doubled, Todd Zink

tripled and Nathan Morse followed with another triple. Tacha, Zink and Morse all scored.

In the bottom of the fourth, Keiswetter and company blanked Stockton for the second straight inning.

The visiting Blue Jays added three more runs to their total with five hits in the top of the fifth. Keiswetter stayed perfect at the plate with a single and Davis, Durham, Logan Tuxhorn and Zink also singled. Keiswetter, Davis and Durham all crossed home plate. Stockton scored their final run in the bottom of the fifth.

The Blue Jays weren't through yet. They added two more runs in the top of the sixth when Daniels and Keiswetter both singled, Davis doubled for the second time in the contest and Durham singled. Daniels and Keiswetter both scored.

Stockton was three up, three down in the bottom of the sixth to make the final 10-2 in favor of the Blue Jays.

Coaches always like hitting pitchers. In addition to pitching an outstanding game, Keiswetter was perfect at the plate, going 4 for 4 with the bat. Daniels and Davis were right behind him, both going 3 for 4. Zink was 2 for 3 and Durham was 2 for 4.

Norton had no walks and six batters struck out.

Keiswetter gave up just seven hits, walked four and struck out nine Tigers.

Panthers pin three losses on K-18, there and at home

Double-header loss a road tragedy

By DICK BOYD
The Norton K-18 baseball team lost a double-header to Phillipsburg by scores of 16-5 and 15-8 on Thursday in Phillipsburg, then returned to Norton to defeat the Panthers 12-4 before losing the nightcap 8-2 on Friday.

Opener at Phillipsburg
Phillipsburg took a 7-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Norton scored four runs in the top of the second to make it 7-4.

Dakota Dreher walked, Andrew Otter, Luke Ninemire and Landon Keiswetter all singled and Dreher, Otter, Ninemire and Keiswetter all scored.

One more run by Phillipsburg in the bottom of the second made it 8-4.

Norton added another run in the top of the third when Ryan Blecha and Trey Millan both singled and Blecha tallied.

Phillipsburg extended their lead to 11-5 with three more runs in the bottom of the third and added five more in the bottom of the fourth to make the final 16-5.

Norton had seven hits in the game. Leading hitter for the young Blue Jays was Ninemire, who went 2 for 2. Three Norton batters walked and just two struck out.

Losing pitcher was Bainter. He gave up eight hits and walked 12 batters.

Nightcap at Phillipsburg
Norton took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Keiswetter walked, Kaid McKenna singled, Brett Terrell walked, Andrew Otter singled and Trey Millan walked. Keiswetter, McKenna and Terrell all scored.

Phillipsburg tallied twice in the bottom of the first to make it 3-2 in favor of the visitors.

Four more Norton runs in the top of the second extended the young

Blue Jays' lead to 7-2. Billy Broeckelman and Robert Blecha both walked, Keiswetter singled, Bainter, McKenna, Terrell and Otter all walked. Broeckelman, Blecha, Bainter and McKenna all scored.

The young Panthers responded with 12 runs in the bottom of the second to take over the lead.

Each team added a run in the fourth inning to make the final 15-8. Norton's last run came when Ryan Blecha singled and Millan doubled him home.

Norton had seven hits, nine batters walked and none struck out. Leading hitter for the young Blue Jays was Keiswetter, who went 2 for 3.

Trey Millan started on the mound for Norton and he was followed by Keiswetter, McKenna and Dreher. Keiswetter was the loser. Phillipsburg had six hits and 12 batters walked.

Opener in Norton
The Blue Jays gained a measure of revenge when they defeated Phillipsburg 12-4 in the opener the next night at John Ryan Field in Norton.

Norton tallied five runs in the bottom of the first inning. Keiswetter and Zane Perez both walked, Landon Hamel singled, Ryan Blecha walked and McKenna, Otter and Terrell all singled. Keiswetter, Perez, Hamel, Blecha and McKenna all scored.

The Panthers failed to tally in the top of the second and Norton added five more runs to their lead to make it 10-0. Keiswetter doubled, Bainter and Perez both singled, Hamel got on base via an error, Ryan Blecha doubled and Otter singled. Keiswetter, Bainter, Perez, Hamel and Blecha scored.

The visitors scored one run in

the top of the third and Norton matched it in the bottom of the stanza when Perez, Hamel and Ryan Blecha all singled and Perez scored to make it 11-1.

Three Phillipsburg runs in the top of the fourth made it an 11-4 contest. Norton added one more run in the bottom of the fourth when McKenna singled, Terrell walked and McKenna tallied to make the final 12-4.

The young Blue Jays had 13 hits, four walks and just two strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Perez and Ryan Blecha, both 2 for 2 and Hamel, McKenna and Otter, all 2 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Hamel. He gave up seven hits, walked four and struck out four.

Nightcap in Norton
Phillipsburg scored twice in the top of the first inning but Norton tied the score at 2-all in the bottom of the inning when Keiswetter singled, Bainter doubled and both scored.

Phillipsburg took the lead for good with four runs in the top of the second to make it 6-2. Norton was three up, three down the rest of the game. The visitors added two more runs in the top of the fifth to make the final 8-2.

Norton had just three hits, three batters walked and three struck out. Keiswetter was 2 for 2 at the plate and Bainter was 1 for 2.

Perez started on the mound for Norton and Hamel relieved him. Phillipsburg had just four hits, six batters walked and six struck out.

Norton defeated Hill City in a doubleheader Tuesday evening at Hill City. The Blue Jays will play Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Sub-Regionals in Ellis. Their first game will be tonight at 8 p.m., when they will play La Crosse.

K-18 wrecks Hill City 25-8, 19-4

By DICK BOYD
The Norton K-18 baseball team defeated Hill City 25-8 and 19-4 in a double-header played Tuesday in Hill City.

OPENER
Norton scored four runs in the top of the first inning. Zane Perez walked to start the game, Troy Bainter, Landon Hamel, Ryan Blecha all singled and Kaid McKenna doubled. Perez, Bainter, Hamel and Blecha all scored.

In the top of the second, the young Blue Jays tallied three more times. Spencer Shirk singled, Perez and Bainter both walked, Hamel singled and Ryan Blecha walked. Shirk, Perez and Hamel all scored to make it 7-0.

Hill City scored their first run in the bottom of the second.

Norton added six more runs in the top of the third. Andrew Otter singled, Brett Terrell walked, Perez walked, Bainter, Keiswetter and Hamel all singled and Ryan Blecha doubled. Otter, Terrell, Perez, Bainter, Keiswetter and Hamel all tallied.

Hill City tallied three times in the bottom of the third to cut Norton's lead to 13-4.

The young Blue Jays scored four more runs in the top of the fourth inning.

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

Hill City scored four runs in the bottom of the inning to make it a 17-8 contest.

Norton added eight more runs in the top of the fifth and held Hill City scoreless in the bottom of the inning to make the final score 25-8. Terrell singled, Robert Blecha walked, Perez singled, Bainter doubled, Hamel walked, Ryan Blecha and Bill Broeckelman singled. Terrell singled for the second time in the inning, Robert Blecha singled and Perez walked.

Robert Blecha, Perez, Bainter, Hamel, Ryan Blecha and Broeckelman all scored once and Terrell tallied twice in the inning. Norton had 22 hits in the game, 12 Blue Jay batters walked and none struck out.

Leading hitters for Norton were: Ryan Blecha, 4 for 4; Bainter, 3 for 3; Hamel, 3 for 3; Terrell, 3 for 4; Perez, 2 for 2; Shirk, 2 for 3.

Bainter pitched two innings and was the winning pitcher. Shirk, McKenna and Dakota Dreher each pitched one inning. Hill City had five hits and nine walks.

NIGHTCAP
Norton wrapped up the second game of the evening pretty easily, scoring three runs in the first, seven in the second, three in the third and six more in the fourth inning to win 19-4.

In the top of the first stanza, Keiswetter walked, Hamel, Ryan Blecha and McKenna all singled and Keiswetter, Hamel and Blecha scored.

Norton added seven big runs in the second inning. Brett Terrell, Perez, Bainter and Keiswetter all walked, Hamel singled, Ryan Blecha, McKenna and Otter all walked, Terrell came up to the plate for the second time in the inning and was hit by a pitch and Perez walked for the second time

in the inning. Terrell, Perez, Bainter, Keiswetter, Hamel, Blecha and McKenna all scored.

Hill City scored one run in the bottom of the second inning to make it 10-1.

In the top of the third, Norton tallied three more runs. Keiswetter singled, Hamel walked, Ryan Blecha singled and Spencer Shirk walked. Keiswetter, Hamel and Blecha all scored.

After Hill City scored three runs in the bottom of the third, it was 13-4.

The young Blue Jays' final six runs came in the top of the fourth. Perez and Bainter walked, Keiswetter singled, Ryan Blecha doubled, McKenna walked, Otter singled, Shirk, Luke Ninemire and Perez all walked. Perez, Bainter, Keiswetter, McKenna, Otter and Shirk all scored to make the final 19-4.

Norton had nine hits and 19 walks and no Blue Jay batters struck out.

Leading hitters for Norton were: Blecha, 3 for 3; Keiswetter, 2 for 2 and Hamel, 2 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Hamel, who pitched the first two innings. Perez relieved him and hurled the final two innings.

Hill City collected three hits and four walks.

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