



The Lady Storm's third baseman Kylie Cooper took an accurate throw from centerfielder Chantille Campbell to tag out a Hoisington runner during Norton's 8-2 win on Saturday in the Russell Tournament. — Courtesy photo

Lady Storm 2-2 in Russell Tournery

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Lady Storm 18-and-under softball team compiled a 2-2 record in the Russell Tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

They defeated Sylvan Grove 6-4 and Hoisington 8-2 on Saturday, then played two outstanding teams on Sunday and lost 4-3 to Abilene and 7-6 to McPherson.

"We played very well in this tournament," said Norton manager Darin Campbell. "This was a good warmup for our state tournament."

"We were missing some key personnel and still played Abilene and McPherson tough. Both of these teams play high school softball and both finished in the top five in the state tournaments last spring in their enrollment classes."

"We competed very well. I'm proud of our players and the way they are playing. We're happy that we will have our entire team for the state tournament."

SYLVAN GROVE

Norton jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Courtney Balthazor walked, Kayla Foley hit safely, Chantille Campbell and Kylie Cooper both got on base via errors and Janie Gunther walked. Balthazor, Foley, Campbell, Cooper and Gunther all crossed home plate.

Sylvan Grove tallied three times in the top of the second to make it 5-3.

The Lady Storm's final run was scored in the bottom of the fourth inning when Sara Favinger singled and scored. One last run by Sylvan Grove in the top of the fifth made the final 6-4.

Norton had just two hits in the game. Foley was 1 for 3 and Favinger was 1 for 2. Four Norton batters walked and three struck out. Hiltler was the losing pitcher.

Winning pitcher was Kelsey Normandin. She allowed just four hits, walked three and struck out

five batters.

HOISINGTON

The Lady Storm wasted no time jumping out to a lead against Hoisington. They tallied four runs in the top of the first inning. Balthazor, Foley and Campbell all hit safely, Cooper walked and all four tallied.

Another Norton run in the top of the third stanza made it 5-0. Foley was hit by a pitch and walked, Campbell and Cooper both walked and Campbell scored.

Hoisington scored their only two runs in the bottom of the third.

The Lady Storm made the final score 8-2 by tallying three more times in the top of the fourth. Gunther walked, Normandin got on base via an error, Balthazor and Foley both hit safely and Campbell walked. Normandin, Balthazor and Foley all crossed home plate.

Norton had five hits, six Lady Jays walked and three struck out.



Courtney Balthazor stole home for the Lady Storm after the ball got away from the Hoisington catcher and she threw it to the Hoisington pitcher who tried to cover home plate but to no avail. The play occurred during Norton's 8-2 win over Hoisington on Saturday in the Russell Tournament. — Courtesy photo

Leading hitters for the Lady Storm were Foley, 2 for 2 and Balthazor, 2 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Kendra Mickelson. She gave up six hits, walked four and struck out one batter.

ABILENE

Abilene took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning on one hit and two Lady Storm errors and added another run in the bottom of the fourth on one error and no hits.

The Lady Storm's three runs came in the top of the fifth to tie the score at 3-3. Ashley Martinez, Balthazor, Foley and Campbell all hit safely and Martinez, Balthazor and Foley all scored.

Abilene made the final 4-3 with a run in the bottom of the fifth on only their second and third hits of the game.

Norton had seven hits in the contest. Leading hitter for the Lady

Storm was Campbell, who was 3 for 3. Balthazor went 2 for 3 at the plate. Norton had no walks and six Lady Storm players struck out.

Losing pitcher was Normandin. She gave up just three hits, walked three and struck out four batters.

MCPHERSON

The Lady Storm jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the second inning against McPherson. Cooper, Lacey Roe, Favinger, Normandin and Balthazor all hit safely. Cooper, Roe, Favinger and Normandin all crossed homeplate.

McPherson got one run on two hits in the bottom of the second to cut the Lady Storm lead to 4-1.

Norton made it 5-1 with one tally in the top of the third when Cooper got on base with a hit and scored.

McPherson narrowed the Lady Storm lead to 5-3 with two runs in the bottom of the third and tied the

score at 5-3 with two more tallies on four hits in the bottom of the fourth.

Neither team was able to score in the fifth inning.

The Lady Storm took a 6-5 lead in the top of the sixth when Roe hit safely and tallied.

McPherson rallied for the win in the bottom of the sixth when they scored two runs on two hits to make the final 7-6.

Norton had eight hits, no walks and five Lady Storm batters struck out. Cooper went 2 for 2, Favinger was 2 for 3 and Roe was 2 for 4 with the bat.

Normandin was the losing pitcher. She gave up 11 hits, walked four and struck out four batters.

Next action

Norton will compete in the Class C State Tournament on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Emporia.

K-18 ends season at sub-regionals

By DICK BOYD

The 2007 season ended over the weekend for the Norton K-18 baseball team with a 2-2 record in the Sub-Regional Tournament in Ellis.

Norton outscored La Crosse 8-6 on Friday evening, then lost 15-5 to Ellis, defeated Ness City 15-3 and lost 6-5 to Russell on Saturday.

LA CROSSE

Norton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Troy Bainter walked and Landon Hamel brought him home with a hit and also scored.

La Crosse ran across one run in the top of the second and four in the top of the third to take a 5-2 lead.

One more La Crosse run in the top of the fourth made it 6-2 but the young Blue Jays rallied for an 8-6 win with five big runs in the bottom of the fourth and one in the bottom of the fifth.

Hamel started the offensive fireworks with a triple. Ryan Blecha, Spencer Shirk and Kaid McKenna followed with singles, Andrew Otter got on base via an error, Brett Terrell hit safely, Perez walked and Bainter singled. Hamel, Shirk, Otter, Terrell and Perez all scored.

Ryan Blecha singled and scored in the fifth inning.

Norton had eight hits, four walks and no strike outs. Leading hitters were Hamel and Ryan Blecha, both 2 for 3.

Bainter started on the mound for Norton and pitched the first four innings. He was relieved by McKenna, who pitched the fourth inning and got the save. Hamel relieved McKenna in the fifth inning.

La Crosse had three hits, 10 walks and no strike outs.

ELLIS

The game versus Ellis was 2-2 after the first inning. Ellis scored first, then Norton tallied in the bottom of the inning when Perez got on base via an error, Bainter singled, Landon Keiswetter walked and Ryan Blecha singled. Perez and Bainter both scored.

The young Railroaders added four more runs in the top of the second and four in the top of the fourth to take a 10-2 lead. Norton scored one run in the bottom of the fourth when Perez and Bainter both walked and scored.

Five more Ellis runs in the top of the fifth made it 15-3. Norton could manage just two more runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Keiswetter, Ryan Blecha, Trey Millan and Terrell all walked and Bainter singled and Keiswetter and Blecha scored to make the final 15-5.

Norton had four hits, 10 walks and seven struck out. Leading hitter for Norton was Bainter, who went 2 for 2.

Hamel was the losing pitcher. He gave up seven hits, walked 10 and struck out five batters.

NESS CITY

Norton had a big top of the first inning against Ness City, tallying nine runs on eight hits. Hamel got things started with a single, Shirk followed with a single, Keiswetter walked, Ryan Blecha got on base via a felder's choice, McKenna and Terrell blasted doubles, Luke Ninemire singled and Hamel singled for the second time in the inning. Bainter walked, Shirk singled for the second time and Perez singled.

Shirk, Keiswetter, Ryan Blecha, McKenna, Terrell, Ninemire and Bainter each scored once and Hamel tallied twice.

It was 9-1 after Ness City scored once in the bottom of the first.

The young Blue Jays ran three more runs across home plate in the top of the second. McKenna doubled, Bill Broeckelman singled and Hamel doubled. McKenna, Broeckelman and Hamel all scored to extend the Norton lead to 12-1.

Ness City tallied twice in the bottom of the second to make it 12-3.

There were no runs in the third inning. Norton tacked on three more in the top of the fourth when McKenna singled, Terrell got on base via an error, Broeckelman singled and Hamel doubled and McKenna, Terrell and Broeckelman all scored to make the final 15-3.

Norton bats were really active in this contest as the young Blue Jays pounded out 16 hits, had two walks and four struck out. Hamel was leading hitter, going 4 for 4. McKenna was 3 for 3, Perez went 2 for 3 and Shirk and Broeckelman were 2 for 2.

McKenna, Bainter, Perez and Shirk shared pitching duties for Norton. They all pitched well, allowing only three hits, walking seven and striking out four batters.

RUSSELL

The loss to Russell was a tough one. The young Blue Jays trailed

5-3 after the first inning and 5-4 after the second stanza. The third and fourth innings were scoreless and Norton tied the score at 5-5 in the top of the fifth but Ellis scored once in the bottom of the inning to win 6-5. Norton was unable to score in the top of the sixth.

In the top of the first, Hamel singled, Bainter walked, Perez singled and Keiswetter got on base via an error. Hamel, Bainter and Perez all scored. Norton's second inning score came after Terrell walked and Hamel singled him home.

Norton's fifth inning tally came after Shirk doubled, Perez got on base via an error and Shirk scored.

Norton had four hits, three walks and 10 Blue Jays struck out. Winning pitcher was Buehler.

Hamel was the losing pitcher. He gave up six hits, walked six and struck out nine batters.

Coaches this year for the Norton K-18 baseball team were Ward Foley, Lamont Shirk and Rudy Perez.



Lacey Roe hit a solid single up the middle during the Lady Storm's 8-2 victory over Hoisington on Saturday in the Russell Tournament. — Courtesy photo

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