

# Railroaders nip 'Jays

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team rallied in the second half but still fell short of a Mid-Continent League win on Friday night in Ellis, losing 13-12 to the Railroaders.

Norton trailed 13-6 at half-time and neither team was able to put points on the board in the second half until Norton scored with no time left in the game on a 4 yard run by senior tailback Todd Bolt. A pass for two possible extra points to win the game for the Blue Jays fell incomplete and Ellis prevailed.

Melvin had warned that Ellis always plays tough at home and they proved it by coming out in the first half and dominating the visiting Jays. The Railroaders took a 7-0 lead with 2:58 left in the first half with a 19 yard touchdown pass in the corner of the end zone from junior quarterback Chase King to sophomore running back Dillon Kinderknecht. Senior kicker Daniel Gottschalk kicked the extra point.

Leading up to the touchdown, Ellis picked up a first down on the Norton 25 on a 41-yard run by sophomore running back Gideon Fuchs. All-Mid-Continent League senior running back Justin Gnad got the Railroaders another first down with two carries to the 14. The Norton defense stiffened and, after losing 5 yards to the 19 on three downs, the Railroaders went to the air on fourth down to score their first touchdown.

On the Railroaders' previous possession, Norton senior defensive back Todd Bolt intercepted an Ellis pass and returned the ball to the Railroader 49. On second down, Blue Jay senior quarterback Logan Kats connected with senior wide receiver Wes Georgeson for an apparent 49 yard touchdown but it was called back due to pass interference. The 15 yard penalty

ended Norton's chances of scoring and they punted to the Ellis 20, where the Railroaders started their touchdown drive.

On their next possession, Ellis moved 70 yards in 8 plays to score their second touchdown. Gnad broke two tackles to score from 13 yards out on third down. A bad center snap prevented an extra point kick and Ellis led 13-0 with 8:55 left in the half.

Norton's Terrell Lane got the Blue Jays back in the game when he took the ensuing kickoff at the goalline, followed his blockers, broke into the open and sprinted 100 yards to the end zone! Kyle Edgett's extra point kick was blocked, making it 13-6 with 8:35 remaining.

Norton appeared to be on their way to scoring again before half but the Blue Jays ran out of downs on the Ellis 10-yard line. Norton defensive back Travis Ray stopped another possible Ellis scoring drive when he intercepted a pass and returned it to the Norton 45 as time ran out.

Lane received a concussion before the end of the half and was unable to play in the second half.

The third quarter was a defensive struggle. Norton recorded only two first downs while the Blue Jay defense did not allow a Railroader first-and-ten, leaving the score at 13-6 entering the crucial fourth quarter.

To start the final period, Norton had the ball on their 14 after an Ellis punt. The Blue Jay offense put together a drive with three first downs to the Railroader 22 where the Ellis defense stiffened and took over possession.

Ellis then put together their final drive of the game, earning their only two first downs of the second half as they moved into Norton territory. Ellis reached the Norton 21 but the fired up Blue Jay defense, who wanted the ball back, drove them back to the 35 and took over the ball.

The Blue Jays then proceeded to march 65 yards down the field in 14 plays to score their final touchdown with no time remaining. Bolt ran hard and ate up most of the yardage as he carried the ball 7 times on the drive. Kats also contributed with a 24 yard keeper.

"You have to come out and play hard right away. Ellis played a lot more aggressive in the first half. They attacked us instead of us attacking them," said Melvin.

"We need to get a lot tougher mentally and physically.

"The second half, we played hard and had some drives but didn't finish them until the last drive. We were still doing some things wrong in the second half but at least we were doing them at full speed.

"Todd Bolt played an outstanding offensive and defensive game for us. Travis Ray also had a good game."

Team statistics were very close in the game. Norton had 239 total yards of offense and Ellis recorded 229 yards. The Blue Jays had 13 first downs and the Railroaders compiled 12 first-and-tens.

Bolt was leading rusher for Norton with 89 yards on 20 carries for a 4.5 yards per carry average. Other rushers for Norton were: Kats, 7 for 30; Lane, 3 for 3 and Matt Stanley, 2 for 0.

Kats completed 8 of 19 passes for 116 yards. Georgeson was leading receiver again, pulling in 4 for 65. He was followed by Ray, 2 for 40; Stanley, 1 for 10; J.D. Gall, 1 for 1.

Bolt and Ray each had one pass interception.

Gnad was leading rusher for Ellis with 120 yards on 22 carries for a 5.5 yard average. Gideon Fuchs gained 63 yards on 10 tries for a 6.3 yard average.

Leading tackler for Norton was Zac Dreher with 6 solos, 4 assists for 10 total. Terrell Lane had 6 solos, 2 assists for 8 total during the first half. They were followed by



Norton senior tailback Todd Bolt followed his blockers, senior wide receiver Travis Ray (#22) and junior tackle Nish Millan (#51) into the end zone for the Blue Jays' final touchdown with no time left in their 13-12 loss at Ellis Friday night. Unfortunately for Norton, a pass for extra points fell incomplete and the Jays lost for the second time this season.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Brock Lauer, 6; Logan Kats, Travis Ray, Matt Stanley, 5 each; Todd Bolt, Zane Perez, John Van Doren, 4 each; Jared Cox, Preston Herman, 3 each; Tyler Cook, Ashton Draper, J.D. Gall, Zach Mannel, 1 each.

Starting for Norton on offense were: John Van Doren, Nish Millan, tackles; Kyle Edgett, Brock Lauer, guards; Preston Herman, center; Jared Cox, tight end; Wes Georgeson, Travis Ray, wide receivers; Logan Kats, quarterback; Todd Bolt, tailback; Terrell Lane, fullback.

Blue Jay defensive starters were: Alex Thomas, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Matt Stanley, Zac Dreher, Lane, linebackers; Kats, Bolt, Ray, Zane

Perez, defensive backs.

### Next action

Norton is now 3-2 for the season and will host 1-4 Stockton in the Blue Jays' Homecoming contest on Friday night at Travis Field.

Kickoff will be at 7 p.m. Stockton defeated Osborne in their season opener and has since lost to Franklin, Neb., Trego, Phillipsburg and Smith Center. They return their entire offensive backfield from last season. They are seniors quarterback Stephen Bellerive, tailback Nathan Palmer and fullback J.D. Palmer. Junior Ethan Kriley, 6'4", 220, and sophomore Scott Voss, 6'3", 200, provide size on the offensive line and at defensive end and line-backer.

First year head coach Tom Fischer has the Tigers running offensively from the I-formation and playing a 3-5-3 base defense.

Two skilled players received All-Mid-Continent League recognition at the end of last season. Nathan Palmer was named second team punter and junior Ethan Kriley was honorable mention as a kicker.

### GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Ellis
13 First Downs	12
122 Rushing Yards	155
116 Passing Yards	74
239 Total Yards	229
0-1 Fumbles Lost	0-2
5-28 Punts	4-38.4
1-15 Penalties	5-33

# Play-by-play: 2-point conversion fails as time runs out

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
The play-by-play account of the Norton-Ellis football game follows.

### First quarter

Terrell Lane kicked off for Norton and Daniel Gottschalk made a good return to the Ellis 45 where Lane tackled him. Gideon Fuchs gained 9, Justin Gnad got nothing and Fuchs was stopped by a host of Norton defenders for no gain. On fourth down, Gnad gained a first down on the Norton 42.

Lane and Logan Kats stopped Fuchs for no gain, then Todd Bolt intercepted a Chase King pass and returned the ball to the Ellis 49. Lane gained nothing, then Kats threw an apparent touchdown pass to wide receiver Wes Georgeson. The ball came back, however, and Norton was penalized 15 yards for pass interference. Lane gained nothing and Bolt punted to the Ellis 30.

Gnad fumbled on first down after making 2 yards but the official said the ball had been blown dead. Gnad made 2 more yards before Zac Dreher tackled him. On third down, Fuchs broke two tackles and was finally stopped on the Norton 25. After an incomplete pass, Bolt tackled Gnad after 3 but he got a first down on the 14. Lane and Ray tackled Gnad for no gain. Gottschalk got the ball on a reverse and lost yardage to the 19. After one incomplete pass, quarterback Chase King connected with Dillon Kinderknecht in the corner of the end zone for a touchdown. Gottschalk kicked the extra point and Ellis led 7-0 with 2:58 left.

Ellis got a good kickoff and Lane was stopped on the Norton 5 yard line. Bolt ran around left end for a first down on the 32. Kats fumbled the snap from center and lost 1. Bolt lost 1, a pass was incomplete and Bolt punted.

Dillon Kinderknecht returned the ball to the Ellis 30. After an incomplete pass, Fuchs gained 4

before Preston Herman and Dreher tackled him. King passed to Fuchs for a first down on the Norton 48 as the quarter ended with Norton trailing 7-0.

### Second quarter

Dreher tackled Gnad after 2 but, the next down, he ran to the Norton 34 for a first down. A flat pass from King to Dylan Pfeifer got a first down on the Norton 17. Lane stopped Gnad for no gain, then tackled Fuchs after 4. Gnad broke two tackles and went in for a touchdown. A bad snap on the extra point prevented a kick and Ellis had extended their lead to 13-0 with 8:55 left.

Lane took the ensuing kickoff at the goalline and returned it 100 yards for a Norton touchdown! Kyle Edgett's kick for extra point was blocked, leaving the score at 13-6 with 8:35 left.

J.D. Gall kicked off for Norton and Ellis took over on their 44. King fumbled but recovered back on the 37. Ellis was offside and lost 5 more yards. King completed a 12 yard pass to Gottschalk on the Ellis 44 and Bolt made the tackle. Lane and Zach Mannel sacked King for a 4 yard loss and Ellis punted to the Norton 25 where Bolt made a fair catch.

Bolt made a tough run, breaking two tackles for a 7 yard gain. Logan Kats threw a flat pass to Wes Georgeson, who reversed field and was finally tackled on the Ellis 40. Matt Stanley was stopped for no gain but Kats made a great fake on second down, kept the ball himself and ran for a first down on the 17. The next down, however, Kats was sacked back on the 33. A pass was incomplete, then Kats connected with Georgeson to the 12. On fourth down, Lane ran to the 10 but it wasn't enough for a first down and Ellis took over.

Gnad ran for a first down on the Ellis 28 where he was tackled by Kats. Stanley, Preston Herman and Lane stopped Fuchs after 5 but Gnad ran for a first down on the Ellis 48. A long pass by King just

missed making a touchdown connection with his intended receiver. The next down, King went to the air again but Travis Ray intercepted and returned the ball 18 yards to the Norton 45 as the clock ran out in the first half with the Blue Jays trailing 13-6.

### Third quarter

The Railroaders had the wind at their backs to start the second half and kicked into the end zone. Norton started on their 20. Bolt got nothing but a face mask penalty against Ellis moved the ball to the 35. Bolt broke one tackle and ran to the 43. Stanley gained 2 and Ellis lost 5 for being offside. Bolt lost 5 and then made nothing. A flat pass from Kats to J.D. Gall gained 3 but Bolt had to punt.

The ball went out of bounds on the Ellis 38. Stanley tackled Gnad after 5, Ray dropped Gnad after 2, then tackled him again for just a 1 yard gain. Ellis punted out of bounds on the Norton 25.

Kats' flat pass to Stanley was good for 4, then Bolt churned to the 36 for a first down. After an incomplete pass, a loss by Bolt back to the 32 and another incomplete pass, Bolt punted into the wind. The ball was downed on the Norton 45.

Herman came roaring through the Ellis defense to sack King back on the Ellis 48, then Stanley and Dreher stopped Gnad for no gain. John Van Doren, Dreher and Brock Lauer tackled Fuchs for a 4 yard loss. Taking advantage of the wind, Ellis punted out of bounds on the Norton 16. Kats ran a keeper for 2, passed incomplete, then connected with Georgeson to the 23. Bolt punted and the ball was downed on the Ellis 46.

Van Dorn tackled Gnad for a 1 yard loss. After an incomplete pass, Fuchs tried a sweep but Dreher and Herman dropped him for a loss on the 44. Ellis punted again and Bolt returned the ball to the Norton 14 as the quarter ended with the score remaining at 13-6.

### Fourth quarter

A Kats pass was incomplete but Bolt powered up the middle to the 19. Kats connected with Ray on a flat pass and he sprinted to the Ellis 45 for a first down. In two carries, Bolt got a first down on the 33. A flat pass to Stanley gained 10 yards to the 23 for another first down. Kats ran the keeper for 1 but Bolt got nothing. Two incomplete passes later, Ellis took over possession.

Stanley stopped Fuchs for no gain but Fuchs gained 4. King passed to Gottschalk for a first down on the 35. Ray and Dreher stopped Gnad for no gain. He fumbled when hit and Norton fell on the ball but the official ruled that he had already blown his whistle before the fumble and Ellis retained possession. King ran a keeper for 5, then Gnad broke loose up the middle and was not tackled until he reached the Norton 21. Ellis fumbled and recovered for a 1 yard loss. King was sacked on the 24 by Ashton Draper

and Herman. Ellis was offside and lost 5 more yards. Stanley broke up a King pass, then Tyler Cook sacked King back on the 35 and Norton regained possession.

After an incomplete pass, Kats connected with Georgeson in the flat for a 1 yard gain to the 36. Kats ran a keeper to the Ellis 40 for a Blue Jay first down. Bolt got a good block from Ray and ran for another first down on the 30. Bolt gained 8 yards on 2 carries but Kats got nothing on a keeper. On fourth down, Bolt blasted to the 18

for a big first down. Next, Bolt drove for 9 more yards, then ran to the 8 for another first down. After two incomplete Kats passes, Ellis was called for pass interference and the ball was moved half the distance to the goal to the 4. Bolt got the call again and followed blocks by Nish Millan and Ray as he churned into the end zone to score with no time left on the clock! A pass into the end zone for a possible two points to win the game was no good and the Jays lost 13-12

## ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL

FEE: \$70.00 Per Team  
PLAY BEGINS  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4**  
Teams Are Forming Now  
Get Your Entry Forms at the  
**Norton Recreation Center**  
Entries Due October 20  
Questions? Contact Joan Bolt at 877-2122  
or the Recreation Center at 785-877-3087

## High School Sports This Week



Norton  
Blue Jays



Northern Valley  
Huskies



Logan  
Trojans

**FOOTBALL:**  
Norton Blue Jays vs. Stockton (Homecoming) ..... 7 p.m.  
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Stockton ..... 6:30 p.m. Monday in Stockton  
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Weskan ..... 3:30 p.m. Friday in Weskan  
Logan Trojans vs. Palco ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Palco

**VOLLEYBALL:**  
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Trego and Smith Center ..... 5 p.m. Today in WaKeeney  
Norton Lady Jays in Scott City Tournament ..... 9 a.m. Saturday in Scott City  
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Logan and Golden Plains ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Golden Plains/Triplains ..... 4 p.m. Today in Rexford  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Hill City Tournament .... 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Hill City  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton, Western Plains, Eastern Heights ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Stockton  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Eastern Heights and Kensington ..... 4 p.m. Today in Agra  
Logan Lady Trojans in Cougar Invitational ..... 9 a.m. Saturday in Mankato  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Golden Plains and Norton ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

**CROSS COUNTRY:**  
Norton Cross Country in Mid-Continent League Meet ..... 4:30 p.m. Thurs. in Phillipsburg  
Northern Valley Cross Country in Phillipsburg Invitational ..... 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg  
Northern Valley Cross Country in Riley County Invitational ..... 10 a.m. Sat. in Leonardville

**TENNIS:** Lady Jays Varsity in Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament ..... 10 a.m. Thursday in WaKeeney

Support your teams, at home, away