

# Jays jolt Stockton 49-14

By DICK BOYD

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The final 11-man football game between Stockton and Norton on Friday night at Travis Field was a dominating one for the Blue Jays, who won the Mid-Continent League contest by a 49-14 score.

Due to smaller numbers of students, Stockton will begin playing 8-man football in 2008.

Norton, who lost 13-12 at Ellis the week before, arrived at their Homecoming game in a bad mood and the Tigers had to pay. Norton had the ball seven times in the first half and the Blue Jays scored on every possession. Stockton, who fumbled the ball away twice and threw two pass interceptions, recorded just two first downs and 11 yards rushing in the first half.

Senior defensive back, tailback Todd Bolt had both pass interceptions and also ran for touchdowns of 55, 15 and 3 yards. Senior quarterback Logan Kats plunged 1 yard for one touchdown and passed 20 yards to senior wide receiver Wes Georgeson for another. Sophomore tailback Zane Perez ran 27 yards for another Blue Jay score and 235 pound senior tackle Zach Mannel hammered into the end zone from 3 yards out for Norton's other touchdown as the Blue Jays led 49-0 at intermission.

The 40 point lead rule started the continuous scoreboard clock with 8:31 left in the first half.

The Norton reserves played the entire second half, allowing two Stockton touchdowns to make the final 49-14.

"We played hard from the opening whistle and executed well on both offense and defense," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin.

"They did what we thought they would and we stopped both their running and passing."

Norton had 12 first downs and 331 yards of total offense compared to 3 first downs and 104 total offensive yards for the visitors.

Blue Jay running backs averaged 7.2 yards per carry. Leading rusher for Norton was Bolt with 125 yards on 9 carries for a 13.9 yard average. Kats tallied 60 yards on 6 attempts for a 10 yard average. Perez picked up 64 yards on 6 tries for a 10.6 yard average. Other Norton rushers were: Matt Stanley, 3 for 12; Wes Georgeson, 1 for 4; Mannel, 2 for 5; J.D. Gall,

3 for 8; Brad Nuzum, 1 for 8; Jeremy Sproul, 5 for 16; Spencer Shirk, 1 for 1; Kasey Nichols, 1 for 3; Connor Pffannenstiel, 2 for minus 12.

Gall punted twice for a 33 yard average and kicked off 8 times for a 37.1 yard average. Hamel had 2 kickoff returns for 52 yards.

Leading rusher for Stockton was sophomore fullback Gabe Duncan with 56 yards on 3 carries.

Starting for Norton on offense were: Robert Derauf, 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; Matt Stanley, fullback.

Blue Jay defensive starters were: John Van Doren, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Stanley, Zac Dreher, Cox, linebackers; Kats, Bolt, Ray, Zane Perez, defensive backs.

Leading tackler was freshman linebacker Kasey Nichols with 4 solos, 1 assist for 5 total. Recording 4 solos were Zac Dreher and Jared Cox, followed by J.D. Gall, 2 solos; Ashton Draper, Jesse Gallentine, Brock Lauer, Kaid McKenna, Brad Nuzum, Zane Perez, Casey Robison, Brett Terrell, John Van Doren, 1 solo each; Todd Bolt, Logan Kats, Travis Ray, Jeremy Sproul, Matt Stanley, Alex Thomas, 1 assist each.

Brock Lauer and Zane Perez each recovered a Stockton fumble.

## First quarter

Gall kicked off for Norton to start the game and Nathan Palmer returned the ball to the 26. Norton was offside and two incomplete passes later the Blue Jays were offside again, giving the Tigers a first down on the 37.

Thomas and Dreher limited Tyler Winters to 1 yard and Ray and Dreher stopped Palmer for no gain. Stockton lost 5 yards for delay of game, then quarterback Alex Thornburg took to the air. He completed a pass but to the wrong colored jersey. Blue Jay Bolt intercepted and returned the ball to the Stockton 18.

Stanley bullied to the 11 and Bolt followed great blocking to the 1. Kats sneaked into the end zone for the Jays' first touchdown. Kats was unable to run for two extra points, making it 6-0 with

8:40 left.

Palmer returned Gall's kickoff to the 37. After an incomplete pass, Dreher, Ray and Stanley ganged up on Gabe Duncan to stop him after 2 yards. Palmer gained 1 yard, then Thornburg took to the air again and once again completed the pass to Bolt who returned the ball 19 yards to the Stockton 38.

Kats passed to Cox for a first down on the 24, then Bolt ran around end for a touchdown. Bolt also ran for 2 extra points, making it 14-0 with 6:44 on the clock.

Winters returned Gall's kickoff to the 30. On first down, Thornburg fumbled and Norton recovered on the Stockton 20. Kats passed to Georgeson for Norton's third touchdown of the quarter, then pitched to Bolt for 2 extra points to extend the Jays' lead to 22-0 with 6:27 left.

Cory Post returned Gall's kickoff to the 30. Dreher tackled Winters for a 1 yard loss. Lauer and Stanley tackled Stephan Bellerive for a 3 yard loss. Perez broke up a pass and Stockton punted out of bounds on the Norton 40. Stanley gained 5 yards on 2 plays, then Bolt broke through the line, cut back and was gone on a 55 yard touchdown run. Kyle Edgett kicked the extra point, making it 29-0 with 3:56 left.

Palmer returned Gall's kickoff to midfield, where Gall and Ashton Draper made the tackle. Robison and Thomas tackled Palmer for no gain. After an incomplete pass, Palmer gained 4 before Kats and Ray made the stop. Stockton punted out of bounds on the Norton 25.

Bolt gained 4, then Kats got loose on a keeper to mid-field. After an incomplete pass, Georgeson got 4 on an end around. Bolt dashed for a first down on the 22, then Kats ran a keeper to the 5 as time ran out with Norton leading 29-0.

## Second quarter

Coach Melvin surprised Stockton when he put tackle Mannel in the backfield to start the second quarter. Mannel plowed for 2 yards, then drove 3 yards into the end zone. Edgett kicked the extra point, extending the Norton lead to 36-0 with 11:25 remaining in the first half.

Gall kicked off and Palmer returned the ball to the 31 where



Norton senior quarterback Logan Kats scampered down the sideline for a big gainer as Stockton players pursued during the Jays' 49-14 homecoming win Friday night. Kats had a big night rushing, gaining 60 yards on just 6 carries. -Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Cox tackled him. A hard defensive rush ran quarterback Bellerive out of the pocket and he fumbled the ball away to the Blue Jays on the 42. After an incomplete pass, Perez ran around left end to the 35, then around right end for a first down on the 26. Kats broke 2 tackles on a quarterback draw and ran to the 10.

Bolt gained 6 around left end, Kats ran a keeper to the 3 and Bolt followed good blocking around right end for another Blue Jay touchdown. Edgett kicked the extra point, making it 43-0 with 8:31 left.

The 40 point lead rule put the continuous scoreboard clock rule into effect.

Gall kicked off and Duncan returned the ball to the 38 where Pffannenstiel and Nuzum tackled him. Nichols tackled Duncan for no gain. Norton was offside and lost 5. Robison put on a good rush and a pass was incomplete. Duncan gained 1 and Bellerive tried to sneak for a first down but the gang-tackling Blue Jays stopped him short and took over the ball.

Coach Melvin started to substitute reserves at this point. Gall gained 4 and Perez 5. Norton lost 15 on a holding penalty but Perez ran around left end to the Stockton 35. Nuzum galloped to the 24, then

Perez ran around the right side for a touchdown. Edgett's kick was no good but Norton led 49-0 with 1:50 left.

Duncan returned Gall's kickoff to the 35 and it was half-time.

## Second half

The Norton reserves received the kickoff to start the second half but went three and out. They punted and, on first down, Duncan got loose for a 54 yard touchdown run. The extra point kick was no good, making the score 49-6 with 7:35 left.

The two teams exchanged punts and time ran out in the third period with the score remaining 49-6.

The Norton reserves battled the Stockton varsity in the fourth quarter and kept them from scoring until Thornburg tallied from 5 yards out with 1:35 left in the game. He also ran for two extra points. Dakota Dreher covered Stockton's kickoff on the ground and the game ended with Norton winning 49-14.

## Next action

District action begins on Friday and Norton will travel to Beloit for the Jays' first District contest. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

Norton is 4-2 and Beloit brings a 5-1 record into the contest. Their only loss was in overtime to Sa-

cred Heart of Salina.

The Trojans run a double wing offense and 4-4 defense. Junior speedster Cas Spangler is the leading rusher in the *Salina Journal* area with around 1500 yards the first six games. On Friday night, Beloit annihilated Republic County (Belleville) 72-6.

In that game, the 5'8", 150 pound Spangler scored six touchdowns on runs of 60, 97, 35, 15, 40 and 25 yards. The score was 56-0 at half-time.

"Beloit has a very, very good football team," said Melvin. "Spangler is an outstanding wingback. They've been averaging over 400 yards rushing per game.

"We did not play a full half against Stockton so we should be very rested.

"We had a good week of practice prior to the Stockton game and need another good one because we'll be going against a team that's very good."

## GAME STATISTICS

NORTON	STOCKTON	
12	First Downs	3
288	Yards Rushing	74
43	Yards Passing	30
331	Total Offense	104
1-2	Fumbles Lost	2-4
2-33	Punts	3-30.6
8-45	Penalties	5-22

# Junior varsity Blue Jays edge Phillipsburg 28-26

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team edged Phillipsburg 28-26 in a game played in Norton on Monday evening.

For the fourth consecutive game, Norton took the opening kickoff and drove for a score. Quarterback Connor Pffannenstiel

passed 28 yards to Ryan Blecha for the touchdown and a run for extra points failed.

The rest of the first half was a defensive battle. Phillipsburg recovered a fumbled Norton hand-off in the end zone in the second quarter for a game-tying touchdown. Their run for extra points also failed. Norton regained the

lead when Pffannenstiel passed 19 yards to Landon Hamel. A Dakota Dreher pass reception from Pffannenstiel was good for two extra points, making the score 14-6 at half-time.

Phillipsburg struck early in the third quarter on an 85 yard run. The run for extra points failed, making it a 14-12 contest.

With just over three minutes left in the game, Phillipsburg took their first lead of the game on a 65 yard touchdown run. The run for extra points failed, putting the Panthers on top 18-14. Norton answered on their first play from scrimmage following the ensuing kickoff when Pffannenstiel passed to Ashton Draper for a 68 yard touchdown. Pffannenstiel passed to Dakota Dreher for two extra points, putting Norton back on top 22-18.

After the kickoff, the Blue Jay defense stopped the Panther offense on four downs. Norton appeared to ensure the victory as

tailback Zane Perez, behind solid offensive line play, put together a two-play scoring drive. He tallied from 14 yards, the run for extra points failed and Norton led 28-18 with 1:27 left in the game.

Not to be outdone, the Panthers drove the length of the field and scored on a 2 yard run with 28 seconds left. Their run for two extra points was good, making the score 28-26 in favor of Norton. Jeremy Sproul recovered Phillipsburg's onside kickoff and the Jays ran out the clock for the hard-fought 28-26 victory.

"Our effort was very inconsistent this evening," said Norton

assistant coach David Stover. "Too often we had mental breakdowns that hurt us in all aspects of our play.

"To the credit of our players, when we needed crucial plays, we stepped up and made them to earn the win.

"We are still seeing improvement by all our players and are encouraged by their overall performance.

"We are looking forward to putting together a quality all-around performance in our final junior varsity game of the season on Monday at Stockton."

# Eighth volleyball defeats Osborne

The Norton Junior High 8th grade varsity volleyball team hosted the Osborne Bulldogs on Sept. 27.

The first game, the Norton team came out a bit sluggish and not quite ready to play, as they lost 21-25. In the second game however, the girls came out more enthused and aggressive and won 25-20.

Finally, in the third game of the match, the girls put everything together and played like they know they can, putting up a 15-10 victory.

"We just need to work on com-

ing out ready to play and playing hard that first game instead of waiting until the second and third games to start playing our game," said coach Erin Hill.

"I was again proud of the girls this week for not giving up after losing the first game," Hill said.

The girls' next action was Oct. 4 at Smith Center. Then on Oct. 6, the 8th grade girls' varsity team traveled to WaKeeney for the Mid-Continent Elementary League Tournament.

"We hope to see a lot of fans there to help cheer us on," said

the coach.

## Junior varsity action

The Norton jayvee team played extremely well and worked great as a team, also against Osborne. The girls won with scores of 25-13, 25-20.

"The girls served very well in the first game and pretty well in the second," said coach Kristen Fahrenbruch. "Communication was the key, and the girls did a good job with it. They played really hard and hustled well, too!" -td

# C-team volleyball rolls over Hill City

The Norton Community High School girls volleyball C-team defeated Hill City in a best 3 of 5 match on Monday, September 24, in Norton.

Game scores were 25-23, 25-13, 25-11.

"Our team has five main match goals: win, serve 90 percent or better, serve more aces than errors, pass 2.0 or better on a 3.0 scale and hustle," said Norton assistant coach Jill Lively. "We achieved every one of those goals in this match. This was an excellent team effort. Every team member did her job. Any time a team member struggled in an area, they pulled

together and covered for each other.

"I was very happy with their play, their attitudes and our parent support, which is consistently excellent."

Norton served 90 percent as a team with 20 aces. Hannah Waggoner led individual serving with 100 percent and 8 aces, followed by Bekah Streck, Shaylyn Botler, 100 percent and 1 ace each; Sharrelle Shinn, 5 aces; Sophie Mills, 4 aces; Katie Gall, 1 ace.

Streck, Shinn and Botler provided the majority of passes with good consistency.

The Norton C-team girls volley-

ball squad completed their 2007 season with a win over Obelrin and a loss to Phillipsburg on Monday, October 1, in Norton.

## SportsLine:

785

877-

3361

## High School Sports This Week



### FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Beloit ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Beloit  
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Golden Plains ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Almena  
Logan Trojans vs. Lucas/Luray ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

### VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Logan and Golden Plains ..... 4 p.m. Today in Logan  
Norton Lady Jays in Mid-Continent League Tournament ..... 8 a.m. Saturday in WaKeeney  
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Goodland and Ulysses ..... 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton, Western Plains, Eastern Heights ..... 4 p.m. Today in Stockton  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Cheyenne Conference Tournament ..... 10 a.m. Saturday in Kensington/Agra  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Regional Tournament ..... 3 p.m. Tuesday in Logan  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Norton and Golden Plains ..... 4 p.m. Today in Logan  
Logan Lady Trojans in Cheyenne Conference Tournament ..... 10 a.m. Saturday in Kensington/Agra  
Logan Lady Trojans in Regional Tournament ..... 3 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

### CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Lakeside Invitational ..... 4 p.m. Thursday in Downs  
Northern Valley Cross Country (JH and HS) in Wheatland Invitational ..... 3 p.m. Thursday in Wheatland