

39-0 loss ends Blue Jays' football season

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After winning the District and Bi-District championships, the Norton Community High School football team was denied a Class 3A Regional championship by Scott City on a sunny afternoon on Saturday in Scott City.

The Blue Jay offense could never get untracked and the defense gave up too many yards in the 39-0 loss that ended Norton's season with an 8-3 record.

Scott City, who is now 7-4, will play Conway Springs on Friday for the Sectional championship. Eight teams are now left in the Class 3A playoffs. Games on Friday will narrow it down to four teams playing for the Sub-State championship on Friday, Nov. 16 with the State Championship contest set for Saturday, Nov. 24.

"The difference in the game was effort and intensity," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "They came out firing off the line and we didn't answer. At times we were blocked a little too easily and we didn't block them very well. We were hesitant for some reason.

"Preston Herman was an exception. He played very hard and left everything on the field. If we'd had more players give his type of effort, we'd have better off.

"The last two games, we didn't play as hard as we had been. I realize we played three games in nine days, but we need to be tougher and look at it as an opportunity. We need to change our mindset. Instead of being happy with playing 10 or 11 games, we should want to play for it all.

"Looking at the season as a whole, I'm really proud of our seniors. They did a good job of being leaders and teaching the underclassman how to play. I also coached the seniors in junior high basketball and track. They are a good group and I feel sorry for them that they couldn't have gone farther."

The ten seniors on this season's Blue Jay grid squad were: Logan Kats, Jared Cox, Travis Ray, Wes Georgeson, Todd Bolt, Aaron Husted, Preston Herman, Kyle Edgett, Alex Thomas and Zach Mannel.

Scott City led by just 7-0 after the first quarter on a 20 yard run by senior fullback Calvin Hughes and extra point kick by Jordan Habiger. Hughes came into the game with nearly 1,000 yards rushing for the season.

The Beavers had a big second quarter when they scored three touchdowns to take a 27-0 half-time lead. Senior quarterback Chance Chelemedos plunged 1 yard for Scott City's second touchdown and the kick for extra point attempt was blocked by Norton's Todd Bolt, putting the Beavers ahead 13-0 with 8:39 left.

Hughes scored his second touchdown on an 18 yard run with 2:23 remaining and Chelemedos passed to Marshall Anliker for 2 extra points to make it 21-0.

With time running out in the second quarter, Chelemedos passed to Alex Swan for a 25 yard scoring pass and Bolt again blocked the extra point attempt, making it 27-0 at half-time.

Norton slowed the Beaver offense down in the second half but was unable to generate enough offense to make a game of it. Hughes scored on a 6 yard run with 3:04 left in the third period and Sam McDaniel plunged 1 yard for the Beavers' final touchdown with 7:04 left in the game to make the final 39-0.

Scott City had 17 first downs compared to 10 for Norton. The Beavers rushed for 218 yards, averaging 5 yards per carry, while holding the Blue Jays to 110 yards rushing and a 2.8 yard average. Scott City passed for 168 yards and Norton for 116. Total offense was 386 yards for Scott City and 226 for Norton.

Senior tailback Todd Bolt gained just 49 yards on 14 carries for a 3.5 yard average and freshman back Terrell Lane was held to 25 yards on 10 carries for a 2.5 yard average.

Unable to make yards on the ground, Norton had to rely more on the passing game. Senior quarterback Logan Kats connected on 9 of 18 aeriels. Kats' favorite target was senior wide receiver Wes Georgeson who caught 6 passes for 83 yards.

Hughes led Scott City rushing with 154 yards on 19 carries for an average of 8 yards per carry. Levi Kuntzsch caught 4 passes for 101 yards.

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

Blue Jay defensive starters were: Alex Thomas, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Terrell Lane, Zac Dreher, Cox, linebackers; Zane Perez, Kats, Bolt, Stanley, defensive backs.

Leading tacklers for Norton were Zac Dreher with 9 solos, 3 assists for 12 total and Terrell Lane with 7 solos, 2 assists for 9 total. They were followed by: Preston Herman, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Zane Perez, 2 solos, 3 assists, 5 total; Todd Bolt, 4 solos; Logan Kats, 4 solos; Jared Cox, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Matt Stanley, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Brock Lauer, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Brad Nuzum, 2 solos; John Van Doren, 2 solos; J.D. Gall, 1 solo; Zach Mannel, 1 solo.

First quarter

Norton's J.D. Gall kicked off. Sam McDaniel returned the ball to the 29. Scott City took to the air and Chelemedos completed a 26 yard pass to Norton's 45 yard line. Hughes gained 4 before Lane tackled him. Hughes gained 3 before Mannel and Perez made the tackle. Dreher stopped Logan Flower for no gain. It was fourth and 3 but Hughes earned a first down by inches on the 35.

Scott City passed incomplete and, on second down, Marshall Anliker fumbled. Instead of Norton recovering to stop the Beavers' initial drive, the ball rolled forward and Jordan Funk recovered it for a 7 yard gain to the Norton 28. Hughes gained 8 before Cox tackled him. The next down, Hughes made a good run for a touchdown. Jordan Habiger kicked the extra point, making it 7-0 with 8:23 left.

The Blue Jays hoped to counter with a touchdown drive of their own. Lane returned the kickoff 21 yards to the 30. Bolt gained 9 yards on 3 carries. On fourth down, Kats sneaked for a first down on the Norton 41. Bolt ran over left guard for 7 more yards but a Kats pass was incomplete and Lane lost 1 yard. Bolt punted to the Scott City 13.

Perez tackled Hughes after 9 and made the stop on Flower after a first down on the 38. Scott City was penalized back to the 10 for intentional grounding of a pass but Hughes broke loose for 30 yards. Dreher made a great tackle to stop the Beavers from earning a first down and they punted.

The ball rolled dead on the Norton 22. Stanley gained 3 yards but 2 Kats passes were incomplete and Bolt punted to the Scott City 34. Clipping on the Beavers moved the ball back to the 27. After an incomplete pass, Flower made nothing. Hughes made a good run to the 43 and it was fourth and 1. Hughes made another good run around end for a first down at midfield where Lane made the tackle and the quarter ended with Norton trailing 7-0.

Second quarter

A Scott City pass was incomplete but a holding penalty set the



Norton senior defensive end Preston Herman flew through the air to help a Blue Jay teammate tackle Scott City tight end Brock Lane after he caught a pass from quarterback Chance Chelemedos. Herman tied for third high tackler for

the Norton Blue Jays in the Class 3A Regional 39-0 loss to the Beavers on Saturday at Scott City. Jordan Funk was No. 87 for Scott City.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Beavers back to their 40. Dreher tackled Hughes after 2, then Hughes ran around left end and Perez tackled him after 14 yards on the Norton 44. Lane, Perez and Herman stopped Flower after 1 yard but a fourth down pass from Chelemedos to Flower got the Beavers a big first down on the Norton 21.

Hughes gained nothing up the middle but Chelemedos connected with Jordan Funk on the Norton 3. Flower ran to the 1 foot line and Chelemedos sneaked in for Scott City's second touchdown. Bolt came flying in to block the extra point kick attempt, making the score 13-0 with 8:39 left in the half.

Lane returned the kickoff to the 21 and a late hit penalty on Scott City moved the ball to the 35. Bolt lost 2, Stanley gained 4 and Kats passed to Draper for a first down on the Norton 49. Stanley lost 1, Lane gained 3 and Kats passed to Georgeson for 5. A fourth down Kats pass to Georgeson just missed a first down and Scott City took over.

Hughes fumbled but recovered for a 5 yard gain. The Beavers lost 5 yards for offsides. After one incomplete pass, Chelemedos connected with Levi Kuntzsch and he barely made a first down on the Norton 45. Flower gained 4 as Cox and Gall made the tackle, then Herman stopped Alex Swan for no gain. Hughes got loose around left end for 23 yards to the 18 and scored on the next play. Chelemedos passed to Anliker for 2 points, making it 21-0 with 2:23 left.

Perez returned the kickoff to the 17. Bolt gained 3, Kats 2 and Kats passed to Georgeson for 3 yards. On fourth and 2, Lane got the call up the middle but was stopped short and Scott City took over. Chelemedos passed to Swan for a touchdown. Bolt came flying in to block his second extra point kick of the day but the hometown Beavers had extended their lead to 27-0 with 1:12 left in the first half.

Bolt returned the kickoff to the 21, then made his best run of the day when he got loose around right end to the 50. A holding penalty brought the play back, however, and the first half ended after Stanley gained 12, Kats earned a first down on the 31 on a 4 yard keeper, Kats ran for 4 more and Bolt gained 10.

Third quarter

The Blue Jays came out of the locker room fired up for the second half and appeared to be driving



The Norton defense had trouble all Saturday afternoon stopping Scott City senior fullback Calvin Hughes, who rushed for 154 yards in the game, but the Blue Jays were able to shut him down on occasion. Pictured here is one of those occasions when Hughes made nothing! Among the Norton tacklers were junior end Brock Lauer (#78) and senior linebacker Jared Cox (#21).

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

for their first touchdown. Bolt returned the kickoff 14 yards to the 28. After an incomplete pass, Stanley ran for 1 and Kats passed to Georgeson for 7. Next down, Kats completed a beautiful pass to Georgeson and he rambled all the way to the Scott City 9 yard line before being tackled! The drive ended here, however, as Bolt and Lane each lost 1 and 2 passes were incomplete.

Lane dropped Hughes for a 1 yard loss and the Beavers made nothing on second down. After an incomplete pass, they punted. Bolt got a good return to the Scott City 28 and the Blue Jays again had good field position. Kats ran the keeper for 9 yards but made nothing on second down and lost 3 on third. A fourth down pass was incomplete and Norton was denied twice in a row.

Lauer tackled Hughes after 3 but a pass to Kuntzsch carried to the Norton 48. Mannel tackled Hughes after 3 and Stanley dropped Chelemedos for a 1 yard loss. Scott City lost 5 yards for being offsides but the Beavers came up with the big play when they needed it, just as they had all day. Chelemedos connected

with Kuntzsch on the Norton 15. A penalty against Norton moved the ball to the 6 and Hughes scored with 3:04 left. An extra points pass was incomplete, leaving the score at 33-0 with 3:04 remaining.

Perez returned the kickoff 18 yards to the 21. Lane got nothing and Stanley lost 2 but Draper made a diving catch of a Kats pass for a first down on the Norton 41. Lane gained 8, then made nothing. Bolt ran for 3 and a first down on the Scott City 48. Bolt gained nothing as the quarter ended.

Fourth quarter

Lane gained nothing, then Chelemedos intercepted a Kats pass and returned it to the Norton 40. Flower got nothing, then Nuzum and Sproul tackled him after a 6 yard gain. Swan gained 2, then he caught a pass for a first down on the 29. Nuzum tackled McDaniel after 8 but he ran to the 3 on the next down, plunged to the 1, then drove in for the Beavers' final touchdown. The kick for extra point was no good but Scott City led 39-0 with 7:04 left in the game.

Perez returned the ball to the Norton 33, and a face mask penalty moved the ball to the 38.

Stanley gained 1, Kats passed to Cox on the 45 and Lane earned a first down with a 5 yard run to mid-field. Lane gained 2 and Kats passed to Georgeson for a first down on the Scott City 39. After an incomplete pass, Kats gained 4 and Bolt got 3. An incomplete pass stopped the drive on the Scott City 30.

The Blue Jay defense stiffened with Bolt and Cox making tackles and Scott City punted for just the third time in the game. Bolt returned the punt and a block in the back penalty moved the ball back to the Norton 26. Bolt gained 14 yards but a holding penalty nullified the play. After a 4 yard run by Bolt, the Blue Jays' Regional playoff game was history.

GAME STATISTICS

	Norton	Scott City
10	First Downs	17
110	Yards Rushing	218
116	Yards Passing	168
226	Total Offense	386
9-19-1	Passes Completed	10-16-0
0-0	Fumbles Lost	0 - 1
2-39.5	Punts	3-37
5-50	Penalties	7-56

Logan goes 1-1 in final home stand

At home vs. Golden Plains

Oct. 9

Won 25-13, 25-12

Team stats:

Serves, 42/49, 13A, 85.7 percent, Golden Plains 22/25, 88 percent. Attacks, 27/30, 12K; sets, 34/36, 13A; serve receives, 16/23, 69.6 percent; blocks, 2; dinks, 9/10, 4K.

Individual stats:

Serves, Jenny Archer 11/11, 3A; attacks, Shelley Kemper 10/12, 6K, Archer 3/3, 2K; sets, Shaley Van Loenen 18/19, 8A; serve receives, Kemper 9/11, 82 percent; blocks, Kemper 2 solo; dinks, Van Loenen 3/3 2K.

Record 12-11

At home vs. Norton

Oct. 9

Lost 22-25, 20-25

Team stats:

Serves, 40/43, 3A, 93 percent, Norton 43/48, 9A, 89.6 percent. Attacks, 44/54, 18K; sets, 49/52, 12A; serve receives, 31/42, 73.8 percent; blocks, 1 solo; dinks, 8/10, 3K.

Individual stats:

Van Loenen 13/13, Archer 7/7; attacks, Kemper 13/15, 7K, Van Loenen 11/12, 5K; serve receives, Archer 11/13, 84.6 percent, Kemper 13/17; blocks, Autumn Tien 1 solo, 76.5 percent.

Record 12-12

Coach Robin Van Laeys comments:

"Senior night, the ceremony and all emotions involved makes this last home match of the year very difficult every year.

"We were slow to get started in both games and therefore we found ourselves 'fighting back' the whole time.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved with the 300 wins ceremony and overwhelming support. I am so lucky to be surrounded by lots of great young ladies and a very supportive community."

Blue Jay meeting Wednesday

The final weekly meeting of the fall season for the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton football coach Lucas Melvin will talk to the fans about the Blue Jays' Regional playoff game at Scott City on Saturday.

He will also show the film of the game after the meeting for those fans who wish to see it.

You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend the meetings.