

Blue Jay K-18 takes two from Smith Center here

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team hosted Smith Center on Tuesday at John Ryan Field and defeated the Redmen 9-5 and 7-5.

In the opener, Smith Center scored once in the top of the first inning but Norton tallied four runs in the bottom of the inning. Landon Keiswetter walked, followed by singles by Spencer Shirk, Kaid McKenna, Ryan Blecha, Brett Terrell, Zac Hartwell and Damian Davis. Keiswetter, Shirk, McKenna and Blecha all crossed home plate.

Smith Center narrowed the score to 4-3 with two runs in the top of the third and Norton added another score in the bottom of the inning to make it 5-3. Hartwell singled and scored later in the inning.

The Blue Jays put the game away with four more runs in the bottom of the fourth. Trey Millan and McKenna both walked, Ryan Blecha doubled, Terrell singled, Hartwell doubled and Taylor Meder, Keiswetter and Shirk all walked. McKenna, Ryan Blecha, Terrell and Hartwell all scored.

Smith Center scored two runs

in the top of the fifth inning but it was too little, too late as the Blue Jays prevailed 9-5.

Norton had 12 hits, nine batters walked and three struck out. Losing pitcher was Terrill. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Hartwell, 3 for 3, and Ryan Blecha and Terrell, each 2 for 3.

Millan was the winning pitcher. The Redmen had 10 hits, eight strike outs and four walks.

The nightcap went down to the wire with Norton stopping a Smith Center rally in the top of the fifth to earn the 7-5 win. The visitors had scored two runs and had the bases loaded with two outs when the Blue Jays ran down a runner between second and third to get the final out!

Norton got off to a good start with three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Keiswetter walked, Shirk and Ryan Blecha both singled and all scored.

Norton added another run in the bottom of the second when Robert Blecha walked and Keiswetter singled him home to make it 4-0.

Smith Center made it close by scoring three runs on five hits in the top of the third but the Blue Jays responded with three more runs

of their own in the bottom of the stanza. Millan tripled, McKenna walked, Ryan Blecha reached first on an error and all three crossed home plate to extend the Norton advantage to 7-3.

The Redmen got one hit but were held scoreless in the top of the fourth and Norton also failed to score in the bottom of the inning, leaving the score at 7-3 with one inning remaining.

Smith Center didn't quit. The Redmen scored two runs on two hits in the top of the fifth and had the bases loaded when the Blue Jays put out a runner between second and third bases to end the contest.

Norton had four hits in the game. Keiswetter, Shirk, Millan and Ryan Blecha each hit safely. Three Norton batters walked and seven struck out. Fischer was the losing pitcher.

Shirk was the winning pitcher. He allowed 11 hits, struck out four batters and walked none.

Next action

The Norton K-18 nine will host Plainville this evening at John Ryan Field.

The double header will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Hays trip a downer for K-18 club

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team lost 10-3 and 20-9 in a double header in Hays on Wednesday evening.

In the opener, Norton took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Landon Keiswetter, Spencer Shirk and Trey Millan all singled and Shirk scored.

Hays was scoreless in the bottom of the inning but tallied five runs in the bottom of the second to take a 5-1 lead.

The young Blue Jays scored twice in the top of the third when Keiswetter and Shirk both singled and scored. Three more runs by Hays in the bottom of the inning extended their lead to 8-3.

Norton did not score again and Hays tallied two more runs in the top of the fourth.

Norton had seven hits, no walks and one strike out. Leading hitters

for the Blue Jays were Shirk, 3 for 3, and Keiswetter, 2 for 3. Winning pitcher was Bittell.

Losing pitcher was Ryan Blecha. He gave up six hits, struck out one and walked nine batters.

Norton got off to a great start in the nightcap by scoring five runs in the top of the first stanza. Keiswetter walked, Shirk and Millan both singled, Kaid McKenna walked, Ryan Blecha, Brett Terrell and Robert Blecha all singled. Keiswetter, Shirk, McKenna, Ryan Blecha and Terrell all scored. Hays tied the score with five runs of their own in the bottom of the first.

Neither team was able to score in the second inning. Norton broke the tie with two runs in the top of the third. Kaid McKenna singled, Terrell walked, Carson McKenna singled, Robert Blecha and Keiswetter both walked and Kaid McKenna and Terrell both

scored.

Hays finished strong with 12 runs in the bottom of the third and three in the bottom of the fourth.

Norton scored two final runs in the top of the fourth. Antrim and Ryan Blecha both singled and both scored.

The young Blue Jays had nine hits, six walks and one strike out. Winning pitcher was Bixenman.

Leading hitters for Norton were Millan and Ryan Blecha, both 2 for 3.

Millan was the losing pitcher. Hays had nine hits, 13 walks and no strike outs.

On June 10, Norton had one bad inning and lost 5-1 at Plainville. The second game was not played due to stormy weather.

Next action

Norton will host Plainville in a double header at John Ryan Field this evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Legion drops two at Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team lost a double header by scores of 11-3 and 15-7 on Tuesday evening in Smith Center.

In the opener, Norton took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Matt Stanley and Garrett Tacha both walked and Logan Rynnion drove them home with a double. Smith Center tied the score with two runs in the bottom of the second.

The Blue Jays edged ahead 3-2 with another run in the top of the third when Todd Stanley got on base, stole second and scored.

The Redmen scored nine runs on seven hits in the top of the third and Norton was unable to score in the final two innings.

The Blue Jays had two hits, one by Zink and one by Rynnion. Eight Norton batters walked and four struck out. Winning pitcher was Rempe.

Losing pitcher was Zink. Smith Center had 11 hits, four walks and three struck out.

In the nightcap, Norton tallied two runs in the top of the first when Stanley singled, Tacha walked and both scored. Smith Center answered with five runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Blue Jays added one run in the top of the second when Jacob Bracht was hit by a pitch and walked and Andrew Soderlund walked and Bracht scored. One additional run by the Redmen made it 6-3.

Norton stayed in the game with two more runs in the top of the third to cut the Redman margin to just one run. Stanley led off with a single, Durham was hit by a pitch, Bracht singled and Stanley and Durham both crossed home plate.

Smith Center added four runs in

the bottom of the third to make it 10-5. Norton's final two runs came in the top of the fourth when Jacob Riedel walked, Zink doubled and both scored.

The Redmen scored five more runs in the top of the fifth to extend the final margin of victory to eight runs.

Norton had five hits, six walks and eight struck out. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Zink and Stanley, both went 2 for 3 at the plate.

Smith Center had 10 hits, five walks and four strike outs. Losing pitcher was Durham.

"It is the same thing over and over again; errors are killing our team," said Norton head coach Joe Durham. "To date, we have made over 50 errors when, last year, we made only 49 errors all season. To be a good team, you can't make errors.

"These kinds of mistakes start with the pitchers getting frustrated and then the other players get frustrated, which causes disunity on the team. We make the ESPN type plays but it is the ordinary plays where you field and catch the ball that are killing our team.

"Last night, I saw some players go all out and sacrifice their bodies while some other players just went through the motion of playing.

"We have not had the same lineup all year due to work schedules, injuries, other commitments and that is another reason for the losses. Once I get the same nine players game after game that will be our starting line-up. We took 11 players to Smith Center and, for the first three to four innings in each game, we played good, until the wheels came off. We lose our focus and that causes errors and we don't have the pitching to recover from too many mistakes. The only way we can get better is to practice. Our players have made

a commitment to getting better so I expect to see better play out of them.

"We suffered some injuries last night that are going to affect our pitching. Jordan Durham took a line shot in the stomach off one of our former players Logan Keiswetter that is not going to let him pitch for awhile. That is going to put more pressure on our other pitchers so developing pitchers is our No. 1 priority. Fresno State proved that a team that plays together can win and our players noticed that.

"When you have one of the best coaches in the world in Steve Jeltz, someone who loves the game, I see no reason for our team to not improve. The only way we are going to get better is to go back to the basics, building arm strength for our pitchers, our infielders taking ground balls and hitting fly balls to our outfielders.

"At one time, we had 21 players on this team but injuries and other commitments have whittled our team down. Starting Monday, our team is going to practice three times a week in the morning trying to improve and get better. Hopefully, we can develop more pitching or someone who has pitched will join our team. A coach can always hope."

Norton goes to Minden, Neb. today for a double header, beginning at 6 p.m. On Sunday, they will host Scott City at John Ryan Field. Games will be played at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Storm to Dodge

The Lady Storm fast pitch girls softball team will play in the Super C National Tournament in Dodge City on Saturday and Sunday.

Games scheduled in Russell on June 14-15 and in Colby on June 21-22 were canceled.



Umpire Jerry Hawks signaled "safe" as Norton K-18's Kaid McKenna slid under the intended tag by a Smith Center player to score one of three runs the Blue Jays tallied in the bottom of the third inning to take a 7-3 lead over the visiting Redmen on Tuesday evening. Watching was the next batter, younger brother Carson McKenna. Norton won the game 7-5 and also won the opener by a 9-5 score.

Driver dedicates victory to friend

By MIKE HUGHES

Special Contributor

After a three-week break, racing action returned to Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton on Sunday, June 22.

Beloit's Brian Calhoun was able to hang on to win the IMCA Modified feature. Calhoun led the first 21 laps of the 20-lap race before Barry Maupin took over the top spot. Cautions on laps 4, 10 and 12 kept the field close. Maupin led the field back to green after the lap 12 caution, but Calhoun took advantage on the restart to pass Maupin. The final caution waved on lap 14 when Mitch and Gary Kline tangled. Calhoun led the field back to the green and was able to hold on for the victory.

Mark 'Z Man' Zorn finished second, followed by Josh 'The Hammer' Hudson, Maupin, and Brandon Blochlinger. After the race, **Calhoun dedicated the victory to a close friend of the family who lost his life recently.**

Heat race winners were Calhoun and Brett Behrends, with Behrends claiming the money in the cash dash, which was sponsored by Patterson Plumbing of Norton.

Attrition was high in the IMCA Stock Car feature as only 7 of 12 starters finished the race, which was cut from 20 to 14 laps by track officials. Adam Balthazor led the opening lap before Jay Hachmeister spun on lap 2 in turn 1, gathering Cory Struckhoff, Travis Sherfick and Nathan Glendening. Hachmeister was able to return, but the other 3 drivers were done for the night. Balthazor was passed by Wichita's Bryan Lariviere at the halfway mark of the race and Lariviere drove away to the checkers for his second win at the 1/2-mile oval this season. Balthazor placed second, followed by Robert Rutherford, Hachmeister, and Terry Cunningham. Heat race winners were Jason Davis and Lariviere.

Troy Robinson looked to be on his way to a win in the IMCA Hobby Stock feature before car problems at the halfway mark of the 12-lap event sent him to the pits. Kelly Karnopp inherited the lead and drove on for his fourth win of the season at his hometown track. Jerry Hudson, Jeremy Wagner, Roger Garrison and Laura Hinger rounded out the top five. Karnopp and Ricky Rynnion were victorious in the heat races.

Jesse Dunlap of Victoria took the lead on lap 5 of the 8-lap 4-cylinder Young Gun feature to score his second win of the year at Norton. He was followed by Michael Smith and Drew Eagleburger. Dunlap also won the heat race.

In the Mini Truck feature, heat race winner Dale Heyen took the lead on lap 2 from Royal Fisher to claim the win.

It was 4-H Night at the speedway with all 4-H members admitted free if wearing their club shirt and with a paid adult. The 4-Hers received a race souvenir and helped with the evening's trophy presentations.

The next race at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton will take place Saturday, July 12, at 7 p.m. with the regular four divisions in competition. The Good Ol' Time

Racing Association will also make a return appearance.

RESULTS

IMCA Hobby Stocks

Heat 1: 1. Kelly Karnopp, 2. Jerry Hudson, 3. Frank McClurg, 4. Laura Hinger.

Heat 2: 1. Ricky Rynnion, 2. Roger Garrison.

Feature: 1. Karnopp, 2. Hudson, 3. Jeremy Wagner, 4. Garrison, 5. Hinger, 6. Joey Carter (DNF), 7. McClurg, 8. Troy Robinson (DNF), 9. Rynnion (DNF), 10. Rhett Kingsbury (DNS).

IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Jason Davis, 2. Travis Sherfick, 3. Jay Hachmeister, 4. Cory Struckhoff.

Heat 2: 1. Bryan Lariviere, 2. Nathan Glendening, 3. J.R. McCreery, 4. Terry Cunningham.

Feature: 1. Lariviere, 2. Adam Balthazor, 3. Robert Rutherford, 4. Hachmeister, 5. Cunningham, 6. Michael Zajic, 7. McCreery, 8. Struckhoff (DNF), 9. Sherfick (DNF), 10. Glendening (DNF), 11. Dustin McClurg (DNF), 12. Davis (DNS).

IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. Brian Calhoun, 2. Josh Hudson, 3. Mark Zorn, 4. Brandon Blochlinger.

Heat 2: 1. Brett Behrends, 2. Gary Kline, 3. Tim Watts, 4. Mitch Kline.

Cash Dash: Behrends.

Feature: 1. Calhoun, 2. Zorn, 3. Hudson, 4. Barry Maupin, 5. Blochlinger, 6. Behrends, 7. Watts, 8. Rick Schwab, 9. Dylan Sherfick, 10. M. Kline (DNF), 11. G. Kline (DNF), 12. Doug Shearer (DNF), 13. Jordan Grabouski (DNS).

4-cylinder Young Guns
Heat: 1. Jesse Dunlap, 2. Michael Smith, 3. Art Herzog, 4. Drew Eagleburger.

Feature: 1. Dunlap, 2. Smith, 3. Drew Eagleburger, 4. Loyd Schoen, 5. Herzog, 6. Andrew Soderlund, 7. Dusty Eagleburger (DNF).

Mini Trucks


Heat: 1. Dale Heyen, 2. Royal Fisher.

Feature: 1. Heyen, 2. Fisher, 3. Dalton Dolan (DNS).



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816-746-9700.



**Western Kansas Football League
Norton Junior Jays 2008
Football Season**
www.wkfl.net

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES
Wednesday, July 9 — 5:00 P.M.
At the Norton County Clinic (Free) Physicals
Be Early to Fill Out Paperwork

Friday, July 11 — 4:30 P.M.
At the 4-H Building

Official Player Registration-Must Be Notarized
Copy of Birth Certificate-Unless Already on File With Us
We Will Have Notaries Available If Needed
K-STATE FOOTBALL PLAYERS WILL BE PRESENT FOR AUTOGRAPHS

5:00 P.M. — Coaches/Parents Meeting
6:00 P.M. — Fundraiser (Rocky Mountain Oysters Feed)
Cost: \$5.00-Adults; \$2.50-Children

Monday, August 4
AT THE NORTON RECREATION CENTER
EQUIPMENT CHECK OUT
6th Grade at 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.-Head Coach Darin Campbell
5th Grade at 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.-Head Coach Ed Lively
3rd/4th Grade at 6:00 p.m.-Head Coach Scott Ellis

Cost to Participate is \$75.00 Per Player,
All Fees Must be Received By:
JULY 14 at the Norton Recreation Center
Cash or Money Order Payable to: Norton Jr. Jays Football
SEND TO: NORTON RECREATION CENTER
Norton Jr. Jays Football
P.O. Box 96, Norton, Kansas 67654

Special financial circumstances will be considered through our scholarship program. Please note on the registration form (Scholarship requested). This will need to be approved by the Norton Jr. Jays Board Members. We want every kid to participate regardless.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
TERRY PETRIE AT 871-0491**