

Norton Legion splits with Scott City

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team defeated Scott City 6-5 at John Ryan Field on Sunday, June 29 but lost the second contest 15-6.

In the opener, Scott City scored two runs in the top of the first but Norton took a 3-2 lead with three scores in the bottom of the inning. Todd Zink led off with a single, Garrett Tacha walked, Jordan Durham slammed a double and all three tallied.

Scott City came back with two more runs in the top of the second to make it 4-3. Norton did not score in the bottom of the inning but Scott City was held scoreless in the top of the third.

The Blue Jays took the lead for good with three runs in the bottom of the third stanza. Landon Hamel singled, Durham walked and Logan Runnion blasted a home run to score all three!

Scott City was scoreless in the top of the fourth and fifth innings and added a single run in the top of the sixth to make the final 6-5 in favor of the Norton nine.

Norton had six hits in the game. Zink was leading hitter, going 2 for 4 at the plate. The Blue Jays had nine walks and six strike outs. Losing pitcher was Gechter.

Winning pitcher was Durham, who pitched four innings before being relieved by Tacha. The Beavers had seven hits, five walks and 11 strike outs.

"A week of practice paid off in our first game on Sunday," said Norton head coach Joe Durham. "We were stressing fundamentals and we played one of our better games of the year.

"We got timely hitting and good pitching from Durham and Tacha.

"Our team is getting closer to being set with just a few more positions to be solidified. We changed our batting order and that worked out well.

"We still make dumb mistakes but the players know that if a coach takes them out of the game it is not to punish them but to get them to fully understand what we are trying to instill in our team.

"In our first game, Jordan pitched a strong four innings before giving way to Garrett. These two young men are the pitching strength of our team as they have pitched more than anyone else."

In the second contest, Scott City scored six runs in the top of the first inning, two more in the third and six in the fourth to take a 14-0 lead.

Norton broke their drought with one run in the bottom of the fourth when Tacha walked and scored later in the inning.

The Beavers added one final run in the top of the fifth.

Norton rallied in the bottom of the fifth but their five runs were too little, too late and they lost 15-6. Luke Ninemire, and Zink singled, Tacha walked, Brian Ulmer hit safely, Runnion and Matt Stanley both singled and Brian Spooner doubled. Ninemire, Zink, Tacha, Ulmer and Runnion all scored.

Norton had nine hits in the game, five walks and two strike outs. Zink went 2 for 3 to lead Blue Jay hitters. Winning pitcher was Baker.

Tacha was the losing pitcher. He started on the mound for Norton but was relieved in the fourth inning by Hamel who was in turn relieved by Andrew Soderlund. Scott City had 20 hits, five walks and five strike outs.

"The second game is one of those you just want to forget," said



Norton's Jim Ninemire singled in the bottom of the fifth inning to spark a Blue Jay Rally that scored five runs in the second game against Scott City there June 29. Norton split a double headers with the Beaver nine.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

coach Durham. "We reverted back to our old ways, making error after error and making bad base running mistakes.

"Garrett took the loss but you can't blame him as our defense gave up seven errors. Also, Scott City did something you don't see very often. They turned a triple play just when it looked like we would get a rally started.

"Hamel relieved Tacha but the defense didn't help him either. Landon is still building up his arm strength but you could see he had his curve working. Andrew

Soderlund hadn't pitched since K-18 but finished the game for us. He threw one pitch and got the third out in the top of the fourth, then got one, two, three outs in the top of the fifth. Andrew threw strikes, which is what we needed to slow down the way Scott City was hitting the ball.

"As long as our players keep trying and don't get discouraged, we expect to see improvement each time we take the field. Our players have made a commitment since they experienced what winning felt like last year.



Garrett Tacha, one of the top pitchers for the Norton American Legion baseball team, fired a fast ball during the Blue Jays' split of a double header with Scott City at John Ryan Field on June 20.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

"Right now we are 6-12 with Alma our next game. We played them the first game of the year and were swept at home so we hope to improve against them at Alma."

Next action

Weather permitting, Norton was scheduled to play Tuesday evening, July 1 at Alma, with games beginning at 6 and 8 p.m.

Other games on the schedule were versus Smith Center at 6 and 8 p.m. here on Thursday, July 3, at WaKeeney at 5 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 5, versus Osborne here on Sunday, July 6 at 3 and 5 p.m.,

versus Curtis, Neb. on Monday, July 7 here at 6 and 8 p.m. and at Colby on Wednesday, July 9 at 6 and 8 p.m.

Later in the season on July 24, 25, 26, Norton will compete in the Zone Tournament in Scott City. Other teams in the tournament, in addition to Norton and Scott City, will be Colby, Goodland, Hoisington and Ulysses.

"Every one of these schools plays high school baseball so we will have to improve before we get to the zone tournament," said coach Durham.

Norton's Lady Thunder posts four more victories

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Lady Thunder 14 and under softball team defeated Quinter 13-10 and 21-3 at Quinter on Wednesday, June 25; lost 11-8 and won 15-10 at Stockton on Friday, June 27 and beat Stockton 8-7 and lost 17-5 at Norton on Tuesday, July 1.

Quinter

Norton scored five runs in the first inning of the opener at Quinter. Darcy Bainter, Katie Koch and Brianna Karnopp all walked, Fayth Davenport tripled and Kylee Ford walked and all scored. Quinter scored two runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Lady Thunder ran across five more runs in the top of the second to take a 10-2 lead. Koch doubled, Karnopp, Davenport, Samantha Keenan and Ford all walked and all scored.

Three more Norton runs in the top of the third extended the lead to 13-2. Bainter walked, Teslee Nickell singled, Kayleigh Norwood walked, Karnopp singled, Davenport walked and Keenan walked. Bainter, Nickell and Karnopp all scored.

Quinter scored eight runs in the bottom of the third to cut the Thunder's final margin of victory down to three runs.

Norton had four hits, 15 walks and two strike outs. Nickell, Koch, Karnopp and Davenport each got a hit.

Winning pitcher was Karnopp. She allowed four hits, walked ten and struck out seven batters.

In their second win of the night, the Lady Thunder scored 11 runs in the top of the first inning. Bainter tripled, Nickell singled, Terrell walked, Davenport doubled, Koch, Keenan and Karnopp all walked, Norwood singled, Nickell walked, Terrell singled, Davenport blasted a home run, Ford and Koch walked. Bainter, Koch, Keenan, Karnopp and Norwood each scored once and Nickell, Terrell and Davenport each scored twice.

Quinter tallied two runs in the bottom of the inning.

The Lady Thunder ran across six more runs in the top of the second. Karnopp, Norwood, Bainter and Nickell all walked, Terrell singled, Davenport and Ford both walked. Scoring were Karnopp, Norwood, Bainter, Nickell, Terrell and Davenport.

Quinter was scoreless in the bottom of the second.

Norton added four more runs in the top of the third. Bainter walked, Nickell tripled, Terrell and Davenport both singled and all four scored.

Quinter tallied once in the bottom of the third to make the final score 21-3 in favor of Norton.

The Lady Thunder had 10 hits, 17 walks and three strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Terrell and Davenport, both 3 for 3 and Nickell, 2 for 2.

Winning pitcher was Nickell. She gave up just one hit, struck out eight batters and walked three.

At Stockton

The Lady Thunder did not score

in the top of the first inning in the opener and Stockton scored once in the bottom of the inning.

Norton tied the score at 1-all with one run in the top of the second when Davenport doubled and scored later in the inning.

Stockton edged ahead 2-1 in the bottom of the inning.

Norton had a big top of the third, scoring six runs to take a 7-2 lead. Sierra Black and Bainter both singled, Koch walked, Nickell and Davenport both doubled, Karnopp singled, Shelbi McKenna walked, Black and Bainter both walked. Black, Bainter, Koch, Nickell, Davenport and Karnopp all scored.

Stockton answered with six runs of their own to take an 8-7 lead.

In the top of the fourth, Norton tied the score at 8-all with one run. Davenport singled and Karnopp singled her home.

Stockton broke the tie with three runs in the bottom of the inning to win 11-8.

The Lady Thunder had seven hits, five walks and one strike out. Leading hitters for Norton were Davenport, 3 for 3 and Karnopp, 2 for 3.

Karnopp relieved Norwood on the mound for Norton in the fourth inning and was the loser. Stockton had seven hits, ten walks and three strike outs.

Norton rallied to win the second game of the night 15-10.

In the top of the first, the Lady Thunder scored six runs. Abby Bainter, McKenna and Nickell all walked, Terrell singled,

Davenport, Black and Norwood all walked. Bainter, McKenna, Terrell, Davenport, Black and Norwood all scored.

Stockton had one run in the bottom of the inning. The Lady Thunder took a 7-1 lead in the top of the second when Nickell walked and scored later in the inning. Stockton scored six runs in the bottom of the second to tie the score at 7-all.

Norton broke the tie with one run in the top of the third when Davenport and Black singled and Norwood doubled and Davenport scored.

Three more runs by Stockton in the bottom of the inning put the Lady Tigers ahead 10-8. Norton added two more runs in the top of the fourth to tie it at 10-all. Nickell walked, Terrell, Davenport and Black all singled and Nickell and Terrell both scored.

Stockton did not score again. Norton added five big runs in the top of the fifth. Norwood got on base, Koch walked, Abby Bainter doubled, McKenna walked, Nickell and Terrell both singled, Darcy Bainter doubled and Abby Bainter, Nickell and Terrell all scored.

Norton had 12 hits, 11 walks and no strike outs. Leading hitters were Terrell, 3 for 4; Davenport,

2 for 3, Norwood, 2 for 3, Black, 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher was Nickell. She allowed four hits, walked 14 and struck out five batters.

Stockton in Norton

Stockton took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first but Norton scored three in the bottom of the inning to tie the score. Ford and Nickell both singled, Davenport doubled and all three tallied.

Neither team scored in the second. Stockton edged ahead with one run in the top of the third but Norton added two to take a 5-4 lead. Nickell tripled and Terrell singled and both scored.

Three more Lady Tiger runs in the top of the fourth put them ahead 7-5 but Norton scored three in the bottom of the inning to win 8-7. Ford, singled, Nickell and Terrell both doubled and Davenport singled and Ford, Nickell and Terrell scored.

Norton had nine hits, four walks and four strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Nickell, 3 for 3 and Ford and Terrell, each 2 for 3.

Nickell was the winning pitcher. Stockton had four hits, ten walks and seven strike outs.

Stockton got a measure of revenge in the nightcap with a 17-5

win.

The Lady Tigers scored nine runs in the top of the first. Norton scored once in the bottom of the inning when Terrell doubled and scored later in the inning.

One more Stockton run in the top of the second made the score 10-1. Norton was scoreless in the bottom of the inning and Stockton added four more in the top of the third. Again, Norton was scoreless in the bottom of the inning.

Stockton added three more runs in the top of the fourth to take a 17-1 lead.

The Lady Thunder scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth. Nickell singled, Terrell and Davenport both doubled and Karnopp walked and all four scored.

Norton had just four hits, one walk and two strike outs. Terrell was 2 for 2 for the Lady Jays.

Losing pitcher was Karnopp. She was relieved on the mound by Norwood in the third inning. Stockton had four hits, 18 walks and two strike outs.

The Lady Thunder was scheduled to play Smith Center's 18 and under team in Norton on Thursday, July 3 and host Quinter on Monday, July 7. Tonight, they will host Plainville, beginning at 7 p.m.

Bowling

Ladies Inter-City Final Report

Final Standings:

Land Surveyors, 108-32; Gezerettes, 61-79; Animal Health, 55.5-84.5; Nelson Brothers, 55.5-84.5. Team High Scratch, Land Surveyors, 524; Team High Handicap, Land Surveyors, 649; Team High Series Scratch, Land Surveyors, 1,328; Team High Series Handicap, Land Surveyors,

1,727; Individual High Game Scratch, Laura Leidig, 194, Jackie Wright, 194; Individual High Game Handicap, Jackie Wright, 239; Individual High Series Scratch, Laura Leidig, 522; Individual High Series handicap, Laura Leidig, 651; Achievement Award for Most Improved Average, Marla West, +9 (new bowler), Kathleen Berlier +8; High Individual Average, Kathleen Berlier,

139; USBC Awards, 120 Emblem, Marla West; 140 Emblem, Lynn Tacha, Vendla Tacha; 160 Emblem, Donna VanKooten, Helen Muirhead, Jean Johnson; 180 Emblem, Jackie Wright, Kathleen Berlier, Laura Leidig; 400 Series, Jean Johnson 468-118 Avg., Vendla Tacha 402-99 Avg.; 500 Series, Laura Leidig, 522 with 132 Avg.; Perfect Attendance, Jean Johnson.

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