Friday, July 11, 2008



Norton K-18 goes 1-1 against Stockton on the road

By DICK BOYD

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nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton K-18 baseball team split a double header at Stockton on Monday, June 30.

The young Blue Jays lost a tight 9-8 game in the opener, then rallied in the nightcap for an impressive 20-2 victory!

In the opener, Norton took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Trey Millan walked, Kaid McKenna singled, Ryan Blecha doubled, and Brett Terrell singled. Millan, McKenna and Blecha crossed home plate.

Neither team scored in the second inning and Norton also failed Tigers tied the score at 3-all with three runs of their own in the bottom of the third.

broke the tie with six big runs in nine runs. the bottom of the inning to take a 9-3 lead.

The Norton boys rallied in the top of the fifth but their five runs fell short of tying the game again. walked twice, Kaid McKenna Carson McKenna, Kaid McKenna and Ryan Blecha started the fireworks as each doubled. Zac Hartwell and Taylor Meder walked and Landon Keiswetter singled. Both McKennas, Blecha, Hartwell. Hartwell and Meder all scored.

walks and five strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Kaid McKenna and Ryan Blecha, both 2 for 3 at the plate. Winning pitcher was A. Smith.

Millan pitched three and onehalf innings and was the losing pitcher. Terrell relieved him for the rest of the game. Stockton had five hits, five walks and three strike outs.

The Norton bats were loud in the nightcap as they pounded out 16 hits in the 20-2 win. The young Blue Jays tallied four runs in the top of the first. Keiswetter, Shirk and Kaid McKenna all singled, to score in the top of the third. The Ryan Blecha walked and all four scored.

After Stockton went scoreless in the bottom of the first, the 3; Kaid McKenna, 2 for 4; Ter-Norton also did not tally in the floodgates opened in the top of top of the fourth and Stockton the second and Norton scored

> Antrim tripled and singled in the inning, Keiswetter singled twice, Shirk singled and was hit by a pitch, Carson McKenna doubled, Rvan Blecha walked, Terrell doubled, and Hartwell singled. Scoring were Antrim (twice), Keiswetter, Shirk, both McKennas, Blecha, Terrell and

The young Tigers were score- Ryan Field.

Norton had seven hits, nine less again in the bottom of the second.

> Blue Jay batters continued to connect with the baseball in the top of the third when they added seven more runs. Terrell and Hartwell both doubled, Antrim walked, Keiswetter and Shirk both doubled, Kaid McKenna was hit by a pitch, Ryan Blecha singled and Terrell, Hartwell and Robert Blecha all walked on their second time at bat in the inning. All seven scored to push the Norton lead to 20-0.

> Stockton tallied two runs in the bottom of the inning but it was too little, too late and Norton won 20-2.

> Leading hitters for Norton were Keiswetter, 4 for 4. Shirk 3 for rell and Antrim, each 2 for 3 and Hartwell, 2 for 2.

> Norton had nine walks and two strike outs. Losing pitcher was Kriley.

> Winning pitcher was Shirk. He allowed four hits, struck out six and walked two batters.

Next action

On Thursday, July 3, Norton played a double header at Phillipsburg.

On Tuesday, Norton hosted Hays in a double header at John

K-18 baseball hosts Plainville and finishes with a 1-1 mark

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton K-18 baseball team split a double header with Plainville on Friday, June 27 at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The young Blue Jays won the opener by a 9-8 score but lost the nightcap 8-1.

Plainville scored three runs to start the first game but Norton tied the score at 3-all in the bottom of the first. Spencer Shirk singled, Trey Millan walked, and Ryan Blecha and Brett Terrell both singled. Shirk, Millan and Blecha scored.

Plainville failed to tally in the top of the second and Norton added a run in the bottom of the inning when Seth Antrim doubled and Landon Keiswetter singled him home. Millan singled later in the inning but did not score.

The young Cardinals tied the score at 4-all with one run in the top of the third but Norton ran two runs across home plate in the bottom of the inning to put Norton back on top 6-4.

walked and Antrim hit his second fourth and three more in the top straight double. Blecha and Terrell both scored.

Plainville answered with four runs in the top of the fourth to take an 8-6 advantage but the Blue Jays had an answer of their own. Norton tallied three runs to take a 9-8 lead.

Shirk doubled, Millan walked, Kaid McKenna and Terrell both singled. Shirk, Millan and McKenna all tallied.

Terrell relieved Shirk on the mound for Norton in the top of the fifth and Plainville went down one, two, three to end the game with Norton on top 9-8.

Norton had 11 hits, three walks and no Blue Jay batters struck out. Leading hitters for Norton were Shirk and Ryan Blecha, each 2 for 3 and Terrell and Antrim, each 2 for 2. Losing pitcher was B. Brungardt.

Shirk was the winning pitcher. Plainville had nine hits, two walks and no strike outs.

The nightcap was also a close game until Plainville broke it open Russell.

Rvan Blecha singled, Terrell with four runs in the top of the of the fifth.

> Neither team scored in the first two innings and Plainville took a 1-0 lead in the top of the third. Norton did not score in the bottom of the inning and the young Cardinals took a 5-0 lead in the top of the fourth.

> Norton scored their only run in the bottom of the fourth to make it 5-1 but Plainville's three more runs in the top of the fifth made the final 8-1 in their favor.

> Norton had just two hits in the game, no walks and no strike outs. Winning pitcher was A. Casey.

Losing pitcher was Millan, who pitched three innings. Zac Hartwell pitched the fourth and fifth innings. Plainville had four hits, nine walks and no strike outs.

Next action

Norton will play Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Sub-Regional Tournament in

Bad fifth inning spells defeat

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton American Legion baseball team got a good start on Tuesday, July 1 in Alma, Neb. but an error-filled fifth inning led to a 14-4 loss.

The Blue Jays took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning when all nine players batted. Todd Zink led off with a single, Garrett Tacha walked, Landon Hamel singled them home and Brian Spooner cleaned the bases with a long home run ball! Logan Runnion was hit by a pitch and advanced to first and Matt Stanley walked but neither was able to score.

Alma responded by scoring three runs in the bottom of the first to cut the Norton lead to 4-3. "Only one of the three runs was earned as two errors caused two runs to score," said Norton head coach Joe Durham.

In the top of the second, Zink pitcher got the ball and threw it to first to put Zink out by a half step. Tacha was next up for the Blue Jays. He hit a hard grounder to the short stop but he was able to field it and throw out Tacha at first.

Hamel stepped up to the plate and hit a hard ball at the second baseman, who went deep into the outfield, fielded the ball and threw Hamel out at first.

"Those three plays really got their team fired up and, in the bottom of the second inning, they again scored three runs on an error, two hit batters and a walk," said coach Durham.

With Norton trailing by just 6-4, the Blue Jays went to bat in the top of the third but were held scoreless again. After Jordan Durham hit a fly ball to third for the first out, Spooner singled and Runnion hit a hard liner to the shortstop who produced a double play.

Tacha relieved Hamel on the mound for Norton in the bottom of the third inning and shut down Alma in both the third and fourth innings. With the score still 6-4, Norton was unable to tally in the top of the fourth or fifth stanzas.

In the bottom of the fifth, the flood gates opened and Alma scored eight runs to win 14-4.

"In the fifth inning, all the things that have gone wrong with our team happened again," said coach Durham. "Three errors, one passed ball and one hit batter led to Alma scoring eight runs."

Norton had just four hits in the game, four walks and nine battried to bunt the ball to third but the ters struck out. Leading hitter for the Blue Jays was Spooner, who went 2 for 2. Winning pitcher was Kauk.

> Hamel was the losing pitcher. He gave up four hits, walked four batters and struck out four. Tacha allowed nine hits, walked two batters and struck out four.

> "As coaches and players, we never say thank you to the city of Norton for the fine work they do on our field," said coach Durham.

> 'At Alma, our players lost four balls in the lights and the grass was so high that the ball gathered dew and caused our players to make some bad throws.

"The attitude of this team is getting better but our players as well as coaches are really tired of losing. The only thing we can keep doing is practicing and trying to improve.

Next action

The Norton Legion nine is scheduled to host Minden, Neb. in a double header on Saturday, beginning at 6 p.m. at John Ryan Field.

On Sunday, the Legion will host Stockton in 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. games at John Ryan Field.

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