Page 8 IHE NORTON TELEGRAM Tuesday, July 15, 2008 Legion picks up 3 wins

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The Norton American Legion baseball team has been plenty busy recently, playing four double headers in six days and coming away with three individual game wins.

On Thursday, July 3 the Blue Jays defeated Smith Center 13-7 at John Ryan Field in Norton before losing the nightcap 6-3.

Norton traveled to WaKeeney on Saturday, July 5 and returned with victories of 11-3 and 8-7.

Osborne was scheduled to play Norton on Sunday, July 6 but most of their players were cutting wheat and they were unable to play.

The next night, on Monday, July 7, Norton hosted Curtis, Neb. and lost 10-1 and 21-5.

On Wednesday, July 9, the Blue Jays traveled to Colby to play a strong Eagles team and lost 12-0 and 12-3.

Smith Center

In the opener, Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the first, and one in the bottom of the second and third innings while holding the Redmen scoreless to take a 4-0 lead.

Todd Zink singled, Garrett Tacha walked and both players scored in the first. Logan Runnion singled and Brian Ulmer doubled him home in the second. In the third inning, Tacha and Landon Hamel both singled and Jordan Durham doubled Hamel home.

Neither team scored in the fourth inning but Smith Center ran six runs across home plate in the top of the fifth to take a 6-4 lead. The Blue Jays answered with nine big runs in the bottom of the fifth to jump ahead 13-6. Zink walked and Tacha got safely on base. Durham singled, Brian Spooner walked and Runnion got safely on base. Matt Stanley walked, Ulmer singled and Andrew Soderlund got safely on base. In his second time at bat in the inning, Zink hit a single and Tacha came up again and got as far as third base when Hamel doubled. Zink scored twice and Tacha, Durham, Spooner, Runnion, Stanley, Ulmer and Soderlund each scored once in the inning.

Neither team scored in the sixth inning and the Redmen added one final run in the top of the seventh to make the final 13-7 in Norton's favor.

The Norton bats were very active in the game as the Blue Jays

Luke Ninemire was the losing pitcher. Smith Center had seven hits, eight walks and six strike eleven strike outs. outs.

"In the second game, errors did us in," said coach Durham. "Luke started the game and was pitching decent until he pulled a groin muscle. Andrew Soderlund relieved him but errors really hurt us.

"Hesting pitched a good game for them. Our players didn't make contact on the ball until the third inning but, by then, Smith Center had a three run lead.

WaKeeney

Norton took a 2-0 lead in the opener at WaKeeney when Tacha walked and Durham singled him home in the top of the first and Zink walked and Tacha sacrificed him home in the top of the third.

WaKeeney scored twice in the bottom of the third to tie the score at 2-all but the Golden Eagles were only able to score one more time in the bottom of the fifth. Meanwhile, Norton tallied seven runs in the top of the fourth and two in the top of the fifth to win going away.

The Blue Jays batted around in the fourth. Durham was hit by a pitch and advanced, Runnion tripled, Stanley singled, Ninemire was hit by a pitch and advanced, Soderlund, Tacha, and Hamel all singled, and Durham walked his second time up. Durham, Runnion, Stanley, Ninemire, Soderlund, Tacha and Hamel all scored.

Norton's final two runs were scored in the fifth when Runnion tripled again and Stanley, Zink and Tacha walked and Runnion and Stanley tallied.

Norton had eight hits, nine walks and four strike outs. Leading hitter for Norton was Runnion, who was 2 for 3. Losing pitcher was Cunningham.

Winning pitcher was Zink. He was relieved by Tacha. The Golden Eagles had seven hits, two walks and six struck out.

"Logan Runnion had one of his better games hitting," said coach Durham. "We have stressed all year that we need to be aggressive on the bases and our players ran hard, turning a couple of singles into doubes. All nine of our players contributed to the win by either getting a hit or by driving in runs."

two innings of the nightcap with one run in the first and four in the and scored. Norton did not score second inning. Zink scored when again and Colby added three more he singled in the initial stanza and was driven in by Hamel. In the second inning, Stanley, Zink and Tacha all walked, Hamel tripled and Durham doubled. Zink, Tacha and Hamel all scored. The Golden Eagles responded with five runs of their own in the bottom of the second to tie the score at 5-all. Norton did not score in the top of the third and WaKeeney added one run to take a 6-5 lead.

Losing pitcher was Hamel. Curtis had five hits, ten walks and

In the nightcap, Curtis scored two runs in the top of the first but Norton answered with four of their own in the bottom of the inning. Durham walked, Tacha was hit by a pitch and advanced, Hamel walked, Spooner doubled and Durham, Tacha, Hamel and Spooner all scored.

Curtis scored one run in the second to cut the Norton lead to 4-3 and the Blue Jays did not score in the bottom of the inning.

In the top of the third, the floodgates opened as Curtis scored 10 runs, then added eight more in the top of the fourth.

Norton added a final run in the bottom of the third when Ninemire was hit by a pitch and advanced and James Riedel singled him home

Norton had just four hits. Hamel was 2 for 2. Six Blue Jays walked and six struck out.

Tacha was the losing pitcher. Curtis had eleven hits, nine walks and four struck out.

'We lost one of our better players and it affected our team," said coach Durham. "Take nothing away from Curtis. They played sound baseball, getting timely hits and playing solid defense. Error after error hurt us."

Colby

Norton traveled to Colby to take on a strong Eagles nine and was shutout in the opener. Colby scored three runs in the first inning, eight in the second and one in the third.

Hamel had Norton's only hit in the game. The Blue Jays had two walks and nine strike outs. Winning pitcher was B. Rasmussen.

Losing pitcher was Tacha. Colby had 11 hits, four walks and four strike outs.

In the nightcap, Colby took a 5-0 lead with two runs in the first inning and three in the second. Neither team tallied in the third inning.

Norton scored two runs in the top of the fourth to make it 5-2 when Ninemire singled, Jacob Bracht walked and Brett Pulec singled and Ninemire and Bracht scored.

Colby added one run in the bottom of the fourth and Norton cut the Colby lead to 6-3 with one run Norton took a 5-0 lead in the first in the top of the fifth when Hamel got on base on a fielder's choice runs in the bottom of the fifth and three in the bottom of the sixth. Norton had three hits, five walks and eleven strike outs. Runnion, Ninemire and Brett Pulec each had one hit. Winning pitcher was Krzycki.

K-18 wins 2 and drops 4

By DICK BOYD

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nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton K-18 baseball team split a double header with the Hays Indians in Norton on Tuesday, July 8 prior to playing in the Sub-Regional Tournament last Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Russell.

The young Blue Jays defeated Hays 8-7 and lost 11-1 in the nightcap on July 8.

In the tournament last weekend, they played the Hays Renegades on Friday and defeated them by an 8-7 score.

In the second round of the tournament on Saturday, Norton lost 5-4 to Ellis in extra innings. In Sunday's competition, Norton lost 17-6 to Plainville and lost 14-13 to the Hays Indians.

Hays Indians

In the opener on July 8, Norton scored twice in the bottom of the first inning when Spencer Shirk singled, Kaid McKenna tripled and Ryan Blecha singled and all three scored.

Hays scored five runs in the third to take a 5-2 lead. The young Blue Jays tallied three runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score at 5-all. Trey Millan walked, McKenna singled, Ryan Blecha walked and Brett Terrell singled. Millan, McKenna and Blecha all crossed home plate.

Hays edged ahead 6-5 with another run in the top of the fourth but Norton took a 7-6 lead with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Shirk singled, Millan walked and McKenna got on base via an error. Shirk and Millan both scored.

One more Hays run in the top of the fifth tied the score again but Norton won it with a single run in the bottom of the inning. Ryan Blecha singled and was driven in later in the inning.

Norton had seven hits and five walks. Leading hitters for Norton were Shirk and McKenna, each 2 for 3 and Blecha, 2 for 2. Losing pitcher was Rule.

Winning pitcher was Shirk. Hays had six hits and one walk. In the nightcap, Hays scored

three runs in the first inning, two in the second, three in the third and three in the fourth. Norton's only run came in the bottom of the fourth when Shirk singled and scored later in the inning.

Shirk's single was the only Norton hit in the game. Two Blue Jays walked. Winning pitcher was Bixenman.

Losing pitcher was Millan. Hays had five hits and nine walks.

good start with an 8-7 win over inning and four in the fifth inthe Hays Renegades.

The young Blue Jays scored twice in the first inning when Landon Keiswetter walked and Shirk tripled him home and scored later in the inning.

A third Norton run came in the third inning when Keiswetter walked and Shirk singled him home.

Another Norton run was scored in the fifth inning when Shirk tripled and McKenna singled him home.

Hays scored two runs in the first inning, three in the second and two in the fifth.

Norton tallied four runs in the sixth inning to win 8-7. Damian Davis singled, Keiswetter doubled, McKenna was hit by a pitched ball, Blecha tripled, and Terrell singled. Davis, Keiswetter, McKenna and Blecha all scored.

"We played our best game of the year," said Norton head coach Lamont Shirk. "It was great to see us come from behind to win in the last inning.'

Keiswetter pitched the first three innings, Shirk hurled one and two-thirds innings, Zach Hartwell came in to pitch and get the final out in the fifth. Millan pitched in the bottom of the sixth to preserve the one run lead for the win.

Norton had nine hits, five walks and seven strike outs. Leading hitter for Norton was Shirk, who went 3 for 4. Blecha was 2 for 3 at the plate.

Hays had eight hits, four walks and six strike outs.

Ellis

Norton had a marathon game with Ellis on Saturday and, despite playing one of their best games of the year, lost 5-4 in nine innings.

Both teams scored one run in the first inning. The young Blue Jays' run came when Shirk was hit by a pitch and advanced and scored later in the inning.

Both teams also scored twice in the third inning. Norton's scores came when Shirk doubled, Terrell singled and Millan doubled and Shirk and Terrell tallied.

Norton scored one run in the ninth inning when Shirk doubled and scored later in the inning.

Ellis took the 5-4 win with two runs in the ninth.

Norton had 12 hits and four walks. Leading hitters for Norton were: Shirk, 3 for 4 and Hartwell, 2 for 4. Winning pitcher was Hunsicker.

Tournament in Russell off to a scored two runs in the fourth ning. In the fourth, Keiswetter walked, Shirk and Terrell singled and Keiswetter and Shirk both scored.

> In the fifth inning, Davis singled, Keiswetter walked, Shirk tripled and McKenna and Blecha both singled. Davis, Keiswetter, Shirk and McKenna scored.

> Plainville tallied two runs in the first inning, five in the second, one in the third, seven in the fourth and two in the fifth.

> Norton had six hits, three walks and four strike outs. Shirk was 2 for 3 at the plate. Winning pitcher was Brungardt.

Losing pitcher was Keiswetter. Plainville had eleven hits, eleven walks and five strike outs.

Hays Indians

Norton's final game on Sunday saw a lot of runs scored and, unfortunately for Norton, the Hays team came out one run on top.

The young Blue Jays scored three runs in the top of the first. Keiswetter singled, Shirk and McKenna both walked and Terrell doubled. Keiswetter, Shirk and McKenna all scored. Hays tallied four runs in the bottom of the first, six in the bottom of the second and one in the bottom of the third.

Norton scored six big runs in the top of the third. Millan, Hartwell, Seth Antrim and Keiswetter all walked, Shirk singled and Blecha doubled. Millan, Hartwell, Blecha, Antrim, Keiswetter and Shirk all scored.

Norton added three more runs in the top of the fourth inning. Antrim was hit by a pitch and advanced, Keiswetter and Shirk both doubled, McKenna singled, Blecha doubled and Terrell singled. Antrim, Keiswetter and Shirk all scored to put Norton ahead 12 - 11.

Hays was scoreless in the bottom of the inning.

In the top of the fifth, Norton also failed to score. In the bottom of the fifth, Hays scored three final runs to take a 14-12 lead.

Norton scored one run in the top of the sixth to fall one run short. Keiswetter and McKenna both singled and Keiswetter scored.

The young Blue Jays had twelve hits, thirteen walks and three strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Keiswetter, 3 for 4; McKenna, 2 for 3; Blecha and Terrell, each 2 for 4. Winning pitcher was Bixenman.

Losing pitcher was Millan. Hays had nine hits, eight walks Next action The Norton K-18 team will play WaKeeney on Wednesday in Wa-Keeney, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The winner will qualify to compete in the Regional Tournament on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Stockton.

pounded out 17 hits. Leading hitter was Ulmer, who was a perfect 4 for 4 at the plate. Other leading hitters were Zink, Tacha, Hamel, Durham, Runnion and Soderlund, all 2 for 4.

Five Norton batters walked and eight struck out. Losing pitcher was Logan Keiswetter.

Winning pitcher was Zink and he was relieved by Tacha. Smith Center had 10 hits, five walks and 10 strike outs.

"It was strange seeing Logan Keiswetter on the mound for the opposing team," said Norton head coach Joe Durham. Keiswetter is employed this summer in Smith Center so played with the Redmen instead of commuting to Norton for games.

"Logan Tuxhorn, another former Norton player, was also on the Smith Center team," said coach Durham. "Tux hit a ball that we thought was gone but, fortunately for us, all he got was a triple.

"We played one of our better defensive game. Our players didn't want to lose at home and it showed.

"Zink did a nice job pitching for us. He kept the Smith Center hitters off balance with a nice fast ball and good change up."

The second game was a different story. Smith Center scored one run in the top of the first and two in the top of the second inning to take a 3-0 lead. Norton kept it close with two runs in the bottom of the third. Stanley doubled, Andy Horesky and Zink both walked and Tacha singled. Stanley and Horesky both scored.

The Redmen tallied three runs in the top of the fourth to take a 6-2 advantage. Norton added one run in the bottom of the inning when Ulmer got on base and Tacha singled him home to make the final 6-3 in favor of the Redmen.

Norton had just three hits in the contest, one each by Tacha, Durham and Stanley. Three Norton batters walked and seven struck out. Winning pitcher was Hesting.

Norton scored the winning runs in the top of the fourth when they ran across home plate three times. Zink singled, Hamel hit an insidethe-park home run, Durham singled and Spooner doubled. Zink, Hamel and Durham all scored.

WaKeeney scored once on two singles and a walk in the bottom of the fifth to fall one run short of catching the Blue Jays.

Norton had10 hits, five walks and four strike outs. Leading hitters were Hamel, 3 for 3; Zink, Durham, each 2 for 3 and Stanley, 2 for 2. Losing pitcher was Smith.

Spooner was the winning pitcher. He was relieved in the second inning by Durham. WaKeeney had six hits, five walks and seven struck out.

WaKeeney is in the same position we were in a couple of years ago since they are just starting a Legion program," said coach Durham. "They are working hard to get their ball park and facilities looking good."

Curtis, Neb.

In the opener against Curtis at John Ryan Field, Norton scored one run in the bottom of the fourth when Hamel got on base on a passed ball and Durham singled him home.

Curtis tallied two runs in the first inning, one in the third, four in the fourth and three in the seventh.

Durham had the only hit in the game for Norton. Four Blue Jays walked and 14 struck out. Winning pitcher was Peterson.

Losing pitcher was Durham. Colby had six hits, six walks and seven strike outs.

'Missing three starters due to sickness, work and injury, we went into the games short handed," said coach Durham. "Again, errors were a major factor in both losses.

'In the second game, Jordan Durham pitched one of his better games but you couldn't tell it by the score. Eight errors and six passed balls allowed the Eagles to score 12 runs.

"You can't tell it by the score but our players played about as hard as I have seen them play all year in the second game.

"We played four first year players against a squad which has traveled to Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma to play games this summer and has an impressive 24-7 record."

Next action

Games scheduled here with Minden, Neb. on Saturday and Stockton on Sunday were canceled.

Norton will travel to Phillipsburg on Wednesday to play a double header, beginning at 6 p.m. On Saturday, the Norton nine will travel to Holdrege, Neb. to play games at 5:30 and 8 p.m.

Antiquities Portraits When: July 25 & 26 All appointments are scheduled in advance. Walk-in appointments are not available. Where: The Rock, 101 E. Main, Norton, KS For \$10 you receive a 10X13 Sepia-Tone Portrait. Antiquities provides clothing and props for the session.

10X13 offer limited to children up to the age of 16. Contact Jenny Braun or Angie Woodring at (785) 877

3380 ext. 309 or 421 for additional information. Sponsored by the Norton Correctional Facility, Employee Activity Committee

Hays Renegades Norton got the Sub-Regional

Thunder tops family team

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton Thunder 14 and under girls softball team competed against their parents and siblings on Thursday, July 3 since their game with the Smith Center 18 and under team was postponed.

The Thunder won the game 13-6. Brianna Karnopp pitched the first inning for the Thunder and struck out all three batters. Jon Wyatt pitched for the opposing team. Runs were scored by Fayth Davenport, Teslee Nickell, Denny Nickell and Karnopp.

Kayleigh Norwood pitched the second inning and the family remained scoreless. The Thunder scored five runs in the second inning as Davenport, Kylee Ford, Denny Nickell, Erin Terrell and Jade Cressler (with some help from younger brother, Wyatt) crossed home plate. Karnopp pitched the third inning when Trish Cressler and Breven Sondergard scored the first runs for the family team. Darcy Bainter, Norwood, Davenport and Abby Bainter scored the final runs for the Thunder. Abby Bainter was the last pitcher for the Thunder. Lari-Ann Nickell, Treianne Park, Jason Haselhorst and Jon Wyatt scored the final family team runs.

Losing pitcher was Keiswetter. and three strike outs. Ellis had just four hits and five walks.

Plainville

"The long game on Saturday took a toll on our pitching staff so we fell short in the two Sunday games," said coach Shirk.

Against Plainville, Norton

