

Tough loss for freshmen vs. Atwood

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School freshmen football team lost a hard-fought 34-20 game to Atwood on Thursday, Oct. 9 in Norton.

Atwood scored first on a 70 yard touchdown run. A pass for two extra points was unsuccessful. The Buffs took advantage of a Blue Jay special teams mistake. A poor punt snap gave them the ball on the Norton 10-yard-line. They scored on a 3 yard run two plays later. The extra points run was good, making the score 14-0.

In the second quarter, Atwood put together their first drive of the

game and scored on a 4 yard run. The extra points run failed, making the score 20-0 at halftime.

Norton came storming back after the intermission and scored on their first possession. Tye Nickell scored on a 65 yard run and Jordan Wahlmeier ran for two extra points to make it 20-8.

The Blue Jay defense stiffened and Norton got the ball back and drove inside the Atwood 5-yard-line. The Blue Jays were unable to score; however, their defense continued to stop Atwood. Early in the fourth quarter, Norton drove into Atwood territory again but was stopped on downs.

The Buffalo offense found their

rhythm and Atwood was able to take a 26-8 lead on an 18 yard run. The Jays' offense then began to click and they quickly drove the length of the field to score with 4 minutes left. Wahlmeier dented the end zone with a 4 yard run. The extra points run failed, making it 26-14.

Norton tried an onside kick but Atwood was not only able to recover it but was able to field it on the run and return it for a score. The extra points run was good, making it 34-14. Not to be outdone, the Jays proceeded to march the length of the field once again. Jordan Wahlmeier scored in the last minute on a 1 yard run,

making the final 34-20 in favor of the Buffaloes.

"We did not come out ready to play and were not able to get out of a big hole," said Norton assistant coach David Stover. "We did make improvements throughout the game,

"We had opportunities in the second half to make the game much closer but were not able to capitalize. Our play in the second half was much better than the first half on both sides of the ball.

"We gained valuable experience for many players and that should be the catalyst for continued improvement with these players as the season progresses."

Junior High Jays shut out Redmen

The Norton Junior High varsity football team shut out Smith Center on Thursday (Oct. 16), 26-0.

"Wow! If you would have told me we would run 9 offensive plays the entire game against Smith Center and beat them, I would have told you that you were crazy. But that's what happened," said coach George Rossi.

"Norton ran 4 plays the first half. The defense bent, but never allowed the Redmen a score. When we did get the ball, we were excellent," he said.

"The line of Lane Bigge, Eli Bozarth, Cody Ellis, Treven Rossi, John Renner, Alex Riggins and also the backs Jared Bohl and Austin Hager, blew open holes for Jack Brooks to run touchdowns of 80, 67 and 55 yards," the coach said.

"Other than those plays, we had the ball for 5 other plays the entire game. These boys stepped up and played a fantastic game to become MCEL champions! This has been a great group to coach. The boys supported each other and played as a team all season long and that is what's made them successful," he said.

Norton scored 8 points in the second quarter, 6 in the third and 12 in the fourth.

Jacob Brooks raced 80 yards for the first 6-pointer and ran the PAT.

Brooks took the kickoff to start the third quarter and delivered it 70 yards away for the second touchdown. In the final quarter, Brooks ran 55 yards and 67 yards to paydirt.

Statistics
Rushing — Brooks 6 carries for 205 yards, Austin Hager 1 for 9 yards and Jared Bohl 2 for 14 yards.

Tackles — Treven Rossi 25; Dalton Miller 5; John Renner 13; Carson McKenna 6; John Rise-wick 15; Eli Bozarth 3; Austin Hager 8; Ryan Bainter 8; Cody Ellis 4; Jacob Brooks 18; Dylan Sprigg 2; and Lane Vanover 1.

"Although I am very proud of their success, I hope that they continue on and understand that in order to achieve their goals in high school, they are going to have to work extra hard in the weight room and practice field, and that the teams they play down the road won't really care what they did in junior high," coach Rossi said.

"I had a great time coaching these young men and I can't wait to watch them grow into fine young men and football players in the future," he said.

"I also want to thank the other coaches Chance McKinney, Shane Miller and Joe Cox, who are great with the kids and great to

work with. Also, a special thanks to Dan Bainter for tracking the statistics for use this year," he concluded.

Jayvee also wins, 22-20

The Norton Junior High junior varsity football team pinned a 22-20 loss on Smith Center in action also on Oct. 16.

"A great way to end the season," said coach George Rossi. "We have talked all season long how the JV is a great practice team but not able to take that intensity to the game field. They did just that," he said.

"This game was back and forth all night and our boys hung in there and made a huge tackle on Smith Center's PAT to seal the win for the Bluejays," coach Rossi said.

"This group has worked hard all year and we are happy that they put it all together against a good Redmen team. I hope to see many of them in the weight room this summer and back out on the field next fall," he said.

By quarters
Norton 6-8-0-8=22
Smith Center 6-0-0-14=20

How they scored
1st quarter — Trever Lewis 68-yard run.
2nd quarter — Lewis 63-yard run, PAT Drew Ellis run.

Jayvee volleyball second in tourney

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton junior varsity girls volleyball team compiled a 2-2 record and placed second in the Oberlin JV Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 4.

"From start to finish, our Norton girls played the best volleyball we have played all season," said Christine Thompson, Norton assistant coach.

"Our girls took every match as a challenge; they knew that each team would be tough and have the same goals for the day."

Hoxie
Norton played Hoxie first and defeated the Lady Indians 25-15, 25-23. "It was a challenge due to being the first match of the morning," said coach Thompson. "We came out and controlled the match the entire time by playing very aggressively and smart."

St. Francis
The Lady Jays met St. Francis next and defeated them 26-24, 17-25, 15-13.

Atwood
The third match of the day for Norton was against Atwood.

"They were up for the match since we beat them about a week before the tournament," said coach Thompson. "The match was well played by both teams but they came away with the win."

Atwood won 19-25, 14-12, 15-11.

Oberlin
"The biggest match of the day was against Oberlin," said coach Thompson.

"It came down to the Oberlin match to determine the tournament champions. After three well played games, Oberlin came out as the winner of the tournament."

Oberlin defeated Norton 23-25,

25-20, 15-9.
"As the team's coach, I was very proud of the way our girls played and took control," said coach Thompson. "They played smart, under control and aggressively the entire day.

"I believe that as the season has progressed, each player has improved and has brought something important to each of our matches.

"At this time, our junior varsity team has a 10-8 record."

Alyssa Thomson had 22 kills in the tournament; Raven Brown was second with 14. Brown had 31 setting assists and Erin Terrell was second with 29.

Hannah Waggoner had 10 digs. Kendra Engelbert had 8 blocks and Terrell had 5.

Waggoner and Brown each had 9 serving aces and Engelbert and Terrell each had 8 serving aces.

The Norton Community High School junior varsity girls tennis team placed third out of nine teams in the Colby JV Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 4.

"All our girls showed how they've improved this year," said Norton assistant coach Nan Smith. "We beat girls who trounced us earlier in the year.

"It was great to complete our junior varsity season with a big third place tournament finish!"

Phillipsburg won the championship and Colby placed second. Other competing teams were Goodland, Garden City, Scott City, Tribune, Ulysses and Liberal.

In No. 1 singles, Katie Scott lost 6-4 to Paige Roopchan, Colby, who played for Scott City; lost 6-3 to Lauren Shoaff, Colby; lost 6-3 to Kathy Nguyen, Liberal and defeated Vanesa Esparza, Ulysses, 6-3 in pool play.

Norton's No. 1 doubles team of Diedra Kramer and Kyra Fulton

won first place. They defeated Anna Yeager and Krista Kucharick, Scott City, 6-1; outscored Laura Juenemann and Megan Schroeder, Colby, 6-3; won over K. Rosales and Mindy Pham, Liberal, 6-3 and defeated Jessica Pugh and Laurie Beard, Phillipsburg, 6-4 in pool play.

Playing No. 2 singles for the Lady Jays was Ashley Millan. She defeated Samantha Reed, Colby, who was playing for Scott City, 6-2; lost 6-1 to Katera Harter, Colby, drew a bye and defeated Sage Ratliff, Phillipsburg, 6-1 in pool play.

Morgan Baumann and Kaitlyn Ross played No. 2 doubles for Norton. They lost 6-1 to Ashley Sauer and Evelyn Craig, Scott City; lost 6-4 to Hannah Matchell and Madison Gawith, Colby; shutout Martha Merin and Lupite Guellan, Liberal, 6-0 and outscored Ashley Myers and Amanda Bergren, Tribune, 6-3 in pool play.

Way to go!



Norton's Hayli Bozarth hit a top-spin jump serve during recent volleyball action in NCHS Stull Gymnasium when Norton defeated both Logan and Golden Plains.
— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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