

Blue Jays stun unbeaten Scott City, 26-14

By DICK BOYD

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On Friday night, for the second time this season, head coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team spoiled an unbeaten season for an opponent when they defeated No. 5 state ranked Scott City 26-14 in front of another large crowd of local fans on "Senior Night".

Earlier this season, the Blue Jays treated the home fans at Travis Field to a 36-16 Homecoming upset of previously unbeaten St. Francis.

Norton also threw a scare into unbeaten and four-time defending Class 2A state champion Smith Center by coming within two points of them in the third game of the season. The Redmen are still undefeated.

The outstanding Scott City eleven started the game as advertised, moving the ball at will but, as the game wore on, the hard hitting "Blue Swarm" defense eventually took its toll on the Beavers.

On their first possession, Scott City drove 83 yards for an apparent touchdown but fumbled the pigskin into and out of the end zone. The next time Scott City got the ball, they drove 99 yards for their first score. Their extra point kick was no good but they led 6-0 with 4:43 left in the first quarter.

The Beaver defense also gave the Blue Jays trouble in the early going as Norton was three-and-out their first three possessions. The Jays got a big break late in the first period when senior tackle John Van Doren was in the right place at the right time for a lineman's dream, a pass interception! With just 27 seconds left in the quarter, Norton's sophomore tailback Terrell Lane scored from 17 yards out, sophomore kicker Caleb Laughlin split the uprights and Norton held a 7-6 lead.

The second quarter was played on even terms until Scott City quarterback Dillon Stucky threw a 41 yard touchdown pass to Levi Kuntzsch, then passed to Alex Swan for two extra points to take a 14-7 lead with 2:38 remaining in the first half.

The Blue Jays responded by moving on the ground and through the air after the ensuing kickoff to score again. Sophomore tight end Dakota Dreher made a diving catch of a pass from junior quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel in the end zone with 11 seconds left. The extra point kick attempt by Laughlin was blocked, leaving the score at 14-13 in favor of the visitors at halftime.

Seventeen seconds into the second half, the Blue Jays took the lead for good. Junior wide receiver Landon Hamel returned the kickoff to the 30 and, on first down, Terrell Lane broke a tackle, sprinted into the open and outran the Beaver defense for a 70 yard touchdown! Laughlin's extra point kick was good and Norton led 20-14 with 11:43 left in the second half.

The "Blue Swarm" defense was equal to the occasion the rest of the game, allowing the Beavers only three first downs in the third quarter and one in the fourth period.

Norton's final touchdown came early in the fourth quarter and sealed the win. Lane got loose again, this time running 68 yards

to paydirt with 9:39 left. A pass for two extra points was incomplete, making the final 26-14!

Coach's comments

"We did a fantastic job of playing together as a team," said Norton coach Melvin. "Our Blue Swarm defense was awesome!"

"It was a great win. We prepared well all week, were focused and played hard the whole time. We never gave up. When we do these things, we can be a great team."

"We had a balanced offense between running and passing and played great defense. This was our best game of the year!"

Starters for Norton

Coach Melvin started the following players: Landon Hamel, Ashton Draper, wide receivers; Dakota Dreher, tight end; Nish Millan, Zac Dreher, tackles; Brock Lauer, Brad Nuzum, guards; Kaid McKenna, center; Matt Stanley, fullback; Terrell Lane, tailback; Conner Pfannenstiel, quarterback, offense; Nuzum, Millan, John Van Doren, tackles; Tyler Cook, Lauer, ends; Stanley, Lane, Zac Dreher, linebackers; Draper, Hamel, Zane Perez, defensive backs, defense.

Individual statistics

Terrell Lane was leading rusher again for Norton, picking up 184 yards on 24 carries for a 7.7 yard average. Other Norton ball carriers and yards gained were: Matt Stanley, 9 for 28; Connor Pfannenstiel, 4 for 3; Zane Perez, 2 for minus 4.

Pfannenstiel completed 8 of 14 passes for 90 yards and 57 percent. Lane completed 1 of 4 passes for 16 yards and 25 percent.

Landon Hamel was leading receiver with 5 catches for 56 yards and an average of 11.2 yards per catch. Dakota Dreher had 4 catches for 42 yards for a 10.5 yard average. Lane caught one aerial for 27 yards and J.D. Gall had 1 catch for 6 yards.

Lane had 1 kickoff return for 19 yards and Hamel had 1 for 14 yards. Ashton Draper had 2 punt returns for minus 6 yards.

Lane had 7 punts for an outstanding average of 42.8 yards. Laughlin had 4 kickoffs for a 40 yard average.

Leading rusher for Scott City was Dalton Smith with 73 yards on 10 carries. Levi Kuntzsch gained 48 yards on 12 attempts.

Dillon Stucky completed 9 of 26 passes for 141 yards and 35 percent accuracy.

Leading tacklers for Norton were: Matt Stanley with 9 solos, 2 assists and Zac Dreher, 8 solos, 3 assists, both with 11 total tackles. They were followed by: Zane Perez, 6 solos, 1 assist, 7 total; Ashton Draper, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Dakota Dreher, Landon Hamel, Brad Nuzum, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total each; Tyler Cook, 3 solos; Brock Lauer, Nish Millan, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total each; J.D. Gall, Terrell Lane, Kaid McKenna, 2 solos each; John Van Doren, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Connor Pfannenstiel, 1 solo.

First quarter

Terrell Lane returned the opening kickoff to the Norton 39 but Matt Stanley was stopped for no gain, Lane drove for 3, a Connor Pfannenstiel pass was incomplete and Lane boomed a 46 yard punt!

Scott City's Dakota Hays got a short return to the Beaver 17-

yard line. Stucky passed to Jordan Funk and Hamel tackled him on the 23. Matt Stanley and Zane Perez dropped Kuntzsch for a 1 yard loss but Stucky completed a long pass to Kuntzsch and Ashton Draper tackled him on the Scott City 49. Kuntzsch got loose for another first down on the Norton 30. Perez tackled Swan on the 21 but Kuntzsch got a first down on the Norton 16.

On the next down, a Scott City ball carrier fumbled the ball into and out of the end zone! Norton got the ball on the 20-yard-line.

Lane got a big gain to the 40 but gained only 2 yards on the next two downs and a pass fell incomplete. Lane punted and the ball rolled dead on the Scott City 1-foot-line!

After a first down incomplete pass, a Scott City back fumbled the ball but Kuntzsch scooped it up and ran to the Norton 42 before being tackled. Chaston Hoeme gained 3 before Nuzum and Zac Dreher tackled him. Dalton Smith was stopped for no gain by Perez and Zac Dreher. Kuntzsch caught a flat pass and Stanley tackled him after 4 on the 35. Smith got loose on a counter play and sprinted into the end zone for a Beaver touchdown. The extra point was unsuccessful and Scott City led 6-0 with 4:43 left.

The kickoff went into the end zone and Norton took over on their 20. Perez and Stanley gained nothing and a Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete. Lane punted and the ball rolled dead on the Scott City 34. Lane and Dakota Dreher tackled Sam McDaniel after 3, then Zack Dreher and Brock Lauer dropped him after 2. Scott City went to the air and Stucky completed a pass but to Norton tackle John Van Doren!

After Van Doren's interception, Norton had the ball on the Scott City 37. Lane lost 2 yards but Pfannenstiel connected with Hamel, who made a leaping catch for a first down on the 17! Lane got the ball next and ran around left end, picked up blocking, broke two tackles and powered into the end zone! Caleb Laughlin's extra point kick was successful and Norton held a 7-6 lead with 27 seconds left in the quarter.

Laughlin kicked off and J.D. Gall hustled downfield to stop Jacob Rios with a pad-popping tackle on the Beaver 18! Swan lost 3 yards and the first quarter was history, with Norton on top 7-6.

Second quarter

After two incomplete passes, Scott City went back to punt but a holding penalty cost them yardage back to the 8. Their punt rolled dead on the Scott City 37. Lane gained a couple of yards but Norton was penalized for holding. Lane lost 1, then two successive illegal procedure penalties cost Norton 10 more yards. Lane ran for 3, then passed to Hamel on the Beaver 42. Lane punted into the end zone and Scott City got the ball on the 20.

Kuntzsch gained 4 before Perez and Cook stopped him. Smith gained 3, then Draper played great pass coverage and a Beaver aerial fell incomplete. Scott City punted and Draper made a fair catch on the Norton 42.

Lane gained 3 on 2 carries, then Pfannenstiel passed to Dakota



Norton sophomore tailback Terrell Lane (No. 1) was running to daylight after receiving a key block from his junior quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel (No. 13) on his 68-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter Friday night that sealed the Jay's 26-14 District victory over previously unbeaten Scott City at Travis Field in Norton. Also pictured for Norton are senior tackle Kyle Mindrup (No. 53), senior guard Brad Nuzum (No. 68) and sophomore center Kaid McKenna (No. 52)

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Dreher for a first down on the Scott City 47. Lane gained 6 on 2 tries, then Pfannenstiel completed a flat pass to Hamel on the 38. Pfannenstiel sneaked for the first down but the Beaver defense stopped him cold and Norton lost possession of the pigskin.

Hoeme was stopped for no gain by Nish Millan and John Van Doren but, on the next play, Norton was called for a questionable pass interference and the Beavers got the ball on the Norton 46. Smith ran for 5, a pass was incomplete and Zac Dreher dropped Kuntzsch for no gain. On fourth down, Stucky went to the air and completed a 41 yard pass to Kuntzsch for the Beavers' second and final touchdown of the game. Stucky passed to Swan for two extra points and Scott City led 14-7 with 2:38 left.

The Blue Jays answered before intermission. Hamel returned the kickoff to the Norton 34. Stanley plowed for 2 and Gall caught a flat pass for 6. Lane got a first down on the 47 and Pfannenstiel connected with Dakota Dreher for a first down on the Scott City 34. After an incomplete pass, Lane ran for 4, threw a pass that was incomplete, then made a leaping catch of a Pfannenstiel pass on the 3-yard-line!

Lane was stopped for no gain on a plunge into the line, but Pfannenstiel passed to Dakota Dreher in the end zone and he made a diving catch for the touchdown! Laughlin's extra point kick was blocked and Norton trailed 14-13 with 11 seconds left in the half.

McDaniel returned Laughlin's kickoff to the Scott City 34 and it was halftime.

Third quarter

From the opening whistle, the second half belonged to the fired up Blue Jays. Hamel returned the kickoff to the 30. On the first play from scrimmage, Lane got the ball from Pfannenstiel, found running room around left end, broke a tackle and was off to the races, 70 yards to the end zone! Laughlin split the uprights and the Jays were ahead 20-14 with 11:43 left in the period.

Laughlin kicked off and Tyler Cook came charging downfield to blast receiver Rios on the Beaver 21! Hamel tackled Hoeme after 2 yards but Kuntzsch gained 6, then a first down on the 34. Lauer limited Smith to 1 yard, then Cook dropped Stucky for no gain. Cook and several teammates put the icing on the cake by sacking Stucky back on the 26 and they were forced to punt.

Hamel made a fair catch on the Norton 36. Stanley gained 1 and Lane 4 but, on third down, Norton lost 15 on a miscommunication on a pitchout. Lane punted and the ball rolled dead on the Scott City 46.

Stanley smashed McDaniel for no gain, two passes were incomplete and the Beavers punted. Draper was tackled on the Norton 12. Lane bulled for 2, then Pfannenstiel passed to Dakota Dreher for a first down on the 33. Pfannenstiel lost 1, passed to Hamel in the flat for 2, then ran a keeper for 3. Lane punted to Hays and Dakota Dreher tackled him on the 27. Kuntzsch got loose to the Norton 46 where Perez made the tackle. Kuntzsch gained 4 more then 2 more before Zac Dreher stopped him. Kuntzsch got the call again and Stanley stopped him for no gain.

On fourth down, a Scott City flat pass to Kuntzsch was good for a first down on the Norton 33 as the quarter ended with the Jays still on top 20-14.

Fourth quarter

McDaniel gained 4 before Van Doren tackled him, then Hoeme got 4 more before Van Doren and Hamel made the stop. Illegal procedure cost Scott City 5 yards, then Zac Dreher sacked Stucky on the 34. Smith tried a reverse but gained only 2 yards and Norton took over!

Lane got the call and the powerful, speedy sophomore answered the call again with some help from his teammates. Lane found a hole over right tackle, got a great block from quarterback Pfannenstiel, broke several tackles and sprinted 68 yards to the end zone! A pass for two extra points was no good but the Blue Jays were ahead 26-14 with only 9:39 left in the game.

Laughlin kicked off and after penalties on both teams, Scott City took over on their 36. A pass to Tadd Gertschitz gained 5 before Stanley tackled him. A pass was incomplete, then Cook and Nuzum stopped Stucky for no gain. Scott City punted and the ball rolled dead on the Norton 20.

Lane gained 5, Stanley lost 1 and Perez lost 4. Lane punted and Dakota Hays returned the ball to the Scott City 37. After an incomplete pass, Stucky connected with Marshall Anliker for 4. Next down, Stucky was whistled for intentional grounding of a pass and the Beavers were penalized back to the 26. A long, desperation fourth down pass by Stucky was broken up by Draper and the Blue Jays took over on the 26!

Stanley found running room over the left side of the line and was finally tackled on the 9. Lane got nothing but Stanley plunged to the 7. Lane lost 1 then threw an incomplete pass and Scott City regained possession.

Smith was stopped on the 20 by Zac Dreher, Stanley and Perez, then Dreher stopped Smith after 4. Stucky completed a pass to Kuntzsch on the Norton 36, then connected with him again for 9 yards. After 2 incomplete passes, Stucky faded to pass on fourth down and was hit as he tried to pass and Norton took over possession of the pigskin with time running out.

After three running plays by Norton, the final whistle blew and the Blue Jays began celebrating a big, big 26-14 win over previously unbeaten Scott City!

Next action

In their final District contest, Norton will travel to Goodland on Thursday to play the Cowboys in a 7 p.m. game.

Norton is now 6-2 and 2-0 in District play. Goodland is 4-4 and 1-1 in District play. The Cowboys have defeated Trego Community, Atwood and Oberlin and lost to Oakley, Colby and St. Francis in the regular season. They have lost 28-0 to Scott City and defeated Ness City 48-8 on Friday night in District play.

"Goodland runs a spread offense with four receivers," said coach Melvin.

"It is a new offense for them and they are getting better at running it."

"We need to win to keep points from deciding the District winner and to ensure a home field game to start the playoffs."

Senior quarterback Travis Angelos leads the Cowboy offense. He passed for 733 yards and ran for 516 last year for over 1200 total yards of offense.

Senior tailback Fernando Martinez carried the pigskin 199 times for 777 yards in 2007. The offensive line has three big men who are 6 feet tall and 225 pounds or heavier.

Goodland has 17 returning lettermen which include 5 offensive and 4 defensive starters.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Scott City
6	9
211	131
104	141
315	272
9-17-0	9-26-1
7-42.8	5-39.8
0-1	1-4
7-89	4-41

Junior high varsity punishes Colby, 36-20

The Norton Junior High School varsity football machine pinned a 36-20 loss on Colby on Oct. 9.

Coach George Rossi offered these comments: "This was quite a game. The Jays found themselves down 20-8 in the third quarter and stepped up to the challenge to score 28 unanswered points."

"The boys really dug deep and picked up the intensity on both sides of the ball and caused a fumble that we returned for a touchdown and that was the turning point of the game."

"The boys made big plays when we badly needed them. We can't afford to have a letdown because Smith Center comes to town for our final game Thursday, Oct. 16."

(Details of yesterday's game were not available for this issue of The Telegram, but will appear next Tuesday.)

Score by quarters:
Norton 0 - 8 - 14 - 14 = 36
Colby 8 - 6 - 6 - 0 = 20

How they scored:

2nd quarter — Dalton Miller 28-yard pass to John Renner, PAT Miller run. (8 points)

3rd quarter — Miller 1-yard run, PAT Miller pass to John Renner; Jacob Brooks 45-yard fumble return. (14 points)

4th quarter — Austin Hager 62-yard run; Brooks 69-yard run, PAT Miller run. (14)

(Slight difference between Score by Quarters and How they scored.)

Individual statistics:

Rushing — Brooks 20 carries, 283 yards; Hager 3/62; Miller 2/2.

Passing — Miller 3 attempts, 2 completions, 44 yards.

Pass Receiving — Hager 1 for 16 yards; Renner 1 for 28 yards.

Tackles — Treven Rossi 15; Miller 10; Renner 6; Carson McKenna 4; Lane Bigge 7; John Risewick 8; Eli Bozarth 7; Hager 5; Ryan Bainter 2; Cody Ellis 4;

Brooks 13.

Colby wins 6-0 over jayvee

Colby scored the only touchdown in the game, but that was all it needed to win 6-0 over the Norton Junior High jayvees in their clash on Oct. 9.

Statistics:

Rushing — Toby Nickell 4 carries for 11 yards; Tanner Furbush 11/30; Trever Lewis 2/8; Andrew Ellis 1/8.

Passing — Drew Ellis 8 attempts, 4 completions, 89 yards. Pass Receiving — Lewis 1 for 77 yards; Furbush 1/4; Chris Fisher 1/8.

Tackles — Travis Cressler 11; Furbush 11; Lewis 7; Lucas Engel 2; Cole Renner 1; Isaac Schaefer 3; Chris Fisher 2; Andrew Ellis 5; Alex Voorhees 3.

Telegram:
(785) 877-3361

Norton Long-Spur Chapter 17th ANNUAL

Pheasants Forever Banquet

Friday, October 31

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION
Social Hour at 5:30 p.m./Dinner at 7 p.m.
AUCTION WILL FOLLOW DINNER
Open to Wives and Kids; Drawing for Ladies' Prize
Kids Auction - Kids Have a Chance to Win a Gun
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Dan Lauer (785) 877-5181 (Kansasland Tire)
(785) 877-3638 (Home)
Tim Kelly (785) 877-5121 (New age)
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