

Legion opens season 0-4

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team has begun the 2009 season with half veterans and half rookies and a lot of enthusiasm and team spirit, according to team manager Joe Durham.

The Blue Jays played a double header at Russell on Wednesday, June 10 and lost 12-0 and 10-0. Last weekend, they played in the Goodland Tournament and lost 6-2 to Limon, Colo. and 13-2 to Goodland.

"We had some trouble getting enough players for a team but returning players helped recruit," said first year head coach Steve Jeltz. "We didn't get many of last year's K-18 players to come out this year and that has slowed the progress of the team."

"We have played four games and all have high school baseball and have been practicing since February so this is basically our spring training," said manager Durham.

"One good thing about this year's team is that they want to get better and are willing to do the little things to get better," said coach Jeltz. "There are no egos on this team and every player is basically learning all the positions."

The seven returning players are: Matt Stanley, Brian Spooner, Logan Runnion, Andrew Soderlund, Jacob Riedel, Landon Hamel and Skylar Harris. First year players are Tye Nickell, Damion Davis, Carlos Galloway, Jeremy Brown, Steven Brown, Jesse Brown and Landon "Tug" Keiswetter.

Russell

In the opening loss to Russell, Norton had 1 hit, 1 walk and 11 strike outs. Landon Hamel singled for Norton's only hit.

Russell scored 3 runs in the first inning, 4 in the second and 5 in the third.

Hamel was the Norton pitcher. He allowed 9 hits, 6 walks and struck out 4.

Winning pitcher was Brandon Pfannenstiel.

In the second loss to Russell, Norton had 3 hits, 1 base on balls and 7 strike outs. Riedel, Runnion and Nickell each singled.

Russell tallied 3 runs in the first inning, 2 in the second, 4 in the third and 1 in the fourth.

Runnion was the Norton pitcher. He gave up 6 hits, walked 7 and struck out 2.

Winning pitcher was Adam Huchison.

Goodland

In the 6-2 loss to Limon, Norton tallied 1 run in the fourth inning when Soderlund singled and Runnion singled him home and 1 in the fifth inning when Stanley walked, stole two bases and scored.

Limon scored 1 run in the second inning, 3 in the fourth inning and 2 in the fifth stanza.

Norton had 4 hits, 2 walks and 14 strike outs.

Riedel, Runnion, Hamel and Soderlund each had one hit for Norton.

Hamel was the Norton pitcher. He gave up just 3 hits, walked 5 and struck out 12 batters.

Jake Milburn was the winning pitcher.

Norton had 5 hits, no walks and 6 strike outs in the loss to Good-

land. Spooner and Stanley both went a perfect 2 for 2 at the plate and Soderlund was 1 for 1.

The Blue Jays scored 1 run in the first inning when Riedel tallied. In the second inning, Norton scored again when Stanley singled and Soderlund drove him home.

Goodland scored 3 runs in the first inning, 4 in the second and 6 in the third. The Cowboys had 9 hits, 7 walks and no strike outs.

Soderlund, Runnion and Hamel shared pitching duties for the Blue Jays.

Winning pitcher was Preston Dautel.

Next action

The Norton American Legion nine will travel to Smith Center on Wednesday to play a double-header with games beginning at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Schedule

June 17 — Smith Center There 6 and 8 p.m.

June 19-20-21 — Holdrege Tournament There TBA

June 22 — Smith Center Here 6 and 8 p.m.

June 24 — WaKeeney There 6 and 8 p.m.

June 30 — Curtis, Neb. Here 6 and 8 p.m.

July 1 — Ellis There 6 and 8 p.m.

July 3-4-5 — Fourth of July Tourney in Goodland TBA

July 8 — Russell Here 6 and 8 p.m.

July 10 — Phillipsburg Here 6 and 8 p.m.

July 13 — Curtis, Neb. There 6 and 8 p.m.



Logan's Levi Kiser made a cut as he headed downfield to gain more yardage for the West Team during Saturday's Division II 8-Man All Star Football Game at Trojan Field in Beloit. Kiser gained 50 yards on just 5 carries in the game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Star player sees limited action

By DICK BOYD

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Levi Kiser, a 2009 graduate of Logan High School and outstanding all-around athlete, played his final prep football game on Saturday in the 24th annual Kansas Division II 8-Man All Star Football Game at Trojan Field in Beloit.

Despite being a first team All-Cheyenne Conference running back and defensive back for the Trojans, Levi saw limited action on offense only for his West Team, who lost 20-12 to the East All-Stars.

The 5'9", 170 pound Kiser produced yards every time he got the ball but had only five carries and alternated with another back, playing only every other play. He still had 50 yards rushing, which was second high for the West Team and the equivalent of a first down on every carry!

Levi, the son of Jean and Randy Kiser, plans to play football this fall for Highland Community

College. He compiled over 5,000 yards rushing and scored 77 touchdowns during his high school career at Logan.

Also playing for the West Team was Tate Bruggeman, Golden Plains, a nephew of Norma and Curt Archibald. He saw lots of action at defensive end.

The game was tied 6-all after one quarter and the East led 12-6 at halftime. There was no scoring in the third quarter. The West tied the score at 12-all on a 9 yard touchdown run by Justin Skelton of Pawnee Heights that capped a nine-play, 60-yard drive and came with just 3:40 left in the game.

After a short kickoff, the East tried to pass to score a winning touchdown but the West intercepted. The West was unable to move the ball and turned it over to the East on their 19 yard line with 1:56 remaining. On a third and nine play, Mason Hewitt of Norwich caught an 18-yard touchdown pass from Braden Hynek of

Hanover. Jordy Webb of Tescott caught a two-point conversion pass from Hynek to make the final score 20-12.

The Division I All-Star Game followed and provided more offensive fireworks. The West scored the first 20 points of the game but had to hold on at the end to earn a wild 44-40 victory over the East.

East quarterback Austin Unruh of Goessel put his name in the 8-Man All-Star Game record book. He threw for a staggering 419 yards and four touchdowns, completing 25 of 46 passes without an interception. Unruh's 432 yards of total offense was also a record.

Also playing for the West Team were Dylan Vap, Hill City running back and linebacker and Matt Teselle, defensive back and Taylor Kuhlmann, running back, tight end and linebacker, both of Thunder Ridge.



Pictured at the start of the 5 Mile Run during the Riverless Festival in Phillipsburg on Saturday morning were, from left: Kristy Nyp, Stockton; Bridget Starbuck, Stockton; Bob McAnany, Hays; Steve Streck, Norton; Marcia Zillinger, Phillipsburg; David Bainter, Norton; Russell Baldwin, Phillipsburg and Charlene Smith, Athol. McAnany won the race in a record time of 30:52.41.

- Courtesy Photo

Norton runners/walkers earn medals

By DICK BOYD

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Norton area walkers and runners of all ages were among those who participated in the annual Family Fun Run/Walk during the Riverless Festival in Phillipsburg on Saturday morning, June 6 and a number of them returned with medals.

David Bainter of Norton and Marvin Gaines of Logan won medals in both the 5 mile and 2 mile run. Bainter won the gold medal in the 2 mile run in the 40-49 year old age group and was runner-up in the 5 mile run.

Gaines earned the gold medal in the 2 mile run in the 50-59 age group with a new record of 13:13.22 and placed third in the 5 mile run.

Tom Baumann of Norton placed third in the 2 mile run in the 40-49

age group.

Josh Schemper, Prairie View, won the 2 mile run in the 30-39 age group and Brett Pinkerton, Logan, finished second in the 2 mile in the 11-14 age group.

Lee VanLoenen, Prairie View, earned the gold medal in the 20-29 year age group in the 5 mile run.

Hannah Pinkerton of Logan was the overall first place finisher in the women's 2 mile run. She ran in the 15-19 age group and set a new record with a time of 13:41.38.

Marcy Gaines, Logan, won the gold medal in the 11-14 age group in the 2 mile run and Staci Manning, Norton, won the 20-29 age group in the 2 mile run.

Diana Smith, Norton, was third in the 40-49 and Mary Beth Van Roekel, Logan, placed second in the 50-59 age group, both in the 2 mile run.

In the women's 5 mile run, Emily Littrell, Lee's Summit, MO, placed second in the 20-29 age group. She is a granddaughter of Thelma and Dee Bushnell, Logan.

For the first time, a One-Half Mile Race was held for children in the 6-7, 8-9 and 10 year old divisions.

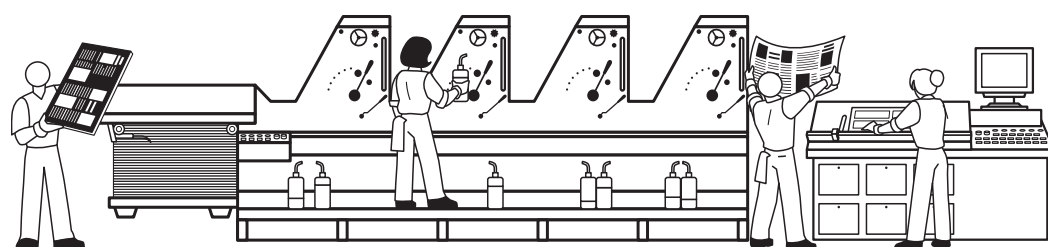
Kennedy Yeager, Norton, placed second in the 6-7 age group.

Brianna Pinkerton, Logan, won the 8-9 age group and was overall first place finisher in the girls' division.

Other race participants from Norton were: Tiffney Yeager, Bryan Keiswetter, Steve Streck and Klare Zillinger.

Sponsor of the riverless run/walk was the Phillips County Health Systems.

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-A friendly reminder from your friends at The Norton Telegram