

Jays continue in playoffs

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School's seniors had a little extra spring in their step Thursday night on "Senior Night" as they led their teammates to a 42-7 victory at Travis Field over a visiting Goodland eleven to wrap up a runner-up spot in District 15 and continue in the playoffs.

It was a cold, rainy night but the Blue Jays dominated the Cowboys and didn't seem to let the adverse weather affect them. Norton led 13-0 after the first quarter, 27-0 at halftime and 42-0 after three quarters before turning it over to the junior varsity Jays. The continuous scoreboard clock after Norton's final touchdown cut the fourth quarter time considerably.

Playing in wet, slippery, sliding conditions, Norton amazingly rushed (or splashed) for 250 yards on 42 carries for a 6 yard average and passed for 104 more yards with a slippery football for a total of 354 yards of offense!

Meanwhile, the "Blue Swarm" defense limited the Cowboys to just 53 yards rushing on 23 carries for a 2.3 yards per carry average. Goodland's sophomore quarterback Reed Bellamy entered the game with 1,123 yards passing and a 58 percent completion average.

Against the Blue Jay pass defense, he completed 8 of 18 aeri-als for 44 percent and 73 yards, bringing the Cowboys' offensive total to 129 yards, about a third of the Blue Jay total!

Prior to the game, Norton's football, cross country and tennis senior players and managers were honored.

The senior football players are Tyler Cook, Ashton Draper, J.D. Gall, Landon Hamel, Marcus Herman, Zane Perez, Connor Pfannenstiel and Jake Romey.

Senior cross country members were Chris Maddy, Grant McClymont and Matt Miller and Amanda Ray, a runner for three years, is manager this season.

Senior tennis team members were Allie Corbin and Emily Juenemann.

The entire Norton girls and boys cross country teams, who qualified for the State Cross Country Meet in Wamego the same year for the first time in school history, were also honored.

Needless to say, Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin was proud of his Blue Jays for "mudding" to victory.

"It all started up front with our offensive line opening holes in the muck," said coach Melvin.

"Our defensive play was excellent as well."

"All of our youngsters did a great job of playing hard under these weather conditions. Casey Timmel filled in for injured Luke Ninemire in our offensive line and played well for us."

Due to the inclement weather, the Goodland players, coaches, administrators and fans were invited to stay overnight and they did. "Many people offered rooms and we had many more offers than needed," said coach Melvin.

"It was great community support."

Coach Melvin started the following players on the offensive line: junior Ryan Blecha, 185 pounds, left tackle; senior Marcus Herman, 175 pounds, left guard; junior Kaid McKenna, 175 pounds, center; sophomore Casey Temmel, 175 pounds, right guard; junior Landon Keiswetter, 175 pounds, right tackle; senior J.D. Gall, 180 pounds, tight end; senior Ashton Draper, 180 pounds, wide receiver and senior Landon Hamel, 160 pounds, wide receiver.

Starting in the backfield for the Blue Jays were: senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 155 pounds, quarterback; senior Zane Perez, 180 pounds, fullback; junior Terrell Lane, 210 pounds, tailback.

Starting on defense were: junior Jeremy Sproul, 200 pounds, left end; junior Justin Griffith, 180 pounds, left tackle; senior Tyler Cook, 215 pounds, right tackle; junior Rylee Stanley, 150 pounds, right end; Lane, McKenna, Gall,

linebackers; Draper, Hamel, cornerbacks; Pfannenstiel, free safety; Perez, strong safety.

Junior Terrell Lane followed the senior leadership and played a big part in the victory. He scored from 64 yards out on the first play from scrimmage, then added a 66 yard touchdown run late in the third quarter. Lane ended the game with 166 yards on 15 carries for an average of 11.1 yards per carry.

Junior Jeremy Sproul also did his part, scoring twice from two yards out.

Senior Landon Hamel scored on a 70-yard fake punt and pass from senior Connor Pfannenstiel and senior fullback Zane Perez tallied from 10 yards out for Norton's other touchdown.

Other ball carriers for Norton and their yardage were: Jeremy Sproul, 10 carries for 37 yards; Zane Perez, 3 for 26; Connor Pfannenstiel, 5 for 5; J.D. Gall, 1 for 1; Spencer Shirk, 2 for 11; Tye Nickell, 2 for 1; Jacob Brooks, 2 for minus 1; Dalton Miller, 1 for 1; Jared Bohl, 1 for 2.

Pfannenstiel completed 4 of 8 passes for 101 yards and intercepted one pass with a 19 yard return.

Landon Hamel returned 3 punts for 43 yards and 1 kickoff for 8 yards in addition to catching 1 pass for 70 yards.

J.D. Gall had 2 pass receptions for 28 yards and punted 3 times for a 30.7 yard average. Justin Griffith had 2 pass receptions for 6 yards.

Caleb Laughlin had 6 kickoffs for a 41.8 yard average. Tye Nickell had 1 kickoff return for 18 yards.

Riley Oharah was leading rusher for Goodland with 78 yards on 9 carries.

Landon Hamel was leading tackler for Norton. He had 7 solo tackles and 2 assists for 9 total and was followed by Kaid McKenna, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; Landon Keiswetter, 6 solos; Jeremy Sproul, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; J.D. Gall, 2 solos, 4 assists, 6 total; Justin Griffith, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Tye Nickell, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Jacob Brooks, Tyler Cook, Connor Pfannenstiel, Rylee Stanley, 2 solos each; Robert Blecha, Terrell Lane, Dillon McConney, Dalton Miller, Zane Perez, 1 solo each; Carson McKenna, Jake Romey, 1 assist each.

First quarter

Landon Hamel received the opening kickoff and the kind of night it would be was obvious when he ran 8 yards and slipped onto the turf on the Norton 36-yard line.

Terrell Lane got the call on Norton's first play from scrimmage and found good footing as he ran overright tackle, got a block from J.D. Gall and was off to the ene zone 64 yards away!

Caleb Laughlin split the uprights and the Blue Jays led the Cowboys 7-0 with 11:37 still left in the first quarter.

Laughlin kicked off and the Norton defense was more than equal to the occasion. The gang tackling Jays caused a 1 yard loss, incomplete pass and 2 yard loss before Goodland punted to the Norton 22.

Norton got 1 first down on a 12 yard run by Jeremy Sproul before Gall punted to Goodland on their 44. The Cowboys went backwards, thanks to the Norton defense, and punted on fourth and 17! Norton took over on their 33 but couldn't move and punted to the Goodland 41. Again, the Norton defense held and, on fourth and four, Goodland went into punt formation.

The Blue Jay defense put on a furious rush and Tyler Cook blocked the punt!

Norton took over on the Goodland 28. After two runs by Lane, Connor Pfannenstiel connected with Gall on a 20 yard pass play to the 5. Sproul plowed for 1 yard and Lane bulled for 2 then, on the next down, followed his blockers into the end zone.

Laughlin's extra point kick was wide but Norton led 13-0 with 1:28 left in the period.

Laughlin kicked off and Riley Oharah made a good return to the



Norton's defense continues to get better each week. In this photo taken during the Blue Jays' district win over Goodland on Thursday evening you can see a Goodland lineman trying to block for a running back who has been engulfed by the "Blue Swarm". Norton defenders are, from left, Tyler

Goodland 34. Quarterback Bellamy completed a 37 yard pass to his favorite receiver Brock Wilkens and the Cowboys were on the Norton 29. On the final play of the quarter, the "Blue Swarm" defense threw the Cowboys for a 3 yard loss!

Second quarter

Bellamy went back to the air and Pfannenstiel intercepted, returning the pigskin 19 yards. Norton's next three plays did not produce a first down so the Jays went into punt formation.

Much to the Cowboys' surprise, center Kaid McKenna centered the ball to Pfannenstiel instead of punter Gall and he passed to a wide open Hamel.

After catching the ball, Hamel sprinted down the sideline, ran out of the grasp of a potential tackler, regained his balance and ran into the end zone for a 70 yard touchdown!

"They'd been rushing almost all of their players when we punted so we thought this would be a good play," said coach Melvin.

Laughlin's extra point kick was good and Norton led 20-0 with 10:08 left in the half.

Laughlin's kickoff was returned to the Goodland 42. The Cowboys got 1 first down on a 13 yard pass, then a face mask penalty on Norton moved the ball to the Norton 28. Four downs later, however, Norton regained possession on their 24.

The Jays were unable to get a first down and Gall punted to the Norton 49. Again, the Norton defense stepped up and, three downs later, Goodland punted again. Hamel gathered the ball in and headed upfield. With the help of a good block from Marcus Herman he brought the ball back 30 yards before being run out of bounds on

the Norton 49.

Zane Perez found a hole up the middle and gained 15 yards for a first down on the Goodland 36. A fourth down keeper by Pfannenstiel got another Blue Jay first down on the 25. Lane ran to the 19 and Pfannenstiel passed to Gall for a first down on the 12. Sproul gained 2 more yards, then Perez ran around left end for Norton's fourth touchdown of the half. Laughlin's kick extended the Norton advantage to 27-0 with 45 seconds left.

After Laughlin's kickoff, Goodland was unable to move the ball and it was halftime.

Third quarter

Laughlin kicked off to start the second half and Goodland returned the ball to their 30. It was another three-and-out for the Cowboys, who punted out of bounds on the Norton 41. With Lane and Pfannenstiel carrying the ball, the Blue Jays moved downfield.

Spencer Shirk replaced Pfannenstiel at quarterback and ran a keeper for 5 yards to the Cowboy 15. Lane gained 10 more yards to the 5, then Sproul carried twice and scored the second time from 2 yards out. Shirk passed to Justin Griffith for two extra points to make the score 35-0 with 5:33 left in the third quarter.

Laughlin kicked off again and Goodland returned the ball to their 35. It was the same song, next verse, however, as the stingy Norton defense forced another three-and-out!

Hamel returned the ensuing punt to the Norton 34. Lane got the call again, got good blocks on the line of scrimmage and then was on his own. He legged the pigskin 66 yards this time to the end zone! Laughlin split the uprights, running

Cook, No.64; Justin Griffith, No.82; Jeremy Sproul, No.44; Connor Pfannenstiel, No.13, partially hidden; Terrell Lane, No.1; Ashton Draper, No.6, partially hidden and Landon Hamel, No.21.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The Norton lead to 42-0 with 3:52 left in the third quarter.

A lead of over 40 points starts the scoreboard clock running continuously, so the rest of the game went fast. After kicking to Goodland, another three-and-out for the visitors and punt to Hamel, which he returned for 10 yards to the Goodland 45, the third quarter was history.

Fourth quarter

By the time the final quarter began, the rain had really started to come down.

Coach Melvin put his junior varsity players on the field and they played the entire quarter. They put up a good fight and got good experience.

The junior varsity gave up the only touchdown scored by the Cowboys.

Ohara scored on a 16-yard run and Austin Avelar kicked the extra point to make the score 42-7 with 4:45 remaining.

Tye Nickell returned the ensuing kickoff 18 yards to the Norton 48 and the game ended four plays later.

Next action

Lakin won the District 16 championship on Thursday night with a 22-0 shutout of Southwestern Heights.

Norton will travel to Lakin this evening for a 7 p.m. Bi-District game.

Both teams will bring 6-3 records into the game. Lakin has defeated Syracuse, Sublette, Stanton County, Cimarron and Holcomb in addition to Southwestern Heights. Their losses have been to Scott City, Hugoton and Beloit.

"This is a one game season from here on," said coach Melvin. "We must continue to play hard and improve. Lakin has a balanced running and passing offense so our defense will be challenged again."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Goodland
7	5
250	53
104	73
354	129
5-9-0	8-19-1
0-2	0-2
3-30.7	7-31.2
8-39	3-25

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AUCTIONEER NOTES: This Nov. 7th sale has some really unusual and serviceable items. The coins are ones that you will want to add to a collection and there are good starter coins also. You will be able to outfit yourself with a firearm for the upcoming hunting season or just purchase a fine firearm! Many of the dishes were packed so I am not sure how many more I will find as they are unpacked. I think you'll want to be at this sale just because it offers so many different kinds of items!

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CENTS: 1839 Coronet Large Cent; 1856 Braided Hair Large Cent; 1857 and 1858 Flying Eagle; 23 Indian Head-Oldest 1859, Newest 1894; 340 Lincoln Wheat-Oldest 1913D, Newest 1961

NICKELS: 1865 Nickel 3 Cent Piece; 7 Shield Nickels-Oldest 1866, Newest 1868; 1872 Half Dime; 11 Liberty V Nickel-Oldest 1887, Newest 1912; 6 1936 Buffalo Nickels; 41 Jefferson Nickels-Oldest 1938, Newest 1960S

DIMES: 1854D and 1876 Seated; 25 Mercury and Roosevelt Silver

QUARTERS: 166 Washington Silver; 39 State

HALF DOLLARS: 1917D Walking Liberty; 4 Barber-Oldest 1902, Newest 1912; 7 Silver Franklin; 11 Kennedy Silver; 19 Kennedy Bicentennial; 5 Eisenhower; 2 1893 Columbian Exposition; 1952 Booker and Washington

SILVER DOLLARS: 10 Morgan 1921; 22 Peace 1922; 15 Peace 1923; 3 Peace 1925; 6 Peace 1926; Peace 1927; Peace 1935 (Total 68)

US PAPER MONEY: 11 Bills Total - Silver Certificates; Federal Reserve; Two Dollar Bills

FOREIGN COINS: Mexico, Great Britain, Africa, Japan, Netherlands, Luxemburg, Switzerland, Greece, Italy, Israel, Egypt, Germany, Ecuador, Canada, Norway, China, Sweden, France, Hong Kong

FOREIGN PAPER MONEY: Bahamas, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Dutch

TOKENS: Atwood, Rawlins, Nebraska

TAX TOKENS: Oklahoma, Kansas, Arizona, Colorado, Missouri, 1979 Commemorative John Wayne

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