

Thunder girls softball team hosts Osborne

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Thunder girls softball team, which plays in a 16 and under league with all players 14 and under, hosted Osborne on Monday, June 7 at Busch Field in a doubleheader.

Osborne had an older team and won both contests.

First game

Osborne won the opener 17-6. Four innings were played and Osborne scored 6 runs in the first inning, 3 in the second, 4 in the third and 4 in the fourth inning.

Norton scored 1 run in the second inning when Jessica White singled to left field, Shauna Gibson got on base via an error and White tallied.

The Lady Blue Jays ran 2 more runs across home plate in the third inning when Audrie Burge, Skylar Davis and Rikele Green singled one after the other and Audrie and Skylar scored.

Norton's final runs came in the bottom of the fourth when Brandy

Davis and Elaine Remington both walked and Audrie Burge singled them home.

Norton had 7 hits and 3 walks. Leading hitters for Norton were Rikele Green, who was 2 for 2 at the plate and Audrie Burge, who was 2 for 3.

Osborne had 12 hits and 9 walks.

Kristen Burge was the Norton pitcher.

Second game

Osborne also dominated the second game, winning 22-2.

Three innings were played. Osborne scored 5 runs in the first inning, 5 in the second stanza and 12 in the third.

Norton scored both runs in the third inning when Kristen Burge singled, Skylar Davis walked and Rikele Green singled them home.

Norton had 4 hits in the game and 3 walks. Kristen Burge, Rikele Green, Christie Johnson and Jessica White each singled.

Rikele Green and Christie

Johnson shared pitching duties for the Lady Jays.

Osborne had 11 hits and 12 walks.

Don Burge is the coach of the Norton Thunder. Players are Skylar Davis, Chalise Christensen, Audrie Burge, Kristen Burge, Elaine Remington, Jessica White, Brandy Davis, Shauna Gibson, Rikele Green and Christie Johnson.

The Norton Thunder hosted Phillipsburg in a doubleheader on Monday evening but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Norton will travel to Osborne to play a doubleheader on Wednesday, beginning at 7 p.m.

On June 21, the Lady Jays will host Stockton and, on June 23, Norton will travel to Phillipsburg for a doubleheader.

Their final games of the season, unless more are scheduled, will be on July 5 when Norton travels to Stockton.



Norton Thunder pitcher Kristen Burge fired the ball to an Osborne batter during the June 7 softball game at Busch Field on June 7. Backing her at second base was Shauna Gibson.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Christie Johnson, Norton Thunder short stop, caught a fly ball from an Osborne hitter to end an inning during their 16 and Under softball game on June 7 at Busch Field in Norton. At left is Rikele Green, who plays third base for the Thunder nine.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton area runners break records in Riverless Run

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Several records were broken by Norton area runners in the popular Riverless Run/Walk which attracted 80 participants on Saturday morning, June 5 in Phillipsburg.

Norton's Staci Manning won the 30-39 year age group in the Two Mile Race with a new record time of 15:20.01. She broke the

record set last year of 16:17.90 by Sheresa Brull, Hays.

Marvin Gaines of Logan won the Two Mile Race in age 50-59 with a time of 12:53.28, which broke his meet record set last year of 13:13.22. Marvin also ran the Five Mile Race and placed second in his age division in 39:58.86.

Logan's Brett Pinkerton won the gold medal in the 11-14 age group in the Two Mile Race with

a clocking of 12:32.01.

Taylor Rossi of Norton placed runner-up in the Two Mile Race in the 15-19 age group with a time of 16:46.08 and Kyra Fulton of Norton was right behind her in third place with a time of 17:42.09.

Norton's Tiffney Yeager finished runner-up in the 40-49 age group of the Two Mile Race with a clocking of 27:18.33.

For the second year, a One-Half

Mile Race was held for children in the 6-7, 8-9 and 10 year old divisions. Brianna Pinkerton of Logan won the 8-9 age group for the second year. She was timed in 3:38.11 and she was the overall

first place finisher in the girls' division.

Kennedy Yeager of Norton placed third in the One-Half Mile Race in the 6-7 age group with a time of 4:36.10 and Reilly

Manning, also of Norton, was right behind her in fourth with a clocking of 4:36.53.

Sponsor of the Riverless Run/Walk was the Phillips County Health Systems.

Shrine Bowl player has local ties

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Matt Bowman, 2010 graduate of Kearney, Neb. Catholic High School, is a member of the South Team who will play the North Team in the 52nd annual Nebraska Shrine Bowl Game on Saturday, June 19 in Lincoln, Neb.

Kickoff will be at 6:30 p.m. in Memorial Stadium.

Matt is the son of Norton Community High School graduate Mark Bowman and wife Mary and the grandson of longtime former Norton resident Wilda Bowman and the late Glenn Bowman.

Matt will attend Kansas State University in Manhattan, majoring in Pre-Veterinary Medicine. He has been invited to walk on the K-State football team and has been participating in summer workouts in Manhattan. He is practicing this week with the South Team in Lincoln.

Matt received many honors during his four years of high school football. He was named First Team All-Conference, First Team All Region, First Team All District and First Team All State. The Kearney Hub newspaper chose him as the Defensive Player of the Year. He was a co-captain of his team and his teammates voted him Most Valuable Player. He was also Team Weightlifter of the Year.

Matt has been a defensive end



Matt Bowman, No. 56 for Kearney Catholic High School, is shown tackling an opponent during his senior season. Matt has strong ties with Norton where his father grew up and grandparents lived until recently.

— Courtesy photo

and switched to linebacker this season. Despite facing double and triple team blockers, he averaged 22.4 tackles per game this season.

Matt was an Academic Honor Roll member all four years and was also named Academic All State. He was also a Boys State representative.

"Matt Bowman was a 20-plus tackle guy every game, so he meant a heck of a lot to our defense," said Kearney Catholic coach Dave Colling. "When you

can count on a guy to make 20 tackles a game, that's huge.

"Tenacious" was the first word coach Colling used to describe Bowman, a 6-foot-2-inch, 230 pounder. "He's a high motor energy guy who loves to hit, loves contact.

"He was a leader and another coach on the field. To play like he did just playing linebacker for one year is phenomenal."

At middle linebacker this season, Bowman covered the field from side to side.

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