

12 and under team having successful season

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton 12 and Under baseball team is having a very successful season with very few losses.

Following are the results of the games to date.

Hays Tournament

Norton 12 and Under opened the season on May 22 in the Hays Tournament where they went 2-3 and placed third.

Norton began with Ellis and won 13-3.

The Blue Jays got off to a good start by scoring six runs in the top of the first inning. Quinton Porter singled, Gavin Lively and Jacob Green both doubled, Josh Van Laeys was hit by a pitch and walked, Landon Porter walked, Regan Kats got on base on an error and Trenton Wright doubled. All except Wright scored.

Ellis was three up, three down in the bottom of the inning.

Norton continued to score in the second inning, running five more runs across home plate. Jace Ruder and Colton Greving both singled, Quinton Porter walked, Lively, Otter and VanLaeys all singled and Henson walked. All except VanLaeys and Henson scored.

Ellis scored two runs in the bottom of the second. Norton added two more runs to their total in the top of the fourth to extend their lead to 13-2. Ruder and Lively both singled and both scored.

Ellis tallied one run in the bottom of the inning but it was too little, too late and Norton won 13-3.

Norton had 11 hits in the game, four walks and seven strike-outs.

Landon Porter pitched for Norton and allowed just one hit, six walks and six strike-outs.

Next in the tournament, Norton played the Hays Rangers and lost 16-4.

The Rangers scored two runs in the top of the first. Norton responded with three in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-2. Quinton Porter, Lively and Green all walked. Otter got on base on a fielder's choice and VanLaeys and Landon Porter both walked. Porter, Lively and Green all scored.

The Rangers regained the lead in the top of the second when they tallied three runs. Norton had just one run in the bottom of the inning and trailed 5-4. Ruder and Quinton Porter both walked and Lively singled Ruder home.

The Rangers extended their advantage with five more runs in the top of the third. Norton failed to score again and the Rangers added six more runs in the top of the fourth and final inning.

Norton had just one hit, a single by Lively. Eleven Norton batters walked and seven struck out.

The Rangers had just four hits, eight walks and two strike-outs. Green started on the mound for Norton and allowed just one hit. Otter hurled the rest of the game.

Norton next played Andover and lost 14-2.

Andover scored one run in the top of the first inning, six in the second, three in the third and four in the top of the fourth stanza.

Norton's two runs came in the bottom of the third. Ellis singled, Ruder doubled, Quinton Porter singled and Lively walked. Ellis and Ruder both scored.

Lively was the Norton pitcher. He allowed Andover just three hits, 12 walks and two strike-outs.

In the next tournament contest, Ottawa County shutout the Blue Jays 14-0. They scored two runs in the first, six in the second and six in the third stanza.

The Blue Jays had no hits in the game, no walks and nine strike-outs.

Ottawa County had four hits, eight walks and three strike-outs. Norton won third place in the tournament by defeating Colby 14-6.

The Blue Jays tallied three runs in the top of the first inning. Ellis and VanLaeys both singled and Otter doubled them home.

Five more Norton runs in the top of the second extended the Blue Jay lead to 8-0. Landon Porter singled, Wright walked, Greving singled, Quinton Porter walked, Ellis got on base on an error and VanLaeys singled. All but VanLaeys tallied.

It was 10-0 in favor of Norton after two more runs in the top of the

third. Ruder walked and Landon Porter and Wright both singled. Ruder and Porter scored.

Colby scored three runs in the bottom of the third to cut the Norton advantage to 10-3. Norton was scoreless in the top of the fourth and Colby added two more runs to make it 10-5.

Four more Blue Jay runs in the top of the fifth inning put the game away. Ruder doubled, Henson and Landon Porter both singled and Hayes doubled. Ruder, Henson, Porter and Wright, who had reached base, all scored.

One more Colby run in the bottom of the inning made the final 14-6 in favor of Norton.

The Norton bats were booming in the game. The Jays had 13 hits, four walks and eight strike-outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Landon Porter, who was a perfect 3 for 3 and VanLaeys, who was 2 for 3.

Colby had three hits, three walks and seven strike-outs.

Holdrege C

On May 24, Norton began play in the Nebraska League with a 6-4 win over Holdrege C in Norton.

Holdrege took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning and added another run in the top of the second to make it 4-0.

The Blue Jays got on the scoreboard with three runs in the bottom of the third inning. Henson, Wright, Greving and Layton Miller all walked and Lively got on base on an error and Henson, Wright and Greving all scored.

Holdrege did not score again and Norton added three runs in the bottom of the fourth to take the 6-4 win. Again, walks played a big part in Norton's scores. Otter and VanLaeys both walked, Landon Porter doubled and Ruder and Ellis both walked. Otter, VanLaeys and Porter all scored.

Norton had just three hits in the game but 10 walks and eight strike-outs.

Holdrege managed just two hits, had 10 walks and eight strike-outs.

Cozad

Norton traveled to Cozad on May 25 and returned with an 8-1 victory.

The Blue Jays scored twice in the top of the first inning when Quinton Porter, Otter and VanLaeys got on base on errors and Porter and Otter scored.

In the top of the third, Norton added five more runs. Greving got on base on a walk, Quinton Porter and Lively both singled and Green smashed a home run! Next up to the plate was Otter and he followed with a round tripper! All five scored to make it 7-0.

Hayes got on base for Norton with a walk in the top of the fifth and Caden Kinderknecht singled him home for the Blue Jays' final run. In the bottom of the inning, Cozad scored their only run of the game.

Norton had seven hits, four walks and five strike-outs.

Lively pitched for Norton and allowed Cozad just two hits, five walks and 13 strike-outs!

Lexington B

On May 27, Norton played at Lexington B and held off a rally by the home team in the final inning to win 6-5.

Norton scored one run in the top of the first inning when Henson walked and VanLaeys singled him home. Lexington B tied it with one run in the bottom of the first.

The Blue Jays tallied one more run in the second stanza when Ruder and Greving both walked and Ruder scored.

One run by Lexington B in the bottom of the second tied the score at 2-all.

Norton's big scoring inning was the third when they ran four runs across home plate. Ellis walked and Green blasted a home run! VanLaeys and Ruder both got on base on errors. All four scored to extend the Blue Jay lead to 6-2.

Lexington scored three runs in the last of the fourth on five walks and an error and left the bases loaded with the final score 6-5.

Norton had only three hits in the game, five walks and seven strike-outs.

Lexington B had no hits, nine walks and eight strike-outs.

Holdrege B

Norton hosted Holdrege B on June 1 and won 7-3.

Holdrege B did not score until the fourth and final inning. Norton

tallied one run in the bottom of the second when VanLaeys and Ellis doubled and Henson and Wright walked and VanLaeys scored.

Six Norton runs in the bottom of the third inning produced the win. Greving, Miller and Quinton Porter all walked and Green cleared the bases with a home run! Otter walked and VanLaeys brought him in with another home run!

Norton had five hits, six walks and nine strike-outs. The two home run hitters, Green and VanLaeys, both went 2 for 2 with the bat.

Green was on the mound for Norton and gave up just three hits, walked five and struck out nine.

Holdrege A

Norton traveled to Holdrege to play Holdrege A on June 3 and lost 7-3.

The Blue Jays took an early lead with three runs on three hits in the top of the first. Lively and Green both doubled, Otter singled and Landon Porter got on base on an error. All except Porter scored.

Holdrege tallied one run in the first, five in the second and one in the bottom of the third inning.

Norton had just five hits, no walks and four strike-outs. Otter was 2 for 2 at the plate.

Holdrege A had six hits, five walks and seven strike-outs.

Oxford

Norton entertained Oxford on June 8 and came away with a 7-2 victory.

The visitors scored both of their runs in the top of the second inning.

Norton tallied one run in the bottom of the second when Lively blasted a home run!

The Blue Jays' six additional runs were scored in the bottom of the fourth stanza. Kinderknecht singled, Miller doubled, Quinton Porter and Green singled and Otter and Lively both doubled and all scored.

Norton had nine hits, no walks and five strike-outs. Green and Lively were each 2 for 2 batting. VanLaeys was the Norton pitcher.

Eustis

Norton traveled to Eustis on June 10 and returned with a 9-1 win.

The contest was decided in the top of the first inning when the Blue Jays tallied seven runs!

VanLaeys walked, Green doubled, Otter singled, Lively tripled, Ellis walked, Wright was hit by a pitch and walked, Henson and Ruder both singled. All except Ruder scored.

Eustis added their run in the bottom of the first.

One more Norton run was scored in the top of the third inning when Quinton Porter singled and scored later in the inning and another in the top of the fifth when Landon Porter walked and Greving singled him home.

Norton had seven hits, four walks and nine strike-outs.

Otter was the Norton pitcher and allowed just one hit, walked four and struck out six batters.

Cozad B

On June 17, Norton traveled to Cozad to play Cozad B and won a 2-1 squeaker.

Norton scored their first run in the top of the first when Green singled and Otter tripled him home. Cozad tied the score with one run in the bottom of the second on three walks.

Norton won it with one run in the top of the seventh when VanLaeys singled and Green doubled him home.

Top hitters for Norton were Green and Otter, both 3 for 3 at the plate.

Norton had eight hits, two walks and 11 strike-outs.

Ruder was the Norton pitcher. He gave up no hits, walked seven and struck out 16 batters!

Hays Tournament

Norton competed in a second Hays Tournament on Father's Day weekend, June 19-20 and placed fourth.

The Blue Jays defeated Colby 11-3 in their opener.

Norton tallied five runs in the top of the second inning. Otter doubled, VanLaeys walked, Hayes doubled, Wright walked, Landon Porter, Greving and Kats both singled. All except Greving and Kats scored.

Four more Norton runs in the top of the third extended the lead to 9-0. Green walked, Otter doubled,

VanLaeys singled, Ellis walked and Hayes got on base on an error. Green, Otter, Ellis and Hayes scored.

Colby scored twice in the bottom of the fourth inning to make it a 9-2 game.

Norton tallied two more runs in the top of the fifth when Otter singled, VanLaeys walked and Hayes singled. Otter and VanLaeys scored.

Colby added one more run in the bottom of the fifth to make the final 11-3.

Otter was leading hitter for Norton with 3 for 3 with the bat and Hayes was 2 for 3. Norton had 11 hits, seven walks and six strike-outs.

Lively was the Norton hurler. He allowed just two hits, nine walks and six strike-outs.

In the next tournament game, Norton defeated Ellis 12-2. Norton's first run came in the top of the first when Quinton Porter and Otter both walked and Porter scored.

The Blue Jays scored five runs in the top of the second. Ellis walked, Wright was hit by a pitch and walked, Landon Porter and Greving both reached base on an error and Quinton Porter singled. All five scored.

Ellis scored once in the bottom of the second to make the score 6-1.

The Blue Jays ran five more runs across home plate in the top of the third. Otter singled, VanLaeys walked, Hayes got on base on an error, Wright walked and Landon Porter singled. All five scored to extend the lead to 11-1.

Ellis scored their second run in the bottom of the third and Norton scored a final run in the top of the fourth when Otter singled and scored later in the inning.

Otter had two of Norton's six

hits. Norton also had seven walks and six strike-outs.

Otter allowed just one hit, walked eight and struck out eight.

In their third game of the tournament, Norton lost 5-3 to Victoria.

Victoria scored one run in the top of the first and Norton matched it in the bottom of the inning when Quinton Porter doubled, Green walked and Otter singled Porter home.

Victoria scored twice in the top of the third and Norton added another run in the bottom of the inning. Greving singled and Kats singled him home to make it 3-2.

Victoria scored their final two runs in the top of the fourth and Norton was able to score just one more time in the bottom of the fourth. VanLaeys and Ellis both walked and VanLaeys scored.

Norton had seven hits, four walks and seven strike-outs. Greving and Kats were both 2 for 2 at the plate and Quinton Porter was 2 for 3.

VanLaeys was the Norton pitcher. Victoria had four hits, four walks and seven strike-outs.

In their final tournament game, Norton lost 17-3 to Russell to place fourth. Russell scored three runs in the first inning, three in the second, five in the third and six in the fourth.

Norton tallied two runs in the first inning when Quinton Porter walked, Lively singled, Green walked and VanLaeys singled and Porter and Lively scored.

Norton's only other run came in the fourth inning when Greving and Kats walked and Quinton Porter singled Kats home.

Norton had five hits, seven walks and seven strike-outs.

Russell had four hits, 10 walks and eight strike-outs.

Arapahoe

Norton traveled to Arapahoe

on June 22 and got back on the winning trail with a 4-0 shutout victory.

The Blue Jays took a 3-0 lead in the top of the third inning. Kats singled, Kinderknecht and Miller walked and all three tallied. Norton's final run came in the top of the fourth when Quinton Porter and Otter both doubled and Porter scored.

Norton had four hits, four walks and nine strike-outs.

Kats pitched a no-hitter for Norton. He also walked four and struck out six batters.

Oxford

Norton played Oxford for the second time this season in Norton on June 24 and had a tougher time than in the previous win, squeaking out a 10-8 victory.

Oxford scored once in the top of the first.

Norton tied it with one run in the bottom of the second. Hayes and Wright both singled and Hayes scored.

Four runs in the top of the fourth gave Oxford a 5-1 lead. Norton answered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it 5-3. Miller and Green both walked and Otter doubled them home.

Oxford added three more runs in the top of the fifth to extend their lead to 8-3.

The Blue Jays did not give up, however, and rallied for seven runs in the bottom of the fifth for the win. VanLaeys, Kats, Ellis, Hayes and Wright all singled, Landon Porter walked and Kinderknecht singled. All seven scored.

Norton had 11 hits, four walks and eight strike-outs. Hayes and Wright were both 2 for 2 with the bat.

Green pitched for Norton. Oxford had five hits, 11 walks and 11 strike-outs.

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