

Girls' Thunder completes competitive softball season

By **DICK BOYD***nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*

The Norton Thunder girls softball team completed their 2010 season under head coach Don Burge with a doubleheader with Smith Center on Wednesday, July 7.

Prior to that, on June 30 the Norton Thunder split a rain make-up with Phillipsburg in Norton.

Phillipsburg

Neither team scored in the first inning of the opening game with Phillipsburg. The Lady Panthers tallied six runs in the top of the second and Norton scored three in the bottom of the second to make the score 6-3.

Meaghan Peterson and Jessica White both walked, Kayleigh Norwood was hit by a pitch and walked and Chalise Christensen walked. Molly Maddy singled. Peterson, White and Norwood all scored.

In the top of the third, Phillipsburg scored six more runs to extend their lead to 12-3. Norton tallied two more runs in the bottom of the inning when Skylar Davis singled and Peterson, White and Norwood walked and Lexie Voss was hit by a pitch and walked. Davis and Peterson both scored to make it 12-5.

In the bottom of the fourth, Marisa Maddy was hit by a pitch and walked and Davis singled her home to make it 12-6.

The Lady Panthers added three more runs in the top of the fifth. Norton scored two more runs in the bottom of the inning to run the final score to 15-8. Christensen and Voss both walked and Molly Maddy and Marisa Maddy both singled. Christensen and Voss both scored.

Norton had six hits, 14 walks and no strike-outs. Davis and Molly Maddy were leading hitters for the Lady Blue Jays, both going 2 for 3 at the plate.

Kristen Burge pitched for Norton. She allowed eight hits, walked 11 and struck out none.

The nightcap was also a high scoring affair but the Lady Jays rallied for the 12-11 win in the bottom of the fifth inning when Marisa Maddy singled and scored later in the inning.

Phillipsburg scored three runs in the top of the first and Norton tied it at 3-all in the bottom of the inning. Marisa Maddy walked, Audrie Burge singled, Davis walked, Kristen Burge got on base on an error and Norwood was hit by a pitch and walked. Marisa Maddy, Audrie Burge and

Davis all scored.

The Lady Jays scored two more runs in the bottom of the second to take a 5-3 lead. Christensen got on base on an error and Marisa Maddy and Davis got on base after being hit by pitches. Christensen and Maddy both scored.

Phillipsburg took a 7-5 lead in the top of the third with four more runs. Norton tied the score in the bottom of the stanza when Norwood, Voss and Christensen all walked, Molly Maddy got on base with an error and Marisa Maddy singled. Norwood and Voss both scored to make it 7-7.

Phillipsburg took the lead again with four more fourth inning runs. The Lady Jays answered with four more runs of their own in the bottom of the inning to tie the score once again. Peterson, White and Norwood all walked and Voss singled. All four girls tallied.

Phillipsburg was three up, three down in the top of the fifth inning and Marisa Maddy scored the winning run in the bottom of the inning!

Norton had five hits, 11 walks and no strike-outs. Marisa Maddy was leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 2 at the plate.

Phillipsburg had six hits, six walks and no strike-outs.

Stockton

On July 5, Norton traveled to Stockton for a doubleheader. With wheat harvest underway, the Lady Jays had a disadvantage since they had to play with just eight players.

Stockton won 11-8 and 19-4.

Smith Center

Norton hosted Smith Center in a doubleheader on July 7. The Lady Red won 21-7 and 16-11.

In the first game, Smith Center took an 8-0 lead in the first two innings. Norton added two runs in the bottom of the second when Voss and Shauna Gibson singled, White walked, Christensen singled, and Hannah Park walked. Voss and White both scored to make it 8-2.

Smith Center scored four more runs in the top of the third and Norton answered with four runs. Norwood doubled, Audrie Burge walked, Peterson, Voss, Gibson, White and Christensen all singled, Park walked and Kristen Burge singled. Norwood, Audrie Burge, Peterson and Gibson scored.

After the Lady Red scored two more runs in the top of the fourth, Norton got a single run when Norwood and Audrie Burge both walked and Peterson and Voss

both singled. Norwood scored.

Smith Center scored six runs in the top of the fifth and Norton was unable to score in the bottom of the stanza.

Norton had 16 hits and seven walks. Leading Norton hitters were Norwood, Voss and Christensen, each 3 for 3, and Kristen Burge, Peterson and Gibson, each 2 for 3 at the plate.

Smith Center had 18 hits and 14 walks. Splitting pitching duties for Norton were Kristen Burge and Voss.

In the nightcap, Smith Center took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first but Norton responded with three runs of their own in the bottom of the inning. Kristen Burge, Norwood, Audrie Burge, Voss and Gibson all singled and both Burges and Norwood scored.

The Lady Red tallied one run in the top of the second and Norton responded with four runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 7-4 lead. Park walked, Norwood and Audrie Burge singled, Peterson walked, and Voss doubled. All except Audrie Burge scored.

Smith Center added three runs in the top of the third to tie the score at 7-all. Two more Norton runs in the bottom of the inning made it 9-7 in favor of the Lady

Jays. Christensen singled, Kristen Burge doubled and Norwood singled. Christensen and Burge both scored.

In the top of the fourth, the Lady Red added one more run to make it 9-8 but Norton came up with one additional run when Peterson doubled and scored to make the tally 10-8 in favor of Norton.

Both teams were three up, three down in the fifth stanza but Smith Center got the win with eight runs in the top of the sixth to go ahead 16-10.

The Lady Jays scored one final run in the bottom of the sixth inning when Norwood, Peterson and Voss singled and Norwood scored.

Norton had 13 hits and two walks. Leading hitters for Norton were Norwood and Voss, who were each 4 for 4 and Peterson, Christensen and Park, each 2 for 3.

Peterson was the Norton pitcher. She allowed 16 hits and walked eight batters.

Fund raiser

The Norton Thunder team is self-funded and will hold a fund raiser in the Jamboree parking lot tomorrow, Sat., July 17. Porkburgers, chips and drink will be served from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Winning ways for Norton K-18 baseball team are continuing

By **DICK BOYD***nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*

Winning ways continued for the Norton K-18 baseball team on Friday evening, July 2 at Busch Field in Norton when they won a doubleheader over Stockton to extend their season record to 8-1.

Norton won the opener 8-5 and the nightcap 7-5.

In the bottom of the first inning, the Blue Jays scored three runs when John Risewick walked, Andrew Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller singled and Lane Bigge singled and Risewick, Ellis and Miller scored.

Stockton remained scoreless and Norton added three more runs in the bottom of the second. Risewick singled, Ellis and Miller both walked and Bigge singled. Risewick, Ellis and Miller all scored to make it 6-0.

Two more Norton runs came in to extend the lead to 8-0 in the bottom of the third. Kendall Miller walked, Brant Cox, Ame Baird, Risewick and Ellis all singled and Miller and Cox scored to extend the lead to 8-0.

Stockton tallied their first run in the top of the fourth and added four more runs in the top of the fifth but Norton prevailed 8-5.

The Blue Jays had 10 hits in the game and seven walks. Leading hitters were Risewick and Ellis, both of whom were 2 for 2 and Bigge who was 2 for 3.

Dalton Miller pitched for Norton. He allowed five hits, walked five and struck out five batters.

In the second contest of the night, Stockton scored one run in the top of the first. Norton responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning. Risewick, Dalton Miller and Travis Cressler walked and Risewick and Miller scored.

Stockton was scoreless the next three innings. Meanwhile, Norton scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth. Dalton Miller and Bigge both singled, Kendall Miller, Brant Cox and Baird walked, Brooks doubled and Ellis singled. Dalton Miller, Bigge, Kendall Miller, Cox and Ellis all scored.

The Tigers tallied four runs in the top of the fifth but it was too little, too late and Norton won 7-5.

Norton had six hits and seven walks.

Ellis pitched for the Blue Jays. He gave up three hits, walked 10 and struck out seven batters.

Smith Center

The Norton K-18 baseball team won a doubleheader over Smith Center on Sunday evening, June 27 in Norton.

The Blue Jays edged the Redmen 2-1 in the opener before winning by an 8-2 margin in the nightcap.

Smith Center took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second inning but the Norton defense held them scoreless the rest of the first game. Norton tied the score in the bottom

of the fourth when Trevor Lewis, Travis Cressler and Lane Bigge walked and Lewis scored.

Norton scored the winning run in the bottom of the fifth inning when John Risewick singled and Austin Hager drove him home.

Norton had three hits, five walks and no strike outs.

Dalton Miller was the winning pitcher. He allowed four hits, three walks and struck out two batters.

The Norton bats were loud in the second contest, producing 14 hits.

The Blue Jays tallied three runs in the bottom of the first when Dalton Miller and Lewis both doubled, Cressler, Bigge and Kendall Miller all singled and Dalton Miller, Lewis and Cressler scored.

Norton added one more run in the bottom of the second when Risewick singled and Andrew Ellis doubled him home.

Two more runs in the bottom of the third stanza extended the Norton lead to 6-0. Lewis and Cressler both walked and Brant Cox and Ame Baird both singled and Lewis and Cressler both scored.

In the top of the fourth, Smith Center scored once. Norton ran two more runs across home plate in the bottom of the inning. Hager singled, Dalton Miller doubled and Lewis and Bigge each singled. Hager and Dalton Miller both scored.

One final run by Smith Center in the top of the fifth was too little, too late.

In addition to having 14 hits, Norton had two walks and no strike outs. Leading hitters were Lewis, 2 for 2; Ellis, 2 for 3; Dalton Miller, 2 for 3 and Bigge, 2 for 3.

Hager pitched for Norton. He allowed four hits, walked four batters and struck out none.

Smith Center

The Norton K-18 actually started the season with a doubleheader win in Redmen country on June 6.

Norton won the first game by a 13-3 score. The Blue Jays scored two runs in the top of the first inning. Hager, Dalton Miller and Lewis all singled and Hager and Miller both scored.

The second inning was scoreless but Norton added five runs to their total in the top of the third. Dalton Miller doubled, Cressler singled, Lewis doubled, Bigge, Kendall Miller and Hager all singled and Dalton Miller, Cressler, Lewis, Bigge and Miller all tallied.

Four more runs by Norton in the top of the fourth extended their lead to 11-0.

The Redmen broke their scoring drought in the bottom of the fourth stanza with three runs but they were unable to score again.

Norton's final two runs came in the top of the fifth when Dalton Miller tripled, Cressler doubled and Lewis and Kendall Miller

all singled. Cressler and Lewis crossed home plate.

Smith Center was three up and three down in the bottom of the inning.

The Norton bats were booming as the Blue Jays swung for 15 hits. Leading batters were Dalton Miller, 4 for 4; Lewis, 3 for 3; Hager, 3 for 4; Cressler, 2 for 3; and Kendall Miller, 2 for 3.

Norton had eight walks and no strike outs.

Dalton Miller pitched for Norton. He allowed two hits, walked one batter and struck out none.

In the nightcap, Norton scored four times in the top of the first inning. Hager and Ellis both singled, Dalton Miller doubled, Lewis singled and all tallied.

In the bottom of the second, the Redmen took a 5-4 lead but Norton came right back with six big runs in the top of the third to go on top 10-5. Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller walked, Lewis singled, Cressler walked, Cox singled, Baird walked, Hager tripled and Ellis singled. Ellis, Dalton Miller, Lewis, Cressler, Cox and Baird all scored.

Smith Center scored five more runs in the bottom of the third to tie the score at 10-all but Norton tallied one more run in the top of the fourth when Lewis and Bigge both walked and Lewis scored.

Norton's last run came in the top of the fifth when Hager and Dalton Miller both walked and Hager scored to make the final 12-10.

Norton had nine hits and 10 walks. Leading hitters were Ellis, 3 for 4, Hager, 2 for 3 and Lewis, 2 for 3.

Ellis pitched for the Blue Jays. He allowed only one hit but walked 13 batters.

Phillipsburg

Norton traveled to Phillipsburg on June 11 and suffered their only loss so far this season when the Panthers prevailed 9-7. A second game was scheduled but was rained out.

Norton took a 1-0 lead when Dalton Miller singled and Lewis doubled and Miller scored in the top of the first. The Panthers added one run in the bottom of the stanza.

In the top of the second, Norton scored two more times. Cressler and Cox both walked and Hager drove them home. Phillipsburg answered with three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 4-3 lead. The Panthers added two more runs to their total in the bottom of the third stanza to make it 6-3.

The Blue Jays did not give up and rallied for four more runs in the top of the fourth to take a 7-6 lead. Cressler and Cox both walked, Hager singled, Ellis doubled and Dalton Miller singled. Cressler, Cox, Hager and Ellis all scored.

top of the fifth and final inning.

Norton had six hits and six walks and three Norton batters struck out. Dalton Miller and Hager were leading hitters, each going 2 for 3 at the plate.

Hager pitched for Norton. He allowed six hits, walked six batters and struck out five.

Stockton

Norton got back on the winning trail on June 18 with a trip to Stockton where the Blue Jays won 8-2 and 10-0.

In the opener, Stockton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning.

Norton didn't score until the top of the third when they ran across one run. Hager singled, Clint Cole sacrificed him around the bases and Dalton Miller singled him home.

Stockton did not score again and Norton made no doubt about the outcome when the Blue Jays tallied seven runs in the top of the fifth inning. Jacob Green walked, Hager tripled, Cole and Dalton Miller both walked, Lewis singled, Cressler tripled and Kendall Miller doubled. Green, Hager, Cole, Dalton Miller, Lewis, Cressler and Kendall Miller all scored.

Norton had eight hits, three walks and five strike outs.

Hager pitched for the Blue Jays. He gave up four hits, walked four batters and struck out four.

Dalton Miller pitched a no hitter for Norton in the nightcap. He struck out 11 batters and walked three.

Norton led 1-0 after one inning as Hager was hit by a pitch and Lewis singled him home.

The Blue Jays tallied four runs in the second inning. Kendall Miller walked, Matt Stutsman singled, Baird gained base on a fielder's choice, Green singled, Hager tripled, Cole got on base on an error and Lewis singled. Kendall Miller, Baird, Green and Hager all scored.

In the top of the third, the Blue Jays ran five more runs across home plate. Kendall Miller and Baird both singled, Green walked, Hager doubled, Cole walked, Dalton Miller singled and Cressler walked. Miller, Baird, Green, Hager and Cole all scored.

Norton had eight hits, five walks and five strike outs.

Norton was scheduled to play the Hays Renegades on June 25 but they were rained out.

Ness City

Norton lost to Ness City 9-7 and 6-2 on July 9.

In the opener, Ness City scored four runs in the bottom of the first.

Norton took the lead with five runs in the top of the second. Risewick walked, Stutsman singled, Cox walked, and Hager, Ellis and Dalton Miller singled. All except Miller scored.

Two runs by Ness City in the bottom of the second put them ahead 6-5. They scored two more

in the bottom of the third to make it 8-5 and another in the fourth to extend the lead to 9-5.

The Blue Jays added two more runs in the top of the fifth. Dalton Miller and Bigge singled, Cressler walked and Risewick hit safely. Miller and Bigge scored but the rally didn't last long enough.

Norton had nine hits, four walks and six strike-outs. Dalton Miller was leading hitter for Norton, going 3 for 3 with the bat. Ellis was 2 for 3.

Ellis was the Norton pitcher. He gave up five hits, walked six and struck out seven batters.

In the nightcap, Ness City scored three runs in the first inning, one in the second and two in the fourth.

Norton's two runs came on one in the top of the first when Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller walked and Lewis singled Ellis home and one in the third when Hager singled and Dalton Miller drove him home.

The Blue Jays had four hits, one walk and six strike-outs.

Hager was the Norton pitcher. He allowed eight hits, walked none and struck out two batters.

Hays Express

Norton hosted the Hays Express on July 11 and lost 12-2 and 7-5.

Norton's two runs in the opener came in the bottom of the second inning when Cressler walked, Stutsman and Baird singled and Cressler and Stutsman scored.

Hays Express scored one run in the top of the first, two in the second, six in the third and three in the ninth.

Norton had four hits, one walk and no strike-outs.

Dalton Miller was on the mound for the Blue Jays. He allowed six hits, walked 13 and struck out one batter.

Norton played Hays Express much closer in the nightcap before losing. Norton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second when Lewis, Cressler and Stutsman walked and Lewis and Cressler scored.

Hays Express moved ahead 3-2 in the top of the third and added two more in the top of the fourth to extend the lead to 5-2. Norton scored two more runs in the bottom of the inning to make it 5-4.

Dalton Miller, Lewis, Cressler, Kendall Miller and Stutsman all singled and Dalton Miller and Cressler scored.

Hays Express tallied two more times in the top of the fifth and Norton scored one final run in the bottom of the inning when Cole walked, Ellis singled and Cole scored.

Norton had five hits, six walks and no strike-outs.

Cole pitched for Norton. He gave up seven hits, walked five and struck out four batters.

Phillipsburg

Norton split a doubleheader with Phillipsburg in Norton on July 12. The Blue Jays won the opener 6-3 and lost the nightcap

9-1.

In the opener, Phillipsburg scored one run in the top of the first and Norton answered with two runs. Ellis walked and Dalton Miller doubled and both scored.

Phillipsburg took a 3-2 lead with two runs in the top of the second.

The Blue Jays rallied with one run in the bottom of the third to tie the score and scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth for the 6-3 win. In the third, Kasson singled and was driven home by Otter. In the fourth, Dalton Miller, Cressler, Kendall Miller and Cole walked and all except Cole scored.

Norton had two hits, five walks and one strike-out.

Ellis pitched for Norton. He gave up three hits, walked four and struck out four batters.

In the nightcap, Norton scored their only run in the bottom of the second when Kendall Miller singled and Kasson drove him home.

Phillipsburg scored three runs in the first inning, one in the second, one in the third, three in the fourth and one in the fifth.

Norton had three hits, one walk and no strike-outs.

Baird was the Norton hurler. He gave up seven hits, walked 15 and struck out three.

Hays Renegades

Norton traveled to Hays on July 13 to play the Hays Renegades. The Blue Jays lost 20-3 and 6-1.

In the opener, the Renegades scored 10 runs in the first inning and 10 in the second.

Norton tallied one run in the top of the second when Lewis walked and Cressler and Kendall Miller both singled and Lewis scored. The Blue Jays' other two scores came in the top of the third when Hager and Dalton Miller both doubled.

Norton had five hits, one walk and no strike-outs. Hager pitched for Norton. He gave up nine hits, walked 14 and struck out two.

In the nightcap, the Renegades scored one run in the first inning and five in the fourth. Norton's only run came in the top of the second when Cressler singled and scored later in the inning.

Norton had just two hits, one walk and no strike-outs. The Renegades had seven hits, 10 walks and two strike-outs.

Coaches

Rick Green is the Norton K-18 team's head coach. His assistant coaches are Scott Ellis and Brad Cox.

Next action

Norton has completed the regular season and will now compete in end-of-season tournaments. The Sub-Regional Tournament will be held this Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Plainville. The top four teams will qualify for Regional Tournament play in Hays on July 23-24-25. The top four teams there will qualify for the K-18 State Tournament in Lucas on July 30 through August 2.