

Norton Blue Jays held Saturday scrimmage

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School football team will begin the 2010 and Mid-Continent League season Friday night at 7 p.m. with a contest against always tough Ellis on the Railroaders' home field.

The Blue Jays have not defeated Ellis for several years and usually play them in mid-season. Last year's contest on Norton's field on October 9 ended in a 22-14 loss after Ellis junior quarterback Jacob Kinderknecht connected on a last-second touchdown pass with sophomore end Jared Herl.

Both Kinderknecht and Herl return along with 14 other lettermen. Kinderknecht accounted for 1,264 offensive yards and 19 touchdowns last season. As a free safety, he had 10 pass interceptions. Herl is listed at 6'4" and 220 pounds. He caught 19 passes last year and four were for touchdowns.

"Ellis lost some good players off their team that made it to the sectional playoff game but they will have another good squad," said Norton fifth year head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"They play a very hard, aggressive 3-5 defense that likes to blitz and cause turnovers."

Coach Melvin has welcomed 50 players to this season's Blue Jay squad. Included are 12 senior lettermen and three junior letter winners.

"We are excited about the upcoming season," said coach Melvin. "We have a great group of seniors with a good amount of playing experience. We need to have some underclassmen really step up and be able to give us quality time as well on Friday nights. "Our team motto is 'Day by Day We Get Better and Better' and our players are doing just that in practice. We still have a lot of work to do to achieve our goals.

"If we are blessed by staying healthy and we work very hard, we have a great opportunity to be a very good football team."

Outstanding 2009 season

Under the guidance of coach Melvin, the Blue Jays put together a 9-4 season and went to the final four in Class 3A before losing to eventual state champion Wichita Collegiate.

Norton reached the Sub-State championship game for the first time since 1989. En route to that contest, they were Bi-District champions, Regional champions and Sectional champions.

After opening the season with a hard-fought 21-14 win over longtime rival Phillipsburg, Norton shutout Oberlin 33-0 in a rain-shortened game.

The third week of the season, the Blue Jays traveled to Smith Center to take on the five-time Class 2A state champion Redmen before a standing room only crowd. In one of the hardest hitting games most fans have seen in years, the

Redmen prevailed 20-14.

After a 39-14 Homecoming victory over a spirited Osborne eleven, Norton traveled to St. Francis and returned with an impressive 36-0 shutout of an outstanding Indian team that mirrors the Smith Center wishbone offense.

Norton's sixth game was at Travis Field versus Ellis and it appeared the game would go into overtime until the Railroaders' go-ahead touchdown pass with 12 seconds left to earn the 22-14 win.

Norton opened District play with a 48-0 shutout of Ness City-Dighton, then traveled to Scott City for another tough contest. It was a defensive battle with Scott City holding on for a 14-6 win.

The Blue Jays returned to Travis Field for a Thursday "Senior Night" game and did not disappoint the hometown fans with a 42-9 win over Goodland to place runner-up in the district and move on.

Norton had to travel again for the Bi-District contest and the Blue Jays went all the way to Lakin. The trip was worth it as Norton led 62-0 at halftime, played the junior varsity the entire second half and left with a 62-22 Bi-District victory.

Norton hosted its Regional contest versus another strong Beloit team. The Blue Jays never trailed as they won 42-20 to avenge the 2008 season ending loss to the Trojans and earn the Regional championship.

Next, Norton hosted unbeaten Hutchinson Trinity and ended the Celtics' season at 11-1 with a solid 17-7 win for the Sectional championship.

That set up a Sub-State game with unbeaten Wichita Collegiate in Norton.

Despite scoring the second highest number of points against Collegiate all season, their talent prevailed in the end and the visitors won 56-21. Coming into the game, Collegiate had allowed an average of just 10.3 points per game and Norton had given up an average of just 11.7 points per contest.

Collegiate moved on the next Saturday to defeat Marysville for the state championship.

Returning lettermen

Norton lost eight lettermen from last year's outstanding season but 15 return.

Senior lettermen are: Terrell Lane, 5'11", 220 pounds, running back; Spencer Shirk, 5'11", 180 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Billy Broeckelman, 5'10", 170 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Caleb Laughlin, 5'7", 160 pounds, kicker; Jeremy Sproul, 6', 205 pounds, running back, defensive end; Ryan Blecha, 6'1", 185 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Kaid McKenna, 5'10", 185 pounds, center, linebacker; Luke Ninemire, 6', 215 pounds,



Following the spirited scrimmage at Travis Field on Saturday morning, Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin had some closing, upbeat remarks for his gridders. The Blue Jays are working hard to prepare for their 2010 season opener at Ellis on Friday night.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Landon Keiswetter, 6'1", 190 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Rylee Stanley, 5'8", 155 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Dakota Dreher, 5'11", 170 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Justin Griffith, 6', 190 pounds, tight end, defensive end.

The three junior lettermen are: Trey Millan, 5'7", 160 pounds, running back, linebacker; Casey Temmel, 6', 180 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Tye Nickell, 5'8", 150 pounds, running back, defensive back.

Other squad members

Additional squad members are: Brett Terrell, 5'9", 160 pounds, running back, linebacker, senior; Jordan Wahlmeier, 6'3", 175 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Dillon McConney, 6', 150 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Taylor Meder, 5'11", 155 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Robert Blecha, 5'10", 170 pounds, tight end, linebacker; Justin Waggoner, 5'6", 155 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Damien Davis, 5'11", 175 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Kurt Douglas, 5'6", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Tyler Lewis, 5'9", 250 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, juniors; John Risewick, 5'8", 120 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Jacob Brooks, 6'1", 180 pounds, running back, defensive back; Dalton Miller, 6'175 pounds, quarterback, linebacker; Andrew Ellis, 6', 130 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Carson McKenna, 5'9", 145 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Jared Bohl, 5'10", 150 pounds, running back, linebacker; Treven Rossi, 5'8", 155 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Eli Bozarth, 5'10", 150 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Alex Riggins, 5'11", 270 pounds, offensive

lineman, defensive lineman; Lane Bigge, 5'10", 180 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Lane Vanover, 6'1", 190 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Lucas Engel, 5'8", 165 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Dylan Sprigg, 6'3", 170 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end, sophomores; Toby Nickell, 5'4", 120 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Trever Lewis, 5'8", 140 pounds, tight end, defensive back; Tanner Furbush, 5'10", 150 pounds, running back, linebacker; Austin Hager, 5'8", 145 pounds, running back, linebacker; Kolton Harting, 6', 180 pounds, running back, linebacker; Travis Cressler, 5'10", 150 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Cole Renner, 5'8", 180 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Cody Temmel, 5'7", 130 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Michael Johnson, 5'6", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Mark Baxter, 5'10", 130 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Isaac Schaefer, 5'8", 180 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Drew Schrum, 5'7", 120 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Ethan Ross, 5'2", 110 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, freshmen.

Leaders return

Terrell Lane was the Blue Jays' all-purpose yardage leader last season. He rushed for 1,051 yards and averaged 6.6 yards per carry. He had 58 yards in pass receptions and 216 yards on kickoff returns for 1,325 total yards of offense.

On defense last season, Kaid McKenna led Norton with 131 total tackles.

Post-season honors

Kaid McKenna, Landon Keiswetter, Jeremy Sproul, Justin Griffith, Caleb Laughlin and Terrell Lane received All-Mid-Continent League honors by vote of league coaches following the

2009 season.

McKenna was named first team linebacker and second team offense from his center position. Keiswetter was chosen to the second team offense from his tackle position. Justin Griffith and Jeremy Sproul were selected to the second team defense. Laughlin was a second team kicking specialist.

Honorable mention in the league went to Terrell Lane on offense and defense from his linebacker position.

McKenna was chosen to the first team defense in Class 3A by the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and received honorable mention in the Topeka Capital-Journal and the Hays Daily News.

Lane was named to the first team in the Hays Daily News and received honorable mention from the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and the Topeka Capital-Journal.

Sproul received honorable men-

tion from the Topeka Capital-Journal.

Assistant coaches

Assistant coaches this season will be Todd Fulton, David Stover, Tony Fiscus and Jeremy Hawks, a former NCHS player.

Managers will be David Cressler, Dustan Daniels and Anthony Wentz.

Filmers again this season will be Alec Melvin and Kamilla Jones.

Rick Green will keep statistics.

Coach Melvin's background

Coach Melvin is a graduate of Colby High School. He attended Hutchinson Community College for two years and Fort Hays State University for two years. He played football all four years.

For 14 years in Norton, he has been a junior high and high school track and football assistant coach and has been the head football coach the past four seasons.



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Football Schedule

Fri., September 3 - Ellis There 7 p.m.
 Fri., September 10 - St. Francis Here 7 p.m.
 Fri., September 17 - Plainville (Homecoming) Here 7 p.m.
 Fri., September 24 - Oberlin There 7 p.m.
 Fri., October 1 - Smith Center Here 7 p.m.
 Fri., October 15 - Goodland There 7 p.m.
 Fri., October 22 - Thomas More Prep-Marian-Hays Here 7 p.m.
 Thurs., October 28 - Phillipsburg There 7 p.m.
 Tues., November 2 - Bi-District Here TBA
 Sat., November 6 - Regional There TBA
 Fri., November 12 - Sectional There TBA
 Fri., November 19 - Sub-State There TBA
 Sat., November 27 - State Football Hutchinson 1 p.m.
 Junior Varsity Football

Cross Country Schedule

Thurs., September 2 - Norton Invitational Here 4:30 p.m.
 Sat., September 11 - Wamego Invitational There 9 a.m.
 Thurs., September 16 - Hays Invitational There 3:45 p.m.
 Thurs., September 23 - Hill City Invitational There 5 p.m.
 Tues., September 28 - Oberlin Invitational There 5 p.m.
 Thurs., October 7 - MCL Meet in Phillipsburg 4:30 p.m.
 Thurs., October 14 - Lakeside Invitational There 4 p.m.
 Sat., October 23 - Regional Meet TBA
 Sat., October 30 - State Meet in Wamego

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High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Ellis Railroaders 7 p.m. Friday in Ellis
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Hays High School, 9th Grade. 4 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Hays High School 6 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Weskan 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
 Logan Trojans vs. Wheatland/Grinnell. 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Colby/Osborne 4:30 p.m. Today in Norton
 Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Northern Valley/Phillipsburg . . . 5 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Thunder Ridge/Western Plains 4 p.m. Today in Ransom
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Norton/Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Tipton/Wilson 4 p.m. Today in Wilson
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Hill City/Trego. 5 p.m. Tuesday in Hill City

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
 Northern Valley Huskies in Norton Invitational. 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Hays Varsity Invitational. 3 p.m. Thursday in Hays
 Norton Lady Jays in Colby Varsity Tournament. 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Invitational. 1 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Norton Junior Varsity in Russell Singles Tournament 3 p.m. Today in Russell