

Blue Jays win Homecoming game, 46-0, against Plainville

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
 Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team displayed a balanced offense and gang-tackling defense in winning their Homecoming game 46-0 over Plainville on Friday night at Travis Field.

The Blue Jays scored one of two times they had the ball in the first quarter, then totaled 32 points in the second quarter to lead 39-0 at halftime and leave no doubt about the eventual winner.

After driving 65 yards in seven plays to score after the opening kickoff of the second half, Norton led 46-0 and the continuous scoreboard clock rule was implemented. The Norton junior varsity completed the game against the Plainville varsity.

The "Blue Swarm" defense allowed only three first downs by the Plainville offense while the Norton varsity was on the field.

Norton rolled up 225 yards on the ground and 110 yards passing for 335 total yards of offense. The Blue Jay ground game averaged 8 yards per carry while the defense limited the Cardinals to a 2.68 yard average. During the three quarters played by the Norton varsity defense, they did not allow Plainville past the 50-yard-line!

Norton quarterback Spencer Shirk was a very accurate passer. He completed 10 of 13 passes for 77 percent.

The Norton varsity punted only one time. The Blue Jays had no fumbles lost and no pass interceptions and 68 yards in penalties.

Norton kicked off and Plainville got a 13 yard run on their first play from scrimmage and didn't get another until the second quarter. Plainville punted to Norton and the Blue Jays had their only three-and-out of the game. Terrell Lane punted into the end zone for the only Norton punt for the Blue Jay varsity.

After a Plainville three-and-out, Norton drove for their first touchdown. Mixing passes by quarterback Spencer Shirk to Dakota Dreher and Brett Terrell and runs by Lane, the Blue Jays got into the end zone with 2:55 left in the first quarter. Lane ran the final four yards and Caleb Laughlin booted the extra point.

Once the Norton offense got going, there was no stopping them in the second quarter. On the first play of the second period, Lane scored from 45 yards out. Laughlin kicked the extra point to make it 14-0.

Linebacker Kaid McKenna recovered a Plainville fumble on their 5-yard-line and Terrell scored with 10:08 left in the first half. Shirk ran a keeper for two extra points and it was 22-0.

Another long kickoff by Laughlin and fired up Norton defense and the Cardinals found themselves on their 3-yard-line! Lane returned their punt to the 20 but the Plainville defense stiffened and Laughlin split the uprights with a 30 yard field goal to make it 25-0 with 6:46 left.

After the kickoff, Lane intercepted a Plainville pass and ran for an apparent touchdown but a block-in-the-back penalty brought the ball back to the Norton 41. Four plays later and the Blue Jays were back in the end zone. Running back Jeremy Sproul bulled for the final 12 yards. Laughlin's extra point kick put Norton on top 32-0 with 3:01 left in the half.

After another Plainville three-

and-out, Norton drove 77 yards for their fourth touchdown of the second quarter. Lane got his third of the game on an 8 yard run, Laughlin added the extra point and it was 39-0 at halftime.

Coach's comments

"Our defense started a little slow and had to wake up," said coach Melvin. "Once we got going, we played well. Our offensive line also played very well. The second quarter pretty much put the game away for us."

"To start the third quarter, we gave the varsity one more chance to score and they were able to do that. After that, our junior varsity did a good job against their varsity."

"Our kickoff coverage was very good and they were helped by Caleb's kicking. He kicked the ball into the end zone twice."

"Their defense tried to take our run game away so that gave us the opportunity to throw and Spencer did a good job of finding and hitting his receivers."

Starting lineup

Coach Melvin started the following players on the offensive line: senior Ryan Blecha, 185 pounds, left tackle; senior Landon Keiswetter, 190 pounds, left guard; senior Kaid McKenna, 185 pounds, center; senior Luke Ninemire, 215 pounds, right guard; sophomore Alex Riggins, 270 pounds, right tackle; junior Dillon McConney, 150 pounds, wide receiver; senior Billy Broeckelman, 170 pounds, wide receiver, senior Dakota Dreher, 170 pounds, tight end; senior Spencer Shirk, 180 pounds, quarterback; senior Brett Terrell, 160 pounds, fullback; senior Terrell Lane, 220 pounds, tailback.

On defense for the Blue Jays were: senior Rylee Stanley, 155 pounds; senior Jeremy Sproul, 205 pounds, ends; Luke Ninemire, senior Justin Griffith, 190 pounds, tackles; Ryan Blecha, noseguard; Landon Keiswetter, Kaid McKenna, Brett Terrell, linebackers; Billy Broeckelman, Spencer Shirk, cornerbacks; Terrell Lane, safety.

Individual statistics

Terrell Lane had another good rushing game. He gained 88 yards on 10 carries for an 8.8 yard average. Jeremy Sproul also had a good average. He ran 3 times for 32 yards and a 10.7 yard average. Spencer Shirk also averaged 8 yards on 4 carries for 32 yards. Brett Terrell gained 26 yards on 3 carries for an 8.7 yard average. Jacob Brooks had 2 carries for 64 yards and a 31.5 yard average. Tye Nickell picked up 6 yards on 3 tries and Dalton Miller lost 22 yards on 3 carries.

Lane had 1 punt for 44 yards, 3 punt returns for 36 yards, one pass interception for 11 yards and 1 pass reception for 7 yards.

Dreher had 2 pass receptions for 31 yards, Brooks had 2 for 23 yards, Billy Broeckelman had 2 for 21 yards and Terrell had 1 catch for 18 yards. Dillon McConney had 1 for 6 yards and Tye Nickell had 1 for 4.

Caleb Laughlin had 8 kickoffs for a 50.1 yard average!

Leading ball carriers for Plainville were Harrison Gilliland with 42 yards on 8 carries and Nate Thyfault with 8 carries for 36 yards.

Tackles

Twenty-four different Norton defensive players made at least one tackle. Leading tacklers again this week were Kaid McKenna, 5

solos, 4 assists, 9 total and Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 7 solos, 1 assist, 8 total. They were followed by: Luke Ninemire, 6 solos; Rylee Stanley, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; Dalton Miller, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Treven Rossi, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Jared Bohl, 1 solo, 2 assists, 3 total; Carson McKenna, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Casey Temmel, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Taylor Meder, 1 solo, 2 assists, 3 total; Lane Bigge, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Justin Griffith, 2 assists; Tye Nickell, 2 solos; Brett Terrell; 2 assists; Eli Bozarth, 1 solo; Billy Broeckelman, 1 assist; Jacob Brooks, 1 assist; Damien Davis, 1 solo; Kurt Douglas, 1 solo; Tyler Lewis, 1 assist; Spencer Shirk, 1 solo; Jeremy Sproul, 1 assist; Justin Waggoner, 1 solo; Jordan Wahlmeier, 1 solo.

First quarter

Laughlin kicked off and Trevor Axelson returned the kick to the Plainville 21. Axelson gained 13 yards for a Plainville first down. Quarterback Andrew Casey was sacked for minus 2 yards. Norton lost 5 yards for offsides. Harrison Gilliland got nothing, the Cardinals lost 5 yards for being in motion and Casey was sacked again.

Plainville punted to the Norton 35. Terrell Lane got 1 yard in 2 tries, a Shirk pass was incomplete and Lane punted into the end zone. Norton was offsides and penalized 5 yards. Casey got nothing and Keiswetter tackled Axelson after 3. Plainville punted to the Norton 44. Lane gained 5, then ran for 17 and a first down on the Cardinal 35.

Tye Nickell lost 1, Shirk passed to Dakota Dreher on the 14. Sproul made a good gain but it came back due to holding. Shirk passed to Brett Terrell to the 5-yard-line. Lane scored from there and Laughlin kicked the extra point, making it 7-0 with 2:55 left.

After Laughlin's kickoff, Plainville started on their 20. Gilliland gained 4, Dalton Werner gained 2, a pass was incomplete and Plainville punted. Lane returned the ball to the Cardinal 39. Lane gained 5 but it was nullified by a holding penalty. Dillon McConney caught a 6 yard pass from Shirk, Lane gained 2 and the quarter ended with Norton leading 7-0.

Second quarter

Lane started the second period with a 45-yard touchdown run. Laughlin kicked the extra point and it was 14-0 with 11:54 left.

Laughlin's kickoff was returned by Axelson but he was smothered on his own 5-yard-line! The Cardinals fumbled and Kaid McKenna recovered for Norton!

Shirk hit Broeckelman in the end zone but Norton was whistled for holding. A flat pass to Nickell gained 4, Shirk gained 13 on a keeper to the 5. Terrell ran up the middle behind good blocking for the touchdown. Shirk ran a keeper for two extra points, making the score 22-0 with 10:08.

Laughlin's kickoff was returned to the 22. After two incomplete passes and a holding penalty, Plainville was on their 8-yard-line. McKenna and Rylee Stanley stopped Casey for no gain. The next down, Keiswetter charged through the Plainville line and hit Axelson on the handoff. He fumbled and recovered on the 3-yard-line!

Lane returned their punt to the Cardinal 20. Shirk passed to Lane on the 12. A pass to Broeckelman picked up no yards and Laughlin



The Blue Jays' Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, No.62 and Kaid McKenna, No.52, came up fast and hit hard to stop a Plainville running back's progress during Norton's homecoming victory Friday night. McKenna and Keiswetter were the leading tacklers for Norton in the game. Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

kicked a field goal, making it 25-0 with 6:46 left.

After Laughlin's kickoff was returned to the 22, Plainville got 1 yard from Gilliland, then Thyfault picked up the Cardinals' second first down on the 38. Gilliland got 1 more yard before Stanley tackled him.

Casey went to the air but Lane made a nice interception and return into the end zone! It was called back, however, due to a block-in-the-back. The Blue Jays had the ball on the Plainville 41. Shirk passed to Jacob Brooks for 6, then Jeremy Sproul ran to the 16. Terrell gained 4 more yards and Sproul got a good trap block from Luke Ninemire and powered into the end zone! Laughlin's extra point kick made it 32-0 with 3:01 left in the first half.

On the kickoff, Laughlin put the ball in the end zone! Thyfault gained 2, Axelson fell on a fumbled pitch from Casey for a 4 yard loss. Axelson lost 4 more yards on third down when Ninemire tackled him and Plainville punted.

Lane got a good return to the Plainville 23. Shirk passed to Brooks on the 8 then Lane ran over right tackle for another touchdown! The extra point kick by Laughlin split the uprights, making it a 39-0 lead for the Blue Jays with 1:24 left in the first half.

After Laughlin's kickoff, Plainville got their third first down of the half but time ran out on them and the half ended with Norton enjoying a commanding 39-0 advantage.

Third quarter

When the Norton players came

out of the locker room for the second half, they were greeted by Norton fourth, fifth and sixth grade football players.

Plainville kicked off to Norton and Terrell returned the pigskin to the 35. Terrell got the call again and gained 16 more yards. Shirk ran a 27 yard keeper and Lane picked up 7 more yards. After an incomplete pass, Sproul got a first down on the Plainville 13. Shirk was sacked but Plainville was whistled for roughing the passer and Norton got the ball on the 10. Shirk passed to Dreher for Norton's final touchdown. Laughlin's extra point kick made it 46-0 with 9:45 left in the period.

The continuous clock was implemented once Norton led by over 40 points.

After Laughlin's kickoff, Plainville got one first down before punting to the Norton junior varsity. The Norton jayvees were unable to move and Dillon McConney punted. Plainville moved to the Norton 33 as the quarter ended.

Fourth quarter

Plainville threatened to score on the Norton junior varsity but Eli Bozarth recovered a Cardinal fumble on the Norton 16 with 6:29 left in the game. After Plainville lost 5 yards for offsides, Jacob Brooks took a pitch, ran around right end, picked up good blocking and ran 63 yards before being tackled on the Plainville 16-yard-line!

The Plainville varsity held the Norton jayvees out of the end zone and McConney punted into the end zone. Plainville gained 10

yards before time expired with the Blue Jays earning a dominating 46-0 victory!

Next action

Norton will travel to play long-time rival Oberlin this Friday. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

The Blue Jays are 3-0 and the Red Devils are 1-2 but they always play hard against Norton.

Norton has beaten Ellis, St. Francis and Plainville. Oberlin lost to Cambridge, Neb., over-powered Syracuse 61-0 and lost last Friday night to La Crosse 42-12.

Oberlin returns eight lettermen, including Keithen Fortin, 6', 155 pound senior running, defensive back, who rushed for 413 yards last season. Dakota Soderlund, 6', 215 pound senior plays in the offensive line and is also a linebacker, having recorded 94 tackles last season. Josh Ritter, 6'1", 180 pound senior tight end, defensive end, had six defensive sacks last season.

"Oberlin is not throwing the ball like they did last year; they are running more," said coach Melvin. "They will throw a lot of different offensive formations at us. It will be a challenge to make sure we know where we're supposed to be to get them covered."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Plainville
9	9
225	94
110	0
335	94
10-13-0	0-5-1
0-1	2-5
3-29.3	6-27.5
10-68	6-42.5

Department head nearly sacked

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 clothes dryer to replace one damaged by a water leak several weeks ago.

The commission received the Andbe Home 2009 audit from Nancy McGuinness and Ruth Burd. Improvement projects, including remodeling the nurse station, continue. "When bids and plans to install an awning on the northeast corner of the building are approved, they will meet with the commission again," Burd said.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald gave the August landfill report, and reviewed delinquent accounts moving to write off a delinquent account on

Economic Development, Downtown Revitalization 2008 for \$75.25.

EMS Director, Jane Wyatt, informed the commissioners that the department has been busy with a number of community activities as well as the required front call team.

Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman informed the commissioners that his department would be receiving a shipment of bugs to be used on musk thistle. The bugs will be released in a designated area of the state park. He discussed a spray cover for the booms being used in Decatur County.

See Dana for all of your advertising needs by calling her at 877-3361

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Oberlin	7 p.m. Friday in Oberlin
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Oberlin	6 p.m. Monday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Pike Valley	7 p.m. Friday in Scandia
Logan Trojans vs. Palco	7 p.m. Friday in Palco

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays vs. Hoxie, Hill City V, JV	4:30 p.m. Today in Hill City
Norton Lady Jays vs. Atwood, Colby V, JV	4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Colby
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Logan, Alma	5 p.m. Today in Logan
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Franklin	5 p.m. Tuesday in Franklin
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Alma, Northern Valley	5 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco	4:30 p.m. Friday in Palco
Logan Lady Trojans in Osborne Tournament	8 a.m. Saturday in Osborne

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country V, JV in Hill City Invitational	5 p.m. Thursday in Hill City
Norton Cross Country V, Jv in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin
Northern Valley Huskies Cross Country in Hill City Invitational	5 p.m. Thursday in Hill City
Northern Valley Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Russell Invitational	1 p.m. Thursday in Russell
Norton Lady Jays in Trego Invitational	9 a.m. Saturday in WaKeeney
Norton Lady Jays in Colby Tournament	3 p.m. Tuesday in Colby
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity vs. Tribune/Greeley County	3 p.m. Today in Goodland
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity in Phillipsburg Tournament	9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg