

Norton youth wins Pick-Em

(Continued From Page 1) Ellis, LeRoy Newell, Tom Baumann, Jeris Norman, Virginia Carlton, Charlotte Stephenson, Keely Millan, Chase Rice, Diana Smith, Chad Gasper, Brett Terrell, Tiffannie Blum, Sherril Clark, Travis Ray, Doug Ray, Amanda Ray, all of Norton.

Incorrect on three games were: Hank Kaiser, Long Island; Joni Hilburn, Jasmine Covington, Linda Covington, Bob Covington, all of Alma; Lexie McDowell, Hill City; Chris Foley, Fairfield, Calif.; Fig Millan, Regina Beikman, Chrisselle Thomson, Malinda West, Brenda Beutler, Deb Thiele, Jacob Green, Josh Green, Nathan Morse, Aden Schilling, Scott Ellis, Lawrence Wiseman, Lisa Shearer, Bryce Lofgreen, Karen Cozad, Laquita Smith, all of Norton.

Miscuing on four contests were: Barbara Brooks, Clayton; Aaron McDowell, Hill City; Mitch Tegmeier, Eudora; Jared Foley, Wichita; Sandi Winchell, Alma; Kenney Leiker, Hays; Brian Schulze, Dustan Daniels, Douglas Daniels, Deanna

Gallentine, Mary Ann Hager, Baylee Miller, Kelly Sweet, Dan Bainter, Steve Vollertsen, Britnie Schock, Melanie Romey, Anna Foley, Craig Foley, Andrew Lantz, Kerri Ray, all of Norton.

Missing five games were: Brenda Husted, Alma; Lynn Nelson, Lindsey Tacha, Tom Davis, Cassidy Palmer, Wilma Wiseman, Gloria DeWitt, Stacy Area, Charlotte Gasper, Taryn Graham, Trey Millan, Megan O'Connor Wetter, all of Norton.

Entries with six losses were turned in by: Ann Becker, Lenora; Alberta Geil, Alma; Deyon Gasper, Christal Rose, Cassie Walker, Dalton Miller, all of Norton.

Shirley Stutterheim, Alma and Patrick Pomeroy, Justin Lindsy, Magnum Shea, all of Norton, each missed seven contests. Donelle Stewart, Alma, missed on eight games.

This week's entries

The fourth week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. Friday and received in the mail no later

than Monday or you may bring them to the Telegram office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em page advertisement in today's Telegram for this week's high school and college games.

The fan who picks the most winners during the 12-week contest will receive \$50 in scrip money plus an engraved trophy.

The defending champion is Doug Ray, Norton.

Scores of last week's games were:

Norton 46, Plainville 0
Northern Valley 42, Logan 6
Hill City 46, Hoxie 0
Phillpsburg 21, Oakley 7
La Crosse 42, Oberlin 12
Smith Center 22, Ellis 12
Southern Mississippi 31, Kansas 16
Arkansas 31, Georgia 24
Kansas State 27, Iowa State 20
Michigan State 34, Notre Dame 31 O.T.
Nebraska 56, Washington 21
Auburn 27, Clemson 24 O.T.

Keiswetter, Streck crowned

(Continued From Page 1) The crown bearers were chosen by the Student Advisory Council. They are kindergarten students from the Eisenhower Elementary School. At least one parent must be a graduate of Norton Community High School.

Crowning the king and queen were NCHS Principal Rudy Perez and Student Advisory Council Sponsor Chance McKinney.

The high school marching band, under the direction of David Will, formed a heart on the field to surround the candidates. Following the crowning, they honored the king and queen and their court with a special musical selection.

The royalty was chosen by the student body earlier in the week and reigned over the Homecoming dance, which followed the game.

Any senior who is participating in fall activities, including girls tennis, cross country, volleyball, football, dance team, cheerleading, manager or Jay Singers was eligible to be nominated for homecoming royalty.

Prior to the coronation on Friday night, the dance team and cheerleaders performed for the large crowd.

Dance team members are: Rachel Shepard, Bekah Streck, Kylie Nuzum, Brae Bigge, Mariah Farber, Erin Terrell, Kelsey Mordecai, Shelbi McKenna and Johnny Ruder. Their coach is Amy Husted.

Cheerleaders are: Kelsie Griffith, Caren Thomson, Katie Koch, Alexia Lively, Kayleigh Norwood, Sierra Black, Katherine Boteler, Rachel Slipke, Hannah Pollock and Jared Shelton. Their coaches are Jill Lively and Victoria Robison.

The Norton Community High School marching band performed outstanding pre-game and halftime shows.

Parade and pep rally

On Friday afternoon, students, parents and fans got into the winning spirit with the annual downtown parade and pep rally.

The parade began at the junior high with the marching band lead-

ing the class floats and convertibles in which nominees for king and queen were riding.

The pep rally began where the parade ended on the lawn of the Norton County Courthouse. The rally included performances by the dance team and cheerleaders accompanied by the Norton band.

Three humorous, competitive skits entitled "Minute to Win It Challenge" and featuring Norton versus Plainville were performed by the Arts students.

Needless to say, Norton was an overwhelming 3-0 winner!

Featured speaker

It is a tradition for parents of Norton senior football players to be chosen to speak to the homecoming pep rally.

This year Terry Laughlin, father of senior kicker, Caleb Laughlin, was selected.

Terry gave a very spirited pep talk that would have been very appropriate for a coach's pre-game locker room speech.

"How many of you know that it is a privilege and honor to be a part of the Norton Blue Jay Athletic System?" he said. "Give a cry!!"

"How many of you know that winning a football game with the Norton Blue Jays is not only enjoyed on occasion but winning is a tradition? Give a cry!!"

"In Norton, there are many good fathers, teachers, coaches and parents who have left a good legacy for those who come after them. Their dedication has opened the door for us to inherit a group of athletes who are capable of taking us to the state championship game.

"The Norton Blue Jays are not becoming a powerful force. They are a powerful force in 3A football!! The Norton Blue Jays are now the team that every coach dreams of defeating. An out-of-town Norton Blue Jay fan wrote, 'The Norton Blue Jays are the team that is setting the pace for small town quality high school football'.

"A great legacy requires faithfulness. I love the team motto,

'Every day we get better'. Faithfulness to getting better every day leads to fans saying, 'I get to see our boys play one more time'.

"Play with appreciation. The fact is it is a privilege and honor to play for the Norton Blue Jays and some of Kansas' best athletes.

"Play with determination to give your best. Get better every day. Enjoy the victories but be hungry for a state championship.

"Play with expectation of winning. Starting tonight, when you put on those football pads, shoes and helmets, place this phrase in your minds and hearts, 'One More Time'!

"One More Time, your parents, friends, teachers and fans get to see you play with the Norton Blue Jays Football team. Let this truth be upon your hearts for every game as you make your way to the state championship game. Tonight, send a message to all who are watching or listening to the game. The Norton Blue Jays are the mighty force in 3A football!!"

Homecoming awards

Also during the pep rally, NCHS Principal Rudy Perez announced the Spirit Week Best Dressed winners. They are: Tuesday - Twin Day, Tanner Morel and David Mizell and Astrid Moen and Kamilla Jones; Wednesday - Student/Teacher Switch Day, Josiah Laughlin and Rhee Carlson; Thursday - Senior Citizen Day, David Mizell and Skylar Davis; Friday - Blue and Yellow Day, Matt Carlton and Alyssa Bosor.

Downtown Poster Contest winners were: first, "Slay the Cardinals", David Mizell, Jacob Mizell, Zoey Meyers and Kelsie Morel; second, "Blue Jay Homecoming 2010", Kelsie Griffith, Matt Carlton, John Koch and Alec Gilgenbach; third, "Pluck the Cardinals", Andrew Otter, Caleb Campbell, Kristen Burge and Ethan Ross.

Parade float winners were: "Can the Cardinals", cheerleaders, first; "Roast 'em", sophomores, second; "Protect this Birdhouse", juniors, third; "Sink 'em", freshmen, fourth.

Family gets soldier's letter 33 years later

(Continued From Page 1) happy to get away from our work and fell to kidding each other as we walked along. Your brother had a good sense of humor and was not afraid to use it."

"We stopped first at the barber's shack by the main gate, but John did not like the looks of the Vietnamese barber and suggested we check out the shop in the village. Walking down the dirt road to Highway 1, we saw a Viet approaching, pushing a large bicycle. We both noticed he had a live 155 mm artillery round in a basket on the bike. I remember him being well-muscled, scarred and larger than other Vietnamese men I had seen. Since the VC (Viet Cong) mined this road and Highway 1 each night with such explosives, we covered him with our rifles and walked him and his bike back up the road, turning him over to the guards at the gate.

We then went on to the village. "The village was typical of many along Highway 1. Small, dusty and primitive; simple huts and a few shops along each side of the unpaved road. This day, strangely, no one was about. No soldiers, animals, men, women or children. In villages, the kids would usually swarm around us asking for candy, cigarettes, or offering to shine our boots for a bit of money. But, none were in sight. John pointed out the barbershop and in we went.

"The shop was a small, frame shack with a wooden floor. The native barber was alone in the shop and did not seem glad to see us. I offered to let your brother go first, since I had never had a haircut from a local before and wanted to see how good a job he did on John. John smiled and declined. He said he decided that he did not want a haircut after all and that I should go ahead. I accused John of using me as a guinea pig, but he just laughed and said he would skip the haircut for now. I put my web gear and helmet on the floor, handed John my rifle and sat on the stool. After a bit of Pidgin English and gesturing, the barber wrapped a small towel around my neck and went to work on my hair with rather dull hand clippers. John stood to the side and watched, smiling at my discomfort. He laughed when the barber began scraping around my eyes with the straight razor and I stood, abruptly ending the haircut. I paid the fellow and we left, John still chuckling over my close "shave".

"I asked John why he did not get his haircut and he told me he did not "like the looks" of either barber. I did not think much of that until later. We walked back up the highway and turned left up the access road to the main gate. As we neared our battery's area, one of the fellows in my gun section came up and said that our gun and one other was moving to LZ (Landing Zone) Buff to join two other howitzers and their crews already there. He said our gun was packed and I just needed to jump

on the truck. John said he would see me in a minute and left me to get my crew to the helipad to meet the Chinooks that would lift us out to Buff. First Sgt. Paschal stopped me to give me the news and I then climbed on the truck carrying my crew. John waved us down as we drove by the Exec Post and grinning, told my crew about my haircut experience. They all thought that was a hoot and laughed at my expense. John tossed each of us a beer and we drove off to meet the choppers. This was a small kindness that I'll always remember.

"LZ Buff was a small remote position on top of a small mountain six or seven miles west of Dottie, away from the coast. We landed just before dark and just had time to get the gun ready to fire and adjust to our new surroundings. Late that night, actually around 1 or 2 a.m. the next morning, we were called to fire a mission for our guys on Dottie. As we waited for firing data, we watched the fight on Dottie in the distance.

We could see little but flares from explosions and tracer fire as it rose in the air. We fired a few rounds of illumination for our friends in trouble, but could do nothing else to help them. During a pause in our fire mission, I overheard an infantryman in the bunker next to us ask if anyone heard a noise down the hill. At that moment a mortar round landed just in front of our gun. The attack on Buff had started. It was to last until daybreak. At times through the night and in the morning we received reports from Dottie that John could not be found. We heard that Sgt. Paschal, who discovered the attackers, was badly wounded, as was a fellow in the Exec Post bunker.

"I was slightly hurt during the night and the next morning caught a Medevac flight. The helicopter stopped at Dottie and a couple of my friends carried a wrapped body under the whirling blades of the helicopter. As they placed it gently on the floor, one Sgt. Escoff, leaned to my ear and shouted something I could not make out over the noise. As the chopper rose, I reached over and caught the fluttering tag on the body bag. It was John.

"I was later told that both barbers were found dead inside the battery position on Dottie on the morning of the 23rd.

"Dottie was the base camp for the infantry responsible for the My Lai massacre in March 1968. We knew nothing of this event or any of the other things this out-of-control unit had done to terrorize the local population.

"I am terribly sorry, for you, John, and the rest of your family. I know that John being reported missing in action and his death was a terrible time for your family. I sincerely hope that this letter does not cause you any renewed pain. Know that John was well-liked and respected. He was mature beyond his years and a good

friend. He preferred to stay out in the field with us and keep the equipment working for us. He also cheerfully pitched in and helped others whenever he could. They, at first, could not find John because he elected to stay with the fellow in the Exec post bunker, who I believe was new in the country. This selflessness was typical of John and many of the young men over there. We looked after each other as much as we could.

"I tried for 15 years to ignore my memories of the war, but since then have come to terms with them. I feel it was a stupid war, but then most are. However, I am proud of my service and glad to have known John. We supported and fought for each other and there is always honor in that. I think of John often, and will always remember him."

The youngest of their six sons, Bernard and Bernadine Diederich, New Almelo, counted the days until John would be home. They had big plans. The trips they were going to take and the traveling they were going to do was all the elder Diederich could talk about. He would say, "When Johnny comes home, I'm gonna have him drive and we're gonna travel and see some country."

Time was running out for Bernard, 69. He was fighting his own war with cancer. Six months after John's death, Bernard lost his battle. John's brother, Tom, said his mother handled her grief in a stoic way. "She was a strong woman. I credit it to her strong faith. She buried her husband and four sons before she died at age 98 1/2."

John's funeral mass was held Sept. 12, 1968 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in New Almelo. He is buried in the parish cemetery. The obituary printed in the Sept. 19 issue of the Jennings Journal said the church was filled to capacity with sympathizing friends and family who had come to pay tribute to John who had, posthumously, been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The obituary also included lines from a letter written by Nick Zeller, another of John's friends. Nick wrote to his own family, "One of my good friends, John Diederich was killed yesterday in a mortar attack. I want you to send some flowers for his funeral and have some Masses said. He was a good Catholic and we were two of the four from "A" Battery who made it to Mass every time we had a chance. It would be nice to have the kids each say a prayer for him. He was a real good friend."

Friends and family of John, and other fallen soldiers, will be able to pay tribute to their memories this week while the Vietnam Moving Wall is in Norton. Opening ceremonies, including the laying of wreaths, will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, at the Wall, on the grounds of Prairie Land Electric west of Norton on West Highway 36.

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