

Norton Under-12 extends win streak

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton 12 & Under boys baseball team extended their record to 7-1 with an 11-2 win over Minden, Neb. on Tuesday evening at Busch Field in Norton.

Norton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Kade Unterseher singled and Josh VanLaeys, Jacob Green, Will Ellis and Kaden Kinderknecht walked and Unterseher and Green scored.

The young Blue Jays added five more runs in the bottom of the third inning to lead 7-0. VanLaeys walked, Green and Ellis singled and Kinderknecht, Ryan Johnson and Trenton Wright all walked and all but Wright scored.

Norton's final four runs came in the bottom of the fourth when VanLaeys doubled, Green tripled, Layton Miller singled and all three scored. Kinderknecht walked and Ryan Johnson doubled him home.

Minden scored their only two runs in the top of the fifth.

Norton had seven hits in the game. Green was 2 for 2 at the plate. The young Jays also had 10 walks and three strike outs.

Green was the Norton pitcher and he allowed no hits, walked three and struck out 12 batters!

Since pitchers are not allowed to pitch more than four innings in a game, VanLaeys relieved Green and retired the sides.

Previous contests

The Norton 12 & Under nine opened the season on May 17 in Norton with an impressive 19-3 victory over Holdrege, Neb. Land Mark.

Norton scored nine runs in the bottom of the second inning and batted around. Miller got on base on an error, Unterseher singled, Wright gained first when he was hit by a pitch, Colton Greving singled, Johnson walked, Aufer doubled, Kinderknecht reached first after being hit by a pitched ball, VanLaeys singled, Green walked and Jace Ruder singled. Everyone scored except Ruder.

Norton also batted around in the bottom of the third inning. Greving, Aufer and Kinderknecht all walked, VanLaeys doubled, Ruder, Ellis, Miller and Unterseher all walked. Greving, Aufer, Kinderknecht, VanLaeys and Ruder all tallied to extend the score to 14-0.

Holdrege's three runs came in the top of the fourth.

The young Blue Jays completed scoring with five more tallies in the bottom of the fourth. Johnson singled, Kinderknecht walked, VanLaeys doubled, Green walked after being hit by a pitch and Ruder and Ellis both singled. Everyone except Ellis scored.

Norton had 12 hits, 14 walks and seven strike outs.

VanLaeys was a perfect 4 for 4 batting and Ruder went 2 for 3.

VanLaeys was the winning pitcher. He allowed only three hits, walked three and struck out six batters. Ellis relieved him in the fifth.

Payton Schmalz was the Holdrege pitcher.

Defeated Alma

On May 19, Norton hosted Alma, Neb. and put together a 14-3 win.

Alma scored two of their runs in



Norton pitcher Jacob Green fires a fastball during the 12 and Under Blue Jays' 11-2 win over Minden, Neb. on Tuesday evening at Busch Field in Norton. Green allowed no hits, walked four and struck out 13 batters. In the field behind him are, from left: Kade Unterseher, second baseman and Layton Miller, right fielder.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the top of the first inning. Norton answered with only one run when Wright got on base on an error and VanLaeys doubled him home.

Norton went ahead for good in the bottom of the second when they batted around and scored seven more runs.

Miller got on base on an error, Unterseher and Greving both

scored in the inning. Johnson and Aufer both walked, Wright gained first on a fielder's choice, VanLaeys got on base via an error and Green cleared the bases with a home run!

Ruder got on base via an error. In the bottom of the third, Miller walked, Johnson singled, Aufer, Kinderknecht, Wright and VanLaeys all walked, Green doubled, Ruder, Ellis and Miller all walked. Miller, Johnson, Aufer, Kinderknecht, Wright and VanLaeys scored in the inning.

Alma scored their final run in the top of the fourth.

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

Leading hitter for Norton was Green who went 2 for 3.

Ruder pitched for Norton. He allowed only two hits, walked nine and struck out 10 batters. Wright relieved him in the fifth and had three strike outs and two walks.

Lost to Holdrege Hills

On May 26 at Holdrege, Norton lost 4-2 to Holdrege Hills in their only loss to date this season.

The home team scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Norton scored once in the top of the second on a home run by Ruder!

Norton tied the score at 2-all with one run in the top of the fourth. VanLaeys singled and scored later in the inning.

Holdrege scored twice in the bottom of the fourth and Norton was unable to tally in the top of the fifth.

The young Blue Jays had three hits, one walk and six strike outs. VanLaeys, Ruder and Johnson

each got one hit.

Green pitched for Norton. He allowed two hits, walked four and struck out 11 batters.

Beat Oxford

Norton hosted Oxford on May 31 and treated the home fans to a 17-3 victory.

In the bottom of the first inning, the young Blue Jays tallied four runs, which turned out to be enough for the win. Unterseher and VanLaeys both singled and Green also hit safely. Ruder and Ellis both singled, Greving got on base with a fielder's choice and Aufer walked. Unterseher, VanLaeys, Green and Ruder all scored.

Oxford tallied once in the top of the third but Norton added three more runs in the bottom of the inning to make the score 7-1. Miller singled, Ellis got on base via an error, Aufer doubled and Unterseher singled. Miller, Ellis and Aufer all scored.

The bottom of the fourth was a big inning for Norton as the young Blue Jays batted around and tallied ten runs. Green walked, Ruder singled, Wright and Miller both walked, Ellis doubled, Greving walked, Kinderknecht singled, Unterseher got on base via an error, VanLaeys singled, Green hit safely in his second time at bat in the inning, Ruder got on base on an error in his second at-bat, Wright walked for the second time in the inning and Miller came up for the second time and got on base with a fielder's choice.

Ruder, Wright, Miller, Ellis, Greving, Kinderknecht, Unterseher and VanLaeys each scored once and Green tallied twice in the inning.

Oxford scored twice in the top of the fifth but it was too little, too late.

Norton bats were loud as the young Blue Jays pounded out 14 hits, had seven walks and just one strike out.

Green was a perfect 3 for 3 with the bat. Unterseher, Ruder and Ellis were each 2 for 4 at the plate.

VanLaeys was the winning pitcher. He was relieved by Unterseher in the fifth. VanLaeys allowed Oxford had no hits, walked five and struck out six batters.

Outscored Cambridge

The Norton bats were active once again when Norton traveled to Cambridge, Neb. and returned with a 25-4 victory.

The young Blue Jays batted around in the first inning where they scored 11 runs. Unterseher was hit by a pitch and advanced to first, VanLaeys singled, Green walked, Ruder and Miller both doubled, Ellis singled, Wright and Aufer both walked, Kinderknecht singled, Greving got on base on a fielder's choice, VanLaeys singled for the second time in the inning and Green walked for the second time. Green scored twice and all the others tallied once in the inning.

Cambridge scored a single run in the bottom of the first inning.

Both teams were scoreless in the second inning.

Norton finished with 14 more runs in the top of the third inning when the young Blue Jays batted around again. Unterseher and VanLaeys both singled, Green was hit by a pitch and advanced, Ruder and Miller both singled, Ellis and Wright both walked, Kinderknecht singled, Greving got on base via an error, Unterseher singled for the second time in the inning, VanLaeys doubled in his second time up and Green slammed a home run to clear the bases. Miller got on base on an error on his second time at bat and Ellis walked for the second time.

Unterseher, VanLaeys, Green, Miller and Ellis each scored twice in the inning and Ruder, Wright, Kinderknecht and Greving all tallied once.

Cambridge added their final three runs in the bottom of the inning.

Norton had 16 hits, ten walks and four strike outs.

VanLaeys was a perfect 4 for 4 with the bat, Ruder was 3 for 4, Miller was 2 for 4, Ellis was 2 for 2 and Unterseher and Kinderknecht were each 2 for 3.

Ruder pitched for Norton. He gave up three hits, walked seven and struck out six batters.

Defeated Holdrege Optimist

On June 6, Norton hosted the Holdrege Optimist nine and won a 9-2 victory.

Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning when Unterseher singled and VanLaeys hit a home run to score both young men!

Norton made it 3-0 in the second stanza when Greving walked, Johnson and Unterseher both singled and Greving scored.

The young Blue Jays extended their lead to 8-0 in the bottom of the third inning. Green tripled, Ellis and Wright both walked, Kinderknecht singled, Greving tripled and Johnson walked. All except Johnson scored.

Norton added one more run in the bottom of the fourth when VanLaeys and Ellis both singled and VanLaeys scored.

Two Holdrege runs in the top of the fifth made the final 9-2 in favor of Norton.

Norton had nine hits, five walks and eight strike outs. Unterseher and VanLaeys were each 2 for 3 batting.

Green pitched for Norton. He gave up three hits, walked seven and struck out 11 batters.

Shutout Loomis

Norton recorded their first shutout of the season when they traveled to Loomis, Neb. on June 9 and returned with a 7-0 win.

The young Blue Jays recorded four runs in the top of the first inning when Unterseher and VanLaeys both walked, Green and Miller both singled, Ellis walked and Aufer and Kinderknecht both singled. Unterseher, VanLaeys, Green and Miller scored.

Norton tallied two more runs in the bottom of the third inning when VanLaeys and Green each singled, Miller walked and both VanLaeys and Green scored.

The last Norton run came in the bottom of the fourth when Greving and Unterseher both walked and Greving tallied to make the final 7-0.

Norton had seven hits, six walks and six strike outs.

Green was leading hitter, going 2 for 3 at the plate.

VanLaeys was the Norton pitcher. He allowed three hits, walked one and struck out eight batters. He was relieved by Wright who struck out all three batters he faced.

Next action

Norton traveled to Bertrand, Neb. for a game on Thursday evening. Results were not available at the Telegram's press time.

The young Blue Jays will host Axtell, Neb. on Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Busch Field in their final home game of the season.

On Thursday, June 23, Norton will travel to Lexington, Neb. for the final regular season game.

The Tournament will be played in Holdrege the week of June 27.

Head coach of the Norton team is Rick Green. His assistant coaches are Kyle Wright and Bill Unterseher.



Norton's Will Ellis slides into home plate safely for another Blue Jay score in the third inning of the 12 & Under's 11-2 victory over Minden, Neb. on Tuesday evening at Busch Field in Norton

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Legion splits games at Loomis

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton American Legion baseball team split a doubleheader at Loomis, Neb. on Monday which was a makeup for a rainout earlier.

Both games were offensive contests with lots of hard hitting by both sides.

Loomis won the first game by a 16-11 score and Norton prevailed in the nightcap 15-2.

In the opener, Norton scored one run in the top of the first inning when Dalton Miller doubled and Tug Keiswetter singled him home. Loomis tallied three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 3-1 lead.

The Blue Jays scored five runs in the top of the second. Trey Millan, Chris Maddy and Lane Bigge all singled. Brett Terrell blasted a triple, followed by singles by Andrew Ellis, Keiswetter and Tyler Cook. Millan, Maddy, Bigge, Terrell and Ellis all scored.

Loomis had their biggest inning of the game in the bottom of the second when they ran eight runs across home plate to take an 11-6 advantage.

In the top of the third, Norton added two runs to cut the Loomis lead to 11-8. Bigge and Terrell both singled and both scored in the inning.

Norton tied the score at 11-all with three more runs in the top of the fourth. Cook and Millan both walked; Maddy, Bigge and Terrell all singled. Cook, Bigge and Millan all scored.

The Blue Jays could not score again and Loomis added five more runs to take the victory.

Norton had 12 hits in the game, three walks and two strike outs.

Bigge was 3 for 3 with the bat, Terrell and Maddy were each 2 for 3 and Keiswetter was 2 for 2.

Terrell was the Norton pitcher. He gave up 13 hits, walked seven and struck out four batters.

Edgar Estrada was the Loomis pitcher.

"Loomis won our slug-fest in the first game," said Norton Legion head coach Scott Ellis.

"Once again we made a lot of errors. We gave them five or six outs in each inning. We play tough but not very smart."

The second contest was all Norton with the Blue Jays winning 15-2.

Norton scored twice in the top of the first inning when Miller walked, Spencer Shirk doubled and Ellis singled. Miller and Shirk both scored.

Three more Norton runs in the top of the second made it 5-0. Millan tripled, Cook walked and Bigge and Miller both singled. Millan, Cook and Bigge scored.

Loomis scored their only two runs in the bottom of the second to cut the Norton lead to 5-2.

Norton added six more runs in the top of the third when the Blue Jays batted around. Ellis and Dakota Dreher both singled. Millan, Cook and Bigge all walked. Terrell singled, Shirk walked and Keiswetter singled. All scored except Shirk and Keiswetter.

Four more Norton runs in the top of the fourth made the final 15-2. Cook walked, Maddy, Terrell, Shirk and Keiswetter all singled. All except Keiswetter scored.

The Blue Jays had 13 hits, six walks and no strike outs. Terrell, Keiswetter and Ellis all went 2 for 4 batting and Shirk was 2 for 3 at the plate.

Shirk was the winning pitcher. He allowed only one hit, walked four and struck out three batters.

Bryce Mason was the Loomis pitcher.

"We played better defensively in the second game," said coach Ellis.

"We continued hitting the ball hard and ran the bases very well."

"Spencer pitched very well."

Next action

Norton traveled to Smith Center on Thursday for a doubleheader but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The Norton Legion's next action will be Monday at Ellis with games set to start at 6 and 8 p.m.

Local youth going to archery nationals

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Shelbi McKenna of Norton is a Norton County member of a four-person archery team which will compete in the National 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational in San Antonio, Texas, on June 19-24.

Other members of the team are Olivia Taylor-Puckett, Jefferson County, McLouth; Megan Hilbesch, Lyon County, Emporia and Wyatt Smith,

Gray County, Cimarron.

They will compete with a recurve bow in shooting at five targets and 30 targets.

Shelbi's sponsor is the Norton Archery Club, which earns funding from sponsoring such events as this weekend's Carp Derby and the Coyote Calling Contest.

Shelbi is the daughter of Cindy and Patrick Shirley of Norcatur and Richard McKenna of Norton.