

Jays split doubleheader

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team split a doubleheader in two good games played at Smith Center on Thursday.

In the opener, the Blue Jays won 10-5 but in the nightcap the Redmen broke a tie late in the contest to win 10-8.

Opener

Norton did not score in the top of the first inning but Smith Center tallied once in the bottom of the inning.

Norton's biggest inning came in the top of the second when the Blue Jays scored five times to take a 5-1 lead. Dalton Miller doubled, Andrew Ellis singled, Tyler Cook walked, Lane Bigge singled, Chris Maddy and Kaid McKenna both walked and all except McKenna scored.

The Blue Jays added one more run in the top of the third when Ellis doubled, Cook walked and Maddy singled to score Ellis. Smith Center added one run in the bottom of the third to make it 6-2.

Norton did not score in the fourth but the Redmen added one run in the bottom of the inning to cut the Blue Jay lead to 6-3. In the top of the fifth, the visitors scored three runs to extend their advantage to 9-3. Miller got on base via an error, Trey Millan singled, Bigge got on base via an error, Maddy singled and McKenna walked. Miller, Millan and Bigge all scored.

Norton added one more run

in the top of the sixth when Tug Keiswetter got on base via an error and Ellis singled him home to make it 10-3.

Smith Center scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh but it was too little, too late and the visitors from Norton earned a 10-5 victory.

Norton had 10 hits, seven walks and seven strike outs.

Ellis was leading hitter for Norton with 3 hits in 4 at-bats. Maddy was 2 for 4 with the bat.

Keiswetter pitched six innings for the Blue Jays, allowing six hits, walking two and striking out six batters. He was relieved by Spencer Shirk who gave up two hits, walked none and struck out two batters.

Terrill pitched five and two-thirds inning, for the Redmen and Atwood hurled the rest of the way.

Nightcap

In the nightcap, Norton took an early 3-0 lead with three scores in the top of the first. Brett Terrell walked and Maddy tripled him home. Keiswetter walked, Millan singled and Cook doubled and Maddy and Keiswetter scored.

Neither team scored in the second inning.

Norton added two more runs to their total in the top of the third. McKenna walked and Keiswetter and Shirk both singled. Millan got on base via an error. Keiswetter and Shirk both scored to make it 5-0.

Smith Center finally answered in the bottom of the third in a big

way, scoring six runs to go ahead 6-5.

The Redmen added a single run in the bottom of the fourth and one more in the bottom of the fifth to make it 8-5.

Norton tallied three runs in the top of the sixth to tie the score at 8-all. Miller doubled, Maddy and McKenna both singled, Keiswetter was hit by a pitch and advanced, Shirk singled and Millan walked. Miller, Maddy and McKenna all scored.

Smith Center regained the lead with two runs in the bottom of the sixth. Norton was unable to score in the top of the seventh and lost 10-8.

Norton had 12 hits, six walks and three strike outs.

Shirk went 3 for 4 with the bat to lead Norton. Miller was 2 for 3 and Maddy was 2 for 4.

Dakota Dreher pitched three innings for Norton and was relieved by Miller. Dreher gave up six hits and walked three. Miller allowed six hits, struck out four and walked none.

Atwood pitched four and one-third innings for Smith Center and was relieved by Linn.

Next action

Norton was scheduled to play at Ellis on Monday evening but results were not available at the Telegram's press time.

Norton will host Smith Center this Thursday with games set to begin at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at John Ryan Field.

K-18 baseball team played Phillipsburg and Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team was competitive in their last two outings but unable to earn any wins at Phillipsburg on Tuesday, June 14 and at Smith Center on Friday, June 17.

Phillipsburg

In the opener at Phillipsburg, the Panthers prevailed 12-0.

Phillipsburg scored only one run in the bottom of the first and one in the second inning and two in the bottom of the third to lead by only 4-0 but broke the game open in the bottom of the fourth with eight more runs.

Norton had no hits, one walk and eight strike outs.

Clint Cole pitched for the Blue Jays. He gave up five hits, walked two and struck out six batters.

Derr was the Phillipsburg pitcher.

The nightcap was much closer but the home team was able to edge the visitors 5-4.

Norton took a 4-0 lead in the

top of the second inning when Matt Stutsman singled, Chris Chastain walked, Justice Snyder singled, Clint Cole singled and Trevor Lewis tripled. All except Lewis scored.

Phillipsburg tied the score at 4-all in the bottom of the inning and scored one run in the bottom of the fourth inning to win the contest.

The Blue Jays had four hits, one walk and nine strike outs. Lewis was 2 for 3 at the plate.

Toby Nickell was the Norton pitcher. He gave up six hits, walked eight and struck out three batters.

Orr was the Phillipsburg pitcher.

Smith Center

In the opener at Smith Center, Norton had trouble hitting again and lost 4-0.

The Redmen scored one run in the bottom of the second, two in the bottom of the third and one in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Norton had just two hits, no

walks and five strike outs.

Lewis was the Norton pitcher. He allowed five hits, walked ten and struck out five batters.

The nightcap was another low scoring one but Norton lost 2-1.

Smith Center scored once in the bottom of the first inning and once in the bottom of the second.

Norton's one run came in the top of the fifth when Kade Unterseher walked, Cole got on base on a fielder's choice, a Redman error put Lewis on base and Unterseher scored.

Norton had just two hits, one walk and nine strike outs.

Cole pitched for Norton and gave up three hits, walked three and struck out eight batters.

Wagenblast was the Smith Center pitcher.

Next action

The Norton K-18 is scheduled to host Plainville this evening at John Ryan Field.

The first game will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Norton 12 and Under team outscores Bertrand, Neb. 13-1

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton 12 and Under baseball team continued their winning ways with a 13-1 victory over Bertrand, Neb. on Thursday, June 16 at Bertrand.

Norton scored four runs in the top of the first inning. Jacob Green walked, Colton Greving and Will Ellis both singled and Kaden Kinderknecht doubled and all four crossed home plate.

Bertrand scored their only run in the bottom of the second.

The young Blue Jays added four more runs in the top of the third stanza. Kade Unterseher walked, Josh VanLaeys got on base on an error, Green and Greving both walked and Ellis singled. All except Ellis scored.

In the top of the fourth, Norton ran five more runs across home plate. Ward singled, Unterseher got on base on a fielder's choice, VanLaeys walked, Green doubled, Greving singled and Ellis singled. Ward, Unterseher, VanLaeys, Green and Greving

all scored.

Norton had nine hits, six walks and three strike outs.

Leading hitter for Norton was Ellis who was a perfect 3 of 3 at the plate. Greving was 2 for 2 and Ward was 2 for 2.

Trenton Wright and Ellis pitched for Norton. They allowed one hit, walked one and struck out six batters.

Next action

This evening, Norton will host Axtell, Neb. at Busch Field, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Norton American Legion pitcher Spencer Shirk delivers a pitch during baseball action earlier this season versus Holdrege at John Ryan Field in Norton. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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