

Norton football season ends with fall to Phillipsburg

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team scored 30 points in their last District game of the season on Thursday night at Travis Field in Norton, which would be enough to win many games, but the visiting Phillipsburg Panthers put 57 on the scoreboard to win and advance to the playoffs.

Phillipsburg scored touchdowns on all three possessions of the first quarter. Norton scored their first touchdown when Jacob Brooks recovered a Panther fumble and senior fullback Trey Millan tallied from 3 yards out with time running out, making the score 21-7 after one period.

Phillipsburg scored one touchdown and kicked a field goal in the second quarter. Norton put together a 70-yard touchdown drive late in the second quarter. Senior quarterback Jordan Wahlmeier scored from 9 yards out and sophomore kicker Austin Hager kicked the extra point to make the score 30-14 at halftime.

A 44-yard touchdown run by Wahlmeier to start the second half cut the Panther lead to 30-20 but Phillipsburg added two more touchdowns and Norton's only other points came on a safety as the third period ended with the score 44-22.

Phillipsburg scored one more touchdown early in the fourth quarter but tallied on two more field goals. Norton scored their final touchdown when junior wide receiver Jacob Brooks made a one-handed grab of a pass from Wahlmeier and sprinted down the sidelines 40 yards to the end zone. Wahlmeier ran for two extra points, making the final score 57-30.

Coach's comments

"Phillipsburg was one of the better teams we played this year," said coach Melvin. "They were quick and their line was tough and more physical than us. We just couldn't stop them. We were out of place at times on defense. It's all about being disciplined.

"Offensively, we did okay. We played hard but just didn't score enough."

"Senior Night"

It was "Senior Night" at NCHS. The seniors from the football team, cross country team and tennis team in addition to the senior band members were honored along with their parents.

Honored were: Tye Nickell, Trey Millan, Jordan Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, Taylor Meder, Robert Blecha, Justin Waggoner, Damien Davis, Casey Temmel, Cayleb Campbell, Kurt Douglas and Tyler Lewis, football; Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry and Eric Becker, cross country; Rhees Carlson, tennis; Mariah Farber, Brooklyn Winkel, Alexis Henson, Eric Becker, Mitchell Shelton and Rhees Carlson, band.

Starting lineup

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Damian Davis, 165 pounds, left tackle; junior Eli Bozarth, 160 pounds, left guard; junior Lane Bigge, 200 pounds, center; senior Kurt Douglas, 175 pounds, right guard; freshman Wyatt Harting, 210 pounds, right tackle; senior Robert Blecha, 180 pounds, tight end; junior Jacob Brooks, 175 pounds, wide receiver; senior Dillon McConney, 150 pounds, wide receiver; senior Jordan Wahlmeier, 180 pounds, quarterback; senior Trey Millan, 165 pounds, fullback; senior Tye Nickell, 150 pounds, tailback.

Starting on defense were: senior Justin Waggoner, 145 pounds, left end; junior Lucas Engel, 180 pounds, sophomore Cole Renner, Damien Davis, tackles; Eli Bozarth, right end; senior Taylor Meder, 145 pounds, Trey Millan, junior Dalton Miller, 185 pounds, linebackers; Jacob Brooks, junior Carson McKenna, Tye Nickell, defensive backs.

Individual statistics

Trey Millan finished his high school football career with 93 yards rushing on 14 carries for an average of 6.6 yards per carry.

Jordan Wahlmeier finished with 58 yards on 5 carries for an 11.6 yard average.

Tye Nickell gained 46 yards on 14 carries to average 3.3 yards.

Wahlmeier completed 5 of 18 passes for 77 yards. Receivers were: Robert Blecha, 1 for 10 yards; Jacob Brooks, 2 for 40 yards; Tye Nickell, 1 for 21 yards and Trey Millan, 1 for 6 yards.

Brooks had 6 kickoff returns for 142 yards and Nickell had 3 for 85 yards.

Austin Hager kicked off 5 times for a 37.8 yard average. Wahlmeier punted 6 times for a 36.2 yard average.

Leading rusher for Phillipsburg was Matt Schneider with 151 yards on 10 carries. Ross Coomes gained 79 yards on 13 carries and Sean Newlan rushed for 67 yards on 12 carries.

Newlan completed 6 of 10 passes for 139 yards.

Tackles

Carson McKenna was leading tackler for Norton with 8 solos, 4 assists, 12 total. He was followed by Eli Bozarth, 6 solos, 5 assists, 11 total; Dalton Miller, 6 solos, 5 assists, 11 total; Tye Nickell, 9 solos, 1 assist, 10 total; John Risewick, 6 solos, 2 assists, 8 total; Justin Waggoner, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; Lucas Engel, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Kolton Harting, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Jacob Brooks, 1 solo, 3 assists, 4 total; Taylor Meder, 4 solos; Lane Bigge, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Damian Davis, 3 assists; Trey Millan, 2 solos; Cole Renner, 2 solos; Andrew Ellis, 1 solo; Tanner Furbush, 1 assist; Austin Hager, 1 solo.

First quarter

Austin Hager kicked off for Norton and Phillipsburg drove down the field to score. Hunter Kohler scored from 10 yards out. Justin Juemann kicked the extra point and the Panthers led 7-0 at 9:21.

Brooks returned the kickoff to the Norton 23. Norton tried running and passing but to no avail and Wahlmeier punted. After a good return by Seth Derr to the Norton 44, the Panthers drove downfield to score again. Quarterback Sean Newlan tallied from 10 yards out. Juemann kicked the extra point and it was 14-0 with 7:01 left.

Nickell got a good kickoff return to the Norton 47 and picked up 7 yards on one down but the Blue Jays had to punt again. Norton got good coverage on Wahlmeier's punt and pinned Phillipsburg back on their 10-yard line. After a 5-yard penalty, the Panthers were on their 5. Newlan ran a keeper to the 8. On the next down, Newlan fired a long pass and Derr made a perfect over-the-head catch and sprinted into the end zone for a 92-yard touchdown. Juemann's kick made the score 21-0 at 4:26.

Brooks returned the kickoff to the 25. Nickell gained 6 yards on 2 plays, then got nothing. On fourth down, Wahlmeier went back in punt formation but faked the punt and ran for a first down on the Norton 45. After two incomplete passes, Wahlmeier ran to the Panther 45 but Norton was penalized 5 yards for offsides and Wahlmeier had to punt again.

Brooks tackled Derr as he caught the ball, he fumbled and Brooks fell on the ball on the Panther 13-yard line! Wahlmeier passed over the middle to Robert Blecha on the 3, then Trey Millan bulled into the end zone for a Norton touchdown. Hager split the uprights, cutting the Panther lead to 21-7 at the :54 mark.

After Hager's kickoff, Phillipsburg had trouble moving the ball and two penalties dropped them back to their 15 as the quarter ended.

Second quarter

Phillipsburg went into punt formation but faked and completed a pass for a first down. Another pass completion put the ball on the Norton 30. Several running plays got them closer, then Newlan passed 9 yards to Ross Coomes for a touchdown. The extra point kick failed but Phillipsburg led 27-7 at 9:09.

Nickell got another good kickoff return, this time to the Norton 47. The Blue Jays were unable to get a first down and Wahlmeier punted to the Panther 14. Helped by a pass interference penalty on Norton, the Panthers moved downfield again. The Norton defense gave ground grudgingly and Phillipsburg had to try for a field goal. Juemann was accurate on the 36 yard try, making the



Norton senior tight end Robert Blecha couldn't help but signal touchdown when senior quarterback Jordan Wahlmeier ran through a Phillipsburg player's grasp and into the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown near the end of the first half in the District game here Thursday night. Wahlmeier also scored a 44-yard touchdown early in the second half.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

score 30-7 at 3:17.

Nickell returned the kickoff to the Norton 30 and the Blue Jays put together their best touchdown drive of the game. After a short flat pass to Brooks, Millan ran for a first down on the Blue Jay 45. Next, Millan got another first down on the Panther 38. Millan got the call for a third straight time and powered for a third first down on the Phillipsburg 27. After two unsuccessful running plays, Wahlmeier passed to Nickell on the 9. Next down, Wahlmeier got a good hole from the offensive line and powered into the end zone! Hager split the uprights again and Norton had cut the Phillipsburg lead to 30-14 at :15. The half ended a few plays later.

Third quarter

Norton came out of the locker room fired up and scored another touchdown four plays after Brooks got a good return of the kickoff to the Norton 45. After an incomplete pass, Nickell ran for a first down on the Panther 45. Millan was held to just 1 yard but Wahlmeier found room around left end, turned the corner and was off to the races on a 44-yard touchdown sprint!

A pass by Wahlmeier for 2 extra points was incomplete but Norton had cut the Phillipsburg margin to 30-20 at 10:45.

The Panthers responded, however, by marching downfield for another touchdown. Newlan ran a 25-yard keeper and the extra point kick by Juemann made it 37-20 at 6:30.

Phillipsburg tried an onside kick and Norton covered the ball on the Panther 48. Norton was three-and-out and punted to the Phillipsburg 7. On first down, Newlan was sacked in the end zone by the aggressive Norton defense, earning a 2-point safety for the Blue Jays and making the score 37-22 at 5:00.

Phillipsburg kicked off out of bounds and Norton got the ball on the Panther 45. Millan got a first down on the 30, Nickell gained 8 yards on 2 carries but Millan was held to no gain and Wahlmeier was sacked on fourth down on the 36.

On first down, Schneider got loose around left end and raced 64 yards for another Panther touchdown. Juemann kicked the extra point to extend the lead to 44-22 at 2:37.

Brooks returned the kickoff but a fumble was recovered by Phillipsburg on the Norton 21. The Panthers drove in for another touchdown as the fourth quarter got underway.

Fourth quarter

Ross Coomes went in from 2 yards out and Juemann kicked the extra point, making it 51-22 at 11:58.

Brooks returned the ball to the 29 but Norton was unable to make a first down and Wahlmeier went into punt formation. It was a fake but a pass was incomplete and Phillipsburg took over deep in Norton territory. The Blue Jay defense held but Juemann kicked a field goal, extending the Panther lead to 54-22 at 7:26.

Norton was unable to move the ball after the kickoff and punted to the Norton 44. Phillipsburg sent in their junior varsity. They could not advance and Phillipsburg punted for the only time in the game. Norton fumbled the ball back to the Panthers and Juemann kicked another field goal at 1:28, making it 57-22.

The Blue Jays scored one last touchdown when Brooks returned the kickoff to the Phillipsburg 40, then made a one-handed, circus catch of a Wahlmeier pass and streaked 40 yards into the end zone! Wahlmeier ran through the Panther defense for 2 extra points at 1:08 to cut the Phillipsburg lead to 57-30 but the game ended after Hager's kickoff and one play.

Final comments

"We lost some seniors who were good young men and played hard," said coach Melvin.

"Some of our losses this season could have gone our way. I hate it when we don't reach the goals we've set.

"Our prospects for next year are good. We have a lot more young men who played returning next year. We'll have six or seven coming back with starting experience on offense and seven or eight on defense.

"We'll have to get in the weight room and get stronger and tougher."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Phillipsburg
8	First Downs	15
197	Yards Rushing	363
77	Yards Passing	171
274	Total Yards	534
5-18-0	Passes Compl.	7-11-0
2-3	Fumbles Lost	1-3
6-36.2	Punts	1-32
7-51	Penalties	12-80

Northern Valley football takes down Natoma Tigers in 63-36 victory

By Dana Paxton

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The Northern Valley Husky football team played Natoma last Thursday and brought home a victory of 68-36.

Northern Valley was the first team to score in the game when Tyson Callaway made a 58 yard touchdown run. He then ran it in for the extra points starting the game with the Huskies leading 8-0. Natoma then scored on a five yard run followed by a failed extra point attempt ending the first quarter, 8-6.

In the second quarter the Huskies led off with Hunter Chandler scoring on a one yard run followed by a failed extra point attempt. This brought the score to 14-6. Callaway then ran for 47 yards and his second touchdown of the night. Jordan Baird completed it when he ran it in for the extra points bringing the score to 22-6. Natoma was the next to score on a 13 yard run followed by failed attempt at the extra points. This brought the score to 22-12. Jordan Baird scored next for the Huskies with a six yard touchdown run then he ran it in for the extra two points which put the score at 30-12. Natoma came back and scored again on a

seven yard touchdown pass followed by a failed extra point attempt. This left the score at 30-18. With four seconds left on the board in the first half Northern Valley's Baird ran ten yards for the last touchdown of the half. Calen Bach then caught a pass from Callaway for the extra two ending the first half with a Husky lead of 38-18.

Natoma scored first in the third quarter on a one yard run followed by a failed pass for the extra points. This brought the score to 38-24. Hunter Chandler was next to score on a 31 yard run then Callaway ran it in for the extra points bringing the score to 46-24. Natoma scored next on a ten yard touchdown pass. The extra point attempt failed but kept Natoma in the game with a score of 46-30 at the end of the third quarter.

Chandler put the next points on the board when he made a seven yard touchdown run but the extra point attempt failed leaving the score at 52-30. Nate Land scored for the Huskies next on a five yard run followed up with the extra points when Dillon Hogan ran it in. The score stood at 58-30 after this play. Baird was the last to score

for Northern Valley on a 40 yard fumble return. Daniel Field then ran it in for the extra points bring the score to 68-30. Natoma gave it one last attempt with a pass as the clock ran out and they scored with a ten yard touchdown ending the game 68-36.

Northern Valley head coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We had a great night running the ball. Our line did a very good job blocking. All three of our starting backs were able to get over one hundred yards rushing. Natoma was able to complete some passes on us but we were able to keep their receiver in front of us and not let them beat us deep. For the second week in a row the junior varsity team got to see some action in the fourth quarter. It was good to see our seniors finish their careers with a win. We will lose six seniors to graduation. They are Brandon McDowell, Calen Bach, Nate Land, Daniel Field, Dillon Hogan and Tyler Montgomery. These kids have helped get the Northern Valley football program headed in the right direction. They should be very proud of their six and three record this year."

Northern Valley had 54 carries

of the ball for 524 yards rushing to Natoma's 38 carries for 131 yards. Hunter Chandler carried the ball 16 times for 174 yards followed by Tyson Callaway had 14 carries for 149 yards, Jordan Baird had 17 carries for 145 yards, Nate Land with two carries for 54 yards, Brandon McDowell with three carries for one yard and Dillon Hogan with one carry for three yards.

Northern Valley passed the ball three times completing one for three yards Chandler threw it twice for no gain and Callaway passed it once to Bach for three yards. Natoma passed the ball 48 times completing 23 for 252 yards.

The Huskies fumbled the ball three times losing it twice and Natoma fumbled twice and lost it once. Natoma also punted the ball three times for 103 yards where Northern Valley made no punts.

Northern Valley had several tackles throughout the night. Chandler had eight tackles and five assists followed by Callaway with nine and three assists, Bach with eight and four assists and Hogan with seven and five assists. Jordan Baird had eight with two assists, Ian Vincent had

six with two assists, Tyler Montgomery had six with two assists and Land had five tackles and one assist. Ame Baird made one

tackle and one assist, McDowell, Matt Stutsman and Clint Cole and Alex Stevens each had one tackle.



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