

K-18 team opens season with double win

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton K-18 baseball team opened their 2012 season on Monday evening with a double-header win over a visiting Smith Center nine.

The games were a contrast.

Norton edged Smith Center 2-0 in a well played first game and took advantage of ineffective pitching by the Redmen, which created 21 walks, to win the nightcap 16-1 in just three innings.

First game

Norton had just three hits and the Redmen had just two hits in the opener. Norton's runs came in the bottom of the second inning and bottom of the fifth.

Mickey Hahn singled in the second, stole a base and scored when Trenton Wright got on base on an error.

Norton's other run was scored in the fifth when Jacob Green walked and made it around the bases to score.

Norton's three hits were by Hahn, Josh VanLaey and Trenton Wright and were all singles.

The Blue Jays also walked four times and had eight strike outs.

Winning pitcher for Norton was Clint Cole. In addition to allowing just two hits, he walked just four batters and struck out nine.

Nightcap

Smith Center scored their first run of the season and of the night in the top of the first inning to take a 1-0 lead but it was all Norton from then on.

Brant Cox singled to start the bottom of the first, followed by walks by Cole and Mickey Hahn. Kendall Miller singled and Green, Kobie Unterseher, Wright, Will Ellis and Caden Kinderknecht all walked to reach the top of the batting order again.

This time, Cox walked, Cole walked, VanLaey walked, Hahn singled and Kendall Miller walked.

Scoring in the inning were Cox, Cole, Hahn, Miller, Green, Unterseher, Wright, Ellis, Kinderknecht and Cox for a second time as Norton took a 10-1 lead.

Norton tallied three more runs in the bottom of the second inning. Unterseher, Wright, Kinderknecht, Cox and Cole all walked, VanLaey got on base on a fielder's choice and Hahn walked. Unterseher, Wright and Kinderknecht scored to extend the Norton lead to 13-1.

In the bottom of the third and final inning, Norton scored three more runs when Green and Unterseher both walked, Wright singled, Ellis walked, Cole singled and Van Laeys walked and

Green, Unterseher and Wright all scored.

Norton had just five hits in the game but Blue Jay batters drew 21 bases on balls. Only four Norton players struck out.

Winning pitcher was Jacob Green. He allowed just one hit, walked just two batters and struck out eight.

Coach's comments

"We had outstanding pitching performances in both games from Clint Cole and Jacob Green," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"Unfortunately, I thought hitting would be our strong point, but we were not aggressive enough at the plate. We watched too many strikes and got behind in the count. Then we had to swing on their terms, making it a lot tougher on our hitters.

"We were also very passive on the base paths and missed some good opportunities.

"Hopefully, these mistakes were just first game jitters and we learned a lot.

"I have faith in these boys and look forward to them becoming a very solid team."

Next action

On Thursday, Norton played a double-header at Plainville but results were not available at the Telegram's press time.



Norton K-18's Clint Cole tags a Smith Center runner out after a pick off throw from Norton pitcher Jacob Brooks during the young Blue Jays' 16-1 win on Monday evening at John Ryan Field in Norton. Norton also won the opener of the double-header by a 2-0 score.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Riverless Run/Walk attracts many area participants



Bryan Keiswetter of Norton was the champion of the 2-Mile Race in the men's age 50-59 division.



Hannah Pinkerton of Logan broke her own Riverless Run record, which she set in 2009, with a first place in the women's age 15-19 division.



Norton's Heath Vincent won the gold medal in the men's 5 Mile Race in the 20-29 age group.



Staci Manning of Norton broke her Riverless Run record in the women's 30-39 age group which she set last year.

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The popular Riverless Run/Walk was held Saturday in Phillipsburg and attracted many area participants.

For the second straight year, Norton's Staci Manning broke the race record in the women's 30-39 year age group in the 2 Mile Race.

Her time was 14:32.98, breaking the record she set last year of 15:03.36.

Hannah Pinkerton of Logan also broke her own record in the 2 Mile Race in the 15-19 age group. She was clocked in 12:56.76 to break the record of 13:41.38, which she set in 2009.

Other Norton area placers in the women's 2 Mile Race were: 11-14 - Brianna Pinkerton, Logan, 23:48.21, first; 20-29 - Serena Woodside, Prairie View, 15:33.49, first; 30-39 - Mindy Jones, Norton, 14:55.08, second; 40-49 - Sherry Woodside, Prairie View, 30:16.11, second; 50-59 - Donna Foley, Norton, 19:21.36, first.

In the boys 2 Mile Race, Jaron

Chesley, Norton, won the age 20-29 with a time of 22:09.83. Ben Fairbanks, Norton, was second in 22:17.11. In the age 40-49 group, Alan Woodside, Prairie View, placed second with a time of 16:30.70.

Bryan Keiswetter, Norton won the gold medal in the 50-59 age group with a time of 23:05.14. Rob Pinkerton, Logan, was second in 24:07.85.

In the 5 Mile Race, Heath Vincent of Norton was the only area winner. He won the gold medal in the 20-29 age group with a clocking of 47:21.63.

In the Kids Half Mile Race, Logan White of Logan broke the record in the 8-9 age group with a clocking of 3:17. The record had been set by Clint Stapel in 2010 with a time of 4:19.11.

Carter Jones of Norton also set the record in the 10 year old category with a time of 3:15. The previous record was 3:33.34 and was set in 2009 by Mark Coomes.

Sponsor of the Riverless Run/Walk was the Phillips County Health Systems

Biking Across Kansas riding through Logan

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The 38th year of the most extensive bicycling event in Kansas history, a 481 mile ride across the state known as Biking Across Kansas, begins on Saturday.

This year's eight-day ride for the 836 riders will originate at the Kansas-Colorado line west of Sharon Springs. The riders will have overnight stops in Oakley, Hoxie, Logan, Downs, Clyde, Centralia and Troy.

Each overnight stop community will have special welcoming events for the bikers, who will stay in gymnasiums or pitch tents outside. Each day, their suitcases and duffle bags filled with extra clothes, riding outfits and personal belongings will be transported to the next overnight stop by truck so the cyclists can just ride their bicycles without being overloaded.

The cyclists' final night together in Troy will be followed on Saturday morning when they cycle to the Missouri border, where they will finish their trip and enjoy a celebration picnic in Elwood.

Through the years, a number of bikers from the Norton area have participated in BAK. Mary

Jane Wahlmeier is the only rider from Norton on this year's trip.

Other riders are from Oberlin, Oakley, Plainville, Goodland, Victoria, Colby, Phillipsburg and Hays.

Among the riders from Hays will be Michael Lacy and son, Tanner. Michael is a Norton native.

Most of the riders will be from Kansas but 30 other states will be represented. Cyclists will also be from Texas, Florida, Missouri, Colorado, Minnesota, Illinois, Maryland, Virginia, Wyoming, New Mexico, North Carolina, Nebraska, Hawaii, California, Louisiana, Indiana, Idaho, Arizona, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Nevada, Michigan, Iowa, Washington, Georgia, Rhode Island, Oklahoma, South Dakota, South Carolina and Arkansas.

Participants will enjoy the state's favorable cycling conditions but the main goal of Biking Across Kansas is to have fun, get some exercise and experience the beauty of the Kansas landscape and friendliness of its people.

For more information, go to BAK's website at www.bak.org.