

Norton Thunder dominates in double-header

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Thunder 16 and Under Girls Softball Team dominated a visiting Oberlin team during a double-header here on Tuesday evening.

The Lady Jays defeated the Lady Red Devils by the same 17-2 score in both contests and both ended after three innings due to the 15 run lead by Norton.

First game

Oberlin started well, scoring two runs in the top of the first inning but had no success after that.

In the bottom of the first, Norton scored twice to tie the score at 2-all. Kirstin Georgeson walked, Brianna Karnopp doubled, Skylar Davis walked and Kim Bradshaw singled and Karnopp and Davis both scored.

In the bottom of the second stanza, the Lady Jays added three more runs. Kristen Burge walked, Shelby Mulford and Tara Brachtenbach doubled, Sabre Plante was hit by a pitch and walked and Georgeson, Karnopp and Davis all walked. Burge, Mulford and Brachtenbach all scored.

The game ended when Norton tallied 12 more runs in the bottom of the third inning. Rickele Green, Bradshaw, Burge, Mulford, Brachtenbach, Plante, Kendra Cadwalader,

Georgeson and Davis all walked and all scored. Green came up for the second time in the inning and singled. Burge walked for the second time in the inning and Mulford tripled during her second at-bat. Green, Burge and Mulford scored twice in the inning.

Norton had six hits, 17 walks and just 2 strike outs. Leading hitter for Norton was Mulford who went 2 for 2.

Kirstin Georgeson was the winning pitcher. She pitched a no-hitter, walked two batters and struck out eight.

"We are starting to play up to our potential," said Norton head coach Brandon Gay. "We made a few mistakes in the first inning but we did a good job of containing the damage. Kirstin pitched well so we prevented Oberlin from being able to capitalize on our mistakes."

Second game

In the nightcap, Norton held Oberlin scoreless in the top of the first and scored six runs in the bottom of the inning. Georgeson and Davis walked, Ashley Hildebrand singled, Green, Bradshaw and Burge all walked. All of them scored.

Oberlin scored their two runs in the top of the second to cut the Norton lead down to 6-2. The Lady Jays responded with four more runs in the bottom of the stanza to ex-

tend their advantage to 10-2. Georgeson, Davis and Hildebrand all walked and Green and Bradshaw both doubled. All except Bradshaw scored.

After a scoreless top of the third for Oberlin, the game ended with Norton tallying seven more runs in the bottom of the inning. Burge walked, Mulford and Plante both singled, Georgeson and Brachtenbach both walked, Davis was hit by the pitcher and advanced and Hildebrand walked. All of them scored.

Norton had four hits, 13 walks and two strike outs.

Kristen Burge was the winning pitcher. She hurled two innings and Kim Bradshaw pitched the third. Oberlin got four hits, one walk and one strike out.

"After that first inning in the first game, we played solid all the way around," said coach Gay. "Our pitchers kept runners off base, we didn't make errors and we ran the bases well."

"On offense, we took our walks but we also hit well when given the opportunity."

Next action

The Norton Thunder played at Phillipsburg on Thursday evening but results were not available at the Telegram's press time.

Norton will host Phillipsburg on Sunday with games beginning at 5 p.m.



The Norton Thunder's Rickele Green beats the softball to the Oberlin catcher as she slides into home to score. The play occurred when the Oberlin catcher tried to pick Green off at third base and she sprinted home for the run.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Legion nine wins two games at Cambridge

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton American Legion baseball team traveled to Cambridge, Neb. on Sunday evening and returned with a double-header victory for their fathers on Father's Day.

The Blue Jays won the opener 10-9, then finished the evening with a 6-4 victory.

"We played well against Cambridge," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis. "The first game was a slugfest that we managed to win with timely hitting."

"The second game was well

pitched by both teams. Hartwell did a good job pitching and Brooks came in and saved both games."

First game

Norton did not score in the top of the first but Cambridge tallied four runs in the bottom of the inning to lead 4-0.

As it turned out, Norton got warmed up in the top of the second as the Blue Jays scored eight runs! Zach Hartwell and Toby Nickell were both hit by a pitch and walked, Travis Cressler and Tye Nickell both singled, Trevor Lewis and Andrew Ellis both walked, Dalton

Miller and Jacob Brooks both singled. Hartwell singled on his second time at the plate in the inning and Toby Nickell got on base via an error. Each scored one of Norton's eight runs to put the Blue Jays ahead 8-4.

Norton went scoreless in the top of the third but Cambridge tallied four times in the bottom of the third to tie the score at 8-all.

In the top of the fourth, the Blue Jays ran two more runs across home plate as Hartwell singled, Toby Nickell walked, Cressler doubled and Lewis walked and Hartwell and Toby Nickell both scored to make it a 10-8 game in favor of Norton.

The Blue Jays allowed just one more run in the bottom of

the fourth on just one hit and Norton came away with a 10-9 victory.

Norton had nine hits, seven walks and just four strike outs. Hartwell and Cressler both went 2 for 2 with the bat and Miller was 2 for 3.

Andrew Ellis, Trevor Lewis and Jacob Brooks shared the pitching for Norton. They allowed Cambridge five hits, walked seven and struck out four batters.

The game was played to the one hour, forty-five minutes time limit.

Second game

Norton opened the nightcap with a single run in the top of the first inning when Lewis, Ellis, Brooks and Hartwell all

walked and Lewis scored.

Cambridge did not score until the bottom of the second when they ran across four runs to take a 4-1 advantage. That was all of the home team's scoring, however, it took Norton awhile to catch up. Norton tallied once in the top of the third when Brooks got on base with a fielder's choice and Wahlmeier and Hartwell both walked and Brooks scored to make it 4-2.

The Blue Jays added another run in the top of the fourth when Lewis doubled and scored later in the inning to cut the home team's lead to 4-3.

After continuing to hold Cambridge scoreless, Norton tacked on three more runs in the top of the fifth for the 6-4 win.

Miller doubled to start the inning, Brooks and Hartwell both singled, Toby Nickell doubled and Cressler singled. Miller and Brooks both scored.

Norton had seven hits, six walks and 11 strike outs.

Winning pitcher was Zach Hartwell; Jacob Brooks pitched to the last four Cambridge batters. Cambridge had just three hits, Hartwell allowed two of them.

The Cambridge team also had eight walks and three strike outs.

Next action

Norton will host Colby next Wednesday at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Legion baseball splits with Bermis, Nebraska

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton American Legion baseball team split a double-header on Tuesday evening at Loomis, Neb. versus the Bertrand-Loomis team known as Bermis.

The Blue Jays lost the opener 5-4 then outscored Bermis 16-3 in the nightcap.

First game

Trey Millan scored the Blue Jays' only run in the top of the first inning when he walked and was singled home by Tug Keiswetter.

Bermis scored three times in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-1. Norton narrowed the lead to 3-2 in the top of the second when Lane Bigge, Zach Hartwell and Travis Cressler all walked and Bigge scored. Bermis added one more run in the bottom of the second.

Bermis added one run in the bottom of the fifth stanza to lead 5-2.

Norton tallied twice in the top of the sixth as Bigge and Hartwell both singled, Millan got on base on a fielder's choice, Dakota Dreher and Dalton Miller both singled. Hartwell and Miller both scored to make the final 5-4.

Norton had eight hits, five walks and nine strike outs. Leading hitters were Dalton Miller and Tug Keiswetter, both 2 for 4 with the bat. Brooks pitched the first two innings for Norton and Dalton Miller relieved him in the third.

Bermis had just four hits, four walks and seven strike outs.

The game was called after the one hour, 45 minute time limit.

"We pitched okay but seemed to have our same tough hitting luck in the first game," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis. "Tug hit the ball toward left field in the sixth inning and it was foul by two feet or that was the go ahead three run homer to win the game!"

Second game

Norton won the nightcap with seven runs on five hits in the top of the first. Millan and Dreher

both singled, Miller got on base on a fielder's choice, Keiswetter and Ellis both singled, Brooks doubled, Bigge walked, Hartwell got on base via an error and Cressler walked. Millan singled again and Dreher got on base with a fielder's choice. Millan, Miller, Keiswetter, Ellis, Brooks, Bigge and Hartwell all scored.

Bermis scored twice in the bottom of the first but the Jays still held a commanding 7-2 advantage.

Norton scored three more runs in the top of the second. Keiswetter singled, Ellis got on base with an error, Brooks doubled, Bigge got on base on an error and Hartwell walked. Miller, Keiswetter and Brooks all scored to extend the lead to 10-2.

In the top of the third, the Blue Jays added four more runs to make it 14-2. Miller got on base on an error, Keiswetter singled and Brooks hit a home run to drive in three runs! Hartwell walked and Cressler singled and Hartwell scored.

The Blue Jays extended the lead to 16-2 in the top of the fourth when Dreher walked and Keiswetter singled and both scored. Bermis scored one time in the bottom of the inning to make the final score 16-3.

Norton had 12 hits, five walks and four strike outs. Leading hitter was Keiswetter, who was a perfect 4 for 4 with the bat. Brooks was 3 for 4 and Millan was 2 for 4.

Trey Millan was the winning pitcher. He allowed no hits, walked four and struck out nine batters.

"In the second game, we hit the heck out of the ball," said coach Ellis. "Jacob hit the three run homer over the fence and also had two stand-up doubles to the fence."

"Our entire team hit the ball very well as the score shows."

Next action

Norton will host Colby next Wednesday at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6 p.m.

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Zach Hartwell, an excellent senior track and cross country runner for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to run track and cross country for Bethany College in Lindsborg.

During his four years at NCHS, Zach has been a top distance runner in both cross country and track. He has also played basketball for the Blue Jays, was a member of Norton's American Legion baseball team that competed in the State Legion Tournament last summer and is also a member of this summer's Norton Legion nine.

"Zach has been our No.1 runner the last three years," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi. "He was a Mid-Continent League medalist, regional medalist and, in his junior year, placed fifth at the state cross country meet."

"Zach has a great work ethic. He led by example and expected a lot from his teammates."

"Being the No.1 runner is a hard spot to achieve and Zach held that spot for three years. I think that says a lot about how hard he worked and his ability."

"We wish Zach the best of luck in his collegiate career."

Zach has always been a top distance runner for the Norton track team and a consistent medalist in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs. He was the winner of the prestigious John Mason

Mile at the Phillipsburg Track Meet as a junior.

"I am very happy and excited for Zach and for his future in cross country and track and field," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones.

"He is talented and works very hard. I am very happy for the opportunity that he has created for himself!"

"His efforts have now given him the chance to continue to compete in athletics as he works to further his education. I am confident that he will not only take full advantage of his opportunity but that he will also

become a valuable member of the Bethany team."

Aaron Yoder, head cross country coach and assistant track coach at Bethany, was present at NCHS for Hartwell's signing of the official letter of intent. Coach Yoder is in his second year with Bethany. He is a former All-Conference runner for Fort Hays State University.

"We first heard about Zach from other high school runners," said coach Yoder. "He has a broad range of good speed and great endurance and will help both our track and cross country teams."

"Zach is a very talented athlete who will be a good fit for our small-school, family environment. We like the small town, grassroots young men who will be dedicated and devoted to our program. We feel they are students first but that they are all members of our family and that's important and special."

"Zach is a very driven athlete. We will expect him to make an immediate impact on our cross country team and round out our track squad."

Zach is the son of Libby and Jeremy Hartwell.

Zach Hartwell signs with Bethany College in Lindsborg



Senior Zach Hartwell, excellent cross country and track and field runner for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to compete in both sports for Bethany College in Lindsborg. He is pictured signing the letter of intent as coaches and his parents look on. Pictured are from left, front row: Jeremy Hartwell, Zach, Libby Hartwell; back row: Norton assistant track coach Doug Reusink, Norton head track coach Jason Jones and Bethany head cross country and assistant track coach Aaron Yoder. Not pictured: Norton head cross country coach George Rossi.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations from . . .

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 South Kansas Avenue
Norton, Kansas 67654
Phone: 785-877-3361
Fax: 785-877-3732
E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com



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