K-18 takes down Phillispburg in double header

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton K-18 baseball team defeated Phillipsburg in a double-header at John Ryan Field on Thursday evening.

The Blue Jays outscored the Panthers 12-7 in the opener and 14-6 in the nightcap.

First game

Norton took a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning when Clint Cole reached first on an error, Josh VanLaeys and Mickey Hahn both doubled, Jacob Green and Kendall Miller both singled and Cole, VanLaeys, Hahn and Green all scored.

Neither team scored in the second inning but Phillipsburg scored one run in the top of the third. Norton added three more runs in the third inning to lead 7-1. Green singled, Kendall Miller was hit by a pitch and advanced, Kobie Unterseher doubled and Trenton Wright singled. Green, Miller and Unterseher all scored.

Phillipsburg managed another run in the top of the fourth to make it 7-2. Norton responded with four more runs in the bottom of the fourth to extend their lead to 11-2. Caden Kinderknecht was hit by a pitch and reached first base. Cole doubled, Hahn singled, Green was hit by a pitch and advanced and Kendall Miller singled. Kinderknecht, Cole, Hahn and Green all scored.

The visitors tallied four more times in the top of the fifth but Norton scored in the bottom of the inning when Kinderknecht walked and Cole singled him home to make it a 12-6 ball

One run by Phillipsburg in the top of the sixth made the final 12-7 in favor of Norton. The Blue Jays had 11 hits, walked five times and had no strike

Leading hitters for Norton were Green and Kendall Miller, both of whom were 2 for 2 with the bat, Hahn who was 2 for 3 and Cole who went 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher was Clint Cole. He hurled five innings, giving up five hits, walking two and striking out seven batters. He was relieved by Josh Van-Laeys, who gave up one hit, struck out one and walked one in one inning.

Second game

Phillipsburg took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning but Norton tied it at 3-all in the bottom of the stanza. Cole led off with a single, VanLaeys walked, Green doubled, Kendall Miller was hit by a pitch and advanced and Unterseher walked. Cole, VanLaevs and Green all scored.

One more run by the visitors in the top of the second gave them the lead again, this time at

Seven runs by Norton in the bottom of the second made it Norton 10, Phillipsburg 4. Trenton Wright and Cole both singled, VanLaeys and Hahn both walked, Green was hit by a pitch and advanced, Kendall Miller, Unterseher and Kinderknecht all walked. All but Kinderknecht

The Panthers were scoreless in the top of the third and Norton added three more runs in the bottom of the inning. Layton Miller, Cole and VanLaeys all walked. Kendall Miller was hit

by a pitch and advanced, Un- walking two and striking out terseher got on base via an error and Kinderknecht walked. Miller, Cole and VanLaeys all scored to make it 13-4.

Phillipsburg added one more run in the top of the fourth and one in the top of the fifth. Norton scored a single run in the bottom of the fifth to make the final 14-6. VanLaeys walked, Hahn got on base on a fielder's choice and Green singled Van-Laeys home.

Norton had five hits, 14 walks and six strike outs. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Cole and Green, both of whom were 2 for 3 with the bat.

Winning pitcher was Jacob Green. In three innings pitched, he allowed no hits, walked nine and struck out two batters. Kendall Miller pitched one inning, allowing one hit, no walks and striking out two batters. Mickey Hahn finished on the mound for the Blue Jays, giving up one hit,

one batter in the last inning.

Coach's comments "Overall, I was happy with the outcome of both games but there were a lot of little things we need to build and improve on," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"We were a lot better at the plate but our defense and base running needs to get better.

"It is always nice to score a lot of runs so we are able to play everybody and experiment on some different positions.

"I was especially pleased with the way Kendall and Mickey pitched; developing more pitchers will help us in the future."

Next action

On Monday evening, Norton hosted Plainville in a doubleheader. On Thursday, Norton will host Smith Center at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6:30



Norton's Kobie Unterseher slides under the pitcher's tag to score another run for the young Blue Jays during their double-header win over Phillipsburg.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Lady Thunder softball extends winning streak

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton 16 and Under Girls Thunder Softball Team extended their winning streak to five games with a double-header victory at Phillipsburg on Thursday evening. The Thunder defeated Phillipsburg 10-3 and

Game one

Karnopp, Rickele Green and Skylar Davis all walked, Kim Bradshaw singled and Karnopp

After a scoreless bottom of the inning for Phillipsburg, Norton added five runs in the top of the second. Kristen Burge and Kendra Cadwalader both walked, Sabre Plante singled, Davis walked, Ashley Hiledbrand doubled and Kim Bradshaw singled. All except Bradshaw scored.

first two runs in the bottom of the second to make the score 6-2. Neither team scored in the third inning.

In the top of the fourth, Norton extended their lead to 10-2 with four more runs. Karnopp, Green and Hildebrand all walked, Bradshaw singled, Shelby Mulford and Burge both walked. Green, Hildebrand, Bradshaw and Mulford all scored.

Phillipsburg scored one run in the bottom of the inning but it was too little, too late and Norton prevailed 10-3 as the game was called due to the time limit.

The Thunder had six hits, 11 walks and just three strike outs. Bradshaw led the way with the bat by going a perfect 3 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Bri Karnopp who allowed just one hit, walked six and struck out six

Game two

The nightcap was a much closer game as Norton had to break a 7-all tie with three runs in the top of the seventh inning to win.

The Thunder did not score in the top of the first stanza but Phillipsburg scored three runs in the bottom of the inning to lead

The top of the second inning was a good one for Norton as the Lady Jays ran seven runs across home plate. Bradshaw was hit by the pitcher and advanced, Mulford singled, Cadwalader

walked, Plante got on base via an error, Karnopp singled, Green walked and Hildebrand singled and all tallied.

Phillipsburg was three up, three down in the bottom of the inning but Norton did not score in the top of the third and Phillpsburg scored four runs to tie the score at 7-all.

Phillipsburg was held score-Norton scored one run in the less the rest of the game, howtop of the first inning when Bri ever, and the Thunder added three runs in the top of the seventh to win 10-7. Davis walked, Hildebrand and Bradshaw both doubled, then Burge, Cadwalader and Plante all singled. Davis, Hildebrand and Bradshaw all

> The Lady Thunder had eight hits, 13 walks and three strike

Leading hitter was Hildebrand who went 2 for 3 with the bat.

Winning pitcher was Kim The home team scored their Bradshaw who allowed 13 hits, walked none and struck out six batters

Coach's comments

"We faced some tougher competition with Phillipsburg than our previous two opponents," said Thunder head coach Brandon Gay. "Offensively, we probably picked up a few bad habits from facing weaker pitching and it showed. But, we had good pitching and defense and managed to score enough runs.

"We made some mental mistakes in the second game, which kept the score close. Hopefully, we can successfully address those mistakes so they don't happen again.

"Our record is 7-3 and we are starting to play with more confidence. We've won five in a row and I think our girls are certainly capable of extending that streak.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished so far and we're excited about the rest of the season."

Next action

The Norton Thunder was scheduled to host Phillipsburg on Sunday night but the game was postponed due to the heat index. The Lady Thunder will play next on Thursday when they travel to Colby for a double-header beginning at 7 p.m.

Next, they will play in the Hays Tournament, which will be held this Saturday and Sunday.

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