

K-18 takes down Phillisburg 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 game.

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 10-7.

Game one

Norton scored one run in the top of the first inning when Bri Karnopp, Rিকে Green and Skylar Davis all walked, Kim Bradshaw singled and Karnopp scored.

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 Hildebrand doubled and Kim Bradshaw singled. All except Bradshaw scored.

The home team scored their 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 batters.

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 3-0.

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 Phillipsburg scored four runs to tie the score at 7-all.

Phillipsburg was held scoreless the rest of the game, however, 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 scored.

The Lady Thunder had eight hits, 13 walks and three strike outs. Leading hitter was Hildebrand who went 2 for 3 with the bat. Winning pitcher was Kim 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.

walking two and striking out 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 double-header. On Thursday, Norton will host Smith Center at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



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

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