

K-18 team splits with Plainville on home field

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton K-18 baseball team split a double-header with Plainville on Monday at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The Blue Jays won the opener 9-5 but were outscored 11-5 in the nightcap.

First game

In the opener, Norton held an excellent Plainville nine scoreless for five innings with Jacob Green on the mound before giving up five runs in the top of the sixth.

Norton scored one run in the bottom of the second stanza when Josh VanLaeys and Kendall Miller both singled, Kobie Unterseher got on base on an error and VanLaeys scored.

Four more Norton runs crossed home plate in the bottom of the third inning. Caden Kinderknecht walked, Clint Cole gained base on an error, Brant Cox and Mickey Hahn both singled and Miller walked. All except Miller scored.

In the bottom of the fourth, the Blue Jays tallied once when Trenton Wright was hit by a pitch and advanced and Cole singled him home.

Norton's final three runs came in the bottom of the fifth when Hahn and Green both singled, VanLaeys got on base on a fielder's choice, Miller singled and Wright got on base on an error. Hahn, Green and VanLaeys all scored.

Norton had eight hits, four walks and six strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Miller, who

was 2 for 2 and Hahn, who went 2 for 3 with the bat.

Winning pitcher was Jacob Green. He gave up nine hits, walked three and struck out nine batters.

"We played well in all facets of the game," said Norton head coach Rick Green. "We had some timely hits along with smart base running.

"Defensively, we only had one error with no damage done.

"Pitching was excellent for the first five innings as Jacob didn't allow any runs until the sixth and even worked out of a bases loaded with no outs jam. He picked two runners off base at some very key times in the game. He kind of lost focus in the sixth inning but refocused to end the game."

Second game

In the nightcap, both teams scored twice in the first inning. The Blue Jays tallied when Cole got on base on an error, Brant Cox and Hahn both walked, VanLaeys and Miller both singled and Cole and Hahn scored.

Plainville had a big top of the second, running six runs across home plate to take an 8-2 lead.

Norton didn't score again until the bottom of the third when Cole walked, Hahn singled and Green doubled. Cole and Hahn scored to cut the Cardinal lead to 8-4.

Plainville scored one more run in each of the fourth, fifth and sixth innings.

Norton's final run came in the bottom of the

sixth when VanLaeys walked and scored to make the final 11-5 in favor of the visitors.

Norton had five hits, four walks and 10 strike outs. Mickey Hahn went 2 for 3 at the plate to lead the Blue Jays.

Clint Cole was the losing Norton pitcher. He allowed six hits, walked five and struck out four batters in four innings pitched. He was relieved by Kendall Miller who gave up two hits and walked four batters.

"This game was shaping up to be a close battle until we made a couple of mistakes, and they took advantage as a good team does," said coach Green.

"They have an excellent left-handed pitcher but we did touch him for five runs and, hopefully, we can use that as a confidence boost later in the year.

"Overall, I was really happy the way we played as we gave them their first loss in the opener."

Next action

Norton hosted Smith Center on Thursday evening but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

On Monday, Norton will host Phillipsburg at John Ryan Field in a double-header, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Norton pitcher Jacob Green fires the ball toward a Plainville batter during the K-18 Blue Jays' 9-5 win over Plainville in the opener of a double-header on Monday at John Ryan Field in Norton. Playing third base for Norton was Josh VanLaeys.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Thunder to compete in tournament this weekend in Hays

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The Norton Thunder Girls 16 and Under softball team will compete in the Bickel Schmidt ASA Summer Sizzler Tournament on Saturday and Sunday in Hays.

Also playing will be Quick Silver from Great Bend, Salina Shockers, Hays Heat, McPherson, Kearney Krush, Wichita

Thunder and Larned Renegades.

Play on Saturday will be in two pools. Norton will be in Pool B and will play Wichita Thunder at noon on Field 2. At 4:30 p.m., Norton will play Larned and at 7:30 p.m. the Norton Thunder will play Kearney.

On Sunday, the top team from each pool will play the second place team in each pool with the

winners playing for the championship and the losers playing for third. This will be the championship bracket.

In the consolation bracket, the third place team will play the fourth place team from each pool with the losers also playing.

Sunday games will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 3:30 p.m.

Stay safe this summer with these tips

The summer months are a time when families enjoy doing a variety of activities outdoors; however, it's also when barbecue grills and fireworks cause devastating residential fires and serious injuries to children.

Statistics show the majority of grill fires on residential properties occur in the four months of May through August. In addition, on Independence Day, far more U.S. fires are reported than any day of the year, with fireworks accounting for more than 22,000 fires in 2008.

Grilling Safety

• Only use the grill outdoors; position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, out from under eaves and overhanging branches and a safe distance from lawn games, play areas and foot traffic.

• Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.

• Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because flames can flashback up into the container and explode.

• Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a grill.

• When cooking food, use long-handled grilling tools to give plenty of clearance from heat and flames. Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited when the grill is hot.

• Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose

matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.

• Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.

• If you smell gas while cooking on a propane gas grill, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.

• Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.

Fireworks Safety

• The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays hosted by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.

• Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.

• Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.

• Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.

• Light fireworks only outdoors on smooth, flat surfaces, and aim them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves and flammable materials.

• Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.

Norton athlete signs to play basketball with Kansas Wesleyan

By Dick Boyd

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Jordan Wahlmeier, a multi-sport senior stand-out athlete at Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina.

A four-year letterman for the Blue Jays in basketball, Jordan is also a football and track letterman. He is also a member of this summer's Norton American Legion baseball team.

A 6'3" power forward, Jordan was a first team All-Mid-Continent League selection by league coaches this season, was second team as a junior and honorable mention as a sophomore.

This year, Jordan led his Norton basketball team in five important categories. He was leading scorer with a 14.7 points per game average, leading rebounder with 8.1 caroms per contest, averaged 46 percent shooting, led in charges taken with 15 and blocked 53 shots.

"Jordan has been a pleasure to coach and a great leader in our program," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"I'm sure he will play more on the perimeter than he did for us but he has the tools if he continues to work."

Chris Fear, head men's basketball coach at Bethany, was present for Wahlmeier's official letter of intent signing.

Coach Fear was the head men's basketball coach for 10 years at Dana College, Blair, Neb. prior to the college's closing in 2010. His search for another head coaching position ended this year when he was hired by Kansas Wesleyan.

"This is a rebuilding year; I'm excited to be able to recruit my own class," said coach Fear.

"Jordan had a very productive junior season so we started following him. We really like his athleticism."

"He played around the basket at Norton Community High School but he will have to expand his game in college to be able to play on the perimeter."

Jordan is the son of Jennifer and Dan Porter and Amanda and Mark Wahlmeier.

Jordan Wahlmeier signs with Kansas Wesleyan University



Senior Jordan Wahlmeier, a multi-sport standout athlete for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina. He is pictured signing the letter of intent as relatives and coaches look on. Pictured are, from left, front row: Amanda Wahlmeier, Mark Wahlmeier, Jordan, Jennifer Porter; back row: Norton head men's basketball coach Doug Reusink, Kansas Wesleyan University head men's basketball coach Chris Fear and Dan Porter.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations from . . .

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NORTON TENNIS RECREATION CAMP JULY 9-13, 2012

COST: \$15.00 - LOCATION: Pool Park Tennis Courts
Upcoming Grades 4-6 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Upcoming Grades 7-8 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m.
Upcoming Grades 9-12 . . . 10:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
Crystal Montgomery - 107 W. Wilton, Norton, KS 67654

REGISTRATION DUE BY FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2012

A tennis racket must be provided. If you have problems finding one, contact me at 785-443-3419

"The Tennis Recreational Program is an individual undertaking and is not sponsored by or affiliated with USD #211."

Parental Release: We (I) give permission for the enrollment of _____ in the 2012 Tennis Recreational Program from July 9-13. We (I) hereby release the tennis staff from any claim on account of any accidental injury during the time of the camp. _____ Signature
Please note any physical problems your child has that I need to be aware of: _____

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