

Legion team ends season with tourney loss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton American Legion baseball team's 2012 season ended sooner than expected with two losses in the AA Zone Tournament in Goodland.

On Sunday evening, Norton lost 8-6 to Goodland and, on Monday evening, the Blue Jays were outscored 10-1 by Ellis in the double elimination tournament.

The winner of the tournament will play next week in the Kansas American Legion Tournament in Sabetha.

Goodland

Goodland scored one run in the top of the first inning but Norton took a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the inning. Trey Millan got on base on an error, Dakota Dreher and Tug Keiswetter both doubled and Andrew Ellis and Trever Lewis both singled. Millan, Dreher and Keiswetter all scored.

Goodland added four runs in the top of the second to take a 5-3 advantage. Norton narrowed it to 5-4 with a single run in the bottom of the second when Millan blasted a home run! Dreher doubled but died on base.

Neither team scored in the third inning but Goodland added one run in the top of the fourth to make it 6-4. The Blue Jays did not score in the bottom of the fourth and Goodland added two more runs in the top of the fifth to extend their lead to 8-4.

A single run by Norton in the bottom of the fifth cut the Cowboy lead to 8-5. Dreher walked, Miller singled, Keiswetter got

on base on a fielder's choice and Lewis singled. Dreher scored.

Goodland was scoreless the rest of the way but Norton could only come up with one more run in the bottom of the sixth. Lane Bigge and Millan both singled and Dreher walked. Bigge scored to narrow the Cowboy lead to 8-6.

Norton got three runners on base in the bottom of the seventh but was unable to cross home plate and Goodland won 8-6 and advanced in the winner's bracket.

Norton had 10 hits, three walks and seven strike outs. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Dakota Dreher, 2 for 2; Trey Millan, 2 for 4; and Trever Lewis, 2 for 4.

Trey Millan was the losing pitcher. He gave up five hits, walked 11 and struck out six batters in four and two-thirds innings. Dalton Miller relieved him and gave up one hit, walked two and struck out three batters in two and one-third stanzas.

Coach's comments

"This loss was a tough one to take," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis. "They returned the same team from last year and we had twice as many hits as them. We had a lot of line drives right at them, too. We just gave up way too many base on balls. Dakota had a great night at the plate and Trever continued to hit the ball hard."

Ellis

Seven errors were the Blue Jays' downfall in the contest Monday evening with Ellis.

Norton scored their only run in the bottom of the second inning. Travis Cressler walked,

Trey Millan singled, Dakota Dreher walked and Cressler scored.

Ellis tallied one run in the top of the second inning, two in the top of the third, two in the top of the fifth, three in the top of the sixth and two in the top of the seventh inning.

Norton had just four hits, nine walks and seven strike outs. Trey Millan, Tug Keiswetter, Andrew Ellis and Trever Lewis each had one hit.

Dalton Miller pitched the first inning, allowed one hit, walked two batters and struck out two. Tug Keiswetter pitched the rest of the way and took the loss. He gave up five hits, walked three and struck out one batter.

Coach's comments

"We did not play very well against Ellis," said coach Ellis. "Tug pitched well against a very athletic team. He gave up three walks but was hurt by a lot of errors. We continued to hit the ball hard but I lost track of how many Sunday hops and line drives we hit right at them. It was really discouraging for our boys."

Norton compiled a 17-9 record this season. Assisting coach Ellis again this season was assistant coach Shawn Miller.

"Every team in this Zone Tournament was good," said coach Ellis. "The luckiest team will win it."

"We had just as much talent as any team but every other team had more experience than us. We are very young and will lose just four players. Our three starters Tug Keiswetter, Dakota Dreher and Jordan Wahlmeier will be missed. They are super



Head coach Scott Ellis visits with his Norton American Legion baseball team following their disappointing and season ending loss to Ellis in the Zone Tournament on Monday evening in Goodland. Coach Ellis praised the Norton players as being a "great group of young men to coach". Pictured are, from left, assistant coach Shawn Miller, Jacob Brooks (partially hidden), Tug Keiswetter, Toby Nickell, Dakota Dreher, Andrew Ellis, John Rise-wick, Jordan Wahlmeier, Lane Bigge, Dalton Miller, head coach Ellis, Travis Cressler, Trey Millan, Trever Lewis.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

guys and great teammates.

"Numerous coaches this year told me we had the best hitting team they had faced.

"We will need to get better on defense and at throwing strikes.

"This has been a great group of young men to coach this year. Many thanks to them and to everyone who helped with Legion

Baseball this summer."

Tournament results

In the early game on Tuesday, Ulysses defeated Goodland 9-2 in the winner's bracket and Ellis outscored Goodland 10-7 in the

loser's bracket nightcap.

On Wednesday, Ellis defeated Ulysses 5-2 and 10-0 to win the championship and advance to the State Tournament in Sabetha on Aug. 1-5.

Shrine Bowl game is set for Saturday

By Dick Boyd

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Although no Norton players will be competing in the 39th annual Kansas Shrine Bowl all-star football game at Emporia State's Welch Stadium this Saturday, there will still be some important Norton area connections.

In addition to the game between the East and West all-star players, which kicks off at 7 p.m., a huge parade, two-mile all state cross country race, a two-mile race for all comers, football clinic and combine, band camp and cheerleading and dance clinics will also be held.

The all-state cross country race was originally scheduled for just prior to the evening game but weather concerns caused a change of schedule to 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Competing in the race from this area will

be premier runners Zach Hartwell, Norton; Gunnar Hays, Almema and Tyler Shields, Oberlin. The race will feature 60 of the top girls and boys cross country runners in the state.

Approximately 500 young people from all over the state are expected to be present for the various events.

In addition, two of the 15-man officiating crew will be graduates and former Norton Community High School athletes. They will be Tom Hawks, Smolan and Doug Wiltfong, Stockton.

"On most high school teams, you'll have one or two players that are head and shoulders above the others but, in the Shrine Bowl, you have good players at every position," said Wiltfong. "You definitely have to bring your 'A game' when you work the Shrine Bowl."

Area players chosen by the Kansas news

media to compete for the West squad are: Zach Binder, Hays; Andrew Casey, Plainville; Colborn Couchman, Scott City; Jacob English, Beloit; Jared Herl, Ellis; Truitt Kuhlmann, Smith Center. Joel Struckhoff, Thunder Ridge and Tayler Stull, La Crosse.

Brian Hill, Garden City, is the head coach for the West. His assistant coaches include Ryan Cornelsen, Hays and Jon Webster, La Crosse.

The Shrine Bowl raises funds and awareness for the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children. Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

Started in 1974, the game has raised over \$2.5 million for the Shrine Hospitals.

The Shrine Bowl will be televised live on Saturday evening and several times later.

K-18 team will play in state tournament

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton K-18 baseball team, after a third place finish in the Regional Tournament, will be one of eight teams playing in the 61st annual K-18 Baseball State Tournament in Lucas, beginning this evening.

Norton will play Beloit, the second place team in the east regional, at 6:30 p.m.

In the nightcap, Victoria, the winner of the west regional, will play Concordia F&A, who was fourth in the east regional.

In the lower bracket on Saturday, Colby, fourth in the west regional, will play Osborne, first in the east regional, at 6:30 p.m. The second game on Saturday will be Belleville, third place in the east regional, versus Smith

Center, second place in the west regional.

The winners of this evening's games will play at 6:30 p.m. in Sunday's semi-finals. The winners of Saturday's games will play Sunday following the 6:30 contest.

Championship games will be played on Tuesday. The losers of Sunday's games will play at 6:30 p.m. for the consolation championship, followed by the championship game.

Team trophies and individual

medals will be awarded to the top three teams in the tournament. Individual plaques will go to the winners plus a traveling trophy.

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Start Times: Pit Opens - 4:00 p.m.
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