

Norton football kicks off with home victory

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School football team opened the 2012 season on a very positive note by upsetting state-ranked Smith Center 34-13 at Travis Field on Friday night.

Norton took advantage of three Redman fumbles and held a 14-7 lead at halftime. After intermission, the Blue Jays shut out Smith Center until the final five seconds while scoring four more touchdowns.

The Norton defense slowed down Smith Center's wishbone offense enough to control the game. The Norton defense had only two mistakes that hurt in the entire game and limited Smith Center to 237 yards rushing and 60 passing (on their scoring play at the end of the game) for 297 total yards of offense.

Norton had a balanced offense with 153 yards rushing and 141 yards passing for 294 total yards. Norton had 13 first downs and Smith Center recorded 7.

"We prepared well and came out and played hard," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "We made some mistakes but they weren't terrible. We do need to do a better job of not making self-inflicted mistakes such as illegal motion, offsides, holding and not communicating. Our defense played really well and kept after them. We had just two breakdowns in the game.

"I saw the potential. We just have to keep working hard and getting better."

First quarter

Junior Austin Hager kicked off for Norton to start the game. After the Norton defense held the Redmen to three-and-out, Smith Center got a three yard-punt.

Norton was also held to three-and-out and had a short punt. Again, the Blue Jays held but this time on the punt the ball hit a Norton player and the Redmen recovered on the Norton 19 yard line.

Smith Center fumbled and Norton recovered. Senior tailback Jacob Brooks got loose over the left side and sprinted into the end zone for an apparent 81 yard touchdown but a holding penalty brought the ball back.

With Brooks running and senior quarterback Dalton Miller passing, Norton drove to the Smith Center 20 yard line as time ran out in the quarter.

Second quarter

Miller completed passes to Brooks and senior wide receiver Carson McKenna and sneaked the final one yard himself to score Norton's first touchdown. Hager split the uprights and Norton led 7-0.

After Hager's kickoff and Blue Jay junior Toby Nickell tackled Smith Center's return man Clint Rogers on the Redmen's 6 yard line, Smith Center fumbled the ball away twice before Miller passed to senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis for a 21-yard touchdown. Hager kicked the extra point and the Blue Jays led 14-0.

A roughing-the-kicker penalty against Smith Center on the extra point kick was assessed on the kickoff and allowed Hager to kick off into the end zone.

The ball was placed on the 20 yard line and, on the first play, Smith Center's Kody Molzahn got open after a slick handoff by quarterback Payton Buckmaster and sprinted 80 yards to paydirt. Zach Linn kicked the extra point and Norton led, 14-7.

A Norton drive was stopped by a fumble before halftime and the score remained at 14-7.

Third quarter

Norton received the kickoff to start the second half but had to punt. Brooks got off a 44-yard kick to the Smith Center 6 yard line. The Blue Jay defense was equal to the occasion and forced Smith Center to punt. Norton junior Tanner Furbush took advantage of a block by Carson McKenna that took out two Redmen and returned the punt all the way to the Smith Center 30.

Good runs by Furbush, who had replaced Brooks, and senior fullback Jared Bohl got the pigskin to the 6 yard line. Furbush got the call again and powered into the end zone for another Norton touchdown. Hager's kick extended the Blue Jay advantage to 21-7.

After Hager's kickoff, the Norton defense con-

tinued to cause the Redmen troubles. Senior defensive end Dylan Sprigg sacked the quarterback and Smith Center had to punt from their 5 yard line. The punt carried to the Redman 34.

Brooks made a diving catch of a Miller pass on the Smith Center 17 as the quarter ended.

Fourth quarter

Brooks got the call on the opening play of the final period, took advantage of good blocking and sprinted into the end zone for another Blue Jay touchdown. The extra kick was not good this time but Norton led 27-7.

The rest of the quarter was a standoff until Norton got the ball on the Smith Center 38 and drove for their final touchdown. A pass from Miller to Ellis got the Jays close, then Furbush scored on two runs from the 7 yard line. Hager split the uprights and it was 34-7.

After Hager's kickoff, Smith Center got one first down, then quarterback Buckmaster completed a pass to Molzahn, who got behind a Norton defender and sprinted 60 yards for one final touchdown for the visitors. The extra point kick failed, making the final 34-13.

Starting lineup

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Andrew Ellis, 160 lbs., senior John Risewick, 150 lbs., wide receivers; senior Carson McKenna, 165 lbs., tight end; junior Kolton Harting, 190 lbs., left tackle; senior Treven Rossi, 175 lbs., left guard; junior Cole Renner, 180 lbs., center; senior Lane Bigge, 220 lbs., right guard; senior Lucas Engel, 200 lbs, right tackle; senior Dalton Miller, 190 lbs., quarterback; senior Jared Bohl, 175 lbs., fullback; senior Jacob Brooks, 195 lbs., tailback.

On defense for the Blue Jays were senior Eli Bozarth, 160 lbs., and Renner, ends; Bigge and Engel, tackles; sophomore Stewart Whitney, 160 lbs., noseguard; Rossi and Bohl, linebackers; McKenna and junior Austin Hager, 150 lbs., cornerbacks; Risewick and Brooks, safeties.

Individual statistics

Jacob Brooks gained 96 yards on 22 carries for an average of 4.4 yards per carry. Other ball carriers were Tanner Furbush, 6 for 30, 5 yard average; Jared Bohl, 4 for 23, 5.8 yard average; Dalton Miller, 9 for minus 5.

Miller completed 11 of 17 passes for 65 percent and 141 yards. Receivers were Andrew Ellis, 5 for 75 yards, 15.8 average.; Carson McKenna, 2 for 25 yards; Jacob Brooks, 2 for 20; Jared Bohl, 1 for 10; Eli Bozarth, 1 for 7.

Furbush had one punt return for 51 yards and Brooks had 1 for 15. Furbush had 1 kickoff return for 15 yards.

Brooks averaged 30.6 yards on 6 punts. Austin Hager averaged 48 yards on 6 kickoffs.

Leading tacklers for Norton were Carson McKenna, 5 solos, 3 assists and Treven Rossi, 4 solos, 2 assists. Other tacklers were Cole Renner, 4 solos, 1 assist; Jared Bohl, 2 solos, 3 assists; Stewart Whitney, 2 solos, 2 assists; Eli Bozarth, 1 solo, 3 assists.; Lucas Engel, 3 solos, 1 assist; Wyatt Harting, 4 solos; Andrew Ellis, 2 solos, 1 assist; Dalton Miller, 1 solo, 1 assist; Toby Nickell, 2 so-



Norton junior tailback Tanner Furbush breaks an attempted Smith Center tackle and powers into the end zone to score one of two touchdowns he put on the scoreboard for the Blue Jays during their big win over Smith Center on Friday night in front of a capacity crowd at Travis Field in Norton.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

los; Austin Hager, 2 solos; Trever Lewis, 1 solo, 1 assist; Tanner Furbush, 1 solo, 1 assist; Lane Bigge, 1 solo, 1 assist; John Risewick, 1 solo; Jacob Brooks, 1 assist; Mickey Hahn, 1 solo; Jared Tallent, 1 assist; Kolton Harting, 1 assist; Dylan Sprigg, 1 solo.

Next action

Norton will travel to Goodland for a 7:30 p.m. game this Friday.

"(Goodland) defeated Hugoton 24-14 last Friday," said coach Melvin. "They have quite a few returning players and we expect them to run an offense mixed with running and passing."

Norton		Smith Center
13	First Downs	7
153	Rushing	237
141	Passing	60
294	Total Yards	297
11-17-0	Passes Completed	1-5-0
2-3	Fumbles Lost	3-3
3-30.6	Punts	5-26.2
6-35	Penalties	5-45

Community Calendar

Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA. Events may be e-mailed to: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com or mailed to 215 South Kansas Avenue

THE NORTON TELEGRAM 215 S. Kansas Ave. Norton, Kan. 67654
 785-877-3361

High School Sports This Week

Norton Blue Jays

Northern Valley Huskies

Logan Trojans

FOOTBALL:
 Norton Blue Jays vs. Goodland Cowboys 7:30 p.m. Friday in Goodland
 Norton JV vs. Goodland 5:30 p.m. Monday in Norton
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Triplains. 7 p.m. Friday in Brewster
 Northern Valley JV vs. Wheatland 5 p.m. Monday in Alma
 Logan vs. Weskan 3:30 p.m. (central) Friday in Weskan

VOLLEYBALL:
 Norton Lady Jays in Quinter JV Tourney 9 p.m. Saturday in Quinter
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Triplains 5 p.m. Friday in Brewster
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies JV vs. Wheatland. 4:30 p.m. Monday in Alma
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Western Plains, Palco 4 p.m. Tuesday in Palco
 Logan Lady Trojans in Sylvan Invitational 8 a.m. Saturday in Sylvan Grove
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Weskan, Cheylin, Triplains 4 p.m. Tuesday in Brewster

CROSS COUNTRY:
 Norton in Wamego Invitational 11 a.m. Saturday in Wamego
 Northern Valley in Stockton Invitational. 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Stockton
 Northern Valley in Alma Invitational 4:30 p.m. Monday in Alma

TENNIS:
 Norton Lady Jays in Trego Round Robin JV Tourney 1 p.m. Thursday in WaKeeney
 Norton Lady Jays in Norton JV Quad 9 a.m. Saturday in Norton
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Quad 3 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Norton Lady Jays in Russell JV Tourney 3 p.m. Tuesday in Russell

ENCOUNTER

THE NEW ANDROID PHONES

\$50 Off*

Android Smartphones

Plus,

6 Months FREE

on Smartphone Add-A-Lines

NEXTECH
wireless
Authorized Agent

NEXTECH
A Rural Telephone Company

Norton • 117 North Norton
 785-877-4135 • Toll Free: 877-550-7872

877-621-2600

www.nex-techwireless.com

*With qualified rate plan and 2-year service agreement. New activations only. While supplies last. Offers expire 9/30/12. Customers are subject to taxes and must meet credit requirements. Certain restrictions apply. Visit www.nex-techwireless.com for complete terms and conditions. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.