

Blue Jays go 2-0 after victory over Goodland

By Dick Boyd

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It was payback time for coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team when they traveled to Goodland on Friday night and returned with a 22-7 victory after being shutout 17-0 by the Cowboys in District play at Travis Field last year.

Norton had a penalty-filled first half, losing 72 yards on infractions and trailed Goodland 7-3 at halftime but the rock solid Blue Jay defense dominated in the second half and Norton scored three touchdowns.

In fact, the Norton defense did not give up a touchdown in the game. Goodland's only touchdown came on an 89 yard kickoff return by Cy Paxton late in the first quarter when he sprinted through Norton's special team.

The Norton defense held Goodland to minus 3 yards rushing, 51 passing for 48 total yards of offense, an average of 1.3 yards per play.

The Blue Jay offense gained 225 yards rushing, averaging 4.7 yards per carry, and 55 passing for 280 total yards, averaging 5.6 yards per attempt.

"We had way too many penalties but our defense played tremendous," said coach Melvin. "We did a great job in the second half of overcoming our first half adversity. We came right out in the second half, took control of the line of scrimmage and scored on our first possession."

First quarter

Junior Austin Hager kicked off for Norton. Both teams were three-and-out the first time on offense. On the Cowboys' second possession, Norton senior

tackle Lucas Engel realized a lineman's dream when he intercepted a Goodland pass and returned the ball to the Cowboy 29.

A personal foul on Goodland moved the ball to the 14. A roughing the passer penalty moved the ball even closer to the goal line. On fourth down, Hager split the uprights for a 28 yard field goal and Norton led 3-0 with 2:30 left.

Hager's ensuing kick off carried deep but Paxton took advantage of his speed to run between and around Blue Jays for an 89 yard touchdown. Trey Teeter, the Cowboys' freshman quarterback, kicked the extra point, making it 7-3.

Second quarter

Norton senior quarterback Dalton Miller, who had an outstanding passing game, completed an 11 yard pass to senior tight end Carson McKenna to start the period but a fumble turned the ball over to Goodland on their 48.

After an exchange of punts, Norton got the ball back when McKenna recovered a fumbled Goodland punt reception at mid-field. With senior tailback Jacob Brooks and junior Tanner Furbush gaining yardage, Miller running a 14 yard keeper and completing a short pass to senior fullback Jared Bohl, Norton moved downfield to the Cowboy 7 yard line.

A Miller to Brooks pass in the end zone for an apparent touchdown was nullified by an illegal procedure penalty. After several more penalties, Norton was back on their 47. Norton had to punt back to Goodland and the Blue Jay defense forced another three and out.

Norton appeared to be headed for a touchdown. With Brooks

carrying the ball, the Blue Jays got to the Goodland 28. A pass interference call against Norton in the end zone cost the Blue Jays 15 yards and, with time running out, they punted.

Third quarter

With Brooks carrying the ball six out of seven times, Norton took the opening kickoff and moved right downfield to score. Brooks ran the final 7 yards for the score. The extra point kick attempt was blocked but Norton led 9-7.

Senior receiver/safety John Risewick put a punctuation on the touchdown when he sped downfield on the ensuing kickoff by Hager, ran through the Goodland defenders untouched and put a bone-rattling tackle on Dax Ruhs on the Cowboy 18 yard line.

Goodland had the ball twice in the period and Norton once but neither threatened and the quarter ended with the score still 9-7.

Fourth quarter

Norton drove for a second touchdown to start the final period. Brooks ran the final 32 yards to paydirt. Hager kicked the extra point to make it 16-7.

After the kickoff, Goodland threatened but McKenna intercepted a Teeter pass on the Norton 6 yard line. After two first downs, Brooks punted to the Goodland 39. Norton's furious pass rush stopped the Cowboys from moving through the air. On fourth down, they tried to punt. The center snap went over the punter's head. He retrieved the ball and tried to punt it but senior end Eli Bozarth and Engel blocked it. Norton took over on the Cowboy 11 yard line.

On third down, Miller fired a pass to senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis and he made a div-

ing catch into the end zone for an 8 yard touchdown. The extra point try was unsuccessful but Norton led 22-7.

Goodland had one more chance but was 3-and-out and the Norton junior varsity finished the game on offense.

Starting lineup

Starting on offense were senior Andrew Ellis, senior John Risewick, wide receivers; senior Carson McKenna, tight end; senior Dylan Sprigg, left tackle; senior Treven Rossi, left guard; junior Cole Renner, center; senior Lane Bigge, right guard; senior Lucas Engel, right tackle; senior Dalton Miller, quarterback; senior Jared Bohl, fullback; senior Jacob Brooks, tailback.

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

Individual statistics

Jacob Brooks had an outstanding running game, gaining 174 yards on 29 carries for a 6 yard average. He was followed by Dalton Miller, 8 for 28; Tanner Furbush, 4 for 9; Jared Bohl, 4 for 7; Jared Tallent, 2 for 5; Kendall Miller, 1 for 2.

Miller completed 8 of 12 passes for 55 yards and 67 percent. Receivers were Carson McKenna, 3 for 28; Andrew Ellis, 2 for 17; Jared Bohl, 3 for 10.

Brooks punted the ball 6 times for a 36.2 yard average. Austin Hager kicked off 5 times for a 49 yard average.

Leading rusher for Goodland was Dax Ruhs with 25 yards on 12 carries.

Leading tacklers for Norton



Norton senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis dives through Goodland defenders into the end zone after catching an 8 yard pass from senior quarterback Dalton Miller.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

were John Risewick, 3 solos, 3 assists; Jared Bohl, 2 solos, 4 assists; Carson McKenna, 4 solos, 1 assist; Lucas Engel, 2 solos, 2 assists; Stewart Whitney, 3 solos, 1 assist; Lane Bigge, 2 solos, 1 assist; Jacob Brooks, 3 solos; Toby Nickell, 1 solo, 2 assists; Treven Rossi, 1 solo, 2 assists; Cole Renner, 1 solo, 1 assist; Tanner Furbush, Austin Hager, Wyatt Harting, Dalton Miller, 1 solo each; Mickey Hahn, 1 assist.

Next action

Norton will host Plainville in a Mid-Continent League game on Friday at Travis Field, beginning at 7 p.m.

"Plainville is a very good, big strong team that plays power football," said coach Melvin. "They lost just four senior start-

ers from last year's outstanding team. We will need to be more disciplined and more focused."

After losing 48-18 to Phillipsburg in the season opener, Plainville rallied last Friday night to shutout Ellis 56-0.

Norton		Goodland
15	First Downs	5
225	Rushing	-3
55	Passing	51
280	Total Yards	48
8-12-0	Passes Compl.	5-15-2
1-3	Fumbles Lost	1-1
6-36.2	Punts	6-38.7
12-122	Penalties	4-41

Norton cross country girls come home with championship

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls cross country team won the championship and the Blue Jay boys placed fourth in the annual Wamego Invitational on Saturday in Wamego.

It was the third straight championship of the meet for the Lady Jays; the Norton boys placed runner-up the last two years.

GIRLS

The Norton girls won the championship with 57 points, followed by Overland Park Christ Prep, 73; Easton-Pleasant Ridge, 94; Riley County, 94; Sabetha, 102; Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, 158; Bishop Seabury Academy, 167; Holcomb, 220; Pretty Prairie, 252; Northern Heights, 290; Mission Valley, 319; Wellsville, 329.

There were 12 teams and 96 girl runners. The top 40 individuals medaled.

"This was one of the best overall races our girls team has ever run," said coach Rossi. "One of our major goals is to run in a pack and our 1-5 split today was 47 seconds, which for a major race like today is absolutely fantastic!"

"This year, our number 7 runner had

a faster time than the number 5 runner last year.

"This is a tough race with five ranked 3A teams and the number 1 ranked 1A team.

"Our girls got boxed in on the start and were pushed back in the pack, making them really work just to regain position.

"Kamilla Jones had a great day, improving her time by 37 seconds and Sierra Griffith improved her time from last year by 49 seconds.

"We are still not in the best shape. We use this meet to gauge our conditioning and how well we can run on a hilly course.

"We are pleased with both but there are a number of teams putting up very impressive results so we really have a tough task ahead of us.

"Our girls know what we need to do and they have had a great work ethic in practice."

Norton sophomore Sierra Griffith was fastest for the Lady Jays with an eighth place finish in 17:06.

She was followed by junior Darcy Bainter, 12th, 17:27; junior Katelyn Engelbert, 13th, 17:29; senior Kamilla Jones, 16th, 17:42 and senior Julia

Kent, 19th, 17:53.

Also running for Norton and their places and times were freshman Molly Maddy, 26th, 18:08; junior Marisa Maddy, 35th, 18:26.

The top ten runners in the race were Emily Sechrist, Hillsboro, 15:45.15, first; Heather Ruder, TMP, 15:52.84, second; Stacy Pachta, Riley County, 16:31.57, third; Kate Albrecht, Bishop Seabury Academy, 16:44.25, fourth; Anna Wiersma, Christ Preparatory Academy, 16:56.86, fifth.

Taryn Schuette, Sabetha, 17:01.30, sixth; Beka Silvia, Riley County, 17:05.08, seventh; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 17:06.18, eighth; Mallory Kramer, Jefferson County North, 17:06.82, ninth; Rachel Hattok, East Pleasant Ridge, 17:10.88, tenth.

BOYS

Christ Preparatory Academy won the boys championship with 30 points, followed by Wellsville, 127; Holcomb, 129; Norton, 152; Pike Valley, 153; Riley County, 179; Sabetha, 182; Wabaussee, 216; Hays Thomas More Prep, 221; Silver Lake, 253.

There were 15 boys teams and 129 runners. The top 40 individuals medaled.

"Today's boys race was very fast," said coach Rossi. "The average time of the top 10 runners was about 30 seconds faster than it was last year.

"Marc Miller, Alec Hager and Brendon Frack ran super races, each earning a medal. Dalton Vanover had a horrible start and did an outstanding job of fighting his way through the field, just missing out on a medal.

"Our boys team has the capability of competing on this level on down the road but we need one of our 4-7 runners to really step up.

"Each of our boys are capable but really have to break through their comfort zone. The only way to do that is to push yourself in practice each and every day."

Junior Marc Miller was Norton's first runner home. He placed eighth in 18:16.

He was followed by junior Alec Hager, 16th, 18:39; freshman Brendon Frack, 19th, 18:50; sophomore Dalton Vanover, 43rd, 19:37, 43rd and junior Keith Sander, 88th, 21:36.

Also running for Norton and their places and times were senior Ryan Bainter, 91st, 21:44 and senior John Renner, 95th, 22:14.

The top ten runners in the race were Caden Callaway, Pike Valley, 17:23.85, first; Kenneth Froebe, Christ Preparatory Academy, 17:40.32, second; Tony Weber, East Pleasant Ridge, 17:46.35, third; Dallas Edwards, Jefferson County North, 17:53.28, fourth; Trenton Cox, Sabetha, 17:53.65, fifth.

Alex Goertz, Christ Preparatory Academy, 17:58.34, sixth; Ryan Zitter, Christ Preparatory Academy, 18:12.27, seventh; Marc Miller, Norton, 18:16.48, eighth; Sam Schmidt, Christ Preparatory Academy, 18:16.80, ninth; Gabe Skoog, Christ Preparatory Academy, 18:19.88, tenth.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys cross country runners will have another good test when they compete in the Hays Invitational on Thursday in Hays with starting time set for 3:45 p.m.

Competing in addition to Norton and Hays High will be teams from Liberal, Salina Central, Dodge City, Ness City, Salina South, Garden City; Stockton, Great Bend, Oakley, Thomas More Prep-Marian, Junction City, Goodland, Plainville, Colby, Hoisington and Maize South.

JV football opens season with loss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team opened their 2012 season on Tuesday evening in a hard-fought 20-16 loss to Smith Center in Smith Center.

Missed assignments in the first quarter helped Smith Center find the end zone twice and, with two minutes left, the visitors led 14-0.

The Redmen's first touchdown came on fourth down.

With rain starting to come down, officials delayed the game due to lightning at the end of the first period.

The contest resumed nearly an hour later with Norton in possession on their 20 yard line.

The weather delay proved to be just what the Blue Jays needed as tailback Jared Tallent scored a touchdown and a successful two-point conversion made the score 14-8.

Smith Center answered with another drive and resulting touchdown.

The Norton defense stopped the two-point conversion try, making it 20-8.

The Jays came close to another touchdown in the second quarter but a red zone interception around the 10 yard line ended their threat.

After a shortened half-time of five minutes, Norton proved they were down but not out as they completed another successful offensive drive.

Quarterback Kendall Miller found fullback Toby Nickell on a short scoring pass to cut the Redmen lead to 20-14.

Tallent ran for two extra points, trimming the visitors' advantage to 20-16.

On the kickoff, Norton stopped Smith Center inside their 40 yard line.

The Blue Jays played tough defense, making several tackles for loss of yards. They limited the Redmen to one more first down.

Despite using all of their time-outs, Norton was unable to get the ball back. The Redmen

ran out the clock for the 20-16 win.

Next action

The third game of the season for the Norton junior varsity football team will be Monday when they visit Plainville. The game is at 5:30 p.m.

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High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Plainville Cardinals 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Plainville 5:30 p.m. Monday in Plainville
 Logan Trojans vs. Thunder Ridge 7 p.m. Friday in Kensington
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Palco 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
 Northern Valley Huskies JV vs. Triplains/Brewster 6 p.m. Monday in Almena

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Goodland, Dundy County. 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Goodland
 Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Hoxie, Hill City 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Hoxie
 Norton Freshmen vs. Colby, Hays, Wheatland 4 p.m. Thursday in Colby
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Western Plains, Palco 4 p.m. Today in Palco
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies JV vs. Triplains/Brewster 5 p.m. Monday in Almena
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco, Healy 4 p.m. Tuesday in Almena
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Weskan, Triplains, Cheylin 4 p.m. Today in Brewster
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Western Plains, Wheatland 4 p.m. Tuesday in Grainfield

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Quad 3 p.m. Today in Phillipsburg
 Norton Lady Jays in Russell JV Tourney 3 p.m. Today in Russell
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg JV Tourney 3 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg
 Norton Lady Jays in Tribune-Greeley JV Tourney 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland