

# Blue Jays are 2-1 after home loss to Plainville

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School and Plainville High School varsity football teams battled on even terms until the visiting Cardinals scored a touchdown with 40 seconds remaining on Friday night to escape Travis Field in Norton with a 22-14 Mid-Continent League win.

"Turnovers killed us in the game; we gave the ball away three times and didn't get it back," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "We played hard but just had too many mistakes. Each player has to learn to do his job on every play."

"We had our chances but we need to be more disciplined and take better care of the ball."

Statistics in the game were very even with Norton compiling 301 yards of offense compared to 294 yards for Plainville. The Blue Jays' offense was more balanced with 152 on the ground and 149 through the air. Plainville rushed for 226 yards and passed for 68.

Norton averaged 5.6 yards per play and Plainville earned 5 yards per play.

## First quarter

Norton kicked off and the two teams exchanged punts before Plainville drove down to score on an 11 yard run by Dalton Werner. Trevor Axelson ran for two extra points, making it 8-0. After the kickoff, the Cardinals intercepted a Dalton Miller pass on the Norton 21.

The hard-hitting Norton defense kept the visitors out of the end zone and took over on the 13 as the quarter ended.

## Second quarter

The quarter opened with senior tailback Jacob Brooks breaking several tackles for a first down on the Norton 35. Junior tailback Tanner Furbush,

senior fullback Jared Bohl and Brooks picked up yardage before Miller passed to senior tight end Carson McKenna for a first down on the Plainville 32.

Brooks ran to the 26, then Bohl charged to the 10 where he was hit out of bounds. The Cardinals were penalized and the ball moved to the 5. A Miller pass was intercepted on the 5 but the swarming Blue Jay defense held and Plainville punted. Brooks returned the ball to the Norton 44.

With Brooks and Bohl picking up yardage, Norton drove to the Plainville 27. From there, Miller threw a pass to Brooks and he caught it over his head as he ran into the corner of the end zone. Junior kicker Austin Hager split the uprights and Norton trailed by just 8-7.

After Hager's kickoff, Plainville threatened but the Blue Jay defense was again equal to the occasion, Plainville punted and halftime arrived two plays later.

## Third quarter

Norton wasted no time taking the lead in the second half. Plainville kicked off and, after one first down, Miller found McKenna open, hit him with a perfect pass and the senior carried the pigskin 50 yards to the Plainville 8.

Three plunges by Bohl got the ball to the 3, then Miller passed to McKenna in the flat and he sped into the end zone. Hager was perfect on the extra point kick and the Blue Jays led 14-8.

Plainville earned one first down after the kickoff, then quarterback Hadley Gillum went back to pass. He escaped a sack, got into the open and was finally run down on the Norton 46. With the momentum gained, Plainville continued downfield to score. Axelson tallied from 7 yards out to tie the score at 14-

The Norton defense stuffed the run for extra points but a face mask penalty against Norton moved the ball to the 1.5 yard line. Again, the Cardinals tried to break through the solid Norton defense and were again denied.

Brooks' return of the kickoff for 59 yards to the Plainville 27 got everyone from Norton excited but the Blue Jays were unable to capitalize. Bohl and Furbush each picked up 2 yards but Miller was sacked on the 35 as time ran out in the period.

## Fourth quarter

Brooks punted to the Plainville 5. After two first downs by the Cardinals, they were forced to punt to the Norton 24. Brooks got the call again, broke at least three Cardinal attempted tackles and was finally downed on the Plainville 43. Again, Plainville held and Brooks punted out of bounds on the Cardinal 8.

The "Blue Swarm" defense held Plainville to three-and-out and the Cardinals punted to the Norton 38. A Blue Jay fumble was recovered by Plainville on the 37. Senior fullback Harrison Gilliland broke lose to the Norton 7, then scored from the 2 with 40 seconds left in the game. The run for extra points was bottled up by the Norton defense.

The ensuing kickoff went out of bounds on the Norton 25. Two passes to senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis put the ball on the Norton 45. Miller was run out of bounds with 15 seconds left, then hit Ellis again and he was tackled on the Plainville 30.

After another pass was broken up, Miller went for the end zone on the final play. Senior wide receiver John Risewick gathered the ball in for what appeared to be a Blue Jay touchdown but officials ruled that he interfered with the defender,

ending the game with the score still 22-14.

## Starting lineup

Starting on offense for Norton were senior Andrew Ellis, senior John Risewick, wide receivers; senior Carson McKenna, tight end; senior Dylan Sprigg, left tackle; junior Kolton Harting, 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; junior Tanner Furbush and Bohl, linebackers; McKenna and junior Austin Hager, cornerbacks; Risewick and Brooks, safeties.

## Individual statistics

Jacob Brooks gained 92 yards rushing on 17 carries for a 5.4 yard average. Jared Bohl picked up 45 yards on 10 carries for a 4.5 average. They were followed by Dalton Miller, 7 for 3; Tanner Furbush, 2 for 12.

Miller completed 8 of 18 passes for 137 yards and 2 interceptions. Receivers were Carson McKenna, 3 catches for 72 yards; Andrew Ellis, 4 for 38 and Jacob Brooks, 1 for 27.

Brooks punted 3 times for a 32.3 average. Hager kicked off 3 times for a 47.3 average. Brooks had one kickoff return for 59 yards; Furbush had 3 for 30 yards.

Axelson was leading rusher for Plainville with 103 yards on 18 carries.

Leading tackler for Norton was Austin Hager with 9 solos, 4 assists. Others were Jacob Brooks, 9 solos, 1 assist; Lucas Engel, 7 solos, 2 assists; Carson McKenna, 5 solos, 4 assists; John Risewick, 5 solos, 3



Norton senior fullback Jared Bohl stretches a run to 10 yards during the Blue Jays' first touchdown drive in their tight contest Friday night with Plainville. Bohl averaged 4.5 yards on 10 carries.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

assists; Jared Bohl, 4 solos, 2 assists; Eli Bozarth, 3 solos, 3 assists; Tanner Furbush, 3 solos, 3 assists; Treven Rossi, 3 solos, 2 assists; Toby Nickell, 3 solos, 1 assist; Lane Bigge, Wyatt Harting, Kobie Unterseher, 1 solo each; Kolton Harting, Dylan Sprigg, 1 assist each.

## Next action

Norton will take their 2-1 record to Oberlin on Friday night to battle the Red Devils in a 7 p.m. contest.

"They are a physical, disciplined team under new coach Joe Dreher and will play hard," said coach Melvin.

Norton		Plainville
14	First Downs	12
152	Rushing	226
149	Passing	68
301	Total Yards	294
8-18-2	Passes Compl.	5-7-0
1-1	Fumbles Lost	0-3
3-32.3	Punts	5-34.4
5-21.5	Penalties	7-44

# Cross country teams perform well at Hays Invitational

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School girls cross country team won the championship and the Blue Jay boys cross country runners were second in the annual Hays Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday in Hays.

Both Norton teams were champions last year.

The Norton girls scored 42 points to win the Class 1-4A championship, followed by Ness City, 58; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 96; Colby, 122; Oakley, 129; Plainville, 129; Goodland, 140.

Ness City won the boys title with 51 points, followed by Norton, 64; Goodland, 67; Thomas More Prep, 100; Colby, 110; Stockton, 129; Plainville, 145.

## GIRLS

All of Norton's varsity girls took advantage of the flat course to set personal time records.

Sophomore Sierra Griffith was first to the finish line for the Lady Jays, placing third individually in 15:17.

She was followed by junior Katelyn Engelbert, eighth in 15:50. Junior Darcy Bainter was right behind her in ninth in 16:02.

Fourth fastest for Norton was senior Julia Kent, who finished just behind Darcy in tenth place with a time of 16:03.

The fifth runner for Norton's team score was senior Kamilla Jones with a clocking of 16:12 and 12th place finish.

Also running for the Norton varsity and their places and times were freshman Molly Maddy, 15th, 16:25 and junior Marisa Maddy, 16th, 16:32.

Three Norton girls competed in the junior varsity race.

Their results were: freshman Raenee Patterson, personal record 17:25, fourth out of 85 runners; freshman Kylie Perez, personal record 18:52, 36th; senior Steph Hager, 20:18, 62nd.

"The course was flat and set up for a fast race," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi. "The temperatures were cool and the girls ready to run."

"Our girls' average time was 15:52, which would have placed third in the class 6A race. We had a much better start this time and after that it was just a pure foot race. The flat, fast course allowed our girls to run people down."

"Sierra finished tenth out of 97 girls with over half of the girls being from 5 and 6A schools. Darcy, Katelyn and Julia all ran together for most of the race with Molly and Marisa right behind them."

"This was a good race to have between Wamego and Rim Rock, both of which have many steep hills."

"What impressed me most tonight was how well our girls went out to compete. Raenee Patterson was another highlight as she finished fourth overall in a very large junior varsity girls race that was almost completely made up of runners from large schools."

"All of our girls need to remain focused and not let this race go to their heads because they will get a reality check this week at Rim Rock when we race against five or six state champion teams from all over the Midwest."

The top ten girls runners were Heather Ruder, Thomas More Prep-Marian, Hays, 14:29.90, first; Jessie Rubottom, Ness City, 15:13.50, second; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 15:17.00, third; Andrea Browne, Colby, 15:17.20, fourth; Lacie Siruta, Goodland, 15:39.70, fifth; Hayley Ribordy, Oakley, 15:42.30, sixth; Taylor Gabel, Ness City, 15:49.30, seventh; Katelyn Engelbert, Norton, 15:50.20, eighth; Darcy Bainter, Norton, 16:02.40, ninth; Julia Kent, Norton, 16:03.20, tenth.

## BOYS

Junior Alec Hager was fastest Norton boy runner with a third place finish and time of 18:17.

He was followed by freshman Brendon Frack

with a personal record time of 18:48 and seventh place finish. Right behind him was junior Marc Miller with an eighth place in 18:50.

Sophomore Dalton Vanover finished tenth with a personal record time of 18:53.

Rounding out the five member team for Norton was junior Keith Sander with a time of 20:59 and 36th place.

Also running for the Norton boys and their places and times were senior John Renner, 21:36, 41st and senior Ryan Bainter, 21:46, 42nd.

Five Norton boys ran in the junior varsity race. Their results were: freshman James King, 22:47, 84th; freshman Weston Erbert, 22:56, 87th; junior Chris Chambers, 23:43, 98th; freshman Skylar Johnson, 24:18, 114th; sophomore David Smith, 24:48, 116th.

"Our boys ran a great race tonight," said coach Rossi. "We had the four boys in the top ten."

"Again, this is a super fast course and our boys just had to put the hammer down and run. There is not a lot of strategy when it comes to tonight; you just need to find the person in front of you and pass them."

"Our guys had a very close 1-4 split of about 30 seconds but our gap to the number five runner is much too large. The good thing is that we have

several weeks to fix this. One of our boys is just going to have to make the decision that he will be that fifth guy and move up into the mix."

The top ten boys runners were: Dray Carson, Ness City, 17:23.50, first; Wyatt Beckman, Ness City, 17:55.70, second; Alec Hager, Norton, 18:17.20, third; Ace Arteaga, Goodland, 18:31.80, fourth; Arran Arteaga, Goodland, 18:34.30, fifth; John Faber, Colby, 18:34.60, sixth; Brendon Frack, Norton, 18:48.20, seventh; Marc Miller, Norton, 18:50.80, eighth; Reed Stephens, Stockton, 18:52.10; Dalton Vanover, Norton, 18:53.00, tenth.

## Next action

Some of Norton's cross country runners will compete in the Hill City Invitational Meet on Thursday at the Prairie Trails Golf Course on the northeast side of Hill City, beginning at 5 p.m.

Competing, in addition to Hill City and Norton will be runners from Brewster, Colby, Dighton, Lakeside, Ellis, Hoxie, Ness City, Northern Valley, Oakley, Oberlin, Osborne, Palco, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Quinter, Stockton, Trego, Victoria, Wheatland-Grinnell.

Norton's toughest cross country meet so far will be this Saturday in the Rim Rock Classic, which will be held north of Lawrence.

# JV volleyball wins season opener

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team opened the season with wins over Plainville and Northern Valley on Aug. 24 in Norton.

Norton defeated Plainville 25-16, 26-24, 26-24 and outscored Northern Valley 25-11, 25-27, 15-10.

## Plainville

Sophomore Kenzie Esslinger led assists with 3, followed by freshman Lauren Mordecai, 1. Mordecai also had 2 blocks while freshman Casey Ambrosier had 1 and freshman Peyton

Renner had 1.

Digs leader was Renner with 11, followed by Esslinger, 9; freshman Nickala O'Hare, 7; sophomore Sheridan Dillehay, 8; Mordecai, 7; Ambrosier, 5; freshman Kirstin Georgeson, 6; freshman Hanna Brooks, 4; sophomore Morgan Farber, 1; sophomore Adrienne Hager, 1.

## Northern Valley

Georgeson was assists leader with 3, followed by Farber, 2; Esslinger, 1.

Digs leader was Dillehay with 17, followed by Esslinger, 12; Hager, 10; Brooks, 5; Georgeson, 5; Farber, 5; Ambrosier, 3; Renner, 3.

Esslinger and Hager each served 2 aces and Brooks served 1.



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## High School Sports This Week



Norton  
Blue Jays



Northern Valley  
Huskies



Logan  
Trojans

**FOOTBALL:**  
 Norton Blue Jays vs. Oberlin Red Devils ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Oberlin  
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Oberlin ..... 5:30 p.m. Monday in Norton  
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Logan Trojans ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Logan  
 Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Stockton ..... 6 p.m. Monday in Stockton

**VOLLEYBALL:**  
 Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Hoxie, Hill City ..... 4:30 p.m. Today in Hoxie  
 Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Goodland, Wheatland, Wray, Colo. .... 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland  
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco, Healy ..... 4 p.m. Today in Almena  
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Southern Valley, Franklin ..... .5 p.m. Tuesday at Southern Valley  
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Western Plains, Wheatland ..... .4 p.m. Today in Grainfield  
 Logan Lady Trojans in Osborne Invitational ..... .8 a.m. Saturday in Osborne  
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Western Plains ..... .4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

**CROSS COUNTRY:**  
 Norton Cross Country in Hill City Invitational ..... .5 p.m. Thursday in Hill City  
 Norton Cross Country in Rim Rock Classic ..... .9 a.m. Saturday in Lawrence  
 Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational ..... .5 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin  
 Northern Valley Cross Country in Hill City Invitational ..... .5 p.m. Thursday in Hill City  
 Northern Valley Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational ..... .5 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin

**TENNIS:**  
 Norton Lady Jays in Tribune-Greeley JV Tourney ..... .3 p.m. Today in Goodland  
 Norton Lady Jays in Russell Invitational ..... .1 p.m. Thursday in Russell  
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg JV Tourney ..... .9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg  
 Norton Varsity Lady Jays in Trego Invitational ..... .9 a.m. Saturday in WaKeeney  
 Norton Lady Jays in Colby Tournament ..... .3 p.m. Tuesday in Colby