

Blue Jays earn decisive victory over Oberlin

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School football team took advantage of Oberlin fumbles to defeat the Red Devils, 35-2, on Friday night in Oberlin.

"Our offense wasn't very crisp and we made poor offensive choices," said Norton Head Coach Lucas Melvin. "Defensively, we played very well. We got a lot of turnovers and converted them to scores, so that was good."

The victory extended Norton's season record to 3-1.

First quarter

Defense was the name of the game throughout most of the first quarter. Norton's Austin Hager kicked off to open the contest. After one first down, Oberlin punted to Norton. After a three-and-out by both teams, Oberlin punted to Norton and a block in the back penalty put the ball back on the Blue Jay 15 yard line.

This time, Norton's offense moved down the field fueled by carries by senior tailback Jacob Brooks and senior fullback Jared Bohl mixed with a 10 yard pass to senior wide receiver John Risewick. Norton had the ball on the Red Devil 21 yard line as the scoreless first quarter came to a close.

Second quarter

Norton senior quarterback Dalton Miller sneaked for a first down on the 16, then passed to senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis for a first down on the 6. Bohl bulled to the 3, then Miller scored to put the visitors on top 6-0, which remained when Hager missed the first time this season kicking for the extra point.

After Hager's kickoff, the Norton defense held Oberlin to another three-and-out. Brooks got a good punt return to the Red Devil 30. Helped by a pass interference penalty on Oberlin and good runs by Brooks and Bohl, Norton moved close to another score.

Miller appeared to have scored his second touchdown of the game on a sneak but officials ruled that he was aided by his fellow players and Norton was penalized 5 yards. The next down, Miller passed to Bohl in the end zone. Hager split the uprights this time and the Jays led 13-0.

Hager's kickoff was returned to the Oberlin 38. One first down and a roughing the passer penalty against Norton allowed the Red Devils to move to the Norton 13 yard line. The gang tackling Norton defense put a stop to the drive, allowing no more yards on three plays. Then, on fourth down, the Red Devils completed a pass, Brooks caused a fumble, picked up the ball and sprinted untouched 80 yards to score.

Norton showed a new wrinkle in their offense when receiver Ellis passed to junior tailback Tanner Furbush for two extra points, extending the Norton lead to 21-0.

Hager's kickoff was returned to the Oberlin 35. Once again, the Norton defense was equal to the occasion and forced another three-and-out. This time, however, the Red Devils did not get the punt off as Brooks came charging in to block it. Senior tackle Lucas Engel fell on the ball on the Oberlin 8 yard line.

On second down, Norton found the end zone for

the fourth time in the quarter when Miller passed to sophomore wide receiver Kobie Unterseher and he made a catch in traffic. Hager's kick made it 28-0 in favor of the Blue Jays.

After Hager's kickoff, Oberlin went for broke in the passing game. A long pass by Red Devil junior quarterback Dayton Dreher was caught near the Norton goalline. Brooks caused a fumble, picked up the ball and was driven into the end zone. Officials ruled that a safety had occurred, giving Oberlin two points.

Norton punted to the Red Devils. Once again, the Norton defense was rock solid and the first half ended with Norton leading 28-2.

Third quarter

Norton had the ball twice and Oberlin once in the third quarter before the Red Devils took over at mid-field after a Norton punt and produced their only scoring threat of the game. Mixing running and passing, Oberlin moved downfield to the Norton 1 yard line.

The Blue Jay defense stuffed the first down play for no gain, then forced a fumble on second down. Norton linebacker Bohl came up with the ball on the 2 yard line. After one play, the quarter ended with the Blue Jays dodging a bullet and still leading 28-2.

Fourth quarter

Two Miller passes were knocked down by Oberlin defenders and Jacob Brooks punted to the Norton 38. The Norton defense held again and, after four downs and no yards, the Red Devils gave up the ball.

Norton was held to three-and-out and Brooks punted to the Oberlin 35. Once again, the swarming Blue Jay defenders held and Oberlin went into punt formation. It was a fake but the resulting pass was incomplete and Norton regained possession of the pigskin on the Oberlin 39.

The Red Devils intercepted a Miller pass on their 19 yard line. On second down, they fumbled again and Norton sophomore noseguard Stewart Whitney fell on the ball on the Red Devil 4 yard line.

Miller followed the blocking of his linemen as he sneaked into the end zone for his second touchdown of the night. Hager split the uprights again and Norton led 35-2.

After Hager's kickoff, Oberlin was able to earn four first downs before they ran out of time and the visiting Norton team prevailed.

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; 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.

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



Senior linebacker Treven Rossi, No. 53, an unidentified Norton player and sophomore noseguard Stewart Whitney, No. 42 stop an Oberlin ball carrier Friday night. Senior tackle Lane Bigge, No. 68, was seconds away from being in on the tackle.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Individual statistics

Brooks gained 41 yards on 16 carries for a 2.4 yard average, followed by Bohl, 9 for 29; Miller, 6 for 22; Furbush, 1 for 6.

Miller completed 6 of 16 passes for 40 yards; Ellis completed 1 for 3 yards.

Pass receivers were Ellis, 2 for 20; Risewick, 1 for 9; Unterseher, 1 for 8; Bohl, 1 for 6; Furbush, 1 for 3; Brooks, 1 for minus 3.

Brooks punted 5 times for a 36.6 yard average; Hager kicked off 6 times for a 48.5 yard average.

Furbush had 1 kickoff return for 20 yards and 1 punt return for 6 yards. Brooks had 1 punt return for 38 yards.

Kennedy Fortin was leading rusher for Oberlin with 41 yards on 13 carries; Dayton Dreher had 30 yards on 13 carries.

Leading tackler for Norton was Eli Bozarth with 6 solos and 5 assists. Carson McKenna and John Risewick were right behind with McKenna having 10 solos and Risewick having 6 solos, 4 assists. They were followed by Stewart Whitney, 5 solos, 4 assists; Treven Rossi, 5 solos, 3 assists; Lane Bigge, 5 solos, 2 assists; Jacob Brooks, 7 solos; Austin Hager, 4 solos, 3 assists; Jared Bohl, 5 solos, 1 assist; Lucas Engel, 3 solos, 2 assists; Tanner Furbush, 4 solos; Cole Renner, 2 solos, 2 assists; Toby Nickell, 2 solos, 1 assist; Dylan Sprigg, 1 solo, 2 assists; Kolton Harting, 1 solo, 1 assist; Ethan Ross; Travis Cressler, 1 assist; Andrew Ellis, 1 assist; Breven

Sondergaard, 1 solo; Derick Campbell, 1 solo.

Next action

Norton will return to Mid-Continent League action on Friday when the Blue Jays travel to Ellis for a 7 p.m. game.

"Ellis is always tough to play at home," said coach Melvin. "We will have to play much better on offense."

Norton		Oberlin
8	First Downs	13
98	Rushing	109
43	Passing	90
141	Total Yards	199
7-17-1	Passes Compl.	8-19-0
0-0	Fumbles Lost	4-9
5-36.6	Punts	4-41
5-43	Penalties	3-27

AUCTION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2012
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VEHICLES: 1971 Ford Thunderbird, Suicide Doors, 429 Motor, 2 Tone Green with Vinyl Top, 94,063 Miles, Always Shedded, One Owner. 1985 Chevy Silverado Suburban with 3rd Seat, 5.7 Motor, 144,076 Miles, Excellent Interior.
FURNITURE: Glider Rocker with Matching Ottoman; 2 Beige Recliners; Couch; Video Cabinet; Floor Lamps; Telephone Stand; End Tables; Love Seat; Oak Dinette Set with 4 Chairs on Coasters; Office Desk with Chair; TV with Stand; Oak Day Bed; 5 Piece Bedroom Set; Single Bed; 4 Drawer Chest of Drawers; Singer Sewing Machine; VCR; Digital DVD Player; Bread and Vegetable Bin; Wall Decor.
APPLIANCES: Upright Freezer; De-Humidifier; Electric Meat Scale.
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SHOP AND TOOLS: Well Saw (Model 404); Gultery Grinder; Belt Sander with Extra Belts; Socket Set (17 Piece-1/2" Square Drive); Socket Set (21 Piece-3/4" Drive); 6" Bench Grinder with Vice on Cabinet; Extension Cords; 24" Pipe Wrench; 5 Foot Step Ladder; 12 Foot Wooden Ladder; Tool Boxes-Small to Large; 1 Gallon Metal Gas Can; Makita Cordless Drill-In Case; Utility Cart on Wheels; Airless Spray Gun; Work Bench Table.
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Cross country competes in Rim Rock

By Dick Boyd

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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams competed in their toughest meet to date, the Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence, on Saturday.

The Norton girls placed ninth out of 28 teams and 211 runners and the Norton boys finished 15th out of 34 teams and 246 runners.

The top five girls teams were Smithville, Mo., 60, first; Frontier Academy, Colo., 111, second; St. James Academy, 208, third; Grain Valley, Mo., 208, fourth; Pembroke Hill, Mo., 211, fifth.

The top five boys teams were Christ Prep, 84, first; Frontier Academy, Colo., 144, second; Ellinwood, 164, third; St. James Academy, 213, fourth; Andale, 217, fifth.

NORTON GIRLS

Norton sophomore Sierra Griffith was fastest for the Lady Jays, placing 54th in 17:14, followed by junior Darcy Bainter, 67th, 17:27; freshman Molly Maddy, 76th, 17:40; junior Katelyn Engelbert, 80th, 17:45 and junior Marisa Maddy, 91st, 17:52.

Also running for Norton and their places and times were: senior Kamilla Jones, 102nd, 18:01 and senior Julia Kent, 119th, 18:18.

"Today was a mixed day; the race was extremely competitive," said coach Rossi.

"While finishing in the top ten out of 28 teams is good, our girls were disappointed in their showing today.

"This race is a fantastic indicator of weaknesses and we saw several today. How we use this race to prepare for the rest of the season remains to be seen.

"We have been running very well of late and this race brought us back to earth, which I think is exactly what we needed to help us get ready for the second half of the season.

"Sierra and Kamilla improved their times from last year's race and Molly ran a very tough second half of the race.

"The good thing about this team is each individual will work to make themselves and their team better. They have shown this time and time again."

NORTON BOYS

Norton junior Alec Hager hit the finish line first for Norton in 18:06 to place 53rd, followed by junior Marc Miller, 67th, 18:16; freshman Brendon Frack, 68th, 18:18; sophomore Dalton Vanover, 115th, 19:02 and senior John Renner, 211th, 20:50.

Also running for the Blue Jays and their places and times were: senior Ryan Bainter, 225th, 21:22 and junior Keith Sander,

242nd, 22:45.

"The boys race was huge with 34 teams and 246 runners completing the tough Rim Rock Farm course," said coach Rossi.

"Alec, Marc and Dalton each improved their time by an average of about 47 seconds from last year's race and also improved their place by about 40 places each.

"Ryan Bainter also improved his time by 50 seconds from last year. Brendon Frack continues to run very well as a freshman.

"Our boys started out good and most of them hit a rough patch on the second steep hill but, all in all, finished very well, passing quite a few in the last 800 meters.

"As with the girls, we learned quite a lot about ourselves today. We need to work on speed

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C-team plays in Hill City JV tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School C-team volleyball team competed in the Hill City Junior Varsity Volleyball Tournament on Saturday.

Norton lost to Hoxie 13-25, 14-25; lost to Phillipsburg 17-25, 8-25 and lost to Ellis 15-25, 22-25.

"This group has gotten a lot better as the year has gone along," said Norton head volleyball coach Kevin Jilka.

"They need to learn to be more aggressive, especially at the net, but that will come in time.

"We are very proud of their effort in this tournament."

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Ellis Railroaders 7 p.m. Friday in Ellis
Norton Freshmen vs. Hays 4 p.m. Monday in Norton
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Hays High 6 p.m. Monday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. St. John's Beloit 7 p.m. Friday in Alma
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Cheylin 5:30 p.m. Monday in Bird City
Logan Trojans vs. Palco 7 p.m. Friday in Palco

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Goodland, Wheatland, Wray, Colo 4:30 p.m. Today in Goodland
Norton Lady Jays in Hays Quadrangular 4 p.m. Thursday in Hays
Norton Lady Jays V, JV in Decatur Invitational 9 a.m. Saturday in Oberlin
Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Smith Center, Trego 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Southern Valley, Franklin 5 p.m. Today in Southern Valley
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Ellis Invitational 8:30 a.m. Saturday in Ellis
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Golden Plains, Triplains/Brewster 4 p.m. Tuesday in Winona
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Western Plains 4 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan JV Quadrangular 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational 5 p.m. Today in Oberlin
Northern Valley Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational 5 p.m. Today in Oberlin

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Colby Tournament 3 p.m. Today in Colby
Norton Lady Jays in Mid-Continent League Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg
Norton Lady Jays in Colby JV Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby