

Blue Jays defeat Colby in overtime play, 26-23

By Dick Boyd

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Friday night was Homecoming for Norton Community High School and the visiting Colby football team did all they could to spoil festivities until the Blue Jays pulled out an exciting 26-23 victory!

three-and-out for the Eagles. They punted to the Norton 17 but Norton was also held to three-and-out and Brooks punted to the Colby 47. A fourth down run by Colby quarterback Zane Winger picked up a first down on the Norton 38. The Eagles earned three first downs before fumbling. Norton senior lineman Lane Bigge covered the ball for the Blue Jays on the Norton 13.

Second quarter

The teams exchanged punts on three-and-outs before Norton got one first down on a pass to senior tight end Carson McKenna before Brooks had to punt the ball away again. Brooks' punt carried to the Colby 9 but Winger got loose on a 37 yard run to the Colby 46. That was as far as the Eagles got; they punted to the Norton 31. On third down, Norton quarterback Miller was back to pass, forced out of the pocket and ran through the Eagle defense for a 69 yard touchdown.

Third quarter

McKenna returned a short kickoff by Colby to the Norton 35. After a diving catch of a Miller pass by McKenna for a first down, Norton was forced to punt. Norton held and Colby punted. The Blue Jays tried for a first down on a fake punt but a Brooks to Risewick 23 yard pass fell short. Colby gained some yardage before fumbling the ball on the Norton 35 where the Blue Jays recovered.

Fourth quarter

A diving catch by Dustin Reed of a fourth down pass from Winger earned the Eagles a first down on the Norton 20. Winger threw a 16 yard touchdown pass to Macen Shull and ran for two points to cut the Norton lead to 20-14.

After Hager's kickoff, Colby senior running back Beau Brown answered with a 78 yard run to the end zone on second down. A run for extra points was stuffed by the Blue Jay defense, making the score 20-6 with 30 seconds left.

Colby showed that they had plenty of fight left in them when they recovered an on-side kick. A personal foul penalty on Norton on the play moved the ball to the Norton 24.

Overtime

Colby got the first possession in overtime. Norton held and, on fourth down, Treck Keck kicked a 31 yard field goal to give the visitors a 23-20 lead.

Norton then received the ball on the 10-yard line. Brooks gained 1 yard on first down and Miller ran 5 yards to the 4-yard line. On third down, Brooks got good blocking, found a hole and ran into the end zone for the winning touchdown.



Norton senior tailback Jacob Brooks eludes a potential Colby tackler prior to cutting back against the grain to scamper untouched 61 yards for a Blue Jay touchdown during the third quarter of Norton's 26-23 overtime win at Travis Field on Friday. No. 72 for Norton is senior tackle Lucas Engel

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Starting lineup

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

Defensive starters were senior Eli Bozarth and Renner, ends; Bigge and junior Kolton Harting, tackles; sophomore Stewart Whitney, noseguard; Rossi and Bohl, linebackers; McKenna and junior Austin Hager, cornerbacks; Risewick and Brooks, safeties.

Individual statistics

Jacob Brooks gained 103 yards on 20 carries for an average of 5.2 yards. Dalton Miller had 60 yards on 17 carries for a 3.5 yard average. Jared Bohl

had 5 carries for 17 yards and Tanner Furbush had 1 for 5.

Miller completed 2 of 10 passes for 28 yards to Carson McKenna. Brooks completed 1 to John Risewick for 23 yards.

Brooks punted 6 times for a 39.3 average and Hager had 5 kickoffs for a 41.8 average.

Beau Brown was leading rusher for Colby with 126 yards on 21 carries. Zane Winger gained 96 yards on 21 carries.

Leading tackler was Treven Rossi with 11 solos, 4 assists, followed by Jared Bohl, 8 solos, 2 assists; Eli Bozarth, 6 solos, 3 assists; Lucas Engel, 7 solos, 1 assist; John Risewick, 5 solos, 1 assist; Lane Bigge, 3 solos, 2 assists; Tanner Furbush, 3 solos, 2 assists; Austin Hager, 2 solos, 2 assists; Cole Renner, 2 solos, 2 assists; Jacob Brooks, 2 solos; Kolton Harting, 1 solo; Trever Lewis, 1 solo; Toby Nickell, 1 solo; Kobie Unterseher, 1 solo; Andre Valencia Mendez, 1 as-

sis.

Next action

Norton will begin District play on Friday when they travel to Minneapolis for a 7 p.m. game. Minneapolis is 3-3 for the year.

"They have a good quarterback and running backs," said coach Melvin. "They also have some good quality linemen. We will have to eliminate mistakes to beat them."

| Norton | | Colby |
|--------|---------------|--------|
| 6 | First Downs | 12 |
| 195 | Rushing | 250 |
| 51 | Passing | 42 |
| 246 | Total Yards | 292 |
| 3-11-0 | Passes Compl. | 5-12-2 |
| 1-4 | Fumbles Lost | 3-4 |
| 6-39.3 | Punts | 4-36.4 |
| 9-72 | Penalties | 5-44 |

Varsity girls tennis team wins Colby Invitational Tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School varsity girls tennis team won the championship of the Colby Invitational Tournament by one point on Tuesday, Sept. 25 in Colby.

The Lady Jays scored 22 points to edge Phillipsburg, who tallied 21 points. Third place went to Tribune with 16, followed by Russell, 13; Colby, 7; Trego Community, 5; Scott City, 4.

"Colby invited seven teams and seeded the ones and twos into brackets," said coach Jim Green. "We did well in the seeding with Tawni Griffey as the number one seed in No.1 singles, Sierra Black as the number one seed in No.2 singles, Rিকেle Green and Ashley Hildebrand as the number three seed in No.1 doubles and Molly Scott and Jessica White as the number one seed in No.2 doubles.

"I felt good about the seeds and everyone was

placed well in the brackets. The only drawbacks were that the number one seeds don't play in the first round and do not play as many matches. Not playing a match in the first round puts our entries up against teams that have already played, which can be a disadvantage. We were happy to place first but that was only by one point. Every match our girls won was very important. Our girls had an outstanding night."

Senior Tawni Griffey shutout both of her opponents to place first. She defeated Arika Aiken, Phillipsburg, 6-0 and beat Megan Reding, Tribune, 6-0.

"Tawni continued her dominant play and easily won both of her matches to place first," said coach Green.

Juniors Rিকেle Green and Ashley Hildebrand played No.1 doubles for Norton. They lost to Callan Rice and Holly Wilcoxson, Scott City, 6-3;

defeated Victoria Rall and Samantha Lindberg, Colby, 6-2; outscored Kimberly Day and Shaylee Flax, Trego, 6-5(7-5) and placed third with a 6-1 win over the same Scott City team they lost to in the first round.

"Rিকেle and Ashley had a disappointing loss to Scott City in the first round," said coach Green.

"After beating Colby, they played Trego in the third round. They were ahead in this match and going for the win and then Trego caught up and sent the match into a tiebreaker. In the tiebreaker, we lost the first five points. With an 0-5 score playing to seven points things didn't look very good. But, Rিকেle and Ashley battled back, won seven points in a row, winning the tiebreaker and the match. In their third place match, they played the same Scott City team again. This time the match turned out differently with Rিকেle and Ashley winning easily 6-1."

Norton senior Sierra Black played No.2 singles and won the championship with three straight victories. In the first round, she shutout Brianna Emahizer, Scott City, 6-0, outscored Sarah Lamm,

Colby Extra, 6-2 and defeated Hayle Mader, Russell, 6-4, to win the title.

"Sierra had a good outing, winning all three of her matches for another first place finish," said coach Green.

Norton sophomore Molly Scott and junior Jessica White placed third in No.2 doubles. They drew a first round bye, then lost to Lizzy Rhodes and Tristen Hayes, Russell, 6-5(8-6). They shut-out Leah Artz and Diana Rodriguez, Scott City, 6-0, then outscored Evin Smith and Megan Robertson, Tribune, 6-1.

"Molly and Jessica played Russell in the second round and ended in a tiebreaker," said coach Green. "The tiebreaker was very close but our girls lost and moved to the backside of the bracket. They defeated Scott City and moved on to the match for third place against Tribune. We have played against Tribune before but they put two different girls together for their No.2 doubles so we had never played against this combination. Molly and Jessica defeated Tribune 6-1 to place third."

Norton JV tennis team takes fifth

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Due to a shortage of players, the Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team placed fifth in the Phillipsburg JV Tennis Tournament held Saturday, Sept. 22.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 34 points, followed by Colby, 19; Hays, 17; Beloit, 15; Norton, 3.

All the players competing for Norton were freshmen.

"Our junior varsity players struggled since we were short of players," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery. "Everyone had to play a spot above where they normally play. This was good because we gained experience, but we didn't have as many wins as normal."

Audrie Burge was Norton's No.1 singles player. She lost to Emily McPherson, Hays, 6-3; defeated Lisa Foster, Beloit, 6-3; lost to Julie Schroeder, Colby, 6-3 and lost to Lindsey Solida, Phillipsburg, 6-1, to place fourth.

"Audrie had taken first at No.2 singles at a previous tournament, giving her some experience at singles," said coach

Montgomery. "She had a great day and worked extremely hard. She was able to get a win against Beloit and also had some close matches against Hays and Colby.

"As she gains more experience and plays more singles, she will become more consistent and knowledgeable about singles. Audrie is very fun to watch and always tries her hardest."

Playing No.1 doubles for Norton were freshmen Rachel Jones and Morgan Griffey and they finished fifth. They lost to Ashley Cossaart and Molly Barnett, Hays, 6-0; lost to Jordan Bentz and Desiree Edwards, Beloit, 6-2; lost to Olivia Wetter and Morgan Sanguinet, Colby, 6-1 and lost to Mariah Coomes and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg, 6-2.

"This was the first time Rachel and Morgan played No.1 doubles together," said coach Montgomery. "They had some success but they just aren't quite consistent enough yet. This comes with a lot of practice and hitting as many tennis balls as they can throughout the season and during the spring and summer."

Freshman Lizzie Smith played No.2 singles for the Lady Jays and placed fifth. She lost to Amy Pugh, Hays, 6-0; lost to Paige Hafliger, Beloit, 6-1; lost to Paige McNinch, Colby, 6-0 and lost to Suzanne Huntley, Phillipsburg, 6-0.

"Lizzie improves in every tournament," said coach Montgomery. "She is getting more serves and forehands over the net. She still needs to work on her backhand and watching the ball at all times. She was able to win her first game in singles against Beloit. She had a great match against the Beloit player and had some very close games."

Norton did not have a No.2 doubles team.



High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Minneapolis Lions 7 p.m. Friday in Minneapolis

Norton Junior Varsity vs. McCook Freshmen 7 p.m. Thursday in Norton

Norton Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg 5:30 p.m. Monday in Norton

Northern Valley Huskies vs. Stockton 7 p.m. Friday in Almena

Logan Trojans vs. Beloit St. John's 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays vs. Plainville - Play-in match for Mid-Continent League Tournament 6 p.m. Today in Norton

Norton Lady Jays in Mid-Continent League Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg

Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton and Logan 5 p.m. Today in Stockton

Northern Valley Lady Huskies in WKLL Tournament 10 a.m. Saturday in Brewster

Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco and Victoria 4 p.m. Tuesday in Almena

Logan Lady Trojans vs. Northern Valley, Stockton 4 p.m. Today in Stockton

Logan Lady Trojans in WKLL Tournament 10 a.m. Saturday in Brewster

Logan Lady Trojans vs. Osborne, Hill City 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Lakeside Invitational 4 p.m. Thursday in Downs

Northern Valley Cross Country in Lakeside Invitational 4 p.m. Thursday in Downs

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jay Tawni Griffey in State Tennis Tournament Friday and Saturday in Hutchinson