

Blue Jays defeat Minneapolis on the road, 41-20

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team traveled to Minneapolis on Friday for their first district contest and saw a 19-7 halftime lead vanish on the first play of the fourth quarter before rallying with three touchdowns to win 41-20. It was the first of three district games which will decide who moves on into the state playoffs. The top two teams in the District will advance.

"We played hard; our guys were hitting," said coach Melvin. "It was a slippery field so we passed more in the first half. Defensively, we missed too many tackles that kept them in the game. It was a good thing that every time we needed to answer their scores, we did."

Norton had 145 rushing and 188 passing for 333 total yards and Minneapolis gained 109 yards rushing and 191 passing for 300 total.

First quarter

Norton received the opening kickoff and was three-and-out. After senior Jacob Brooks punted, the Norton defense held Minneapolis to three-and-out. The Lions punted to the Norton 21. Senior fullback Jared Bohl gained 5 yards, junior tailback Tanner Furbush ran for a first down on the Norton 33 and senior quarterback Dalton Miller earned another first down on the Norton 45.

Miller went to the air and hit tailback Brooks with a perfect pass and he sprinted 55 yards to the end zone. The extra point kick try by junior Austin Hager was unsuccessful and the Blue Jays led 6-0.

After Hager's kickoff, Minneapolis fumbled and junior end Cole Renner recovered for the

Blue Jays on the 30. Norton was unable to score and the Lions took over. The Norton defense held and Minneapolis went into punt formation. The snap from the center was mishandled by the punter and senior tackle Lucas Engel fell on the ball on the Minneapolis 25. Again, Norton was unable to score and the Lions took over on their 22.

On third down, the Norton defense forced quarterback Matthew Comfort out of the pocket and he ran for a first down on the Lion 32.

Second quarter

Minneapolis earned two first downs before Brooks intercepted a Comfort pass on the Norton 15. After three first downs, Norton punted to the Lion 25. They also got three first downs before Garrett Lott got loose on a 26 yard touchdown run. Yoxall kicked the extra point and the home team led 7-6.

It took just 17 seconds for Norton to answer and regain the lead. Brooks returned the kickoff to the 30 and, on first down, he caught another pass from Miller, broke a tackle and was off to the races for another Blue Jay score. Hager split the uprights, making it 13-7.

The aggressive Blue Jays struck again less than a minute later. Hager's kickoff was fumbled and junior defensive back Trever Lewis alertly fell on the pigskin on the Minneapolis 17. On second down, Miller passed to Furbush. He broke a tackle and ran into the end zone. The extra point kick was wide but Norton led 19-7 with 34 seconds left.

Comfort returned Hager's kickoff to the Minneapolis 42 where Hager made the tackle. After Comfort made a first down on the Norton 45, he was sacked by Engel and the half ended af-

ter a running play with the Blue Jays on top 19-7.

Third quarter

Norton threatened to score again early in the quarter when the Lions were stopped by the kickoff team on their 17. After one first down passing, Brooks intercepted a Comfort pass on the Norton 44. Miller got one first down and Brooks gained two more first downs before the Lion defense stiffened. A Hager field goal try was blocked.

The Lions had the ball on the 50 after a Norton penalty and Comfort connected with Luke Eckert on a touchdown pass. The extra point kick missed but Norton was whistled for roughing the kicker. The second try was good and Norton led 19-14.

After the kickoff, Norton drove to the Minneapolis 35 before running out of downs. The rain began to fall again at this point but the Lions were still able to move the ball to the Norton 12. Blue Jay senior tackle Lane Bigge fell on a Lion fumble on the 9 but, on first down, Norton fumbled and Minneapolis recovered on the Norton 7.

Fourth quarter

On the first play of the final period, Comfort passed to Josh Macy for a touchdown. The extra point attempt was no good but the home team was ahead 20-19.

It took Norton just two minutes to regain the lead for good. Furbush got a good kickoff return to the Lion 25. From there, Brooks, Furbush and Miller made good gains and Brooks ran the final 8 yards for his third touchdown of the evening. Miller passed to senior wide receiver John Risewick for two extra points and it was 27-20.

The Minneapolis receiver fumbled Hager's kickoff and he

recovered the ball on their 10. Brooks intercepted a Comfort third down pass and sprinted 16 yards for his fourth touchdown of the night. Hager's kick made it 34-20.

After Hager's kickoff, the Norton defense held the Lions on four downs and took over on their 32. Miller dented the end zone from 8 yards out after gaining 19 yards on three carries. Hager's kick extended the Norton lead to 41-20.

The Lions had the ball for three plays after Hager's kickoff before officials cleared the field and stands due to threatening lightning and, after a short delay, the game was called with the Blue Jays winning 41-20.

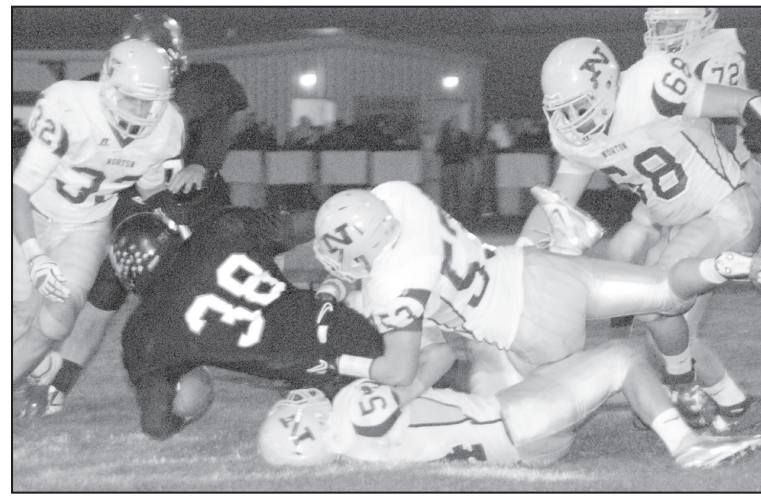
Starting lineup

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 71 yards on 10 carries for a 7.1 yard average, followed by Dalton Miller, 17 for 37; Tanner Furbush, 5 for 21; Jared Bohl, 6 for 17. Miller completed 6 of 15 passes for



The Norton defensive players are known for their gang-tackling of opposing players. Taking a Minneapolis player to the turf on Friday night are, from left, Jared Bohl, No. 32; Cole Renner, No. 54 and Treven Rossi, No. 53 as Lane Bigge, No.68 and Lucas Engel, No. 72, provide backup.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Next action

In their second district game, Norton (6-1) will host Beloit (7-0) in a 7 p.m. game on Friday at Travis Field.

"We will have to play really well to slow them down," said coach Melvin. "They have a double-wing running offense with three 265 pound players."

Norton		Minn.
11	First Downs	13
145	Rushing	109
188	Passing	191
333	Total Yards	300
6-15-0	Passes Compl.	17-32-2
1-1	Fumbles Lost	3-3
6-41.5	Punts	1-44
6-33.5	Penalties	4-20

JV football team defeats Colby

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team extended their season record to 5-1 with a 14-12 victory over Colby last Monday at Colby.

On their first possession, the Jays had no trouble moving the ball as they drove down the field and scored on a pass from sophomore quarterback Kendall Miller to sophomore receiver Kobie Unterseher with 7:33 left in the first quarter.

Sophomore tailback Jared Tallent ran for a successful two-point conversion, putting Norton on top 8-0.

The Eagles were unable to gain yardage against a tough Blue Jay defense and were forced to punt. Norton drove down the field again and scored on a run by Tallent with 3:04 showing on the clock. The extra point attempt was no good but Norton had extended their lead to 14-0.

To start the second quarter, Colby found some

much needed momentum and scored with 8:02 left in the half. The Norton defense held Colby out of the end zone on the extra point try, making it 14-6 in favor of the visitors.

After the kickoff, Norton was unable to move the ball and punted back to Colby. The Eagles moved downfield to score their second touchdown with 4:56 remaining in the second period. Again, Norton did not allow the two-point conversion and retained a 14-12 lead.

The second half was a stalemate. Both teams stepped up defensively, not allowing any more scoring and the game ended with the Blue Jays still on top 14-12 for their fifth win of the season!

Next action

On Monday, Oct. 15, the Norton junior varsity football team played their final game of the season when they hosted Phillipsburg in a 5:30 p.m. game at Travis Field

Huskies X-C competes at Phillipsburg

By Mike Stephens

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Despite cool temperatures, the Northern Valley Cross Country team registered some fast times at the Phillipsburg Invitational on Oct. 4 in Phillipsburg.

All five members of the Huskies cross country team earned medals and four of them established new personal records, as well, for their event.

In men's varsity action, Jon Compton had a personal best placing 15th with a time of 18:48. In the men's junior varsity, Macy Kasson finished second with a personal best of 20:28, an improvement of eight seconds, and Camden Cox placed 10th with a personal best of 22:40, an improvement of 1:09.

In women's junior varsity action, Brooke Baird

took first place honors with a time of 18:29, one second off her personal best and Allison Keith finished in seventh place with a personal best of 22:10, an improvement of 1:41.

"This was our best meet of the year. The runners are being rewarded for their hard work," said head coach Kirk Kasson. "We have one more meet before regionals, so we are looking to keep improving."

Final results from the Phillipsburg Invitational: Men's varsity-Jon Compton, 15th place Men's junior varsity-Macy Kasson, 2nd place Men's junior varsity-Camden Cox, 10th place Women's junior varsity-Brooke Baird, 1st place Women's junior varsity-Allison Keith, 7th place.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Beloit Trojans 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Thunder Ridge 7 p.m. Friday in Kensington
Logan Trojans vs. Natoma 7 p.m. Friday in Natoma

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays in Sub-State Tournament 2 p.m. Saturday at Southeast of Saline in Salina
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco and Victoria 4 p.m. Today in Almena
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Sub-State Tournament 1 p.m. Saturday in Brewster
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Osborne and Hill City 4:30 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans in Sub-State Tournament 2 p.m. Saturday in WaKeeney

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Class 3A Regional Meet 1 p.m. Saturday in Cimarron
Northern Valley Cross Country in Class 1A Regional Meet 11 a.m. Saturday in Grainfield

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