

# Legion beats Cambridge

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team produced two solid victories over Cambridge, Neb. in a double header on Tuesday at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The Blue Jays outscored Cambridge 9-6 in the opener and 8-5 in the finale.

Two five inning games were played due to the hot weather.

## Opener

The visiting Cambridge nine scored three runs in the top of the first inning.

Norton did not score until the bottom of the third inning when the Blue Jays batted around and tallied nine runs. Gavin Lively singled, Jordan Dole was hit by a pitch and advanced, Travis Cressler walked, Mickey Hahn singled, Andrew Ellis walked, Dalton Miller got on base on an error and Toby Nickell also got on base on an error. Clint Cole got on base on a fielder's choice. Lively got up again and doubled, then Dole was hit by a pitch for the second time in the

inning.

All scored and Lively tallied twice in the stanza.

Cambridge did not quit and scored two runs in the top of the fourth and one more in the top of the fifth to make the final 9-6.

Norton had four hits, four walks and three strike outs.

Leading hitter for the Blue Jays was Gavin Lively, who was a perfect 2 for 2 with the bat.

Toby Nickell was the winning pitcher. He allowed four hits, walked five and struck out five batters.

## Nightcap

Once again, Cambridge started the game with three runs.

Norton responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score. Hahn and Ellis both singled, Dalton Miller got on base on a fielder's choice and Nickell singled. Hahn, Ellis and Miller crossed home plate.

Cambridge added one run in the top of the second but Norton scored two more in the bottom of the inning to lead 5-4. Jordan Dole got on base on an error,

Cressler slammed a triple, followed by a triple by Hahn. All three scored.

The visitors were three up, three down in the top of the third.

Whittling away, Norton scored two more runs in the bottom of the third to take a 7-4 lead. Miller walked, Nickell singled, Trever Lewis walked, Cole got on base on a fielder's choice and Lively got on base via an error. Nickell and Lewis both scored.

The Cambridge side was retired three up, three down in the top of the fourth inning as well. Norton added one more run in the bottom of the fourth when Hahn singled and Miller walked and Hahn scored.

Cambridge tallied one final run in the top of the fifth stanza but it was too little, too late and the Blue Jays won 8-5.

Norton had seven hits, three walks and three strike outs.

Leading hitter for the Blue Jays was Mickey Hahn, who was a perfect 3 for 3 at the plate including a triple. Toby Nickell went 2 for 3 with the bat.

Winning pitcher was Clint Cole, who allowed six hits, walked three and struck out two batters.

## Coach's comments

"We had two good wins against a very good 12-4 Cambridge team," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"Our defense did not play well in the first game but played better in the second game.

"Toby Nickell and Clint Cole pitched very well.

"Trever Lewis played great in left field.

"Travis Cressler and Jordan Dole had some big two-out hits tonight!"

## Next action

Norton played at Smith Center on Thursday but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The Blue Jays will host Colby on Sunday at John Ryan Field with games beginning at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

The double header with Loomis that was originally scheduled for June 18 will be played here on Tuesday.



Norton's Mickey Hahn's bat met the pitch with such force that he earned a triple on this action in the second game of the Blue Jays' double header win over Cambridge on Tuesday night at John Ryan Field. Hahn led Norton in hitting with a perfect 3 for 3 in the contest.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Thunder team takes third in tournament

By DICK BOYD

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After splitting a double header at Osborne on Thursday, June 20, the Norton Thunder 18 & Under girls softball team placed third in the Monarchs Softball Tournament hosted by Thomas More Prep-Marian on Sunday in Hays.

The Thunder was in a pool with Stockton and Osborne in the tournament and TMP was in a pool with Oberlin and Atwood.

The Thunder defeated Stockton 6-3 and Osborne 13-12 to win the pool and advance. They played Stockton again and lost this time, by a score of 13-0.

TMP won the other pool and advanced to win the championship with a 4-0 record. They defeated Stockton in the championship finals.

"To play four games on a very hot day, ideally you need several pitchers and several catchers," said Thunder head coach Brandon Gay. "Unfortunately, we lost Bri Karnopp, who as our number two pitcher and backup catcher, before the tournament even started. Then our number one pitcher, Kirstin Georgeson, sprained her ankle in the second game and wasn't able to return."

## Stockton

Stockton took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning but the Thunder scored two runs in the bottom of the inning. Kirstin Georgeson singled, Shauna Gibson walked, Kristen Dole singled and Amanda Kessler doubled. Georgeson and Gibson both scored.

Stockton was three up, three down in the top of the second and the Thunder added four more runs in the bottom of the stanza. Skylar Davis doubled,

MaKensy Schroeder walked, Tara Bracktenbach singled, Georgeson, Gibson and Kim Bradshaw all walked. All except Gibson and Bradshaw scored.

Stockton added one more run in the top of the third and another in the top of the fourth to make the final 6-3.

Norton had six hits, five walks and six strikeouts. Leading hitter for the Thunder was Kessler who went 2 for 2 with the bat.

Kirstin Georgeson was the winning pitcher. She gave up just three hits, struck out seven and walked three batters.

"Kirstin pitched a great game," said coach Gay. "She dominated a tough team and our hitters strung together some hits against a tough pitcher.

## Osborne

The win over Osborne was a slugfest with the Thunder recording 17 hits and the Lady Bulldogs creating 10 hits.

Osborne took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first and Norton was scoreless in the bottom of the inning.

After Osborne added three more runs in the top of the second to take a 7-0 advantage, the Thunder broke the scoring column with four runs to cut the Osborne lead to 7-4. Dole singled, Kessler doubled, Sabre Plante singled, Davis singled, Bracktenbach singled and Georgeson singled. All except Bracktenbach and Georgeson scored.

Osborne was three up, three down in the top of the third. Norton batted around in the third inning, scoring seven runs on seven hits to take an 11-7 lead. Bradshaw, Dole, Kessler, Plante, Davis, Schroeder and Bracktenbach all singled and Georgeson walked.

All except Plante scored.

Osborne rallied with five

more runs in the top of the fourth to take a 12-11 advantage.

The Lady Thunder came back with the needed two runs to win 13-12. Dole singled, Davis singled, Schroeder walked, Bracktenbach got on base on a fielder's choice. Dole and Davis both scored.

The Lady Thunder had 17 hits, two walks and two strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Dole and Davis, who were each 3 for 3 at the plate and Kessler, Plante and Bracktenbach, who were 2 for 3 with the bat.

Kim Bradshaw pitched one and two-thirds innings, giving up seven hits, walking none and striking out one batter. Winning pitcher was Kristen Dole, who relieved Bradshaw and gave up three hits, walked one and struck out one batter in two and one-third innings.

"We had a tough first inning but our offense stepped up and carried us," said coach Gay.

"Our two remaining pitchers both had to throw a lot of pitches to get the win and that hurt us in the third game."

## Stockton

Stockton scored 12 runs in the top of the first inning. Norton tallied their only run in the bottom of the inning when Dole, Gibson, Rickele Green and Davis each walked and Dole scored.

Stockton scored one more run in the top of the second and one more in the top of the third inning.

Norton had no hits, six walks and seven strike outs.

Kristen Dole pitched two-thirds of the first inning, giving up two hits, walking six and striking out none. She was relieved by Kim Bradshaw, who allowed 10 hits, walked none and struck out one.

the score at 4-4.

Sides, Ruder, Colton Greving, Oren Rhea, Cole, Layton Miller and Green all reached base safely in the top of the third inning and Sides, Ruder, Greving and Rhea scored to push Norton ahead 8-4.

WaKeeney was three up, three down in the bottom of the third.

Two more Norton runs in the top of the fourth extended the Blue Jay lead to 10-4. Ruder, Ellis and Rhea all got on base and Ruder and Ellis tallied.

WaKeeney scored one run in the bottom of the fourth to make it 10-5.

Ross got on base in the top of the fifth but was unable to score.

WaKeeney closed the gap again in the bottom of the fifth when they scored five more runs to tie the score at 10-10.

Three more runs by Norton

in the top of the sixth moved the Blue Jays back in front 13-10 and the home team was unable to respond in the last of the sixth.

Norton had 10 hits in the game. Ruder was tops with the bat for Norton as he went 3 for 4. Auker was 2 for 4 and Cole was 2 for 5.

Will Ellis was the winning pitcher.

## Coach's comments

"It was a windy, hot night and we had a week off since our last action so we were a little flat to start," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"WaKeeney is a really young club and they showed a lot of improvement from the first time we played them.

"We did not play to our ability and they did a good job of keeping it close. We had some younger players step up and get

some big hits for us.

"Also, we had two pitchers get their first mound time of the year. Both Jace Ruder and Will Ellis threw well for us. Jace is more of a power pitcher and threw it past most of their hitters. Will is more of a finesse pitcher and did a great job considering this was his first career start."

## Next action

On Monday, July 1, Norton will host Atwood in a double header at John Ryan Field.

Two six inning games will be played, beginning at 6 p.m.



# Norton K-18 baseball team defeats WaKeeney

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team hadn't played for a while but still put together two wins in a double header at WaKeeney on Monday.

Norton won the first game 5-3 and the nightcap 13-10.

## Opener

Neither team scored in the first two innings. WaKeeney got one run in the bottom of the third.

Norton scored four runs in the top of the fourth to ensure the win. Collyn Auker and Trenton Wright both walked, Jace Ruder singled, Will Ellis and Ryan Johnson both walked. All except Johnson scored.

Neither team scored in the fifth inning and Norton tallied one more run in the top of the sixth when Auker, Ruder and Johnson all singled and Auker

scored.

A WaKeeney rally in the bottom of the sixth fizzled after two runs, making the final 5-3 in favor of the young Blue Jays.

Norton had five hits, six walks and no strike outs. Jace Ruder went 2 for 3 with the bat and was also the winning pitcher.

## Nightcap

Norton started with three runs in the top of the first. Jacob Green was hit by a pitch and advanced and Auker, Riley Sides, Ruder and Ellis made it on base safely. Green, Auker and Sides all scored.

WaKeeney stayed close with two runs in the bottom of the first. Norton added one more run in the top of the second when Hayden Wiltfong and Ross Cole both got on base safely, Green walked and Wiltfong scored.

Two more runs by WaKeeney in the bottom of the second tied

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