

# Legion team loses two close contests

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team lost two close games to Smith Center on Friday at John Ryan Field in Norton.

### Opener

Norton lost the first game by a score of 5-3 after allowing the Redmen two runs in the top of the seventh inning to break a tie and win the contest.

Neither team scored in the first two innings. The Redmen tallied three runs in the top of the third on four hits and a walk. They had one hit off Norton pitcher Toby Nickell to that point in the game.

Norton did not score until the bottom of the fifth inning when the Blue Jays ran two runs across homeplate. Dalton Miller walked, Trey Millan got on base on an error and Gavin Lively walked and Miller and Millan both scored.

Smith Center was held scoreless in the top of the sixth and Norton tied the score at 3-all in the bottom of the inning when Travis Cressler walked, Trevor Lewis singled, Andrew Ellis got on base on an error, Millan got on base on a fielder's choice and

Cressler scored.

The Redmen broke the tie in the top of the seventh with two runs on two hits and a walk and Norton was unable to mount a winning rally in the bottom of the inning.

Norton had just Lewis' single as their only hit.

Three Norton batters walked and four struck out. K. Terrill was the winning pitcher.

Toby Nickell was the losing pitcher for the Blue Jays. He gave up nine hits, walked three and struck out nine batters.

### Nightcap

Smith Center scored one run in the top of the first inning and one in the top of the second stanza of the nightcap contest. Norton tallied one run in the bottom of the second when Miller, Clint Cole and Lively all singled and Miller scored.

Two more Redmen runs in the top of the third gave them a 4-1 lead. Three more runs by the visitors in the top of the fourth made it 7-1.

Norton had their best inning in the bottom of the fourth when the Blue Jays ran four runs across

home plate to cut the Smith Center lead to 7-5. Miller walked, Millan slammed a double, Cole walked, Jordan Dole singled, Cressler was hit by a pitch and advanced and Mickey Hahn singled. Miller, Millan, Cole and Dole all scored.

Unfortunately, Norton did not score again and Smith Center added two more runs in the top of the seventh to make the final score 9-5.

The Blue Jays had 11 hits, two walks and five strike outs. Leading hitter for Norton was Mickey Hahn, who went 3 for 4 with the bat. Trevor Lewis was 2 for 4 at the plate.

Trey Millan pitched two and one third innings for Norton, allowing three hits, walking four and striking out three batters. He was the losing pitcher. Millan was relieved by Clint Cole who allowed just two hits, walked six and struck out seven batters.

### Next action

Norton is hosting Osborne at John Ryan Field this evening with games beginning at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

# Norton Legion team wins double header with Loomis

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team won a double header with Loomis on Tuesday, July 2 at John Ryan Field.

The Blue Jays edged Loomis 2-0 in the first game and 10-9 in the second contest.

### Opener

Norton scored one run in the bottom of the first inning which turned out to be enough for the 2-0 win. With two outs, Dalton Miller got on base on an error and Trevor Lewis doubled him home.

Loomis had their best inning in the top of the fourth when three players got on base, one on a double and two by walking but none were able to cross home plate.

The Blue Jays' second and final run came in the bottom of the fourth when Miller singled and Toby Nickell doubled him home.

Norton had five hits, no walks and just two strike outs in the game. Miller, Lewis, Nickell and Clint Cole were all 1 for 2 with the bat. Jordan Dole got the other hit with a single.

Andrew Ellis was the winning pitcher. He allowed four hits, walked five and struck out eight batters.

### Nightcap

Norton fell behind 5-0 in the top of the first inning in the second contest.

The Blue Jays picked up one run

in the bottom of the inning when Mickey Hahn and Andrew Ellis both doubled.

Loomis added one more run in the top of the second. Norton scored two in the bottom of the third inning but still trailed 6-3. Ellis singled, Trevor Lewis doubled and Lane Bigge singled and Ellis and Lewis both scored.

Both teams were scoreless in the fourth inning.

Loomis added one more run in the top of the fifth to make it 7-3. In the bottom of the inning, Norton added one more run. Jacob Green, Ellis and Lewis all reached base on an error and Green scored.

Loomis was three up, three down in the top of the sixth inning but Norton ran four runs across home plate in the bottom of the inning to take an 8-7 lead. Cole reached base on an error, Gavin Lively, Green and Hahn all singled and Ellis slammed a double. All except Ellis scored.

Loomis did not quit and scored two more runs in the top of the seventh on three hits to regain the lead from Norton by a 9-8 margin.

The never-say-die Blue Jays were equal to the occasion and ran across two more runs in the bottom of the seventh for the 10-9 win. Lewis was hit by a pitch and reached base to start the inning. Next, Bigge got on base on an error. Nickell flied out but drove in the tying run. Lively came to the plate and drove Bigge home

for the winning run with a very timely single!

Norton had 11 hits, two walks and five strike outs in the game.

Leading hitter was Andrew Ellis, who went 3 for 4 with the bat. Mickey Hahn, Lane Bigge and Gavin Lively were each 2 for 4 batting.

Clint Dole started on the mound for Norton but was relieved after the first seven batters by Gavin Lively. Dole gave up one hit, walked five and struck out one batter. Winning pitcher Lively allowed seven hits, walked three and struck out five batters.

### Coach's comments

"We played two very exciting games against Loomis," said Norton head American Legion coach Scott Ellis. "We were fortunate to score two runs to win the first game. Andrew pitched a great game to get the win.

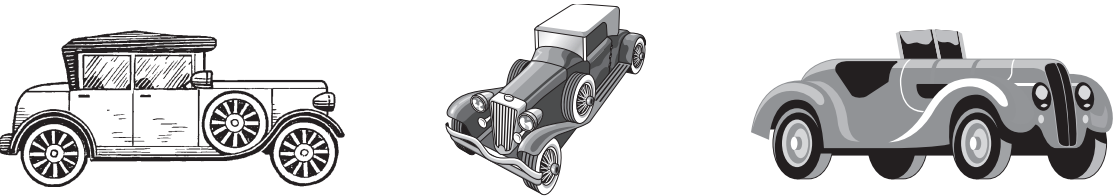
"After giving up five runs in the first inning of the second game, we managed to catchup with good defense and good hitting. Andrew has been swinging a hot bat lately and continued to come up with a big hit.

"Our outfield played fantastic again.

"Gavin pitched a great game to get the win and he had the game winning line drive hit. This boy is a competitor and he really showed it!"

### Next action

Norton will also host Osborne this evening, beginning at 6 p.m.



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