

Norton K-18 beats Atwood

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team won a double header over visiting Atwood on Monday, July 1 at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The young Blue Jays won the opener 12-3 and the nightcap 17-2.

Opener

After holding Atwood scoreless, Norton scored four runs in the bottom of the first inning. Layton Miller got on base on an error, Gavin Lively singled, Collyn Auker reached base on an error, Trenton Wright walked and Will Ellis walked. Miller, Lively, Auker and Wright all scored.

Atwood scored one run in the top of the second, followed by four more runs by Norton in the bottom of the second. Oren Rhea got on base on an error, Jace Ruder, Miller and Lively all singled and Auker tripled, putting Norton ahead 8-1.

Atwood tallied another run in the top of the third and Norton matched it in the bottom of the inning when Justis Posson singled and Ruder tripled him home.

The visitors' final run came in the top of the fourth stanza. Norton added a run in the bottom of the fourth when Auker slammed a triple, Ellis singled and Auker scored.

Norton scored two more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Rhea singled, Ruder doubled and Miller got on base on an error. Rhea and Ruder both scored.

Norton had 12 hits in the game, two walks and one strike out.

Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Jace Ruder, who was 3 for 4; Gavin Lively, who was 2 for 3; Collyn Auker, who was 2 for 3 and Will Ellis, who was also 2 for 3 with the bat.

Trenton Wright pitched for Norton. He allowed eight hits, walked four batters and struck out seven.

Nightcap

Atwood opened the second contest by scoring two runs in the top of the first inning but they were shutout the rest of the way.

Norton scored four runs in the bottom of the inning. Ruder singled, Lively singled, Wright reached base on an error, Ellis walked and Ryan Johnson singled. All except Johnson scored.

In the bottom of the second inning, Norton tallied five more runs. Jesse Courtain walked, Ruder doubled, Miller and Lively both singled, Auker reached base on a fielder's choice and Ellis and Johnson both singled. Courtain, Ruder, Miller, Auker and Ellis all scored.

Norton added eight more runs in the bottom of the third stanza. Colton Greving walked, Ruder, Miller, Lively and Auker all sin-

gled, Wright and Ellis walked, Johnson singled, and Greving walked for the second time in the inning. All scored.

Norton finished with 13 hits, five walks and two strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Ruder, 3 for 4; Miller, 2 for 3, Lively, 3 for 3 and Johnson, 3 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Will Ellis. he allowed four hits, walked one and struck out one batter.

Coach's comments

"Overall, this was by far our best baseball of the year," said Norton K-18 head coach Rick Green.

"Atwood is a very young team and they haven't had a K-18 team for four or five years so they are only going to get better but so will we.

"Our pitchers threw a lot of strikes and, although we didn't play perfect defense, we did make the plays we needed to make. Our team hitting was much improved and we had some guys who hit the ball hard but right at the defenders.

Next action

Norton played makeup games at Goodland on Wednesday and at Atwood on Thursday.

The Norton K-18 also played Oakley in Norton on Monday evening.

Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Let it fly...



The Norton All Stars team won a tournament on June 29 against Phillipsburg, Oberlin and WaKeeney. This team is made up of girls twelve years and younger and they travel to play other teams. Team members are Samantha Mulford, Sylence Auker, Valerie Geringer, Taryn Kuhn, Ashley Karnopp, Jasmine Covington, Hailey Cadwalder, Reagan Musquiz, Tayli Ruesch, Callie Uehlin, Jaida McEwen, MacKenzie Schroeder, Delila Geringer and Abbey Auker. They are coached by Tim Geringer, Dani Ruesch and Noe Musquiz. Tayli Ruesch pitches for the team and she is seen here with Ashley Karnopp in the outfield, on the right and Valerie Geringer on the left, covering third base.

- Courtesy photo

K-18 plays well at Goodland last week

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team traveled to Goodland on Wednesday and won two very well played games.

"Wow! What a double header!" said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"I think those were two of the best games I have witnessed at this level. The first game was scoreless going into the last inning and the second game we got a couple of runs early to get a little breathing room."

Opener

Norton won the first game by a 2-1 score.

Neither team scored until the top of the sixth inning when the young Blue Jays tallied twice and those two runs held up for the win. Gavin Lively was hit by a pitch and advanced, Collyn Auker got on base on a fielder's choice. Trenton Wright singled to drive Lively home and Will Ellis sacrificed as Auker scored.

Goodland scored one run in the bottom of the sixth but it wasn't enough for the home team.

Norton had six hits, three walks and seven strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Jace Ruder, who was 2 for 3 and Jacob Green, who was 2 for 2.

Winning pitcher for Norton was Jacob Green. He allowed just one hit, walked four and struck out 13 batters!

Deeds was the losing pitcher for Goodland.

"Our pitchers were dominant," said coach Green. "Jacob had a great game. Their only hit was in the sixth inning and even it was possibly an error. My outfielder got a glove on it and said he should have caught it. That runner came around to score on an error. Only six runners reached base on Jacob. The game ended on an attempted steal of home plate but Jacob and our catcher Jace Ruder sniffed it out and Jace did a great job of blocking the plate."

Nightcap

In the second game, Norton scored what turned out to be the runs they needed for a victory in the top of the first inning. With two outs, Green and Lively both singled and took advantage of

two Goodland errors to score and take the 2-0 lead.

Goodland added one run in the bottom of the second inning to make it 2-1.

The young Blue Jays added an insurance run in the top of the sixth inning when Green slammed a home run!

Leading hitter for Norton was Green, who was 2 for 3 with the first inning single and home run.

Winning pitcher for Norton was Jace Ruder, who allowed four hits, walked four and struck out 11 batters.

"In the second game, Jace was almost as dominant as Jacob on the mound, allowing only four hits and nine base runners with 11 strike outs. Any time we get pitching like that, we should have a good chance to win ball games.

"Offensively, we weren't as aggressive as I want but found a way to get enough runs for the victories.

"Jacob's home run in the second game gave us a little cushion late in the contest."

Plenty of fireworks by K-18

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team traveled to Atwood on the Fourth of July and started the fireworks a little early with an afternoon double header in which they blanked Atwood 16-0 and 10-0.

"I was proud of our boys since we got back from playing at Goodland around 1 a.m. the night before and played in Atwood at 1 p.m. on the Fourth," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"In the first game, we were aggressive at the plate and pounded 13 hits to score the 16 runs. In the second game, I think we were getting a little tired and it showed but we still were able to get 10 runs."

Opener

Norton opened the first game by scoring four runs in the top of the first inning. Jace Ruder singled, Layton Miller walked, Jacob Green singled, Collyn Auker got on base on a fielder's choice, Trenton Wright walked, Riley Sides doubled and Ross Cole walked. Ruder, Green, Auker and Wright all scored.

Norton scored twice in the top of the second stanza. Miller got on base on an error, Green walked, Auker singled and both Miller and Green crossed home plate.

Norton's best inning was the third when they scored six more runs. Jesse Courtain walked,

Ruder, Miller and Green all singled, Auker and Wright both walked and Will Ellis and Sides both singled. All except Ellis and Sides scored to make the score 12-0.

Norton's final four runs came in the top of the fourth inning. Ruder doubled and Miller, Green and Auker all singled and all four scored.

Norton had 13 hits, seven walks and two strike outs. Leading hitters were Jacob Green, who was 3 for 3; Jace Ruder, who was 3 for 4; Layton Miller, who was 2 for 3; Collyn Auker, who was 2 for 3 and Riley Sides, who was 2 for 3.

Winning pitcher was Jesse Courtain, who pitched three innings. He gave up two hits, walked four and struck out three batters. He was relieved by Riley Sides, who hurled one inning, giving up one hit, walking one and striking out none.

Nightcap

Norton scored just one run in the top of the first inning of the second game. Ruder walked, Miller singled, Green and Auker both walked and Ruder scored.

In the top of the second inning, the young Blue Jays ran five runs across home plate. Colton Greving was hit by a pitch and advanced, Ruder, Miller and Green all singled, Auker walked, Will Ellis singled and Hayden Wiltfong reached base on an error. All except Ellis and Wiltfong scored.

Norton's final four runs came in the top of the third inning. Ruder singled, Green walked, Auker walked, Wright singled, Ellis walked and Wiltfong singled. All except Ellis and Wiltfong scored to make the final score 10-0.

Norton had eight hits, eight walks and four strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Jace Ruder, who was 2 for 3 and Layton Miller, who was 2 for 4 with the bat.

Hayden Wiltfong pitched three innings and was the winning pitcher. He allowed one hit, walked two and struck out six batters. He was relieved by Ross Cole, who allowed no hits, no walks and struck out three batters in one inning.

"Pitching was a pleasant surprise," said coach Green. "I let four different guys throw; none of them had any experience pitching from this distance.

"We only allowed three hits in the first game and one in the second game. I was happiest that we didn't allow a lot of walks even though there wasn't a consistent strike zone all day. "We moved our record to 10-2."

Next action

The Norton K-18 played Oakley here on Monday but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The next action for the young Blue Jays will be Thursday at Atwood, beginning at 6 p.m.

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