

Norton K-18 wins double header Monday

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton K-18 baseball team came from behind to win both games of a double header with Oakley at John Ryan Field on Monday night by scores of 6-5 and 9-8!

"If you didn't happen to be at these games, you missed some exciting baseball," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"I told the boys after the games that I have never been so proud of them, then mad at them and then proud of them again."

Opener

Neither team scored in the first inning of the first game but Oakley ran three runs across home plate in the top of the second. The third and fourth innings were scoreless and Norton also held Oakley scoreless in the top of the fifth.

The young Blue Jays tied the score at 3-3 in the bottom of the fifth. Jace Ruder doubled, Jacob Green singled and Gavin Lively doubled and all three scored.

Oakley jumped back ahead with two runs in the top of the sixth but Norton tied it again with two more runs in the bottom of the inning. Trenton Wright singled, Ryan Johnson walked and Ruder singled and Wright and Johnson both scored.

The winning run for Norton came in the bottom of the seventh inning when Lively doubled and Collyn Auker singled him home!

Norton had 11 hits, four walks and eight strike outs. Leading

hitters for the young Blue Jays were Jace Ruder, who was 3 for 4; Jacob Green, who was 2 for 4; Gavin Lively, who was 2 for 4; Collyn Auker, who was 2 for 3 and Trenton Wright, who was 2 for 3 at the plate.

Winning pitcher was Jace Ruder, who allowed seven hits, three walks and had 12 strike outs.

Nightcap

Norton took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning in the second game. Green and Lively were both hit by a pitch and advanced and Auker doubled them home.

Norton extended their lead to 5-0 with three more runs in the bottom of the second. Ross Cole, Ruder and Layton Miller all walked and Green doubled. All but Green scored.

Neither team scored in the third inning. In the top of the fourth, Oakley scored their first run to make it 5-1. Norton added two more runs in the bottom of the inning. Ruder was hit by a pitch and advanced, Green walked, Lively singled and Ruder and Green both tallied.

To Oakley's credit, they rallied in the top of the fifth inning, scoring five runs to cut the Norton lead to 7-6.

The young Blue Jays were unable to score in the bottom of the inning. The young Plainsmen added two more runs in the top of the sixth inning to lead 8-7. Norton was equal to the occasion, however, and tallied two runs in the bottom of the inning

for the 9-8 win.

Miller walked and Green, Lively and Auker all singled and Green and Lively both scored.

Norton had six hits, 11 walks and eight strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Gavin Lively, who was 2 for 3. Jacob Green, who was 2 for 2 and Collyn Auker, who was 2 for 4.

Trenton Wright was the winning pitcher for Norton. In five innings pitched, he allowed four hits, walked four and struck out seven batters. He was relieved in the final inning by Jacob Green who gave up two hits, walked none and struck out one batter.

Coach's comments

"In the first game, we fell behind early only to tie it in the fifth inning," said coach Green. "Both teams scored in the sixth inning but we were able to hold them in the seventh and win it."

"The second game was one of those that turn coaches either gray or bald. We started out hot and had a six run lead only to see that disappear in the top of the sixth. But, once again, we rallied in the bottom half to steal the win."

"Collyn Auker had a couple of big hits for us when we needed them and Gavin Lively and Jacob Green did a good job of getting on base."

Next action

Norton traveled to Atwood for a double header on Thursday and will host Goodland on Monday at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6 p.m.



Norton's Gavin Lively slides into home as the baseball gets away from the Oakley catcher to score the winning run in the young Blue Jays' 6-5 K-18 win on Monday evening at John Ryan Field. Lively also scored the winning run in the 9-8 nightcap win by Norton!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton American Legion edges Osborne 5-4 for win

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton American Legion baseball team came from behind in the last inning to edge a good Osborne team 5-4 at John Ryan Field on Tuesday evening.

Due to the heat, it was decided to play two five inning games for the double header but the second game was canceled after an inning and a half due to lightning, hail and rain.

Neither team scored in the first inning of the opener but Osborne put two runs on the scoreboard in the top of the second. Norton answered with one run in the bottom of the second when Gavin Lively singled and scored later in the inning.

The Bulldogs added another run in the top of the third and top of the fourth to lead 4-1.

The Blue Jays were unable to score in the bottom of the fourth but held Osborne scoreless in

the top of the fifth stanza.

The bottom of the fifth was do or die for Norton and the Blue Jays came through with a game winning rally! Trevor Lewis gained base on a fielder's choice, Andrew Ellis got on base on an error, Dalton Miller singled, Toby Nickell reached base on a fielder's choice, Lane Bigge walked and Gavin Lively drove in the winning run with a single! Lewis, Ellis, Miller and Nickell all scored for the Blue Jays.

Norton had eight hits, three walks and seven strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Dalton Miller, with a perfect 3 for 3; Andrew Ellis, who was 2 for 3 and Gavin Lively, who was also 2 for 3 with the bat.

Gavin Lively was the winning pitcher for Norton. He hurled the first two innings, was relieved by Jacob Green for two innings and relieved Green for

the final inning. Osborne had eight hits, three walks off Lively and seven strike outs. Green allowed three hits, one walk and struck out two batters.

"We played well enough to win against a very good pitcher, Ubelaker," said Norton head Legion coach Scott Ellis.

"They hit the ball hard each time they batted."

"Toby Nickell played very well at shortstop for us."

"We missed some scoring chances earlier in the game but Gavin Lively got another 'walk off' hit again to win the game!"

Next action

The Norton American Legion will play their final regular season games this Sunday at Cambridge.

The double header contests are scheduled for 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.



Norton second baseman Lane Bigge made a good play during the Blue Jay American Legion's 5-4 win over Osborne on Tuesday night at John Ryan Field. An Osborne runner was trying to steal second but missed the bag with his slide and Bigge alertly tagged him out after taking the throw from catcher Jordan Dole.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Special Olympics heads to Wichita

Hotdogs and hamburgers, the crack of the baseball bat and lining up the putt. The Charles E. Watson Softball and Golf Tournament for Special Olympics Kansas will again be held in Wichita on Aug 2-4. It is expected that more than 400 athletes will participate in this weekend's activities.

Employees of High Touch, Inc., the presenting sponsor, are volunteering their time organizing and coordinating the tournament for the past several months. Tracy Lucas, Executive Assistant, stated "By participating with Special Olympics Kansas, High Touch employees feel like they're making a difference. We've participated with the Special Olympics softball tournament for several years. We've witnessed firsthand the competitiveness and the overall excitement the athletes have for participating in sports. For this reason, High Touch employees and their families have become personally invested in Special Olympics Kansas."

"The efforts and passion displayed by the employees of High Touch contributed im-

mensely to the success of the tournament. We have seen an increase in team participation since the tournament has been held in Wichita. This speaks to the quality of the facilities, logistics and commitment of High Touch and the volunteers and sponsors they help recruit," said Chris Hahn, President/CEO, Special Olympics Kansas.

The golf tournament will begin Friday at 5:30 p.m. It is a 9-hole scramble at Sierra Hills Golf Club. On Saturday and Sunday, athletes will participate in the softball tournament held at the Two Rivers Youth Club (TRYC) Fields. The different competitions include T-ball, coach-pitch and slow-pitch softball. There will be a Home Run Derby beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Individuals and businesses throughout the state are encouraged to support by attending and cheering on the athletes or donating sports drinks or water. For as little as \$50 you can sponsor an athlete for the weekend activities. Contact Lucas at 316.831.8105 or log-on to www.kso.org/charles-e-wat-

son-softball-and-golf for a copy of the brochure and itinerary. Gold sponsors include Bill & Lisa Farris, F. H. Kaysing Company, Hinkle Law Firm, LLC, Personnel Services, Inc., and Star Lumber & Supply.

High Touch is an employee-owned company that provides technology solutions to small and mid-size businesses. Based in Wichita, Kan., High Touch serves business clients with hardware and software services, Web site and Internet services, and network security solutions. For more High Touch information, visit www.hightouchinc.com.

In 1975, Special Olympics Kansas added softball as an official sport. Special Olympics Kansas provides training year-round in 22 sports to 4,232 athletes in Kansas. The organization also provides health and nutrition programs and leadership development. SOKS is dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society.

★ CONGRATULATIONS! ★

Norton All-Stars Win Tournament

★Oberlin 18-6 ★Phillipsburg 15-8 ★Trego/WaKeeney 8-2



Pictured are, front row, left to right: Mackenzie Schroeder, Delila Geringer; second row: Coach Tim Geringer, Reagan Musquiz, Tayli Ruesch, Callie Uehlin, Jaida McEwen, Abbey Auker, Coach Noe Musquiz; back row: Samantha Mulford, Sylence Auker, Valerie Geringer, Taryn Kuhn, Ashley Karnopp, Jasmine Covington, Hayley Cadwalader. Not pictured: Coach Dani Hartwell.

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