

# Norton athlete to play in Shrine Bowl

By DICK BOYD

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Jacob Brooks, a 6'3", 190 pound 2013 graduate of Norton Community High School, will be a member of the West team in the 40th annual Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game, which will be played this Saturday, July 27 at Yager Stadium on the Washburn University campus in Topeka.

Kickoff will be at 7 p.m. but several other events will precede the game.

## Shrine Bowl Parade

The annual Shrine Bowl Parade, the largest Shrine Parade in Kansas, will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday. It will run some 13 blocks in downtown Topeka and will feature Shrine parade units from across Kansas, the players and coaches and the All-State Masonic Band, comprised of up to 200 of the state's best high school musicians. The band will also perform during pre-game and at halftime of the Shrine Bowl game.

## Combine

The pro-style high school combine will be conducted on Saturday at Yager Stadium. It is an opportunity for high school football players to have their skills evaluated in a pro-style environment.

Featured at the combine will be Mark Simoneau, former Smith Center, Kansas State and NFL star player. His company, Simoneau Sports Performance, based in Overland Park, will conduct the combine, which will be sponsored by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"We'll put the athletes through a battery of tests," said

Simoneau. "The tests will include 40-yard dash, broad jump and vertical jump. It gives us a baseline to compare different athletes and their abilities athletically."

The data will go out to college coaches around the state.

Applications for the combine are still being accepted. Detailed information and application forms can be found on the Kansas Shrine Bowl web site [www.kansasshrinebowl.com](http://www.kansasshrinebowl.com).

## Motorcycle Bike Show

For the second year in a row, the Kansas Shrine Bowl Motorcycle Bike Show will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Topeka Harley Davidson, just a few blocks from Washburn University. It will include trophies in each bike class with awards to be presented at halftime. The event is open to anyone. Details are on the Shrine web site.

## All-Star

### Cross Country Run

For the sixth straight year, 60 of the best Kansas cross-country runners will compete for medals and perform part of their race before the large crowd and a state-wide television audience.

It will feature 15 women and 15 men from the East and 15 women and 15 men from the West. The runners were selected based on race records and coaches' recommendations. They'll run a course around and through the Washburn University campus in Topeka just prior to the game. The plan is to finish the race as part of the televised pre-game show.

Members of the public are also invited to run the two-mile course. Their race will be timed

separately from the regular runners and medals will be awarded for both men and women runners in several age categories. Registration can be made by calling the Shrine Bowl office at 785-530-5524. The race will start south of the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Game day registration starts at 6 p.m. at the course starting line.

## One of top players

Jacob Brooks is one of the top football players in the state of Kansas.

He was a four-year letterman for coach Lucas Melvin's Blue Jay grid squad. He was a running back, wide receiver, defensive back, punter and kick returner. He was a first team All-Mid-Continent League choice by vote of league coaches and was also chosen to the Class 3A All-State Team selected by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

He was also named to the All-Area Super 11 by the Hays Daily News.

As the Norton tailback, Jacob gained 1,162 yards and scored 11 rushing touchdowns this past season. He averaged 6.2 yards per carry and also caught 10 passes for 306 yards and four touchdowns.

He was also a four-year letterman in basketball where he was a first team All-Mid-Continent League choice and was the leading scorer for the team.

A four-year letterman in track, Jacob was a sprinter and high jumper and a consistent finisher in the State Track Meet.

He was the high point performer for the third year in a row for the Norton track and

field team.

In the past, he has been a solid member of the Norton American Legion baseball team.

Jacob will continue his football career this fall when he plays for Hutchinson Community College.

Jacob is the son of Jennifer and Jamie Wildeman and David Brooks.

## Coach's comments

"We are very proud of Jacob Brooks and his selection to play in the Kansas Shrine Bowl," said Norton Community High School head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"It is a great honor, not only for Jacob, but for the Norton Blue Jay Football Family, the school and the whole community."

"The Shrine Bowl is one of the finest All-Star games anywhere. It is played for a great purpose."

"We pray that Jacob has a great experience, does well in the game and continues to do well on into college."

## Other area players

Also among the players in Saturday's game for the West squad will be Sean Newlan, Phillipsburg; Bradey Chard, Plainville; Stanten Krone, Beloit and David Cardinal, Hays.

Chard will also be a teammate of Jacob's at Hutchinson Community College.

The 34 West players reported for their training camp at St. John's Military School in Salina last Friday and are practicing twice a day, mostly at Salina Stadium.

The West leads the series and has won the last seven games.

The West's winning streak started with a 10-9 victory in 2006 and continued last year with a 14-7 decision in Emporia. The East has won all four previous games in Topeka.

Head coach for the West team is Ryan Cornelsen of Hays, who will be coaching in his third Kansas Shrine Bowl. His assistant coaches will be Steve Martin, Wichita Northwest; Mike Lee, Andover; Dave Fennwald, Mulvane; Brad McCormick, Garden Plain and Matt Hendricks, Sterling.

Shrine Bowl benefits Hospitals

All Shrine Bowl events are produced and presented to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children, a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals.

Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star has generated millions of dollars profit, all of which has been used for free treatment and/or transportation of Kansas children to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The Shrine Bowl is the principal hospital fund-raising project for all five Kansas Shrine organizations. It is estimated that Shrine Bowl receipts are 70 percent general public funds and 30 percent Shrine dollars.

Hundreds of Shrine volunteers, ladies of Shriners and

community volunteers help make the Kansas Shrine Bowl one of the top high school all-star games in the nation.

Escalating travel costs have kept the Shrine Bowl players from visiting the nearest Shriners Hospital in St. Louis the last few years but they still get a feel for it with organizers bringing part of the hospital to them at the game site.

## Call for tickets

Advance tickets and additional information can be obtained by calling 1-800-530-5524 or checking the web site [www.kansasshrinebowl.com](http://www.kansasshrinebowl.com).

You can also make a donation pledge to Shriners Hospitals for Children by calling the phone number or checking the web site.

## Former Norton players

Jacob Brooks is the 25th Norton Community High School football player to have the honor of playing in the Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game.

Others were: John Horesky, 1977; Amos Donaldson, 1978; Dan Pfannenstiel, 1981; John Tacha, 1983; Kelly Barnard, 1983; Stan Wahlmeier, 1984; J.D. Hand, 1986; John Paul Jimenez, 1986; Jerry Sonntag, 1987; James Allen, 1988; Todd Sumner, 1989; Kendall Hahn, 1990; Scott Bohl, 1990; Dustin McEwen, 1991; Mark Wahlmeier, 1991; Justin Bratt, 1992; Jeremy Hawks, 1993; Ryan Manning, 1994; Jeff Boyle, 1997; Jesse Williams, 1997; Neal Philpot, 2000; Terry Petrie, 2003; Zach Dreher, 2009; Terrell Lane, 2011.

# Norton K-18 out in first round of Regional in Colby

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team's chance to compete again this season in the K-18 State Tournament in Lucas ended with a hard-fought 5-2 loss to Oakley in the opening round of the West Regional Tournament on Saturday in Colby.

Statistics in the game were very close but the score is all that counts. Norton had six hits compared to five by Oakley. Norton had four walks and Oakley had five. The young Blue Jays had six strike outs and the young Plainsmen struck out seven times.

Norton was chosen as the visiting team and batted first. In the top of the first, Norton scored one run when Jacob Green was hit by a pitcher and advanced

and scored on a triple by Gavin Lively!

Oakley took a slim 2-1 lead in the bottom of the first and added another run in the bottom of the third to pad the advantage to 3-1.

Although, Norton had runners on base in the second and third innings, they were unable to score.

After going three up, three down in the top of the fourth stanza, the young Blue Jays scored another run in the top of the fifth to make it a 3-2 ball game. Jace Ruder singled, Jacob Green singled and Ruder scored.

Oakley was three up, three down in the bottom of the fifth but Norton got players on base in both the top of the sixth and seventh inning but none were able to cross home plate.



Jace Ruder crosses home plate to score a run for the Norton K-18 after Jacob Green singled in the top of the fifth to cut the Oakley lead to 3-2.

The young Plainsmen added two insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth inning to make the final 5-2.

Norton had six hits, four walks and six strike outs. Winning pitcher for Oakley was Clay Schwarz.

Leading hitters for Norton were Jacob Green, who was 2 for 3 with the bat and Jace Ruder, who was 2 for 4.

Jacob Green pitched the first four innings and was the losing pitcher. He gave up four hits, walked four and struck out three batters. He was relieved for the final two innings by Jace Ruder. He allowed just one hit, walked one and struck out four batters.

The season ended for Norton with a 12-9 record.

Out of eight teams in the tournament, the top four qualified

for the State Tournament this weekend in Lucas.

## Coach's comments

"We played under extraordinary circumstances, considering that we were scheduled to play at 9 a.m. but didn't start until after 2:30 p.m. because of the muddy field due to their heavy rain the night before," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"Then, we had a blown call in the first inning that gave them an extra run and some momentum."

"I was really proud that our boys didn't hang their heads and give up. We fought until the final out and hit the ball hard

but just weren't able to get that timely hit to turn the momentum in our favor."

"I am already excited for next season because we only lose three players from this year's team. We will miss Gavin Lively and Layton Miller for their contributions but wish them well next year with the Legion team."

"On the plus side, we will get a healthy Josh VanLaeyes back for next season along with the experience the younger players received this year so I look forward to a great season!"

# Blue Jay K-18 team defeated by Goodland

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team lost a close game and a not-so-close contest to a visiting Goodland nine on Monday, July 15 at John Ryan Field in Norton.

## Opener

Norton lost the first game by a 3-1 score. Norton held a 1-0 lead after the bottom of the first inning when pitcher John Ruder doubled and was driven in later in the inning.

That was all the scoring for the young Blue Jays in the

game, however, as Goodland tallied one run in the top of the second to tie the score and won it with two more in the top of the sixth.

Norton had just two hits, three walks and eight strike outs. Trenton Wright singled in the fifth inning and made it around the bases to third but was unable to score.

Losing pitcher for Norton was Jace Ruder who allowed only six hits, struck out 10 batters and walked just two.

Winning pitcher was L. Avila.

"We had our chances but weren't able to get the timely hit we needed," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"Jace pitched great but gave up a walk and hit a batter to lead off the sixth inning and they both came around to score."

## Second game

The statistics tell the story in the nightcap where Norton had just one hit, four walks and 12 strike outs.

Goodland recorded 11 hits, six walks and four strike outs in the 13-0 win. Norton's only hit was a single by Collyn Auker in

the fourth stanza.

The young Cowboys scored one run in the top of the first inning, four in the top of the second, seven in the top of the third and one in the top of the fourth.

Norton had three pitchers. Trenton Wright pitched for one and one third innings, Will Ellis hurled for one inning and Ross Cole was on the mound for one and two thirds innings.

"The game was never close," said coach Green. "The Smith boy threw a great game against us. He is, by far, the best pitcher we've seen."

plays.

"This isn't the way I wanted to head into the regional tournament but it is what it is. I do feel confident that we will bounce back and have a good tournament."

## Opener

Norton had no hits against Colby in the first contest.

Colby scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning, two more in the second and 11 runs in the third inning.

The young Blue Jays had three walks and only two strike outs in the game.

Colby had 12 hits, seven

walks and three strike outs.

Jacob Green was the losing pitcher for Norton. He hurled two innings and was relieved by Will Ellis. Colby had 12 hits, seven walks and three strike outs.

B. Matchell was the winning pitcher for Colby.

## Second game

Again in the second contest, Norton had no hits.

The young Blue Jays' only run came in the top of the first inning when Jacob Green and Collyn Auker both walked and Green scored later in the inning.

## Legion in Zone Tourney

The Norton American Legion baseball team will play Ulysses on Wednesday at 4 p.m. in Goodland in the first game of the Zone Tournament.

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**Saturday, July 27**  
Start Times: Pit Opens - 4:00 p.m.  
Grand Stands - 5:00 p.m.; Hot Laps - 6:00 p.m.  
Races - 7 p.m.  
Admission: Adults-\$10; 13 & Under Free with Paid Adult

**Sunday, July 28**  
Start Times: Pit Opens - 3:00 p.m.  
Grand Stands - 4:00 p.m.; Hot Laps - 5:00 p.m.  
Races - 6:00 p.m.  
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