

Norton Blue Jays lose to Goodland Cowboys

By DICK BOYD

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The inexperienced Norton Community High School football team got their second game of the 2013 season under their belts on Friday night in Norton but they were not up to the challenge of the visiting Goodland team, which won 30-7.

Statistics tell the story as the Cowboys passed for 300 yards and ran for 75 yards compared to Norton's 65 yards rushing and 11 yards passing.

"Our pass rush was not good enough and our defensive backs were also lacking," said a disappointed Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "We have to find guys who want to play harder plus we were making mistakes we shouldn't be making."

"We need to be more disciplined. Hopefully, we will continue to work hard, get more physical and get better."

On this Friday, the 13th night, the Blue Jays had no luck from the start. Goodland kicked off and Norton fumbled the ball away on the Norton 42-yard line. It took Goodland just a few minutes to score on a 31-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Trey Teeter to senior running back Dax Ruhs. Teeter passed to Ruhs for two extra points and Norton trailed 8-0 with 10:24 left in the first quarter.

With senior running back Tanner Furbush gaining most of the yards, Norton moved the ball for three first downs after the kick off. Then, suddenly success turned to failure as the Blue Jays went to a passing game. Junior quarterback Kendall Miller was sacked twice and replaced by sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole, who was also sacked as he went back to pass.

Senior kicker Austin Hager, who averaged over 32 yards on 4 punts in the game, booted the

ball to the Goodland 37. The Norton defense held on three downs and the Cowboys punted to the Norton 42 but the Blue Jays also went three and out. Hager punted to the Goodland 19. With the help of a roughing the passer penalty on Norton, Goodland moved to the Norton 33 as the first quarter expired with the visitors on top by just 8-0.

The Norton defense gave ground grudgingly but the Cowboys moved within field goal range and quarterback Teeter kicked a 21 yard field got to make it 11-0 with 8:11 left in the first half.

After the kickoff, Norton earned one first down on an 8-yard run by Furbush before Hager punted to the Goodland 40. With Teeter completing pass after pass, Goodland scored again. Ruhs plunged 1 yard for the touchdown and Teeter passed to junior wide receiver Kolt Trachsel for 2 extra points and a 19-0 advantage with 1:13 left in the half.

After the kickoff, Norton drove as far as the Goodland 28 before time expired.

Hager kicked off for Norton to start the second half. After two first downs, Goodland punted but the Blue Jays were three-and-out and punted back to the Cowboys on their 44. With Teeter completing passes, Goodland moved downfield and close enough for another field goal try. This time Teeter kicked one from the 27 yard line to extend their lead to 22-0 with 3:46 left.

After the kickoff, the fumble reared its ugly head again and Goodland got the ball on the Norton 49. The quarter ended with the Cowboys threatening again.

The fourth quarter had just started when Teeter passed seven yards to senior wide receiver

Adam Simmerman for their final touchdown. Teeter ran for two extra points, making it 30-0 with 11:56 still remaining.

After the kickoff, Norton earned two first downs before punting. A personal foul against the Cowboys moved the ball back to their 4-yard-line. The Norton defense held, forcing a punt but the punter bobbled the ball and was tackled by a gang of Blue Jays on their 13. A penalty on Goodland moved the pignskin closer to the goal line and Dole's five yard touchdown run put the Blue Jays on the scoreboard with only 5:03 remaining. Hager split the up-rights with the extra point kick and it was 30-7.

Goodland fumbled the ball away after the kickoff and Norton got the ball back but ran out of time before being able to score again.

Starting lineup

Norton started the following players on offense: freshman Jacob Green, left tackle; junior Stewart Whitney, left guard; senior Cole Renner, center; senior Kolt Harting, right guard; junior Breven Sondergaard, right tackle; junior Mickey Hahn, tight end; senior Drew Schrum and junior Kobie Unterseher, wide receivers; junior Kendall Miller, quarterback; senior Toby Nickell and senior Tanner Furbush, running backs.

Starting on defense were: sophomore Jordan Dole, left end; Harting, Whitney, Sondergaard, interior linemen; Renner, right end; Nickell, Hahn, linebackers; Unterseher, senior Austin Hager, sophomore Gavin Lively, Furbush, defensive backs.

Individual statistics

Tanner Furbush was leading ground gainer for Norton with 47 yards on 19 carries for a 2.5 yard average. Other ball carriers were Kendall Miller, 1 net



Norton's junior quarterback Kendall Miller finds running room on a keeper play during the Blue Jays game with Goodland at Travis Field on Friday night.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

yard on 8 possessions due to 28 yards in losses; Jordan Dole, 6 net yards on 6 carries; Toby Nickell, 4 yards on 2 attempts; Austin Hager, 1 yard on 3 tries; Jared Tallent, 2 yards on 1 carry.

Miller completed Norton's only pass for 11 yards. Furbush was the receiver.

Hager punted 4 times for a 32.8 yard average and kicked off 2 times for a 36 yard average.

Nickell recovered one fumble.

Kickoff returns were: Mickey Hahn, 1 for 16 yards; Furbush, 1 for 22 yards; Gavin Lively, 1 for 28 yards; Jared Tallent, 1 for 4 yards and Christian Boser, 1

for 11 yards.

Teeter completed 25 of 39 passes for 300 yards for Goodland. Ruhs caught 10 passes for 183 yards and Simmerman grabbed 10 passes for 96 yards.

Tackles

Toby Nickell and Gavin Lively were leading tacklers for Norton, each with 5 solos, 4 assists, 9 total. They were followed by Mickey Hahn, 6 solos, 2 assists, 8 total; Tanner Furbush, 5 solos, 1 assist, 6 total; Kolt Harting, 2 solos, 3 assists, 5 total; Jared Tallent, 1 solo, 4 assists, 5 total; Jordan Dole, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Austin Hager, 4 solos; Trever Lewis, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Jacob Green, 3 solos; Cole

Renner, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Ethan Ross, 2 solos; Breven Sondergaard, 2 solos; Kobie Unterseher, 2 solos; Cody Temmel, 1 solo.

Next action

Norton will return this Friday night when they travel to Plainville for a 7 p.m. contest.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Goodland
9	15
65	75
11	300
76	375
1-5-0	25-39-0
2-4	1-1
4-32.8	2-23
8-66.5	14-97

Lady Jays play best matches of the season in Stockton

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Christine Thompson's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team played their best volleyball of the season on Tuesday, Sept. 10 in Stockton when they defeated Stockton and Osborne and lost a close match to No.7 state ranked Phillipsburg.

"Stockton and Osborne were very scrappy teams, which made it difficult to dominate them. Even though we were making mental errors, which cost us points, our girls stayed calm and collected and didn't let it bother them."

"The Phillipsburg match was the best match we played all night. Even though the scores probably do not reflect it, we played very well and made Phillipsburg work for the win."

"I was a little concerned before we started the match because Phillipsburg has some strong hitters with experience and we are still working on put-

ting up good blocks and working on our defense. Our girls did well on getting their hands on Phillipsburg's attacks and made them work harder at the net.

"Our coaches and girls felt very confident with our varsity's play for the night and feel like we are taking the correct steps to having a more successful season."

Stockton

Norton defeated Stockton 25-14, 16-25, 25-22.

Freshman Baylee Miller and senior Johnnye Ruder each had 2 serving aces, followed by senior Bailey Ambrosier, junior Adrienne Hager, freshman Caitlyn Cox, 1 each. Ruder led in setting assists with 25; Miller had 1.

Kills leader was junior Katie Bohl with 9, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, sophomore Casey Ambrosier, 7 each; Cox, 6; Ruder, 2; sophomore Peyton Renner, 1.

Bohl and Bailey Ambrosier each had 6 digs, followed by Cox, 4; Miller, 3; Hager, 2;

Ruder, 1.

Casey Ambrosier and Renner each had 1 block.

Osborne

Norton defeated Osborne in two games, 25-22, 25-23.

Hager had 3 serving aces and Ruder had 26 setting assists.

Bohl was kills leader with 10, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 7; Cox, 7; Ruder, 3; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Miller, 1; Renner, 1. Miller and Bailey Ambrosier each had 4 digs, Cox had 3 and Hager and Bohl each had 2. Casey Ambrosier had 2 blocks and Bailey Ambrosier and Renner each had 1 block.

Phillipsburg

Norton lost to Phillipsburg 18-25, 13-25

Bohl and Miller each had 1 serving assist. Ruder had 11 setting assists and Miller had 1. Cox led in kills with 5, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Bohl, 2; Hager, Casey Ambrosier, Miller, Renner, 1 each.

Digs leaders were Cox and Bohl, each with 3, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, Ruder,

Hager, 2 each; Miller, Renner, 1 each. Bohl had 2 blocks and Bailey Ambrosier had 1.

Junior varsity matches

The Norton junior varsity volleyball team defeated Stockton 25-17, 25-11, outscored Osborne 25-15, 15-25, 16-14 but lost to Phillipsburg 17-25, 8-25.

"Our girls started the evening on a positive note, winning our first two matches to improve our record to three wins for the season," said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"Unfortunately, weariness set in against Phillipsburg and we were not able to take home three wins. Serve receive and missed serves continue to plague our team and we will continue to work to improve throughout the season. We hope to have a great tournament in Quinter on Saturday."

Stockton

In set one, Cayanna Campbell served 9 points; Lexi Hartwell, 2 points; Miah Melvin, 2 points, 2 aces; Erin Archer, 1 point; Nickala O'Hare, 1 point; Hanna

Brooks had 2 kills; O'Hare, 2 kills; Lauren Mordecai, 1 kill; Brooks, 2 assists; Lexi Hartwell, 2 assists; O'Hare, 1 assist.

In set two, Melvin had 10 serving points, 5 aces; Archer, 4 points, 1 ace; O'Hare, 4 points; Brooks, 1 point, 1 ace; Mordecai had 2 kills, Brooks, 1 kill; Hartwell had 1 assist; O'Hare had 1 dig.

Osborne

In set one, Brooks had 5 serving points, 1 ace; Melvin, 4 points, 1 ace; Archer, 4 points; Hartwell, 3 points; Campbell, 2 points, 1 ace; Mordecai had 2 kills; Brooks, 1 kill; Hartwell had 1 assist; O'Hare had 1 dig.

In set two, Melvin had 4 serving points, 2 aces; O'Hare, 1 point, 1 ace; Archer, 1 point; Mordecai had 1 block.

In set three, Brooks had 4 serving points, 1 ace; Melvin, 2 points, 1 ace; Archer, 2 points, 1 ace; Hartwell, 1 point; Mordecai had 3 kills; Brooks had 2 kills; Hartwell had 4 assists; Brooks, 1 assist; Brooks, 1 dig.

Phillipsburg

In set one, Brooks had 2 serving points, 1 ace; Campbell, 2 points; Archer, 1 point; Brooks had 2 kills; O'Hare, 1 kill; Hartwell had 2 assists; Brooks, 1 assist; Melvin had 2 digs; Archer, 2; O'Hare, 2.

In set two, Hartwell had 1 serving point; Brooks had 1 kill; Mordecai, 1 kill; Brooks, 1 assist; Hartwell, 1 assist.

Next action

Next action for the Norton varsity will be on Thursday, versus Goodland and Dundy County, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in Norton.

Varsity matches will be in the Stull Gym. Norton will play Goodland, followed by Goodland vs. Dundy County and Norton vs. Dundy County.

The junior varsity contests will be played in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and the same schedule of matches will be followed.

Norton cross country teams run well at Wamego Invitational

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls cross country team won the championship for the fourth year in a row and the NCHS boys cross country team placed eighth in the tough annual Wamego Invitational on Saturday in Wamego.

The Norton boys, running this time without two of their top runners, were fourth last year and runner-up the two previous years.

GIRLS

The Norton girls won the championship with 60 points, followed by Lenexa-Christ Prep, 64; Easton-Pleasant Ridge, 89; Sabetha, 124; Holcomb, 155; Thomas More Preparatory of Hays, 156; Silver Lake, 184; Riley County, 194; Lawrence-Bishop Seabury, 247;

Scandia, 257. There were 12 total teams and 107 runners. The top 40 places medaled.

"I can't say enough about how well our girls ran today!" said Norton head coach George Rossi. "We ran against very good competition today and our girls showed awesome competitive spirit."

"Sierra Griffith was the first Blue Jay lady to finish second at the Wamego Invitational. Our girls had a terrific start with all of them in a tight pack coming up the first hill and still tight down the big hill they call Big Bertha."

"Most of our gains were made going up hills, which is something we still really need to improve. We also need to improve our 1-5 split time with today being 2:07 whereas last year it was only 47 seconds. Winning this

race is difficult in itself but winning it four years in a row says a great deal about how hard this group of seniors, Darcy, Katelyn and Marisa, have worked and how they have led by example.

"We need to use this race as a springboard for our future races, which are going to be very competitive this year as there are many teams loaded with talent."

Norton junior Sierra Griffith hit the finish line in second place with a time of 16:48, followed by senior Darcy Bainter, 17:34, 11th; senior Katelyn Engelbert, 17:42, 15th; sophomore Molly Maddy, 18:07, 17th and senior Marisa Maddy, 18:54, 30th, to complete Norton's five-girl team.

Also running for the Lady Jays and their times and places were: sophomore Raenee Pat-

terson, 19:03, 33rd and junior Burgundy Sorter, 19:58, 49th.

The top five runners in the race were: Emily Sechrist, Hillsboro, 15:42, first; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 16:48, second; Sophie Dalmasso, Rossville, 16:50, third; Sarena Meier, Scandia, 16:52, fourth; Kate Albrecht, Lawrence-Bishop Seabury, 17:04, fifth.

BOYS

Lenexa-Christ Preparatory won the boys championship with 38 points, followed by Thomas More Prep of Hays, 138; Silver Lake, 142; ; Sabetha, 153; Riley County, 153; Belleville, 164; Easton Pleasant Ridge, 202; Norton, 209; Wellsville, 210; Holcomb, 214.

There were 15 boys teams and 130 runners. The top 40 individuals medaled.

"Our boys ran a good race,"

said coach Rossi. "Freshman Nate Hartwell finished 15th in his first ever Wamego Invitational and ran a very smart race. Marc Miller and Dalton Vanover also medaled."

"Our overall place is not what we were looking for even being without Alec Hager and Brendon Frack again but this is giving Weston Erbert, Keith Sander and Garret Otter good experience running tough courses."

"Our boys need to remain focused on our ultimate goal and stay patient and keep working hard in practice every day. We very much need to get our boys healthy so we can be at full strength down the road."

Freshman Nate Hartwell was fastest runner for the Norton boys, finishing in 15th place with a time of 18:57. He out-sprinted his senior teammate

Marc Miller, who placed 16th in 18:58. Next across the finish line for the Blue Jays was junior Dalton Vanover with a 19:55 for 38th. He was followed by senior Keith Sander, 22:09 for 95th and sophomore Weston Erbert, 22:36 for 99th. Senior Garret Otter also ran for Norton and was timed in 22:57 for 107th.

The top five runners in the race were: Caden Callaway, Scandia, 16:37, first; Tony Weber, Easton Pleasant Ridge, 17:09, second; Blake Dodson, Riley County, 17:20, third; Kenneth Froebe, Lenexa-Christ Preparatory, 17:35, fourth; Adam Koch, Frankfort, 17:50, fifth.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys cross country runners will compete in the Hays Invitational on Thursday in Hays starting at 3:45 p.m.