

# Thunder wins and loses doubleheaders

By DICK BOYD

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)  
The Norton Thunder girls softball team lost a doubleheader at Beloit on Thursday, July 3 but won a doubleheader with Atwood in Norton on Tuesday, July 8.

## Beloit

The Thunder was shutout 10-0 in their opener with Beloit. The Beloit girls scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning, five runs in the bottom of the fourth and three more in the bottom of the fifth.

The Thunder had only one hit, a double by Kim Bradshaw in the first inning. They also had 1 walk and 6 strike outs.

Genna Randel was the Norton pitcher. She allowed 6 hits, walked 5 and struck out 6 batters.

The second game was closer but the Thunder still lost 5-2. The Thunder scored one run in the top of the first inning when Bradshaw singled, Amanda Kessler was hit by a pitch and advanced, Grace Randel singled, Ashley Hildebrand singled and Bradshaw scored.

Beloit scored three runs in the bottom of the first to lead 3-1 and added two more in the bottom of the third to make it 5-1.

The Thunder's final run came in the top of the fourth

inning when Samantha Mulford walked, Genna Randel walked and Kailey Gill walked and Mulford scored to make the final 5-2.

The Thunder had 4 hits, 9 walks and 8 strike outs.

Bradshaw was leading hitter for Norton with 2 hits in 3 times at bat.

Kirstin Georgeson was the Norton pitcher. She allowed 3 hits, walked 1 and struck out 4 batters.

"Beloit is coming off a 17-3 high school season so they are by far the toughest team on our regular season schedule," said Norton head coach Brandon Gay.

"We were a little short-handed and didn't play well defensively in the first game. But, we feel pretty good about our effort in the second game. We put the tying run on base in each of the last two innings but just couldn't come up with a timely hit."

## Atwood

The Norton Thunder finally got to play at home and defeated Atwood 6-1 and 16-1 on Tuesday, July 8 at Blue Jay Park.

Neither team scored in the first inning of the opener and Atwood was also scoreless in the top of the second. In the bottom of the inning, the Thunder



The Norton Thunder's Sabre Plante slides into the home plate to score as the Atwood pitcher waits for a throw from her catcher after a passed ball during the Thunder's doubleheader win at Blue Jay Park on Tuesday, July 8.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

scored two runs. Bradshaw singled, Sabre Plante singled, Grace Randel singled, Hildebrand singled, Samantha Mulford walked, Genna Randel walked and Plante and Randel both scored to take a

2-0 lead.

Atwood scored their only run in the top of the third inning. The Thunder also scored one run in the bottom of the inning when Neysa Carlson walked, Tara Brachtenbach singled, Shauna Gibson walked, Kirstin Georgeson walked and Carlson scored.

The Thunder scored three final runs in the bottom of the fourth inning. Plante walked, Grace Randel walked, Hildebrand singled and Samantha Mulford walked and Plante scored.

The Thunder had 6 hits, 8 walks and 3 strike outs. Hildebrand, who went 2 for 2 with the bat, was the Thunder's leading hitter.

Kirstin Georgeson was the winning pitcher. She allowed just 2 hits, walked 5 and struck out 6 batters.

The Thunder only had four hits in the nightcap but 14 walks helped them score in the 16-1 win.

Atwood's only run came in the top of the first inning. The Thunder tallied eight runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Brachtenbach singled, Gibson walked, Georgeson walked, Bradshaw singled, Kessler walked, Grace Randel singled, Hildebrand singled, Samantha

Mulford walked and all scored.

The Thunder ran eight more runs across home plate in the bottom of the second stanza. Carlson, Brachtenbach and Gibson all walked, Georgeson was hit by a pitch and advanced, Bradshaw walked, Kessler walked, Plante walked, Hildebrand walked, Mulford walked and Genna Randel was hit by a pitch and advanced. All except Mulford and Randel scored.

Brachtenbach, Bradshaw, Grace Randel and Hildebrand each had one hit for the Thunder.

Genna Randel was the winning pitcher, allowing only 1 hit, walking 2 and striking out 5 batters.

"It was great to finally play at home," said Norton head coach Brandon Gay. "We had most of our team together and, all around, we played really well."

"It's been a frustrating season with rainouts and cancellations but we have a great group of girls and I'm proud of them."

## Next action

The Norton Thunder will play at home again this evening when they host Osborne at Blue Jay Park, beginning at 7 p.m.

# Norton K-18 baseball team continues winning streak

By DICK BOYD

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)  
The Norton K-18 baseball team's winning streak continued on Monday, July 7 when they beat Hill City in a doubleheader at John Ryan Field in Norton.

The Blue Jays won the first game by a score of 12-4 and shutout the visitors 10-0 in the second contest.

## Opener

Hill City scored one run in the top of the first inning and Norton answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Josh VanLaeys blasted an inside-the-park home run and Jacob Green tripled and also scored.

The visitors also scored one run in the top of the second inning but Norton responded with two more in the bottom of the inning. Will Ellis doubled, Hayden Wiltfong singled and Ross Cole got on base on an error. Ellis and Wiltfong both scored.

Hill City went scoreless in the top of the third and Norton added two more runs in the bottom of the inning to lead 6-2.

Hill City ran two more runs across home plate in the top of the fourth. Norton extended their

lead to 10-2 with four more runs in the bottom of the fourth. Ryan Johnson got on base on an error, Cole singled, Braden Smith walked, Ruder singled, VanLaeys was hit by a pitch and advanced and Green got on base on a fielder's choice. Johnson, Cole, Smith and Ruder all scored.

Hill City was three up, three down in the top of the fifth. Norton added two more runs in the bottom of the inning when Ellis singled, Wiltfong walked, Johnson was hit by a pitch and advanced, Cole got on base on a fielder's choice and Smith singled. Ellis and Wiltfong both scored.

Norton had 10 hits, 5 walks and 3 strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were VanLaeys, 2 for 2; Green, 2 for 3; Ellis, 2 for 2.

Will Ellis was the winning pitcher. He allowed just 3 hits, walked 9 and struck out 7 batters.

## Nightcap

Norton scored one run in the bottom of the first inning when Green and Auker both singled and Green scored.

Norton's second two runs came in the bottom of the sec-



Norton K-18 pitcher Collyn Auker grimaces as he fires the baseball toward the plate during Norton's doubleheader win over Hill City on Monday, July 7 at John Ryan Field in Norton. Auker pitched a 10-0 shut out in the second contest and was also a perfect 3 for 3 batting.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# K-18 baseball team wins in Colby Wildcats' Klein to host football camp

By DICK BOYD

The Norton K-18 baseball team traveled to Colby on Thursday, June 26 and returned with two victories over Colby No.2.

The young Blue Jays won by scores of 15-7 and 15-0.

## Opener

Norton tallied five runs in the top of the first inning when Josh VanLaeys singled, Jacob Green singled, Collyn Auker got on base on an error, Will Ellis walked, Jace Ruder singled, Hayden Wiltfong singled and all except Wiltfong scored.

Colby responded with six runs of their own in the bottom of the inning to take a 6-5 lead. It was slim pickings for the home team after that as they scored only one more run in the bottom of the fourth inning on just three more hits the rest of the game.

Norton scored three more runs in the top of the third inning to take the lead for good. Green doubled, Trenton Wright got on base on an error, Ellis singled and Wiltfong singled and all except Wiltfong scored.

The young Blue Jays added another score in the top of the fourth inning when Riley Sides and VanLaeys both singled and Sides tallied.

Norton scored four more times in the top of the fifth inning. Wright singled, Ellis singled, Ruder was hit by a pitch and advanced, Wiltfong got on base on a fielder's choice, Ryan Lively got on base on a

fielder's choice, Sides singled and VanLaeys singled. Wright, Ruder, Wiltfong and Lively all scored.

Norton finished with two more runs in the top of the sixth inning. Auker walked, Wright singled, Ruder got on base on an error, Wiltfong singled and Auker and Wright both scored to make the final 15-7.

Norton had 16 hits, 4 walks and 6 strike outs. Leading hitters were VanLaeys, 3 for 4; Sides, 2 for 4; Green, 2 for 4; Wright, 2 for 4; Ellis, 2 for 3 and Wiltfong, 3 for 4.

Riley Sides pitched three innings, allowing 3 hits, walking 5 and striking out 5 batters. Hayden Wiltfong relieved him for three innings. He gave up 3 hits, walked none and struck out 6 batters.

"The game was a lot closer than it should have been," said Norton K-18 head coach Rick Green. "Defensively, we didn't play too well, making three errors in the first inning. We scored five in our half of the inning but let them back in by giving them six."

"Riley Sides battled hard on a tough pitching mound for shorter players because the ground is so hard your foot doesn't land right. Hayden pitched the last three innings and did a great job of throwing strikes."

## Nightcap

The Blue Jays took off running in the second game, scoring

11 runs in the initial inning. VanLaeys singled, Green got on base on an error, Auker walked, Wright got on base on an error, Ellis singled, Ruder got on base, Ross Cole walked and Dallas Gosselin walked. Sides singled in his second time up, VanLaeys walked, Green walked and Auker doubled. All scored at least once and VanLaeys and Green tallied twice.

Norton added three more runs in the top of the third inning. Dallas Gosselin walked, Sides was hit by a pitch and advanced, VanLaeys singled, Auker singled and Gosselin, Sides and VanLaeys all scored.

Norton's final run in the top of the fourth inning came when Ruder tripled and Wiltfong drove him home with a single.

Norton collected 9 hits, walked 8 times and struck out 3 times.

Leading hitters were VanLaeys, 2 for 2; Auker, 2 for 2 and Wiltfong, 2 for 3.

Josh VanLaeys pitched for Norton and allowed 4 hits, walked, 2 and struck out 2 batters.

"Josh did a good job of throwing a shutout with our defense helping him out of a couple of jams," said coach Green.

"Our bats were alive and well as we hit .500 for the night and scored a total of 30 runs. "I also felt we did a great job of running the bases, taking the extra base and getting in better scoring position."

ond. Wiltfong singled, Cole walked and Smith singled and both Wiltfong and Cole scored to make it 3-0.

Three more runs by Norton came in the bottom of the third inning. Auker, Wright and Ellis all singled, Wiltfong tripled and Cole walked. All except Cole scored to extend the Blue Jay lead to 6-0.

Norton added four more runs in the bottom of the fourth stanza. Ryan Lively singled, Ruder walked, VanLaeys singled, Auker doubled and Wright singled. All except Wright tallied.

Leading hitters for Norton were Auker, 3 for 3; Wright, 2 for 3; Wiltfong, 2 for 2.

Collyn Auker was the winning pitcher. He allowed just 2 hits, walked 4 and struck out 4 batters.

## Coach's comments

"It took us a little while to get our bats going but we still ended with 22 hits and 22 runs!" said head coach Rick Green. "Actually, two of our hardest hit balls came in our first at-bat. Josh VanLaeys blasted an inside-the-park home run and Jacob Green followed with a triple. We had a

few bloop and bleeders but, for the most of the night, our hardest hit balls were right at a defender.

"Defensively, we had our best night of the year with no errors in either game. Our pitchers had a little trouble finding the strike zone as we allowed 11 walks and had two hit batters."


"Will Ellis pitched the first game and did a great job of getting out of the first and second inning, leaving the bases loaded with only two runs allowed to score. Collyn Auker threw the second game, joining our long list of starting pitchers and did a great job as he hadn't pitched in at least a couple of years."

## Next action

Norton played Goodland here on Thursday evening.

The Western Regional will be held in Hays on Sat., Sun., July 19-20.



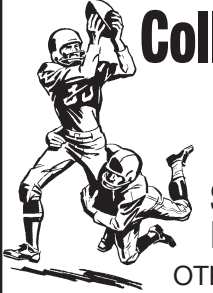


**Norton Gun Club**

ANNUAL MEETING  
**Wednesday, July 16 at 7:00 p.m.**  
at the Norton American Legion

COME AND RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, ELECT NEW OFFICERS,  
MAKE SUGGESTIONS FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS  
**RECEIVE FREE CHANCE FOR A NEW FIREARM!!\***

\*Must be present to win. Must be 21 years old for handgun, 18 years old for shotgun. Annual dues \$25.00 family membership.



**Collin Klein Football Camp**  
NORTON, KANSAS

**The Collin Klein Football Camp will also feature other Kansas State Alumni Travis Tannahill and Braden Wilson, along with Collin!**

OTHERS MAY BE ASSISTING IN THE CAMP

**Monday, July 14 - Norton, KS**

Location: Norton Community High School Practice Field - Cost: \$50.00

**1st-6th Grade: 9 a.m.-noon\*** \*Registration starts at 8 a.m.

**7th-12th Grade: 1-4 p.m.\*\*** \*\*Registration starts at noon

Payment and Registration required on day of camp. Cash/Check only.  
Checks can be made out to: Collin Klein Passing Academy.  
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION GO TO [collinkleinpassingacademy.com](http://collinkleinpassingacademy.com)

a full-time starter for K-State. He holds the school record for career rushing touchdowns and finished his career in the top 10 of most school passing categories.

Also featured at the camp will be former K-State and Smith Center High School fullback Braden Wilson and former Wildcat tight end Travis Tannahill. It is possible that other former K-State players will also be assisting with the camp.

For additional information, go

to [collinkleinpassingacademy.com](http://collinkleinpassingacademy.com).

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