

# Norton K-18 to play for State Tourney title

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Regional champion Norton K-18 baseball team opened State Tournament action on Saturday in Lucas with a hard-fought 7-5 win over Smith Center, the fourth place team from the Eastern Regional.

On Sunday night, the Blue Jays edged Washington County 11-10 in the semi-finals to earn a chance to win the state championship versus Concordia this evening (Tuesday). Concordia defeated Ellis 5-2 in the other semi-final game on Sunday.

Norton had runners on base early in the win over Smith Center but couldn't get across home plate. Meanwhile, Smith Center scored two runs in the bottom of the second inning to lead 2-0.

The Blue Jays had a big top of the fifth inning when they scored five runs but Smith Center responded with three runs

of their own to tie the score at 5-all. Norton had victory in sight, however, and added another run in the sixth inning and an insurance run in the seventh for the win.

Hayden Wiltfong led off the top of the fifth inning for Norton and walked. Ross Cole got on base on a fielder's choice and Riley Sides and Josh VanLaeys both got on base on errors. Jacob Green was hit by a pitch and advanced. Collyn Auker blasted a double. Cole, Sides, VanLaeys, Green and Auker all scored to put the Blue Jays ahead 5-2.

Smith Center didn't quit and produced three more runs in the bottom of the fifth stanza to tie the score at 5-all.

Norton didn't quit, either, and Jace Ruder proved that he is a hitting pitcher when he slammed a double to start the sixth inning. Riley Sides got his first hit of the game with a single to right

field and Ruder scored to put the Blue Jays on top 6-5.

It was three up, three down for the Redmen in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Norton added one final run in the top of the seventh when Green walked for the third time in the contest, Will Ellis walked and Green scored.

The Blue Jays had 6 hits in the game, 5 walks and 4 strike outs. Leading hitter was Auker, who was 2 for 4. Also getting 1 hit each were Sides, Green, Ellis and Ruder.

Jace Ruder was the winning pitcher and he did an outstanding job of getting out of trouble. He gave up just 4 hits, walked 6 and struck out 6 batters.

The Saturday win set up the semi-final game for Norton on Sunday night with Washington County, who eliminated Victoria by a score of 12-8 in the other Saturday contest.

Against Washington County, Norton held a 1-0 early lead, then Washington County took a 5-1 lead by the bottom of the fifth. Norton tied the score at 5-all in the top of the sixth.

Washington County came back with four runs in the bottom of the sixth to lead 9-5.

As they have been all season, the Norton batters were equal to the task and the Blue Jays scored six runs in the top of the seventh to go back ahead 11-9. Washington County had one fi-

nal chance to tie or take the lead in the bottom of the inning but their one final run was too little, too late and Norton won 11-10!

Complete results of the Sunday win over Washington County and the finals tonight (Tuesday) versus Concordia will be in Friday's Telegram. The championship finals game will be between the champions of the two regional tournaments and should be an outstanding game between two very high quality teams.

#### Coach's comments

"Smith Center was a tough first round opponent," said Norton head coach Rick Green. "They are a well-coached, fundamentally sound baseball team.

"We didn't play a perfect game but found a way to out-score them. We had some errors and allowed too many free bases but we also made some outstanding plays at very crucial times in the game. We got two huge outs at home plate which, if they scored, we would have been headed to extra innings.

"Overall, I would say it was our best offensive game but scoring seven runs on only six hits and four free bases is pretty efficient.

"Collyn Auker had a bases loaded hit for us in the fifth inning to get us the lead. We also had some great situational at-bats. Both Ross Cole and Trenton Wright hit ground balls for



Jace Ruder did an outstanding job of pitching in the Norton K-18's 7-5 first round win over Smith Center in the State K-18 Baseball Tournament, allowing only four hits by the Redmen. He also hit a crucial double in the sixth inning when he scored the go-ahead run for the Blue Jays as they advanced to the tournament semi-finals.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd.

## Legion team completes season

By DICK BOYD

The Norton American Legion baseball team completed another successful season with one win and two losses in the Zone Tournament in Colby.

After defeating Oakley 7-4 on Tuesday, July 22, the Blue Jays lost to Goodland 7-2 on Wednesday before losing a 13-12 heartbreaker to Colby on Thursday.

"I would like to thank all who helped with our Legion baseball team this season," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"I need to thank our home umpires. They do a great job. Their knowledge of the game is unmatched wherever we seem to travel.

"Thanks to all of our players. They sacrifice a lot. Most of these players have been coached by Shawn Miller and myself for the last 15 years. We are graduating a big class due to the National American Legion changing the age requirement because the college towns were abusing the rule.

"Thanks to Shawn Miller for putting up with me for 15 years. He deserves a medal."

#### Goodland

Norton left three runners on base at the end of the top of the first inning but took a 2-0 lead in the top of the third when Andrew Ellis singled, Dalton Miller got on base on an error, Jacob Green singled, Trever Lewis was hit by the pitcher and advanced and Toby Nickell singled. Ellis and Miller both scored.

With three hits in the bottom of the inning, Goodland took a 3-2 lead.

Norton was unable to score again.

Norton had 6 hits, 5 walks and 8 strike outs in the game. Leading hitter for Norton was Trever Lewis who went 2 for 3 with the bat.

The Norton pitcher was Drew Ellis who gave up 8 hits, walked 7 and struck out 7 batters.

"Goodland was the best team we played this year," said coach Ellis. "We played really well but not good enough to win. We just could not match their experience. Those Goodland guys have played 70-80 games this year.

"Andrew Ellis pitched very well against a very talented Goodland team."

#### Colby

In the 13-12 slugfest with Colby, Norton had 15 hits but just couldn't get another couple of runs for the victory.

Norton actually led 12-4 after just three innings but the Blue Jays could not come up with any more runs and the Eagles rallied for the win.

Norton tallied two runs in the top of the first inning when Ellis walked, Miller singled, Green singled and Lewis got on base on an error. Ellis and Miller both scored. Colby scored three runs in the bottom of the first to lead 3-2.

In the top of the second, Nor-

ton added two more runs when Clint Cole got on base on an error, Mickey Hahn gained base on an error, Ellis singled again, Miller doubled and Green singled again. Cole and Ellis both scored to make it 4-3 in favor of Norton.

Norton's big inning was the third when they batted around and scored eight runs. Lewis singled, Jordan Dole was hit by a pitch and advanced, Cole got on base on a fielder's choice, Travis Cressler singled, Hahn singled, Ellis singled, Green singled, Lewis singled again on his second time up in the inning, Gavin Lively singled and Dole singled in his second appearance. All except Lively scored and Lewis tallied twice to put Norton ahead 12-3.

Colby added one run in the bottom of the third inning, one more in the bottom of the fourth, two more in the bottom of the fifth and six more in the bottom of the sixth to take the 13-12 lead.

Norton had one last chance in the top of the seventh to re-take the lead but one walk and one single were not enough.

Norton had 15 hits, 3 walks and 6 strike outs.

Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Ellis, 2 for 4; Miller, 2 for 5; Green, 3 for 4; Lewis, 3 for 5 and Lively, 2 for 3.

Toby Nickell and Dalton Miller shared the pitching duties for Norton. Colby had 10 hits, 6 walks and 1 strike out.

"Our offense started off really well against Colby," said coach Ellis. "We had a commanding lead but then Colby's bats got hot. We had some errors that hurt, also.

"Toby Nickell hurt his arm and, as I report this, I have not heard the extent of his injury. Dalton Miller came in and pitched the rest of the way. He injured his arm two years ago and still is not 100 percent but he knew we were low on pitchers. He pitched with determination. He was in pain towards the end but pitched the rest of the game with a gritty, gutty performance. He deserved to win that game."

Coach Ellis commented positively on the Norton players who will graduate from American Legion baseball.

Austin Hager - "All around good player and a good person."

Travis Cressler - "Committed to his team and a tough player."

Toby Nickell - "Played every position without hesitation."

Trever Lewis - "Great hitter and a good outfielder."

Jacob Brooks - "Did not get to play much but was a powerful hitter and a great teammate."

Andrew Ellis - "Tremendous first baseman and clutch hitter. Should have worn No.5."

Lane Bigge - "Great hitter and a great teammate."

Dalton Miller - "Played every position with a blown arm. Smart hitter with timely hits every year."

**Machinery • Shop • Household**

**Sat., Aug. 9, 2014**

**30-40 Household Items**

**Depression Dishes, various pieces**

Baldwin Panoramic organ  
Wooden dining table  
Folding chairs  
Whirlpool microwave  
Lots of cookware  
Cake decorating kit  
17 cu. ft. upright deep freeze  
2-4 gal. Crocks  
Kerosene lamps  
Duncan Phyfe table & chairs  
Speed Queen wringer washing machine  
Kiln unpainted china

**Several Oak Chairs**

**Hoosier Table**

**Camel Back Trunk**

**Buffet**

**Coca-Cola Cooler**

**Ace Tool Chest**

**Shop & Misc. Items**

20 ton Barrel jack  
Craftsman tap & die set  
Little Giant large tap & die set  
20 gal. Air compressor  
Air bubble  
Pitch fork  
Measuring wheel  
Gas powered transfer pump  
Old David Bradley chain saw  
028 Stihl chain saw  
2 1/4-ton Floor jack  
Makita chop saw  
3/4" Electric impact grinder  
Angle head 7" drill  
1/2" Electric drill  
Belt sander

**Old (50's) Chevy Truck**

**2-Old 55 JD Combines, parts**  
1976 Ford LTD, salvage

**Guns**

JC Higgins 12-ga. pump, model 20 shotgun, 30" barrel  
H&R Topper 12-ga. shotgun  
10x80 German binoculars

**Farm Items & Machinery**

6' 3-pt. mower  
3-pt. Round bale carrier w/hyd. push off  
IHC Sickle mower, 2-pt.  
234 JD cornhead  
Pickup bed trailer  
120 gal. Fuel tank  
2-Wheel trailer  
Chick brooder  
4'x6' Utility trailer  
Richardson milo guards  
Several meat locker cabinets  
Olson band saw  
Omni drill press  
Bench grinder  
Omni 4" vise  
Cross cut saw  
6" vise  
Pony saddle  
Yard cart  
25-bu. grain bin  
Old horse drawn wagon on rubber running gear  
Shopmate radial arm saw  
Gas powered post hole digger, 5" & 7" augers  
5 & 10 gal. cream cans  
Old Murray lawn mower  
1/2-ton Chain hoist  
IHC Side delivery rake  
Livestock sprayer  
Chick waterers  
15-hole metal chicken nests  
Chicken feeder  
60+ Joints 6" gated irrigation pipe  
50+ Joints 4" sprinkler pipe  
3-Irrigation pipe trailers  
Misc. elbows & T's & valves  
2-90 lb. LP bottles  
Fimco 12-volt sprayer  
2-40 gal. wood kegs  
McCormick electric cream separator, with/bowl  
Stihl weed eater  
Yard spreader  
Dolley  
10' Extension ladder  
Garden Tools  
Hay hook  
Misc. junk iron

**Case 2290 Tractor, 3-pt., PowerShift, 18.4R38 w/duals, PTO, 2 remotes, w/10' Otter Angle Dozer, 2700 hrs., SN: 9903823**

**Case 830 Tractor, 3-pt., PTO, 2 remotes, 18.4-34, Case-O-Matic**

**620 JD Tractor w/Farmhand loader, PS, PTO, SN: 6208989**

**Model JD A, tricycle front, as is SN: 578637**

**1998 Chevy 1/2 ton Pickup, 4x4, extended cab, w/3rd door, 94,600 miles**

**1988 Ford F-150 XL Pickup, 4x4, 6-cyl., 5-spd., 126,000 miles**

**KMA Steel Grain Bin to be moved, 2,000 bu.**

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