

Jays win Bi-district crown

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team extended its unbeaten record to 10-0 with a 42-7 victory over the visiting Ellinwood Eagles Tuesday.

First quarter

Norton came out fired up. Running back Aaron Overlease returned the opening kickoff to the 35. Quarterback Dan Roeder, who shredded the Eagle defense, ran the keeper for a first down on the 43.

Tailback Charlie Kohfeld ran through a hole in the Ellinwood line for a first down on the Ellinwood 41. Fullback Jordan Haussermann bulled to the 34. Kohfeld fumbled when hit but recovered on the 33. Haussermann ran to the 30 for a first down. Kohfeld found no room but Roeder completed a flat pass to senior wide receiver Jered Sloan on the 24. Overlease ran to the 19 for a first down.

On the next play, Haussermann ran through a hole, broke a tackle and sprinted into the end zone for Norton's first touchdown. Kicker Charlie Foley got the extra point and Norton led 7-0.

Foley boomed the kickoff into the end zone. Ellinwood's quarterback Cody Engle fumbled but recovered for no gain. On second down, defensive end C.J. Thiele sacked Engle back on the 12. Running back Josh Williams gained three and Ellinwood punted. Running back Kyle Kats caught the ball, got a block from Overlease and was off for a 50-yard touchdown. Foley kicked the extra point and Norton suddenly led 14-0.

Foley kicked into the end zone again. Engle completed a pass to running back Jeff Steinert for three. Williams picked up six before Bo Pfannenstiel tackled him. The Norton defense stopped Ellinwood short of a first down but a personal foul penalty against the Jays moved the ball to the 45 and gave the Eagles a first down. Brian Luft sacked Engle back on the 37. Williams tried the Norton line again and lost three. A pass fell incomplete and Ellinwood punted.

Kats got a good return across midfield but the Blue Jays were penalized for blocking in the back. Haussermann found a hole and ran for a first down on the 44. Haussermann plunged for two yards, then Roeder ran a keeper to the Ellinwood 44 for an apparent first down but, as he tried for extra yardage, the ball was knocked out of his arms and Ellinwood recovered.

Linebacker Ryan Maddy batted down an Engle pass. A second pass was incomplete and the Eagles were penalized five for illegal motion. On third down, running back Tyler Wirtz caught an Engle pass that had been deflected by the Blue Jay secondary and the Eagles had a first down. Maddy and tackle Joel Griffiths stopped Williams for no gain but Engle passed to Steinert and he was tackled by Maddy on the 28 for the first down.



One of the most unusual plays of this year's Norton football season occurred Tuesday. The Ellinwood Eagles' quarterback Cody Engle (No. 9) dropped back to pass at the goalline. He was rushed and the ball was batted into the air by a Norton player. After the ball bounced off several Blue Jays, C.J. Thiele (No. 67) caught the ball for an interception for a touchdown. The other Norton players are senior linebackers Bo Pfannenstiel (No. 44) and Tom Graham (No. 50).

Illegal motion cost the Eagles five but Engle was run out of the pocket by the Blue Jay pass rush and ran to the 14 for another first down. After an incomplete pass, Engle got loose to score. Engle kicked the extra point and Norton's lead was cut to 14-7.

Roeder returned the kickoff to the 30, Kohfeld plunged for one yard and the quarter ended.

Second quarter

After an incomplete pass, Roeder ran to the 38, creating a fourth and two. Roeder went into punt formation but the ball was centered to senior fullback Pfannenstiel and he drove over the middle for a first down on the 42. After Roeder gained eight, he connected with Sloan, who sprinted down the sideline for a 50-yard touchdown. Foley got the extra point kick and Norton led 21-7.

Williams returned Foley's kickoff to the 22. Engle passed to Williams for a first down on the Ellinwood 45. Williams got four before Pfannenstiel and Maddy got him. Drew Linden ran for a first down on the Norton 45 where defensive back Bruce Rushton tackled him. A pass interference penalty against Norton moved the ball to the 30 but the gang-tackling Blue Jays put an end to any scoring hopes. Maddy and Griffiths stopped Engle for no gain, a pass fell incomplete and Maddy came in to sack Engle back on the 40. A fourth down pass was incomplete and Norton regained possession.

Overlease ran for five yards and Haussermann plowed ahead for two more. Ellinwood lost five yards for being offsides and Norton had a first down on the Eagle 48. Roeder ran the keeper to the 37 for a first down, then ran the keeper to the 28. A blocking in the back penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the 35. Roeder was sacked on the next play and Norton lost five yards for being offsides. A pass fell incomplete and Roeder punted. The ball rolled dead on the 6 yard line.

Williams ran for two yards before Lauer tackled him. Williams got two more before Lauer and defensive tackle Blake Hillebrand dropped him. On third down, Engle passed but the Blue Jays came in with another rush. The ball was tipped by Pfannenstiel and Griffiths and came to rest in Thiele's arms for another Blue Jay

touchdown. Foley kicked the extra point and Norton led 28-7.

Running back Anthony Barr fumbled Foley's kickoff but recovered on the nine. Engle completed a pass to Steinert but a blocking in the back penalty brought the ball back to the nine. Williams was tackled after a one-yard gain by linebacker Tom Graham. Following an incomplete pass, Ellinwood punted out of bounds. Following two incomplete passes, Roeder connected with Haussermann for nine. On fourth and one, the Blue Jays were stopped and Ellinwood took over the ball with 45 seconds left.

Engle got loose to the Norton 45 for a first down. After an incomplete pass, Sloan knocked down another Engle aerial. Next, Engle passed to a teammate in the flat and he threw a pass downfield. Sloan alertly went up and intercepted on the Norton 15 as time ran out.

Third quarter

Williams returned Foley's kickoff to the 22 where Clay Madden made the tackle. Williams broke loose and was tackled by defensive back Kevin Lentz on the 38. Williams found running room to the 45 but was dropped for no gain on the next play by Griffiths and Hillebrand. Engle was stopped for no gain by Thiele. A pass on a fourth down fake punt fell incomplete and Norton took over on the 45.

Kohfeld gained three, then Roeder ran the keeper to the 25 for a first down. Haussermann plowed ahead for three but Norton lost five for being in motion. Roeder ran a keeper to the 22. Roeder fumbled and Haussermann recovered the ball on the 21. It wasn't enough for a first down, so Ellinwood took over.

Williams gained eight before Roeder came up to make the tackle. Engle ran the keeper for a first down. Williams was stopped by Griffiths for no gain, then Engle passed to Barr for six. An intentional grounding penalty against Ellinwood moved the ball back to midfield and the Eagles also lost a down. They punted and Kats was tackled on the 10.

Kohfeld gained 11 on two carries for a first down on the 21. Roeder found running room, broke several tackles and set sail for the end zone on a 79 yard touchdown. Foley split the up-rights, extending the Norton lead

to 35-7.

Barr returned Foley's kickoff and Thiele, Bo Pfannenstiel and Luke Pfannenstiel caught him on the 19. A pass fell incomplete, then Graham and Thiele threw Linden for a loss on the 14. Another Engle pass was incomplete and Ellinwood punted to the Norton 30.

After Roeder completed a four-yard pass to Rushton, Kohfeld plunged for two. Illegal procedure cost Norton five, but Roeder responded with a big gainer to the Ellinwood 33. Following an incomplete pass, Kohfeld plunged for four as the third quarter came to a close.

Fourth quarter

Roeder ran for a first down on the 22. Kohfeld gained seven, seven and three yards to the five, then plunged in for the touchdown. Foley kicked the extra point and it was 42-7.

Barr returned Foley's kickoff to the 19 where Luft and Pfannenstiel combined for the tackle. Engle gained nothing as Haussermann and Green stopped him. Williams ran for six before Pfannenstiel and Green made the tackle. A pass to Steinert was good for a first down on the 40. Williams ran for eight. Engle was dropped by Pfannenstiel for a one yard loss and a pass fell incomplete. Engle completed a pass to Barr for a first down. Williams plunged ahead for three yards and Engle ran the keeper to the 20 where Kats and Pfannenstiel tackled him. Griffiths and Hillebrand stopped Engle for no gain, a pass fell incomplete and Norton took over the ball.

Kats replaced Roeder as the Norton quarterback. Kohfeld ran for a first down on the 30. Freshman Blake VanEaton gained three yards, sophomore Lance Roe ran for two yards and VanEaton gained two more. Norton was penalized five yards for illegal participation and Roeder went back into punt formation. The punt was blocked and Roeder recovered on the 18 where Ellinwood took over with 2:00 left in the game.

Engle ran a keeper but Lauer threw him for a one yard loss. Williams gained one yard before Hillebrand tackled him. Craig Stevenson ran to the 8 but gained nothing on the final play of the game as Haussermann and Graham combined for the final tackle in the Blue Jays' 42-7 victory.

Norton to face Holcomb Saturday

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School football team will take their unbeaten 10-0 record to Holcomb on Saturday to play for the Regional Championship.

Kickoff against the 6-4 Holcomb team will be at 2 p.m.

On Tuesday evening, Norton won their Bi-District with a 42-7 victory over Ellinwood. Holcomb won their Bi-District with a 21-14 victory over Elkhart. Ellinwood brought a 7-2 record into the game with Norton and Elkhart was also 7-2 when Holcomb defeated them.

Although Holcomb has lost four games, Coach Graber stated during Wednesday's Blue Jay Booster Club meeting that they have played some tough teams. Two of their losses were to Oakley, who is still in the playoffs and will play Smith Center on Saturday, and Goodland, who is in the Class 4A playoffs.

"They are very large up front," said Coach Graber. "Their tailback is quick and makes a lot of people miss."

"They give you lots of different looks offensively. They'll run the I, some option and lots of sweeps. They have several deceptive plays where they run back to the weak side. They throw the ball deep a lot."

During the victory over Elkhart, Holcomb showed a balanced offense. Back Colter Brau a 5'8", 150 pound senior, carried the ball 13 times for 86 yards for a 6.6 yards per carry average. Senior Kirk Kaps, who is a 5'8", 145 pound wide receiver and back, carried the ball only 10 times but for 84 yards and an 8.4 yards per carry average. Quarterback Luke Staab, a 6', 190 pound senior, carried the ball 11 times for 60 yards for 5.5 yards per carry and completed 4 of 7 passes for 37 yards and one interception. Kaps is his leading receiver.

Starting linemen on offense are senior tackle Sam Funk, 6'2", 210 pounds; freshman guard Joe Rivas, 5'5", 224 pounds; sophomore center Ramiro Lopez, 6', 243 pounds; senior guard Erik Base, 6'4", 218 pounds; junior tackle Josh Johannes, 5'9", 245 pounds.

Starting on the defensive line for Holcomb have been Base, end; Zach Roth, 6'4", 235 pound sophomore tackle; Randy Perales, 5'8", 180 pound freshman nose-guard; Lopez, tackle; Noah Swank, 5'11", 185 pound senior end who is also a split end on offense.

Holcomb's loss to Oakley was

in District play where Holcomb defeated Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays and Cimarron.

The Norton offense is led by senior quarterback Dan Roeder who has carried the ball 121 times for 807 yards and a 6.7 yards per carry average and completed 66 of 137 passes for 1,154 yards for a combined total of 1,961 yards. He is also a punt returner and kickoff returner and punts for the Blue Jays. He has run for 13 touchdowns and passed for 14 touchdowns.

Senior tailback Charlie Kohfeld has carried the ball 139 times for 786 yards and a 5.7 yards per carry average. He has scored eight touchdowns.

Leading pass receiver is senior Jered Sloan with 24 receptions for 447 yards and an 18.6 yards per catch average.

Senior receiver Bruce Rushton also has 19 catches for 284 yards and a 14.9 yards per reception average.

Leading tackler for Norton is senior linebacker Bo Pfannenstiel with 44 solos and 38 assists for 82 total tackles.

Leading tacklers in Norton's 42-14 win over Beloit for the District championship were not available when the game story was written.

Pfannenstiel was the tackling leader against Beloit with seven solo tackles, five assists for 12 total tackles. He was followed by: Sean Lauer, Kai Mann, four solos, two assists each; Tom Graham, five solos; Blake Hillebrand, one solo, four assists; Josh Green, Dan Roeder, three solos, one assist each; Kevin Lentz, three solos; C.J. Thiele, two solos, one assist; Kyle Kats, one solo, two assists; Joel Griffiths, three assists; Heath Vincent, two solos; Ryan Maddy, Luke Pfannenstiel, one solo, one assist each; Lucas Wiseman, two assists; Austin Brooks, Jordan Haussermann, Bruce Rushton, Jered Sloan, one solo each.

Bo Pfannenstiel was also the leading tackler against Ellinwood with six solos, two assists. He was followed by Sean Lauer, four solos, two assists; Tom Graham, Dan Roeder, C.J. Thiele, three solos, three assists each; Ryan Maddy, four solos, one assist; Jered Sloan, two solos, three assists; Kevin Lentz, four solos; Blake Hillebrand, Joel Griffiths, two solos, two assists; Brian Luft, Josh Green, one solo, three assists each; Jared Foley, two solos, one assist; Jordan Haussermann, one solo, two assists; Kyle Kats, one solo, one assist; Bruce Rushton, one solo, one assist; Luke Pfannenstiel, one assist.

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