

Legion loses doubleheader

By DICK BOYD

The Norton American Legion baseball team lost a doubleheader at Plainville on Saturday evening. Norton lost the opener 10-5 and the nightcap 9-6. “We were able to jump ahead in both games but unable to hold the lead,” said coach Joe Durham. “We have had some roster changes. We lost Blake Wolf to a summer basketball injury and Denton Bailey because it was time for him to report to West Point for college.

“We’ve added some players. Andrew Soderlund and Mike Zink have joined us and we expect more.

“Plainville has a very good team. You could see the difference high school baseball has done for their team. Their coach used to coach at Thomas More Prep in Hays. He is very schooled in the game of baseball.”

OPENER

Norton took an early lead in the first contest by scoring three runs in the top of the first inning. Logan Keiswetter, Jared Mindrup and Pat Burton each singled, Chris Davis walked and Brian Ulmer singled. Keiswetter, Mindrup and Burton all scored.

Plainville also scored three runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score at 3-all.

The Blue Jays were held scoreless the next four innings. Plainville added two runs in the bottom of the second and two more in the bottom of the fourth stanza to take a 7-3 lead.

Norton tallied one run in the top of the sixth when Mindrup singled, Todd Zink singled and Mindrup scored.

Plainville added three more runs to their total in the bottom of the sixth to make it a 10-4 game.

The Blue Jays ran across one more run in the top of the seventh when Aaron Daniels doubled and Logan Keiswetter doubled him home to make the final score 10-5.

Norton had nine hits in the game. Leading hitter was Todd Zink who went 2-3 at the plate. Keiswetter and Mindrup were both 2-4.

Losing pitcher was Mindrup. Nathan Morse started on the mound for Norton but was relieved after one inning by Mindrup. Morse gave up three hits and walked three batters. Mindrup allowed 11 hits, walked five and struck out two batters.

Winning pitcher was J. Williams.

NIGHTCAP

Norton had another good top of the first inning in the second game of the night. The Blue Jays tallied four runs to take a 4-0 lead. Daniels and Mindrup both walked, Burton, Davis and Zinkeach singled, Morse was hit by a pitched ball and Ulmer singled. Daniels, Mindrup, Burton and Davis all crossed home plate. Norton did not score again until the top of the fifth. In the meantime, Plainville scored three runs in the first, two in the second and three in the third to lead 8-4.

In the top of the fifth, Norton scored their final two runs. Burton walked, Davis singled, Zink walked and both Burton and Davis scored.

Plainville scored one more time in the bottom of the sixth inning to make the final score 9-6.

The Blue Jays collected eight hits in the game. Davis was the leading hitter. He had three singles in three times at the plate. Tanner Dix was the winning pitcher.

Logan Keiswetter started on the mound for Norton and was the losing pitcher. He pitched the first three innings. He gave up five hits, walked seven batters and struck out one. Chris Davis relieved him in the fourth inning. He allowed three hits and walked three batters.

Next action

Coach Joe Durham’s Norton American Legion nine will travel to Osborne on Sunday for a doubleheader, beginning at 6 p.m.

Norton K-18 beaten by Plainville

By DICK BOYD

The Norton K-18 baseball team played without five regular players due to event conflicts and lost a doubleheader to Plainville here on Friday evening.

The visiting Cardinals won 12-1 in the opener and 4-2 in the nightcap.

OPENER

Norton’s only run in the first game came in the bottom of the third inning. Troy Bainter walked, Spencer Shirk singled and Bainter scored.

Plainville scored twice in the first inning, two times in the second inning, twice in the third stanza, four runs in the fourth and two more runs in the fifth inning.

Norton had just five hits in the game. Bainter, Shirk, Matt Stanley, Kyle Mindrup and Ryan Blecha each singled.

Lane started on the mound for Norton and was the losing pitcher. He allowed six hits, struck out five batters and walked eight before being relieved in the fourth inning with no outs by Shirk.

Shirk gave up four hits and walked two batters.

NIGHTCAP

Norton played much better in the second game of the night. The Blue Jays were leading 2-0 until Plainville scored all four of their runs in the top of the fifth to win 4-2.

Norton tallied once in the bottom of the first inning. Shirk walked and stole his way around the bases to score.

The Blue Jays’ other run came in the bottom of the fourth when Bainter walked and made it around the bases to score.

Copeland was the winning pitcher. He allowed only one hit and that was a double by Kyle Mindrup. He struck out nine Norton batters and walked three.

Losing pitcher was Bainter. He allowed only one hit until the fifth inning when he gave up three hits. He struck out three Plainville batters and walked four.

Next action

The Norton K-18 nine will host Smith Center this evening at John Ryan Field.

The doubleheader begins at 6:30 p.m.



Norton’s Spencer Shirk releases a pitch during the K-18 doubleheader with Plainville here on Friday evening. Shirk allowed four hits and two walks in a two-inning relief role in the first game.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Lady Storm places runnerup in tournament

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Lady Storm Fastpitch Softball Team won three games and lost just one to place runnerup in the Colby Tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

After losing their opener by a 9-0 score to Colby, the Lady Storm edged Burlington, Colo. 4-3, blasted Wray, Colo. 15-1 and narrowly defeated Garden City 4-3.

Every team played every team and final placing was determined by record.

COLBY

Danielle LeClair’s single in the bottom of the fourth inning was Norton’s only hit in the loss to Colby. The Lady Eagles had only two runs in the first inning but tallied seven in the fourth.

Logan Wark was the winning pitcher for Colby. She struck out nine Norton batters and walked just one. Courtney LeClair was the losing pitcher. She allowed 12 hits, walked four and struck out two.

“The Colby pitcher dominated our batters,” said Norton team manager Darin Campbell. “When we hit the ball, it was right at one of their players. We could never get anything going.

BURLINGTON

Burlington took an early 2-0 lead in the second game by scoring twice in the top of the second. The Lady Storm did not score until the bottom of the fourth when they crossed home plate four times. Chantille Campbell doubled, Kylie Cooper, Courtney LeClair and Lacey Roe all singled and Tiffany Long doubled. Campbell, Cooper, LeClair and Roe scored to make it a 4-2 contest.

Burlington added one run in the top of the fifth but Norton held on for the 4-3 win.

The Lady Jays had seven hits in the game. Leading hitter was Long with a 2-2 record at the plate.

Danielle LeClair, Campbell, Cooper, Courtney LeClair and Roe were each 1-2.

Winning pitcher was Courtney LeClair who gave up four hits, walked six batters and struck out one. Losing pitcher was Kennedy Stegman.

“This game was hard fought all the way,” said Campbell. “We came from behind and scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth to win.”

WRAY

In their 15-1 victory over Wray, the Lady Storm took advantage of nine walks in the top of the first inning to tally 10 runs. Courtney LeClair, Long and Danielle LeClair walked, Kayla Foley singled, Campbell was hit by a pitch, Amy Nicholson, Lacey Roe, Ashli Hageman and Courtney LeClair walked, Long, Danielle LeClair and Foley all singled and Campbell walked. Courtney LeClair and Long both scored twice and Danielle LeClair, Foley, Campbell, Nicholson, Roe and Hageman each scored once.

Norton extended their lead to 15-0 in the top of the third inning. Danielle LeClair got on base via an error, Foley singled, Campbell doubled, Cooper singled, Nicholson walked, Roe singled and Hageman walked. LeClair, Foley, Cooper, Nicholson and Roe all scored.

Wray tallied one run in the bottom of the third but it was too little too late and the Lady Storm won 15-1.

Leading hitter for Norton was Foley with three singles in three times at bat.

Winning pitcher was Courtney LeClair. She allowed just two hits, walked one batter and struck out one.

Losing pitcher was S. Odell. Norton had 10 hits, 11 walks and

one Lady Jay struck out.

“We beat them pretty easily,” said Campbell. “They walked us a lot and we played good defense.”

GARDEN CITY

Norton took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning in their 4-3 win over Garden City. Karlie Boyd, Courtney LeClair, Foley and Campbell all singled. Boyd, LeClair and Foley scored.

Garden City scored once in the bottom of the first to make it 3-1.

The Lady Storm tacked on another run in the top of the second. Boyd and Courtney LeClair both singled and Boyd scored to make it 4-1.

In the bottom of the third inning, Garden City narrowed the gap with one run to make it a 4-2 game. One final run by Garden City in the bottom of the sixth inning made the final score 4-3 in favor of the Lady Storm.

Courtney LeClair was the winning pitcher. She gave up just four hits, walked five and struck out eight.

Norton had eight hits in the game. Leading hitters were Boyd, 2-2; Courtney LeClair, 2-3 and Campbell, 2-3.

“The game with Garden City was another hard fought one,” said Campbell.

“We put a lot of pressure on Courtney LeClair in this tournament. She was our only pitcher and really came through for us. Amy Foster also helps our pitching staff but was not available this weekend.”

Next action

The Lady Storm will play in the Regional Tournament this Saturday and Sunday in Hill City.

Norton’s opponents will include Smith Center and Ellis. The bracket had not been determined at press time. Play will begin on Saturday morning.

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