

American Legion team plays in Zone Tournament

By DICK BOYD
The Norton American Legion baseball team completed their 2006 season by competing in the Zone Tournament on Sunday and Monday in Osborne.

In their opener on Sunday evening, they lost a close 9-6 game to Osborne. The loss dropped them into the losers' bracket where they played Goodland, who had lost to Phillipsburg in the first round on Sunday.

The Blue Jays played well against No. 2 seed Goodland on Monday evening, before losing 5-3 and ending their season.

OSBORNE
In the loss to Osborne, the Blue Jays led 4-1 after four innings but the Bulldogs scored five runs in the bottom of the fifth and three in the bottom of the sixth to win by three runs.

Norton scored in the top of the first when Aaron Daniels doubled, Jared Mindrup and Chris Davis both walked and Daniels scored.

Osborne tied the score at 1-all in the bottom of the inning.

The Blue Jays tallied again when Jordan Durham was hit by a pitch and walked, Nathan Morse walked and Durham scored in the top of the second.

Norton increased their lead to 3-1 in the top of the third when Daniels and Mindrup both walked, Pat Burton doubled and Daniels scored.

In the top of the fourth inning, Norton extended their lead to 4-1. Morse, Brian Ulmer and Daniels all singled and Morse tallied.

Norton was unable to score in the top of the fifth but Osborne scored five runs on five hits to take

a 6-4 lead.

The Blue Jays added one more run in the top of the sixth to cut the Bulldog advantage to 6-5. Durham singled and scored later in the inning.

Norton allowed three runs on five hits for Osborne in the bottom of the sixth to extend their lead to 9-5.

Daniels was lead off batter for Norton in the top of the seventh. He stepped to the plate and blasted

the ball over the left field fence for a home run! Unfortunately, there were no Norton runners on base at the time.

Logan Keiswetter and Davis both singled but neither could score and Osborne won 9-6.

The Blue Jays had nine hits in the game. Daniels was leading hitter with a perfect 3-3 at the plate. Durham and Morse both went 1-2 and Davis and Ulmer were 1-3.

Davis was the losing pitcher. He

gave up 13 hits and walked five batters.

Burch started on the mound for Osborne. He was relieved in the top of the fourth inning by Conway, who got the win.

GOODLAND

As they were against Osborne, the fifth and sixth innings were Norton's downfall in the game with Goodland on Monday evening.

Norton led 3-1 after four innings but Goodland tied the score at 3-all in the bottom of the fifth and scored twice more in the bottom of the sixth to win 5-3.

Goodland scored one run in the bottom of the first to lead 1-0.

In the top of the second, the Blue Jays scored all three of their runs to take a 3-1 advantage. Durham, Morse, Brian Ulmer, Andrew Soderlund, Jason Ulmer and Daniels all singled. Durham, Morse and Brian Ulmer all scored.

Norton got only three hits the rest of the game and did not score again. Goodland added two more runs on three hits in the bottom of the fifth to tie the score at 3-all.

The Cowboys won it 5-3 with two more runs in the bottom of the sixth on three hits.

T. Elder was the winning pitcher. He allowed 10 Norton hits. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Mindrup and Durham, each 2-3. Morse, Brian Ulmer, Soderlund and Jason Ulmer were all 1-3 at the plate.

Mindrup started on the mound for Norton. He gave up six hits in five innings. Davis relieved him in the sixth inning and allowed three hits. Davis was the losing pitcher.

"We had a great effort by our

team tonight," said coach Joe Durham. "We played well together as a team.

"Goodland is a good team. They have pitching depth and that helps them.

"We played well tonight but had some defensive lapses. That comes from not playing more games. The teams who play high school ball are better because they play more.

"We were also hurt this season by a number of misfortunes. One player was lost for the season after suffering a basketball injury, another pulled a hamstring and was lost and three players who came out late were unable to get registered in time to play in the

zone tournament. We also lost Denton Bailey before the season was over because he has an appointment to West Point. Our batting cage was also destroyed during the winter and that hurt.

"We lose only Jared Mindrup from our team next year. I'm looking forward to next season.

"The enthusiasm for high school baseball is present in Norton. I'll be in front of the school board again next year trying to get it."

Coach Durham thanked his assistant coach Chris Bailey and his wife, Sarah, for assistance during the season. He also thanked the American Legion and fans for their support.



Norton's Aaron Daniels is shown slamming a home run over the fence in the top of the seventh inning in the Blue Jay American Legion's 9-6 loss to Osborne in the Zone Tournament on Sunday in Osborne. Daniels was the leading hitter for Norton in the game. He also hit a double and single to go a perfect 3-3 at the plate.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Legion splits doubleheader at Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD
The Norton American Legion baseball team split a doubleheader at Phillipsburg on Tuesday, July 11.

The Blue Jays lost 12-11 in the first game but won the nightcap 7-1.

OPENER

In the first game, Norton took a 9-2 lead by the end of the second inning but was outscored 10-2 the rest of the way.

The Blue Jays tallied one run in the top of the first inning when Jared Mindrup and Chris Davis both singled and Pat Burton walked. Mindrup scored to give Norton a 1-0 advantage.

In the bottom of the inning, Phillipsburg scored their first two runs to go ahead 2-1.

Norton tallied eight runs in the top of the second stanza to go ahead 9-2. Todd Bolt singled, Andrew Soderlund walked, Aaron Daniels and Logan Keiswetter both singled, Mindrup walked, Davis got on base via an error, Burton doubled, Jordan Durham and Bolt both singled. All eight Norton batters scored.

In the bottom of the second inning, Phillipsburg was three up, three down.

Norton failed to score in the top of the third inning but the Panthers added eight runs in the bottom of the inning to take a slim 10-9 lead.

In the top of the fourth, Norton added one run to tie the score at 10-all. Davis singled, Burton walked and Davis scored.

Phillipsburg failed to tally in the bottom of the inning and the score remained deadlocked entering the fifth inning. Norton added one more run to take a slim 11-10 advantage. Nathan Morse walked and Daniels and Keiswetter both singled. Morse scored.

In the bottom of the fifth, Phillipsburg took advantage of two walks and a Norton error to score two runs and make the final 12-11 in favor of the Panthers.

Norton had 11 hits in the game. Davis was a perfect 3-3 at the plate. Daniels went 2-3 and Keiswetter 2-4 in the batter's box.

Winning pitcher was Suchsland. He walked five batters and struck out five.

Mindrup and Davis shared pitching duties for Norton. The Panthers recorded five hits, nine of them walked and five struck out.

NIGHTCAP

Norton led the entire game en route to their 7-1 win over Phillipsburg in the second game of the night.

Neither team scored in the first inning. Norton took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Davis and Bolt both singled, Morse walked

and Davis scored.

Phillipsburg was three up, three down in the bottom of the inning and Norton added three more runs to their total in the top of the third. Daniels, Keiswetter and Mindrup all hit the ball and got on base via errors. Burton singled and Durham got on base via an error. Daniels, Keiswetter and Mindrup all scored to extend the Norton lead to 4-0.

In the bottom of the third, the Panthers were once again three up, three down. In the top of the fourth, Norton went three up, three down.

Phillipsburg scored their only run in the bottom of the fourth to cut the Blue Jay lead to 4-1.

Norton added two more runs in the top of the fifth to take a 6-1 lead. Davis reached first base via an error, Burton and Morse both singled and Davis and Burton both scored.

Phillipsburg did not score again. Norton's final run came in the top of the seventh inning. Burton blasted a triple and Durham singled him home to make the final 7-1.

Mindrup was the winning pitcher.

He gave up just three hits, walked eight batters and struck out six.

Losing pitcher was T. Willer. He allowed six Norton hits, walked one batter and struck out three.

Leading hitter for Norton was Burton, who went a perfect 3-3 at the plate.

NEXT ACTION

Norton was scheduled to host Scott City on Thursday evening, July 13 but the game was canceled due to rainy weather.

The Blue Jays competed in the Zone Tournament in Osborne, which began on Sunday.

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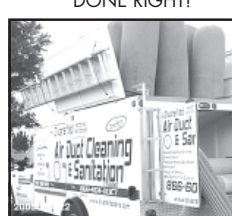
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