

# Beloit Trojans become Norton's 6th victim

By DICK BOYD

Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team opened district play Friday night with an impressive 28-8 victory over Beloit at Travis Field in Norton.

The win extended Norton's overall season record to 6-1 and dropped Beloit to 4-3.

In the other district game, Phillipsburg defeated Oberlin 47-12. Norton will host Phillipsburg this Friday at 7 p.m. and Oberlin will play at Beloit.

Norton had a good offensive night again as the Blue Jays gained 225 yards rushing and 105 passing for 330 total yards. Norton averaged 5.2 yards per carry rushing.

Meanwhile, the storming Blue Jay defense held the Trojans to 144 yards rushing and 89 passing for 233 total. Most importantly, Norton limited Beloit's outstanding senior running back Bradley Esterl to 96 yards rushing. He entered the game with 1,018 yards and an average of 170 yards per game. Esterl was averaging just over 10 yards per carry and the Blue Jays held him to a 5.6 yards average.

Norton's senior tailback Blake VanEaton had another 100 plus yards rushing night as he raced for 142 yards on 19 carries for a 7.5 yards per carry average. Blue Jay junior quarterback Logan Kats had one of his better games passing as he completed 8 of 11 aerials for all 105 of Norton's passing yards.

Norton kicked off to start the game but forced Beloit to punt. The Trojans kicked the ball out of bounds on the Blue Jay 3-yard line. Six plays later, the Blue Jays were in the end zone. The big play was a 67 yard dash by VanEaton. The extra point kick by Chris Davis was wide but Norton led 6-0 with 3:58 left in the first quarter.

Both teams exchanged punts twice before the Blue Jays put together a 66 yard, 10-play drive for their second touchdown. VanEaton scored from three yards out. Davis scored two extra points from his fullback spot and the Jays led 14-0 with 50 seconds left in the first half.

Norton took the opening kickoff of the second half and appeared to be driving for another touchdown. A fumble on the Beloit 1-yard line kept the Blue Jays out of the end zone. Beloit recovered and, six plays later, Esterl broke several tackles and appeared to score from 70 yards out. A holding penalty against Beloit brought the ball back. After an exchange of punts, Beloit had the ball on their 7-yard line. Quarterback Cole Kruse was tackled in the end zone by the Blue Jays' Brock Lauer and Nathan Broeckelman for a safety, making it 16-0 with 1:56 left in the third quarter.

Beloit had to kick to Norton from the 20-yard line. VanEaton returned the punt to the Beloit 25 but a 15-yard penalty against the Jays moved the ball back to the 40. Norton was on the Beloit 4 when the third quarter ended. VanEaton hit paydirt from two yards out with 11:26 left and the Jays led 22-0.

After Davis' kickoff, the gang-tackling Blue Jay defense stopped Beloit at midfield and drove for another touchdown. This time, quarterback Logan Kats passed one yard to tight end Jared Cox for the score. The extra point try was no good but the Blue Jays were on top 28-0 with just 2:23 remaining in the game.

It was too little, too late for the Trojans when quarterback Kruse passed 55 yards to Esterl for their only touchdown with 1:24 left. A pass for two points made the final 28-8.

Coach Melvin was happy overall with the way his Blue Jays played. "We played hard again," he said. "Our offense scored the first time we had the ball. At times our offense stalled a little but our offensive line blocked well again. "Our defense battled hard all night. We bent but didn't break. We missed some tackles on their long run that was called back. "Beloit came in averaging 38

points per game so that shows how well our defense played.

"A couple of turnovers cost us but we didn't have many penalties."

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Nic Lewis, center; senior Pat Burton and sophomore Brock Lauer, guards; junior Preston Herman and senior Lucas Bailey, tackles; junior Jared Cox, tight end; senior Nathan Broeckelman and senior Brian Juenemann, wide receivers; senior Chris Davis, fullback; senior Blake VanEaton, tailback and junior Logan Kats, quarterback.

Starting on defense were: senior Brett Thomson and Lauer, ends; senior Mark Scheetz and junior Zach Mannel, tackles; VanEaton, Cox and sophomore Zac Dreher, linebackers; Broeckelman, junior Todd Bolt, Kats and junior Travis Ray, defensive backs.

## First quarter

Davis kicked off for Norton and the Trojans returned the ball to the 37-yard line. Quarterback Kruse gained just one yard, Esterl picked up eight, then gained nine yards for a first down. Jase Sporleder was stuffed for no gain but Esterl found running room to the Norton 25. A holding penalty against the Trojans brought the ball back to the Beloit 49. After an incomplete pass, Cas Spangler skirted left end to the 36. Esterl earned a first down on the 27 where Cox tackled him.

Another holding penalty against Beloit moved the ball back to the 35. Esterl gained five yards before Davis and Ray tackled him. Lauer and Davis dropped Sporleder for a two yard loss. The Blue Jay defense played it smart on a screen pass and Sporleder was tackled for another two yard loss. Beloit punted out of bounds on the Norton 3.

VanEaton carried for eight yards to the 11. Davis plowed to the 15 but a holding penalty moved the ball half the distance to the goal on the 8. Todd Bolt replaced VanEaton and responded with three good runs. He gained six yards around right end for a first down on the 14. Next, he churned over right tackle for a first down on the 26. Then, he took a pitch from quarterback Kats and ran around left end for seven yards to the 33.

VanEaton returned to the lineup and took a handoff from Kats. He found a nice hole over right tackle, cut back against the grain and outran the Trojan defense for a 67 yard touchdown! The extra point kick by Davis was wide but Norton led 6-0 with 3:58 left.

Todd Dunstan returned Davis' kickoff to the 30 where Brad Nuzum and Ray made the tackle. Esterl got off a good run to the Norton 26 before Broeckelman and Thomson stopped him. He made five more yards and Ray tackled him. A four yard gain by Esterl ended when VanEaton dropped him to the turf. Brady Luke carried the pigskin for the first time in the game and was stopped for no gain. Beloit punted out of bounds on the Norton 23.

VanEaton churned up the middle for a first down on the 34. The Jays fumbled but recovered on the 30. VanEaton made two yards over left tackle as the quarter ended with Norton leading 6-0.

## Second quarter

After an incomplete pass, Davis punted and Beloit made a fair catch on their 30. Ray and Broeckelman tackled Sporleder for a three yard loss but he gained eight before Lauer tackled him. Esterl ran for a first down on the Beloit 44. Sporleder made two before VanEaton dropped him. Broeckelman tackled Esterl after a two yard gain and a flat pass to Spangler lost two yards. Beloit punted and Broeckelman returned the ball to the Norton 40.

VanEaton gained just one yard on two carries and a pass was incomplete. Davis punted and the Trojans made a fair catch on their 30. An offsidess penalty cost Beloit five yards. A long pass was complete to Grant Brown but Beloit was whistled for holding and the ball was moved back to the 10.



Norton's senior tailback Blake VanEaton leaves two Beloit players grasping at air as he fakes them out and crosses the goal line for one of three touchdowns he scored in Norton's 28-8

district victory over the Beloit Trojans at Travis Field Friday night.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Esterl got loose to the 25 before Bolt and Lauer combined for the tackle. Esterl gained three more and Lauer again made the tackle. Sporleder ran to the 33 before Davis dropped him. Beloit punted and the ball rolled dead on the Norton 34.

Davis churned up the middle for eight yards. Kats ran the keeper and got close to a first down. VanEaton earned the first down on the 45. Next, VanEaton skirted left end for 26 yards to the Beloit 29 for another first down. A holding penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the Beloit 36. After an incomplete pass, Bolt gained four yards. Kats went back upstairs and connected with Wes Georgeson over the middle on the 25. Next, he threw a bullet to fullback Matt Stanley on the 12. Bolt ran around left end to the 3, then VanEaton skirted left end for his second touchdown of the night. Davis ran for two extra points and Norton led 14-0 with 50 seconds left in the first half.

Dunstan returned Davis' kickoff to the 30 where Bolt made a jarring tackle. Kruse passed to Brown for 11 yards and a first down. After a five yard pass to Brown, Kruse was sacked by Lewis back on the 27 as the half ended with Norton leading 14-0.

## Third quarter

Beloit opened the second half by kicking off on the ground. Cox recovered the ball on the Norton 44, giving the Jays good field position. VanEaton ran for a first down on the Beloit 46. Kats ran the keeper to the 35 for another first-and-ten. Stanley replaced Davis and plunged for two yards. Kats ran for three, then ran the keeper to the 26. Bolt plunged to the 24 for another first down.

VanEaton was stopped for no gain but Kats fired a bullet pass over the middle to Cox for a first down on the 10. Davis churned to the 1 but fumbled and Beloit recovered.

Luke gained three yards and Sporleder two. Esterl made it to the 10 and it was fourth and one for the Trojans. Esterl earned a first down by inches, then Sporleder got loose around right end for a first down on the 30 where VanEaton and Ray stopped him. The next down, Esterl broke several tackles and sprinted 70 yards into the end zone for an apparent touchdown. But a holding penalty against the Trojans brought the ball back to the 25. Beloit had the Norton defense' attention. Spangler lost six yards as Davis and Lauer ganged up on him for the tackle. Spangler ran to the 26 where Lauer made the stop but Zach Mannel came storming through the line to drop Esterl for

a three yard loss. Beloit punted and the ball went out of bounds on the Trojan 46.

After an incomplete pass, VanEaton gained three yards but lost four on third down. Davis punted and the ball was downed on the Beloit 7. On first down, Broeckelman and Lauer blasted through the Beloit line and sacked Kruse in the end zone for a safety! The two extra points made it 16-0 with 1:56 left and required Beloit to punt to Norton from their 20.

VanEaton returned the punt all the way to the Beloit 25 but a 15 yard penalty against the Jays moved the ball back to the 40. Davis gained three yards, then Kats hit Cox with a bullet pass on the 18. VanEaton was stopped for no gain but Kats connected with Broeckelman for 14 yards to the 4 as the third quarter ended with the Jays on top 16-0.

## Fourth quarter

On the first play of the final stanza, VanEaton ran over left tackle to the 2, then plowed up the middle on second down for his third touchdown of the game. The extra point kick attempt was wide but Norton led 22-0 with 11:26 remaining in the game.

Eric Short returned Davis' kickoff to the 35 before Ray tackled him. Sporleder tried to run around right end but Cox and Ray stopped him after a yard. Sporleder got five yards on the next down and Esterl ran for three before VanEaton made the stop. Esterl ran for a first down on the Beloit 49 where Lauer made the tackle. Sporleder gained five yards but got nothing the next down as Cox and Thomson tackled him. Scheetz tackled Esterl for a short gain but an unnecessary roughness penalty against Beloit moved the ball back to their 42. Sporleder ran to midfield where Ray tackled him and Norton took over possession.

VanEaton gained six yards and Kats fired to Cox for a first down on the 21. Davis churned over the left side to the 15. Norton was penalized five yards for illegal procedure but Davis gained back three yards. Bolt lost four yards, however, and it was fourth down for the Jays. Kats went back to the

air and fired a complete pass to Georgeson on the 9. Davis powered over right tackle to the 6. VanEaton plunged over left tackle to the 4. The next down, VanEaton just missed getting into the end zone as he was stopped at the one foot line. Kats went upstairs again and hit Cox in the end zone for Norton's final touchdown. Davis' extra point kick was no good and Norton led 28-0 with 2:23 left in the game.

Short returned Davis' kickoff to the 38 where Lewis, Ray and Aaron Husted made the tackle. Bolt stopped Esterl after a two yard gain. Norton lost five yards for being offsidess. Kruse went to the air and connected with Esterl for a 55 yard touchdown with 1:24 left on the scoreboard clock. A pass to Brown was good for two extra points and it was 28-8.

Beloit recovered an onside kick on the Norton 47. On first down, Kruse passed and Kats intercepted, returning the ball to the Norton 33. Davis plunged for two yards but Norton fumbled on second down and Beloit recovered on the Norton 34. After an incomplete pass, Kruse passed for five yards to Brown. Short ran to the 20 for a first down. Kruse passed to Short on the 11. After an incomplete pass, Kruse passed to Short again but he was dropped for a four yard loss. A penalty against Norton moved the ball to the 5 but a final pass was incomplete as time ran out and the Jays had a 28-8 victory in their first district game of the season.

## Individual statistics

Rushers for Norton were: VanEaton, 19 carries for 142 yards; Davis, 9 for 41; Bolt, 8 for 36; Kats, 6 for 10; Stanley, 1 for 2.

Bolt had one kickoff return for 34 yards and Broeckelman had one punt return for seven yards.

Pass receivers were: Cox, 4 for 57; Georgeson, 2 for 19; Stanley, 1 for 14; Broeckelman, 1 for 14.

Davis kicked off five times for a 37.2 yard average.

Defensive back Travis Ray had a career night tackling as he led the Blue Jays with 11 solo tackles and three assists for 14 total. He was followed by Brian Juenemann, 5

solos, 4 assists, 9 total; Zac Dreher, 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total; Brett Thomson, 2 solos, 6 assists, 8 total; Blake VanEaton, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; Nathan Broeckelman, 6 solos; Brock Lauer, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Nic Lewis, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Mark Scheetz, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Todd Bolt, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Jared Cox, 3 solos; Zach Mannel, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Chris Davis, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Landon Hamel, 1 solo; Matt Stanley, 1 assist.

## Next action

It will be "Senior Night" for Norton on Friday when the Phillipsburg Panthers visit Travis Field for a 7 p.m. district football game.

Both teams are 6-1 for the season and their only loss is to Smith Center, the two-time Class 2A state champion.

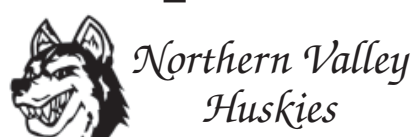
Phillipsburg defeated Oberlin 47-12 in their opening district game last Friday. Senior running back Jarrett Abell rushed for 250 yards on 18 carries and scored touchdowns on runs of 74, 28 and 13 yards. Senior running back Kade Bloom added 115 yards on 12 carries and two touchdowns on runs of 14 and 3 yards.

Abell was a first team All-Mid-Continent League running back, unanimous first team defensive back and first team kick return specialist last year. Bloom was an honorable mention all-league linebacker last year. Other returning all-league players for Phillipsburg are senior Garrett Wickham, first team defensive end and first team punter; senior Willie Keesee, honorable mention wide receiver and defensive back; senior David Hadley, second team offensive guard and junior Keith Thomas, first team offensive tackle.

## Game statistics

Norton		Beloit
16	First Downs	10
225	Yards Rushing	144
105	Yards Passing	89
330	Total Yards	233
8-11-0	Passes Compl. 9-15-1	
2-3	Fumbles Lost	0-1
7-48	Penalties	6-65
3-35.6	Punts	5-30.2

## High School Sports This Week



### FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Phillipsburg Panthers ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Norton  
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Triplains ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Almena  
Logan Trojans vs. Victoria ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

### VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays in Class 3A Sub-State Tournament ..... Saturday in Scott City  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco in Class 1A Reg. Tournament ..... 2 p.m. Today in Palco  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Ness City in Class 1A Regional Tournament ..... 3 p.m. Today in Palco

### CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Blue Jays in Class 3A Regional Meet ..... 12 p.m. Saturday in Lyons  
Northern Valley Huskies in Class 1A Regional Meet ..... 2 p.m. Saturday in Wheatland

## Two Blue Jay volleyball players honored at tournament

Lacey Roe and Thea Wiseman, Norton volleyball players, were chosen to the All-Tournament Team following the Scott City Invitational Volleyball Tournament

on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Other members of the team were Lisa Mazanec, Rishonna Martin, Jenna Johnson, Ashley Barnes, all of Colby High School; Callie

Baalman, Megan Dennis, Lindsey Hubert, all of Oakley; Lauren Robinson, Shelby Kite, both of Scott City; and Randee Stegman, Holcomb.