

Norton's early football years colorful and exciting

By DICK BOYD

Norton beat Colby and the Daily Telegram said, "Colby put up a good defense but Norton was too much for them. When the whistle blew the final score was 32-0 in favor of the Norton High."

"The new players, Gilder, Reed, Sarvis, Newell and the Stoddard brothers did good work and show promise to become star players.

"The old players kept their past records in brilliant plays.

"The Colby boys played a good clean game with some excellent players — the right end man deserves especial mention."

Fort Hays (Normal School) defeated Norton and the Daily Telegram had this to say, "The Hays team averages about 16 pounds per man heavier than the Norton team. Our boys seemed to have a bad case of stage fright in the beginning but rallied towards the close of the game."

Next, Norton played Oberlin in the first of two games. The Blue Jays hosted the Red Devils and won 10-7. "We are going to leave the fine points of Friday's football game to our high school correspondent for the reason that the greater part of our readers do not know the difference between a touchdown or a touchback, a field goal and a goal from a touch down and all those technical terms, which were never taught in school, which our farmers as a rule attended," said the Daily Telegram, although they wrote four times as much about this game than any of the others.

According to the Daily Telegram, "The score was tied 7 to 7 and all depended on the last quarter. The air was tense with excitement and the boys played as they never played before. Both lines were strong and they were both playing to win. There were only a few more minutes to play, when Payton saved the day by a drop kick. As the ball went sailing between the goal posts, the anxious crowd broke into shouts of victory. Norton had won by a score of 10 to 7."

Norton went into Nebraska for their next two games. The Blue Jays defeated Beaver City 25-6, then tied Franklin Academy 7-7.

Next came the second encounter with Oberlin on the Red Devils' home territory. A front page story in the Daily Telegram made it clear to the estimated 150 Norton fans planning to take the train that it would leave on time. "A false report is in circulation regarding the train service on the Burlington for Friday," the story began. "The train will not be held here until noon if it is on time when it arrives.

"The leaving time for the Burlington passenger is 10:20 a.m. and to be on the safe side be at the depot at that time. As a rule the train does not leave the coal chute until 10:30 but you, yourself must take chances on that part of the program. You have 10 minutes grace ordinarily but remember the leaving time of the Burlington on its published time card is 10:20 a.m.

Part 2

"Mr. Davidson, the agent, says no one has any authority to order a U.S. Mail train delayed.

"While the Norton-Oberlin football game is a great event in northwest Kansas, it does not cut very much figure with the United States Railway mail service.

"As a forecast of the attendance the Telegram believes 150 train tickets will be sold. We have our estimate as follows: 75 will attend from the high school and 75 will attend from the city."

Another story in the same Nov. 19, 1913 issue of the Daily Telegram noted that the paper would have a special service for the occasion. "Next Friday afternoon when the Norton County High School goes to Oberlin accompanied by a large crowd of rooters, the people of Norton will be anxious to know the result of the football game and the Telegram will give the full details.

"Mr. Steele, manager of the Consolidated Telephone company, informs us that he will place a telephone on the football grounds at the disposal of two special reporters for the Telegram, who will phone in the complete report of the game at the end of each quarter.

"A short hand reporter for the Telegram will be at the receiving end of the line.

"The regular editions of the paper will be held for 30 minutes so that all our readers will get the news while it is news.

"From the telephone to the linotype, from the linotype to the press and everything working like a perfect watch, the people of Norton will know every play in the game an hour and a half before the home crowd arrives. This service furnished the Telegram by the Consolidated company on this occasion and on all other occasions of a public nature, where a large number of people are interested to show the public the efficiency of the service they give.

"It will be an achievement of extraordinary value to the Telegram as a matter of news."

According to the Daily Telegram, Miss Bessie Clark, a short hand reporter in the Telegram office would take down every play. Fred Graves on the Oberlin field would dictate every play to the reporter. Will Gardland and Hugh Gleason would record the events and transmit the story over the telephone.

Following the big game between Norton and Oberlin, the Daily Telegram printed a play-by-play account. "One half inch of rain at Oberlin last night and the grounds were very wet but the weather was fine and there was an enthusiastic crowd of about 600," said the paper.

Late in the first quarter, Oberlin punted the ball out-of-bounds on the Norton two yard line. Norton could not get out of the hole and punted back to the Red Devils.

They took over on the Norton 25 and drove on the ground for a first down on the Norton one yard line. The Blue Jay defense held for two downs but Oberlin scored. Oberlin added two extra points and won the game 8-0.

That left one final game of the season for Norton and a double-header was arranged. Norton was scheduled to play the Kansas National Guard Team from Belleville. In a pre-game story, the Daily Telegram said, "The Belleville team is a heavier team than the Norton County High School. In fact, it is a semi-professional team and in the eastern part of the state it is one of the best in the business.

"While to Norton folks the fact that Norton has played every team that ever played on the local grounds off their feet it should be remembered that weight counts a great deal and a good game is promised."

The paper noted that the second game would be between the Norton City Schools and Edmond. "This game will be hotly contested," said the Daily Telegram. "Don't forget the admission price, 35 cents will admit you to both games."

The report of the game in the Daily Telegram said, in part, "The Norton County High School had a hard time in playing even with the Belleville National Guards yesterday when that team broke away with a lead of 7 to 0.

"The Belleville boys put up a mighty fast game, a faster game in fact than any other team in this city opposing our lads ever did put up and they scored first with a touch down.

"Norton showed better training, while Belleville showed more strength. The Belleville aggregation is fast enough with more practice to take any team in this part of the country into camp.

"The Norton boys out played their opponents for gains but the best they could do was to tie the score which at the end was 7 to 7.

"The Norton lineup was as follows: Gilder, center; Knapp, right guard; Kirk, right tackle; Newell, right end; Reed, left guard; Cope, left tackle; Smith, left end; Phinney, right half; Madden, left half; Casey, half back; Payton, quarter back and captain; Sarvis, substitute.

"As manager of the Kansas National Guard football team, I wish to thank the citizens and students (of Norton) for the royal treatment extended to my men. — Lloyd G. Marhamer, 1st Sergeant, Co.A."

Thanks to Charles Paynter for his letter of inquiry. We hope we have answered his questions and provided even more information to him and our readers on the winning foundation which was laid by the teams in the early 1900s for the Norton Community High School football program.

The winning tradition those teams established has continued through the years to the 2006 season which ended with a 7-3 Norton record and tie for second in the tough Mid-Continent League.



Joel Griffiths, No. 65, former star player for Norton Community High School, is now an all-league offensive guard for the Emporia State University Hornets. - Photo courtesy of ESU Media Relations

Conference honors to former Norton standout

By DICK BOYD

Norton Community High School graduate Joel Griffiths, junior offensive lineman for Emporia State University's football team, has been named a second team All-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association player by vote of the league's coaches.

It is the seventh time since 2000 that a Hornet offensive lineman has earned either first or second team All-MIAA honors.

The 290-pound Griffiths started every game for the Hornets this season with nine starts at left guard and two at right guard.

As a freshman in 2004, he played in nine games as a defensive tackle but was moved to the offensive line last season.

Prior to last Saturday's game with Missouri Southern, Griffiths was chosen to carry the American flag and lead his team onto the field in honor of Veterans' Day.

In addition to doing his usual excellent job of blocking, he had the satisfaction of recovering a fumble during the game. Griffiths is a member of the MIAA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll and the ESU Athletic Director's Honor Roll. An accounting major, he had a perfect 4.0 grade point average last year.

Griffiths is a 2004 graduate of Norton Community High School where he earned honorable mention All-Class 3A honors.

He is the son of Karen and Doug Griffiths, Norton.

Eighth grade boys in lopsided win

The Norton 8th grade varsity basketball boys took care of business on Nov. 7 — *business* being defeating Smith Center 44-16.

The Blue Jays scored 12 points in each of the first two quarters, and 10 in each of the final two quarters. Smith Center scored 2 points in the first period, 2 in the second, 3 in the third and 9 in the

fourth.

Terrell Lane with 14 points and Dakota Dreher with 12 were the game's top point makers.

Others scoring for Norton were: Caleb Laughlin 4; Luke Ninemire 8; Spencer Shirk 3; Cole Archer 1; and Josiah Laughlin 2.

Willie Overmiller was tops for Smith Center with 5 points.

Seventh girls run all over Plainville

The Norton 7th grade basketball girls beat Plainville on Nov. 9 by a 38-8 score.

"They came out strong with their press and created some turnovers right away. This really helped the girls get pumped up and play strong," said coach Anne Stiles.

Leading in rebounds were both Caren Thomson and Erin Terrell

with 4 each. Team wise, the Blue Jays had 20 rebounds.

"This is a huge accomplishment for the girls, considering we've really been working hard on rebounding," the coach said.

"All the girls came to play and proved to the crowd that they do have aggression and intensity," coach Archer said.

Scoring for Norton were: Caren

Seventh gets win at buzzer

The Norton 7th grade basketball boys edged Smith Center on Nov. 7, 23-22, thanks to Tye Nickell hitting a shot at the buzzer to win the contest. Ironically, that shot not only won the game, but it was also the only time in the game that Norton had a lead!

"This was a tough ball game as Smith Center was bigger and more physical than we were. They pushed us around a little and played tough defense," coach Myers said.

"We didn't shoot very well, but a lot of that was Smith Center's tough defense. The only lead we had in the whole game was the shot we hit at the buzzer to win," he said. Scoring were: Wahlmeier 2; McConney 5; Nickell 8; LeClair 2; Casey Temmel 2; and Waggoner 4.

Rebounding leaders were Wahlmeier and Nickell with 7.

Lose to Panthers

The Norton 7th grade basketball boys lost a close one to Phillipsburg on Nov. 14, 21-18.

Coach Jim Myers commented: "Boy, this was one of those nights where we just could not hit our shots. We had every opportunity to win, but the shots did not fall."

He called it a "rugged, physical game."

Scoring for Norton were: Jordan

Wahlmeier 2; Dillon McConney 9; Tye Nickell 4; Trey Millan 1; Damien Davis 2.

McConney was both rebounding and steals leader with 4 in each category.

Vs. Plainville

On Nov. 8, the 7th graders lost to Plainville, 66-12.

"Plainville has one of the best 7th grade teams I have seen. They just did whatever they wanted to do. They were that good," said coach Myers.

Scoring for Norton were: Wahlmeier with 4; Joe LeClair 1; Justin Waggoner 2; and Millan 5. Millan was best at the lime with 3 of 4 for 75 percent.

Millan and Alec Gilgenbach both had 2 rebounds to lead in that category.

Jayvee loses by 2

The junior varsity lost their game to Smith Center, 21-19.

An incomplete scoresheet had only 4 Norton players scoring, Brett Terrell, Cole Archer and Josiah Laughlin each with 2 and Andrew Otter with 3.

Brock Baxter led the way for Smith center with 6.

Thomson with 10; Kylie Nuzum 2; Sady Keilig 6; Tiffany Eagleburger 2; Brooklyn Winkel 2; Erin Terrell 10; and Alexis Henson 6.

SportsLine:
877-3361

Northern Valley Junior High's 2006-07 basketball roster released

The Northern Valley Junior High basketball teams have been practicing and are now ready to begin their season. There are 18 girls and 20 boys on the roster this year.

The girls are coached by Kevin Largent and Sandra Dole. The boys' coaches are Jim Cole and Jim Springer.

Girls Basketball

6th grade — Olivia Lowry, Erika Chandler, McKinsey Evans, Regan Simpson, Sheila Stillion, Patience Coffman, Haley Graham, Brittanie Larison.

7th grade — Melissa Hawks, Ashley Constable, Kynzie Stevens, Kenzi Husted, Sarah Whitney, Cassie Field, Katie Stillion.

8th grade — Staci Dole, Kayla Field, Kenzie Chandler.

Boys Basketball

6th grade — Daniel Lentz, Tyson Callaway, Alex Tharman.

7th grade — Gunnar Hays, Tyler

Montgomery, Dillion Hogan, Daniel Field, Calen Bach, Austin Herman, Nate Land, Zane Miller.

8th grade — Dusty Eagleburger, Chris Pinzenscham, Matthew Dole, Colton Lowry, Skyler Harris, Caleb Bach, Zac Vincent, Sean Braun, Bryant Tharman.

Junior High Schedule 2006-07

Nov 16 — Kensington at Almena, 4:30
Nov 21 — Eastern Heights at Almena, 4:30
Nov 30 — Golden Plains at Rexford, 4:00
Dec 7 — Damar at Damar, 4:30
Dec 14 — Logan at Logan, 4:30
Dec 18 — Kensington at Kensington, 4:30
Jan 4 — Eastern Heights at Agra, 4:30
Jan 25 — Damar at Almena, 4:30

Feb 1 — Logan at Almena, 4:30

Feb. 3, 5, 8 — GNEC League Tournament at Logan.

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Sale results from Nov. 16 — 1901 Cattle Sold

STEERS:

12 mix steers, Hill City	441	116.00
13 blk steers, Colby	659	108.00
71 blk steers, Norton	779	105.30
23 bwf steers, Prairie View	658	105.00
74 blk steers, Agra	699	104.75
16 blk steers, Beaver City	657	104.75
25 blk steers, Prairie View	703	104.00
63 blk steers, Norton	866	102.90
21 blk and Char X steers, Smith Center ...	818	102.50
38 blk steers, Agra	757	102.00
65 mix steers, Burlington, Colo.	768	102.00
71 mix steers, Norton	724	101.00
65 blk steers, Norton	721	101.00
60 blk steers, Marysville	922	98.00
62 Holstein steers, Norton	919	80.25

HEIFERS:

41 blk heifers, Logan	560	101.50
23 blk heifers, Prairie View	720	97.25
63 mix heifers, Norton	717	97.00
67 mix heifers, Norton	754	95.00

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