

Blue Jays soar over visiting Golden Eagles

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team evened their 2007 season record at 1-1 with a solid 27-6 victory over Trego Community on Friday night at Travis Field in Norton.



Norton's freshman running back Terrell Lane ran through a potential tackler and continued down the field on a 29-yard run for a first down in the first quarter of the Blue Jays' 27-6 league victory over Trego Friday night.

- Telegram Photo by Dick Boyd

The Blue Jays got off to a slow start but built up momentum as the game progressed. After fumbling the ball away to Trego on their second offensive play of the game, Norton fought poor field position and Trego scored first on a 28-yard run by junior quarterback Spencer Hemmert. The visitors led 6-0 with 3:03 remaining in the first quarter but the Blue Jays answered when senior quarterback Logan Kats connected with senior wide receiver Wes Georgeson on an 84-yard touchdown pass to make it 6-6 after one quarter.

It didn't take long for the Blue Jays to go ahead for good. With 11:38 left in the second quarter, senior tailback Todd Bolt "bolted" 85 yards on a punt return for another score and Norton led 12-6.

Norton got a third touchdown with 3:37 remaining in the half when freshman Terrell Lane threw a perfect pass to Georgeson for a 50 yard touchdown and Kats passed to senior wide receiver Travis Ray for two extra points to put Norton on top 20-6 at half-time.

The Blue Jays' final touchdown came with 2:50 left in the third quarter when Lane ran 35 yards to score. Senior Kyle Edgett split the uprights for the extra point that made the final 27-6.

"We didn't play well early," said coach Melvin. "We had some breakdowns; our offense was inconsistent. They were crashing their ends and that gave us a problem early. They also blitzed a lot on defense and we didn't handle that very well.

"Bolt had a fantastic punt return for a touchdown and Lane ran the ball well, too. He also had a nice pass to Georgeson for a touchdown. Georgeson made some good receptions. He has enough speed and size that he can do something with the ball when he gets it. We played well defensively. We played a lot of people on defense and all did a good job. Zac Dreher, Matt Stanley, Zach Mannel and Travis Ray stood out for us on defense.

"We'll have to keep working to get better and improve our physical condition."

The Norton defense was very stingy. While allowing Trego eight first downs, the Blue Jay defenders limited the Golden Eagles to just 62 rushing yards on 35 carries for a 1.7 yards per carry average.

Starting for Norton on offense were: Zac Dreher, left tackle; John Van Doren, left guard; Kyle Edgett, center; Brock Lauer, right

guard; Preston Herman, right tackle; Jared Cox, tight end; Travis Ray, wide receiver; Wes Georgeson, wide receiver; Logan Kats, quarterback; Todd Bolt, tailback; Terrell Lane, fullback.

Defensive starters for the Blue Jays were: Herman and Lauer, ends; Alex Thomas and Zach Mannel, tackles; Dreher, Matt Stanley, Lane, linebackers; Kats, Aaron Husted, Ray, Bolt, defensive backs.

First quarter

After receiving the opening kickoff, Norton fumbled on their second offensive play and Trego recovered on the Blue Jay 44-yard-line. Lauer threw Hemmert for a 2 yard loss, sophomore tailback Brandon Eberle gained 8 on two carries, with Bolt making the stop on third down. Trego punted to the Norton 10 where Bolt made a fair catch.

After an incomplete pass and 1 yard run by Lane, the talented freshman carried the pigskin to the 30 for a first down. The Trego defense stiffened, however, and Bolt punted. Hemmert made a good return to the Norton 38. Lauer tackled senior fullback Taylor Dirks after a 2 yard gain, then Dreher came charging through the Golden Eagle line to sack Hemmert for an 11 yard loss!

After a screen play netted 9

yards, Trego punted and Bolt made a fair catch on the Norton 9. Lane carried the ball 3 times but was unable to pick up a first down and Bolt punted.

Hemmert returned the ball to the Norton 28 where Ray and J.D. Gall made the tackle. On first down, Hemmert ran the keeper to his left, found running room and made it to the end zone to put the visitors ahead 6-0 with 3:03 left in the first quarter. The extra point kick was no good.

The kickoff was on the ground but still carried back to Bolt who made a fair catch on the Norton 11. After Bolt gained 5 on two carries, Kats found Georgeson along the sideline and connected for an 84 yard touchdown! The kick for the extra point was no good, making it 6-6 with 1:32 left.

Lane kicked off for Norton and Matt Dietz returned the pigskin to the Trego 41. Herman tackled junior tailback James Richmeier after just 1 yard. Lane and Dreher rushed passer Hemmert and he threw incomplete. Dirks ran for 8 yards before Stanley made the stop as the quarter ended tied at 6-6.

Second quarter

Trego punted and Bolt received the ball at the Norton 15. He eluded a number of potential tacklers as he ran toward the Norton sideline, cut back and ran down the

middle of the field, then cut back again for an 85 yard touchdown run! The extra point kick miscued and Norton led 12-6 with 11:18 left in the half.

Hemmert returned Lane's kick-off to the Trego 29 where Stanley tackled him. Dreher stopped Dirks for no gain but junior tailback James Richmeier ran for a first down just past the 39 where Bolt made the tackle. Mannel threw Dirks for a 1 yard loss. Hemmert threw a flat pass to junior tight end Mathew Neff and Stanley and Bolt tackled him after an 8 yard gain. Richmeier made just 1 yard before Cox tackled him. Trego punted the ball out of bounds on the Norton 35.

Kats passed to Georgeson for 7 yards, Kats lost a yard and Lane gained 1. Bolt punted and Hemmert returned the ball to the Trego 27 where Stanley tackled him. Thomas and Herman dropped Dirks for no gain. Hemmert passed to senior wide receiver Cory McGann for 7 before Kats tackled him. Hemmert was sacked for a 4 yard loss by Thomas and Lauer and Trego punted.

Ray made a fair catch on the Norton 41. A holding penalty on Trego cost them 10 yards and they punted over. This time, Ray caught the ball on the Norton 49. Lane ran 21 yards to the Golden Eagle 28 but it was nullified by a holding penalty against the Blue Jays. The ball was moved back to mid-field. Lane took a pitch from Kats but, instead of running the ball, he threw a perfect pass down field to a wide open Georgeson for Norton's third touchdown! Kats passed to Ray for 2 extra points, making the score 20-6 with 3:37 left in the half.

Hemmert returned Lane's kick-off to the Trego 40. Hemmert ran for 3 and 2 yards with Ray and Stanley, respectively, making the tackles. Hemmert passed 15 yards to Dietz and Bolt made the stop. Hemmert faked a pass and ran up the middle for 13 yards and a first down on the Norton 28. Richmeier made nothing as Van Doren and Casey Robison tackled him. Herman sacked Hemmert for a 10 yard loss, a Hemmert pass was incomplete. Hemmert just missed a first down on a keeper and Norton took over on their 20.

Lane gained 11 and 8 and it was half-time, with the Blue Jays leading 20-6.

Third quarter

Lane kicked off and J.D. Gall tackled Hemmert on the 33. Dirks gained 2 and Ray tackled him. Dietz ran for 6 before Kats and Dreher made the tackle. Dirks gained a first down on the 44 before Dreher stopped him. Ray, Dreher and Herman sacked Hemmert for a 3 yard loss. After an incomplete pass, Trego lost 5 yards for illegal procedure and

Kats knocked down a third down pass. Trego punted to the Norton 35.

Landon Hamel gained 6 on an end around, Bolt gained nothing and Stanley ran for 1. Gall punted and Hemmert made a fair catch on the 22.

Hemmert passed to Neff for 5, then ran for 4 before Stanley made the stop. Dirks gained a first down on the 32 before Lane tackled him. Hemmert gained 1, then 4 before Dreher tackled him. After an incomplete pass, Trego punted. Ray made a fair catch on the 34.

Bolt got nothing and a pass was incomplete. On third down, Georgeson made an over-the-head circus catch of a Kats pass on the Trego 35! Bolt gained nothing but Lane ran around right end for Norton's final touchdown. Kyle Edgett split the uprights with a kick to make it 27-6 with 2:50 left.

Hemmert returned Lane's kick-off to the 50. Dirks gained 1 before Dreher tackled him. Dirks then ran for a short 9 before Perez made the tackle. Hemmert sneaked for a first down on the Norton 40. Thomas sacked him for a 2 yard loss. Heath Maley gained 2 before Ray and Dreher made the tackle as the third quarter ended.

Fourth quarter

After an incomplete pass, Trego punted. A blocking in the back penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the 7. Lane gained 9 on two carries, then Stanley plunged up the middle for 3 and a first down. After an incomplete pass, Norton was penalized for holding and the ball went to the 9. Lane bounced off several would-be tacklers for a first down on the Norton 35. Lane gained 5, Norton fumbled for no gain and Kats ran the keeper for a first down on the Norton 46. Gall lost 2, then Norton fumbled and Trego recovered on the Jay 34.

Trego went into the offensive shotgun. Herman and Dreher rushed, causing an incomplete pass. Trego's long snap went awry and back to the Norton 49. Trego was penalized 5, then a screen pass to Dirks carried to the Norton 44. Trego punted and the ball was downed on the Norton 13. Lane ran for 4, then broke three tackles on a 28 yard run to the Norton 45. Dreher and Kats got nothing, Perez lost 4 and Gall punted.

Hemmert made a fair catch on the Trego 28. Mannel sacked Hemmert for a 4 yard loss. Hemmert passed to Dietz on the 30 and a 5 yard penalty against Norton for grabbing the face mask cost the Jays 5. Hemmert passed to Richmeier for 7 and Kats tackled him after a first down. Stanley and Tyler Cook sacked Hemmert on the 31, Dirks ran for 3 and the game was over with the Jays winning 27-6.

Individual statistics

Lane was leading ground gainer

for Norton with 18 carries for 159 yards and an 8.8 yards per carry average. Other rushers were: Bolt, 6 for 8; Kats, 5 for 3; Hamel, 1 for 5; Stanley, 2 for 6; Gall, 1 for minus 2; Dreher, 1 for 0; Perez, 1 for minus 4.

Kats completed 4 of 7 passes for 125 yards. Georgeson caught 4 passes for 172 yards. Bolt punted 3 times for a 31.3 yard average and Gall punted 2 times for a 29.5 average. Lane had 5 kickoffs for a 45 yard average.

Bolt had 2 punt returns for 94 yards and 2 kickoff returns for 25 yards.

For Trego, Dirks rushed 10 times for 21 yards and Hemmert completed 9 of 14 passes for 72 yards.

Dreher led Norton tacklers with 8, followed by Ray, 6; Kats, Lane, 5 each; Bolt, Mannel, Perez, Stanley, 4 each; Cox, Gall, Preston Herman, Thomas, 2 each; Cook, Hamel, Husted, Lauer, Millan, Pfannenstiel, Robison, Van Doren, 1 each.

Next action

Norton will host Plainville in another Mid-Continent League game at 7 p.m. on Friday at Travis Field.

Plainville returns 5 starters on both offense and defense from their playoff team. Honorable mention all-league senior Joe Becker, a 6-foot-three, 255 pounder, anchors both the offensive and defensive line where he had 83 tackles. Senior Jason Dinkel is at tight end and on defense, while senior guard/linebacker Ben Gehring made 100 tackles on defense.

On Friday, Plainville defeated Osborne 20-12. The score was tied 6-all after one quarter and Plainville led 12-6 at half-time. Neither team scored in the third quarter. Plainville edged Osborne 8-6 in the final stanza to win by 8 points.

"Plainville runs the double-wing offense, which is difficult to defend," said Norton coach Melvin.

"Each of our players will have to play their positions and take care of their individual responsibilities. This is their second year with this head coach so I'm sure they're running that offense better than last year."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Trego
10	First Downs	8
164	Yards Rushing	61
175	Yards Passing	72
339	Total Yards	133
2-3	Fumbles Lost	0-0
6-40	Penalties	3-20
5-30.6	Punts	9-27.3



Norton cross country teams in another fine showing

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School cross country team turned in some outstanding performances again in Class 3-2-1A on Saturday in the Wamego Invitational Cross Country Meet. The Norton boys placed third in the team race and the Lady Jays finished in fourth spot.

In recent years, the Norton runners have placed high in this prestigious meet, the home of the state meet each year. Last year the Norton boys placed second and girls third. In 2005, Norton's boys were sixth and girls were seventh.

Wichita-Trinity Academy won the boys championship with 85 points, followed by Southeast of Saline, 102; Norton, 106; Hillsboro, 134; Pretty Prairie, 166; Olpe, 182; Silver Lake, 186; Kansas City Christ Prep A, 190; Allen-Northern Heights, 196 and Riley County, 216. Trego placed 13th with 321 points out of the 19 teams.

Riley County was the girls champion with 46 points, followed by Southeast of Saline, 98;

"The Wamego meet is the biggest meet we'll attend until the regional and state meets," said Norton head coach Tom Hehn.

"This was a good meet for our runners because they got a chance to experience running in a large group of runners and on the same course where the state meet is run. The course is very tough with several long, steep hills.

"I was pleased with our performance. Our runners ran against some of the best in the state and placed well.

"Now, they know the level of competition they will have to match if they want to make it to the state meet."

BOYS

Norton junior Zach Bainter won the individual gold medal in the 5 kilometer run with an excellent time of 17:45.69 after finishing third last year in 18:16.

Hillsboro senior Cody McMillen was last year's champion in 17:53 and ran it this year in 17:52.69 but had to settle for second place behind the flying Bainter.

Blue Jay sophomore Chris Maddy finished in 11th place with a time of 19:11.59 after placing 37th in 2006 in 20:06.

Third best for Norton was junior Jordan Bebb, who placed 19th in 19:38.03. Bebb was 33rd last

year in 19:56.

Senior David Counter was fourth best for Norton, placing 30th in 20:09.20 and senior Luke VanSkiie rounded out the Jays' five man team with a 47th place in 20:59.50.

GIRLS

Junior Laura Lee Baird also had an outstanding time in the girls 4 kilometer race, placing seventh in 16:41.54. She placed fourth last year in 16:22.

Lady Jay junior KaraJo Jones had Norton's second best time. She was clocked in 17:48.40 and placed 17th. She was 11th last year in 17:23.

Finishing next for Norton was junior Taylor Rossi in 35th in 18:33.35. Rossi placed 10th last year in 17:19.

Fourth best placer for Norton was freshman Kaylen Rossi, who finished 37th in 18:39.19. Right behind her was Norton freshman teammate Dustyna Sprigg in 38th in 18:44.09.

Annie Martin, Riley County senior, repeated as the individual

champion with a time of 15:15.51. Her teammate, senior Katie Henry, finished in sixth place in

16:40.35 after placing third last year in 16:14.

Next action

Norton will compete in the Trego Invitational on Thursday in WaKeeney, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:
Norton Blue Jays vs Plainville Cardinals 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Plainville 6:30 p.m. Monday in Plainville
Logan Trojans vs. Golden Plains 7 p.m. Friday in Logan
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Kensington 7 p.m. Friday in Alma

VOLLEYBALL:
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Goodland 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
Norton Lady Jays V-JV in Atwood Quadrangular 10 a.m. Saturday in Atwood
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Hill City, Stockton, Hoxie 4 p.m. Tuesday in Hill City
Norton Lady Jays C-Team vs. Hill City, Colby, Hays 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Hill City
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco and Eastern Heights 4 p.m. Today in Palco
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Alma and Logan 5 P.M. Tuesday in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans vs Stockton, Phillipsburg, Kensington 4 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Alma and Northern Valley 5 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:
Norton Cross Country in Trego Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in WaKeeney
Northern Valley Cross Country in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays

TENNIS:
Norton Lady Jays Varsity in Phillipsburg Quad 3 p.m. Today in Phillipsburg
Norton Lady Jays Varsity in Goodland Tournament 3 p.m. Today in Goodland
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg 3 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity in Goodland Tournament 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland

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