

# Blue Jays suffer 20-0 setback at Ellis

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After gaining wide recognition for handing St. Francis their first defeat the previous week, the Norton Community High School football team took a step backward and was shutout 20-0 by Ellis on Friday night in Mid-Continent League play in Ellis.

Defense was the name of the game. Neither team had many offensive yards but both teams had scoring opportunities. Ellis capitalized on theirs and Norton did not.

Norton gained just 111 yards on the ground and Ellis had a total of just 112 yards.

Overall, key passes helped Ellis on a night when Norton's passing game was not up to par. The Blue Jays had 72 yards passing on 6 of 22 for just 27 percent and the Railroaders had 101 yards on 5 of 11 aerials for 45 percent.

Total yardage for Norton was 183 compared to 213 for Ellis.

As they always do, a fumble, two pass interceptions and penalties came at inopportune times for Norton.

Norton forced Ellis to punt on their first possession and a short punt gave the Blue Jays the ball on the Railroader 36. Norton was unable to score and Ellis took over and drove for their first touchdown to take a 6-0 lead with 6:34 left in the opening quarter.

Norton's Landon Hamel returned the ensuing kickoff to the Ellis 21 but, once again, Norton was unable to penetrate the Railroader defense.

With 6:53 left in the second quarter, a 55 yard pass play was good for the second Ellis touchdown, making the score 13-0 after the extra point kick.

The Blue Jays put together a drive late in the second quarter but Ellis stopped it at their 6-yard-line to preserve their 13-0 lead at halftime.

Neither team threatened in the third quarter. Norton earned two first downs on one possession before a pass interception ended any chances of scoring.

Early in the fourth quarter, a second pass interception by Ellis on their 38 kept the Jays from moving in for a score. Late in the quarter, Norton ran out of downs on their 21 and Ellis scored their final touchdown to take a 20-0 lead with 3:03 left in the game.

Norton drove to the Ellis 12-yard-line on their final possession but, once again, was denied by the Railroader defense.

"We just didn't play very well on either side of the ball," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "Part of it was our preparation through the week. We didn't prepare well."

"You have to prepare for every team like they are the best in the world."

"We have no excuses; they just beat us badly!"

**Starters for Norton**  
Coach Melvin started the following players: Nish Millan, left tackle; Brock Lauer, left guard; Kaid McKenna, center; Luke

Ninemire, right guard; Kyle Mindrup, right tackle; Zac Dreher, tight end; Connor Pfannenstiel, quarterback; Matt Stanley, fullback; Terrell Lane, tailback; Ashton Draper, Landon Hamel, wide receivers, offense; Lauer and Tyler Cook, ends; Brad Nuzum and John Van Dorn, tackles; Dreher, Stanley, Lane, linebackers; Hamel, Draper, cornerbacks; Pfannenstiel, Zane Perez, safeties, defense.

**Individual statistics**

Norton tailback Terrell Lane had another 100 plus yard rushing game. He gained 102 yards on 29 carries for a 3.5 yard average. He was followed by Connor Pfannenstiel, 4 for 1; Matt Stanley, 3 for 3; J.D. Gall, 1 for 5.

Pfannenstiel completed 4 of 15 passes for 27 percent and 43 yards. Lane completed 2 of 7 aerials for 29 percent and 29 yards.

Pass receivers for Norton were: Ashton Draper, 2 for 32; Landon Hamel, 1 for 18; Matt Stanley, 3 for 22.

Lane punted 3 times for a 43 yard average. Caleb Laughlin kicked off 1 time for 48 yards. Landon Hamel had 3 punt returns for a 21 yard average. Hamel had 3 kickoff returns for a 29 yard average and Lane had 1 for 21 yards.

Ellis running back Dylan Pfeifer, who entered the game with 730 yards on 99 carries for a 7.4 yard average, gained 78 yards on 24 carries for a 3.2 yard average.

Leading tacklers for Norton were: Matt Stanley with 7 solos, 3 assists, 10 total and Zac Dreher 6 solos, 2 assists, 8 total. They were followed by Zane Perez, Connor Pfannenstiel, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total each; Brock Lauer, 5 solos; Terrell Lane, J.D. Gall, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total each; Landon Hamel, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Ashton Draper, John Van Dorn, 3 solos each; Tyler Cook, Dakota Dreher, 2 solos each; Nish Millan, 1 solo.

**First quarter**

Caleb Laughlin kicked off for Norton. Dillon Kinderknecht returned the ball to the 21-yard-line where Matt Stanley made the tackle. Ellis quarterback Chase King passed to Kinderknecht on the 27 but a good rush made him throw incomplete on second down. Zane Perez and Brock Lauer sacked King on third down and a short punt rolled dead on the Ellis 36.

Norton was unable to capitalize on the scoring opportunity. A Pfannenstiel pass was incomplete, then Terrell Lane lost 7 yards from his shotgun position. Stanley caught a flat pass on the 35 and Pfannenstiel was stopped for no gain on a keeper.

Ellis took over and Pfeifer got a first down on the 46. He gained 3 more before Lauer tackled him. After 4 more yards by Pfeifer, Zane Perez made the tackle. Ellis went to the air. King connected with Kinderknecht and he ran to the Norton 4. It took Pfeifer two plays to get into the end zone. Manuel Rodriguez kicked for the extra point but it was wide, leaving the score at 6-0 with 6:34 left.

Norton drove to the Ellis 12-yard-line on their final possession but, once again, was denied by the Railroader defense.



The Norton Community High School Homecoming royalty was honored prior to the Norton-St. Francis football game on Friday, Oct. 3 at Travis Field. Pictured are, from left, back row: Laura Lee Baird, Taylor Rossi, Katharine Roy, attendants; Queen Karajo Jones; King Zach Bainter; Matt Stanley, Brock Lauer, Zac Dreher, attendants; front row: Tessa Hauser and Mason Urban, crown bearers.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Hamel made an outstanding return of the ensuing kickoff and was finally tackled on the Ellis 21-yard-line! Lane got nothing, however, and Norton was penalized 5 yards for illegal motion. Pfannenstiel ran a keeper to the 20 but Norton was penalized 5 more yards for a false start. Pfannenstiel was sacked and his fourth down pass was incomplete.

Kinderknecht got 7 yards on a reverse, then Ellis fumbled and recovered for no gain. Pfeifer got a first down by inches on the 43 before Lane made the tackle. Pfeifer gained 10 more yards for another first down. The Norton defense stiffened and Ellis lost 3. Then, Gall tackled Gideon Fuchs for a 2 yard loss. Delay of game cost Ellis 5 yards and a pass was incomplete. Ellis punted out of bounds on the Norton 21.

Lane bulled up the middle for a first down on the Norton 45. Stanley got nothing and Lane lost 3. A Pfannenstiel pass was incomplete and Lane punted. Kinderknecht was tackled on the Ellis 16 and the quarter ended with Ellis ahead 6-0.

**Second quarter**

After an incomplete pass by Chase King, Pfeifer got a first down on the 30 where Gall tackled him. Stanley stopped Pfeifer for no gain and Zac Dreher, Tyler Cook and Brad Nuzum ganged up on King, sacking him on the 18! Pfeifer gained 4 and Ellis punted.

Hamel received the punt but had no return this time and Norton took over on their 36. Lane got good line blocking and gained 8, then got a first down on the 46. Lane got the ball again and made another hard run into the Ellis defense but the ball popped out

**How they scored**

2nd quarter — Jacob Brooks 9-yard run, PAT Dalton Miller pass to John Renner; Brooks 6-yard run, PAT Brooks run.

3rd quarter — Austin Hager 51-yard run.

4th quarter — Brooks 19-yard run; Hager 10-yard run, PAT Brooks kick.

**Rushing** — Brooks, 15 carries, 136 yards; Hager, 7/89; Miller, 2/29; Jared Bohl, 2/9.

**Passing** — Miller, 5 attempts, 2 completions, 9 yards.

**Pass Receiving** — John Rise-wick, 2 for 9 yards.

Tackles — Treven Rossi 13; Miller 11; Renner 6; Carson McKenna 5; Lane Bigge 2; Rise-wick 6; Eli Bozarth 9; Hager 3; Lane Vanover 1; Ryan Bainter 3; Cody Ellis 4; Brooks 1.

of his arm when he was hit and the Railroaders recovered on the Ellis 46.

Pfeifer gained 5, then Norton lost 5 for encroachment, giving Ellis a first down on the Norton 45. After an incomplete pass, Ellis lost 10 yards for holding. The next down, however, King passed to Kinderknecht and he sprinted through the Norton defense for a 55 yard touchdown. Rodriguez kicked the extra point, extending the Ellis lead to 13-0 with 6:53 left.

Hamel made another good return of the kickoff to the Norton 34 but an unsportsmanlike penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the 19. Lane gained 4 and Gall carried the ball to the 30. Lane lost 4, then Norton lost 5 on an illegal motion penalty. Lane punted and the ball soared to the Ellis 24!

A good pass rush by Norton caused an incomplete pass. Pfeifer gained 4 before Perez made the tackle. Then, Stanley threw Pfeifer for an 8 yard loss! Ellis punted and Hamel returned the ball to the 40 and a personal foul on Ellis moved the pigskin to the Ellis 24. Lane gained 7 yards, then plowed for 2 more. Stanley gained a first down on the 13 but Lane took a pitch and lost 3. Next, Lane ran to the 12 and then to the 6 but lost 3 on fourth down. Ellis took over and ran out the clock, preserving their 13-0 lead.

**Third quarter**

Lane returned the kickoff to the Norton 40. On first down, he bulled for 4 yards, then ran around right end for a first down on the Ellis 35. Lane got 5 more yards on 2 carries but a Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete. On fourth down, Pfannenstiel was sacked on the Ellis 38.

Pfeifer ran for a first down on the Norton 46 where Draper and Gall made the tackle. Next, he got 2 before John Van Doren made the tackle. Dreher stopped him after 1

yard and Nuzum rushed the passer, causing him to throw incomplete. After another incomplete King pass, Ellis punted.

Hamel returned the punt to the Norton 33. Lane lost 1, Stanley gained 1 and then made a diving catch of a Pfannenstiel pass on the 39. Lane punted and the ball rolled dead on the Ellis 20. Fuchs made a good run around right end, breaking two Norton tackles and getting a first down on the Ellis 40. Lane tackled Fuchs for a 5 yard loss on a screen pass, then Dreher sacked King on the 32. Pfeifer gained 10 yards but Ellis was forced to punt.

Hamel returned the ball to the Norton 32. A Pfannenstiel to Stanley pass gained 9 yards and Pfannenstiel sneaked for a first down on the 43. Pfannenstiel passed to Draper and he made a good catch on the Ellis 37 for another Blue Jay first down!

A false start cost Norton 5 yards, then Pfannenstiel lost 6 yards. The next down, a Pfannenstiel pass was intercepted and an illegal block in the back by the Railroaders moved the ball back to their 25. Holding cost Ellis 10 more yards and the Norton defense did the rest. The quarter ended with Ellis still leading 13-0 and facing a fourth down.

**Fourth quarter**

Ellis punted and the ball rolled dead on the Ellis 46. Lane ran around left end for 11 yards and a first down. Lane gained 2 more and Pfannenstiel passed to Stanley but illegal procedure nullified the play and moved Norton back 5. Lane bulled for 4 hard yards, then Pfannenstiel went upstairs. His pass was intercepted and returned to the Ellis 38.

King ran the keeper for 8, Fuchs got a first down at midfield before Lauer made the tackle. Pfeifer gained 4, King was stopped for no gain and Pfeifer appeared to get a first down but Ellis was penalized back to their 47 for holding. After

another penalty, Ellis punted to the Norton 39.

A pass was incomplete, then Lane gained 1 but Norton was whistled for an illegal block and penalized back to the 21. After 3 incomplete passes, Ellis took over on the Norton 21.

Pfeifer lost 3 but then ran to the 15. Next down, Pfeifer lost 5 but a King pass to Kyle Hadley carried to the Norton 4. King fumbled the center snap but recovered. The next down, the Norton defense threw Pfeifer for a 1 yard loss. On the next down, however, Fuchs ran over the left side of the line for the final Ellis touchdown. Rodriguez kicked the extra point, making the score 20-0 with 3:03 left in the game.

Hamel returned the kickoff to the Norton 38. Lane went into the shotgun and completed a pass to Draper for a first down on the Norton 49. After an incomplete Lane pass, he ran for 4 yards. After another incomplete pass, Lane ran for a first down on the Ellis 30. A Lane to Hamel pass carried to the Ellis 12 for another first down.

Final attempted passes by Lane and Pfannenstiel were incomplete and Ellis won 20-0.

Norton is now 4-2 and Ellis is 5-1.

**Next action**

The regular season is complete and District play will begin this Friday evening.

Norton will travel to Ness City to play Ness City-Dighton in their first of three District contests. The game will begin at 7 p.m.

**GAME STATISTICS**

Norton	Ellis
9 First Downs	11
111 Yards Rushing	112
72 Yards Passing	101
183 Total Yards	213
6-22-2 Passes Compl	5-11-0
3-43 Punts	8-25
1-3 Fumbles Lost	0-3
10-59 Penalties	10-57

**8th graders chase Cowboys off the ranch in 35-0 blowout**

But lopsided win doesn't excite coach

The Norton Junior High 8th grade football team blew Goodland away on Oct. 2, by a 35-0 score.

But overall, coach George Rossi wasn't overly impressed. He had this to say about the game: "We were either good or not good at all. The game started with three turnovers by us and we have to eliminate silly turnovers. Once we focused on what we needed to do, the boys played very well."

"Our defense played with good intensity with many good hits during the game. What we need to do is put together four quarters of focused and intense football."

"This team is very capable, but our minds need to be on the game for the full 32 minutes."

Norton 0-16-6-13=35  
Goodland 0-0-0-0=0

**Correction**

The story in last Tuesday's Norton Telegram on Norton's football victory over the St. Francis Indians stated that Terrell Lane made the big sack of the Indian quarterback for a 7 yard loss at the end of the first half.

It was a reporter's error. Brock Lauer made the tackle.

Sports News & Notes to either 877-3361, or to 877-6908

**High School Sports This Week**



**FOOTBALL:**

Norton Blue Jays vs. Ness City-Dighton ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Ness City  
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Golden Plains ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Rexford  
Logan Trojans vs. Victoria ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Victoria

**VOLLEYBALL:**

Norton Lady Jays vs. Golden Plains, Logan (V, JV) Senior Night ... 4 p.m. Today in Norton  
Norton Lady Jays in Mid-Continent League Tournament ..... 8 a.m. Saturday in Ellis  
Norton Lady Jays vs. Goodland/Ulysses (V, JV) ..... 5 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton/Western Plains. .... 4 p.m. Today in Stockton  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Cheyenne Conference Tournament ..... 10 a.m. Saturday in Kensington

Logan Lady Trojans vs. Norton/Golden Plains ..... 4 p.m. Today in Norton  
Logan Lady Trojans in Cheyenne Conference Tournament. . 10 a.m. Saturday in Kensington

**CROSS COUNTRY:**

Norton Cross Country in Lakeside Invitational ..... 4 p.m. Thursday in Downs  
Northern Valley Cross Country in Wheatland Invitational ... 3 p.m. Thursday in Wheatland