



# Jays down Goodland, host Lakin tonight

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School football team won the District 15 championship with a 3-0 record on Thursday night by outscoring Goodland 28-14 on the Cowboys' home field.

The win gives Norton a 7-2 overall record and set up a Bi-District game here tonight at 7 p.m. with Lakin, who defeated Southwestern Heights 33-14 on Thursday to place second in their district. Lakin is now 5-4.

Norton's junior quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel had a career best game, running the keeper to near perfection and passing for two touchdowns. Pfannenstiel ended the game with 94 yards rushing for an average of 6.3 yards per carry and 97 yards passing for 191 yards of offense. Pfannenstiel also tied for top tackler from his defensive back position with 9.

Sophomore tailback Terrell Lane continued to gain over 100 yards per contest and ended with 120 yards on 20 carries for a 6 yard average.

The "Blue Swarm" defense also did their job, allowing only one Cowboy touchdown.

Goodland had upset on their mind and played Norton even in the first quarter, which ended with the visiting Blue Jays leading 2-0, thanks to a safety caused by the hard-rushing Norton defense that forced the Goodland quarterback to get an intentional grounding penalty from his end zone with 5:21 left.

The Cowboys operate from a spread offense with as many as four receivers and it caused the Blue Jays some problems early. Following a 29 yard pass from Cowboy senior quarterback Travis Angelos to senior receiver Brandon Rome to the Norton 9-yard-line, Angelos passed to Rome in the end zone. Simon Grunfeld kicked the extra point and the Cowboys led 7-2 at the 8:22 mark.

Norton continued to have trouble with the Goodland spread offense and the Cowboys drove into Norton territory late in the second quarter but senior linebacker Matt Stanley intercepted an Angelos pass. With 58 seconds left in the half, Pfannenstiel connected with Lane streaking down the sideline. Lane caught the ball over his shoulder in full stride and outran the Goodland defenders for a 73 yard touchdown reception! The extra point kick attempt was blocked but Norton held a slim 8-7 halftime advantage.

Goodland scored with 8:43 left in the third quarter when lineman Jace Mosbarger picked up a Norton fumble on a reverse play and scored from 60 yards out. Grunfeld's extra point kick was good and the Cowboys led 14-8.

Fourteen seconds later and the Blue Jays were ahead for good. Junior Landon Hamel followed his blockers on the ensuing kickoff and broke into the open down the sidelines for an 85 yard touchdown! Lane exploded into the end zone for two extra points and Norton led 16-14.

The Jays tacked on another score with 26 seconds left in the third period when Pfannenstiel, who had led the team down the field with his great keeper plays, passed 24 yards to junior wide receiver Ashton Draper for another Blue Jay touchdown. A pass for two extra points was incomplete but Norton led 22-14.

With time running out in the game, Stanley made a beautiful 25 yard run, Pfannenstiel took over with his outstanding ball handling and running on the keeper play and Lane ended the drive with a 30 yard touchdown run with 4:55 remaining. A try for two extra points by Norton was no good but the game was all over but the shouting. The "Blue Swarm" defense halted the Cowboys' final drive and the game ended with the Jays on top 28-14.

**Coach's comments**

"Our offensive line stepped up in the second half and did some good blocking," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "Connor did a good job on his reads on the keeper and made a lot of

yardage.

"Defensively, we played hard but almost too hard at times. We missed some opportunities on defense by overplaying. Little technique things caused us problems.

"A couple of times our defensive backs were caught looking in the backfield instead of playing for the pass.

"But, our defense stiffened when they needed to. They threatened us but our defense held them out of the end zone."

**Starters for Norton**

Coach Melvin started the following players: Landon Hamel, Ashton Draper, wide receivers; J.D. Gall, tight end; Nish Millan, Zac Dreher, tackles; Brock Lauer, Brad Nuzum, guards; Kaid McKenna, center; Connor Pfannenstiel, quarterback; Matt Stanley, fullback; Terrell Lane, tailback, offense; Tyler Cook, Lauer, ends; Nuzum, John Van Doren, tackles; Stanley, Zac Dreher, Lane, linebackers; Pfannenstiel, Zane Perez, Hamel, Draper, backs, defense.

**Individual statistics**

In addition to Pfannenstiel's and Lane's rushing yardage, other Norton ball carriers and their yardage was: Matt Stanley, 7 for 41, 5.8 average; Zane Perez, 3 for 9 and Spencer Shirk, 4 for minus 1.

Pfannenstiel's pass receivers were: Terrell Lane, 1 for 73 and Ashton Draper, 1 for 24.

Lane continued to punt well. He averaged 43 yards on 3 punts. Caleb Laughlin also continued to do an excellent job of kicking off. He had 5 kickoffs for a 48 yard average.

Landon Hamel had 1 kickoff return for 85 yards and Lane had 2 for 48 yards.

Draper had 1 punt return for 6 and Hamel had 1 for 5.

Leading rusher for Goodland was Fernando Martinez with 24 carries for 94 yards. Quarterback Travis Angelos completed 14 passes out of 37 attempts for 38 percent and 164 yards.

Leading tacklers for Norton were: Zac Dreher with 8 solos, 1 assist for 9 total and Landon Hamel and Conner Pfannenstiel, each with 6 solos and 3 assists for 9 total. They were followed by: Terrell Lane, Matt Stanley, 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total each; Zane Perez, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; John Van Doren, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; J. D. Gall, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Brock Lauer, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Rylee Stanley, 2 solos; Billy Broeckelman, Brad Nuzum, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total each; Ashton Draper, Kaid McKenna, 1 solo each; Tyler Cook, 1 assist.

**First quarter**

Caleb Laughlin kicked off for Norton and Kelly Pearson returned the ball. The Cowboys were penalized for a block in the back and started on their 17-yard-line. After two incomplete passes by quarterback Travis Angelos, he ran up the middle for a first down as Van Doren tackled him on the 29. Hamel tackled Brandon Rome after a 4 yard pass, then Fernando Martinez was stopped by Lauer for no gain. Angelos passed to Rome over the middle for a first down on the Norton 49.

Martinez earned a first down on the Norton 24 but Goodland was penalized for illegal procedure. After an incomplete pass, the Cowboys fumbled and Lauer recovered for Norton on the 30!

Lane got a first down on the 42, ran for 2 more, Stanley picked up 3 and Stanley plunged for 1. Lane punted and Pearson was tackled by Gall on the 14.

After an incomplete pass, Eduardo Martinez gained 8 before Pfannenstiel tackled him. He got the call again but Goodland was penalized 5 for illegal procedure. The next play, Lauer and Stanley put a hard rush on Angelos and he threw the ball where there was no receiver. Goodland was penalized for intentional grounding and, since Angelos was in the end zone when he threw the aerial, it was ruled a safety and Norton held a 2-0 lead with 5:21 left.

Goodland had to kick the ball to Norton and Lane returned it to the Goodland 45. Lane lost 1, two passes were incomplete and Lane punted into the end zone.

Goodland was penalized for unsportsmanlike conduct and Stanley and Van Doren tackled Fernando Martinez after 5 yards. Dreher dropped Brock Wilkens for a 1 yard loss, Martinez gained nothing and Goodland punted.

Draper returned the punt 6 yards to the Goodland 31. Lane gained 2 but the Blue Jays were penalized for holding. Pfannenstiel ran the keeper to the 37, Lane gained 10 and Stanley ran for 6 more to the Cowboy 21. An illegal motion penalty cost Norton 5 yards. A fourth down pass was incomplete and the quarter ended with the visiting Norton eleven leading 2-0.

**Second quarter**

Martinez ran to the 40 for a first down before Gall and Perez tackled him. A pass was incomplete, Dreher tackled Martinez for no gain, another pass was incomplete and Goodland punted.

Hamel returned the punt 5 yards to the 25. Lane bulled up the middle for a first down on the 38. Lane gained 2 more, a pass was incomplete. Lane had another good gain but Norton was whistled for holding. Pfannenstiel went back to pass and was sacked. Lane punted, Norton was penalized for interfering with the receiver and the ball was moved to the Norton 40. Goodland got some momentum from the penalty against the Blue Jays. Angelos passed to Rome and he made a good catch on the Norton 9-yard-line. After the Cowboys were penalized 5 for illegal motion, Angelos connected with Rome for a touchdown. Simon Grunfeld kicked the extra point, giving Goodland a 7-2 lead with 8:22 left in the first half.

Lane returned the kickoff to the Norton 41. Lane carried the ball four straight times and got the pigskin to the Goodland 36. Pfannenstiel sneaked for a first down on the 33. Perez gained 3, Pfannenstiel ran the keeper to the 25 and Stanley ran for an apparent first down but Norton was penalized 10 for holding. Pfannenstiel gained 1 but passed incomplete on fourth down and Goodland took over.

Lane tackled Martinez after a gain of 8 but he got 6 more before Pfannenstiel made the tackle. Pearson caught a pass from Angelos and Pfannenstiel tackled him on the Norton 35. Martinez gained 2 before Van Doren and Stanley stopped him. Two passes were incomplete, Goodland was whistled for holding and the ball went back to the Norton 43. Another Cowboy pass was incomplete but Norton was penalized for roughing the passer and Goodland got a first down on the Norton 27. After an incomplete pass, Martinez gained 9 before Perez tackled him. Then, Martinez ran for a first down on the 17. The next down, Stanley intercepted an Angelos pass to stop the Cowboy drive on the Norton 18!

Lane ran for 9 yards then Pfannenstiel went upstairs with Lane running at full speed down the sideline. He caught the perfect pass over his shoulder and outran the Cowboy defenders for a 73 yard touchdown! The extra point kick by Laughlin was blocked but Norton led 8-7 with 19 seconds left in the first half.

**Third quarter**

Nuzum returned the kickoff to the 23. Lane made nothing. Pfannenstiel ran the keeper for a first down on the 34. Lane gained 4 and Pfannenstiel ran the keeper for another first down on the Norton 46. Stanley gained 5 and Pfannenstiel 3. The Blue Jay drive continued with Pfannenstiel getting a first down on the Goodland 40. The next down, the Cowboys got a big break when Norton fumbled on a reverse play and Jace Mosbarger picked up the ball and raced into the end zone for a touchdown. Grunfeld kicked the extra point and Goodland led 14-8 with 8:43 left.

The Cowboy lead lasted only 14 seconds, however, as Hamel got good blocking on the kickoff, broke into the open and sprinted down the sideline for an 85-yard touchdown! No one was going to stop Lane as he exploded into the end zone for 2 extra points, putting the Jays on top for good 16-14 with



After Goodland scored on a fumble return in District play on Thursday night, Norton answered when junior wide receiver Landon Hamel returned the Cowboy kickoff 85 yards for a Norton touchdown! Behind Hamel are two of the blockers who helped him get loose for the long run, Kaid McKenna, sophomore center and Brad Nuzum, senior guard.

- Photo Courtesy Tom Betz, Goodland

8:29 left.

Pearson returned Laughlin's kickoff but the Cowboys were penalized back to the 9. Martinez gained 2 before Lauer tackled him. After no gain on another running play, Goodland got a break when Norton was penalized for pass interference and the ball was moved to the 24. Angelos passed to Rome on the 30 where Lane tackled him. Martinez gained a first down on the 40 and Lane again made the tackle. Dreher tackled Rome after catching a 5 yard pass. Chris Bustillos carried twice to the Norton 45 but Nuzum and Stanley sacked Angelos for an 8 yard loss. Angelos passed to Pearson for 6 yards but a fourth down pass fell incomplete and Norton had held on the Blue Jay 37.

Pfannenstiel gained 7 and 3 on keepers, Stanley ran for 3 and Pfannenstiel gained another first down on the Goodland 32. Lane ran to the 24, then Pfannenstiel connected with Draper in the end zone for another Blue Jay touchdown! A pass for two extra points was incomplete but Norton had extended their advantage to 22-14 with 26 seconds left.

Bustillos returned Laughlin's kickoff to the 25 where Perez made the tackle. Martinez ran for 4 and the third quarter was over.

**Fourth quarter**

After an incomplete pass, Goodland's Martinez got a first down on the Cowboy 40. After another incomplete pass, Dreher tackled Martinez after 3 and Van Doren

tackled him after 2. On fourth down, Angelos passed complete to Pearson on the Norton 44. Next, he passed to Brock Wilkens on the Norton 20 where Hamel made the tackle. Van Doren tackled Martinez after 2, a pass was incomplete, Goodland was penalized 5 for illegal motion. Angelos passed to Rome on the Norton 14 put a fourth down pass was incomplete and Norton regained possession with 8:56 left.

Perez made a good gain but Norton was penalized for holding and the ball was moved back to the 10. Stanley made a great run over left tackle and cut back for a 25 yard gain! Lane gained 5 and 2 and Pfannenstiel sneaked for a first down. Pfannenstiel gained 4, Lane 2 and Pfannenstiel ran to the Cowboy 30. Lane ran over the right side, broke a tackle and sprinted into the end zone. Lane ran for an apparent two extra points but Norton was whistled for holding and a pass was incomplete, making the score 28-14 with 4:55 remaining.

Gall tackled Bustillos on the 25 after the kickoff. A pass was incomplete, then Angelos connected with Rome for 11 before Pfannenstiel tackled him. A pass to Wilkens gained 9 and Martinez got a first down by inches before Lane and Dreher made the tackle. Angelos passed to Rome on the Norton 37. A pass was incomplete but Norton was penalized to the 23 for pass interference. Stanley tackled Martinez after 3, a pass

was incomplete and Goodland was penalized 10 for holding. Stanley tackled Martinez after 3, two passes fell incomplete and Norton took over on their 28.

With the help of two penalties against Goodland and plus rushing yardage by Perez and Pfannenstiel, Norton moved the ball to the Goodland 41 before time ran out with the Blue Jays winning 28-14 to remain unbeaten in District play!

**Next action**

In the 7 p.m. Bi-District contest this evening at Travis Field, Norton will host 5-4 Lakin who defeated Syracuse, Sublette and Stanton County and lost to Scott City, Hugoton and Beloit in regular season action. In their District, they defeated Cimarron, lost to Holcomb and defeated Southwestern Heights to place second in their district.

The Broncos run a power wish-bone offense. Senior quarterback Beau Bird completed 75 percent of his passes for almost 500 yards last season and is also a leader on defense from his defensive back spot.

**GAME STATISTICS**

Norton	Goodland
14 First Downs	18
263 Yards Rushing	117
97 Yards Passing	164
360 Total Yards	281
2-10-0 Passes Compl	14-37-1
3-41 Punts	2-37
1-1 Fumbles Lost	1-1
12-117 Penalties	14-108

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