

# Norton K-18 team wins 6, loses 7 to date

By **DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton K-18 baseball team, consisting of boys 13 and 14 years of age, had a three-game winning streak going into Thursday’s contest at Holdrege, but results were not available at The Telegram’s press time.

The Blue Jays have played 13 games so far this season and were about even with a 6-7 record at the time of the Holdrege game.

Norton opened the season with a 3-1 loss to Alma, split a doubleheader with Ellis by beating the Railroaders 9-8 before losing 8-2, split a doubleheader with Phillipsburg by losing 10-4 and winning 7-2, defeated Beaver City 24-10, lost a doubleheader to Plainville 10-0 and 21-11, lost a doubleheader to Smith Center 10-5 and 10-9, defeated Alma 6-3, beat Minden 15-11 and beat Bermis (Bertrand-Loomis) 9-1 on Tuesday evening of this week.

This year’s Norton K-18 coaches are Ward Foley, Rick Green and Scott Ellis.

Squad members are Andrew Ellis, Trevor Lewis, Robert Blecha, Zach Hartwell, Ryan Bainter, Austin Hager, Trey Millan, Travis Cressler, Dalton Miller, Toby Nickell, Drew Schrum., Treven Rossi, John Risewick and Marc Miller.

## Alma

Norton opened the season with a 3-1 loss at Alma. The young Blue Jays scored their only run in the top of the fourth inning when Millan scored after advancing around the bases when Lewis and Nickell hit the ball.

Alma scored one run in the bottom of the third and two in the bottom of the fifth to break the tie.

Norton had three hits, two walks and 10 strike outs. Millan and Nickell were 1 for 2 and Blecha was 1 for 3 at the plate with a double.

Millan pitched most of the way for Norton and was the losing pitcher. Nickell relieved him late in the game. Alma had just two hits, 10 walks and 10 strike outs.

## Ellis

Norton led all the way in the 9-8 win at Ellis in the doubleheader.

The Blue Jays scored four runs in the top of the first when Hartwell singled, Dalton Miller got on base via an error, Blecha and Millan both singled and Lewis doubled. Hartwell, Miller, Blecha and Millan all scored.

Ellis scored once in the bottom of the first. Norton came back with three more runs in the top of the second to extend their lead to 7-1. Carson McKenna, Hartwell, Dalton Miller and Blecha all singled and McKenna, Hartwell and Miller all scored.

Ellis tallied three runs in the bottom of the second to narrow the Norton lead to 7-4.

The young Blue Jays came back with two more runs in the top of the third to make it 9-4. Nickell, Hartwell, Dalton Miller, Blecha, Millan and Lewis all singled and Hartwell and Millan scored.

Ellis rallied in the bottom of the fifth with four runs on four hits to come within one run of the Jays but three straight outs brought an end to the game and produced the 9-8 win for Norton.

The Norton bats were active as 14 hits were recorded. Norton had one walk and seven strike outs. Hartwell and Blecha were both 3 for 3 at the plate, Dalton Miller and Millan were 2 for 3 and Lewis was 2 for 2.

Dalton Miller was the winning pitcher. He gave up just nine hits and four walks and struck out five batters.

Riley Hunsicker was the losing pitcher.

In the nightcap, Millan pitched well but had some control problems in the third inning that allowed four of the seven bases on balls he gave up in the game. He allowed just six hits and struck out eight batters.

Norton’s bats were not as accurate as in the opener. The Blue Jays had just five hits, two walks and three strike outs. Norton scored their two runs in the top of the first when Hartwell, Dalton Miller and Lewis singled and Hartwell and Miller scored.

Hartwell was 2 for 3 at the plate. Ellis scored one run in the first inning, one in the second, five in the third and one in the fourth.

Winning pitcher was Pfeifer. **Phillipsburg**

In the 10-4 loss in the first game of a doubleheader at Phillipsburg, Norton took an early lead by scoring twice in the top of the first but could only get one more run in the second stanza and two in the fourth.

Phillipsburg scored three runs in the bottom of the second and seven in the third.

Norton’s first inning scores came after Millan and Blecha walked and Bainter and Ellis drove them home. In the second inning, Risewick walked and Nickell singled him home. In the fourth inning, Risewick walked again along with Hartwell and both scored.

Norton had just four hits, seven walks and one strike out. Bainter was 2 for 2 at the plate.

Hartwell was the losing pitcher. He gave up five hits, walked 13 and struck out one batter.

Winning pitcher was Koby Boucher.

Behind the two-hit pitching of Nickell, Norton won the nightcap 7-2.

Nickell gave up three walks and struck out six batters.

Norton also had just two hits but scored three times in the first inning, once in the second and three more in the fifth stanza.

Hartwell walked, Dalton Miller doubled, Millan, McKenna and Risewick all walked and Hartwell, Miller and Millan all scored in the first inning.

In the second stanza, Miller walked and Hartwell singled him home.

Norton’s three runs in the fifth inning came after walks by Miller, Millan and McKenna and all three tallied.

Phillipsburg scored one run in the bottom of the second and one in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Hartwell and Miller were both 1 for 2 at the plate for Norton.

Losing pitcher was Newlin.

## Beaver City

The floodgates opened for Norton in the Blue Jays’ 24-10 win at Beaver City.

The 24 runs came on 23 Norton

hits!

Norton also had seven walks and eight strike outs.

Norton tallied three runs in the first inning, one in the second, two in the third, 10 in the fourth and eight in the sixth.

Ellis had five hits in six times at bat and Dalton Miller had four in six at-bats. Nickell was 3 for 4 at the plate.

Beaver City had two runs in the first inning, four in the fourth, two in the fifth and two in the sixth.

Lewis was the winning pitcher. He allowed eight hits, walked 14 and struck out 11 batters.

## Plainville

In the first home games for Norton this season, the Plainville nine was successful in the doubleheader.

Norton lost the first game by a 10-0 score. It was a scoreless game until Plainville scored all ten of their runs in the top of the fourth inning.

Norton had just one hit by Hartwell in the game, no walks and five strike outs. Dalton Miller was the losing pitcher. He gave up seven hits, walked five and struck out one batter.

Norton tallied enough runs in the nightcap to have won the opener but defense was not up to par and the Cardinals won 21-11.

Neither team scored in the first inning. Plainville ran three runs across home plate in the top of the second but Norton scored two runs of their own in the bottom of the inning. Risewick walked and Nickell singled and both scored.

Ten runs by Plainville in the top of the third extended the Cardinal advantage to 13-2. Norton tallied two runs in the bottom of the inning but it was still 13-4. Ellis walked, Blecha, Dalton Miller and Millan all singled and Ellis and Blecha scored.

Plainville scored once in the fourth inning and Norton added six tallies to narrow the Cardinal advantage to 14-10. Nickell singled, Bainter walked, Marc Miller singled, Ellis walked, Blecha singled and Millan singled and all six scored!

Plainville was not finished scoring, however, and added a final seven runs to their total in the top of the fifth.

The young Blue Jays scored one more time in the bottom of the inning when Risewick doubled and scored.

Norton had 10 hits, five walks and four strike outs. Millan was 3 for 3 at the plate while Blecha and Nickell were each 2 for 3.

Millan was the losing pitcher. He gave up five hits, walked 17 and struck out five batters.

Winning pitcher was Kyle Becker.

## Smith Center

Next, Norton hosted Smith Center in a doubleheader.

The opener was a good game except for the top of the fourth when Norton allowed seven of the Redmen’s 10 runs.

After the first inning, Smith Center led 2-1. Norton’s single run in the bottom of the first was by Hartwell who walked and scored.

Smith Center was scoreless in the next two innings and Norton added three runs in the bottom of

the third to take a 4-2 lead. Lewis and Bainter both walked, Dalton Miller got on base on an error and all three tallied.

After Smith Center’s big fourth inning, however, the Redmen led 9-4.

Smith Center scored one more time in the top of the fifth and the Blue Jays’ final run came in the bottom of the inning when Bainter and Hartwell both walked and Dalton Miller drove Bainter home.

Dalton Miller had the only hit for Norton. The Blue Jays had six walks and 11 strike outs.

Dalton Miller, Millan and Hartwell shared mound duties for Norton. They gave up five hits, walked 11 and struck out eight.

Terrell was the winning pitcher.

The nightcap was an exciting game but the Blue Jays were edged 10-9!

The Redmen led 3-2 after the first inning. Norton’s runs came when Dalton Miller singled, Blecha walked and Risewick singled and Miller and Blecha scored.

Norton tied the score at 3-all with one run in the bottom of the second. Bainter and Hartwell both walked and Bainter scored.

In the bottom of the third, the young Blue Jays moved ahead 6-3. Risewick, Bainter and Lewis walked, Marc Miller singled and Hartwell walked and Risewick, Bainter and Lewis scored.

Smith Center scored seven big runs in the top of the fifth to take a 10-6 lead.

Three runs by Norton in the bottom of the fifth were just not quite enough to overtake the Redmen. Ellis singled, Bainter, Lewis and Marc Miller all walked and Blecha singled and Ellis, Bainter and Lewis scored to make the final 10-9 in favor of the visitors.

Norton had six hits, 10 walks and nine strike outs.

Lewis was the losing pitcher. He allowed four hits, walked 12 and struck out eight batters.

Brooks was the winning hurler.

## Alma

Norton gained a measure of revenge against Alma in the home game between the two as the Blue Jays defeated the Nebraskans 6-3.

The game was tied 2-all after the first inning. Norton scored when Hartwell singled, Dalton Miller doubled, Hager and Millan walked and Hartwell and Miller scored.

The score remained tied when both teams scored once in the third inning. Norton’s score came when Millan singled and was driven home by Lewis.

Alma was shutout the rest of the way and Norton scored once more in the fourth inning and twice in the fifth. Hartwell walked and Hager doubled him home in the fourth and Millan hit safely and Lewis and Ellis walked and Millan and Lewis both scored in

the fifth.

Nickell was the winning pitcher. He gave up five hits, walked six and struck out one batter.

Norton had nine hits, six walks and four batters struck out. Millan was 2 for 2 at the plate and Dalton Miller was 2 for 3.

## Minden

Norton traveled to Minden and returned with a 15-11 victory.

After Minden took a 3-0 lead, Norton tied it at 3-all in the top of the second. Lewis singled, Ellis, Marc Miller and Nickell all walked and Hartwell singled. Lewis, Ellis and Miller all scored.

Minden tallied once in the bottom of the second but Norton tied it again with a single run in the top of the third. Millan singled and Hager walked and Millan scored. Minden added two runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 6-4 lead.

The young Blue Jays had a big fourth inning when they scored five runs to move ahead 9-6. Rossi singled and Hartwell blasted a home run! Dalton Miller, Millan, Lewis and Ellis all walked and Rossi, Hartwell, Miller, Millan and Lewis all scored.

Four more runs by Norton in the top of the fifth made it 13-6. Hartwell, Dalton Miller and Millan singled and Lewis, Hager and Marc Miller all walked and Hartwell, Dalton Miller, Millan and Lewis all tallied.

Minden narrowed the Norton lead to 13-11 with five more runs in the bottom of the fifth. Two more Norton runs in the top of the sixth made the final 15-11. Dalton Miller, Millan and Lewis all hit safely and Miller and Millan scored.

Norton had 13 hits, 11 walks and 13 strike outs. Hartwell went 3 for 5 at the plate and Dalton Miller and Millan were both 3 for 4. Lewis was 2 for 3.

Dalton Miller, Lewis and Millan shared the pitcher’s duties. They gave up eight hits, walked six and struck out 12 batters.

## Bermis

Norton’s win streak continued when the Blue Jays hosted Bermis on Tuesday of this week.

Norton tallied seven runs in the second inning and two in the third. In the second stanza, Hager, Lewis, Bainter, Miller, Rossi, Risewick and Nickell all walked and Hartwell doubled. All but Hartwell scored.

Norton’s other two runs came in the third inning when Millan doubled and Lewis blasted a home run to bring them both home!

Bermis scored in the second inning.

Norton had five hits, 11 walks and nine strike outs.

Winning pitcher was Hager. He allowed just three hits, walked two and struck out nine batters.

## Next action

Norton will host Phillipsburg this evening in a doubleheader at John Ryan Field.

Games will begin at 6:30 p.m.



Landon “Tug” Keiswetter sent dust flying as he slid into home and got past a Smith Center player who couldn’t quite get the baseball to tag him out during the opening game of the Legion double header at John Ryan Field on Monday evening.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Legion drops 3, lightning halts 4th

By **DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton American Legion baseball team hosted Smith Center in a doubleheader on Monday evening and was defeated 18-9 and 22-4.

On Wednesday evening, the Legion nine traveled to WaKeeney for another doubleheader. The Golden Eagles won 8-0 in the opener but Norton appeared to have a win in the nightcap until thunder and lightning halted the game with Norton on top 9-7.

“We did the best we could against Smith Center considering that we just came off a three-day tournament in Holdrege and our pitchers were tired,” said Norton head coach Steve Jeltz.

“Landon Hamel and Landon “Tug” Keiswetter threw a lot of pitches in the tournament and I didn’t want to hurt their arms. Andrew Soderlund was starting to develop into a good pitcher

and broke his arm in the tournament.”

“Not having the young men we were hoping for to advance from K-18 to Legion ball was something we weren’t expecting,” said general manager Joe Durham.

“In our first home games of the season, we played spirited ball and not once did we get down on one another,” said coach Jeltz. “We are a very young team, one we hope to keep and build with. All of these players have not played for a year or two or longer.”

First year players are Damien Davis, Vaughn Newman, Casey Temmel, Tye Nickell, Jesse Brown, Jeremy Brown, Carlos Galloway, Colby Poage, Tug Keiswetter and Kaenon Keiswetter. Veteran players are Skyler Harris, Landon Hamel, Brian Spooner, Jake Riedel, Logan Rynnion, Andrew Soderlund and Matt Stanley.

“For Norton to be able to com-

pete, we are going to have to develop a lot of pitchers,” said manager Durham. “Hopefully, the young players in the younger leagues will develop and be able to come up and be successful in the K-18 and Legion.

“We saw some very positive things against Smith Center,” said coach Jeltz. “We pitched some young men who had not pitched in years or have never pitched and some positive things came out of watching them throw.”

In Wednesday night’s action at WaKeeney, Norton faced a left-handed pitcher who limited them to three hits in the opener.

In the nightcap, Norton got a good start by scoring four runs in the first inning. Taking to the mound for Norton for the first time in a long time was Kaenon Keiswetter, who allowed only one run in the bottom of the first.

“We were hoping to get two good innings out of Kaenon,” said

coach Jeltz. “Considering that this young man hadn’t played in over a year because of his knees, he gave us everything he had.”

Norton scored five runs in the top of the second to take a 9-1 lead. WaKeeney answered with six runs in the bottom of the second. In the third, Norton was shut down by good WaKeeney defense but the game was called in the bottom of the third with Norton on top 9-7.

In addition to Kaenon Keiswetter, Colby Poage also joined the Legion team this week.

“Colby hasn’t played in a few years but is another example of a young man who wants to play ball,” said coach Jeltz. “He was a little rusty at the bat but made some nice catches in right field.”

## Next action

The Norton Legion team will have a short break until Curtis, Neb. comes to town on Tuesday for a double header at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6 and 8 p.m.

## JUNIOR GOLF

### Starts Monday, July 6

Junior golf will start on Monday, July 6 with registration at 5:30 and begin at 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and run every Monday thereafter in July

**July 27 will highlight the year with a Pizza Party at 5:15, followed by a 9-hole golf tournament at 5:45 and a swimming party following golf**

Cost this year is \$25.00 per participant aged 7 to 14. Registration this year will include a nice golf shirt. Come and learn the lifelong game of golf. Adults welcome to come, watch, and help mentor the junior golfers

Pre-register for only \$20.00 by mailing it to: Tyler Rutherford, 506 West St., Norton, KS 67654, 785-202-0214 or Allan Miller, 806 N. Valley Vista Dr., 785-877-5649 with the name, age, and shirt size of the participant.

## Telegram Sports

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