

Nine locals participate in Freedom Bowl

By DICK BOYD

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Eight Norton Community High School 2011 senior football players and one from Logan played for the victorious North Team versus the South Team in the second annual Friendship Freedom Bowl All Star Football Game on Saturday evening at Hummer Park in Topeka.

Competing from Norton were Kaid McKenna, Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, Spencer Shirk, Terrell Lane, Justin Griffith, Billy Broeckelman, Luke Ninemire and Caleb Laughlin.

Charlie Becker was the single player from Logan.

Jeremy Sproul from Norton was scheduled to play but was injured and did not see action.

Lucas Melvin, head Norton high school football coach, was the head coach of the North Team, who defeated the South 27-19. Assisting coach Melvin were Tony Fiscus, Todd Fulton, Kendall Fiscus and Len Melvin. Norton's student manager David Cressler was the team manager.

Norton's Zac Dreher was

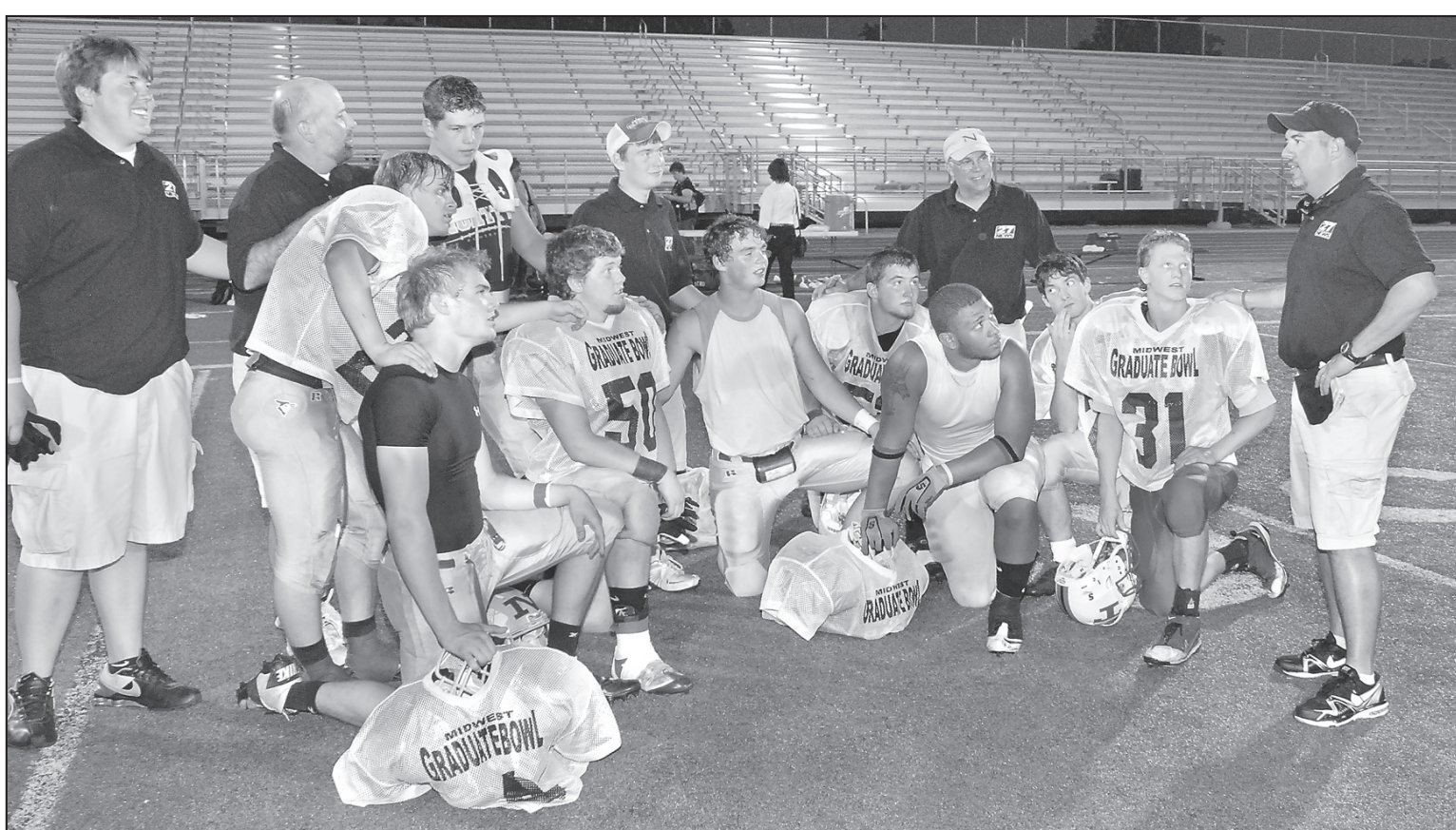
scheduled to help the North as an assistant coach but assisted the South Team, since one of their coaches was absent due to a family emergency.

It was a hard-hitting, fun game for recently graduated senior football players from Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri.

The game was sponsored by the U.S. Army and the Neighborhood Academic & Athletic Association. The contest was hosted with the intention of promoting fair play, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Other area players for the North Team were Trevor Smith and Cody Derr, Phillipsburg; and Adam Guthmiller, St. Francis.

The North kicked off to the South, held them and forced them to punt to the North 6-yard-line. North tailback Terrell Lane of Norton gained 48 yards on three carries to the South 46. From there, running back Terrence Allen from Junction City got loose for the first and only touchdown of the first quarter. Norton's Caleb Laughlin split the uprights for the point-after for a 7-0 lead with 2:27 left in the quarter.



Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin, far right, who was the head coach of the victorious North Team in the Freedom Bowl on Saturday evening in Topeka, visits with his Blue Jay players, Logan player, assistant coaches and team manager following the game. Pictured are, front row, from left: Billy Broeckelman, Spencer Shirk, Luke Ninemire, Justin Griffith, Kaid McKenna, Terrell Lane, Caleb Laughlin and Logan's Charlie Becker; back row: assistant coach Kendall Fiscus, assistant coach Tony Fiscus, Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, manager David Cressler, assistant coach Todd Fulton. Not pictured: assistant coach Len Melvin.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The South answered early in the second quarter with a 40-yard touchdown pass from South Grey quarterback Garrison Hendricks to Omaha North receiver Larves Jones. The extra point kick was good and it was 7-7.

After the ensuing kickoff, the South held and forced the North to punt. They drove downfield and threatened to score but the tough North defense held them on their 3-yard-line!

Following the goal line stand, the North offense took over and moved down the field with two long first down runs. Norton's Spencer Shirk was at quarterback and lofted a pass to Raytown, Missouri product Trey Myers, who leaped to haul it in, then broke several tackles and headed to the end zone for a 68-yard touchdown! The extra point kick was wide but the North led 13-7 with 48.7 seconds left in the first half.

The South kicked off to start the second half and tried to get possession with an onside kick. Norton's Justin Griffith fought off the South players and aggressively recovered the pigskin on the North 34-yard-line. A few plays later, however, the South intercepted a North pass and returned the ball to the South 44-yard-line.

The North defense held and the South punted out of bounds on the Norton 25. With Shirk at quarterback and Lane at tailback and several Blue Jay linemen such as McKenna, Keiswetter, Ninemire and Griffith leading the way, the North moved down

the field. Lane made several good runs and Shirk completed two passes. Lane ran the final six yards for another North touchdown. Laughlin booted the extra point to extend the North lead to 20-7 with 47 seconds left in the third quarter.

The South's Donnie Lockhart of Shawnee Heights High School broke free with a powerful 36-yard touchdown run down the left sideline with 9:19 left in the contest. A good rush mostly by Norton defenders caused the South kicker to miss the extra point attempt, leaving the score at 20-13.

After the ensuing kickoff, with Lane carrying the mail most of the time, the North moved downfield again. Lane found the end zone for the second time in the game, this time on a sweep around right end from the 5-yard-line. Laughlin was accurate once again on the extra point kick and the North extended their lead to 27-13 with 6:43 remaining in the game.

The South didn't score their final touchdown until late in the game on a 29-yard pass from Hendricks to Jones. A try for two extra points failed and it was 27-19 with 3:18 remaining. The North offense played conservatively, retaining the ball until the final seconds when quarterback Shirk took a knee to end the game.

Terrell Lane was the leading ball carrier for both teams. He toted the pigskin 17 times for 111 yards and two touchdowns. Lane averaged 6.5 yards per carry.

Spencer Shirk also had a good

game at quarterback, completing a perfect 3 of 3 passes for 95 yards and one touchdown. Shirk also carried the ball 1 time for 14 yards.

Logan's Becker was honored by his North teammates when they chose him as their "Most Valuable Player". An eight-man player for the Trojans, Becker played linebacker for the North.

The North manager, David Cressler from Norton, was also honored as an outstanding student manager during a break in the action when he had the opportunity to shake hands with every player on both sides.

"It was a lot of fun," said coach

Melvin. "I enjoyed coaching our Norton players one final time. That was special.

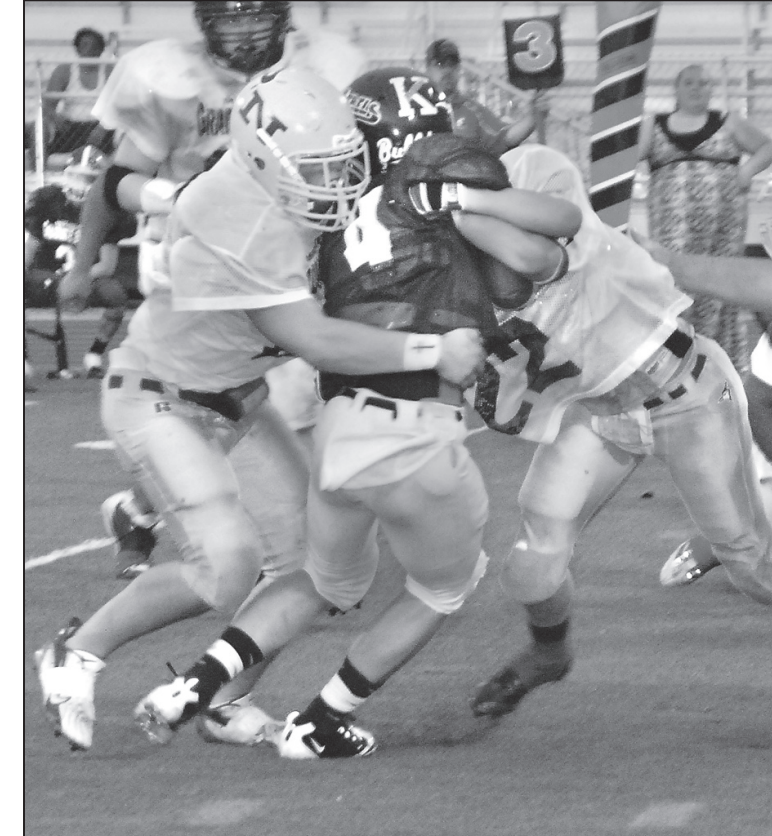
"I also enjoyed working with the other players.

"The young men did a good job of practicing. It was hot but they handled it well. They all played well in the game, played well together and enjoyed it.

"Our assistant coaches did a good job for us, too.

"We hope the young men made some friends that they will see down the road and keep in contact with as they pursue their careers.

"Overall, it was a good experience for everyone involved."



Norton's Justin Griffith, left and Billy Broeckelman of the North Team demonstrated to a South ball carrier how to make a Blue Jay sandwich during the Freedom Bowl in Topeka on Saturday evening. Needless to say, when the Norton players hit him at the same time, his forward motion halted abruptly!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton tailback Terrell Lane had a good final game in a Blue Jay uniform in Saturday's Freedom Bowl in Topeka. He is shown here breaking an attempted tackle by two South players at the goalline and powering on into the end zone for one of two touchdowns he scored in the game. Lane's 111 rushing yards and two TDs were instrumental in the North's 27-19 victory.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Two Logan athletes to play in eight man game

By DICK BOYD

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Brady Tien and Mark Pakkebieer of Logan High School are among the star football players who will compete in the 26th annual Kansas Eight-Man All Star Football games which will be played Saturday at Trojan Field, North Hersey Avenue, Beloit.

The Division II contest will begin at 10 a.m. and the Division I game will kickoff at 1:30 p.m.

Tien and Pakkebieer will be members of the Division II West squad which will play the Division II East team.

Tien is a 6'1", 185 pound running back and linebacker. Pakkebieer is a 6'1", 250 pound offensive lineman.

Tien, whose address is Prairie View, was an All-Cheyenne Conference linebacker for two years and an honorable mention running back. He averaged 5 yards per carry and had 54 solo tackles and 63 assists for 107 total.

He was also the state champion two years in the pole vault. He also played basketball. Brady is also an outstanding student, having maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

He is the son of Patty and Scott Tien and plans to attend Fort Hays State University on a track scholarship. He will major in chemistry.

Pakkebieer, whose address is Densmore, has been a first team All-Cheyenne Conference offensive lineman and has received honorable mention as a defensive lineman.

He is also an All-Conference

basketball player. He has also been a member of the track and field team. Mark is an outstanding student with a high grade point average.

Mark is the son of Betty and Kenny Pakkebieer and also plans to attend Fort Hays State University where he will study athletic training.

Their teammates are: Rilee Spreser, Golden Plains, quarterback, kicker, punter; Chase Laffery, Natoma, running back, defensive back; Kyle Kerschen, Cunningham, running back, defensive back; Michael Hlavaty, Otis-Bison, fullback, linebacker, kicker; C.J. Shaffer, Dighton, running back, defensive back Matt Kykendall, Weskan, quarterback, defensive back; Caleb Keitz, Cheylin, defensive end, quarterback; Steven Cross, Fowler, defensive lineman, offensive lineman; Cory Rahjes, Thunder Ridge, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Dominic Trapp, Otis-Bison, tight end, defensive end; Cosme Estrada, Fowler, running back; Ervin Swonger, Ashland, wide receiver, running back; Scott Root, Chase, fullback, linebacker; Benjamin Fox, Ashland, running back, wide receiver; Dylan Kuhn, Victoria, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Zackery Krug, Natoma, nose-guard; Adrian Garcia, Cheylin, tackle, offensive lineman, kicker; Devin Ritter, Golden Plains, center, defensive tackle.

Head coach of the Division II West All Stars is Travis Starr, Otis-Bison. His assistant coaches are Max Keitz, Cheylin and Lance

Maguire, Cunningham.

The Division I West Team also includes some area players. They are: Eric VanLoenen, Hill City, center, defensive end; Tyler Bess, Hill City, tight end, defensive end; Joe Simon, Quinter, defensive back and quarterback; Sam Leighton, Quinter, noseguard, offensive tackle; Jakob DeMars, Osborne, linebacker, fullback; Dan Webb, Osborne, offensive lineman, defensive end; Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, noseguard.

Head coach of the Division I West All Stars is C.T. Young, Pretty Prairie. His assistant coaches will be Cullen Riner, Osborne and Clint Young, Kiowa County.

Tickets are general admission at

both gates and one ticket is good for both games.

The Kansas Eight-Man Football Association was organized in 1986 so that more 8-man players could receive recognition for their football prowess.

Assisting the association with sponsorship of the games have been the Beloit Rotary Club and Beloit Knights of Columbus.

In addition to giving recognition to outstanding senior football players and coaches, the association votes yearly on recommendations to the Kansas State High School Activities Association and promotes the existence of 8-man football clinics.

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