

# Legion team beats Osborne in first game

By DICK BOYD

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The No.3 seeded Norton American Legion baseball team opened Zone Tournament play on Sunday evening at John Ryan Field in Norton with a 16-6 victory over No.6 seed Osborne.

The Bulldogs surprised everyone when they took a 5-0 lead in the top of the first inning but it didn't take long for Norton to catch up and win in four innings by the 10-run rule.

Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the first inning when Brett Terrell walked, Trey Millan doubled, Spencer Shirk got on base via an error and Kaid McKenna and Tug Keiswetter both walked. Millan and Terrell both scored.

Bainter replaced Terrell on the mound for Norton and the Blue Jays held the Bulldogs scoreless in the top of the second.

Norton went ahead for good in the bottom of the second stanza when they batted around and scored seven runs to take a 9-5 lead.

Maddy walked, Terrell singled, Millan was hit by a pitch and walked, Shirk singled, Bainter doubled and McKenna walked to load the bases. Keiswetter cleared them with a home run over the left field fence!

Osborne scored their final run in the top of the third inning. Norton added one more run in the bottom of the inning to make it 10-6. Millan walked and Shirk singled him home.

Osborne was three up, three down in the top of the fourth inning. Norton scored their final six runs in the bottom of the inning to end the game in just four innings. McKenna doubled, Keiswetter was hit by a pitch and walked,

Cook doubled, Dakota Dreher walked, Millan was hit by a pitch and advanced, Shirk got on base on an error, Bainter walked and McKenna was hit by a pitch and walked. All except Bainter scored.

Shirk came sliding into home plate on a wild pitch to score the winning run!

Norton had eight hits, 13 walks and just two strike outs.

Shirk went 2 for 4 at the plate for the Blue Jays.

Osborne had six hits, four walks and three strike outs.

Bainter was the winning pitcher.

In the other first round game on Sunday, No.5 seed Goodland outscored No. 4 seed Trego 8-6.

#### Coach's comments

"We hit the ball hard all night," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"Tug Keiswetter capped off the evening with his grand slam home run!"

#### Next action

The next games will be this evening when No.1 seed Colby plays Goodland at 6 p.m. and Norton plays No.2 seed Smith Center at 8 p.m.

This is the correct schedule; it was incorrect in Friday's Telegram story.

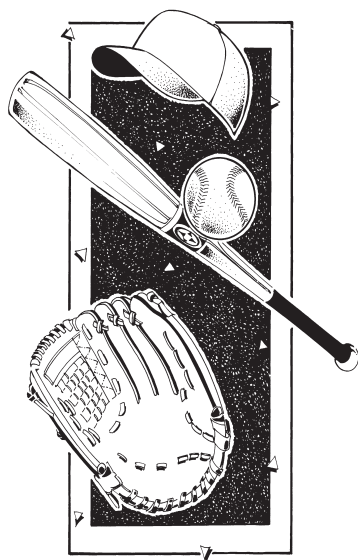
In the loser's bracket on Wednesday, Osborne will play the loser of the Colby/Goodland game at 6 p.m., followed by the Trego vs. the loser of the Norton/Smith Center game.

A win by Norton over Smith Center would advance the Blue Jays to an 8 p.m. contest on Thursday vs. the winner of the Colby/Goodland game. A loss would drop Norton into the loser's bracket for an 8 p.m. game on Wednesday vs. Trego.



Prior to the Zone Tournament baseball game between Norton and Osborne at John Ryan Field in Norton on Sunday evening players from both teams repeated the Code of Sportsmanship after it was read aloud to them by former Norton American Legion Commander J.R. "Jake" Durham. Pictured are, from left, Norton Head Coach Scott Ellis, Norton Assistant Coach Shawn Miller, Assistant Coach Mike Terrell, Brett Terrell, Trey Millan, Spencer Shirk, Troy Bainter, Kaid McKenna, Tug Keiswetter, Andrew Ellis, Chris Maddy, Tyler Cook, Zach Hartwell, Dalton Miller, Dakota Dreher and Vaughn Newman.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



## Norton K-18 ball team ends season with a win

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team's 2011 season ended on Saturday in the Sub-Regional Tournament in Plainville where they won one game but lost two and were eliminated.

In their opener on Saturday morning, Norton lost 14-1 to Victoria. In the loser's bracket, they defeated the Hays Tigers 15-7 but suffered a 20-3 loss to Russell in the evening.

#### Victoria

Norton scored only run in the top of the first inning when Clint Cole singled and Trever Lewis doubled him home.

Victoria tallied 12 runs in the bottom of the second and two in the bottom of the third.

Norton had two hits, no walks and five strike outs.

Clint Cole pitched for Norton. He gave up ten hits, six walks and struck out four batters.

M. Dreiling pitched for Victoria.

#### Hays Tigers

Norton scored five runs in the top of the first inning. Cole singled, Brant Cox walked, Toby Nickell singled, Travis Cressler walked, Kendall Miller was hit by a pitch and walked and Matt Stutsman singled. All except Stutsman scored.

Hays answered with six runs in the bottom of the first to lead 6-5.

Then, Norton answered themselves with 13 big runs in the top of the second to lead by 18-6. Chris Chastain walked, Cole singled, Lewis got on base via an error, Nickell and Cressler both doubled, Miller got on base on an error, Stutsman and Schrum both singled, Chastain was up to bat for a second time and was hit by a pitch and walked, Kobie Unterseher and Cole both singled, Cox walked, Lewis singled and Nickell walked. Everyone scored at least once. Scoring twice were Chastain, Cole and Lewis.

In the top of the third, Norton scored their final four runs. Schrum, Justice Snyder and Unterseher all walked and Cole and Cox both singled. All but Cox scored.

Hays added one run in the bottom of the third to make the final 22-7 in Norton's favor.

The young Blue Jays had 13 hits, nine walks and three strike outs.

Cox was leading hitter for Norton, going 4 for 4 at the plate. Nickell was 2 for 2 and Stutsman was 2 for 3 with the bat.

Toby Nickell was the winning pitcher for Norton. He gave up five hits, two walks and struck out

five batters.

#### Russell

In the season finale, Norton scored one run in the first inning when Cox singled and Nickell drove him home with a double and one run in the second stanza when Miller walked and Stutsman and Schrum both singled and Miller scored.

Norton's final run came in the fourth inning when Unterseher got on base on an error, Chastain walked and Cole singled him home.

Russell scored six runs in the first inning, eight runs in the third inning and six runs in the fourth inning.

Norton had six hits, six walks and two strike outs.

Cox was leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 3 at the plate.

Norton had three pitchers. Trever Lewis pitched two and one-third innings. He gave up eight hits, walked 11 and struck out two batters. Toby Nickell hurled one inning. He gave up two hits, walked six and struck out three batters. Brant Cox pitched two-thirds of an inning. He gave up two hits, walked none and struck out one batter.

Head coach of the Norton K-18 baseball team this season was Rick Green. His assistant coach was Brad Cox.

## Norton Blue Jays lose doubleheader at Goodland

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team lost a doubleheader at Goodland by scores of 11-1 and 8-2 on Thursday evening to complete regular season play prior to the Zone Tournament which began Sunday in Norton.

#### First game

Norton's only run came in the top of the fourth inning when Troy Bainter walked and Chris Maddy singled him home.

Goodland scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning, three in the bottom of the second and two in the bottom of the fourth.

Norton had five hits, one walk and four strike outs.

Tyler Cook was the Norton pitcher. Goodland had 10 hits, seven walks and four strike outs.

Gunner Helton was the Goodland hurler.

#### Second game

The Blue Jays scored one run in the top of the first inning when Bret Terrell singled and scored later in the inning.

Norton's other run came in the top of the fourth inning when Bainter, Andrew Ellis, Cook and Maddy all singled and Bainter scored.

Goodland scored four runs in the bottom of the first, three runs in the bottom of the third and one in the bottom of the fourth.

Norton had nine hits, no walks

and four strike outs.

Ellis was 2 for 2 and Millan was 2 for 3 batting.

Bainter was the Norton pitcher.

Goodland had five hits, five walks and three strike outs.

Teather Dautel was the Goodland pitcher.

#### Coach's comments

"We made way too many errors against a good team from Goodland," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"We struggled at the plate. We just couldn't string together any hits.

"We will play them again and, hopefully, we can play better baseball next time."



The Norton Legion's Chris Maddy slid face first into home plate after a wild pitch to score a run for the Blue Jays during their 16-6 win over Osborne in the first round of the Zone Tournament on Sunday night at John Ryan Field. The Osborne pitcher got a throw from the catcher after he retrieved the ball but Maddy got on home plate first. Making the safe call is the home plate umpire Don Burge.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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