

Norton Blue Jays lose to Goodland Friday

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School varsity football team suffered a disappointing 17-0 loss to a visiting Goodland eleven in their first District game on Friday at Travis Field.

Other than points scored, the statistics were fairly even but the Cowboys took advantage of big plays to score their points and Norton was unable to do so.

Both teams averaged 3.7 yards per carry on the ground but Goodland had 180 yards rushing compared to 139 yards for Norton. The Blue Jays had 12 first downs and the Cowboys had 11. Norton had 92 yards passing compared to 78 yards by Goodland. Both teams had three punts and about the same number of yards in penalties. Norton did not fumble and Goodland lost one miscue.

The only scoring threat by either team in the first quarter was a missed field goal by Goodland after a 32 yard run by junior running back Cy Paxton. After a 47-yard pass from senior quarterback Reed Bellamy to senior Austin Avelar on the Norton 30, the Cowboys scored their first touchdown on a 2 yard run by Paxton and extra point kick by Avelar to take a 7-0 lead at half-time.

It was still 7-0 when the fourth quarter started but Goodland's Avelar kicked a 22 yard field goal with 7:33 left in the game to put the visitors ahead 10-0. A 31-yard pass from quarterback Bellamy to senior wide receiver Ryan Hillmer put the Cowboys in field goal range on the Norton 17.

A pass by Norton quarterback Jordan Wahlmeier that appeared to be completed to a Norton receiver was deflected into the hands of Cowboy junior Gunner Helton and he returned it to the Norton 9-yard line. The Norton defense gave ground grudgingly but Paxton finally put the ball in the end zone and Avelar kicked the extra point to make it 17-0 with 2:32 left in the game.

Coach's comments

"We just made too many mistakes," said coach Melvin. "We were flat mentally and not focused and made many different mistakes. In the past, we've been talented enough to overcome that. We'd do some good things and then fizzle or have a penalty. The timing of our penalties was bad, too."

"Our offensive line didn't fire off the ball and our backs didn't find the holes and missed blocks. Our defense missed assignments and had bad angles on tackles."

"We need to learn to focus and be disciplined and do things right even when it's hard to."

Starting lineup

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Damian Davis, 165 pounds, left tackle; junior Eli Bozarth, 160 pounds, left guard; junior Lane Bigge, 200 pounds, center; senior Kurt Douglas, 175 pounds, right guard; freshman Wyatt Harting, 210 pounds, right tackle; senior Robert Blecha, 180 pounds, tight end; junior Jacob Brooks, 175 pounds, wide receiver; senior Dillon McConney, 150 pounds, wide receiver; senior Jordan Wahlmeier, 180 pounds, quarterback; senior Trey Millan, 165 pounds, fullback; senior Tye Nickell, 150



With senior Trey Millan, No.8, leading the way, Norton junior Jacob Brooks picked up valuable yardage on this play during the Blue Jays' game with Goodland on Friday night at Travis Field. Coming up hard to help out if needed is senior lineman Kurt Douglas, No. 61.

pounds, tailback.

Starting on defense were: Lane Bigge, left end; Damian Davis and junior Lucas Engel, 180 pounds, tackles; Eli Bozarth, right end; senior Taylor Meder, 145 pounds; Jacob Brooks; junior Dalton Miller, 185 pounds; junior John Risewick, 140 pounds, linebackers; sophomore Austin Hager, 145 pounds; junior Carson McKenna, 155 pounds, cornerbacks; Tye Nickell, safety.

Individual statistics

Returning to the lineup after suffering an injury in the St. Francis game, Trey Millan was leading rusher for Norton with 79 yards on 14 carries for a 5.6 yard average. Jordan Wahlmeier had 31 yards on 7 tries for a 4.4 yard average.

Tye Nickell picked up 12 yards on 15 carries and Jacob Brooks totaled 17 yards on 2 carries.

Wahlmeier completed 5 of 21 passes for 85 yards. His receivers were: Robert Blecha, 1 for 26; Trey Millan, 1 for 4; Jacob Brooks, 1 for 45; Dillon McConney, 1 for 12; Carson McKenna, 1 for 5.

Wahlmeier had 3 punts for a 35 yard average.

Tye Nickell had 4 kickoff returns for 49 yards and 1 punt return for 10 yards.

Leading rusher for Goodland was Cy Paxton with 23 carries for 142 yards.

Tackles

Dalton Miller was leading tackler for Norton with 9 solos, 3 assists, 12 total and Tye Nickell was right behind him with 9 solos, 2 assists, 11 total. They were followed by: Cayleb Campbell, 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total; Damian Davis, 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total; Lucas Engel, 3 solos, 4 assists, 7 total; Eli Bozarth, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Carson McKenna, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Jacob Brooks, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Kolton Harting, 2 solos; Taylor Meder,

1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Trey Millan, 2 solos; Cole Renner, 2 solos; John Risewick, 2 solos; Austin Hager, 1 solo.

First quarter

Sophomore Austin Hager kicked off for Norton and Eli Bozarth tackled the Goodland ball carrier on their 30. Sophomore back Dax Ruhs gained 4 before Carson McKenna and Cayleb Campbell stopped him. Tye Nickell tackled Ruhs after 1, a pass was incomplete in Taylor Meder's area and Colby punted to the Norton 19.

Goodland lost 5 yards for offsidess, Trey Millan gained 1, then got a first down on the 37. Nickell lost 1 but Wahlmeier passed to Robert Blecha to the Goodland 44. Nickell got 1, Millan 0 and Wahlmeier ran the keeper for 4. Millan ran up the middle and missed a first down by inches.

Damian Davis tackled Ruhs for minus 1, Ruhs gained 2 but Goodland was illegally in motion and lost 5. After an incomplete pass, Goodland punted. Nickell returned it to the Norton 37.

Nickell got 3 on 2 plays but a pass was incomplete. Wahlmeier punted to Paxton who made a fair catch on the Goodland 15. A host of Norton tacklers stopped senior fullback Riley Oharah after 1. Bellamy ran around right end for a first down on the 27. Oharah ran up the middle and Campbell tackled him after 3.

Next, Goodland got one of their big plays in the game when Paxton found a hole over left tackle and sprinted 32 yards to the Norton 38. Paxton ran for 6 more, then Oharah bulled up the middle where Campbell and others made the stop after 3. Nickell tackled Paxton after he made a first down on the 25 as the first quarter came to a scoreless end.

Second quarter

Oharah made 6, then Paxton gained 1 before Cole Renner

made the tackle.

Paxton got a first down on the Norton 13 where McKenna made the tackle. Campbell stopped Oharah after 2, then Oharah made 0. Campbell tackled Bellamy after 2. A field goal try was no good and Norton took over on their 20.

Wahlmeier ran for 7, Nickell got a first down on the 31 and Millan gained 6. A personal foul against Goodland gave Norton the ball on the Goodland 48. Millan gained 1, then Wahlmeier ran a keeper around left end for a first down on the Goodland 35. Norton lost 5 for offsidess. Brooks ran around right end for a first down on the 23, then tried left end but lost 7. A pass to Millan was good but a block-in-the-back penalty moved the ball back to the Goodland 36. Millan gained 5 but 2 passes were incomplete and Goodland took over on their 31.

Goodland completed a pass but a holding penalty pushed them back to the 18. McKenna and Bozarth stopped Oharah after 5. The Cowboys' next play, however, was one of their big ones of the game. Bellamy ran right on a keeper, then threw the ball deep downfield where Avelar caught it for a 47-yard gain to the Norton 30. Paxton got 0, then got loose to the Norton 8 where Miller stopped him. Bellamy gained 3. Paxton ran to the 2 and scored the next down. Avelar kicked the extra point and it was 7-0 with 57 seconds left in the half.

Nickell returned the kickoff to the 20, Nickell gained 1, Millan got 1, a pass was incomplete and it was halftime with Norton

trailing 7-0.

Third quarter

Nickell returned the kickoff to the 30. Nickell gained 5, then 2. Illegal motion cost Norton 5. Wahlmeier and Brooks connected for a 45 yard gain to the Goodland 23! Norton appeared to have the momentum to score and tie the game. Millan ran to the 13, then added 2 more. Wahlmeier ran to the 4 and Nickell plunged to the 2 for a first down.

Nickell was unable to get into the end zone the next three downs and Norton was whistled for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty. A pass was incomplete and Goodland took over. Paxton gained 2, Goodland recovered their own fumble on the 35 for a first down. Paxton ran around left end for a first down. The teams exchanged penalties and Goodland had the ball on the Norton 45. Paxton got 2, then Bellamy lost 3 and Bozarth dropped Helmer for a 2 yard loss. Goodland punted and the ball rolled dead on the Norton 10.

Nickell got 0, then Millan got a long run but it was nullified by an illegal procedure penalty. Wahlmeier was sacked, Millan gained 3 and Wahlmeier punted.

Goodland fumbled on the punt reception and Carson McKenna recovered on the Norton 46. Norton was unable to move the ball and punted to the Goodland 30 where they fumbled the reception but fell on the ball as the third period ended with the score still 7-0.

Fourth quarter

Paxton got a first down on 2 rushes to the Goodland 47.

Oharah got 0 and Paxton gained 3 before Nickell and Miller tackled him. Goodland got another big play on the next down, however, as Bellamy connected with Hillmer for a 31-yard gain to the Norton 17.

Paxton ran to the 4, Oharah got 0, Paxton got 1, Bellamy got 0 and Avelar kicked a field goal to extend the Cowboy lead to 10-0 with 7:33 left in the game.

Nickell returned the kickoff to the 26. A pass was incomplete, Millan gained 4, Nickell got 0 and Wahlmeier went back to punt. He ran instead but Goodland stopped him on the 36, just short of a first down.

Paxton gained 8, Goodland fumbled but recovered on the 32. Paxton got 0, McKenna stopped Bellamy for no gain and Norton took over on their 33. Norton's good defensive stand did not help the Blue Jays' cause, however, since a Wahlmeier pass bounced off a Norton receiver and into the hands of Goodland's Gunner Helton. He returned the pigskin to the Norton 9-yard line. It took Paxton four plays but he scored from the 1-yard line. Avelar kicked the extra point and it was 17-0 with 2:32 left in the game.

Nickell returned the kickoff to the 25. Norton went to the air and a third down pass was completed from Wahlmeier to Dillon McConney for a first down on the 36. Then, Wahlmeier hit McKenna on the Norton 43. Norton ran out of downs on incomplete passes and Goodland took over with 1:40 left. Norton held and took over on their 32. Millan got loose around left end to the Goodland 30.

Wahlmeier completed passes to Millan and McKenna but both were nullified by penalties. Norton ran out of time and downs trying to pass into the end zone.

Next action

Norton will travel to play Thomas More Prep at Lewis Field in Hays for their second District game this Friday with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

Both teams are now 3-4 for the season. The Monarchs have continued to run the spread offense with emphasis on passing. After a close first half, they had turnover problems in the second half of their first District game last Friday and lost to Phillipsburg.

TMP senior quarterback Nick Hammeke will be the best quarterback the Blue Jays have faced this season.

"They have a good quarterback and good receivers," said coach Melvin. "They will probably try to test our offense by blitzing."

"We must eliminate mistakes to have a chance to win."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Goodland
12	First Downs	11
139	Yards Rushing	180
92	Yards Passing	78
231	Total Yards	262
5-21-2	Passes Comp	12-4-0
0-0	Fumbles Lost	1-4
3-35	Punts	3-38.3
8-65	Penalties	6-58

Double day play for Lady Huskies

By Chuck Zimmerman

The Husky volleyball team played a rare double day event early this week as on Monday we played the Crusaders from Heartland Christian in a best 3 of 5 game.

We had our moments in this game just not enough of them as the Colby team did defeat us in 5, 16-25, 25-15, 20-25, 26-24, 6-15. We just could not string together enough points to win the contest.

On Tuesday we traveled to Kensington to take on state ranked Thunder Ridge and Stockton.

Against Thunder Ridge, a

team that has improved their hitting since we played them last, we did a very good job of keeping the ball off the floor when they attacked. We just were not able to respond by attacking them. When we did the Longhorns struggled to stop us we just did not attack as much as we needed to be victorious. They defeated us 16-25, 11-25 but they knew we had put up a fight.

Against Stockton we again played down to our competition and even though the Tigers only had one solid attack we did not defend the court as we had against Thunder Ridge and were

defeated 19-25, 9-25.

We continued our long week of play by spending Saturday in Beloit at the Northern Plains League Tournament. We went up against Tescott and then two state ranked teams in Logan and Pike Valley.

We continued our season long trend as we did not play up to our talent level against Tescott but gave both Logan and Pike Valley a battle but losing both.

We will finish the regular season with a trip to Palco to take on Palco and the squad from Victoria then travel to Logan for the sub state tournament.

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Thomas More Prep-Hays 7 p.m. Friday at Lewis Field, Hays
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Wilson 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
Logan Trojans vs. Natoma 7 p.m. Friday in Logan
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Plainville 5:30 p.m. Monday in Plainville

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays vs. Goodland, Ulysses V, JV 5 p.m. Today in Goodland
Norton Lady Jays in Sub-State Tournament 2 p.m. Saturday in Goodland
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco, Victoria 4 p.m. Today in Palco
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Sub-State Tournament Saturday in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Tescott, Wichita-World of Life 4:30 p.m. Today in Tescott
Logan Lady Trojans in Sub-State Tournament Saturday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Regional Meet 3 p.m. Saturday in Cimarron
Northern Valley Cross Country in Regional Meet 2:30 p.m. Saturday in Grainfield