

# Norton Thunder girls split in season home opener

**By Dick Boyd**  
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The Norton Thunder 16 & Under Girls Softball team opened the 2012 season on Sunday, June 3 by hosting Colby in a double-header at Blue Jay Park and splitting wins with them. Norton lost the opener 16-11 but came back to win the nightcap 10-9.

**First game**  
In the opener, Colby scored twice in the top of the first inning but Norton responded with nine runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 9-2 lead. Shauna Gibson and Kirsten Georgeson both walked, Brianna Karnopp doubled, Ashley Hildebrand and Rickele Green each singled, Skylar Davis walked, Kristen Burge singled, Jena Risewick walked, Tara Brachtenbach singled, Gibson and Georgeson both singled in their second time up in the inning and Karnopp doubled for the second time in the inning. Gibson, Georgeson, Karnopp, Green, Davis, Burge, Risewick, Brachtenbach

all scored once and Gibson tallied twice. Colby scored one more run in the top of the second, two in the top of the third and two in the top of the fourth to narrow the Lady Blue Jay lead to 9-7. Norton scored one run in the bottom of the fourth to make it a 10-7 game. Hildebrand singled, Green walked, Davis and Kim Bradshaw both singled and Hildebrand scored. Colby came back with two more runs in the top of the fifth to narrow the Norton lead to 10-9. The Lady Jays tallied one more run in the bottom of the inning to make the score 11-9. Karnopp walked, Hildebrand singled, Green walked and Karnopp scored. Norton was unable to score again, however, and Colby scored three more times in the top of the sixth and four more times in the top of the seventh to come from behind for the 16-11 win. The Lady Jays had 15 hits, nine walks and six strike outs.

Leading hitters for Norton were Karnopp, 3 for 4; Hildebrand, 3 for 5; Bradshaw, 2 for 4 and Brachtenbach, 2 for 4. Kirsten Georgeson was the Norton pitcher. She gave up 21 hits, walked four and had eight strike outs. **Second game** Colby took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning but Norton tied it in the bottom of the inning. Gibson was hit by the pitcher, Georgeson doubled, Karnopp was also hit by the pitcher, Hildebrand singled, Bradshaw walked and Allyssa Miller was hit by the pitcher. Gibson, Georgeson and Karnopp all scored. Colby jumped back ahead with four more runs in the top of the second. Norton nearly matched them again in the bottom of the inning, scoring three runs. Georgeson, Karnopp and Hildebrand walked and Davis doubled. Georgeson, Karnopp and Hildebrand all scored, making the tally 7-6. Neither team was able to score in the

third inning. Colby added two more in the top of the fourth to make it a 9-6 game. The Lady Jays rallied in the bottom of the inning, scoring four more runs to win 10-9! Gibson doubled to start things off, Georgeson and Karnopp both walked, Davis, Bradshaw, Burge and Miller singled in succession. Gibson, Georgeson, Karnopp, and Davis all scored. Leading hitter for Norton was Davis, who was 2 for 3 at the plate. Norton had eight hits, 10 walks and four strike outs. Pitching for Norton were Kristen Burge and Bri Karnopp. They allowed seven hits, five walks and struck out two batters. **Coach's comments** "We felt really good about our first two games against a tough opponent," said Norton head coach Brandon Gay. "From our practices, we thought we were ready to be competitive with everyone on our schedule and, for the

most part, we executed. We hit well, pitched really well and did a great job on the bases. Our defense had an off day and that's where we need to improve. "Both games were high scoring but that really isn't a reflection on our pitchers. We just didn't play defense the way we are capable. We view walks and strike outs as by far the most telling stats for pitchers and Kirsten struck out eight and only walked four in seven innings. For a softball pitcher at this level, that is tremendous! "Kristen and Bri, despite being a little rusty, also kept the walks low and allowed us to win the second game." **Next action** The Norton Thunder girls will travel to Smith Center on Monday. Action will begin at 7 p.m. They will also play the next night, Tuesday, at Oberlin.

## Area athletes chosen for all-star football game

**By Dick Boyd**  
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A number of area football players will be among those competing in the 27th annual 8-Man All-Star football games this Saturday at Trojan Field, North Hersey Avenue, Beloit.

The Division I game will begin at 10 a.m. with pre-game set for 9:30 a.m. The Division II game will follow at 1 p.m. Players on the Division I West squad will include Damon Schurr and Ethan Slothower, both of Osborne and Logan Reed and Brian Ochs, both of Quinter. Osborne won the Mid-Continent League 8-Man football championship in both 2010 and 2011. They were third in the state playoffs in 2010 and fourth in 2011. Schurr is a 5'10", 175 pound halfback. He had 2,235 rushing yards and scored 42 touchdowns his senior season. Defensively, he totaled 98 tackles. Slothower is 5'8", 165 pounds and was chosen for the all-star team as a defensive back. He to-

taled 106 tackles his senior season and also played on offense where he rushed for 1,095 yards and scored 23 touchdowns. Among the players on the Division II squad are Dillon Coomes and Dakota Foreman, both of Thunder Ridge; Corey Dinkel, Zach VonLintel, both of Victoria; Cole Christensen, Kalyn Weber, both of Golden Plains; Patrick Piper, Matt Crotinger, both of Otis-Bison; Dalton Davis, Cody Pearce, both of Sharon Springs; Will Bixenman; Wheatland-Grinnell; Jeremiah White, Ethan Young, both of Cheylin. Head coach is Max Keltz, Cheylin and his assistant coaches are Kevin Ayers, Sharon Springs and Doug Oberle, Victoria. Thunder Ridge finished with an impressive undefeated season of 13-0 as Bi-District, Regional, Sub-State and State Champions. They defeated Baileyville B&B 46-14 in the championship contest. Dakota Foreman is 6'3" and 210 pounds. He was chosen to

the game as an offensive and defensive lineman. He had 88 total tackles his senior season. Dillon Coomes is 6'2" and 230 pounds. He was also chosen as an offensive and defensive lineman. He recorded 58 total tackles his senior season. 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 recog-

nition 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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**Ticket Outlets:** Purchase ONLINE or at Kellie's or Finish Line in Hill City, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Norton Auto Supply, Stop 2 Shop in Hoxie, Cerys in Hays, KKAN/KQMA in Phillipsburg, or the Country Corner in Lenora.