

MCL victory takes Blue Jays to 4-1 record

By Dick Boyd
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Coach Lucas Melvin’s Norton Community High School football team extended their record to 4-1 Friday night with a 39-8 Mid-Continent League win over Ellis on the Railroaders’ home field.

The Norton offense was effective both running and passing, picking up 317 yards rushing and 161 yards passing for 478 total yards of offense. Norton averaged 7.2 yards per play. The rugged Blue Jay defense limited the Railroaders to 127 yards rushing and 38 yards passing for 165 total yards. Ellis senior running back Gage Younger gained 112 yards on two long runs.

Two Norton backs went over 100 yards rushing. Senior tailback Jacob Brooks rushed 21 times for 166 yards, a 7.9 yard average and senior quarterback Dalton Miller had 14 carries for 114 yards, an 8.1 yard average.

“We came out and played well,” said coach Melvin. “We had some decent practices and were prepared. Our main emphasis on defense was to stop their quarterback Blake Hudson and we did that, holding him to minus yardage.

“Our defense played well except for Younger’s two long runs. Special teams played well. Austin Hager was great kicking the ball. Dalton did a great job of reading and adjusting to their defense. Both our offensive and defensive lines dominated the line of scrimmage. We played hard and got better as a team.”

First quarter

Norton junior kicker Austin Hager kicked off. Younger returned the ball to the Ellis 36 but the Blue Jay defense forced them to three-and-out. Junior running back Tanner Furbush returned the punt to the Norton 32.

Gaining yards on runs by Brooks and passes from Miller to senior tight end Carson McKenna and senior wide receiver John Risewick, Norton moved downfield to score. Miller ran the final three yards but Hager’s extra point kick missed. The Jays led 6-0.

Younger returned Hager’s kickoff to the Ellis 45. Three plays later and minus yards and Ellis punted again, this time to the Norton 24. Norton ran several plays before blockers opened a running lane for Brooks and he scampered 68 yards to paydirt. Hager kicked the extra point and it was 13-0.

Harley Wright returned Hager’s kickoff to the Ellis 26. After one first down, the Railroaders punted to the Norton 26.

Second quarter

Helped by a pass to senior wide receiver Andrew Ellis and another first down on a sneak by quarterback Miller, Norton gained some yardage but not enough, so Jacob Brooks punted for the only time in the game. The ball rolled dead on the Ellis 16 yard line. On second down from the 19, Younger found a seam in the Norton defense and

got loose for a 64 yard run to the Norton 17-yard line.

After several plays and two quarterback sacks, Norton regained possession of the pigskin on their 41-yard line. With Dalton Miller running through the Ellis defense on four keeper plays, Norton moved downfield. The Ellis defense stiffened and Hager kicked a 30-yard field goal, making the score 16-0.

After Hager’s kickoff to the 22, Ellis was held again to three-and-out. Their punt rolled dead on the Norton 30. Miller went to the air, completing passes to Risewick, McKenna and Ellis before he connected with Risewick for a 35 yard score as time ran out in the half with Norton on top 23-0.

Third quarter

Norton received the kickoff and picked up a first down before being stopped on a fourth down quarterback sneak. Ellis took over on their 40. Hard hitting by the Norton defense forced two fumbles but the Railroaders recovered both of them and punted to the Norton 40.

Mixing runs by Brooks and senior fullback Jared Bohl with a pass to Ellis, Norton moved the ball to the Ellis 24. Quarterback Miller took the pigskin to the 12 and, on the next down, ran into the end zone. A pass for extra points was no good but Norton led 29-0.

Hager kicked off and, after several plays, Younger got in the open on his second long run, which ended 48 yards later on Norton’s 30. A pass from quarterback Hudson to Cadyn McCoy moved the ball to the Norton 2-yard line. The Norton defense held for three plays but, on fourth down, Hudson passed to McCoy for the Railroaders’ only touchdown. A repeat pass to McCoy for two extra points made the score 29-8.

On the kickoff, Furbush broke several tackles, got in the open and was finally tackled on the Ellis 20-yard line.

Miller ran the keeper to the 13 and Brooks scored from there. Hager’s extra point kick extended the Blue Jay lead to 36-8. Ellis returned Hager’s kickoff to their 21.

Fourth quarter

After one Ellis first down, Norton’s defensive back Andrew Ellis made an excellent over-the-head catch of a Hudson pass for an interception on the Norton 40.

Two passes to McKenna, a good run by Furbush and keeper by Miller moved the ball to the Ellis 15. From there, Hager drilled a 34-yard field goal and Norton led 39-8.

After Hager’s kickoff, the Railroaders earned one first down before Hager intercepted a Hudson pass and ran the ball into the end zone for an apparent touchdown. Norton was penalized for a block in the back, however, and the ball was placed on the Ellis 46.

Several plays later, the Blue Jays were 39-8 winners.

Starting lineup



Norton senior quarterback Dalton Miller dives into the end zone from three yards out to score the first of five Blue Jay touchdowns in their 39-8 Mid-Continent League win Friday night in Ellis. Miller ran for two touchdowns and passed for a third.

–Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Starting on offense were senior Andrew Ellis, senior John Risewick, wide receivers; senior Carson McKenna, tight end; sophomore Wyatt Harting, left tackle; senior Treven Rossi, left guard; junior Cole Renner, center; senior Lane Bigge, right guard; senior Dylan Sprigg, right tackle; senior Dalton Miller, quarterback; senior Jared Bohl, fullback; senior Jacob Brooks, tailback.

Defensive starters were senior Eli Bozarth and Renner, ends; Bigge and junior Kolton Harting, tackles; sophomore Stewart Whitney, noseguard; Rossi and Bohl, linebackers; McKenna and junior Austin Hager, cornerbacks; Risewick and Brooks, safeties.

Individual statistics

In addition to Brooks and Miller’s yardage, Jared Bohl gained 40 yards on 7 carries, a 5.7 yard average, followed by Tanner Furbush, 3 for 10; Kendall Miller, 1 for minus 6; Toby Nickell, 1 for 6; Jared Tallent, 1 for 5.

Dalton Miller completed 11 of 17 passes for 161 yards and a 65 percent average. Receivers were McKenna, 4 for 38; Risewick, 3 for 55; Ellis, 4 for 35.

Hager had 7 kickoffs for a 47.8 yard average. Furbush had 2 kickoff returns for 74 yards and 2 punt returns for 18 yards.

Tacklers for Norton were Jared Bohl, 5 solos, 4 assists; Eli Bozarth, 5 solos, 3 assists; Treven Rossi, 7 solos, 1 assist; Tanner Furbush, 3 solos, 1 assist; John Risewick, 3 solos, 1 assist; Austin Hager, 2 solos, 1 assist; Kolton Harting, 3 assists; Carson McKenna, 3 solos; Toby Nickell, 2 solos, 1 assist; Lucas Engel, 1 solo, 1 assist; Stew-

art Whitney, 1 solo, 1 assist; Derick Campbell, 1 solo, 1 assist; Andre Valencia Mendez, 1 solo, 1 assist; Christian Boser, 1 assist; Jacob Brooks, 1 solo; Travis Cressler, 1 solo; Wyatt Harting, 1 solo; Trever Lewis, 1 solo; Cole Renner, 1 assist; Ethan Ross, 1 assist; Breven Sondergaard, 1 assist; Dylan Sprigg, 1 assist; Kobie Unterseher, 1 solo.

Next action

Norton will host Class 4A Colby on Friday for their Homecoming. Activities will begin at 6:25 p.m. with kickoff set for 7 p.m.

“Colby has good speed with their skill position players,” said coach Melvin. “They run multiple offensive formations which will take a lot of preparation for us to line up right. We must continue to play to get better.”

Norton		Ellis
20	First Downs	6
317	Rushing	127
161	Passing	38
478	Total Yards	165
11-18-0	Passes Compl.	5-13-2
0-3	Fumbles Lost	0-1
1-41	Punts	5-38
8-70	Penalties	3-25

Volleyball teams compete with 4A and 5A schools

By Dick Boyd
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The Norton Community High School varsity and junior varsity volleyball teams gained valuable experience on Thursday, Sept 27 when they traveled to Hays to play Class 5A Hays and Salina South and Class 4A Abilene.

Norton’s varsity lost to Salina South 16-25, 20-25; lost to Abilene 14-25, 17-25 and lost to Hays 11-25, 19-25.

The Lady Jay junior varsity lost to Hays 25-12, 16-25, 8-15; lost to Salina South 15-25, 12-25 and lost to Abilene 12-25, 18-25.

Coach’s comments

“We just don’t play consistent enough volleyball to play at a high enough level to win matches,” said Norton head coach Kevin Jilka. “Our intensity level is good enough and we play hard but things such as passing, serving and hitting have to be done consistently if we are to turn this around and start winning.

“It is frustrating for players and coaches because we play really well but we just don’t believe enough to get it done. We will keep trying to achieve that confidence level and keep pushing ourselves.”

Salina South

Junior Bailey Ambrosier led Norton in kills with 2, followed by junior John-nye Ruder, 1; senior Bri Karnopp, 1. Assists leader was senior Teslee Nickell with 2, followed by Karnopp, 1; Ruder, 1. Ambrosier had 1 block.

Leading in digs for the Lady Jays was senior Rachel Slipke with 7, followed by senior Alec Melvin, 3; Ruder, 3; senior Katherine Boteler, 1.

Ruder served 2 aces and Nickell served 1 ace.

Abilene

Ambrosier led in kills with 4, followed by Karnopp, 1; Nickell, 1. Assists leader was Ruder with 4 while Nickell had 2 assists and 1 block.

Ruder and Nickell each had 4 digs,

followed by Slipke, 3; Melvin, 2; Ambrosier, 1; Kaitlyn Bohl, 1.

Boteler served 1 ace.

Hays

Bohl led Norton with 3 kills, followed by Ambrosier, 1; Karnopp, 1. Assists leader was Nickell with 4 while Ruder had 1 assist.

Ruder and Ambrosier each had 1 block.

Karnopp had 5 digs, followed by Ambrosier, 4; Melvin, 2; Slipke, 2; Ruder, 1; Boteler, 1.

Junior varsity

“We started great against Hays and won the first game,” said coach Jilka. “Then we let down to lose in three games. That seemed to carry over into the next two matches.

“Our junior varsity girls have moments when we are really playing well by moving our feet and communicating, then we quit.

“This team is way better than their record shows but they have to do the

work and believe in themselves before we will ever start winning consistently.”

Against Hays, freshman Peyton Renner had 3 kills while sophomore Morgan Farber had 1. Sophomore Adrienne Hager had 2 assists, followed by Renner, 1; Farber, 1.

Freshman Lauren Mordecai and Renner each had 1 block.

Sophomore Sheridan Dillehay had 4 digs, followed by freshman Nickala O’Hare, 3; Hager, 2; freshman Kirstin Georgeson, 2; Farber, 1.

Hager and Georgeson each served 1 ace.

In the junior varsity match with Salina South, Hager and Georgeson each had 1 kill. Brooks and Mordecai each had 2 assists.

Hager had 4 digs , followed by Farber, 3; Dillehay, 2; Georgeson, 1.

Georgeson also served 1 ace.

The Norton junior varsity had no kills, no assists and no blocks against

Abilene.

Farber led in digs with 4, followed by Hager, 2; Dillehay, 1.

Next action

Norton will host Smith Center and Trego Community this evening, beginning at 5 p.m.

The varsity matches will be played in the NCHS Stull Gym and the site of the junior varsity matches will be Wil-meth Kirk Memorial Gym.

Both varsity and junior varsity matches will be on identical schedules. Norton will start by playing Smith Center, followed by Smith Center versus Trego and Norton versus Trego.

Norton’s Senior Night will be Thursday, Oct. 4 when the Lady Jays host Goodland in varsity, junior varsity and C team matches, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Junior varsity and varsity matches will be played in the NCHS Stull Gym and C team matches in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym.

Norton JV team defeats Oberlin

By Dick Boyd
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team won a hard-fought 16-14 victory over Oberlin on Monday, Sept. 24 at Travis Field in Norton.

Gavin Lively kicked off for Norton to start the game. On the second play of the game, the Red Devils fumbled the ball and it was scooped up by linebacker Trever Lewis, who ran for a touchdown with 9:05 left in the first quarter.

Tailback Jared Tallent ran for two extra points, putting Norton on top 8-0.

The rest of the first half was a close battle with neither team scoring, despite a fumble recovery by cornerback Derick Campbell at the 4:45 mark.

Oberlin scored on a pass play in the third quarter with 1:26 remaining.

Next action

The Norton freshmen played the Hays High freshmen and Norton junior varsity played the Hays junior varsity on Monday in Norton.

Results were not available at the Norton Telegram’s press time.

On Monday, Oct. 8, the Norton junior varsity will play Colby at 5:30 p.m. in Colby.

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High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Colby Eagles (Norton Homecoming).....7 p.m. Friday in Norton

Norton Junior Varsity vs. Colby 5:30 p.m. Monday in Colby

Northern Valley Huskies vs. Natoma 7 p.m. Friday in Natoma

Logan Trojans vs. Wheatland/Grinnell..... 7 p.m. Friday in Grainfield

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Smith Center, Trego..... 5 p.m. Today in Norton

Norton Lady Jays V, JV, C vs. Goodland (Norton Senior Night) 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton

Norton Lady Jays V in Scott City Invitational Tourney 9 a.m. Saturday in Scott City

Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Golden Plains, Triplains/Brewster..... 4 p.m. Today in Winona

Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Stockton, Logan 5 p.m. Tuesday in Stockton

Logan Lady Trojans in Cougar Invitational 9 a.m. Saturday in Mankato

Logan Lady Trojans vs. Northern Valley, Stockton..... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Stockton

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Mid-Continent League Meet 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg

Northern Valley Cross Country in Phillipsburg Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Regional Tournament..... 10 a.m. Friday, Saturday in Russell