

Legion had four good games with Colby

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton American Legion baseball team traveled to Colby on Wednesday, July 9 and lost two hard-fought games, then returned to John Ryan Field in Norton on Sunday, July 13 and split a well-played doubleheader with the Eagles.

Opener on July 9
Norton was in the game the entire way but just fell short in an 8-6 loss.

The Blue Jays scored one run in the top of the first inning when Trever Lewis was hit by a pitch and advanced, Andrew Ellis got on base on a fielder's choice and Dalton Miller drove Lewis home.

Colby scored twice in the bottom of the third inning to take a 2-1 lead and added another run in the bottom of the fourth.

The top of the fifth saw Norton score one more time when Travis Cressler singled and scored but Colby answered with two more runs in the bottom of the fifth to lead 5-2.

Norton hung in there and scored two more times in the top of the sixth to cut the Eagles' lead to 5-4. Jacob Green walked, Toby Nickell singled, Clint Cole singled, Cressler doubled and Green and Nickell both scored.

In the bottom of the sixth, Colby added three more runs to extend their lead to 8-4.

Norton scored two more times in the top of the seventh but it wasn't enough to catch the Eagles. Lewis walked, Ellis sin-

gled, Dalton Miller walked and Green singled and Lewis and Ellis both tallied to make the final 8-6 in favor of the Eagles.

Norton had 7 hits, 4 walks and 3 strike outs. Cressler was leading hitter for Norton with 2 hits in 3 times at bat.

The Norton pitcher was Clint Cole. He gave up 6 hits, walked 5 and struck out 5 batters.

Nightcap on July 9
Norton had a tough time in the second game, losing 9-1.

The Blue Jays did not score until the top of the fifth inning when Clint Cole got Norton's only hit of the game, a single, and scored later in the inning.

Colby tallied four runs in the bottom of the first, one in the bottom of the second and four in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Norton had 3 walks and 7 strike outs.

Andrew Ellis pitched for Norton, allowing 6 hits, walking 11 and striking out 3 batters.

"Our defense in Colby was not good, which translated into two losses," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

Opener on July 13
Coach Ellis was much happier with the way his Blue Jays played at John Ryan Field against Colby although the opener was a 10-6 loss.

Colby took an early 5-0 lead in the top of the first inning, then added one more run in the top of the second, third and fourth innings to stretch the advantage to 8-0.

Norton got on the scoreboard



Double plays are special and rare in baseball but three Norton American Legion players successfully pulled it off during their doubleheader with Colby on Wednesday, July 9 at John Ryan Field. Second baseman Dalton Miller, who received the ball from shortstop Clint Cole, is shown stepping on second base ahead of a Colby player and firing the ball to first baseman Andrew Ellis for the second out and the end of the inning.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

with four runs in the bottom of the fourth stanza. Mickey Hahn got on base on an error, Ellis singled, Miller walked, Green

was it by a pitch and advanced, Lewis singled, Nickell singled and Cole got on base on a fielder's choice. Ellis, Miller, Green

and Lewis all scored to cut the visitors' lead to 8-4.

The Blue Jays continued to chip away at the Colby lead with two more runs in the bottom of the fifth to make it an 8-6 contest. Hahn got on base on an error, Ellis singled, Lewis singled and Nickell singled and Hahn and Ellis both tallied.

Colby scored two more times in the top of the seventh but Norton was unable to score again and the Eagles won 10-6.

Norton had 18 hits in the game, 8 walks and 8 strike outs. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Ellis, 2 for 4; Miller, 2 for 4; Green, 2 for 3; Lewis, 2 for 3; Nickell, 3 for 4 and Bigge, 2 for 4.

Toby Nickell was the Norton pitcher. He gave up 9 hits, walked 7 and struck out 2 batters.

Nightcap July 13
After losing three games to Colby, the Blue Jays finally got a great 4-3 win in the second game in Norton.

Colby did take a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning and scored once more in the top of the second to extend their advantage to 3-0. The visitors went scoreless the rest of the way while collecting only four more hits in the final five innings.

Meanwhile, Norton began to steadily chip away at the Colby lead. In the bottom of the third inning, Cressler singled and Hahn walked and Cressler scored.

In the bottom of the fourth,

the Blue Jays tied the score at 3-all when Green singled, Lewis walked, Nickell got on base on an error and Cole walked. Both Green and Nickell crossed home plate.

The winning run for Norton came in the bottom of the fifth when Green doubled and Lewis doubled him home for the 4-3 victory!

Norton had 8 hits, 4 walks and 2 strike outs. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Cressler, 3 for 3; Green, 2 for 3 and Lewis, 2 for 2.

Jacob Green was the winning pitcher. He allowed 8 hits, walked 3 and struck out 8 batters.

"Colby's bats came alive at Norton but our defense was up to the challenge," said coach Ellis.

"We left the bases loaded three times in the first game. We just couldn't come up with a timely hit. We felt we let that one get away.

"Jacob pitched very good in the second game.

"Both teams played hard. They were two good games to watch!"

Next action
The regular season is now completed for the Norton American Legion baseball team. Coaches and players await the seedings for the upcoming Zone Tournament.

Norton Thunder winds up June with doubleheader wins

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Thunder Girls Softball Team completed the month of June with doubleheader victories over Smith Center and Atwood.

On Tuesday, June 24, they defeated Smith Center 3-1 and 19-1 in Smith Center and on Tuesday, July 1, they outscored Atwood 14-7 and 14-2 in Atwood.

Smith Center
The Thunder took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second inning when Kim Bradshaw tripled, Sabre Plante walked and both scored.

The Thunder's final run came across home plate in the top of the fifth inning when Bradshaw and Grace Randel both singled and Bradshaw tallied.

Smith Center scored their only run in the bottom of the fifth inning when they took advantage of two walks.

The Thunder had 4 hits, 4 walks and 5 strike outs. Bradshaw was leading hitter for Norton. She went 2 for 2 at the plate.

Winning pitcher was Genna Randel, who pitched a no-hitter, walked just 3 and struck out 11 batters.

"It took us awhile to adjust to Smith Center's pitching style but, fortunately, we didn't need

to score many runs," said Norton head coach Brandon Gay. "Our defense was solid and Genna Randel threw a no-hitter. We felt in control of the game the whole way."

The Thunder got off to a slow start in the second game but ended up blowing the Lady Red out with the 19-1 win.

The Thunder scored two runs in the top of the first inning when Brachtenbach walked, Shauna Gibson singled and Amanda Kessler singled and Brachtenbach and Gibson both scored.

The best was yet to come for the Norton Thunder as they paraded eight runs across home plate in the top of the second inning. Shelby Mulford walked, Kasadie Brennforder walked, Neysa Carlson walked, Samantha Mulford singled, Brachtenbach walked, Gibson singled, Kristen Dole singled, Bradshaw walked, Kessler walked and Plante singled. All except Kessler and Plante scored.

Smith Center scored their only run in the bottom of the second inning.

The Norton Thunder put the finish on the game by running many more runs across home plate in the top of the third inning. Hildebrand singled, Mulford walked, Genna Randel walked, Brennforder walked,

Carlson walked, Samantha Mulford walked, Brachtenbach walked, Gibson walked, Dole walked, Bradshaw singled, Kessler singled, Plante singled and Grace Randel walked. Kessler, Plante and Randel did not score.

The Thunder had 10 hits, 18 walks and 3 strike outs. Gibson, Kessler and Plante were each 2 for 2 with the bat.

Smith Center had no hits in the game. Genna Randel pitched two innings, walking 3 and striking out 4 batters and Kim Bradshaw pitched the final inning, walking 1 and striking out 1.

"Our bats came alive," said coach Gay. "Sometimes, hitting just doesn't come around until you play three or four games. Practice will only do so much and we've struggled to get games in.

"Genna pitched about as well as you can pitch, especially for a 14-year-old playing on an 18 and under team. It's going to be fun watching her develop over the next few years. She has a great chance to turn into a very special pitcher.

"In both games our defense took care of the batters Genna didn't. Not only did we not make any errors, we made some great plays. Grace Randel and Ashley Hildebrand both made some nice plays at third base

and Shauna Gibson made one of the best plays we have seen to end the second game."

Atwood
In the first game at Atwood, the home team scored all seven of their runs in the bottom of the first inning and went scoreless the rest of the way.

The Thunder tallied five runs in the top of the first and trailed 7-5 after one stanza. Brachtenbach walked to start the game, Shelby Mulford singled, Plante walked, Bradshaw slammed a triple, Hildebrand was hit by a pitch and advanced and Genna Randel singled. All except Randel scored.

The Thunder added one run in the top of the second when Shelby Mulford singled, Plante walked, Bradshaw singled and Plante scored.

Eight more runs crossed home plate for the Thunder in the top of the third inning. Grace Randel walked, Genna Randel walked, Carlson walked, Samantha Mulford got on base on a fielder's choice, Brachtenbach walked, Shelby Mulford walked, Plante walked, Bradshaw singled, Kessler walked and Grace Randel singled in her second time up in the inning. All except Carlson scored.

The Thunder recorded 8 hits, had 11 walks and no strike outs. Bradshaw was a perfect 3 for

3 at the plate.

Genna Randel was the winning pitcher for Norton. She allowed no hits, walked 11 and struck out 6 batters.

"Genna battled a very tight strike zone," said coach Gay. "It was frustrating, especially for a young pitcher who normally likes to work the corners. But, she adjusted and our offense gave us the runs we needed."

Only two innings were played in the nightcap. The Thunder scored five runs in the top of the first inning. Brachtenbach walked, Plante walked, Bradshaw walked, Grace Randel singled, Hildebrand singled, Genna Randel walked and Neysa Carlson singled. All except Randel and Carlson scored.

The Thunder scored nine more runs in the top of the second stanza. Brachtenbach walked, Shelby Mulford singled, Plante walked, Bradshaw doubled, Kessler singled, Grace Randel walked, Genna Randel walked, Carlson walked,

Brachtenbach walked her second time up, Shelby Mulford walked her second time at bat and Plante also walked on her second time at the plate. Samantha Mulford walked one time in the inning. All who batted one time scored.

The Thunder had 6 hits, 12 walks and no strike outs.

Shelby Mulford, Kim Bradshaw, Amanda Kessler and Ashley Hildebrand each went 1 for 2 with the bat and Grace Randel and Neysa Carlson were each 1 for 1.

Genna Randel and Kim Bradshaw each pitched one inning. Neither allowed any hits and each walked 2 batters. Genna struck out 2 batters and Kim struck out 1 batter.

"This was the fourth game in a row where we didn't give up any hits," said coach Gay. "Kim Bradshaw also pitched well to close out the game, finishing a great night for her, which also included some good defense and her four hits."

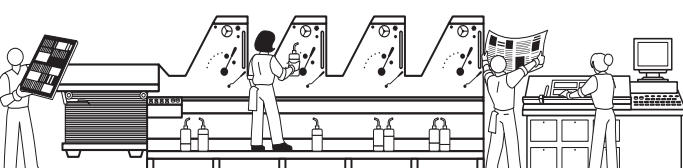
Area athletes attend Klein Football Camp



The Collin Klein Football Camp was held in Norton on Monday and attracted over one hundred young men from a wide area who wanted to learn football skills from the former Kansas State University All-American and Heisman Trophy finalist. Above, Collin is showing some of those at the camp the proper way to grip a football. Pictured are, from left, Gavin Lively, Braden Smith, Jordan Dole, Ryan Lively, Collin Klein, Ryan Johnson, Jace Ruder and Tevin Petrie. During breaks, Collin emphasized the importance of having a Christian faith, believing in family and friends and being the best you can be at what you are doing.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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