

Cowboys fall to Norton in first home game

By Kevin Bottrell

kbottrell@nwkans.com
The Goodland High School varsity football team took their first loss of the season Friday, falling 22-7 to a tough team from Norton.

Things looked good for the Cowboys in the first half. They held a 7-3 lead going into the locker room, but a resurgent Bluejay team came out strong in the second half. Norton took the lead and ran up the score while shutting Goodland down on defense.

Next action for the Cowboys will be at 7 p.m. Friday in Burlington.

The Cowboys won the toss and elected to return. Dax Ruhs made the return and several subsequent runs, but Goodland was stopped short of getting a first down and was forced to punt.

On defense, the Cowboys stopped the Bluejays with tackles from Cy Paxton, Colton Cooper and Garrett Taylor. Norton punted to Ruhs, who ran to the 28 yardline. Ruhs got the Cowboys to third down and four yards to go. A pass to Ruben Lazaro was not enough for the first down, but an offside on the Bluejays gave the Cowboys the first down. On second and 10, quarterback Trey Teeter completed a pass to Taylen Smith, who got to the 33 yardline for another first down.

The Norton defense forced the Cowboys back to third and 12. Teeter went back for a pass, but the Bluejays kept up the pressure and his pass was incomplete. Goodland got called on a horse collar tackle personal foul, a 15 yard penalty.

Norton took over on Goodland's 14 yardline. With first and 10, the Bluejays tried for a touchdown pass, but Lazaro intercepted it in the endzone. However, the Cowboys were called on another personal foul, this time roughing the passer, which got the interception called back and gave Norton a first down.

The Bluejays were stopped short of a touchdown with tackles from Gunner Helton and a sack by Tyler Gastineau. On fourth down with 15 to go, the Bluejays completed a field goal to take a 3-0 lead.

With 2:30 to go in the quarter, Norton kicked off and Paxton weaved his way through the Bluejay special team all the way to the endzone for a touchdown. The Cowboys made the extra point to make it 7-3.

The Bluejays had the ball again with 2:09 left in the quarter. After several short gains, they were able to make a first down with a quarterback sneak just as the quarter ended.

At the beginning of the second quarter, after a completed pass,



Garrett Taylor and Colton Cooper (above) teamed up to bring down a Norton ball carrier in Friday's 22-7 loss against the Bluejays. In the first quarter, Cy Paxton (right) returned a kickoff for a touchdown.
Photos by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News



Helton made a hit that caused a fumble. Ruhs recovered the ball for the Cowboys. Teeter then made a pass to Smith for six yards, but was sacked, bringing up third and 12. A pass to Lazaro wasn't enough for the first down, and the Cowboys punted.

The Bluejays fumbled the return, but recovered, starting their drive on their own 12 yardline. The Cowboys kept up the pressure, forcing Norton to punt. However the punt got away from Goodland, and the Bluejays recovered on the 49 yardline.

Now with better field position, the Bluejays made three consecutive first downs, bringing them to first and goal. After several attempts, the Bluejays completed a pass in the endzone for the touchdown, however, an illegal procedure call took them back to third and 17. The Norton quarterback went back for a pass, fumbled and recovered his own ball, then threw it away. Several flags were thrown. The Bluejays were called for intentional grounding and a personal foul. Norton offensive lineman Treven Rossi was ejected from the game.

The penalties meant Norton was backed up to fourth down and 47 to go. With 5:15 left in the half, the Bluejays punted. The Cowboys took over at their 12 yardline. Ruhs tried to break through several times, but was stopped each time.

The Cowboys punted. The Norton punt returner fumbled and the Cowboys recovered, but the Bluejay was ruled down. Norton started their drive on the 35 and promptly ran to

the Cowboys' 35 for a first down. Paxton blocked a pass, and the Bluejays were called for offensive pass interference, which brought up fourth down and 20 to go. After a timeout, the Bluejays punted.

Goodland took over at the 20 yardline. Ruhs made two more unsuccessful runs as the half ended with the Cowboys still ahead 7-3.

The Cowboys kicked off to Norton to open the second half. They were called for offside and illegal procedure, allowing Norton to start their drive on the 40 yardline. After a first down, a Norton runner escaped several tackles and was finally brought down by Ruhs at the 17 yardline. Norton got another first down, and then a long run to the left got the Bluejays their first touchdown of the game. Gastineau blocked the extra point, but Norton had taken a 9-7 lead.

With 9:06 left in the third quarter, the Cowboys took over. Ruhs ran to the 26, and Taylor to the 30 for a first down. Paxton was brought down behind the line of scrimmage for a loss of three. Teeter was sacked, and the Cowboys were called for an illegal shift. The penalty was declined, bringing up third and 16. A pass to Paxton was incomplete, forcing the Cowboys to punt.

Starting their drive at the 39 yardline, the Bluejays ran it up the middle three times to get a first down. A pair of short runs and a pass bought another first down. This time the Cowboys were able to force Norton back to fourth and 14. The Bluejays punted, and the Cowboys took over

on their own seven yardline.

After a timeout, Teeter threw three incomplete passes to Gage Ihrig, Ruhs and Paxton to bring up fourth and 10. The Cowboys punted out to the 48 yardline.

Several penalties took the Bluejays back to first down and 19, but a flag on the Cowboys took it back to first and 10 on the 45 yardline. With 30 seconds left in the quarter, Taylor brought down a Bluejay receiver just shy of the first down. The Cowboys stopped Norton at the line of scrimmage as the quarter ended.

As the fourth quarter began, the Bluejays were on third down and three to go on the 37 yardline. They ran up the middle to make it fourth and one, then went for it, getting the first down. Then, on second and 11, the Bluejays ran it around the left for a touchdown. A successful extra point made it 16-7.

On the kickoff, the Bluejays were called for a personal foul, giving Goodland the ball on the 40 yardline. An offside penalty brought it up to the 35. After a first down, a pass intended for Paxton at the five yardline was intercepted. Paxton turned around and tripped up the Norton defender to bring him down.

The Bluejays made two first downs, getting out to their 29 yardline. Josh Whisnant made a stop to bring up third and eight. After a pass for no gain, the Bluejays punted.

The Cowboys had the ball again with 6:19 left in the game. Teeter was sacked to bring up second and 19. The Bluejays were called on interference on an incomplete pass meant for Drew Dautel, giving the Cowboys an automatic first down on the 45 yardline. The Cowboys couldn't gain any more yards, how-

ever, and had to punt. Smith lost the ball on the snap, recovered it and tried to punt, but the Bluejays were too close and the punt was blocked. Norton got the ball back on the Cowboy's 11 yardline.

A run up the middle was stopped by Connor Simpson and Gastineau and a run to the left was stopped by Gage Ihrig, Helton and John Peden, but the Norton quarterback found an open man in the endzone for a touchdown. The extra point was unsuccessful, but the Bluejays now held a 22-7 lead.

With 3 minutes to go, Paxton made a kickoff return to the 29 yardline, but the Cowboys couldn't get past the line of scrimmage and had to punt. Norton took over at their own 29 and got a first down. The Cowboys kept the Bluejay's gains short, but the clock ran out, leaving them with a 22-7 loss.

Labor Day races held last weekend at Sherman County Speedway

The Sherman County Speedway held Labor Day races on Sept. 1.

Modifieds

1. Adam Morris (8)
2. Brady Coen (3)
3. Darren Deloach (21)
4. David Lindsay (27L)
5. Eddie Belec (3B)
6. Jason Haug (77)
7. John Fose (27)
8. Matt Morris (21M)

9. Brett Smith (12)
10. Jeff Walters (2)
11. Wheat Lippelman (55)
12. Dwayne Dechant (2D)
13. Wayne Houston (TW43)
14. Chris Remetes (10)
15. Don Geist (10X)
16. Keith Stegman (19)
17. Nate Moore (7L)
18. James Krichmeyer (93)
19. Jim Gronewold (2J)

Sport Mods

1. Trevor Greist (10T)
2. Jacob Adler (18A)
3. Darren Crouch (15)
4. Austin Walker (44)
5. Jason Brees (21B)
6. Chris Heim (1)
7. Jason Gray (32G)
8. Justin Colby (17)
9. Steven Lewis (74)
10. Cody Pancake (40)

11. Tom Nelson Jr. (34N)
12. Britt Geist (10)

Hobby Stocks

1. B.J. Wagoner
2. Jeff Tubbs (37X)
3. Wheat Lippelman (444)
4. Tyler Tipton (95)
5. Michael Meyer (01)
6. Darin Racek (31)
7. Allen Snethen (21)
8. Jason Stevens (77)

9. Mike Kennedy (45)

Hobby Stocks

1. Cody Pancake (40)
2. Tyrel Smith (12)
3. Kurt Kennedy (21K)
4. John Luckert (36)
5. Joey Snethen (S98)
6. Michael Johnson (17M)
7. Emanuel Young (16Y)

Econos

1. Ryan Baalman (88)

2. Bryan Guyer (20)
3. Rocky Baalman (24)
4. Ron Baalman (48)
5. Adrienne West (7)
6. Kevin Delano (57)
7. Krista Pummer (73)
8. Melissa Baird (34M)
9. Eric Clayville (81)
10. Ron Skinner (17X)
11. Levi Jones (8J)
12. Matthew West (31RX)

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School calendar for September 12-18

Goodland High School • Grant Junior High School
West Elementary School • Central Elementary School

Culligan
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Wednesday: Black day
7:30 a.m.: PLC
8:30 a.m.: ASVAB Test
4 p.m.: Central Site Council
Thursday: 3 p.m.: Junior High Football at Norton
3 p.m.: Junior High Volleyball A/B at Norton
3:30 p.m.: Varsity/Junior Varsity/C team Volleyball here
7 p.m.: College Information night in High School cafeteria
Friday: NHS Academic Awards Assembly
7 p.m.: Varsity Football at Burlington

Saturday: 8 a.m.: Junior High Volleyball A Round Robin in Oakley
Monday: High School pictures
2 p.m.: Girls Varsity/Junior Varsity Golf at Russell
Girls Varsity/Junior Varsity Golf at Colby
3 p.m.: High School/Junior High Cross Country at Ulysses
4 p.m.: Junior Varsity Football, here, versus Burlington
Tuesday: Black day
Junior High pictures
4 p.m.: Junior High Volleyball at Burlington

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FAIRBANKS LAW P.A.
Jerry Fairbanks, Attorney at Law
Licensed in Kansas and Colorado
Phone: 785-890-6622
1011 Main, Goodland, KS 67735
www.fairbankslaw.net

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