

Blue Jays lose to Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School football team lost to a powerful, veteran Smith Center team 42-3 on Friday at home. The Blue Jays, with just eight returning lettermen and three starters compared to the Redmen's 30 returning lettermen and 16 starters, knew they would have an uphill battle against the No. 2 state-ranked visitors. The Norton players battled hard but a few lapses on defense and four lost fumbles led to their downfall.

Austin Kingsbury, a senior 195-pound unanimous all-league running back and first team linebacker, scored for Smith Center on a 76-yard run on the first play from scrimmage and Jared Kingsbury, a 190-pound senior running back, scored two to give Smith Center an 8-0 lead just 16 seconds into the game.

Senior fullback Kyle Kats returned the kickoff to the 22. Senior quarterback Seth Mills ran for eight yards on a keeper and senior tailback Aaron Overlease plowed up the middle for a first down on the 38. Kats gained three and Mills two, then Mills passed to junior wide receiver Clay Madden for another first down on the Norton 49. Overlease picked up another Blue Jay first down on the Redmen 41. But, just when Norton appeared to be driving for the tying touchdown, the Jays fumbled.

Five plays later, Jared Kingsbury dented the end zone from the 10-yard line and ran for two extra points to make it 16-0 with 6:58 left in the first quarter. On the kickoff, sophomore fullback Lance Roe replaced Kats, who had suffered an injury to his shoulder. Roe received the kickoff on the 25 and ran upfield but officials ruled that he had touched the turf with one knee on the 25. Mills passed to Madden for a first down on the 36, then Roe gained seven. Overlease gained one yard and lost one, however, and sophomore Chris Davis punted. The Blue Jays got the ball back when Smith Center fumbled on their 34 and senior linebacker Ryan Maddy recovered.

After an incomplete pass, Mills ran to the 26. He was sacked on the next play, then completed an aerial to Madden for another Blue Jay first down on the eight. Roe gained one yard, then Mills connected with Maddy on the 3. Mills was sacked back on the 10 and junior

William Wilhite kicked a 26-yard field goal with time running out in the first quarter to make the score 16-3.

Wilhite kicked off for Norton and the Blue Jay defense forced the Redmen to punt. Overlease returned the ball to the Redmen 23. Once again, a Blue Jay touchdown seemed imminent. Overlease ran for five and Roe plunged to the 14. Mills sneaked for a first down on the 11. After an incomplete pass, Overlease showed some fancy footwork as he eluded two tacklers and got to the five. Mills sneaked to the four and Overlease plowed to the one for a first down.

The next play, Norton fumbled the ball and the Redmen recovered on their one-yard line.

Smith Center drove past midfield and the half ended with the Redmen leading 16-3 and Norton still very much in the game.

Second half

Norton got a big blow to start the third quarter, however, when they fumbled the ball away on their 38 and Austin Kingsbury scored on first down. Jared Kingsbury was stopped short of a two-point conversion but suddenly the Blue Jays trailed 22-3 with only 20 seconds gone in the second half.

On their next possession, Norton lost a fumble on their 27 and Smith Center scored five plays later. Kale Shank, an 185-pound senior back, tallied from three yards out. Freshman Kerby Rice kicked the extra point and the Redmen led 29-3 with 8:46 left in the third period. After the kickoff, it was three and out for Norton and Austin Kingsbury scored again on a 26-yard run with 5:57 left., the extra point kick attempt was blocked by Norton and the Redmen led 35-3.

After the kickoff, Smith Center forced Norton to punt but fumbled the ball away on their 43-yard line on the return. Blake VanEaton recovered the fumble for the Jays. After Norton quarterback Seth Mills was sacked on the 48, he connected with tight end Justin Shirk on a slant pass. Shirk was finally run down by the Redmen on their five-yard line. Once again, Norton was unable to score and Smith Center took over on their six-yard line.

The Redmen put together a 94-yard drive for their final touchdown. Jared Kingsbury scored from 14 yards out and Rice's ex-

tra point kick made the score 42-3 with 9:42 left in the contest. Reserves saw most of the final action and the game ended with the Redmen on top 42-3.

Norton gained only 45 yards on 38 carries and had only eight first downs, seven of them in the first half. Smith Center gained 386 rushing yards on 55 carries and had 17 first downs. The Blue Jays completed five of 10 passes for 85 yards and the Redmen connected on two of two passes for 53 yards. Norton had 130 total yards of offense and Smith Center had 439.

Individual rushers for Norton were Overlease, 11 carries for 32 yards; Roe, five for 16; Luke Pfannenstiel, two for four; Kats, one for three; Mills, 13 for minus one; VanEaton, five for minus three. Pass receivers were: Shirk, one for 43; Madden, three for 38; Maddy, one for 4. Kickoff returners were: VanEaton, two for 26; Nathan Broeckelman, two for 25; Kats and Roe, 1 each for 12 each. Overlease had one punt return for 15 yards. Wilhite had two kickoffs for a 54-yard average.

Leading tackler for Norton was junior defensive end and tackle Heath Vincent with seven solos, four assists. He was followed by senior linebacker Ryan Maddy and sophomore linebacker Blake VanEaton with seven solos, three assists. Next came, Luke Pfannenstiel, seven solos, two assists; Lance Roe, seven solos; Michael Sprigg, six solos, one assist; Chris Davis and Blake Hillebrand, three solos, one assist; Paul Juenemann, one solo, three assists.; Aaron Overlease, three solos; Lucas Wiseman and Davvid Stanley, one solo each; Seth Mills, Mark Scheetz, Justin Shirk, one assist each.

Austin Kingsbury was Smith Center's leading ball carrier with 172 yards on 16 carries. Jared Kingsbury gained 85 yards on 15 carries.

"We were our own worst enemy. We didn't take care of the ball," said Coach Graber. "We moved the ball well and stopped ourselves. We played very well in the second quarter. If we had played that way the whole game, it could have been a different story. We could have been up 21-16 at half-time. Focus and finish were two words we emphasized in pre-game but we didn't finish our blocks or our tackles. We tackled poorly and, offensively, we must learn to



Norton senior defensive back Aaron Overlease (No. 31) emerges from the mass of humanity on the line of scrimmage, avoids a potential blocker Austin Kingsbury (No. 25) and prepares to tackle Redman running back Jared Kingsbury (No. 30) during the Blue Jays' Mid-Continent League encounter with Smith Center on Friday night at Travis Field in Norton. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

handle pressure better.

"They are a great offensive football team. They have three big backs who can beat you and their linemen are strong. Our linebackers are small and inexperienced and our linemen up front needed to do a better job.

"We lost a lot of enthusiasm after we gave up that first touchdown in the third quarter. You have to forget plays that go wrong and be ready for the next play. No matter what the score is, you should play hard for 48 minutes. We were beaten by a better team and, yet, at times we played with them.

"Our special teams played very well and didn't give up any points.

Wilhite did a good job on kickoffs and he really drilled that field goal. Our punters Chris Davis and Todd Bolt did a nice job and we had good coverage.

"We need to work hard and improve and see how good we can be by the end of the year. We have a shot at being 7-2 and that would be a good season. We can still make the play-offs. We have to regroup and get healed." Coach Graber said that injuries from the game included: Davis, knee; Madden, slight concussion; Kats, shoulder sprain.

Next action

The Blue Jays will travel to Osborne to take on a much-im-

proved Bulldog team on Friday. Osborne extended their record to 3-0 with a 28-12 win over Hill City last Friday. "Coach Merritt has done a great job of rebuilding at Osborne," said Coach Graber. "He's put together a good team and we'll have to play well to beat them."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Smith Center
8	First Downs 17
38-45	Yards Rushing 55-386
85	Yards Passing 53
130	Total Yards 439
5-10-0	Passes Completed 2-2-0
4-5	Fumbles Lost 2-3
5-31	Penalties 8-62
5-33	Punts 2-32.5

Junior varsity volleyball gets second

By DICK BOYD

Coach Peggy Cox's Norton Community High School junior varsity volleyball team finished second in the Quinter Junior Varsity Volleyball Tournament on Saturday.

"We had a solid performance, consistently passing, setting and attacking the ball," said Coach Cox. "At times we struggled from the service line but managed to come back and finish the first four matches with a win. The final match against Hill City was basically a test of endurance. We did the best we could in keeping the ball alive but it was not enough.

"Overall, I was extremely pleased with our level of play. We were very focused and really worked together. Our first four matches took quite a bit out of us. We played for approximately five to five and a half hours before the championship match. Valuable lessons about tournament preparation, dealing with the heat and winning in two games versus three games were gained at this tournament."

Hoxie

Norton defeated Hoxie 25-23, 21-25, 15-3.

Match statistics were: serving — Alexi Wolf, 15-15; Darci Darling, 16-19, 3 aces; Courtney LeClair, 8-10, 2 aces; Naomi Streck, 4-4; passing, setting, hitting — Lacey Roe, Darling, Streck and Wolf had a strong match in passing right to the target. Wolf and Courtney Cox set extremely well with Wolf having 10 assists and Cox 4 assists. Maggie Nielsen led the way in kills with 9, Darling and LeClair with 3 and Streck and Wolf had 2 each.

"We played fairly well. Hoxie kept bringing up the balls we were hitting at them and making us try and find holes in their defense," said Coach Cox. "In the third game, we just dominated from the

service line and kept the momentum."

Trego

Norton defeated Trego 25-13, 25-23.

Match statistics were: serving — Streck, 11-11, 1 ace; LeClair, 10-11, 3 aces; Wolf 8-8, 2 aces; Roe, 5-6, 3 aces; Darling 6-8, 3 aces; Cox, 5-5; passing, setting, hitting — Roe and Streck had an outstanding match passing to the setter. Wolf and Cox both set well and had 6 assists each. Streck hit 9 times with 3 kills. Brianna Felton worked hard and had 4 hits and 2 kills. Morgan Kauten, another sophomore, also had 4 hits and 2 kills. Nielsen continued her hitting percentage with 3 hits and 2 kills.

"This was not one of our better matches," said Coach Cox. "We should have taken care of business and not allowed Trego as many points as we gave them. In the second game, we again struggled finding the holes in their defense and it almost cost us the game. We did come from behind and win the match in two games but we weren't as strong as I would like to see."

Oakley

Norton defeated Oakley 21-25, 25-23, 15-10.

Match statistics were: serving — Cox, 15-15, 1 ace; Streck, 8-8, 3 aces; Felton, 3-3; Roe, 10-11, 3 aces; LeClair, 6-8, 3 aces; Darling, 4-5, 1 ace; Wolf, 7-10, 1 ace. "The girls who usually serve for a long time have great back row help that keeps the rally going," said Coach Cox. "These young ladies don't receive much credit but deserve recognition for their play. They are Dana Hillebrand, Kayla Douglas and Amber Waggoner."

Passing, setting, hitting — Streck, Roe, Nielsen, LeClair and Cox had high numbers for passing the ball. Setters Wolf and Cox had 6 and 3 assists, respectively. Streck

had 4 kills to go along with her 11 hits, Nielsen had 3 kills and 6 hits and Hillebrand had 2 kills and 8 hits.

"This match was fairly evenly matched," said Coach Cox. "Oakley had some hitters but we really could not get a block on them. Some of it was our error and some was Oakley hitting over us. They passed fairly well so it kept us on our toes."

Oberlin

Norton defeated Oberlin 23-25, 25-15, 15-11.

Match statistics were: serving — Roe, 16-17, 4 aces; Streck, 9-9, 3 aces; Wolf, 12-12, 2 aces; Cox, 9-10, 1 ace; LeClair, 5-6, 1 ace; Darling, 3-3. No further statistics were available due to technical difficulties.

"This match saw us really starting to have to focus," said Coach Cox. "We were starting to deal with weariness and had to dig deep. We won but it wasn't pretty."

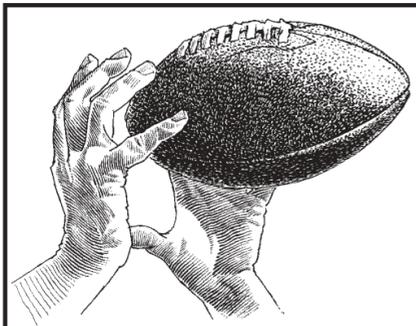
Hill City

Norton lost to Hill City 22-25, 16-25.

Match statistics were: serving — Cox, 10-11, 1 ace; LeClair, 7-8, 2 aces; Wolf, 5-6, 1 ace; Streck and Roe, 5-5; passing, setting, hitting — Streck, Waggoner, Felton, Cox and Roe passed at a fairly high consistent level for the setters. Wolf and Cox had 4 and 2 assists, respectively. Streck had 14 hits but only 1 kill. Hillebrand, LeClair, Nielsen and Kauten each had 5 hits. Felton had 2 kills while LeClair and Wolf had one each.

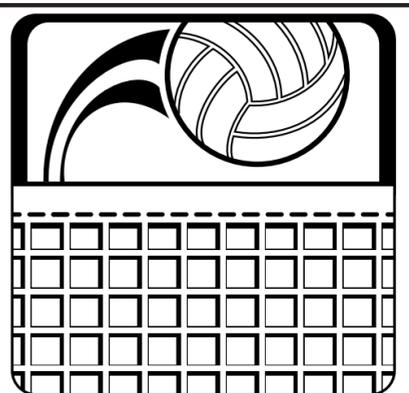
"This was an endurance match," said Coach Cox. "Our girls were trying to do everything right but there was nothing left. Hill City allowed us to make the mistakes and we did. They played a safe game and we struggled with some freeball transition, which then affected our setters and moved right on through to our hitters."

Go, Norton Blue Jays!



CHEER FOR THE
Norton
Blue Jays
vs.
Osborne
Bulldogs
7 P.M., in Osborne
Friday, Sept. 24

Junior Varsity vs. Osborne
6:00 p.m., in Norton
Monday, September 27



FOLLOW THE
Lady Jays
Volleyball Team
4 P.M., Today,
Tuesday, September 21
Norton Quadrangular

Norton—Hoxie—Hill City—Stockton
NCHS Memorial Gym & Wilmetth Kirk Gym
Thursday, September 23
Freshmen vs. Colby and Smith Center
4:30 P.M., NCHS Memorial Gym
Saturday, September 25
Hays High Quadrangular
12 P.M. in Hays
8:30 A.M.—Freshmen at Hill City

Good Luck to the NCHS Blue Jay Tennis Team

4 P.M. Today-JV at Goodland

Saturday, September 25
9 A.M.—Varsity Trego Invitational
9 A.M.—JV Phillipsburg Invitational

Cross Country Team

5:00 P.M.,
Thursday, Sept. 23
at Hill City

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- ALUMINUM EXTRUSION:
New Age Industrial Corp. Inc.
- ATTORNEYS: Worden Law Office
- AUTOMOTIVE-SALES, SERVICE & ACCESSORIES:
City Motors Inc. and Walter Motor Company
- BANKS:
First State Bank; First Security Bank; the Bank
- DRUG STORES: Moffet Drug Store; Pamida Pharmacy
- FEED, SEED, GRAIN, PRODUCE:
Norton County Co-op Association
- NEWSPAPERS: Norton Telegram