

Ouch!

Pesky Panthers punish Blue Jays in district action

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team's six-game winning streak came to a sudden halt here Friday night when a visiting Phillipsburg eleven shocked the Blue Jays with a 51-13 win in district play.

All-league senior running back Jarret Abell scored on an 88 yard run and a 40 yard pass interception in just over two minutes of the first quarter and the Panthers made two extra points after each score to take a 16-0 early lead.

Early in the second quarter, a Norton drive came up empty on the Phillipsburg one-yard line but the Jays held and junior linebacker Jared Cox recovered a fumbled punt snap in the end zone to cut the Phillipsburg advantage to 16-6.

Abell returned the ensuing kickoff off 80 yards to the end zone. Then, Brett McClain intercepted a pass and returned it to the Norton 9.

Quarterback Ross Bugbee hit split end Willie Keesee in the end zone for another Panther touchdown with just 22 seconds left in the half and Phillipsburg had a commanding 32-6 halftime lead.

Phillipsburg scored only one touchdown in the third quarter, on a 53 yard run by McClain, but the Blue Jays were scoreless and the Panthers were on top 39-6 with one quarter remaining. Senior running back Kade Bloom completed a 59 yard Phillipsburg drive with a two yard touchdown run with 8:32 left in the game. Norton responded with an 87 yard scoring drive. Senior tailback Blake VanEaton tallied from three yards out and the Jays trailed 45-13.

Abell put an exclamation point on the Phillipsburg victory when he returned the ensuing kickoff 75 yards for the final Panther touchdown and a 51-13 final score.

Norton rushed for just 144 yards on 45 carries for a 3.2 yards per carry average. Phillipsburg gained 340 yards rushing on 48 carries for a 7 yard average.

VanEaton, who came into the game averaging over 100 yards per game, was held to 48 yards.

Abell rushed for 140 yards on 14 carries to lead the Panthers.

"They are big and fast and a very talented team but we didn't play well," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "We didn't handle the adversity."

"Their defensive penetration took away the effectiveness of our running plays. They knew we were primarily a running team and they forced us to pass."

"A lot of bad things happened and we didn't react very well. Abell is a good back but we made him look better the way we tackled."

"Hopefully, we were humbled and realize we have to get back to work."

Both teams came into the game with 6-1 records, both having lost to Smith Center.

Coach Melvin started the following players on offense: senior Nic Lewis, center; senior Pat Bur-

ton and sophomore Brock Lauer, guards; junior Preston Herman and senior Lucas Bailey, tackles; junior Jared Cox, tight end; junior Wes Georgeson and senior Brian Juenemann, wide receivers; senior Chris Davis, fullback; senior Blake VanEaton, tailback; junior Logan Kats, quarterback.

Starting on defense were: senior Brett Thomson and Lauer, ends; senior Mark Scheetz and junior Zach Mannel, tackles; VanEaton, Cox and sophomore Zac Dreher, linebackers; Juenemann, junior Todd Bolt, Kats and junior Travis Ray, defensive backs.

It was "Senior Night" for Norton. Senior football players honored were: Nathan Broeckelman, Blake VanEaton, Chris Davis, Brian Juenemann, Nic Lewis, Lucas Bailey, Shane Mapes, Brett Thomson, Matt Engel, Pat Burton and Mark Scheetz.

Senior cross country runners honored were: Logan Keiswetter, Jared Engelbert, Kent Mann, Jared Bebb and Michael Ward.

Senior tennis players honored were: Kayleigh Brooks, Lisa Jones, Tiffany Marx, Hannah Mills, Gena Myers, Brianne Nelson and Reesa Volgamore.

First quarter

Norton's Chris Davis kicked off and Kade Bloom returned the ball. A blocking in the back penalty put the Panthers on their 15 yard line. Jarret Abell gained one yard as Ray tackled him. Bloom gained six before Scheetz tackled him. Abell lost one yard and Phillipsburg punted to the Norton 48.

Two Blake VanEaton rushes and an incomplete pass and Davis went into punt formation. He fumbled with the center snap and then decided to run. He got to the Panther 44 and an illegal participation penalty against Phillipsburg moved the ball to the 40. VanEaton gained five yards on two rushes but a Logan Kats pass fell incomplete. Davis punted and VanEaton downed the ball on the Phillipsburg one foot line!

The Panthers' 208 pound senior fullback Garrett Wickham gained eight yards on two plays and Abell got a first down on the 12. The next down, Abell ran around left end, cut back and was off to the races. He sprinted 88 yards for the Panthers' first touchdown. Quarterback Ross Bugbee ran a keeper for two points and Phillipsburg led 8-0 with 5:26 left.

After the ensuing kickoff, Kats hit Jared Cox on a third down 30 yard pass to the Norton 43 but a second down pass by Kats was intercepted by Abell and he ran it 40 yards to the end zone. Bloom ran around left end for two extra points and suddenly Phillipsburg had a 16-0 lead with 3:31 left in the first quarter.

VanEaton returned the kickoff to the 33. Kats got nothing, then threw a flat pass to Davis for six yards. Another pass was incomplete and Davis punted. Bloom

returned it to the Panther 36 where Thomson made the tackle. On first down, a big hit by a Norton defensive player caused the ball to squirt out of the hands of a Panther runner and Kats recovered on the Phillipsburg 45.

Two incomplete passes and a one yard gain by Kats and Norton was forced to punt again. A Phillipsburg defender hit Davis as he punted and Norton retained the ball with a penalty to the Panther 30. Davis made a good run up the middle to the 15 but VanEaton took a pitch and was tackled back on the 23 as the first quarter ended with Phillipsburg leading 16-0.

Second quarter

VanEaton gained 13 yards around left end, then plunged for five more to the five yard line. A face mask penalty against Phillipsburg moved the ball to the 3 and gave Norton a first down. But, VanEaton and Davis were both stopped for no gain, a Kats pass was incomplete and a Kats keeper got just to the 1 yard line.

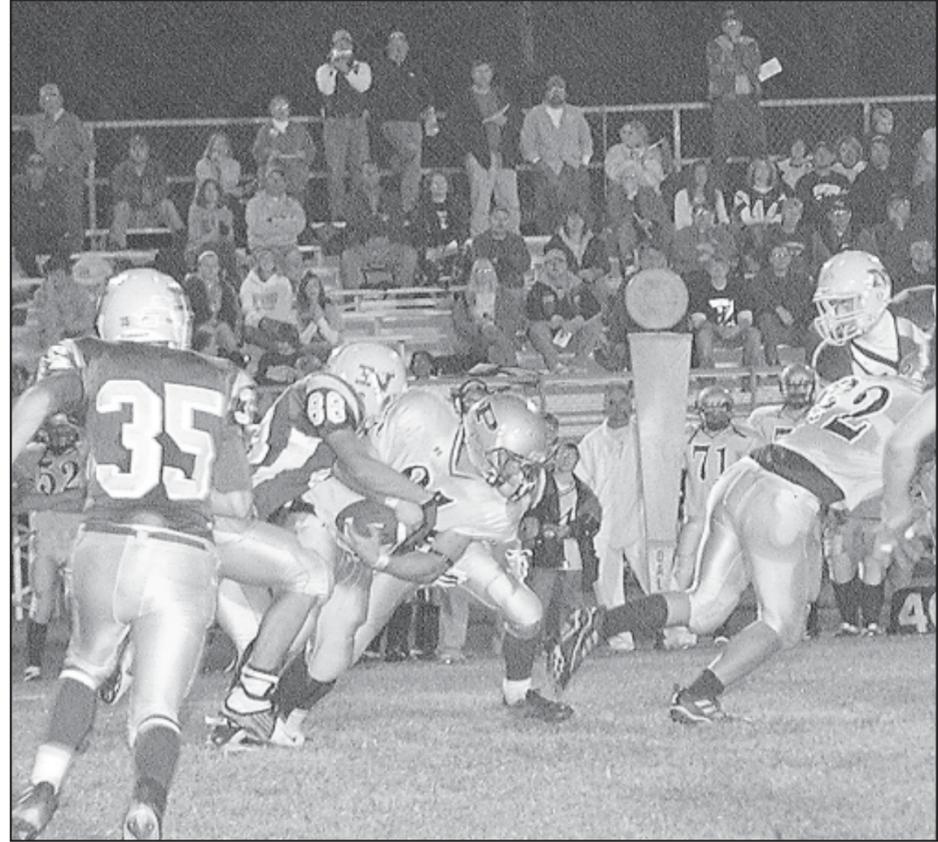
Wickham gained eight yards on two tries, then Abell ran around left end for a first down on the 14 where Dreher tackled him. Bolt and Ray threw Bloom for a one yard loss but Bugbee was run out of the pocket and scrambled for a first down on the 27. Bugbee ran for two more yards before Dreher tackled him. Then, Dreher tackled Abell for no gain. After an incomplete pass, Phillipsburg went into punt formation.

The center snap bounced back to the punter and he bobbled the ball. Several Norton players were right there and Jared Cox fell on the ball in the end zone for Norton's first touchdown. The extra point kick by Davis missed and the score was 16-6 with 6:57 left in the first half.

Davis kicked off and the ball went to Abell on the 20. He appeared to be hemmed in by several Norton players but broke two tackles and sprinted for another Panther touchdown. Bugbee passed to Willie Keesee for two extra points and Norton trailed 24-6 with 6:45 left.

VanEaton returned the kickoff to the Norton 35. Two VanEaton carries lost two yards and Kats misfired on a pass. Davis punted out of bounds on the Panther 25. Abell gained two yards before Thomson and Lauer stopped him. Ray and Cox came charging in to drop Abell for a two yard loss but, on the next down, Abell got loose for a first down on the 35. Bloom gained seven yards before Bolt tackled him. Burton, Scheetz and Mannel gang-tackled Bloom for no gain but Abell gained seven yards for a first down on the 47. Bloom got a good gain on a reverse but Phillipsburg was whistled for holding and the ball came back to the 37.

Broeckelman broke up a Bugbee pass but Wickham plowed the middle for 10 yards. Derek Rowland gained three yards and Phillipsburg punted to the Norton 33. On first down, Kats went up-



Norton sophomore linebacker Zac Dreher was leading tackler for the Blue Jays in their district game here Friday with Phillipsburg, making 14 total tackles. Here he brings down the Panthers' senior all-league running back Jarret Abell for no gain. The other Norton player is Chris Davis, No.35.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

stairs and his pass was intercepted by Brett McClain, who returned the ball to the Norton 9 before Burton tackled him. After an incomplete pass, Mannel came up the middle to sack Bugbee on the 12. On third down, Bugbee connected with Keesee in the corner of the end zone for another Panther touchdown with just 22 seconds left in the first half. Bloom was successful in his run for two extra points, extending Phillipsburg's lead to 32-6.

Juenemann returned a short kickoff to the Norton 38. VanEaton ran for five yards and it was halftime with the Panthers on top 32-6.

Third quarter

Bolt returned the kickoff to the Norton 38 to start the second half. Davis was stopped for no gain, Kats lost five yards and a Kats pass was incomplete. Davis punted and Bloom returned the ball to the Panther 45 where Matt Stanley tackled him. Thomson and Dreher limited Bloom to two yards but, the next down, Brett McClain found running room around left end and he raced 53 yards for another Phillipsburg touchdown. Caleb Breon kicked the extra point and it was 39-6 with 9:38 remaining.

VanEaton returned the kickoff to the 38. Bolt was stopped for no gain, Stanley ran up the middle for five yards but a pass fell incomplete. Davis punted and Abell made a fair catch on the Panther 33. Abell got loose for a first down on the 43 before Thomson tackled him. Scheetz, VanEaton and Dreher tackled Abell after a five yard gain. Abell got three more before Thomson and Lauer made the stop. Bloom gained a first down on the Norton 46. A pass fell incomplete but Bloom ran for nine yards before Dreher and Juenemann tackled him. Bloom got a first down on the 34 and Abell ran to the 28 before VanEaton made the stop. Phillipsburg lost five yards for delay of game. VanEaton and Cox threw Bloom for a one yard loss. McClain gained four yards before Cox and Juenemann stopped him. On fourth down, VanEaton threw Abell for a loss on the Norton 36 and the Blue Jays took over.

Stanley made one yard, VanEaton lost two yards and a

Kats pass was incomplete. Davis punted out of bounds on the Panther 42. Lewis tackled Bugbee for a two yard loss and Bloom gained nothing as the third quarter ended with Phillipsburg leading 39-6.

Fourth quarter

A Bugbee pass was incomplete and Phillipsburg punted. Bolt returned the ball but penalties on both sides forced a re-kick. Bolt made a fair catch on the Norton 32. Kats hit VanEaton with a flat pass and he sprinted to the Panther 48. A flat pass to Bolt was complete but he fumbled and Phillipsburg recovered on the Panther 41. Wickham showed his power running up the middle and took just three plays to reach the Norton 7. Bloom plunged to the 5 before Dreher tackled him. Abell ran to the 3 and Bloom ran in for the touchdown. The extra point kick try failed but Phillipsburg led 45-6 with 8:32 left.

VanEaton returned the kickoff and a holding penalty against Norton moved the ball back to the 13. VanEaton gained 20 yards on two carries, then Bolt got another first down on the 35. Phillipsburg was offside and lost five yards, then Stanley plowed ahead for a first down on the 45. Stanley ran for five more yards. Bolt made a good gain but it was nullified by a holding penalty. Bolt ran for four yards and Kats passed for nine yards to Georgeson. Bolt took a pitch from Kats and ran around right end for a first down on the Panther 34. VanEaton gained 11 but a clipping penalty brought the ball back to the 41. VanEaton gained nine yards on two carries and Bolt ran for a first down on the 18. Bolt gained to the 3 on two carries. VanEaton got the call and plunged over left tackle and into the end zone for Norton's final touchdown. Kyle Edgett kicked the extra point, making it 45-13 with 2:02 showing on the scoreboard clock.

For the second time in the game, Abell returned the kickoff for a touchdown. This time he ran 75 yards for the score. The extra point kick attempt was no good but Phillipsburg led 51-13.

The Norton reserves had five plays on offense before the game

ended with the Panthers earning a 51-13 victory.

Individual statistics

Rushers for Norton were: Bolt, 8 for 49 yards; VanEaton, 20 for 48; Davis, 3 for 15; Stanley, 4 for 14; Kats, 4 for minus 11; Zane Perez, 1 for 16; Brad Nuzum, 2 for 5; J.D. Gall, 1 for 4.

VanEaton had 4 kickoff returns for 62 yards, Nuzum had 1 for 20 and Juenemann had 1 for 9.

Pass receivers were: Cox, 1 for 30; VanEaton, 1 for 19; Georgeson, 1 for 10; Bolt, 1 for 8 and Davis, 1 for 7.

Davis kicked off twice for a 42 yard average. Gall kicked off once for 35 yards.

Leading tackler for Norton was sophomore linebacker Zac Dreher with 10 solo tackles and 4 assists for 14 total tackles. He was followed by Travis Ray, 4 solos, 4 assists, 8 total; Brett Thomson, 4 solos, 1 assist, 5 total; Blake VanEaton, 5 solos; Jared Cox, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Chris Davis, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Brian Juenemann, 4 solos; Nic Lewis, 4 solos; Mark Scheetz, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Todd Bolt, 2 solos; Brock Lauer, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Zach Mannel, 2 solos; Nathan Broeckelman, 1 assist; Logan Kats, 1 assist; Matt Stanley, 1 assist.

Next action

Norton will travel to Oberlin on Thursday for their final district game, which begins at 7 p.m.

Oberlin lost 52-20 to Beloit on Friday. The Red Devils' offense is led by speedy senior back Jace Robinson who has rushed for around 1,000 yards this season and has been averaging eight yards per carry. Robinson scored touchdowns on runs of 53 and 22 yards against Beloit.

The Red Devils have a line which averages over 200 pounds per man.

Game statistics

Norton	Phillipsburg
12	First Downs 11
144	Yards Rushing 340
74	Yards Passing 15
218	Total Yards 355
5-17-2	Passes Compl. 2-7-0
1-3	Fumbles Lost 2-2
3-35	Penalties 8-68
6-34	Punts 3-26.6

Blue Jay volleyball ends at Scott City substate

By DICK BOYD

Coach Chuck Zimmerman's Norton Community High School volleyball team ended their 2006 season on Saturday in the Class 3A Substate Tournament in Scott City.

The No.7 seeded Lady Jays played No.2 seed Phillipsburg in the opening round and lost a hard fought, three-game match by scores of 25-21, 12-25, 16-25.

"In the first game against the Mid-Continent League champions, we did something unusual for us this season," said coach Zimmerman. "We jumped out in front because of our serving, passing, setting and hitting and we did not falter as we have in the past. We

kept the league champions off balance enough to win 25-21.

"We had excellent passing from our whole team, but especially Lacey Roe, who was over 2.0, and Brianna Felton, who was real close. This led to great setting and distribution of the ball by Katharine Roy and Courtney Cox as they were able to get the ball to our hitters, who pounded the ball at the Lady Panthers. Hayli Bozarth had seven total kills while Courtney LeClair recorded four and Maggie Nielsen one.

"In the second and third games, we hung with the Lady Panthers but they showed why they won the league and lost only three matches all season as they started to do to

us what we did to them. They had the perfect passes all the way to the good hits. As a result they won 12-25, 16-25.

"But, we did make them fight for every point they received, which is what I ask of our players.

"I was very proud of our players as they came to play and, even though we left the tournament

early, we left knowing we played a good, competitive match.

"Thank you to all who traveled to Scott City and who have traveled throughout the season to follow and support us."

No.1 seeded, No.1 state ranked and unbeaten Oberlin won the tournament championship and will play in the state tournament.

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