

# Speed bumps bother Norton at Smith Center

## Blue Jays unable to bring football scoreboard to life

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School football team opened the season Friday night at Smith Center versus the three-time defending Class 2A state champion Redmen and the Blue Jays were overpowered 60-0.

There was a lot of leather popping as both sides hit hard the entire game but the Redmen appeared to be in mid-season form in running their precision wishbone offense and were hurt by neither fumbles nor penalties. The Smith Center defense was equally efficient, limiting the Blue Jays to just five first downs and 121 total yards of offense in winning their 42nd straight game!

"We didn't play nearly as well as I'd like," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "We didn't take care of responsibilities. They are an outstanding team but we made way too many mistakes."

"On defense, we didn't go to our keys, missed tackles and a ton of other things. When we were on offense, they crashed down hard and stopped anything we ran inside. Our passing game was ineffective so we were limited to running outside, where we made most of our yardage."

"We can be better than we were tonight. We'll learn from playing one of the best teams in the state in all classes. We'll work hard in practice and learn from our mistakes."

### First quarter

Smith Center kicked off and Norton senior tailback Todd Bolt returned the ball to the 38. The Blue Jays opened with a passing attack. Senior quarterback Logan Kats passed twice for no completions and was sacked once. Bolt punted and Norton downed the ball on the Blue Jay 48.

Smith Center senior quarterback Joe Windscheffel ran for seven yards on first down, fumbled but recovered. On second down, he handed the ball to 220-pound senior running back Braden Wilson, who found a hole over right tackle and rambled 41 yards for the Redmen's first touchdown with 10:17 left in the first quarter.

Norton's freshman linebacker Terrell Lane broke through the Smith Center line to drop the Redman back trying for two extra

points, leaving the score at 6-0.

Bolt returned the kickoff to the Norton 23. Kats ran a keeper for one yard, Bolt gained four on a pitch to the outside and Kats passed to senior wide receiver Wes Georgeson for a first down on the Norton 44.

Offsides cost Norton five yards. Kats gained nothing, Bolt ran for one and a Kats pass was intercepted.

Smith Center took over on their 34 yard line. Senior defensive back Travis Ray tackled Wilson after a four yard gain but, the next down, 190 pound senior running back Tate Arnold, who led the Redmen last season with 1,248 yards rushing and a 10 yards per carry average, got loose on a 61 yard touchdown run. Wilson ran for two extra points and Smith Center led 14-0 with 6:22 remaining.

Smith Center was offsides on the kickoff and penalized five yards. Lane returned the kickoff to the Norton 25. Bolt gained two yards, Lane one from his fullback position and a Kats pass fell incomplete. Bolt punted to the Smith Center 44. After an incomplete pass, sophomore running back Colt Rogers ran to the Norton 45 where junior linebacker Zac Dreher made the tackle. Dreher also made the next tackle for no gain. Windscheffel ran the keeper to the 39 where junior lineman John Van Doren made the tackle.

Arnold picked up a first down on the 30 before Ray made another stop. Kerby Rice, 210 pound senior fullback, ran to the 25 before Alex Thomas, senior defensive tackle, stopped him.

Arnold churned to the 18 for a first down where junior linebacker Brad Nuzum tackled him. Wilson gained four yards before Ray tackled him. Rice plunged to the 8 in two attempts, then Arnold ran in for the Redmen's third touchdown of the first quarter.

Arnold also ran for two extra points to make the score 22-0 with seven seconds left.

Lane returned the kickoff to the 35. Bolt lost two yards as the quarter ended.

### Second quarter

Kats passed to senior tight end Jared Cox for a first down on the Norton 47. Lane was stopped for no gain, a pass was incomplete and



Norton senior tailback Todd Bolt produced the highlight of the Blue Jays' football game with Smith Center on Friday night when he took a hand-off from senior quarterback Logan Kats on a counter play up the middle and ran 75 yards before being tackled on the Redmen's 1-yard line!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Kats was sacked on the 38. Bolt punted to the Smith Center 29. Ray tackled Wilson after a six yard gain but, on the next play, Windscheffel passed to 200 pound senior end Drew Joy for a 65 yard touchdown. Wilson ran for the two extra points, extending the lead to 30-0 with 9:11 left in the first half.

Norton senior defensive back Aaron Husted covered a squib kickoff by Smith Center on the Norton 24. After an incomplete pass by Kats, the Blue Jays had their highlight of the game.

Kats handed the ball to Bolt on a counter up the middle and he ran to daylight. He had so much daylight that he cut outside and legged the ball all the way to the Smith Center one-yard line before being tackled!

Unfortunately, three quarterback sneaks and a hand-off to Lane did not end in a Norton touchdown as the Redman defense proved to be impenetrable after giving up the

long run. Smith Center then drove 91 yards, all on the ground except for one pass, to score again. This time Arnold tallied from 39 yards out. Rogers ran the two extra points and it was 38-0 with 2:39 left in the half.

Bolt returned the kickoff to the Norton 32. This time, the Norton offense was stopped short of a first down and Bolt punted to the Norton 41. With the help of a face mask penalty on Norton, Smith Center moved to the Norton 21 before half-time.

### Third quarter

An onside kick by Norton to start the second half backfired and Smith Center received the football on the Norton 40. Senior running back Jared Hayes made it to the Blue Jay 17 before Bolt tackled him.

Rice lost three yards but Wilson barreled into the end zone on the next play and ran for two extra

points. That made it 46-0 with 11:09 still remaining in the third quarter.

The 40 point lead rule put the continuous scoreboard clock into effect.

Bolt returned the kickoff to the 30 but it was three-and-out for the Jays. Bolt punted and Smith Center drove down the field for another touchdown. This time, Arnold scored on a 13 yard run and also ran the two extra points to make the score 54-0.

Lane made an excellent return of the kickoff, getting to the last Smith Center defender before being tackled on the Redman 46 as the quarter ended.

### Fourth quarter

After an incomplete pass and two yard gain by Lane, sophomore quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel threw an ill-advised pass that was intercepted by Arnold and returned 55 yards for the Redmen's final touchdown. Smith Center tried to kick for an extra point but it was blocked, leaving the score at 60-0 with 10:15 left.

Sophomore wide receiver Ashton Draper downed the kickoff on the Norton 16. Lane carried the ball three straight times for 27 yards and a first down on the Norton 43 but the Jays fumbled the next down and Smith Center recovered on the Norton 45.

After several Smith Center plays, which included two penalties, the Redmen were back on their 42. Sophomore defensive back Landon Hamel intercepted a Smith Center pass and returned it to the Redman 49. Sophomore running back Zane Perez carried the ball twice and picked up a first down on the 35. Sophomore fullback J.D. Gall carried the ball twice for short yardage as time ran out on the scoreboard.

Norton had 91 yards rushing and 30 passing for 121 total yards compared to Smith Center's 374 yards rushing, 87 passing and 461 yards total offense.

Bolt was leading ground gainer for Norton with 77 yards on 7 carries for an 11 yards per carry average. Other Norton ball carriers and their totals were: Lane, 8 for 21; Perez, 2 for 15; Gall, 2 for 4; Pfannenstiel, 1 for 2; Matt Stanley, 1 for minus 2 and Kats, 9 for minus 28.

Georgeson caught 1 pass for 16 yards and Cox had one reception for 14 yards.

Bolt had 4 kickoff returns for 46 yards and Lane had 3 for 75 yards.

Leading tackler for Norton was Travis Ray with 6 solo tackles, 3

assists for 9 total. He was followed by Zac Dreher, 7 solos; Brock Lauer, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Todd Bolt, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Aaron Husted, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Terrell Lane, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Zane Perez, 3 solos; Landon Hamel, 2 assists; Preston Herman, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Zach Mannel, 2 solos; Jared Cox, Robert Derauf, J.D. Gall, Logan Kats, Alex Thomas, 1 solo each; Brad Nuzum, 1 assist.

Robert Derauf suffered the only injury for Norton when he received a shoulder sprain.

### Next action

The Norton Blue Jays will host Trego Community of WaKeeney in their home season opener Friday at Travis Field.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. Trego defeated Ellis 33-26 in the opener for both Mid-Continent League teams last Friday. Ellis led 14-12 at half-time and the score was tied 20-all after three quarters. Trego scored two touchdowns in the final quarter to win it.

Trego junior quarterback Spencer Hemmert led the Golden Eagle offense with 123 yards rushing on 18 attempts for nearly a 7 yards per carry average and completed 5 of 9 passes for 53 yards. Hemmert passed for two touchdowns and ran for one.

The Trego defense is led by senior linebacker Taylor Dirks, an honorable mention All-Mid-Continent League selection last season, who had 97 tackles last year. Dirks had 12 tackles in Friday night's win over Ellis and Eric Cunningham had 14.

"Trego head coach Myron Flux is a good one and he'll bring a good team to Norton on Friday night," said Norton coach Melvin. "They'll be excited about winning their first game and they'll come in here and play hard."

"In addition to being a good linebacker, Dirks is a good running back. Trego always has some big linemen who help them on both sides of the line."

Trego was 6-4 last year and made the playoffs. They have eight returning starters on offense and six on defense.

### Game Statistics

Norton	Smith Center
5	17
91	374
30	87
121	461
2-11-2	2-3-1
5-22.3	0-0
1-2	0-2
2-20	6-43

# Road trip not kind to Northern Valley football team

The Northern Valley football varsity opened its 2007 season on the road at Palco Friday night. The host team took a 58-12 win.

Northern Valley scored touchdowns in the second and third quarters. Palco put up 6 points in the first period, 22 in the second, and 30 in the third.

The Huskies picked up 108 yards on 25 carries vs. 151 yards for Palco on 31 carries.

In the passing department, the

Huskies were 1 of 4 for -2 yards, and 1 interception. Palco was 7 of 11 for 103 yards.

First downs found Northern Valley with 1 and Palco with 6. The Huskies were penalized 9 times for 67 yards, and Palco 11 times for 90 yards. The Huskies fumbled twice and lost one. Palco didn't fumble. Punts found Northern Valley with 7 for 212 yards (a 30.1 average), and Palco with 2 for 61 yards (30.5 average).

Ethan Hays scored Northern Valley's first touchdown in the second quarter on a 40-yard run. An attempted 2-point PAT run failed. Jacob Gallentine raced 63 yards for a touchdown in the third quarter with a 2-point PAT pass failing.

For Palco, Gehring scored on a 10-yard pass from Newell with the PAT run failing; Landis 30-yard run, 2-point pass from Gehring to Keller; Gehring on a 52-yard pass

to Keller, PAT pass failed; Gehring 1-yard run, PAT Gehring pass to Keller; Landis 47-yard run, PAT Landis run; Gehring 5-yard pass Newell, PAT pass failed; Keller 50-yard pass interception, PAT Landis run; and Gehring 2-yard run, PAT Landis run.

Individually for the Huskies: Rushing — Jacob Gallentine 11 carries, 80 yards 7.3 average; Hays 7-18-2.6; Jeffries 4-4-1.0; Drew Eagleburger 3-6-2.0. Totals: 25-108-4.3.

Passing — Hays, 4 attempts, 1

completion, -2 yards.

Pass receptions — Drew Eagleburger, 1, -2.

Punts — Jessup 6 for 185 yards, 30.9 average; Drew Eagleburger 1-27-27.0.

Punt returns — Hays, 2 for 15 yards.

Kick offs — Jessup 3 for 97 yards, 32.1 yard average.

Kick off returns — Hays 2 for 18 yards, 9.0 average; Callaway 22-13-6.5; J. Gallentine 2-11-5.5; Jeffries 2-21-10.5.

Tackles — Dusty Eagleburger

1; Hays 3; Jeffries 7; Callaway 6; J. Gallentine 3; Drew Eagleburger 10; Lee 1; Graham 5; Jessup 5; Gehrke 4.

Palco — 31 carries for 151 yards, 4.9 average; 7 of 11 passes for 103 yards, 3 touchdowns; two punts for 61 yards, 30.5 average; punt returns, 2 for 34 yards; 8 kick offs for 292 yards, 36.5 average; kick off returns 3 for 79 yards, 26.3 average.

The Huskies travel to Agra for a Friday night 7 p.m. kick-off vs. Eastern Heights.

## 'Good beginning,' says coach

# Junior high Jays ease by Ellis, 26-14

The Norton Junior High football Blue Jays opened their season with a 26-14 victory over Ellis.

"This was a good way to begin the year," said coach George Rossi.

"We were not very good in the first half, but I will give credit to the boys for keeping their heads up and not letting down."

"The effort given in the second half was outstanding. The offensive line began making large holes and the backs began to run with great enthusiasm," he said.

"We have many areas in which we need to improve. The boys are working hard in practice and I am sure we can correct their mistakes."

Statistically, Ellis took a first quarter 8-6 lead, Norton was on top at halftime, 12-8, and 18-14 at the end of the third period. Norton put up an additional 8 points in the

final quarter to post the 26-14 triumph.

Norton picked up 6 first downs vs. 3 for Ellis.

In the passing department, Norton attempted 7, completed 2 for 83 yards; Ellis attempted 5, completed 1 for 18 yards.

Rushing showed Norton with 32 plays for a net of 107 yards, and Ellis with 15 for 112 net yards.

Total offense was 203 yards for Norton and 130 for Ellis.

Norton scoring:

First quarter — Trey Millan 28-yard fumble recovery, point-after failed; second quarter — Jordan Wahlmeier 77-yard pass to Dillon McConney, point-after failed; third quarter — Tye Nickell 16-yard run, point after failed; and fourth quarter — Trey Millan 12-yard run, Nickell ran for the 2-point conversion.

Rushing leaders: Tye Nickell,

18 rushes for 11 yards; Trey Millan, 6 for 29 yards; Jacob Brooks, 2 for 16 yards.

Pass receiving — Dillon McConney, 1 for 77 yards and Trey Millan, 1 for 6 yards.

Tackles — Casey Temmel 8, Trey Millan 5, Kurt Douglas 5, Cayleb Campbell 4, Tye Nickell 4, Robert Blecha 3.

Junior varsity 5th quarter went to Norton 10-0.

Rushing had Jacob Brooks with 2 runs for 24 yards, Carson McKenna 1 for 15, Dalton Miller 2 for 8, Lane Archer 1 for 2.

John Risewick caught a 70-yard pass from Dalton Miller for a touchdown.

### 7th graders

The 7th grade boys played one quarter and made the best of it. Coach Rossi said these boys "have also worked hard so far and they are ready for a full game."

## High School Sports This Week



### FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Trego Golden Eagles ..... 7 p.m. Friday in Norton  
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Trego ..... 6:30 p.m. Monday in WaKeeney

### VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Goodland ..... 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 13 in Norton  
Norton Lady Jays JV in Quinter Tournament ..... 9 a.m. Saturday in Quinter  
Norton Lady Jays C-Team vs. Trego ..... 5 p.m. Monday in WaKeeney  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco and Eastern Heights 4 p.m. Tuesday in Palco  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Stockton, Phillipsburg, Kensington... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

### CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Wamego Cross Country Invitational  
11:30 a.m. Saturday in Wamego  
Northern Valley Cross Country JH/HS in Greeley County Invitational  
10 a.m. Saturday in Tribune

### TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays Varsity in Phillipsburg Quad ..... 3 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg  
Norton Lady Jays Varsity in Goodland Tournament ..... 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland  
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity in Trego Round Robin . 1 p.m. Thursday in WaKeeney  
Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity in Norton JV Tournament 10 a.m. Saturday in Norton