

Ringnecks latest victims of Norton's Jays

Play by play report

By DICK BOYD

The play-by-play description of Norton's 53-6 win over Hill City in Mid-Continent League football follows.

First quarter

Travis Ray returned the opening kickoff to the Hill City 45. Todd Bolt lost 1 yard, then ran a counter over right guard for 6. Logan Kats ran the keeper for a first down on the Ringneck 30. Terrell Lane gained 14 yards on two carries for another first down. Kats gained 3 on a keeper, then passed to Lane for an 11 yard gain to the 2. Lane ran over the right side for Norton's first touchdown with 8:11 left. An extra point pass attempt was no good, leaving the score at 6-0.

Lane kicked off and Christian Covington returned. Brad Nuzum made a great tackle on the Hill City 20. Fullback Dylan Vap was stopped for no gain and quarterback David Gerstner lost 4 yards. After an incomplete pass, Hill City punted.

Ray made a good return but a holding penalty against the Blue Jays moved the ball back to the Hill City 49. Lane gained 9 yards on 2 tries, then Kats ran the keeper around left end and sprinted untouched into the end zone 40 yards away! Bolt ran over a potential tackler as he bulled into the end zone for 2 extra points, making the score 14-0 with 5:43 left.

Kyle Edgett kicked off and Covington returned the ball to the 25 where Connor Pfannenstiel tackled him. Lauer threw senior tailback Kenny Slattery for a 6 yard loss. Split end Seth Thompson ran to the 30 on a reverse before Bolt tackled him. Vap gained 4 before Zac Dreher dropped him. It was fourth and inches for Hill City and Gerstner gained 4 to the 38 for a first down.

Zane Perez and Dreher put a good rush on Gerstner as he tried to pass and his aerial fell incomplete. Preston Herman tackled Gerstner for a 1 yard loss but, the next down, Gerstner completed an aerial to Alex Van Loenen for 15 yards and a first down on the Norton 48. Vap gained 6, then 1 before Dreher tackled him. Hill City lost 5 for being offside. Kats broke up a pass and the Ringnecks punted.

Bolt made a fair catch on the Norton 19. Kats went airborne and Wes Georgeson made a beautiful over-the-head catch and sped to the Hill City 49. Lane lost 2 yards on 2 tries, then Bolt got loose around left end for a first down on the 34. Lane ran deep inside Hill City territory but it came back to the 29 due to a holding penalty on Norton. Kats pitched to Bolt and he ran to the 20 as time expired in the first period with Norton ahead 14-0.

Second quarter

Bolt was stopped for no gain but, on second down, Kats passed over the middle to Brad Nuzum for the Jays' third touchdown. The run for extra points was no good, making the score 20-0 with 11:19 left. Lane's kickoff was returned by freshman tailback Reggie Jordan to the 38 where Cox tackled him. Dreher tackled Slattery after 2 and Gerstner gained 1 before Lane tackled him. Gerstner passed over the middle to Ryan Pfeifer for 17 yards and a first down on the Norton 42. Ray made the tackle. Gerstner gained 7 on a keeper, then Blake Born gained 1 before Kasey



Norton senior quarterback Logan Kats (#8), pictured here stretching for additional yardage on a keeper play, had a night to remember in the Jays' 53-6 win over Hill City. He passed for 169 yards and ran for 53 more for 222 total yards, while passing for two touchdowns and running for another. He also intercepted a Ringneck pass during the victory. Also in the photo is #21 for Norton, senior tight end Jared Cox, who was on the receiving end of one of the touchdown passes by Kats.

Nichols tackled him. Slattery was thrown for a 3 yard loss by Kats and a fourth down pass was incomplete.

Norton took over on their 38. After a Kats pass was incomplete, Bolt ran around left end for 7, then followed his blocking for a first down on the Hill City 47. A flat pass to Georgeson netted 4, then Bolt broke a tackle and bulled to the 34 for a first down. Lane gained 6, then Kats connected with Cox for a 28-yard touchdown pass. The extra point kick attempt was blocked but Norton had extended their advantage to 26-0 with 5:36 left.

The highlight of the game for Hill City came on the ensuing kickoff by Edgett. Reggie Jordan caught the ball on the 23 and showed outstanding speed as he returned the ball 77 yards for a touchdown. Norton stopped the extra point try, making the score 26-6 with 5:25 left in the half.

The kickoff was on the ground and Nuzum covered the ball on the Norton 49. A 15 yard penalty against Hill City moved the ball to their 36. A flat pass to Georgeson gave the Jays a first down on the 25 but Norton fumbled and the Ringnecks recovered on their 24. Gerstner carried and was tackled out of bounds, which penalized Norton to the Hill City 45. After an incomplete pass, Vap gained 5 before Stanley and Lauer stopped him. Gerstner ran for a first down on the Norton 40, then gained 3 more.

Lane stopped the Hill City drive by intercepting a Gerstner pass on the Norton 32. Despite a 6 yard pass to Georgeson, Norton could not earn a first down and Bolt punted.

Covington returned the ball to the 37 but a 5 yard penalty against Norton caused a kick over. This time, the ball rolled dead and a penalty against Hill City for blocking in the back moved the ball to the 10. After 2 incomplete passes, Herman tackled Gerstner for no gain. The Ringnecks punted out of bounds on their 40.

Lane ran to the 30 but a block in the back penalty moved the ball back to the 45. After an incomplete

pass, Kats connected with Cox on the 23. Kats went to the air again but Gerstner intercepted and was run out of bounds on the 37 as the half ended with Norton leading 26-6.

Third quarter

Lane kicked off and Jordan returned but, this time, a host of Norton players tackled him on the 30. Gerstner passed but to the wrong color jersey as Kats intercepted the ball on the Norton 48. Bolt gained nothing but Lane ran to the Hill City 40. Norton fumbled on the next down, however, and Hill City recovered.

Lauer sacked Gerstner, then Herman stopped him for no gain. Gerstner completed a pass to Born on the Ringneck 49. Gerstner sneaked 2 yards for the first down on the Norton 49 but Gerstner passed again and, once again, threw to the wrong color jersey as Ray intercepted and returned the ball to the Ringneck 33.

Norton fullback Matt Stanley got the call. He found running room up the middle, broke into the open and scampered the 33 yards for a touchdown. Edgett kicked the extra point, extending the Blue Jay lead to 33-6 with 7:28 left in the period.

Lane kicked off and Jordan received. This time, he was tackled on the 15. Covington gained nothing and a pass fell incomplete. Tyler Cook sacked Gerstner back on the 8 and Hill City punted.

Ray returned the ball to the Hill City 33 and a flat pass to Georgeson gave the Jays a first down on the 22. Bolt took a pitch and carried the ball around left end for another Blue Jay touchdown. Lane successfully ran for 2 extra points, making the score 41-6 with 5:37 left.

Lane kicked off and the Hill City back who caught the ball slipped down on the 9. Gerstner passed to Slattery for a first down on the 24 where Perez tackled him. Kaid McKenna and Dreher sacked Gerstner on the 14. After an incomplete pass, Gerstner connected with Born for an 11 yard gain. Hill City punted out of bounds on the 50.

After Kats lost 1 and Bolt lost 3,

Zillinger, 6/6, 2K, Aspen Larson, 10/10, 2K.

"We struggled a little early in the day with consistency," said coach Robin VanLaey.

"Our serving needs to be improved and the ability to play tough defense, so we can keep the serve to score service points, instead of single rally points only," she said.

"I am very proud of how hard the girls worked through the day and proud of the fact we were playing better at the end of the day than the beginning," the coach said.

Lane ran through several potential tacklers for a first down on the 34. Stanley gained 2, Lane got nothing and a pass was incomplete. On fourth down, Born intercepted a Kats pass in the flat at the 42. Gerstner gained 2 before Lane tackled him. Slattery gained 1 more yard as the third quarter ended with the score 41-6.

Fourth quarter

A Gerstner pass was incomplete, then he completed an aerial to Vap for 5 yards. It wasn't enough for a first down and Norton regained possession of the pigskin. The Blue Jays went three and out as Bolt punted to the Hill City 21 where Jordan was tackled by Stanley.

Gerstner gained 2, then Ray tackled Thompson on a reverse for a 4 yard loss. Slattery got loose for a first down on the 33. Slattery gained 2 more yards but, on the next down, a Gerstner pass was intercepted by Ray and he returned the ball to the 30.

Bolt gained 2, then ran around left end for a first down on the 4. Lane ran around right end and broke two tackles en route to another Norton touchdown. Edgett's kick for an extra point was no good but the Jays led 47-6 with 7:26 remaining.

As Edgett kicked off, the continuous clock went into effect. Gall tackled Covington on the 20. After two running plays made nothing, Hill City went to the air but Ashton Draper intercepted and returned the ball to the 10.

The Norton reserves finished the game. Perez ran to the 2, then scored the final Blue Jay touchdown with a run around right end. A pass for the extra points was incomplete, making the final score 53-6.

By DICK BOYD

The "Fighting Norton Blue Jays" defeated the Hill City Ringnecks 53-6 in Mid-Continent League action Friday night in Hill City.

Not only did the Norton Community High School gridders spoil Hill City's homecoming celebration, they won the final game in the series, led by Norton 19-5. Hill City has announced that they will play eight-man football, beginning in 2008.

The Blue Jays scored touchdowns the first four times they had the ball and led 26-6 at half-time and 41-6 after three quarters.

Freshman tailback Terrell Lane scored from 2 yards out with 8:17 left in the first quarter. Senior quarterback Logan Kats ran 40 yards untouched on a keeper play with 5:42 left and senior tailback Todd Bolt ran for the extra points to make it 14-0 after one period. Junior tight end Brad Nuzum caught a 20 yard touchdown pass from Kats with 11:19 remaining in the second quarter and Kats repeated the feat with senior tight end Jared Cox from 28 yards out with 5:36 left in the first half.

On the ensuing kickoff, Hill City scored their only points of the night when freshman tailback Reggie Jordan returned the kick all the way for a touchdown with 5:25 remaining to make it 26-6 at intermission.

Junior fullback Matt Stanley found a big hole with 7:25 left in the third quarter and matched his jersey number by rambling 33 yards to paydirt. Senior tackle Kyle Edgett kicked the extra point.

Bolt, who scored four touchdowns the week before in a 52-6 win over Plainville, tallied from 22 yards out with 5:37 remaining in the third period. Lane ran for 2 points and the Blue Jays extended their lead to 41-6.

After Lane ran 10 yards for another Norton touchdown with 7:26 left in the game, the Blue Jays led 47-6 and the continuous scoreboard clock rule went into effect. Norton's final touchdown came with 2:59 remaining in the contest on a 2 yard run by sophomore tailback Zane Perez, making the final 53-6.

Norton is now 3-1 for the season and Hill City fell to 2-2.

"We played really well offensively in the first quarter, then got sloppy the last five minutes of the first half," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin. "We gained as many yards as we have all season, so that's a positive."

"Our defense played well again, especially against the run. Hill City ran so many different formations, that we had some problems with pass defense."

Starting for Norton on offense were: Zac Dreher, Nish Millan, tackles; Kyle Edgett, Brock Lauer, guards; Preston Herman, center; Jared Cox, tight end; Wes Georgeson, Travis Ray, wide receivers; Logan Kats, quarterback; Todd Bolt, tailback; Terrell Lane, fullback. Blue Jay defensive starters were: Alex Thomas, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Matt Stanley, Dreher, Lane, linebackers; Kats, Bolt, Ray, Zane Perez, defensive backs. Leading rusher for Norton was

Lane with 81 yards on 17 carries for a 4.8 yards per carry average. Bolt rushed for 73 yards on 16 tries for a 4.6 yard average. Other Blue Jays rushers were: Kats, 5 for 53; Stanley, 2 for 35; Perez, 2 for 11 and Nuzum, 1 for 2. Kats completed 9 of 17 passes for 169 yards. His receivers were: Georgeson, 4 for 49; Cox, 2 for 48; Bolt, 1 for 21, Nuzum, 1 for 20 and Lane, 1 for 11.

Bolt punted twice for a 39.5 yard average. Lane kicked off five times for a 52 yard average and Edgett kicked off four times for a 37 yard average.

Ray had one kickoff return for 30 yards and two punt returns for 15 yards. Ray also had two interceptions for 27 yards while Lane, Kats and Nuzum each had one interception. Lane and Kats did not have returns but Nuzum ran 20 yards after his interception.

Leading rushers for Hill City were Dylan Vap with 14 yards on 7 tries and David Gerstner with minus 3 yards on 17 attempts.

Leading tackler for the Blue Jays was Zac Dreher with 9 solos, 1 assist for 10 total. Matt Stanley was second high with 6 solo stops. Preston Herman, Terrell Lane and Brad Nuzum tied for third high with 5 each, followed by Todd Bolt, Jared Cox, 4 each; Travis Ray, Zane Perez, 3 each; Ashton Draper, Logan Kats, Zach Mannel, Connor Pfannenstiel, 2 each; Tyler Cook, J.D. Gall, Wes Georgeson, Brock Lauer, Kyle Mindrup, Casey Robison, Alex Thomas, 1 each.

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis for another Mid-Continent League game on Friday. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

The Blue Jays will take a 3-1 record against the 2-2 Railroaders under new coach Butch Hayes. After losing their opener 33-26 to Trego, Ellis beat Phillipsburg 14-7, outscored Beaver, Okla. and lost last Friday to Smith Center.

They were 7-5 last year and made the playoffs, losing their final game 32-14 to St. Francis. Ellis has four offensive and five defensive starters returning.

Among the returnees is senior running back Justin Gnad who earned second team All-Mid-Continent League honors after rushing for 1,104 yards on 197 carries for a 5.6 yards per carry average and scored 16 touchdowns. Gnad was also honorable mention as a line-backer. Junior Chase King, who was second team all-league last year as a defensive back, is the Railroaders' quarterback. Senior receiver Daniel Gottschalk was second team all-league kicker last season.

"Ellis has good team speed and they always play tough at Ellis," said coach Melvin. "They have some good players at the skill positions and they have some large linemen. We will have to eliminate some of our errors and play well to defeat them on their home turf."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Hill City	
18	First Downs	8
267	Yards Rushing	44
169	Yards Passing	74
436	Total Yards	118
2-3	Fumbles Lost	0-0
2-39.5	Punts	5-25
6-55	Penalties	5-37

Logan volleyball now 5-8 after road trip

The Logan Trojan volleyball ladies now have a 5-8 record following a trip to Osborne on Saturday.

Their first opponent was Lakeside, who ended up winning 28-30, 17-25; next came Sylvan Grove, who also won, 15-25, 15-25; Stockton followed, only this time Logan won, 22-25, 25-16, 25-21; and the day concluded vs. Osborne, who won 25-15, 16-25, 11-25.

Overall, statistically, for Logan: serves, 167/199, 23A, 83.9 percent; blocks, Autumn Tien, 1 solo, 3Asst.; dinks, Anna

209/230, 90.9 percent; attacks, 203/246, 74K, 82.5 percent; dinks, 57/62, 12K; serve receives, 124/207, 59.9 percent; blocks, 7; sets, 242/252, 60A.

Individually: serves, Autumn Tien, 29/31, 3A, 93.5 percent, Savannah Sammons, 9/10, 1A, 90 percent; attacks, Shelley Kemper, 65/76, 36K; sets, Anna Zillinger, 107/112, 25A, Shaley Van Loenen, 104/106, 32A; serve receives, Shelley Kemper 51/65, 78 percent, Jenny Archer, 32/51, 63 percent; blocks, Autumn Tien, 1 solo, 3Asst.; dinks, Anna

High School Sports This Week



SPORT	TEAMS	TIME	DAY	LOCATION
FOOTBALL:	Norton Blue Jays vs. Ellis Railroaders	7 p.m.	Friday	in Ellis
	Norton Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg	6:30 p.m.	Monday	in Norton
	Logan Trojans vs. Eastern Heights	7 p.m.	Friday	in Agra
VOLLEYBALL:	Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Atwood, Colby, Hill City	4:30 p.m.	Today	in Atwood
	Norton Lady Jays V-JV in Oberlin Tournament	9 a.m.	Saturday	in Oberlin
CROSS COUNTRY:	Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m.	Today	in Oberlin
	Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m.	Today	in Oberlin
	Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m.	Today	in Oberlin
	Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational	5 p.m.	Today	in Oberlin
TENNIS:	Norton Lady Jays Varsity in Colby Tournament	3 p.m.	Today	in Colby
	Norton Lady Jays Varsity in MCL Tournament	9 a.m.	Saturday	in WaKeeney
	Norton Lady Jays Junior Varsity in Colby JV Tournament	9 a.m.	Saturday	in Colby