

# Victory over Ellsworth puts Jays in Regional

By **DICK BOYD**  
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 Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team made enough big offensive plays and the defense bent but didn't break and created enough Ellsworth turnovers to produce a 32-12 Bi-District championship victory on Tuesday evening at Travis Field.

The Blue Jays will play at Scott City at 3 p.m. Saturday for the Regional championship.

"We didn't execute well enough offensively," said Melvin. "We didn't block well in the run game."

"We played well defensively but were on the field a long time and gave up some long runs on third and long."

"You have to give credit to Ellsworth. They played well."

"We held their good running back Kruse quite a bit below his season's average but their fullback really hurt us."

"Todd Bolt did another outstanding job of punting for us but had trouble finding running room when he was carrying the ball."

The first quarter was a defensive struggle with Norton recording just one first down and Ellsworth none. Norton freshman back Terrell Lane scored from the 1-yard-line with 2:17 left after Ellsworth fumbled, giving the Blue Jays the early 6-0 lead.

The visiting Bearcats put together a 70 yard touchdown drive early in the second quarter. Fullback Jacob Bruning tallied from 2 yards out to tie the score at 6-all with 10:47 left in the half. After the ensuing kickoff, Ellsworth intercepted a Norton pass and appeared to be driving for a go-ahead touchdown when they fumbled and the Blue Jays recovered on their 4. Later in the quarter, Norton got good field position by stopping the Bearcats on a fake punt on fourth down. Lane ran 50 yards to score and quarterback Logan Kats passed to wide receiver Wes Georgeson for 2 extra points to put Norton on top 14-6 at half-time.

After allowing Ellsworth to grab the momentum in the second quarter, the Blue Jays grabbed "big mo" back with just 12 seconds gone in the third quarter when senior tailback Todd Bolt returned the opening kickoff 78 yards to the end zone!

## Blue Jay tennis girls participate in tourney involving parents

The Norton Community High School girls' tennis team stepped out of their schedule to participate in the Father/Daughter Tennis Tournament on Oct. 21.

The teams consisted of Nicquel McVey and George Land, Stephanie Shepard and Lisa Jones, Emily and Lee Juenemann, Tabitha and Mike Vincent, Ashley Smith Maybon and Nan Smith, Kaitlyn Ross and Melinda Younkin, Allie Corbin and Rachel Shepard and Katie and Brad Scott.

Here's how they placed:  
 First—Tabitha and Mike Vincent (with 4 matches won).

Second—Ashley Smith Maybon and Nan Smith (3 matches won).

Third (three-way tie)—Nicquel McVey and George Land (2 matches won), Stephanie Shepard and Lisa Jones (2 matches won) and Emily and Lee Juenemann (2 matches won).

Fourth (two-way tie) — Allie Corbin and Rachel Shepard (1 match won) and Kaitlyn Ross and Melinda Younkin (1 match won).

Fifth—Katie and Brad Scott (no matches won).

"We had a really fun time, despite the cold, rainy weather," said Blue Jay coach Lisa Henderson. "I was glad to see so many of the parents come out and get involved."

"(It was) Father/Daughter Day, but we had mothers, siblings and friends show up to compete as well," she said.

"It was really neat to see the parents getting so involved. We also had parents that showed up

With 1:37 left in the third quarter, the Jays took advantage of a Norton punt hitting an Ellsworth player in the helmet as he tried to get away from the ball. The Blue Jays recovered on the Ellsworth 24 and drove for another touchdown. Kats scampered 8 yards to the end zone and it was 26-6.

Ellsworth drove 81 yards for their final touchdown with 9:04 left in the game. Kruse scored from 3 yards out to cut the Norton lead to 26-12. The Bearcats got another drive underway but the Blue Jay defense stiffened and stopped them at the Norton 20. The Jays drove to the 50 and punted to the Ellsworth 14. Norton held and took over on downs on the Bearcat 12. Lane broke through the Ellsworth defense to score from 5 yards out with 10 seconds left, making the final score 32-12.

The victory extended Norton's record to 8-2 and ended Ellsworth's season at 7-3. Scott City is 6-4 after defeating Southwestern Heights 36-0 on Tuesday to win that bi-district title.

Both teams had most of their yardage on the ground but Ellsworth had the edge. The Bearcats gained 245 yards rushing on 55 carries for a 4.5 yards per carry average and the Blue Jays earned 140 yards on 35 carries for a 4 yard average. Ellsworth had 15 first downs compared to 7 for Norton. Neither team had much passing yardage.

Losing 3 of 4 fumbles definitely hurt the Ellsworth cause.

Lane was leading rusher for Norton with 95 yards on 14 carries for a 6.8 yard average. Bolt, Norton's leading rusher for the season, was held to just 21 yards on 12 carries.

Bolt punted 7 times for an average of 37 yards per kick.

Kruse led rushing for Ellsworth with 134 yards on 33 carries for a 4 yard average. Kruse came into the game with 1,969 yards on 227 carries for an 8.7 yard average. He was averaging 219 yards per contest.

Starting on offense for Norton were: Robert Derauf, Nish Millan, tackles; Kyle Edgett, Brock Lauer, guards; Preston Herman, center; Jared Cox, tight end; Wes Georgeson, Ashton Draper, wide receivers; Logan Kats, quarterback; Todd Bolt, tailback; Matt Stanley, fullback.

Blue Jay defensive starters were: Alex Thomas, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Lane, Stanley, Zac Dreher, linebackers; Kats, Bolt, Draper and Zane Perez, defensive backs.

Leading tacklers for Norton were: Zac Dreher with 12 solos, 5 assists, 17 total; Todd Bolt, 8 solos, 2 assists, 10 total and Terrell Lane, 9 solos, 1 assist for 10 total. They were followed by Matt Stanley, 7 solos, 2 assists, 9 total; Preston Herman, 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total; Jared Cox, 6 solos, 1 assist, 7 total; Brock Lauer, 6 total; Zane Perez, 5 total; Alex Thomas, 4 total; J.D. Gall, Logan Kats, Zach Mannel, Brad Nuzum, 3 total each; John Van Doren, 2 total; Ashton Draper, Kyle Edgett, Landon Hamel, Connor Pfannenstiel, 1 each.

### First quarter

J.D. Gall kicked off for Norton and Lance Wright returned the ball to the 27. Kruse lost 1 yard on first down as Herman and Lane made the tackle. Kruse gained 1 then ran to the 34 before Lane and Dreher tackled him. Ellsworth punted to the Norton 42.

Bolt got loose around left end for a first down on the Ellsworth 40. He picked up just 4 more yards on 3 downs, however, and punted to the Bearcat 9, where Wright fumbled and recovered.

Mannel, Stanley and Lauer tackled Kruse for no gain. Two incomplete passes later and Ellsworth punted again. The ball rolled dead on the Norton 40.

Bolt lost 5, a Kats pass was incomplete and Stanley plunged for 4 yards. Bolt punted to the Ellsworth 11. Kruse gained 3 yards but 2 passes were incomplete and the Bearcats punted back to Norton on the Ellsworth 33. Bolt gained nothing, a pass was incomplete and Kats was sacked for minus 8. Bolt punted and the ball rolled dead on the Bearcat 10.

Kaleb Stefek gained 3 but Kruse gained nothing and a block in the back penalty moved the ball back to the 5. Ellsworth fumbled and Herman covered the ball for the Blue Jays on the 1. Lane bulled into the end zone for Norton's first touchdown of the night. A pass for 2 points was incomplete, making the score 6-0 with 2:17 left.

Wright returned the kickoff to the 30 where Landon Hamel tackled him. Kruse got one of his few big runs of the night as he got loose around right end for a first down on the Norton 36. Stefek ran up the middle to the 26. Lauer and Stanley stopped Kruse for no gain. Kruse got to the 18 on the next down but Herman came storming in to drop him for a 4 yard loss and the quarter ended with Norton on top 6-0.

### Second quarter

Ellsworth lost 5 yards for illegal motion but Norton was penalized for pass interference and the ball went to the Norton 14. Bruning ran to the 4, then the 2 and finally into the end zone. Bruning tried to run for 2 extra points but Herman and Dreher stopped him and it was 6-all with 10:47 left.

An onside kickoff was covered by Georgeson on the Norton 39. Stanley ran for 4 but a flat pass to Bolt gained nothing. Wright intercepted a Kats pass and returned the ball to the Norton 40. After an incomplete pass, Bolt dropped Kruse after 2 yards but Bruning



Terrell Lane, Norton's hard-charging freshman running back, put his head down, held tightly to the football and barreled through an opening between teammates Kyle Edgett (#65) and Ashton Draper (#6) for a big gainer during Tuesday night's Bi-District win over Ellsworth. Lane rushed for 95 yards and was one of Norton's leading tacklers from his linebacker spot. —Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

got loose to the 24 for a first down. Quarterback Ryan Manes lost 1 yard but Bruning churned up the middle for a first down on the 11. Kruse ran to the 4 but fumbled and John Van Doren pounced on the ball for the Blue Jays!

Lane gained 3 yards on 2 carries and Bolt ran for 6. Bolt punted and the ball sailed over the head of the Bearcat receiver and landed 56 yards away on the Ellsworth 30. Bruning got nothing but Manes passed to Wright for a first down on the Ellsworth 46. Dreher blitzed and sacked Manes for a 4 yard loss. Kruse gained 3, a pass was incomplete and they faked a punt. The Norton defense was not fooled. Gall tackled Kruse after 5 yards and Norton took over on their 49.

Kats gained 1 yard on a keeper, then connected with Draper for a first down on the Ellsworth 39. Lane ran to the 35 but a blocking in the back penalty moved the ball back to the Norton 49. Lane gained just 1 yard but the next down he broke several tackles as he ran to daylight and scored from 50 yards out! Kats passed to Georgeson for 2 extra points, putting Norton ahead 14-6 with 48 seconds remaining in the first half.

Wright returned the kickoff to the 35. Stanley tackled Bruning after 4 yards and Dreher and Herman stopped Manes for no gain as the first half came to a close.

### Third quarter

Bolt gathered in the opening kickoff, followed his blockers, found running room in the middle of the field, then cut toward the Norton sideline and outran all defenders for a 78 yard touchdown! A pass for 2 extra points was no good but, suddenly, Norton had extended their lead to 20-6 with just 12 seconds gone in the second half.

Wright returned the kickoff to the Ellsworth 43 where Cox and Stanley made the tackle. Herman and Dreher led a host of Norton tacklers who stopped Kruse for no gain. Kruse ran for 5 yards but a receiver dropped a Manes pass

and the Bearcats punted to the Norton 32.

Bolt gained 1 yard on 2 tries and a pass fell incomplete. Bolt punted to the Ellsworth 35. Manes passed complete to Wright for a first down on the 50. Bruning ran for 12 yards and a first down on the Norton 38 before Lane tackled him. Manes fumbled but recovered for a 5 yard loss. Lane and Nuzum stopped Kruse for no gain. Manes passed to Wright and Kats tackled him on the 36. A fourth down pass was incomplete and Norton took over.

Bolt lost 2 yards, Kats passed to Georgeson on the 42 and Lane bulldozed to the 44. Bolt punted and the ball hit a Bearcat player trying to get away from it and Perez recovered the pigskin, giving Norton excellent field position on the Ellsworth 24. Bolt gained nothing, Stanley ran for 2 and a pass was incomplete. Kats passed to Georgeson for a big first down on the 12. Lane ran to the 8. Kats faked to Lane on second down, then ran to daylight and the end zone! Kyle Edgett's extra point kick was blocked but Norton led 26-6 with 1:37 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing kickoff, a blocking in the back penalty against the Bearcats moved the ball back to their 19. Lane threw Kruse for a 5 yard loss. Stanley and Thomas dropped him for no gain but Bruning got into the open and was run out of bounds by Bolt on the Norton 47. Bolt, Dreher and Cox tackled Kruse after 5 yards as the quarter ended with the Jays in command 26-6.

### Fourth quarter

Bolt and Stanley tackled Kruse after 1, then Cox dropped Manes for no gain. Kruse barely gained a first down on the Norton 35. Herman tackled Wright for a 1 yard loss. A pass was incomplete, then Kruse found an opening to the 20 where Perez tackled him. Bruning ran to the 3 and Kruse scored from there with 9:04 left. Gall and Kats broke up an extra points pass, leaving the score at 26-12.

Ellsworth recovered an on-

side kickoff on the Bearcat 48. Ellsworth fumbled on the next play but recovered. On the next play, Dreher blitzed, Manes fumbled and Norton recovered! Bolt gained 5 up the middle. Norton fumbled the ball back to Ellsworth on their 40.

Manes threw two incomplete passes, but Norton was penalized for defensive holding on the second one and the ball was moved to the 50. Kruse gained 5 before Herman stopped him. Mannel and Van Dorn stopped Bruning for no gain but Kruse got loose to the Norton 22 where Perez made the tackle. Kruse lost 1, a pass was incomplete, then Kruse gained 2. A fourth down pass was broken up by Perez and Norton took over on their 20.

Lane gained 3 and Stanley made a good run to the 35. A 15 yard personal foul penalty against the Bearcats moved the ball to mid-field. Lane gained 2 and Kats 3. A pass was incomplete and Bolt punted. Nuzum nailed the receiver in his tracks on the 14!

After an incomplete pass, Lane tackled Kruse for no gain. Chris Buchholz gained 8 yards but Cox, Van Doren and Dreher stopped him for no gain and Norton took over on their 22.

Lane broke 2 tackles and drove to the 10. Kats fumbled but recovered for no gain. Lane plunged to the 7, then gained 1 hard yard. On fourth down, Lane appeared to be stopped but kept his feet moving and bulldozed into the end zone! Edgett's extra point kick was blocked. The game ended 10 seconds later with Norton earning a 32-12 victory and the Bi-District championship!

### GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Ellsworth
7	15
140	245
32	33
172	278
5-13-1	3-16-0
1-3	3-4
7-37	4-27
4-40	6-45

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