

Blue Jay football begins Friday night

By **DICK BOYD**
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Third-year head coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team will host tough rival Phillipsburg in the 2008 season opener at 7 p.m. on Friday night at Travis Field.

The outcome is usually in doubt until the final minutes when these two teams play but normally they do not start the season playing each other. The opener between the two schools is the result of a major schedule change due to Mid-Continent League schools Stockton and Hill City changing to eight-man football.

The change also eliminates the District game between the two.

In the second game of District competition last season, Norton defeated Phillipsburg 12-6 in a hard-fought contest that ended with the Panthers in Blue Jay territory driving when the final whistle sounded.

Norton was 8-3 last season and made it to the sectional championship, where the Blue Jays lost 39-0 to an outstanding Scott City eleven. Phillipsburg ended the season 5-4 with two of their losses by seven points or less. Ellis beat Phillipsburg 14-7 and one of Norton's three losses was to Ellis by a 13-12 score.

Outstanding season
The Blue Jays had an outstanding season in 2007 and hope to build on it this season. After losing their opener to a Smith Center team that begins this season with 54 straight wins, the Blue Jays reeled off three wins in a row. They outscored Trego Community 27-6, Plainville 52-6 and Hill City 53-6 before losing the one-point heartbreaker to Ellis.

Coach Melvin said he felt that loss made Norton a better team. The Blue Jays then went out and overpowered Stockton 49-14 before knocking off a high powered Beloit team 32-14 in the first District game.

After defeating Phillipsburg, the Blue Jays shutout Oberlin 43-0 to win the District championship.

After a solid 32-12 win over an

excellent Ellsworth eleven to win the Bi-District championship, the Blue Jays traveled to Scott City, where their season ended.

Norton lost 10 lettermen from last season's team but has 18 returning lettermen.

Phillipsburg, coached by J.B. Covington, has 16 returning lettermen. The Panthers will count on a big offensive line to help a new group of skill players develop. With at least five regulars on the offensive and defensive line weighing in at over 200 pounds, Phillipsburg will have one of the largest lines in the league.

"They will be very big and good," said Norton coach Melvin. "They lost some good players but still have a lot returning."

"We've had good practices but need to keep getting better. We have very few injuries and are in pretty good condition for the first game."

"We're excited to get the season started and play someone other than ourselves."

Returning lettermen

Returning lettermen are: Brad Nuzum, 5-foot-11-inch, 165 pounds, running back, linebacker; Matt Stanley, 5'9", 170 pounds, running back, linebacker; Nish Millan, 6'1", 250 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Kyle Mindrup, 6'2", 175 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; John Van Doren, 5'11", 245 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Brock Lauer, 6'1", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Zac Dreher, 6'2", 185 pounds, tight end, linebacker, seniors; Ashton Draper, 6'1", 160 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Connor Pfannestiel, 5'8", 145 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Landon Hamel, 5'10", 140 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Zane Perez, 5'10", 155 pounds, running back, defensive back; J.D. Gall, 5'10", 170 pounds, running back, linebacker; Robert Derauf, 6'1", 230 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Tyler Cook, 5'11", 192 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end, juniors;

Terrell Lane, 6', 210 pounds, running back, linebacker; Jeremy Sproul, 6', 155 pounds, running back, linebacker; Kaid McKenna, 5'10", 160 pounds, offensive lineman, linebacker; Dakota Dreher, 6', 175 pounds, tight end, defensive end, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Donny Hildebrand, 145 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, senior; Marcus Herman, 165 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman, junior; Spencer Shirk, 145 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Billy Broeckelman, 140 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Luke Ninemire, 165 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Landon Keiswetter, 155 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Rylee Stanley, 150 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Jesse Gallentine, 145 pounds, offensive line, defensive lineman; Justin Griffith, 170 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Ryan Blecha, 175 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Brett Terrell, 130 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, sophomores; Seth Antrim, 130 pounds, wide receiver, linebacker; Trey Millan, 134 pounds, running back, linebacker; Jordan Wahlmeier, 145 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Dillon McConney, 127 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Taylor Meder, 105 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Tye Nickell, 120 pounds, running back, linebacker; Robert Blecha, 130 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Justin Waggoner, 125 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Damien Davis, 145 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Casey Temmel, 170 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Cayleb Campbell, 160 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive end; Kurt Douglas, 130 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; Ben Gallegos, 190 pounds, offensive lineman, defensive lineman; R.J. Ellis, 94 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, freshmen.

Leading tackler

Leading tackler in 2007 for the



Norton sophomore tailback Terrell Lane broke a tackle from a Blue Jay teammate to make a big gain during the soap scrimmage Saturday morning at Travis Field. Norton opens the new season at home Friday at 7 p.m. vs. Phillipsburg.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

second season was Zac Dreher with 85 solos and 24 assists. Norton counts each assist as one-half a tackle, giving him a total of 97 stops for the 11-game season or an average of 8.8 per game. Incidentally, his uniform number is 88.

Terrell Lane was second high tackler last year as a freshman with 50 solos, 14 assists for 57 total. Fourth leading Blue Jay tackler last season was Matt Stanley with 42 solos, 18 assists for 51 total.

Lane led the team in fumble recoveries with three.

Lane was also second leading in all purpose yards with a total of 1,139. He rushed for 755 yards on 134 attempts for an average of 5.6 yards per carry and scored seven touchdowns. Lane caught four passes for 67 yards and a 16.8 yard average. He returned 10 kickoffs for 276 yards and a 27.6 yard average and one touchdown. Lane had three pass interceptions for 41 yards and a 13.7 yard average.

Lane also kicked off 15 times for 644 yards and a 42.9 yard average.

Stanley was third leading rusher with 189 yards on 38 carries for a 5 yards per carry average and scored two touchdowns.

J.D. Gall kicked off 22 times for 823 yards and a 37.4 yard average.

Ashton Draper and Landon Hamel each intercepted two aeri-

Schedule

Friday, September 5 - Phillipsburg Here 7 p.m.
 Friday, September 12 - Oberlin There 7 p.m.
 Friday, September 19 - Smith Center Here 7 p.m.
 Friday, September 26 - Osborne There 7 p.m.
 Friday, October 3 - St. Francis Here 7 p.m.
 Friday, October 10 - Ellis There 7 p.m.
 Friday, October 17 - Ness City/Dighton There 7 p.m.
 Friday, October 24 - Scott City Here 7 p.m.
 Thursday, October 30 - Goodland There 7 p.m.
 Tuesday, November 4 - Bi-District TBA
 Saturday, November 8 - Regional TBA
 Friday, November 14 - Sectional TBA
 Friday, November 21 - Sub-State TBA
 Saturday, November 29 - State TBA

Junior Varsity Schedule
 Monday, September 8 - Phillipsburg There 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, September 15 - Oberlin Here 6:30 p.m.
 Monday, September 22 - Smith Center There 6 p.m.
 Monday, September 29 - Goodland Here 6 p.m.
 Monday, October 6 - St. Francis There 6 p.m.
 Monday, October 13 - Colby There 5:30 p.m.

als last season.

All League honors

Three returning lettermen received Mid-Continent League recognition following the 2007 season. Zac Dreher was first team linebacker for the second season in a row. Brock Lauer was named second team offense and received honorable mention on defense. Terrell Lane was named to the second team on defense and received

honorable mention on offense and as a kick returner.

Assistant coaches this season will be Todd Fulton, David Stover and Tony Fiscus.

Student managers are senior Hannah Fulton, sophomores Shelby Schaefer and David Cressler and freshman Anthony Wente. Filmmers are eighth graders Jacob Brooks and Dalton Miller. Bob Stephenson will keep statistics.

Tennis opens at WaKeeney, settles for sixth place

By **DICK BOYD**
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First year coach Marianne (Archibald) Wicker took her Norton Community High School girls tennis team to the annual Trego Round Robin Tournament in WaKeeney on Saturday to open 2008 play and, after a full day of competition, the Lady Jays placed sixth overall.

"We had some problems all day with bad line calls from our opponents and the strong winds were a huge factor in playing," said coach Wicker.

"We are up against some tough competition and have a lot of work to do to prepare for this Saturday's tournament in Colby. I know all our girls walked away Saturday with a good idea of what they can do to become better, more aggressive players."

Junior Emily Juenemann competed for Norton in No.1 singles and placed sixth. She lost 8-0 to Olivia Fabritzus, Trego; won 8-4 over Jessica Collins, Plainville and lost 8-0 to Barbara Bickner, Colby, in bracket play. She played Cassandra Haser, Victoria, in pool play and lost 8-2 to finish sixth.

"Emily really impressed me with her level of play," said coach Wicker. "She was up against some tough competition and her scores don't reflect how closely she was matched with her opponents."

Senior Stephanie Shepard and junior Allie Corbin played No.1 doubles for the Lady Jays and finished in fourth place. In bracket play, they won 8-5 over Jami Hendrickson and Jackie Albin, Trego; lost 8-5 to Plainville's Kendra Husmann and Katelyn Thyfault and lost 8-4 to Caitlyn Wark and

Lindsey Wilson, Colby. In pool play, they played Desirae Karlon and Anna Yost, Victoria, for third place and lost 8-5.

"Stephanie and Allie played really well together," said coach Wicker. "Stephanie dominated at the net while Allie hustled for the ball when it was out of Stephanie's reach."

In No.2 singles, senior Hannah Fulton lost 7-1 to Rachel Newcomer, Trego, won 8-4 over Kari Axelson, Plainville and lost 8-0 to Kayla Hockersmith, Colby, in bracket play. Fulton lost 8-1 to Taylor Funk, Russell, in pool play to finish sixth.

"Hannah was serving really well and did a great job of putting pressure on her opponents," said coach Wicker. "Hannah is still struggling with a knee injury from last season but she hung in there

and played tough."

Junior Kelsey Nuzum and sophomore Meaghan Peterson played No.2 doubles for Norton. In bracket play, they defeated Trego's Kelsi Bliss and Kristi Hallagin 7-5 in a tiebreaker. In second round bracket play, they won again with a tiebreaker by an 8-7 score over Dani Winters and Sarah Crawford, Plainville.

"Both matches were intense and exciting," said coach Wicker. "They played awesome together."

Peterson and Nuzum lost 8-4 to Kim Gerstner and Lauren Bathell in the third round. In pool play, the Lady Jays played Russell's Caitlin Strobel and Ashley Quinday for third place but lost 8-3 to finish in fourth.

Next action

Norton will compete in the Colby Varsity Tennis Tournament on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m.

Matches will be played at Fike Park and Colby Community College.

Teams competing in addition to Colby and Norton will be Garden City, Liberal, Osborne and Plainville.

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Blue Jay Booster Club

Will meet Every Wednesday
in the
High School Cafeteria

at 7:30 p.m.
through the Fall
Season

Tailgate Party held at the Livestock Barn

There will be a charge of \$4.00 per plate

TAILGATE PARTY - FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
5:00-6:30 P.M. — FREE GIFT WITH \$10.00 MEMBERSHIP
Serving Roasted Pork Sandwiches or Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips, Watermelon, and Drink

High School Sports This Week

Norton
Blue Jays

Northern Valley
Huskies

Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Phillipsburg Panthers 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg 6:30 p.m. Monday in Phillipsburg
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Palco 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
 Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Stockton 6 p.m. Monday in Almena
 Logan Trojans vs. Western Plains 7 p.m. Friday in Ransom

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Phillipsburg/Northern Valley ... 5 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco 4 p.m. Friday in Almena
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Phillipsburg/Norton ... 5 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Hill City/Trego 5 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
 Northern Valley Huskies in Norton Invitational 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Colby Varsity Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby
 Norton Lady Jays vs. Phillipsburg 1 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg