

Norton Blue Jays bring home 47-21 win

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School football team of the Mid-Continent League traveled to Oberlin on Friday night to do battle with Oberlin of the Northwest Kansas League and, after some ups and downs, the Blue Jays ended up with a 47-21 victory!

The Red Devils surprised the favored Blue Jays by scoring on their opening possession to take a 7-0 lead. The sudden score got Norton's attention and the Blue Jays responded by tallying in two plays as Zane Perez returned the kickoff to the Oberlin 21 and Terrell Lane ran for the score. The extra point kick missed so the homesteading Red Devils remained on top 7-6 with 9:27 left in the first quarter.

On Norton's second possession, quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel passed 27 yards to wide receiver Ashton Draper for the Blue Jays' second touchdown. Lane bulled in for two points and Norton was on top 14-7 with 6:41 left.

Four minutes later and the Blue Jays were back in the end zone after Dreher blocked an Oberlin punt and Perez scored from 1 yard out. J.D. Gall kicked the extra point to make it 21-7 with 2:17 left in the quarter.

Norton wasn't finished scoring in the opening period, however, as defensive back Ashton Draper intercepted Oberlin quarterback Logan Fortin's pass and returned it for a touchdown! Gall split the uprights for the extra point and Norton was ahead 28-7 with 1:46 left in the quarter.

The momentum switched to Oberlin in the second quarter. The Red Devils scored on a 1 yard run by running back Keithen Fortin, the extra point kick by Logan Fortin was good and the Norton lead was cut to 28-14 with 4:17 left.

A 93-yard kickoff return by Perez for an apparent touchdown was nullified by a penalty against the Blue Jays and Oberlin went to the air to score again. This time quarterback Fortin connected with receiver Toby Peters on a 22 yard touchdown play. Fortin kicked the extra point and Oberlin trailed by just 28-21 at halftime.

Norton head coach Lucas Melvin got his players' attention at halftime and they responded by shutting out the Red Devils in the second half.

Spencer Shirk played quarterback for Norton after intermission and threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter. He connected with Draper for a 5 yard touchdown and Gall kicked the extra point with 8:34 left, then passed 20 yards to Gall for another score with 4:57 remaining to put Norton on top 41-21.

Norton's final touchdown came with 5:38 left in the game when Perez ran 4 yards to paydirt to make it 47-21.

Lane intercepted two Oberlin passes in the second half that helped the Blue Jays shutout the Red Devils after intermission.

Oberlin could not run against Norton so had to rely on the passing game. The Red Devils finished with zero yards on 16 carries. Through the air, Fortin was 20 of 41 for 48 percent and 296 yards.

Lane ran hard all night and the 210 pound sophomore tailback was a load for the Red Devil defense to stop. He ended the game with 205 yards on 24 carries for an outstanding 8.6 yards per carry average.

Penalties throughout the game hurt the Norton cause and kept the Blue Jay score from being higher.

"We came out a little flat," said coach Melvin. "For one reason or another, we weren't quite ready to play. But, after they scored, we scored four times. After we got up 28-7, we lost some intensity and let them back in it."

"Our pass defense was not too good early but we adjusted in the second half and did better. Peters was a good pass receiver. They

did a good job of protecting their quarterback and that's a credit to them.

"All our penalties weren't good. I'm sure we deserved them or the referees wouldn't have called them. We will have to eliminate penalties in the future."

"Our offensive line did a good job of blocking for Terrell and giving him holes to run through. He did a good job of taking advantage of them."

Coach Melvin started the following players in the game: Nish Millan, left tackle; Brock Lauer, left guard; Kaid McKenna, center; Luke Ninemire, right guard; John Van Doren, right tackle; Zac Dreher, tight end; Connor Pfannenstiel, quarterback; Matt Stanley, fullback; Terrell Lane, tailback; Ashton Draper, Billy Broeckelman, wide receivers, offense; Lauer and Kyle Mindrup, ends; Millan and Van Doren, tackles; Dreher, Stanley, Lane, linebacks; Draper, Pfannenstiel, cornerbacks; Brad Nuzum, Zane Perez, safeties, defense.

First quarter

Lane kicked off for Norton and the Red Devils returned it to their 26-yard-line. Dreher stuffed quarterback Logan Fortin for no gain on first down but he completed a pass over the middle that carried to the Norton 10. Pfannenstiel tackled Jacob Fortin for a 1 yard loss and Logan Fortin lost 3 more yards, courtesy of Nuzum.

On third down, Logan Fortin passed to Jacob Fortin for a touchdown. Logan Fortin kicked the extra point and the Red Devils led 7-0 with 9:57 left.

It took 30 seconds for the Blue Jays to answer. Perez had good blocking and made a nice return of the ensuing kickoff to the Oberlin 21 yard line. Lane carried the ball around right end for Norton's first touchdown of the night. Gall's extra point kick was unsuccessful, making it 7-6 with 9:27 left.

Lane kicked off to the Oberlin 32. Perez tackled Sam Stapp after a 5 yard pass catch, then Lane dropped Logan Fortin for a 2 yard loss. Perez and Lane broke up a third down pass and Oberlin punted.

Draper returned the pigskin to the Oberlin 31. After an incomplete pass, Pfannenstiel ran for 3 yards. On third down, he passed to Draper for another Blue Jay touchdown. Lane ran over the left side of the line for 2 extra points, making it 14-7 with 6:41 remaining.

Lane kicked off to the Oberlin 35. Lauer and Nuzum tackled Jacob Fortin for a 1 yard loss on an end-around. After a 6 yard pass from Logan Fortin to Jacob Fortin, Oberlin punted and Pfannenstiel returned it to the Norton 39. Norton was three and out, however, and Lane punted to the Oberlin 42.

Lane sacked Logan Fortin for a 4 yard loss, then Fortin tried a pass that resulted in three penalties. A pass interference against Norton and holding against Oberlin were offsetting but Oberlin was penalized back to their 19 for unsportsmanlike conduct. Pfannenstiel broke up another Red Devil pass. On fourth down, they tried to punt but Dreher blocked it and Norton got the ball on the Oberlin 28.

Lane ran around left end, broke three tackles and was finally brought down on the 19. Next, Stanley appeared to score a Blue Jay touchdown but a blocking in the back penalty brought the ball back to the 15. Lane ran to the 1-yard-line, then Perez ran in for the touchdown with 2:17 left. Gall kicked the extra point to put the Jays ahead 21-7.

Gall kicked off and Lucas Juenemann returned the ball to the 21. After two incomplete passes, Logan Fortin completed one to Norton! Draper grabbed the ball and ran 18 yards for another Norton touchdown! Gall kicked the extra point and Norton led 28-7 with 1:46 still left in the first quarter!

Juenemann returned Gall's

kickoff to the Oberlin 36. After one incomplete pass, Fortin connected with Keithen Fortin to the Norton 44. Three incomplete passes later and Oberlin punted to the Norton 31. Lane had a nice 23-yard run to the Oberlin 46. One play later, Pfannenstiel passed to Stanley and he ran to the 18. The ball came back to the Norton 30 due to a blocking penalty against Norton and the first quarter ended with the Blue Jays on top 28-7.

Second quarter

Another pass to Stanley carried to the Norton 47 but Norton could not make a first down and Lane punted. Juenemann returned the punt to the Oberlin 23. Logan Fortin passed to Peters on the Norton 49. After an incomplete pass, Peters caught a 5 yard pass and Pfannenstiel tackled him. After another incomplete pass, Oberlin punted to the Norton 3-yard-line.

Two runs by Lane, a holding penalty against Norton, a 3 yard run by Nuzum and Lane punted again. Oberlin took over at midfield. Peters caught a pass on the Norton 25 with three Norton defenders on him! After three incomplete passes and a delay of game penalty against Oberlin, Fortin completed a fourth down pass to Wiley Farr on the Norton 10. The Red Devils were unable to score when they fumbled in the backfield and Dakota Dreher recovered on the Norton 19!

Lane gained 25 yards on two carries but the Jays had fumble problems and lost yardage back to the 24. Lane got off a short punt to the Norton 37. Oberlin took advantage of the short field. Logan Fortin passed 6 yards to Juenemann, then 11 yards to Jacob Fortin on the 20. After an incomplete pass, Sam Stapp took a delayed handoff that fooled the Norton defense and he ran to the 1. He ran up the middle for the touchdown and Logan Fortin kicked the extra point to make it 28-14 with 4:17 left.

Perez took the ensuing kickoff and raced 93 yards up the middle of the field for an apparent Norton touchdown but a blocking in the back penalty against the Blue Jays brought the ball back to the Norton 38. Holding and illegal procedure penalties against Norton forced Lane to punt again.

Oberlin took over on their 21. After Dreher dropped Logan Fortin for a 2 yard gain, he passed to Peters for a first down on the Norton 37. Next, he passed to Lucas Juenemann on the Norton 22. With 40 seconds left in the quarter, Peters caught the ball in a crowd for another Oberlin touchdown. Logan Fortin kicked the extra point and the Red Devils had narrowed the Norton lead to 28-21.

The Blue Jays tried to get another touchdown of their own before halftime. Perez returned the kickoff to midfield. A face mask penalty moved the ball to the Oberlin 36. After an incomplete pass, Pfannenstiel passed to Draper on the 25. Lane got the call and was run out of bounds on the 8. A pass in the end zone was incomplete and it was halftime with Norton still leading by just 28-21.

Third quarter

The Blue Jays came out of the dressing room ready to put more points between themselves and the Red Devils and they did just that, scoring two touchdowns in the third quarter and one in the fourth and holding Oberlin scoreless. Perez returned the kickoff to the Norton 40. Spencer Shirk played quarterback in the second half. He gained 9 yards on a keeper, then turned the ball over to Lane, who powered the ball to the Oberlin 5 on 6 plays!

Shirk passed to Draper in the end zone and he made a leaping catch for a touchdown. Gall kicked the extra point and it was 35-21 with 8:34 left.

Gall kicked off and Lucas Juenemann returned to the Oberlin 45. Peters made a leaping catch of a Fortin pass on the Norton 22 but



Norton senior linebacker Zac Dreher brings Oberlin running back Sam Stapp to the turf with a flying tackle during the Blue Jay victory Friday night in Oberlin. Ready to help at left is junior safety Zane Perez. No. 51 for the Red Devils is senior lineman Derek Chambers. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the Blue Jay defense drove them backwards from there. After an incomplete pass, Dakota Dreher tackled Sam Stapp for a 2 yard loss after a pass reception and Lauer sacked Fortin on the Norton 38. Oberlin punted into the end zone.

Five plays later and the Blue Jays were back in the other end zone. Stanley gained 3, Gall 2, Shirk passed to Draper to the Oberlin 41, Lane ran to the 20, Shirk passed to Gall and he broke a tackle on his way to another Norton touchdown. Gall's extra point kick was no good but Norton had extended their lead to 41-21 with 4:57 left.

Kaden Macfee returned Gall's kickoff to the Oberlin 42. After two incomplete passes, Fortin completed one to Lane who made a diving catch at the Norton 28! The Blue Jays were unable to take advantage of the situation as two holding penalties forced Lane to punt. Two fumbles and a penalty kept Oberlin from advancing and they punted to the Norton 31. Shirk kept for 4 and Stanley gained 2 as the quarter ended with the score 41-21.

Fourth quarter

Norton was unable to make a first down. Lane punted to the Oberlin 44. The Blue Jay defense was also equal to the occasion and, after four downs, Norton regained possession on the Red Devil 49. Lane ran to the 38 for a first down, then to the 32 and the 16. Perez carried the next three times and scored from the 3-yard-line. Gall's extra point kick was blocked and Norton led 47-21 with 5:38 left.

Seth Antrim kicked off for Norton and the Red Devils returned it to their 35. Fortin passed to Peters to the Oberlin 44 but, on the next down, Lane got his second pass

interception of the game and Norton took over at midfield. A holding penalty set Norton back but Shirk ran a keeper for 6 yards and Stanley got loose over the left tackle for a 37 yard run to the Oberlin 17!

Billy Broeckelman gained 7 yards on 3 carries but Norton fumbled and Oberlin recovered on the 17. Oberlin drove to the Norton 32 yard line before the final whistle signaled a 47-21 Norton victory!

Individual statistics

Norton ball carriers following Lane and their yardage were: Matt Stanley, 6 for 32; Zane Perez, 5 for 17; Spencer Shirk, 4 for 18; Brad Nuzum, 1 for 5; J.D. Gall, 1 for 3; Billy Broeckelman, 4 for 5; Connor Pfannenstiel, 3 for minus 15.

Pfannenstiel completed 2 of 6 passes for 41 yards and 33 percent and Shirk completed 5 of 9 for 85 yards and 55 percent. Draper caught 4 passes for 77 yards, Gall caught 2 for 35 yards and Stanley caught 1 for 14 yards.

Lane punted 7 times for a 29.2 yard average and kicked off 3 times for a 35 yard average. Gall kicked off 4 times for a 39.2 yard average and Antrim kicked off 1 time for 28 yards.

Perez had 4 kickoff returns for a 31.8 yard average. Draper had 1 punt return for 30 yards and Pfannenstiel had 1 for 8 yards.

Fortin completed 20 of 41 passes for 48 percent and 296 yards. Peters was Oberlin's leading receiver with 8 catches for 189 yards.

Terrell Lane, Brad Nuzum and Connor Pfannenstiel were leading tacklers with 6 each, followed by Ashton Draper, Zac Dreher, Zane Perez, 3 each; Brock Lauer, 2; Ryan Blecha, Billy Broeckelman, Dakota Dreher, J.D. Gall, Donny Hildebrand, Landon Keiswetter,

Dillon McConney, Matt Stanley, Rylee Stanley, 1 each.

No JV with Oberlin

The junior varsity football game between Norton and Oberlin scheduled for Monday evening in Norton was canceled.

Next action

The Norton Blue Jays will return to Mid-Continent League play on Friday night when they host the unbeaten and four time defending Class 2A state football champion Smith Center Redmen in a 7 p.m. game at Travis Field.

Although the Redmen led Trego Community by just 8-0 at halftime last Friday, they scored 34 points in the second half to defeat the Golden Eagles 42-8.

Smith Center rushed 52 times for 539 yards for an average of 10.4 yards per carry and did not complete the only pass they threw. Smith Center fumbled six times and lost three of them.

J. Osburn scored touchdowns on runs of 33, 28 and 18 yards and Colt Rogers tallied on carries of 76, 31 and 16 yards. Rogers was the leading ball carrier for Smith Center with 215 yards on 13 carries.

"Our young men will be excited to play the outstanding Smith Center team," said coach Melvin.

"We'll have to be sure that every player does his job on defense on every play or we'll be in trouble."

GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Oberlin
12	First Downs	12
270	Yards Rushing	0
126	Yards Passing	296
396	Total Yards	296
7-16-0	Passes Compl.	20-41-3
1-4	Fumbles Lost	0-2
7-27	Punts	7-27
16-78	Penalties	11-80

High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Smith Center Redmen 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
 Norton Junior Varsity vs. Smith Center 6 p.m. Monday in Smith Center
 Northern Valley Huskies vs. Thunder Ridge 7 p.m. Friday at Kensington
 Logan Trojans vs. Lakeside 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays vs. Goodland V and JV 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
 Norton Lady Jays in Atwood Quadrangular V and JV 10 a.m. Saturday
 Norton Lady Jays vs. Hill City/Hoxie V and JV 4 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
 Norton Lady Jays C-team vs. Hays/Colby/Hill City 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Hays
 Norton Lady Jays C-team in Phillipsburg Tournament 8 a.m. Saturday
 Norton Lady Jays C-team vs. Phillipsburg/Smith Center/Russell 5 p.m. Monday in Pburg
 Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Alma/Logan 5 p.m. Tuesday in Almena
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Stockton/Thunder Ridge 4 p.m. Today in Stockton
 Logan Lady Trojans vs. Alma/Northern Valley 5 p.m. Tuesday in Almena

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays
 Northern Valley Huskies in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays in Goodland Varsity Tournament 3 p.m. Today
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Varsity Quadrangular 3 p.m. Today
 Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Junior Varsity Quad 3 p.m. Thursday
 Norton Lady Jays in Goodland JV Tournament 3 p.m. Tuesday

7th grade volleyball results

Sept. 4 vs. Phillipsburg Scores
 Norton 25, Phillipsburg 13
 Norton 25, Phillipsburg 20
Top servers: Bailey Ambrosier, 13/13, 1 ace; Johnnye Ruder, 15/16, 9 aces
Top hitter: Darcy Bainter, 4/4, 2 kills
Top passer: Katelyn Engelbert, 11/15

Blocks: Engelbert, 1
 Coach Melissa McClain had these comments: "The 7th grade varsity girls played exceptionally well for the first game. As a team, we served 92 percent, which is more than I could have hoped for. If the girls can continue working together like they did against Phillipsburg, they will have a very successful season."