

Blue Jay football opens at Phillipsburg

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Lucas Melvin's Norton Community High School football team will take the field on Friday night to open the 2009 season with a 7 p.m. Mid-Continent League game at Phillipsburg.

In his fourth year as the head coach of the Blue Jays, coach Melvin expects another tough game with the Panthers. For the second straight season, the longtime rivals open the season playing each other. Last year's game was played in Norton and was typical of contests between Norton and Phillipsburg.

The Blue Jays were outweighed by the Panthers and trailed the entire game until tying the contest at 22-all with 10:48 left in regulation. The clock ran out with the score still knotted. Neither team scored in the first overtime period but Norton tallied a touchdown in the second extra period for the 29-22 victory!

"We've seen progress in our team from week one to week two but we expect another tough season opener from Phillipsburg," said coach Melvin.

"They will be good again and their coach J.B. Covington will have them ready to play."

Phillipsburg returns 16 lettermen which include six starters on offense and five on defense. Leading their offense is senior quarterback Weston Coomes. Outstanding linemen include Zach Jacobs, 6'2", 215 pound senior; Brad Eller, 6'2", 190 pound junior; Jered Rice, 5'11", 260

Blue Jay Football Schedule

Fri., September 4 - Phillipsburg There 7 p.m.
Fri., September 11 - Oberlin Here 7 p.m.
Fri., September 18 - Smith Center There 7 p.m.
Fri., September 25 - Osborne (Homecoming) Here 7 p.m.
Fri., October 2 - St. Francis There 7 p.m.
Fri., October 9 - Ellis Here 7 p.m.
Fri., October 16 - Ness City Here 7 p.m.
Fri., October 23 - Scott City There 7 p.m.
Thurs., October 29 - Goodland Here 7 p.m.
Tues., November 3 - Bi-District TBA
Sat., November 7 - Regional TBA
Fri., November 13 - Sectional TBA
Fri., November 20 - Sub-State TBA
Sat., November 28 - State TBA

Junior Varsity Schedule

Tues., September 8 - Phillipsburg Here 6:30 p.m.
Mon., September 14 - Oberlin There 6:30 p.m.
Mon., September 21 - Smith Center Here 6:30 p.m.
Mon., September 28 - Goodland There 5:30 p.m.
Mon., October 5 - St. Francis Here 6 p.m.
Mon., October 12 - Colby Here 5:30 p.m.

pound senior; Jake Cole, 6', 175 pound senior; Trevor Smith, 6', 170 pound junior and Thomas Rachow, 5'10", 170 pound junior.

Phillipsburg was just 5-5 last season but all five losses were within 14 points.

Outstanding season

Norton had another outstanding 8-3 season last year with the Blue Jays' only losses coming to playoff teams, one of whom was Smith Center who continued on to another state championship.

After opening the season with the double-overtime win over Phillipsburg, Norton had little trouble defeating Oberlin 47-21 in Oberlin. Next, they hosted the powerful, unbeaten Smith Center Redmen and lost the hard-fought

game by a 22-20 score.

After shutting out Osborne 40-0 on the Bulldogs' home field, the Blue Jays returned home to host the unbeaten St. Francis eleven, a Smith Center clone. Norton scored through the air and on the ground to hand the Indians a 36-16 defeat!

Next, Norton traveled to Ellis for the second straight year. It was a defensive struggle. Neither team gained many yards but both teams had scoring opportunities. The Railroaders capitalized and the Blue Jays did not in a 20-0 loss.

After a 53-14 win at Ness City, Norton returned home to play another outstanding team, unbeaten Scott City. The Beavers led 14-13 at halftime but the "Blue Swarm"

defense shut them out in the second half and Norton scored two more touchdowns for a 26-14 victory!

Norton became District champions with a 28-14 win at Goodland. The Bi-District championship also belonged to the Blue Jays after a 21-0 shutout of Lakin.

Norton's season came to an end after a tough 34-17 loss at Beloit in the Sectional contest. Norton led 17-14 at halftime but did not have the offensive punch needed in the second half.

Returning lettermen

Norton lost eight lettermen from last year's outstanding season but 17 return. They are: Ashton Draper, 6', 180 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Connor Pfannenstiel, 5'10", 155 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Zane Perez, 5'9", 180 pounds, running back, defensive back; Landon Hamel, 5'9", 160 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; J.D. Gall, 5'11", 180 pounds, running back, linebacker; Robert Derauf, 6', 230 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Tyler Cook, 5'10", 215 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Marcus Herman, 5'8", 175 pounds, offensive line, defensive line, seniors; Terrell Lane, 5'11", 210 pounds, running back, linebacker; Spencer Shirk, 5'9", 165 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Billy Broeckelman, 5'7", 140 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Caleb Laughlin, 5'7", 160 pounds, kicker; Kaid McKenna, 5'9", 175 pounds, center, linebacker; Luke Ninemire, 6', 190 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Landon Keiswetter, 5'9", 175 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Rylee Stanley, 5'8", 150 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Dakota Dreher, 5'10", 160 pounds, tight end, defensive end, juniors.

Other squad members

Additional squad members are: Jake Romey, 5'10", 210 pounds, offensive line, defensive line, senior; Jeremy Sproul, 6', 200 pounds, running back, linebacker; Ryan Blecha, 6', 185 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Justin Griffith, 6', 180 pounds, tight end, defensive end, juniors; Tye Nick-

ell, 5'8", 140 pounds, running back, linebacker; Trey Millan, 5'7", 155 pounds, running back, linebacker; Jordan Wahlmeier, 6', 175 pounds, quarterback, defensive back; Dillon McConney, 5'10", 145 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Taylor Meder, 5'5", 145 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Robert Blecha, 5'8", 150 pounds, tight end, defensive back; Justin Waggoner, 5'6", 150 pounds, tight end, defensive end; Damien Davis, 5'9", 165 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Casey Temmel, 5'10", 175 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Cayleb Campbell, 5'9", 180 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Kurt Douglas, 5'5", 145 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Tyler Lewis, 5'9", 250 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; R.J. Ellis, 5'9", 115 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, sophomores; Dalton Miller, 5'9", 150 pounds, quarterback, linebacker; Lane Archer, 5'7", 125 pounds, tight end, defensive back; Jacob Brooks, 5'11", 155 pounds, running back, defensive back; Carson McKenna, 5'6", 125 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Jared Bohl, 5'8", 150 pounds, running back, linebacker; Treven Rossi, 5'5", 140 pounds, offensive line, linebacker; Eli Bozarth, 5'10", 150 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Alex Riggins, 5'11", 220 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Lane Bigge, 5'10", 160 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Cody Ellis, 5'9", 145 pounds, offensive line, defensive line; Lucas Engel, 5'8", 150 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; Dylan Sprigg, 6'1", 155 pounds, offensive line, defensive end; John Risewick, 5'6", 105 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back; Andrew Ellis, 5'7", 120 pounds, wide receiver, defensive back, freshmen.

Leaders return

Terrell Lane was the leading rusher for Norton last season. He recorded 2,125 all-purpose yards and scored 22 touchdowns.

Landon Hamel was second for Norton in all-purpose yards with 931 total yards and was the leading pass receiver for the Blue Jays

last season. He also recorded the third highest number of tackles for Norton.

Connor Pfannenstiel totaled 1,025 yards passing and rushing for the season.

Ashton Draper was the second leading pass receiver and led Norton's pass defense with three interceptions.

All League honors

Terrell Lane and Ashton Draper were both named first team offense in the Mid-Continent League by vote of league coaches.

Landon Hamel was chosen to the second team offense along with Caleb Laughlin.

Hamel was also named to the second team on defense along with Zane Perez.

Draper also received honorable mention as a defensive back and Lane was honorable mention linebacker.

Connor Pfannenstiel and Kaid McKenna each received honorable mention on offense.

Assistant coaches

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

Managers will be Shelby Schaefer, David Cressler and Justin Daniels.

Filmers will be Alec Melvin and Kamilla Jones.

Coach Melvin is a graduate of Colby High School. He attended Hutchinson Community College for two years and Fort Hays State University for two years. He played football for all four years.

For 13 years in Norton, he has been a junior high and high school track and football assistant coach and has been the head football coach the past three seasons.

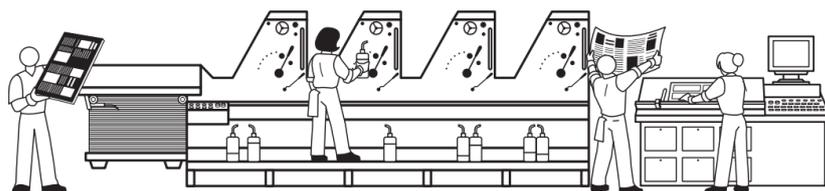
The 2009
Fall Sports
Season
is here!!



Defense was the name of the game Saturday morning during the Norton Blue Jay's Football Food Drive Scrimmage. Sophomore running back Trey Millan (No.8) found no running room as a whole host of defenders were lined up to tackle him. Making the stop were Kaid McKenna (at his ankles) and Landon Keiswetter (not pictured). Other Blue Jay gridders, from left, were Justin Griffith, J.D. Gall, Rylee Stanley and Marcus Herman.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:

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

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Colby/Osborne 4:30 p.m. Today in Colby
Norton Lady Jays V-JV vs. Northern Valley/Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Thunder Ridge/Western Plains 4 p.m. Today in Almena
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Palco 4 p.m. Friday in Palco
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Norton/Phillipsburg 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Tipton/Wilson 4 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Hill City/Trego 5 p.m. Tuesday in WaKeeney

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 Hays Varsity Invitational 3 p.m. Thursday in Hays
Norton Lady Jays in Colby Varsity Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby
Norton Lady Jays in Phillipsburg Invitational 1 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg