

Blue Jays defeated by Ellis

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity football team came from behind twice but ran out of time for a third rally and was defeated 22-14 by an outstanding Ellis team on Friday night in Mid-Continent League play at Travis Field in Norton.

Ellis led 6-0 after one quarter but Norton was on top 7-6 at halftime. Ellis took a 14-7 lead in the third period but the Blue Jays knotted the score at 14-all in the fourth stanza.

Late in the fourth quarter, Ellis drove to the Norton 2-yard line before fumbling.

Norton could not advance the ball so punted and the Railroaders threatened again. This time the "Blue swarm" defense forced them into a fourth and two situation on the Norton 26-yard line.

Ellis quarterback Jacob Kinderknecht dropped back to pass while facing a furious rush by Norton defenders.

He was knocked off balance by a Norton player but regained his balance and heaved the pigskin toward the end zone.

Sophomore end Jared Herl, who had already made two great catches in the game, leaped high among Norton defenders and came down in the end zone with the ball for the go-ahead touchdown!

Ellis senior running back Gideon Fuchs ran through the stunned Norton players for two extra points to put the Railroaders ahead 22-14.

With only 12 seconds remaining on the clock, the Blue Jays took to the air in hopes of duplicating Ellis' heroics.

As they'd been doing all night, Ellis kicked the ball low and away from the Blue Jays' outstanding return men and lineman Justin Griffith returned it to mid-field.

Norton tried two long passes but could not connect and Ellis survived with a 22-14 win.

Ellis drove 85 yards for their first touchdown which was scored by Fuchs on a 1-yard run with 34 seconds left in the first quarter. The extra point kick hit the goal post and bounced off, leaving the score at 6-0 in favor of Ellis.

Norton answered with a 57-yard drive consisting of rushes by tailbacks Terrell Lane and Jeremy Sproul and fullback Zane Perez. The Blue Jays hit paydirt when Perez plunged three yards to score and J.D. Gall kicked the extra point to put Norton ahead 7-6 with 8:36 left in the first half.

Ellis scored a go-ahead touchdown on their second possession of the second half on a 76-yard drive which ended with quarterback Jacob Kinderknecht sneaking into the end zone from two yards out. Kinderknecht passed to Herl and he made another good catch in the corner of the end zone for two points to put the Railroaders ahead 14-7 with 3:21 left in the third quarter.

Two possessions later and with 10:20 left in the contest, Norton drove 59 yards and Perez plunged into the end zone from the 2-yard line.

Gall split the uprights to tie the score at 14-all. Despite Norton regaining possession on a pass interception by defensive back Ashton Draper and fumble recovery by Marcus Herman, the Blue Jays were unable to score again.

"We played hard but just made too many mistakes," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"We didn't make plays when we needed to. We need to play to the end of every play. A couple of times we thought we had a guy tackled and stopped and he made more yardage.

"We also made some errors

on offense that hurt us. Ellis has a good football team but a positive play here or there could have made the difference."

Norton gained 162 yards rushing on 37 attempts for a 4.4 yard average but completed only 1 of 8 passes for minus 8 yards, bringing total yardage to 154.

Ellis gained 318 yards rushing on 48 tries for a 6.6 yard average and completed 7 of 10 passes for 51 yards and 369 yards of total offense.

Coach Melvin started the following players on the offensive line: junior Ryan Blecha, 185 pounds, left tackle; senior Marcus Herman, 175 pounds, left guard; junior Kaid McKenna, 175 pounds, center; junior Luke Ninemire, 190 pounds, right guard; junior Landon Keiswetter, 175 pounds, right tackle; senior J.D. Gall, 180 pounds, tight end; senior Ashton Draper, 180 pounds, wide receiver and junior Spencer Shirk, 165 pounds, wide receiver.

Starting in the backfield for the Blue Jays were senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 155 pounds, quarterback; senior Zane Perez, 180 pounds, fullback and junior Terrell Lane, 210 pounds, tailback.

Starting on defense for the Blue Jays were: junior Jeremy Sproul, 200 pounds, left end; junior Justin Griffith, 180 pounds, left tackle; senior Tyler Cook, 215 pounds, right tackle; junior Dakota Dreher, 160 pounds, right end; Gall, McKenna, Lane, linebackers; Perez, senior Landon Hamel, 160 pounds, Pfannenstiel and Draper, defensive backs.

Leading rusher for Norton was Terrell Lane with 97 yards on 16 carries for a 6.1 yard average. Zane Perez gained 45 yards on 8 tries for 5.6 yard per tote. Connor Pfannenstiel had 8 carries for 11 yards and Jeremy Sproul carried the ball 5 times for 9 yards.



Norton's 150 pound defensive lineman Rylee Stanley, No. 66, broke through the Ellis defense so he could tackle the Railroaders' Gideon Fuchs, No.11, as he took a handoff from quarterback Jacob Kinderknecht, No. 12 on Friday night in Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Tyler Cook, J.D. Gall and Marcus Herman each had a fumble recovery.

Justin Griffith returned two kickoffs for 12 yards, Jeremy Sproul returned one for 18 yards and Landon Hamel returned one for 12 yards.

Ellis' Gideon Fuchs, who entered the game averaging over 12 yards per carry, had another good game. He gained 188 yards on 19 carries for a 9.9 yard average.

The Railroaders' Jared Herl caught 3 passes for 45 yards and the game winning touchdown.

Linebacker Kaid McKenna continued to lead the charge on defense for the Blue Jays. He had 8 solo tackles, 11 assists for 19 total tackles! He was followed by: Zane Perez, 5 solos, 7 assists, 12 total; Dakota Dreher, 3 solos, 8 assists, 11 total; Landon Hamel, 5 solos, 4 assists, 9 total; Tyler Cook, Terrell Lane, each 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total; Justin Griffith, 3 solos, 3 assists, 6 total; Ashton Draper, J.D. Gall, Rylee Stanley, each 1 solo, 4 assists, 5

total; Luke Ninemire, 3 assists; Connor Pfannenstiel, 1 solo, 2 assists, 3 total; Marcus Herman, 2 solos; Spencer Shirk, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; Jeremy Sproul, 2 solos; Robert Blecha, 1 solo; Jake Romey, 1 assist.

Next action

The Norton-Ellis game completed regular season action. Norton will take a 4-2 record into this Friday's District contest with Ness City-Dighton at Travis Field with kickoff at 7 p.m.

Ness City has an outstanding team with a 5-1 record. Their only loss was last Friday night by a 30-6 score to an excellent La Crosse eleven. Their wins have been 33-6 over Syracuse, 42-0 over Thomas More Prep, 69-14 over Satanta, 58-6 over Kinsley and 56-20 over Leoti.

They have nine returning starters on both offense and defense. Quarterback Joe Flax, halfback Guy Fullmer and fullback Tyrel Hoffman return in the backfield. Flax passed for 900 yards and 10 touchdowns last season and

Fullmer, who is just a sophomore, rushed for 500 yards and had 100 yards receiving last year.

Four large returning linemen will clear the way offensively. They are Cody Vincent, 6'3", 255 pounds; Clayton Johnson, 5'10", 240 pounds; Matt Jones, 6'2", 260 pounds and Evan Lane, 6'1", 200 pounds.

The Titans had over 400 tackles, 10 sacks and 3 interceptions last year. Leading the way were Flax with 65 stops from his defensive back position, Jones, 60 tackles from the defensive line and Hoffman, 55 stops from his defensive back position.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Ellis
6	15
162	318
-8	51
154	369
1-8-2	7-10-1
0-0	3-3
5-32.2	3-28
6-40	6-43

Huskies defeat Weskan

The Northern Valley varsity football team put together a winning combination on Friday when they defeated Weskan 40-22 on Weskan's home field.

The Huskies held quarter leads of 14-0, 28-16 and 40-16.

"It is nice to see our players finally rewarded with a win," said Northern Valley head coach Chuck Fessenden.

"We did a much better job of blocking. Our running game clicked and all three of our backs rushed for over 100 yards.

"We played good run defense but we gave up too many yards in the passing game."

Scoring was as follows: Northern Valley's Austin Herman, 41 yard run, Jacob Gallentine PAT run, 8-0, 8:45 left first quarter; Northern Valley's Gallentine, 5 yard run, PAT run failed, 14-0, :06 left first quarter; Weskan's Matt KuyKendall, 1 yard run, KuyKendall, PAT run, 14-8, 6:36

left second quarter; Northern Valley's Gallentine, 16 yard run, PAT run failed, 20-8, 5:23 left second quarter; Weskan's KuyKendall 2 yard pass to Derek Frasier, PAT KuyKendall pass to Hilgemann, 20-16, 2:30 left second quarter; Northern Valley's Herman, 1 yard run, PAT Gallentine run, 28-16, 1:18 left second quarter; Northern Valley's Gallentine, 5 yard run, PAT run failed, 34-16, 10:27 left third quarter; Northern Valley's Dusty Eagleburger, 6 yard run, PAT pass failed, 40-16, 5:15 left third quarter; Weskan's KuyKendall, 2 yard pass to Frasier, PAT run failed, 40-22, 10:55 left fourth quarter.

Northern Valley had lots of success rushing the football, gaining 407 yards on 59 carries for an average of 6.9 yards per carry. On defense, they limited Weskan to 63 yards on 30 attempts for an average of just 2.1 yards per carry.

Weskan did complete 18 of 31 passes for 205 yards with one interception.

Eagleburger gained 142 yards on 22 carries for an average of 6.5 yards per carry.

Herman picked up 122 yards on 22 carries for a 5.5 yard average and Gallentine rushed 14 times for 143 yards and a 10.2 yard average.

Leading tackler for Northern Valley was Hutch Gehrke with 10 tackles, 7 assists, 17 total, followed by Colton Lowry, 7-6-13; Austin Herman, 8-4-12; Jacob Gallentine, 8-3-11; Dusty Eagleburger, 7-2-9; Michael Callaway, 4-1-5; Matt Dole, 3-0-3; Calen Bach, 2-1-3; Dillon Hogan, 2-0-2; Bryant Tharman, 1-0-1.

Next action

Northern Valley will be looking to get a win on Friday night when the Huskies host Golden Plains in a 7 p.m. contest in Almena.

Lady Huskies take on Tri-Plains, Golden Plains

By Chuck Zimmerman
Special to The Telegram

Lackadaisical, no emotion, or what ever other way you want to describe the Husky volleyball play this week is how we played.

Traveling to Winona to take on Tri-Plains and Golden Plains we knew going in we did not have the challenge ahead of us that we normally would have on this date and we played down to our opponents level. We did win both, 25-17, 25-11 against Tri-Plains and 25-13, 25-19 against Golden Plains but we are looking, at this time of the season, to starting to peak in our performances not just get by with lackadaisical play. That will get you beat this time of year.

On Saturday we ice skated to Hill City for their invitational and by looking back on how we played the entire day we should have begged out as two other teams did

on account of weather. We didn't, we went, we played, we did not play well at all went 1-3 (lost to Trego 18-25, 25-21, 13-25, defeated La Crosse 25-12, 25-11, lost to Hill City 13-25, 23-25,

lost to Natoma 17-25, 14-25) for the day and will work on getting things straightened out before our next triangular at Stockton then the league combined tournament on Saturday.

Lady Jays lose in tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls varsity volleyball team played in the Decatur Invitational Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 3 where the Lady Jays lost to Atwood 22-25, 19-25; lost to St. Francis 19-25, 15-25; lost to Hoxie 26-24, 12-25, 15-25 and lost to Oberlin 10-25, 10-25.

Atwood

"We basically went back and forth with Atwood, neither team really scoring many points at a time," said Norton head volleyball coach Peggy Cox. "They had a couple of times where they would score three points and we only scored two and that was enough to make the difference."

Individual statistics: kills - Erin Terrell, 5; Bethany Roy, 4; Alyssa Thomson, Kaitlyn Wolf, 1 each; aces - Kendra Engelbert, Ashlie Stewart, 2 each; Raven Brown, Shelby Jones, 1 each; digs - Stewart, 6; Jones, 3; Hannah Waggoner, Bethany Winkel, 2 each; Engelbert, Terrell, 1 each; assists - Jones, 8; Winkel, 5; Engelbert, 1; blocks - Thomson, Wolf, 2 each; Engelbert, 1.

St. Francis

"We struggled to get anything going against St. Francis," said coach Cox. "They scrambled around picking up everything we hit at them but we didn't do the same back to them."

Individual statistics: aces - Jones, 2; digs - Stewart, 7; Brown, 3; Jones, Thomson, 2 each; Roy, Waggoner, 1 each; assists - Jones, Winkel, 5 each; Wolf, 1.

Hoxie

"Playing the Lady Indians on a neutral court still did not bring home a win for our Lady Jays," said coach Cox. "We did a really nice job in the first game and then lost intensity in the second and third set. Instead of concentrating on the things we did right, we seemed to lose focus and didn't capitalize on Hoxie's errors and made our own."

Individual statistics: kills - Roy, Terrell, 7 each; Wolf, 5; Engelbert, Jones, Thomson, 2 each; serving - Engelbert, Jones, Winkel, Wolf, 1 each; digs - Stewart, 10; Jones, 7; Wolf, 4; Engelbert, 3; Winkel, 2; Brown, Roy, Waggoner, 1 each; assists - Jones, 9; Winkel, 8; Engelbert, 5; Roy, 1; blocks

- Engelbert, 3; Roy, Thomson, 2 each; Terrell, Wolf, 1 each.

Oberlin

"The Lady Red Devils hit us right off the bat with jump serves that are the best I've seen for a long time from a high school team," said coach Cox. "It wasn't just one but several of the girls who just blasted us from the serving line."

"When we passed the ball up to the setter, Oberlin was in our face with solid double blocks. They quickly showed us why they are the No.1 ranked team in Class 2A."

Individual statistics: kills - Wolf, 5; Engelbert, 2; Stewart, Thomson, Terrell, 1 each; aces - Winkel, Wolf, 1 each; digs - Stewart, 8; Wolf, 5; Brown, Engelbert, Jones, Waggoner, 1 each; assists - Jones, 5; Winkel, 2; Roy, 1; blocks - Wolf, 1.

Next action

The Norton varsity girls volleyball team will play Plainville on Thursday at 6 p.m. in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament. The winner will play Phillipsburg at 9 a.m. Saturday in Hill City.

High School Sports This Week



FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Ness City/Dighton Titans 7 p.m. Friday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Golden Plains 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
Logan Trojans vs. Victoria 7 p.m. Friday in Logan

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Golden Plains, Logan 4 p.m. Today in Golden Plains
Norton Lady Jays vs. Plainville in Mid-Continent League Tournament, 6 p.m. Thursday in Plainville (winner will play Phillipsburg at 9 a.m. Sat. in Hill City)
Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Goodland, Ulysses. 5 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Stockton Quad 4 p.m. Today in Stockton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies in Cheyenne Conference

Tourney 10 a.m. Saturday at Thunder Ridge
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Norton, Golden Plains 4 p.m. Today in Golden Plains
Logan Lady Trojans in Cheyenne Conference Tourney. . . 10 a.m. Saturday at Thunder Ridge

CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country V, JV in Lakeside Invitational 4 p.m. Thursday in Downs
Northern Valley Huskies V, JV in Wheatland Invitational. . . . 3 p.m. Thursday in Wheatland