

14 and Under team had a great season

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton 14 and Under baseball team continued to roll along in a winning fashion on July 1 as they defeated McCook 19-7 at McCook to run their record to 9-3.

Austin Hager scored one run in the top of the first inning after doubling but McCook scored twice in the bottom of the inning. Norton tied the score at 2-all in the top of the second when Travis Cressler doubled and Clint Cole singled him home.

McCook tallied three times in the bottom of the inning to take a 5-2 lead but the Blue Jays put the game out of reach with 11 big runs in the top of the third. Austin Hager, Andrew Ellis and Lane Bigge all singled twice in the inning. Dalton Miller singled once and Kendall Miller blasted a triple. Hager, Ellis and Dalton Miller each scored twice and Bigge, Cressler, Cole, Kendall Miller and Brant Cox all scored once.

Norton tallied six more runs in the top of the fourth. Cole and Kendall Miller both doubled, Cox and Baird walked, Hager singled, Dalton Miller walked and Bigge singled. Cole, Kendall Miller, Cox, Baird, Hager and Kendall Miller all scored.

McCook scored one run in the bottom of the third and another in the bottom of the fourth inning.

The Norton bats were booming as the Blue Jays pounded out 15 hits, walked seven times and had no strike outs!

Leading hitters for Norton were Hager with a perfect 4 for 4 at the plate and Bigge, who was 3 for 4. Cole and Kendall Miller were both 2 for 3.

Hager was the winning pitcher. He allowed just three hits, walked seven and struck out none.

Previous games

Norton 14 and Under was edged 10-9 at Lexington B on May 27 in their season opener.

Norton scored three runs in the top of the first inning. Hager singled, Dalton Miller got on base on a fielder's choice and Travis Cressler walked and all three scored.

Lexington B scored once in the bottom of the inning.

Three more Norton runs came home in the top of the second. Kendall Miller walked and Hager blasted a home run to bring both boys home. Ellis walked and scored later in the inning.

Lexington B was scoreless in their half of the inning and Norton held onto a 6-1 lead.

Norton did not score in the top of the third and Lexington B tallied three times in the bottom of the inning to cut the Blue Jay lead to 6-4.

Norton tallied twice in the top of the fourth to make it 8-4. Hager and Dalton Miller both walked and Trevor Lewis singled them home.

Lexington B narrowed the Norton advantage again with two runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Norton scored once in the top of the fifth when Clint Cole walked, stole second and scored later in the inning, making it 9-6. Lexington B responded with three runs in the bottom of the inning to tie the score at 9-all.

Norton was unable to score in the top of the sixth and Lexington B got two hits and one run in the bottom of the inning to get the victory.

Hager was leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 3 at the plate. Norton had five hits, six walks and three strike outs.

Dalton Miller pitched for the Blue Jays. He allowed just one hit but walked 13 batters. He also struck out eight batters.

McCook A

Norton picked up their first of five straight wins on June 1 when they outscored a visiting McCook

A team 7-4.

McCook scored two runs in the top of the first but Norton tied it at 2-all in the bottom of the stanza. Ellis got on base on an error and Trevor Lewis scored both of them with a home run!

McCook scored one run in the second inning and Norton was scoreless in the bottom. The visitors did not score the next two innings, however, and the Blue Jays added three tallies in the bottom of the third to take a 5-3 advantage. Cole got on base on an error, Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller tripled and all three scored.

McCook did not score in the fourth inning and Norton added two more runs to their total. Macy Kasson walked, Matt Stutsman got on base via an error, Cole singled, Ellis, Dalton Miller, Lewis and Cressler all walked and Cole and Ellis scored.

McCook scored their final run in the fifth inning and did not score again in the sixth as Norton prevailed 7-4.

Lewis was leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 3 at the plate. Norton had seven hits, four walks and six strike outs.

Lewis was the Norton pitcher. He gave up just three hits, walked eight and struck out eight.

McCook B

On June 3, McCook B came to Norton and returned with a 16-8 loss to the Blue Jays.

McCook scored twice in the top of the first inning, once in the top of the second and twice in the top of the fourth.

Norton tallied once in the bottom of the second when Kasson walked and Cole doubled him home. In the bottom of the third, Norton ran three more runs across home plate to lead 4-3. Lewis gained first on an error, Bigge walked when hit by a pitch and Cressler tripled and all three tallied.

McCook scored two more runs in the top of the fourth but Norton added 11 more runs in the bottom of the fourth to take a 15-5 lead. Cole singled, Lewis and Bigge both got on base via an error, Cressler doubled, Cox walked, Stutsman reached first on an error, Kendall Miller, Kasson, Cole and Ellis all singled, Lewis walked, Bigge got on base on a fielder's choice and Cressler and Cox both singled.

Cole, Lewis and Bigge all scored twice in the inning and Cressler, Cox, Stutsman, Kendall Miller and Kasson each scored once.

McCook scored three more runs in the top of the fifth and one in the top of the sixth. Norton's final run came in the bottom of the fifth when Kendall Miller and Ellis both singled and Miller scored.

Leading hitters for Norton were Cole, who was 3 for 4 and Cressler, who was 3 for 3. Norton had 13 hits, six walks and four strikeouts.

Cole pitched for Norton and gave up just five hits, walked four and struck out six batters.

Elwood

On June 8, the Norton 14 and Under squad hosted Elwood and was victorious by a runaway 19-1 score.

Only three innings were played. Elwood's only run came in the top of the third.

In the first inning, Norton scored three times as Hager, Dalton Miller, Lewis and Bigge all walked and Hager, Miller and Lewis scored.

In the second inning, Hager walked, Ellis singled, Dalton Miller walked, Lewis singled, Bigge and Cressler both walked, Kendall Miller singled, Cox and Baird both walked, Hager got on base on a fielder's choice, Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller singled, Lewis, Bigge, Cressler, Kendall Miller, Cox and Baird all walked.

Hager, Ellis, Lewis, Bigge, Cressler, Kendall Miller and Cox all scored twice while Dalton Miller and Baird each scored once.

Norton only had five hits in the game but 19 Blue Jay batters walked and only two struck out. Ellis was 2 for 3 at the plate.

Hager pitched for Norton and allowed only one hit, walked two and struck out six batters.

Cambridge

Norton traveled to Cambridge on June 10 and the win streak continued as the Jays outscored the home team 12-2.

Norton scored two runs in the top of the first. Hager walked when hit by a pitch, stole several bases and scored when Dalton Miller tripled and tallied.

Two more Norton runs in the top of the third made it 4-0. Hager walked, Dalton Miller singled, Lewis doubled and Cressler tripled and Hager and Lewis both scored.

In the top of the fourth, the Blue Jays ran three more runs across home plate. Stutsman doubled, Cole and Hager both singled and Dalton Miller tripled. Stutsman, Cole and Hager all scored.

Cambridge scored once in the bottom of the fourth.

Five more Norton runs came across home plate in the top of the fifth. Kendall Miller and Bigge both singled, Stutsman walked, Baird singled, Cole doubled and Dalton Miller tripled. Miller, Bigge, Stutsman, Baird and Cole all scored to make the final 12-2.

Norton had 14 hits in the game, three walks and seven strike-outs. Dalton Miller was a perfect 4 of 4 at the plate. Cole, Bigge and Stutsman were each 2 for 4. Cole was the Norton pitcher. He gave up just one hit, walked four and struck out eight batters.

Holdrege B

Norton hosted the Holdrege B on June 15 and came away with a 9-2 victory.

Holdrege B scored one run in the top of the first and their second in the top of the third inning.

Norton scored six runs in the bottom of the second, one more in the third and two more in the fourth inning.

In the second, Cole doubled, Cressler walked, Stutsman got on base on an error, Kendall Miller walked, Hager doubled and Ellis singled and all scored.

Norton's lone run in the third inning came when Kendall Miller walked and was singled home by Hager.

In the fourth stanza, Dalton Miller Walked and Lewis doubled and both scored.

Norton had nine hits, six walks and three strike-outs. Hager and Cressler each went 2 for 2 with the bat.

Cole pitched for Norton. He gave up just three hits and walked two batters.

Cozad

The Blue Jays' win streak finally came to an end at Cozad on June 17 when they lost a doubleheader 10-7 and 6-5.

In the opener, Norton scored four runs in the top of the first. Hager started the game by blasting a home run! Ellis singled, Dalton Miller got on base via an error, Lewis doubled, Bigge singled and Cole walked. Hager, Ellis, Miller and Lewis all scored.

Cozad scored three runs in the bottom of the inning to make it 4-3 in Norton's favor.

The Blue Jays padded their lead with two runs in the top of the second. Ellis doubled, Dalton Miller and Lewis both singled and Bigge walked. Ellis and Miller both scored.

Cozad tallied once in the bottom of the third to make the score 6-4, still in favor of the visitors from Norton.

Norton did not score in the fourth and fifth innings and Cozad added two more runs in the fourth

and four more in the fifth to take a 10-6 lead.

The Blue Jays were able to score just one run in the top of the sixth stanza when Hager singled and Dalton Miller doubled him home.

Norton had nine hits, three walks and 16 strike-outs. Hager, Ellis, Dalton Miller and Lewis were all 2 for 4 at the plate.

Ellis was the Norton pitcher. He gave up seven hits, walked six and struck out seven batters.

In the second game, Norton took an early lead but couldn't hold on. In the top of the first inning, Norton scored twice. Ellis singled, Dalton Miller tripled and Bigge singled. Ellis and Miller both scored.

Cozad scored once in the bottom of the first. Neither team tallied in the second inning. Norton scored one more time in the top of the third. Dalton Miller doubled and Lewis tripled him home.

One run by Cozad in the bottom of the third made it 3-2 in favor of Norton.

Norton scored again in the top of the fourth when Cressler walked and made it around the bases to put the Jays up 4-2.

It was 5-2 in Norton's favor after one more run in the top of the fifth. Ellis doubled and Dalton Miller singled him home.

Cozad got the 6-5 victory with four runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Norton had seven hits, two walks and 14 strike-outs.

Dalton Miller went 3 for 3 at the plate and Ellis was 2 for 3.

Cole pitched for the Blue Jays. He gave up nine hits, walked two and struck out nine batters.

Lexington

Norton had a scheduled game at Bertrand on June 22 but it was rained out. Next, Norton hosted Lexington on June 24 and came away with a 6-1 victory! The game was closer than it looks because Lexington scored once in the fourth inning and led 1-0 until Norton scored six big runs in the bottom of the fifth stanza.

Matt Stutsman got on base on an error, Hager doubled, Ellis tripled, Dalton Miller walked, Lewis singled, Cressler reached first on an error and Bigge singled. Stutsman, Ellis, Miller, Lewis, Cressler and Bigge all scored.

Norton had five hits, three walks and 11 strike-outs.

Ellis was the Norton pitcher. He gave up just two hits, walked three and struck out 10 batters.

Holdrege A

On June 29, Norton hosted Holdrege A and won the doubleheader 4-3 and 12-2.

Holdrege scored one run in the top of the first inning and one more in the top of the third.

The Blue Jays tied the score at 2-all in the bottom of the third. Ellis walked and Dalton Miller tripled and both scored.

Neither team scored in the fourth inning. Holdrege scored one run in the top of the fifth inning to take a 3-2 lead.

Two Norton runs in the fifth inning allowed the Blue Jays to win 4-3. Hager and Ellis both doubled to start the inning and Dalton Miller and Lewis both walked and Hager and Miller both scored.

Norton had six hits, five walks and no strike-outs. Dalton Miller was leading hitter for Norton, going 2 for 2 with the bat.

Cole was the Norton pitcher. He gave up six hits and walked four batters.

The outcome of the nightcap was not in doubt after the second inning. Norton scored just one run in the bottom of the first on a home run by Ellis but five in the second stanza. Cressler singled, Stutsman walked, Cole singled, Ellis tripled, Dalton Miller walked, Lewis doubled and Bigge singled. Cressler, Stutsman, Cole, Ellis and Miller all scored. Holdrege's two runs came in the top of the third inning.

In the bottom of the third, Norton ran across two more runs. Kendall Miller and Baird both singled and Ellis doubled and Miller and Baird scored.

Norton's final four runs were scored in the bottom of the fourth inning. Bigge and Cressler both walked, Kendall Miller doubled, Stutsman singled, Cole walked and Ellis singled. Bigge, Cressler, Miller and Cole all scored.

Norton had 13 hits in the game,

six walks and one strike-out. Ellis was 4 for 4 at the plate and Kendall Miller went 3 for 4.

Lewis was the Norton pitcher. He gave up just one hit, walked five and struck out seven batters.

Nebraska League Tournament After the big July 1 win over McCook, Norton played in the Nebraska League Tournament and hosted Elwood, defeating them 13-3.

Elwood took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first but Norton responded with eight runs in the bottom of the inning. Dalton Miller tripled, Lewis and Bigge both walked, Cressler singled, Cole walked, Macy Kasson singled, Baird and Hager walked and Ellis doubled. All except Ellis scored.

Elwood was shutout the rest of the game. The Blue Jays tallied two more runs in the bottom of the second when Lewis tripled, Kendall Miller walked and Stutsman singled and Lewis and Miller both scored.

Three more Norton runs in the third inning made the final 13-3. Dalton Miller tripled, Lewis and Kendall Miller both singled, Cox walked and Stutsman singled. Dalton Miller, Lewis and Miller all scored.

Norton had 10 hits and 10 walks and no strike-outs.

Baird was the Norton pitcher. He allowed just one hit, walked six and struck out five batters.

In their second tournament

game, Norton played Holdrege A and was defeated 12-5 to end their tournament and season play.

Norton took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning. Bigge singled and Cole drove him home. In the bottom of the third, Norton added another run when Kasson, Hager and Ellis singled and Kasson scored.

Holdrege A took a 3-2 lead with three runs in the top of the fourth inning. Norton tied the score with a single run in the bottom of the fourth. Kendall Miller singled and Stutsman drove him home

Two more Holdrege runs in the top of the fifth broke the tie. Norton scored two more times in the bottom of the inning to knot the score at 5-all.

Seven runs by Holdrege in the top of the sixth ensured the victory since Norton was unable to score again.

Norton had eight hits, no walks and no strike-outs. Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Hager, Ellis and Kendall Miller. All were 2 for 3 with the bat.

Dalton Miller was the Norton pitcher. He allowed eight hits, walked seven and struck out nine batters. Norton ended a very successful season with a 10-4 record.

Coaches

The head coach of the 14 and Under baseball team is Rick Green. His assistant coaches are Scott Ellis and Brad Cox.

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Local youth to be in World Series

By DICK BOYD

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Jacob Green of Norton is a member of the Hays Hurricanes 11 year-old-baseball team which placed second in the NBC Hap Dumont State Tournament held in Great Bend last weekend.

Their finish qualified the team

to compete in the NBC World Series which will be held in Keren, Texas on July 24-28.

Jacob has enjoyed a busy summer of playing baseball. In addition to playing with the Hurricanes, he also played in the Norton Recreation League, the 12 and Under Norton team in the Nebraska Travel League and in a

couple of K-18 games, between 60 and 70 total games.

Jacob is the son of Kim and Rick Green of Norton.

The Hurricanes would welcome financial donations to help pay for their trip to the World Series. Rick Green is the local contact person. His cell phone number is 871-1548.