

Lady Thunder team season is underway

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Thunder 18 and under girls softball team has opened the 2013 season with two double header victories.

They outscored Smith Center 12-2 and 17-1 on Monday, June 3, then defeated Oberlin 16-7 and 8-5 on Thursday, June 6.

The Thunder has seven returning players from last year's team, which played in the 16 and Under division.

Returnees are Bri Karnopp, Shauna Gibson, Rickete Green and Shelby Mulford as well as Sabre Plante, Tara Bracktenbach and Kim Bradshaw, all of Hill City.

New to the team this season are Marisa Maddy, Brandy Davis, Kirstin Georgeson and Kristen Dole, sisters Khriissanna Van Patten and Tea Van Patten from Alma and Amanda Kessler, Hill City.

Head coach again is Brandon Gay. His assistant coach is Tim Plante.

Smith Center

Norton opened the season and first game by scoring three runs in the top of the first inning. With two outs, Bri Karnopp blasted a double, Kim Bradshaw and Kristen Dole each walked and Rickete Green doubled them home.

Smith Center scored one run in the bottom of the inning but Norton added three more runs in the top of the second. Tara Bracktenbach and Shauna Gibson both walked and Bri Karnopp hit a home run for three more Lady Thunder scores and a 6-0 lead.

The Lady Red scored their second and final run in the bottom of the third inning.

Norton added three more runs in the top of the fourth to make it 9-2. Gibson and Bri Karnopp both singled, Bradshaw walked, Dole singled, Green walked and Davis walked. Gibson, Karnopp and Bradshaw all scored to extend the lead to 9-2.

In the top of the fifth, the Lady Thunder added three more runs. Ashley Karnopp, Bracktenbach and Gibson all walked and Bri Karnopp doubled them home.

Bri Karnopp had a perfect night at the plate, going 4 for 4.

Norton had eight hits, 13 walks and just three strike outs.

Winning pitcher was Kim Bradshaw, who allowed just three hits, walked two batters and struck out five.

In the nightcap, the Norton Thunder took advantage of 19 walks in a game that lasted just three innings.

Norton scored four runs in the first inning. Bracktenbach, Gibson, Bri Karnopp all walked, Bradshaw and Dole were hit by the pitcher and walked, and Green, Plante and Davis all walked as well. Bracktenbach, Karnopp, Bradshaw and Dole

all scored.

Norton did not score in the top of the second and Smith Center scored their only run in the bottom of the inning.

The scoreboard really lit up for the visitors from Norton in the top of the third stanza. There were 12 walks with hits by Bradshaw, Dole and Davis and 13 more runs scored to make the final 17-1.

Norton had just four hits in the game and no strike outs. Winning pitcher was Bri Karnopp who pitched the first two innings, allowing no hits, two walks and striking out three batters. She was relieved in the third inning by Kristen Dole who allowed one hit, walked two and struck out two batters.

"I'm really proud of the way our girls opened the season at Smith Center," said coach Gay. "They played well in all aspects of the game."

Oberlin

Neither team scored in the first inning of the Oberlin opener. Norton tallied twice in the top of the second when Plante walked, Kessler singled, Mac Schroeder, Bracktenbach and Gibson all walked and Plante and Kessler both scored.

Oberlin scored once in the bottom of the second to make it 2-1.

Norton extended their lead with seven more runs in the top of the third. Dole got on base with a single, Plante, Kessler, Schroeder and Ashley Karnopp all walked, Bracktenbach singled, Gibson walked and Green tripled. All except Green scored to put the Thunder on top 9-1.

Oberlin cut the Norton lead to 9-4 with three runs in the bottom of the third.

The Lady Thunder finished with seven more runs in the top of the fourth. Kessler singled, Schroeder, Bracktenbach, Gibson and Green all walked, Bri Karnopp doubled, Dole singled, and Plante doubled. All except Plante scored.

Oberlin was able to score three more runs in the bottom of the fourth but it was too little, too late.

Norton had nine hits, 15 walks and eight strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Green and Kessler, both 2 for 3 and Dole, who was 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher was Bri Karnopp who gave up four hits, walked four and struck out four batters in three and one-third innings. She was relieved by Kristen Dole, who allowed one hit, walked three and struck out one batter.

The nightcap was really over after the top of the first inning where the Lady Thunder scored seven of their eight runs.

Gibson, Green, Dole and Plante walked, Kessler doubled, Schroeder, Ashley Karnopp, Bracktenbach and Gibson all

walked. All except Bracktenbach scored. Oberlin tallied four runs in the bottom of the inning to make it a 7-4 contest but both teams just scored one more time in the game.

Oberlin scored once more in the bottom of the second stanza and Norton's final run came in the top of the third when Schroeder, Ashley Karnopp and Bracktenbach all walked and Schroeder tallied.

At that point, the game was called due to the time limit.

Hits were hard to come by in the game. Norton had just the double by Kessler, 12 walks and no strike outs. Winning pitcher was Kristen Dole, who allowed no hits, walked four and struck out three batters.

"The games at Oberlin didn't go as smooth as the openers with Smith Center but we still pulled out a couple of wins," said coach Gay.

"We have had a lot of turnover from last season and we moved up from 16 to 18 and Under. Our team has come together and we have a strong group of good, dedicated team players. We should have a lot of fun this season and, hopefully, win a lot of games."

Next action

The Norton Thunder played at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays on Saturday night and hosted Osborne on Monday evening at Busch Field in Norton.

Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The next action for the Norton Thunder will be Sunday, June 16 versus Oberlin at Blue Jay Field in Norton, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Ridin' hard, flyin' high...



The Norton MX Racetrack was the place for action as motocross riders from the surrounding area competed on Sunday. Sunny skies and warm temperatures made for good conditions for racers and spectators alike.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Norton Elmwood Park Racing Association and Norton Travel and Tourism Are Sponsoring Family Night at the Races Packages that can be picked up at the Gate or Norton Chamber Office
\$25.00 Package Includes Admission for 2 Adults, 2 Kids 13 and Under, 4 Hot Dogs, and 4 Soft Drinks
The Norton Elmwood Park Speedway will have Races Saturday, June 15
GATES OPEN AT 5:00 P.M.; HOT LAPS AT 6:00 P.M.; RACES AT 7:00 P.M.
Hobby Stock, Stock Car, Sports Mods, Modified and 305 Sprints
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
S&R READY MIX, NORTON FUEL SERVICE AND NORTON TRAVEL AND TOURISM



GET MORE with Nex-Tech Wireless!

Nex-Tech Wireless VS Verizon

Nex-Tech Wireless		Verizon		
✓ YES	Nationwide Coverage	YES	✓	
✓ YES! Plans range from 250 to unlimited minutes	Variety of Voice Plans	NO	✗	
Data Options Only Nex-Tech Wireless guarantees no surprise overages. All data plans are unlimited. Nex-Tech Wireless also gives you 2 GB of free tethering every month!		✓ YES	Unlimited Data	No, must preselect an amount and share it. ✗
✓ YES	Extra Tethering to Use Your Phone's Wi-Fi Hotspot Capability		No, tethering comes out of your shared data. ✗	
✓ YES	Freedom from Data Overages		No, fees are charged for overages. ✗	
✓ YES	Get a NEW phone, often the same day!		Must be shipped ✗	
✓ YES	Many Convenient Store Locations		No, only in the larger cities ✗	
✓ YES	Early Upgrade Program for Basic Phones, Androids and BlackBerry Smartphones		NO ✗	

Plans
Nex-Tech Wireless has nationwide calling on America's best networks, free mobile-to-mobile calling to Nex-Tech Wireless and Kansas Verizon® customers and Carryover Minutes.

Convenience
Nex-Tech Wireless offers over 40 convenient locations to serve you. We also employ in-house repair technicians and if an insurance claim is needed, you'll receive a brand new phone, often the same day.

Lady Thunder Schedule

Mon., June 10 - Osborne 7 p.m. Busch Field
Sun., June 16 - Oberlin 6:30 p.m. Blue Jay Field
Mon., June 17 - Stockton 7 p.m. Busch Field
Wed., June 19 - Oberlin (15 & Under) 7 p.m. There
Thurs., June 20 - Osborne 7 p.m. There
Sun., June 23 - Hays TMP Tourney 1 p.m. There
Mon., July 1 - Smith Center 7 p.m. Blue Jay Field
Mon., July 8 - Oberlin (15 & Under) 7 p.m. Blue Jay Field
Tues., July 9 - Stockton 7 p.m. There
Sun., July 14 - Hays TMP 5:30 p.m. Blue Jay Field



We are now on Facebook! Search "The Norton Telegram" and like our page for photos, news and more.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com



*With qualified rate plan and 2-year service agreement. New activations only. Offers expire 6/30/13. One month free service applicable to voice charge and does not include monthly access charge. Customers are subject to taxes and must meet credit requirements. Certain restrictions apply. Visit www.nex-techwireless.com for complete terms and conditions. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.

Sign Up Today and Receive-

- ✓ Free car charger with new activation*
- ✓ First month of voice service free*

Norton • 117 North Norton
785-877-4135 • Toll Free: 877-550-7872
www.nex-techwireless.com • 877-625-2600