

Thunder loses to Stockton

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Thunder 18 and Under girls softball team hosted Stockton at Busch Field on Monday and lost 7-3 and 10-3.

Opener

Norton led 2-0 until Stockton tied the score in the top of the third inning and scored five more runs in the top of the fifth. A final run by Norton in the bottom of the fifth was too little, too late for the home team.

The Thunder scored one run in the bottom of the first inning when Shauna Gibson singled, Bri Karnopp followed with a single, Kim Bradshaw walked and Amanda Kessler walked. Gibson scored.

Stockton failed to score in the top of the second and the Lady Thunder ran one more run across home plate. Rickete Green and Marisa Maddy both walked and Green scored on a passed ball.

After Stockton picked up two runs in the top of the third and added five more runs in the top of the fifth, the Thunder was unable to put together a rally. Maddy walked to start the inning and scored on a passed ball.

Norton had just two hits, sev-

en walks and eight strike outs. Gibson and Karnopp each got one hit.

Kim Bradshaw started on the mound for Norton, allowing eight hits, walking two and striking out five batters. After four innings, she was relieved by Bri Karnopp. In one inning, she gave up no hits, walked one and struck out two batters.

Nightcap

The Thunder played Stockton close in the first inning of the second game but lost out in the second inning.

Stockton scored three runs in the top of the first inning but the Thunder answered with two runs in the bottom of the inning. Gibson walked, Karnopp singled, Bradshaw walked and Kessler singled. Gibson and Karnopp both scored.

Six more runs by the visitors in the top of the second inning extended their lead to 9-2. Norton did not score in the bottom of the inning and neither team tallied in the third inning.

Stockton added one more run in the top of the fourth to make the score 10-2.

The Thunder scored one more run in the bottom of the fourth when Kessler doubled, Green

and Sabre Plante both walked and Kessler scored.

The Thunder had just four hits, six walks and seven strike outs. Karnopp and Kessler were both 2 for 2 with the bat.

Kirstin Georgeson pitched two innings for Norton, giving up just one hit, walking seven and striking out five batters. She was relieved by Bri Karnopp, who allowed no hits, walked one and struck out one batter in two innings.

Next action

As of Thursday, the Norton Thunder will have played on four of the last five nights. After hosting Oberlin on Sunday and Stockton on Monday, they played a 15 and Under double header at Oberlin on Wednesday before traveling to Osborne for a double header on Thursday.

After resting Friday and Saturday, they will travel to Hays to compete in the Monarchs Softball Tournament on Sunday.

Six teams will play in pools of three teams each to start the tournament. Norton, Stockton and Osborne are in one pool and Thomas More Prep-Marian, Oberlin and Atwood are in the other pool.

Norton will play Stockton at



The Lady Thunder's Marisa Maddy slides into home plate past a fielder receiving the softball to score during the fifth inning of the first game of Norton's double header with the visiting Stockton nine at Busch Field on Monday evening.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

11:30 a.m. on Field Two (South), then will play Osborne at 1 p.m. on the same field. Stockton and Osborne will have played each other at 10 a.m.

The second place team in Norton's pool will advance to play the third place team in the

other pool and the third place team will advance to play the second place team in the other pool. Both games will be at 3:30 p.m.

Winners of each pool will play the winners of the first two advancement games at 5 p.m.

with the winners moving into the championship contest at 7 p.m.

Losers of the second round of games will also play at 7 p.m. for third place.



Norton's Gavin Lively hits the ball and gets on base on a fielder's choice in the second game with Colby on Monday evening in Norton. Lively led Norton in hitting in the opening game when he went 3 for 4 at the plate with two triples and a single.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Blue Jays beaten by Colby

By DICK BOYD

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On Monday, the Norton K-18 baseball team hosted the undefeated Colby nine and was unable to hand them their first loss of the season.

Colby won the opener 10-7 and shutout the Blue Jays 4-0 in the nightcap.

Opener

After allowing Colby only one run in the top of the first, Norton tallied three runs in the bottom of the inning to take a 3-1 lead. Will Ellis walked, Layton Miller singled, Jacob Green walked, Gavin Lively tripled, Trenton Wright walked, Collyn Auker got on base on an error and Ryan Johnson walked. Miller, Green and Wright all scored.

Neither team scored in the

second inning before Colby tallied twice in the top of the third to tie the score at 3-all.

Norton regained the lead with three runs in the bottom of the third stanza. Green walked, Lively tripled, Wright walked, Johnson was hit by a pitch and walked and Riley Sides singled. Green, Lively and Wright all scored.

Both teams were scoreless in the fourth inning. Colby ran three runs across home plate in the top of the fifth inning to tie the score at 6-all. Norton regained the lead with one run in the bottom of the fifth when Lively singled, Auker walked, Johnson singled and Lively scored.

Colby won it by scoring four runs in the top of the sixth. Norton was unable to mount a rally

in the bottom of the sixth and Colby held on for the 10-7 victory.

Norton had six hits in the game, six strike outs and seven walks. Leading hitter for the young Blue Jays was Lively, who went 3 for 4 with the bat.

Trenton Wright was the Norton pitcher. He gave up 10 hits, struck out four batters and walked seven.

Nightcap

Norton was unable to hit Colby pitcher Casey Quagliano in the second game where the Blue Jays recorded just four hits in the 4-0 shutout.

Colby scored two runs in the top of the first inning and two more in the top of the fourth.

Hitting safely for Norton were Miller, Green, Auker and Hayden Wiltfong.

The young Blue Jays had four hits, three walks and eight strike-outs.

Jacob Green started on the mound for Norton. He gave up six hits, walked three and struck out four batters in four innings. He was relieved by Lively who allowed no hits, walked two and struck out one batter.

Coach's comments

"We're pretty young and made some errors that cost us," said Norton head coach Rick Green. "We had some really bad running errors that hurt us."

"Colby is undefeated and has a good team but we could have beaten them in the first game."

Next action

Norton traveled to Oakley to play on Thursday and will travel to WaKeeney to play on Monday.



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Lady Thunder wins against Oberlin ball club

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Thunder girls softball team hosted Oberlin on Sunday evening and, because of the rainy weather, played only one game of a scheduled double header and won that contest 13-5.

Oberlin scored one run in the top of the first but the Thunder left no doubt of the eventual winner by running 11 runs across home plate in their bottom of the first.

Marisa Maddy led off with a walk, Shauna Gibson singled, Kirstin Georgeson, Bri Karnopp, Kristen Dole, Amanda Kessler, Sabre Plante, Rickete Green, MaKensy Schroeder all walked. In her second time up in the inning, Maddy singled, followed by walks by Gibson, Georgeson and Karnopp. All scored with Maddy and Gibson tallying twice.

Oberlin scored their final four runs in the top of the second to cut the Norton lead to 11-5.

The Thunder did not score in the bottom of the second stanza. Oberlin was unable to score in the top of the third.

Norton added two more runs in the bottom of the third before the game was called due to the weather. Gibson and Georgeson both singled and both scored.

Norton had five hits, 12 walks and six strike outs. Leading Thunder hitter was Gibson, who was 2 for 2 with the bat.

Winning pitcher was Bri Karnopp, who allowed four hits,

walked six batters and struck out five.

Next action

The Norton Thunder was scheduled to play the 15 and Under team in Oberlin on Wednesday and also travel to Osborne on Thursday for another double header.

This Sunday, the Norton Thunder will play in the Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays Tournament, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

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