

# Legion completes season in Zone Tourney

By DICK BOYD  
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The Norton American Legion baseball team completed their 2013 season with two losses in the Zone Seven Tournament on Wednesday and Thursday in Goodland.

In the first round, the Blue Jays lost 14-9 to Ulysses and, in the second round, they lost 13-12 to Goodland.

**ULYSSES**  
Norton played well against Ulysses on Wednesday, scoring enough runs to win many games but just not quite enough to beat Ulysses.

Norton was designated the home team and batted last. Ulysses scored one run in the top of the first but Norton took a 3-1 lead in the bottom of the second inning. Toby Nickell got on base on an error, Lane Bigge walked and Jacob Green cleared the bases with a home run!

Ulysses tied the score at 3-all with two runs in the top of the third inning and scored three more in the fourth inning to lead 6-3.

Norton kept it close by tallying two more runs in the bottom of the fourth to make it a 6-5 game. Dalton Miller doubled, Jacob Green walked and Jordan Dole singled. Miller and Green both scored.

Ulysses continued to stay just a step ahead of Norton as they scored three more runs in the top of the fifth to extend their advantage to 9-5.

One Norton run in the bottom of the fifth made it 9-6 in favor of Ulysses. With two outs, Andrew Ellis reached base on

an error and Miller doubled him home.

Ulysses was able to score two more runs in the top of the sixth to extend their lead to 11-6.

Once again, the Blue Jays scored three runs in the bottom of the sixth to cut the Ulysses lead to 11-9. Green walked, Dole was hit by a pitch and advanced, Travis Cressler got on base on an error and Mickey Hahn singled. All except Hahn scored.

Ulysses continued to hold off the Norton nine by scoring three more runs in the top of the seventh.

Norton was unable to mount a rally and Ulysses survived with a 14-9 victory which dropped Norton into the consolation bracket for Thursday.

The Blue Jays had six hits, four walks and eight strike outs. Leading hitters for Norton were Mickey Hahn and Dalton Miller, both of whom were 2 for 4 at the plate.

Toby Nickell was the losing pitcher for Norton. He allowed six hits, walked two and struck out two batters in three and two-thirds innings. He was relieved by Clint Cole, who gave up 11 hits, walked two and struck out one batter in relief.

“We played well against Ulysses,” said Norton head coach Scott Ellis. “We just could not match their offensive power.

“We only had one mental error. We did make some physical errors but they did, too.

“Dalton continued to hit the ball hard and it was nice to have Mickey back in the lead-off spot, as he also hit the ball hard.

“Jacob connected for a three-run homer to give us the early lead.

“I really think Ulysses was the only team that hit the ball harder than we did.”

**GOODLAND**  
Norton got off to a great start against Goodland and appeared to be a certain winner until the Cowboys rallied for the 13-12 win.

The Blue Jays led 5-0 after three innings, 9-1 after four innings, 9-5 after five innings and 11-7 at the end of six innings.

Norton scored just one run in the top of the seventh and final inning before Goodland took advantage of three Norton errors and two walks to tally six runs in the bottom of the seventh for the victory.

In the top of the second inning, Trever Lewis doubled, Clint Cole walked, Jordan Dole was hit by a pitch and advanced and Travis Cressler singled. All except Cressler scored.

Two more Norton runs were scored in the top of the third inning. Toby Nickell singled, Lewis was hit by a pitch and advanced, Lane Bigge got on base on an error and Cole singled. Nickell and Lewis both scored.

The Blue Jays’ four fourth inning scores occurred when Ellis singled, Dalton Miller got on base on an error, Nickell and Lewis both walked and all scored.

Norton scored two runs in the sixth when Jacob Green walked, Mickey Hahn and Ellis both singled and Green and Hahn both tallied.

The final run by the Blue Jays

came in the seventh inning when Nickell singled and scored.

Norton had nine hits, seven walks and five strike outs.

Leading hitters for the Blue Jays were Toby Nickell, who was 3 for 4 and Andrew Ellis, who was 3 for 5 with the bat.

Andrew Ellis started on the mound for Norton and pitched five innings, allowing six hits, walking four and striking out three batters. He was relieved for two innings by Jacob Green, who took the loss, allowing one hit, walking four and striking out three batters.

“We played very well against Goodland for four and one-half innings,” said coach Ellis. “We had a 9-1 lead heading into the bottom of the fifth and gave up four runs. We had five physical errors in the bottom of the seventh inning with two outs.

“This was tough to take because we really outplayed them for six innings.

“Our boys need to understand that could-ofs, would-ofs and should-ofs don’t count. Just get the job done.

“Toby did a good job of running bases and made an outstanding catch. Drew hit the ball hard all night as did Toby.”

**Season comments**  
“We did okay this year, considering that our No.1 and No.2 starting pitchers were unavailable.

“We return the entire team next year so the future is bright. This is a very talented group of young men.

“We need to figure out how to improve our dismal 1-9 road record. We did not adjust very



The Norton American Legion nine kept the pressure on Goodland in the second inning of their Zone Tournament game with a run down Cowboy out when Verlinder was caught between first and second base. Above, Norton pitcher Andrew Ellis is shown in hot pursuit of Verlinder and eventually put the tag on him. Others in the photo for Norton are, from left, Trever Lewis (hidden), Dalton Miller and Lane Bigge.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

well to the pitching mounds in the other towns.

“Thank you to everyone involved with Legion Baseball and a special thanks to the employers of these boys for letting

them off work early for games.”

Assistant coach for the Norton American Legion team this season was Shawn Miller.

# East squad breaks West’s Shrine Bowl streak with 22-19 victory

By DICK BOYD  
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Jacob Brooks, 2013 graduate of Norton Community High School and star athlete for the Blue Jays, played on Saturday in the 40th annual Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game held in Yager Stadium at Washburn University in Topeka.

The West held a seven game winning streak in the annual event to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children but the East had won all four previous games in Topeka.

Although the game is played for the children and the score doesn’t really matter, the 34 players on each team all wanted to win. It was a hard fought contest, which ended with the East on top 22-19 in front of a packed stadium of 7,600 fans.

Jacob Brooks, who is 6’3” and weighs 190 pounds, played wide receiver on offense for the West team. He was not a passing target in much of the game but caught the ball when it was thrown to him. Jacob proved throughout his high school career that he is capable of punt and kickoff returns as well as playing defense in the secondary but the all-star nature of the game did not allow him to show his talents in these areas.

Also playing for the West squad from this area were Sean Newlan, Phillipsburg; Bradey Chard, Plainville; Stanten Kronte, Beloit and David Cardinal, Hays.

After a hard-fought, scoreless first quarter, the West tallied when Markus Phox of Wichita Collegiate hit Drew Kite, Scott City, for a seven-yard touchdown pass on a fake field goal. The scoring play came with 4:02 left in the half on a fourth-and-goal situation. The try for a two-point conversion out of the swinging gate formation was no good.

The East tied the game at 6-all after Hiawatha’s Denzel Chilcoat returned the ensuing kickoff to the West 41-yard line. Topeka High’s Raymond Solis picked up a first down at the 31. Then, he pitched the ball to Chilcoat on an option and Chilcoat out-raced the West defense to the end zone with 2:11 left in the half.

The East’s try for a two-point conversion was no good, leaving the game tied at 6-all at intermission.

The West put together a 56-

yard drive to take a 13-6 lead with 6:39 left in the third quarter on a two-yard run by David Cardinal of Hays. Phox kicked the extra point.

The East went in front with just 15 seconds left in the third period when McLouth’s Marc Walbridge found an open Tye Hughes of Lawrence Free State for 19 yards and then hit Conley Wilkins of Blue Valley West for two points to go ahead 14-13.

The West took a 19-14 lead with 6:09 remaining in the game on Salina South running back Cody Busby’s six-yard sweep around left end. Quarterback Zeke Palmer was sacked on the two-point conversion attempt.

The East answered with a drive of its own. On fourth down and four on the West 20-yard line, quarterback Solis handed to Wilkins on a sweep. Wilkins pulled up and found a wide open Austin Moses of Blue Valley Northwest in the right end zone and hit him for the touchdown. Solis passed to Moses for the two-point conversion and a 22-19 lead.

After the East score, the West picked up a pair of first downs to the East 24 and gained six more yards on a pass completion from quarterback Zeke Palmer of Bishop Carroll to fullback Kip Keeley of La Crosse. But, on second down, Palmer threw for Scott City tight end Drew Kite in the back left corner of the end zone. East safety Spencer Bernhardt of Pittsburg alertly stepped in front, got position and pulled down the pigskin for an interception with just 1:33 remaining in the contest.

The West defense held, giving them one more possession with 33 seconds left. On the final play, Palmer completed a 23-yard pass to Keeley, who threw backward to Busby, who picked up 17 yards before he was brought down on the 21-yard line to end the game!

Zeke Palmer was named the Most Valuable Player for the West squad. He completed 14 of 20 passes for 175 yards and rushed 13 times for 68.

Holton’s Trent Tanking was named the East’s Most Valuable Player. He had 16 tackles from his middle linebacker spot.

The West finished with 290 yards of total offense, 200 yards coming in the second half, compared to 305 yards for the East.

Jacob Brooks is the son of Jennifer and Jamie Wildeman

and David Brooks.

He was the 25th Norton player chosen to compete in this prestigious game.

Jacob will continue his football career this fall when he plays for Hutchinson Community College.

The Shrine Bowl game was the highlight of a Saturday which included the largest Shrine parade in Kansas, a pro-style high school combine where high school football players had their skills evaluated in a pro-style environment, a motorcycle bike show and an all-star cross country run which finished in the stadium shortly before kickoff.

Norton Community High School 2013 graduate Kamilla Jones was one of the 15 women from the West who ran the two-mile race.

The All-State Masonic Band, comprised of around 200 of the state’s best high school musicians, marched in the street parade and also performed prior to the game and at halftime.

Abbie Smith represented Norton Community High School as a member of the Shrine Band.

Officials for the game included Doug Wiltfong, a Norton Community High School graduate and former NCHS athlete who now resides in Stockton. Doug is a 14-year official who was working his third Shrine Bowl game.

Head coach of the West team was Ryan Cornelsen, Hays. His assistant coaches were Steve Martin, Wichita Northwest; Mike Lee, Andover; Dave Fennwald, Mulvane; Brad McCormick, Garden Plain and Matt Hendricks, Sterling.

Jeff Boone is the executive director of the Shrine Bowl.

Next year’s Kansas Shrine Bowl Game between outstanding senior high school football players from Eastern and Western Kansas will once again be chosen by the Kansas news media and will be played in Pittsburg.

**Shrine Bowl benefits Hospitals**

All Shrine Bowl events are produced and presented to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children, a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by producing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals.

Children up to the age of 18

are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients’ ability to pay.

The Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Game has generated millions of dollars profit, all of which has been used for free treatment and/or transportation of Kansas children to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

The Shrine Bowl is the principal hospital fund-raising project for all five Kansas Shrine organizations. It is estimated that Shrine Bowl receipts are 70 percent general public funds and 30 percent Shrine dollars.

Hundreds of Shrine volunteers, ladies of Shriners and community volunteers help make the Kansas Shrine Bowl one of the top high school all-star games in the nation.

Escalating travel costs have kept the Shrine Bowl players from visiting the nearest Shriners Hospital in St. Louis the last few years but they still get a feel for it with organizers bringing part of the hospital to them at the game site.



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Norton’s Jacob Brooks, a wide receiver for the West squad in the Kansas Shrine Bowl, makes a block on an East defensive player to prevent him from making a tackle.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

**NORTON OPEN DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**Sponsored by Fog Valley Taxidermy of Norton**  
**THIS WILL BE HELD ON**  
**Sunday, August 4**



There will be divisions for all skill levels and ages, so come on out and have some fun throwing. There will be some golfers that compete in the Open Division (Professionals), so feel free to come out and watch some of the best compete for their share of the \$500 added cash!

**NRC and NDGC Disc Golf Clinic for Children**  
**7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Thursday, August 1**  
**SPONSORED BY THE**  
**Norton Recreation Commission and the Norton Disc Golf Club**  
**ELMWOOD PARK DISC GOLF COURSE, NORTON**  
**THIS EVENT IS FREE!!**



TOPICS COVERED: BASIC RULES OF DISC GOLF, PUTTING STYLES, DRIVING, BASIC STRATEGY, ANSWERING QUESTIONS  
At the end of the clinic, we will play a short 3 hole course, with all the participants. That way we can put what we learned into practice!  
Adults are welcome to come and watch and ask questions.  
**FEEL FREE TO PLAY A ROUND OF DISC GOLF AFTER THE CLINIC**