

# Norton football team takes care of business

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School football team trailed 22-10 to the winless Colby eleven at halftime of their battle with the Eagles in Colby on Friday night but came out after intermission and took care of business.

Norton shutout Colby in the second half to record a 37-22 victory!

"We've never had a lead at the beginning of a game this season so our goal was to score first," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "We did score first with a field goal but then allowed them to score."

"We weren't as focused as we needed to be in the first half and weren't communicating very well with each other. We challenged them at halftime to take control of the game and they answered the challenge."

"It was a character builder. We realized what we were doing wrong, made changes and held them to 42 yards of offense and shut them out in the second half."

Sophomore running back Gavin Lively returned the opening kickoff to the Norton 41. With senior fullback Toby Nickell, senior tailback Tanner Furbush, sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole and junior running back Christian Boser earning yardage, Norton picked up two first downs before Nickell was forced to punt.

Colby got the ball on their 27-yard line but the Blue Jay defense forced a three-and-out. Lively returned the Colby punt to the Eagle 39. Two keepers by Dole and carries by Furbush and Nickell and Norton had a first down on the 6-yard-line. Colby's defense stiffened so senior kicker Austin Hager split the uprights for a 22-yard field goal and a 3-0 lead with 2:25 left in the first quarter.

After Hager's kickoff, the aggressive Norton defense held the Eagles for another three-and-out. The Colby punt rolled dead on the Norton 48 as the first quarter ended at 3-0.

Dole raced to the Colby 36 for a first down and Furbush bulldozed to the 5-yard line. The next down, Furbush ran over several would-be tacklers into the end zone! Hager's kick made it 10-0 with 11:03 left in the first half.

Colby did not give up and, with their junior quarterback Joshua Matchell running keepers, the Eagles picked up three first downs to the Norton 10-yard-line. Sophomore running back Mathew Pieper scored from 8 yards out. Senior



Norton senior all-purpose player Austin Hager looks for a block as he returns a pass interception for 26 yards in the final seconds of the Blue Jays' 37-22 win at Colby on Friday night. Austin is Norton's excellent kickoff man and extra point and field goal kicker. He was busy doing all three on Friday and threw in an interception and a recovered fumble for a good measure!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

running back Andrew Taylor was stopped short of two extra points, making it 10-6 with 7:58 left.

Furbush returned the kickoff to the Norton 34. Dole hit Hahn in stride with a perfect pass and he sprinted to the Colby 27 before being stopped! Colby's defense held, however, and the Eagles did some passing of their own. Matchell completed a pass to sophomore Brady Holzmeister and he ran all the way to the Norton 30 before Lively tackled him. Colby picked up first downs on the Norton 18 and again on the Norton 5 but the Eagles then fumbled and Austin Hager fell on the ball for the Blue Jays!

The Colby defense forced a Hager punt and an official threw a flag when a Norton player touched the Eagle punt receiver. After a 15-yard penalty, Colby had the ball on the Norton 40. Matchell went to the air again and hit Holzmeister for a touchdown with 35 seconds left. Taylor successfully ran for two extra points this time, putting Colby on top 14-10.

Things went from bad to worse for Norton when officials

ruled that Colby had recovered their kickoff on the Norton 29-yard-line. Matchell went back to the air and hit senior wide receiver Adam Gersch, who was tackled on the Norton 2-yard-line. Two plays later and Matchell was in the end zone. He also ran for two extra points, extending Colby's lead to 22-10 at halftime.

After coach Melvin's halftime pep talk, the Blue Jays came out of the locker room ready to turn things around. After Hager's kickoff, the Norton defense drove Colby back to their 6-yard line!

Lively returned the Eagle punt to the Colby 40. After one first down on runs by Nickell, Furbush, Dole and Boser, Colby took over on their 25. After one first down, Colby punted into the end zone. Junior running back Jared Tallent and Nickell gained some yardage before Dole found running room up the middle on a keeper and scampered 68 yards for a Norton touchdown! The extra point kick was blocked but Norton trailed by only 22-16 with 2:43 left.

On the kickoff return, a

Colby player was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct and the Eagles had the ball on their 11-yard line. The battling Blue Jay defense forced another three-and-out. Lively returned the punt to the Norton 44. Dole broke two tackles on another keeper for a first down on the Colby 42 as the third quarter ended.

Dole hit Furbush on a flat pass to the 35, then ran another keeper for a first down on the 30. Norton fumbled but recovered on the 21. Furbush got the call again and ran through the Colby defenders into the end zone. Hager split the uprights and Norton led 23-22 with 9:34 left.

After Hager's kickoff, Colby got as far as the Norton 26 on a pass from Matchell to Holzmeister but the Blue Jay defense held and took over the pigskin. With Furbush getting most of the yardage, Norton drove down the field and Furbush scored from 6 yards out. Hager's kick extended the Norton lead to 30-22 with 2:35 left.

The Colby player who received Hager's kickoff lost his footing and fell on the Eagle

5-yard line. The Eagles desperately tried to pass but were unsuccessful and Norton took over on the Colby 8-yard line. Furbush scored three plays later, Hager kicked the extra point and the Blue Jays had extended their lead to 37-22 with just 46 seconds left on the clock.

Colby went back to the pass after Hager's kickoff and Hager intercepted an Eagle aerial and returned the ball to the Colby 19 as time expired.

#### Individual statistics

Tanner Furbush and Jordan Dole led Norton's rushing attack. Furbush gained 151 yards on 26 carries for a 5.8 yard average and Dole picked up 147 yards on 17 attempts for an 8.6 yard average. They were followed by Toby Nickell, 34 yards, 13 carries; Christian Boser, 9 yards, 2 carries, Jared Tallent, 5 yards, 2 carries.

Dole completed 2 of 6 passes for 43 yards. Pass receivers were: Mickey Hahn, 1 for 38; Furbush, 1 for 5.

Gavin Lively had 3 punt returns for 41 yards and 1 kickoff return for 21 yards. Furbush had 1 kickoff return for 14 yards.

Nickell punted once for 12

yards and Hager punted once for 32 yards. Hager had 7 kickoffs for an average of 45.1 yards. Hager also had 1 pass interception for 26 yards.

#### Starting lineup

Norton started on offense: senior Travis Cressler, left tackle; freshman Jacob Green, left guard; senior Cole Renner, center; senior Kolton Harting, right guard; junior Breven Sondergaard, right tackle; senior Drew Schrum and junior Kobie Unterseher, wide receivers; junior Mickey Hahn, tight end; sophomore Jordan Doe, quarterback; senior Toby Nickell, fullback; senior Tanner Furbush, tailback.

Defensive starters were: Dole, Sondergaard, junior Stewart Whitney, Renner, Furbush, front five; Nickell, Hahn, linebackers; senior Austin Hager, Unterseher, cornerbacks; sophomore Gavin Lively, senior Trever Lewis, safeties.

#### Tackles

Gavin Lively was leading tackler for Norton with 7 solos, 5 assists, 12 total, followed by Trever Lewis, 3 solos, 6 assists, 9 total; Stewart Whitney, 3 solos, 5 assists, 8 total; Christian Boser, 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total; Mickey Hahn, 4 solos, 3 assists, 7 total; Breven Sondergaard, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; Jordan Dole, 3 solos, 3 assists, 6 total; Toby Nickell, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Cole Renner, 2 solos, 3 assists, 5 total; Tanner Furbush, 3 solos, 1 assist, 4 total; Kobie Unterseher, 2 solos, 2 assists, 4 total; Jacob Green, 2 solos; Cody Temmel, 2 solos; Riley Hager, 2 assists; Ethan Ross, 2 assists; Cameron Heikes, 1 solo; Kendall Miller, 1 assist.

#### Next action

Norton's 4-2 eleven will begin District play on Friday and will host Minneapolis in a 7 p.m. game at Travis Field.

"Our District is the toughest in Class 3A," said coach Melvin. "Minneapolis is 3-3 but their only losses have been to La Crosse, Sacred Heart of Salina and Southeast of Salina, who are a combined 16-2."

"We will have to play hard the entire game on Friday against Minneapolis."

#### GAME STATISTICS

NORTON	COLBY
15	First Downs 10
342	Yards Rushing 117
43	Yards Passing 130
385	Total Yards 247
2-6-0	Pass Compl. 6-15-1
1-2	Fumbles Lost 1-3
2-22	Punts 5-44
4-40	Penalties 5-35

# Norton volleyball team was one for one at WaKeeney

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School volleyball team defeated Trego 25-22, 25-18 but lost to Smith Center 10-25, 19-25 in Mid-Continent League matches played on Tuesday, Oct. 8 in WaKeeney.

"Due to the physical, mental and very emotional wins at the Oberlin Tournament on Saturday, our girls struggled a little throughout the night at Trego," said Norton head volleyball coach Christine Thompson.

"Smith Center has been a very competitive team from the looks of their record. Our varsity team just could not keep up with them throughout the

match. I believe a lot of our errors allowed Smith Center to stay ahead of us and play their game. We will face them in the near future in the Mid-Continent League Tournament so we will get our chance to show them how we play when we are rested.

"In the Trego match, our varsity came back and beat them in two sets. Trego was able to stay pretty close in score due to them being a scrappy team.

"In these last two weeks, we have played seventeen plus matches. I am very proud of how our girls have been showing up every playing date and performing to their best ability. Our varsity has been a real

joy to watch and see their improvements individually and as a team."

#### SMITH CENTER

Junior Adrienne Hager had 1 serving ace. Senior Johnny Ruder recorded 10 setting assists.

Kills leader was freshman Caitlyn Cox with 6, followed by senior Bailey Ambrosier and junior Katie Bohl, 3 each; Ruder, 2.

Freshman Baylee Miller led in digs with 7, followed by Cox, 6; Ruder, 4; Bohl, Bailey Ambrosier, Hager, Casey Ambrosier, 2 each.

Bailey Ambrosier had 1 block.

#### TREGO COMMUNITY

Hager had 2 serving aces, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, Cox, Miller, 1 each.

Ruder led again with 17 setting assists; Miller had 1.

Kills leader was Bohl with 9, followed by Cox, 4; Bailey Ambrosier, Ruder, sophomore Peyton Renner, 3 each.

Bailey Ambrosier led in digs with 9, followed by Cox, 8; Bohl, 7; Hager, 5; Ruder, 3; Miller, 3.

#### Junior varsity results

The Norton junior varsity lost to Smith Center 14-25, 20-25 but defeated Trego 11-15, 25-20, 15-11.

"The win over Trego was a needed victory after the close losses our girls have been hav-

ing," said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin.

"They were excited to finally pull out another win."

Serving statistics were the only ones available due to technical problems.

#### Smith Center

Serving were junior Erin Archer, 4/4, 100 percent; sophomore Hanna Brooks, 8/9, 89%, 6 points, 3 aces; Miah Melvin, 5/6, 83%, 3 points; sophomore Cayanna Campbell, 5/5, 100%, 2 points; Lexi Hartwell, 7/8, 88%, 5 points, 2 aces; Nickala

O'Hare, 3/3, 100%.

The team served 32/35, 91 percent, 5 aces.

#### Trego Community

Serving were Campbell, 11/12, 92%, 8 points; Brooks, 4/6, 67%, 3 points; Melvin, 7/7, 100 %, 4 points; sophomore Lauren Mordecai, 8/8, 100%, 5 points, 5 aces; Hartwell, 11/11, 100%, 9 points, 4 aces; O'Hare, 5/6, 83%, 5 points, 2 aces.

The team served 46/50, 92%, 11 aces.

# Lady Jays beat Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

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In the story in Friday's Norton Telegram which told about the Norton Community High School volleyball team's championship of the Oberlin Tournament, the details of the Lady Jays' 25-22, 27-25 win over state-ranked Hoxie were mistakenly omitted.

Junior Adrienne Hager had 2 serving aces and senior Johnnye Ruder and freshman Baylee Miller each had 1 serving ace.

Serving assists leader was Ruder with 21 while Miller had 1.

Junior Katie Bohl led in kills with 12, followed by senior Bailey Ambrosier, 8; freshman Caitlyn Cox, 4; Ruder, 2; Miller, 1.

Digs leader was Miller with 8, followed by Bohl, Ruder, 4 each; Cox, 3; Hager, sophomore Casey Ambrosier, 1 each.

Bailey Ambrosier and Ruder each had 2 blocks.

## Public Notices

### •PUBLIC NOTICE•

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR OPERATING ONLY (5311, 5316 and 5317)

Published in The Norton Telegram Tuesday, October 15, 2013 (1T)  
Norton County Senior Center Agency is submitting an application for operating assistance for transportation under the U.S.C. 5311 (rural public transportation) of the Federal Transit Act. The application will be for operating funds to help provide transportation services in the area. Written comments and questions in regards to this application are encouraged and will be accepted until November 18, 2013 and should be sent to:

Melinda Segura, Executive Director at:  
Norton County Senior Center  
208 West Main, Norton, Kansas 67654

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