

# Norton football season ends with close loss

By DICK BOYD  
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Norton junior linebacker Jared Tallent had a career best night in the Blue Jays' close District loss to Phillipsburg on Thursday evening at Travis Field. Jared is shown here making the initial hit on Panther quarterback Riley Juenemann. Jared recorded 18 total tackles for a Norton season best. Also assisting are junior defensive back Kobie Unterseher, No. 14 and junior linebacker Christian Boser, in the back.

The Norton-Phillipsburg rivalry was as heated as ever on Thursday night at Travis Field in Norton when the two football teams met to determine which would advance into the playoffs.

It was a very, very close game with Norton leading in total offense, yards per play and first downs and fewer punts but the Panthers ending with a few more points in a 20-16 victory.

The District win for Phillipsburg put them in a Sub-District game at Salina Sacred Heart this Tuesday and put a sudden halt to the Blue Jay season with a 5-4 record. Norton's only losses were to teams which made the playoffs.

The Blue Jays were the dominant team in the first quarter, scoring two touchdowns on runs by senior tailback Tanner Furbush before allowing the visiting Panthers a first down!

With 1:49 left in the first quarter, Phillipsburg completed their first pass but it was a big one. Senior quarterback Riley Juenemann hit senior wingback Grant Wickham on a 48 yard strike.

Early in the second period, Phillipsburg slowed the Norton offense enough that the Blue Jays tried a fourth down field goal. Senior kicker Austin Hager was accurate from 30 yards and Norton had extended their lead to 16-7. The Panthers responded with a scoring drive to cut the Blue Jay advantage to 16-14.

A longer field goal try by Hager from 45 yards out was just short and Norton led 16-14 at half-time.

Phillipsburg scored with 3:10 left in the third quarter to take a 20-16 lead and it held through the final quarter. Two pass interceptions and a fumble hurt the Norton offense the rest of the way and they were just not able to make the plays they needed to retake the lead.

"I was proud of the way we played," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin. "We just didn't get any breaks and had too many turnovers." The Blue Jays had just three turnovers but Phillipsburg had none.

"In a close game, you can't have three turnovers," he said.

"We played well enough to win but just couldn't get any breaks. Our players were motivated and wanted to keep playing.

"I'm really proud of our players. We had a great season. We played hard and overcame a lot of adversity. We got a lot better as the season progressed. The only teams we lost to are in the playoffs."

Austin Hager kicked off for Norton to start the game. The Panther receiver was stopped on their 20-yard line. The Blue Jay defense held the visitors to three-and-out and they punted to the Norton 28 where Furbush caught the ball.

Furbush picked up a first down on the first play, then senior fullback Toby Nickell ran for 4 yards and a face mask penalty against the Panthers moved the ball to the Panther 42. Furbush and sophomore quarterback Jordan Dole each gained yards before Dole passed to Nickell for a first down on the Panther 23. Furbush got the call again and ran through two potential tacklers into the end zone standing up! Hager's extra point kick was blocked but Norton led 6-0 with 8:24 left.

Hager kicked off and the fired up Blue Jay defense forced a second three-and-out! After the Panther punt, Norton had the ball on the Phillipsburg 43. After two passes from Dole to Furbush,

Dole handed to Furbush and he bulled four yards into the end zone as the Norton fans roared! This time, Hager's extra point kick was good, making it 13-0 with 4:52 remaining.

After Hager's kickoff, Phillipsburg picked up their initial first down of the game on their first pass reception, the 48-yard pass from Juenemann to Wickham. Jaron Kellerman kicked the extra point, cutting the Norton lead to 13-7 with 1:49 left.

Sophomore running back Gavin Lively returned the Panther kickoff to the 15. Furbush made another great run to the Norton 43. Nickell picked up 7 yards on 2 plays and Phillipsburg was whistled for offsides, giving Norton the ball on the Panther 45 to end the first quarter.

A Dole pass to junior tight end Mickey Hahn earned Norton a first down on the Phillipsburg 28. With Furbush getting most of the carries, the Blue Jays advanced far enough for Hager to split the uprights with a 30-yard field goal for a 16-7 Norton lead with 8:27 left.

Phillipsburg took Hager's kickoff and put together their best drive of the game to score their second touchdown on a 3 yard run by Juenemann. Kellerman's extra point kick cut Norton's lead to 16-14 with 5:41 left.

After Phillipsburg's kickoff, the Panther defense forced Norton's offense into their first three-and-out of the game. When Nickell punted, it turned out to be Norton's only punt of the contest. Helped by a Phillipsburg penalty, Norton's defense held and the Blue Jays took over on their 32. Dole, Furbush and Nickell carries and a pass to Hahn put the ball on the Panther 29 with time

running out. What would have been a 45-yard field goal by Hager fell just short and the first half ended with the Blue Jays clinging to a 16-14 lead.

Furbush returned the kickoff to open the second half and the Blue Jays moved the ball to the Panther 37 where they took over after a fourth down punt fake by Norton fell short. Phillipsburg put together a touchdown drive that was climaxed by a 2 yard run by senior fullback Michael Dusin. A pass for two extra points was dropped but Phillipsburg had taken a 20-16 lead with 3:10 left in the third quarter.

Norton sophomore Cameron Heikes recovered Phillipsburg's short kickoff on the 50. On third down, a Dole pass was intercepted on the Panther 14. A third down pass play for Phillipsburg was good to the Panther 35 for a first down as the third period came to a close.

The aggressive Norton defense held the Panthers and forced them to punt to the Norton 30. A Dole pass was intercepted and the Panther catching the ball was tackled on the Norton 7-yard line! Norton's goalline stand was a good one and included Hager knocking down a fourth down pass with 7:16 left in the game. With Furbush, Nickell and Dole picking up yards, Norton moved downfield for a possible go-ahead touchdown. After Furbush broke two tackles on a run to the Panther 34, the Blue Jays' scoring chances ended when Dole was hit hard, fumbled and was injured. The Panthers recovered the pigskin on their 40.

Norton held and forced a punt but the ball rolled dead on the Norton 5 with 1:56 left. The Blue Jays ran out of time before they could put together a scoring drive.

**Individual statistics**  
In his final game as a Blue Jay, Tanner Furbush had another outstanding rushing game. He carried the ball 22 times for 127 yards and a 5.8 yard average. Jordan Dole had 10 carries for 49 yards and a 4.9 yard average. Toby Nickell gained 21 yards on 7 carries, followed by Kendall Miller, 3 for 10 and Christian Boser, 1 for 2.

Dole completed 8 of 11 passes for 91 yards. Miller completed 1 for 7 yards. Receivers were Furbush, 4 for 43 yards; Mickey Hahn, 2 for 33; Nickell, 2 for 15; Drew Schrum, 1 for 7.

Austin Hager kicked off 4 times for a 49 yard average and Nickell punted once for 33 yards.

Furbush had 2 kickoff returns for 25 yards and Gavin Lively had 1 for 7 yards. Lively had 1 punt return for 8 yards and Furbush had 1 for 3.

**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; junior Mickey Hahn, tight end; senior Drew Schrum and junior Kobie Unterseher, wide receivers; sophomore Jordan Dole, quarterback; senior Toby Nickell, fullback; senior Tanner Furbush, tailback.

Defensive starters were: Green, senior Cody Temmel, Renner, Harting, front four; Dole, junior Christian Boser, junior Jared Tallent, Furbush, Nickell, linebackers; sophomore Gavin Lively, senior Austin Hager, cornerbacks.

**Tackles**  
Junior linebacker Jared Tallent had a career night in the tackles department with 13 solo tackles and 5 assists for a Blue Jay season best 18 total tackles! He was followed by Mickey Hahn, 4 solos, 4 assists, 8 total; Trevor Lewis, 5 solos, 3 assists, 8 total; Stewart Whitney, 5 solos, 2 assists, 7 total; Tanner Furbush, 4 solos, 2 assists, 6 total; Jordan Dole, 3 solos, 2 assists, 5 total; Jacob Green, 1 solo, 4 assists, 5 total; Cole Renner, 2 solos, 3 assists, 5 total; Kobie Unterseher, 2 solos, 3 assists, 5 total; Austin Hager, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Gavin Lively, 2 solos, 1 assist, 3 total; Breven Sondergaard, 2 solos; Cody Temmel, 1 solo, 1 assist, 2 total; James Berry, 1 assist; Tevin Brown, 1 assist; Derick Campbell, 1 solo; Kolton Harting, 1 assist; Kendall Miller, 1 solo; Toby Nickell, 1 assist.

**Senior Night honorees**  
It was "Senior Night" at Norton Community High School and the following seniors and their parents were honored: Travis Cressler, Tanner Furbush, Toby Nickell, Austin Hager, Kolton Harting, Michael Johnson, Cole Renner, Trevor Lewis, Ethan Ross, Drew Schrum, Cody Temmel, football players: Rickete Green, Ashley Hildebrand, Jessica White, tennis players: Alec Hager, Kailen Kawahara, Marc Miller, Garret Otter, Keith Sander, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, cross country runners: Ty Burns, Leif Carlson, Johnnye Ruder, Landon Slipke, Abbie Smith, band members.

GAME STATISTICS		
NORTON	PHILLIPSBURG	
14	First Downs	12
209	Yards Rushing	129
98	Yards Passing	119
307	Total Yards	248
9-13-2	Passes Completed	8-13-0
1-3	Fumbles Lost	0-3
1-33	Punts	4-48
6-50	Penalties	5-56

## Area teams compete at State volleyball

By DICK BOYD  
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Several area high school volleyball teams placed in last weekend's State Volleyball Tournaments.

In Class 1A-II at Hays, Logan defeated Sharon Springs 28-26, 25-23; and outscored Attica 25-23, 17-25, 24-14 but lost to Argonia 20-25, 25-19, 20-25 in the first round on Friday.

In the semi-finals on Saturday, Logan lost to Baileyville

13-25, 8-25 and lost to Argonia 10-25, 15-25 to place fourth.

In Class 1A-I, also in Hays, Hoxie defeated Pike Valley 25-21, 25-17; defeated Waverly 25-8, 25-18 and outscored Centralia 25-21, 25-20 on Friday.

In Saturday's semi-finals, Hoxie defeated Goessel 26-24, 25-14 but lost to Centralia 25-21, 20-25, 16-25 to place runner-up.

Smith Center competed in the Class 2A State Volleyball

Tournament in Emporia. On Friday, they defeated Pittsburg Colgan 25-8, 25-21; outscored Moundridge 25-23, 25-23 and lost to Ashland-Bucklin 24-26, 23-25.

In the semi-finals on Saturday, Smith Center lost to Hillsboro 22-25, 17-25 and lost to Ashland-Bucklin 20-25, 25-19, 20-25 to place fourth.

Hoisington was the winner of Norton's Class 3A Sub-State Tournament at Cimarron. They

finished fourth in the State Tournament in Emporia with a 24-26, 23-25 loss to third place Marysville.

Senior setter Michaela Girard jump serves the ball during the second game against Sharon Springs on Friday night. The Lady Trojans won in two sets, 28-26 and 25-23. and placed fourth in the tournament.



## State results

(Continued From Page 8)  
18:50; Mendoza, 72nd, 18:52; Lazo, 78th, 19:04; Arteaga, 90th, 19:47.

Andrea Browne of Colby finished tenth individually in girls Class 4A in Wamego with a time of 16:06.

In the Class 2A State Meet in Wamego, the Oberlin girls placed fourth with 103 points. Polivka of Oberlin placed 12th

individually with a time of 16:44, followed by VanLoenen, Hill City, 14th, 16:45; Shields, Oberlin, 15th, 16:48; Rathbun, Plainville, 21st, 17:15; Blau, Oberlin, 24th, 17:26; Hendrickson, Oberlin, 32nd, 17:40; Davis, Oberlin, 57th, 18:57; Urban, Oberlin, 62nd, 19:14; Peters, Oberlin, 72nd, 19:55.

In the Class 1A State Meet, also at Wamego, Stephens of

Stockton finished 16th in the boys race in 18:49. Other area finishers were Keller, Palco, 32nd, 19:35; Austin Tien, Logan, 51st, 20:30.

Wheatland-Grinnell placed

third as a team in Class 1A girls with 81 points; Sharon Springs was 11th with 147. Niblock of Hoxie placed 14th in 17:36 and Faundez of Osborne was 23rd in 18:20.

22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Norton Long-Spur Chapter  
**PHEASANTS FOREVER BANQUET**  
**Friday, Nov. 8**  
**at the Norton Eagles Lodge**  
Social Hour at 5:30 p.m.; Steak Dinner at 7:00 p.m.  
**AUCTION STARTS AT 8:00 P.M.**  
**For More Information or to get Tickets Contact:**  
**Dan Lauer: 877-5181 or Brock Miller: 877-3354**

*We are proud of all the area sports teams on a great season!*