

K-18 baseball team cruises to doubleheader win

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton K-18 baseball team extended their season record to 9-3 with a doubleheader win at Hill City on Monday evening.

Due to run rules, Norton won both games by scores of 17-0 and 15-0, each in just three innings.

Opener

In the top of the first inning, the Blue Jays batted around as they scored nine runs. Riley Sides and Josh VanLaeyes both walked, Jacob Green was hit by a pitch and took first base, Trenton Wright singled, Will Ellis singled, Jace Ruder was hit by a pitch and advanced, Hayden Wiltfong walked, Dallas Gosselin got on base on an error. Sides and VanLaeyes both batted for the second time and both singled. All scored once and Sides crossed home plate twice in the inning.

The top of the second inning produced five more runs for the visitors from Norton, extending the lead to 14-0. Collyn Auker, Wright and Ellis all walked. Ruder singled and Gosselin got on base on a fielder's choice. All five tallied. Braden Smith, VanLaeyes and Green all walked later in the inning but did not score.

Norton's final three runs came in the top of the third in-

ning when Wright and Ellis both walked and Ruder got on base on an error. All three scored to make the final 17-0.

Norton had 9 hits, 11 walks and 3 strike outs. VanLaeyes was 2 for 2 with the bat while Sides, Smith, Green, Auker, Wright, Ellis, and Ruder each had 1 hit.

Winning pitcher was Jace Ruder who allowed just 1 hit, walked 2 and struck out 6 batters.

Nightcap

Norton didn't get off to quite as fast a start in the second game but still won in three innings. After not scoring in the first stanza, Norton ran in two runs in the top of the second when Ruder doubled and Cole and Ryan Lively both singled and Ruder and Cole scored.

The Blue Jays scored the rest of their runs in the top of the third when they batted around again. Green and Auker both walked, Wright doubled, Ellis, Ruder, Cole and Smith all walked. Green singled his second time up, followed by Auker and Wright also singling their second time at bat in the inning. Ruder and Cole both walked their second time at the plate and Wiltfong also walked. All scored at least once and Green, Auker, Wright and Ruder each scored twice in the inning.

Norton had 9 hits, 12 walks

and 4 strike outs. Leading hitter for Norton was Wright who was 2 for 3. Getting 1 hit each were Sides, VanLaeyes, Green, Auker, Ruder, Cole and Lively.

Winning pitcher was Ross Cole. He gave up just 1 hit, walked 2 and struck out 7 batters.

Coach's comments

"Once again, our pitching was dominant," said Norton head coach Rick Green.

"Jace became our eighth different starting pitcher in just 12 games and both he and Ross allowed only one hit.

"As a team, we batted right at .500 and had some great at-bats.

"Defensively, we didn't get tested much but we did make all the plays presented to us.

"Right now, we are sitting at 9 and 3 with eight games remaining and we are showing improvement."

Next action

Norton has played two opponents since the Norton Telegram was printed last Thursday due to the Fourth of July holiday. The Blue Jays played Thursday, July 3 at Colby No.2 and hosted Hill City at John Ryan Field on Monday, July 7.

On Thursday, July 10, Norton will host Goodland at John Ryan Field, beginning at 6 p.m.



Norton's Ryan Lively singles and drives in a run during the Blue Jay K-18 baseball team's doubleheader win over Hill City last Monday evening in Hill City.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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Legion wins doubleheader on the road

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team traveled to Cambridge on Wednesday, July 2 and returned with an impressive doubleheader victory.

The Blue Jays prevailed 8-3 in the opener and won 14-4 in the nightcap.

Opener

Norton took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning when Mickey Hahn singled, Andrew Ellis walked and Dalton Miller and Jacob Green both singled and both Hahn and Ellis scored.

It was 4-0 after two innings. Norton scored in the second when Brant Cox walked, Travis Cressler was hit by a pitch and advanced, Ellis singled and Green was hit by a pitch and advanced. Cox and Cressler both scored.

The Blue Jays tallied three more runs in the top of the third. Austin Hager was hit by a pitch and advanced, Cox singled, Hahn singled and Ellis singled and Hager, Cox and Hahn all scored.

Cambridge scored their three runs in the bottom of the third inning to make the score 7-3.

Norton added their final run in the top of the fourth when Lewis singled, Cressler was hit by a pitch and advanced, Hahn got on base on a fielder's choice and Lewis tallied.

Norton had 10 hits, 4 walks and 6 strike outs.

Leading hitters for Norton were Dalton Miller, 3 for 3; Andrew Ellis, 2 for 3 and Mickey Hahn, 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher for Norton was Clint Cole. He allowed just 4 hits, walked none and struck out 7 batters.

Nightcap

Norton also took an early 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning in the second contest. Hahn walked and Miller, Lewis and Hager all singled and Hahn and Miller both scored.

Cambridge tied the score at 2-all in the bottom of the first inning.

Five more Norton runs in the top of the second made it 7-2. Cole, Hahn and Ellis all singled, Miller doubled, Green walked, Lewis singled and Hager walked. Cole, Hahn, Ellis, Miller and Green all scored.

Cambridge scored one run in the bottom of the second and it was 7-3.

Four more Norton runs crossed home plate in the top of the third stanza to extend the visitors' lead to 11-3. Hahn singled, Ellis was hit by a pitch and advanced, Miller singled, Green walked and Hager doubled. All except Hager tallied to extend the Norton lead to 11-3.

The final run for Cambridge came in the bottom of the third inning.

Norton added two more runs in the top of the fourth inning when Hahn singled, Ellis tripled, Green got on base on an

error, Lewis singled and Hahn and Ellis both scored.

A final run by Norton in the top of the fifth inning made the score 14-4. Toby Nickell singled, Hahn singled and Nickell scored.

Norton bats were very active, producing 17 hits, a high for the season. Four Norton batters walked and eight struck out.

Leading hitter for Norton was Mickey Hahn who had 4 hits in 5 times at bat. Dalton Miller was 3 for 4, Trevor Lewis was 3 for 4; Austin Hager was 2 for 3, Andrew Ellis was 2 for 4 and Clint Cole was 2 for 4.

Winning pitcher was Jacob Green, who allowed 5 hits, walked 5 and struck out 6 batters.

"We had two impressive wins against two good pitchers from Cambridge," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis. "Clint Cole pitched strong the first game and Jacob Green settled in and pitched strong as the second game progressed.

"As a team, we hit over .400 in the first game and .500 in the second game.

"Travis to Clint to Brant on a relay throw from right field to third base produced an out at third base and was our best defensive play of the year!"

Next action

Norton will travel to Colby this Wednesday for a doubleheader, beginning at 6 p.m.

A new tradition at Fort Hays State University

Each year the First Year Experience program at Fort Hays State University welcomes first-year students and transfer students to the Tiger family. This year students will participate in a new event, the Class of 2018 Walk.

"New students will convene on Custer Lawn and walk across Jellison Bridge into the Beach/Schmidt Performing Arts Center for the Tiger Impact keynote speaker," said Brett Bruner, di-

rector of persistence and retention. "The walk is symbolic because it links the residential side to the academic side of campus. As a student, you need to be engaged on both sides to be successful."

The Class of 2018 Walk is part of Tiger Impact, a four-day orientation that includes Fort Hays traditions, social events, and academic department orientations. Students will spend the first part of orientation mov-

ing in and getting comfortable on the residential side before making the walk across Jellison Bridge to the academic part of campus at 9 a.m. on August 15.

Fort Hays State University staff and faculty will be on hand to greet and welcome students.

For more information about Tiger Impact and First Year Experience, visit www.fhsu.edu/fye.

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