

Norton blanks Cardinals

By TIM HOSTETTER Sports Writer NORTON — Plainville head football coach Larry Friend discovered Friday night how tough his 1984 team was on its opponents.

Area game of the week

After Norton ground out a 14-0 victory over the Cardinals in The Salina Journal's Area Game of the Week, Friend admitted it wasn't too pleasant being the victim of a powerful, ball-control running game.

"Now I know just how much other team's defenses were on the field against us last season," Friend said.

Behind the big and strong running of Rod Chard and Mike Malin (both graduated) last season, Plainville posted an 11-1 record. The Cards simply just ran the ball down their opponents' throats.

Norton's Blue Jays — a victim of Plainville last season — returned the favor in this year's season-opener, which was played in a heavy mist on Travis Field.

The Blue Jays never did score off a sustained drive, however. It took a 51-yard touchdown run and a 60-yard punt return by senior running back Eric Farber in the first half to secure the victory.

"The punt return was great," said Norton head coach Neil Melillo. "I felt like we could have scored more points in dry weather, and they might have too. I thought we really established the running

PLAINVILLE VS. NORTON GAME IN STATS

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

SCORING SUMMARY

21 carries. Sophomore Gerald Kennedy led Plainville ground attack with 34 yards.

Farber's 51-yard TD came with 5:31 left in the first quarter off Norton's second possession of the game and on a third and 14 situation.

Farber then used key block by Jimenez and Paul Wendel to spring free on his scoring punt return with 5:44 left in the first half.

Plainville made only two scoring threats. The first came after a Farber fumble at the Norton 36-yard line with 9:35 left in the third quarter.

A pass interference call on Norton on a third-down play aided the Cardinals to the 19, but on the next play, running back Curt Patrick fumbled the ball and Farber recorded at the 13.

Norton then used 11 plays to consume six minutes and backed Plainville to its own 27 following a J.D. Hand punt.

It appeared that Plainville had grabbed the momentum early in the fourth quarter after it forced Norton to punt from its own 3.

The Cardinals took over at the Blue Jays' 33, but Norton's defense stopped them cold and on third down, Gaschler was intercepted by Farber.

"Our defense did a super job tonight," Melillo said. "On a wet night like this, you have to count on your defense."

While Gaschler completed just one pass, Hand connected on three for 42 yards.

"I would have to agree that offensively we did to them what they did to us last season," Melillo said. "But that really wasn't our game. We like to run the option and throw more and the wet weather made that impossible."

Norton's defense was sturdy all night. Plainville managed just four first downs and 53 yards (just 18 in the second half) on the ground. Cardinals' quarterback Grady Gaschler completed just one pass for nine yards.

"Little backs like we have this year, just can't do much in the rain," Friend said, "and obviously, we couldn't throw. I thought we hung in there pretty tough on defense though."

Farber rushed for a game-high 90 yards, while John Jimenez, a 203-pound senior plowed for 85 more on

Niekro fails to get 300th victory

NEW YORK (AP) — It was Friday the 13th: lucky for Al Oliver, unlucky for Phil Niekro.

Oliver, who came into the game with just one RBI in his previous 71 at-bats, drove in three runs as the Blue Jays beat the Yankees 3-2 and thwarted Niekro in his first attempt at career victory No. 300 Friday night.

Baseball roundup

The victory expanded the Blue Jays' lead in the American League East to 2½ games over the Yankees.

"There's one thing about Friday the 13th," Oliver said. "It had to be bad luck for one of the teams. I just hoped it wasn't going to be us."

All the runs against the 46-year-old Niekro were unearned. Niekro, 15-10, who had a five-game winning streak broken, probably will get his next try at becoming the 18th 300-game winner Wednesday night in Detroit.

Niekro went all nine innings for his fifth complete game of the season.

"We're 2½ games out of the race right now," Niekro said. "That's the biggest objective. Everybody put a lot of emphasis on the 300th game, but the most important thing is we're in the biggest pennant race that's been here in a while."

"If I don't get it this year, I've got 30 or 35 starts next year, and I should get one in there," Niekro added.

The Blue Jays' victory came on the heels of a 7-5 loss in the opener of the four-game series Thursday night. The Yankees rallied for six runs in the seventh inning of that game, powered by Ron Hassey's three-run homer.

"This gets us going again," Cox said. "Believe me, these games are exciting for both ballclubs."

Right-hander Jim Clancy, making only his second start since coming off the disabled list on Sept. 2, pitched the first 4½ innings for Toronto before needing help in the fifth from left-hander Gary Lavelle,

5-7, as the Yankees cut the Toronto lead to one run. Lavelle was the loser in the Blue Jays' 7-5 loss in the opener of the four-game series Thursday night. He received help from Tom Henke, who pitched 1½ innings for his 12th save.

CARDINALS 9, CUBS 3 — At Chicago, Cesar Cedeno and Vince Coleman each drove in two runs and St. Louis stole eight bases and beat Chicago.

Bob Forsch, 7-6, won his first game since Aug. 24, scattering five singles over 6½ innings. Ricky Horton and Todd Worrell finished, allowing four hits in the final 2½ innings.

The Cardinals, the major league leaders in steals with 259, equalled their single-game season high in handing the Cubs their 20th loss in 25 games. Cubs' pitchers allowed 10 walks and two wild pitches.

The Cardinals scored three runs off Chicago starter Steve Trout, 8-5, in the first inning.

EXPOS 5-2, METS 1-7 — At Montreal, Gary Carter homered and knocked in three runs and Larry Bowa had a key double to lead New York to a 7-2 victory over Montreal and a split of their Friday night double-header.

Montreal took the opener, 5-1, as Bryn Smith, 16-5, limited the Mets to three hits over seven innings.

The split left the Mets with a half-game lead in the National League East over the St. Louis Cardinals, who defeated the Chicago Cubs, 9-3.

DODGERS 8-5, REDS 2-6 — At Cincinnati, Eric Davis singled home Eddie Milner from second base with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to give Cincinnati a 6-5 victory and a split of their double-header with Los Angeles.

Mike Marshall hit a pair of homers to help the Dodgers breeze to an 8-2 victory in the opener behind Orel Hershiser.

The split left the Dodgers 8½ games ahead of second-place Cincinnati in the National League West. The Dodgers trimmed their "magic number" for winning the division to 14.

Scoreboard

Baseball

Standings

By The Associated Press All Times CDT AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

West Division

Saturday's Games

Sunday's Games

Boxscores

Today's schedule

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

BASEBALL

TENNIS

Baseball scores

Baseball scores

Baseball scores

Baseball scores

Baseball scores

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