

Norton cross country team wins Wamego championship

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School varsity boys cross country team remained unbeaten for the 2004 season on Saturday by winning the Class 3A team championship in the Wamego Invitational Cross Country Meet on the golf course in Wamego.

The Blue Jay runners also won the championship of the Norton Invitational Meet on September 2. It was a great day for Norton Community High School sports as every boy and girl runner except one bettered their time at the Norton Invitational.

The Norton boys had a team score of 78, followed by Lebo, 82; Sabetha, 95; Wabaunsee, 109; TMP-Marian, 122; Jefferson County North, 157; McLouth, 178; Trego, 203; Northern Heights, 207; Riley County, 217; Rock Creek, 229; Bishop Seabury, 324.

Norton senior Derek Volgamore placed tenth individually with a time of 18:39.68, which easily bettered his season opening time of 19:23. Sophomore Logan Keiswetter finished in 12th position with a clocking of 19:05.97. His time in the Norton Invitational was 19:41.

Blue Jay sophomore Jared Engelbert finished in 13th place with a time of 19:08.62, beating his 20:11 in Norton by over a minute. Another Blue Jay sophomore Kent Mann placed 15th in 19:17.10 compared to his time of 20:16 in the Norton meet.

The fifth runner to score team points for Norton was junior Jeremy Harding who placed 46th with a time of 20:58.29. His time in the Norton meet was 21.46.

Junior Jon Harding finished in 62nd place with a clocking of 21:44.14, compared to a 23:04 time in Norton.

Norton's other boy runner was

freshman David Counter who finished in 84th position with a clocking of 23:48.84. He ran the three mile course in 22:18 in Norton.

Cole Ginter of TMP-Marian won the individual championship with a time of 17:11.62. His brother Tyler was second in 17:20.75.

Only three Norton girls competed at Wamego so they were not in the running for the team score. Junior Karlie Jones placed 42nd in 14:45.69, nearly two minutes better than her time of 16:26 in the Norton meet where she placed fifth.

Junior Amber Overlease led the girls race in the Norton meet but

fell and did not finish. She finished right behind Jones on Saturday with a clocking of 14:47.35.

Norton senior Crista Rhoades finished 84th on Saturday with a time of 17:04.06. This was an improvement of over three minutes on her time of 20:27 in the Norton meet.

McLouth won the girls team championship with 91 points, followed by Riley County, 99; Pomona, 111; Olpe, 123; Mission Valley, 141; Wellsville, 149; Sabetha, 152; Doniphan West, 186; Trego, 240; Bishop Seabury, 242; Rock Creek, 261; Jefferson County North, 275; Northern Heights, 278; Wabaunsee, 282.

The individual girls winner was Katie Henry, Riley County, who was timed in 12:42.21. Aubrey Fredecking, Natoma, was second in 12:55.23 and Hope Winkler, Sabetha, was third in 13:04.59.

Coach's comments

Needless to say, Coach Hager was ecstatic over his boys team's second straight championship. "It is never easy to come to this meet and look out at all the hills and feel good about it," said Coach Hager. "But, this year was something totally different. We came with one purpose and that was to place high in the team standings."

"We had some motivation that helped us prepare this week to do what was needed to open some eyes. And, I hope we did just that."

"I was so proud of this group of boys last week and this week was

no different. It was well worth the trip to see the seven of them up on that first place stand together as one team for the second time this year. Out of the top five who gave us the team score, it is just too hard to single out just one runner. They are all improving their skills and their endurance to keep up with each other. When you have four of them in the top 15 in team standings, you are bound to do well but it comes down to that fifth boy. And, Jeremy came through big and placed 46th to give us that precious title.

"This win was oh so big but I told the boys that we have met one goal and overachieved on another but today was just one step closer to where we plan to be at the end of the year. We will continue to work hard to prepare for the upcoming Trego meet.

"Our girls also did a super job and ran great. Karlie and Amber just missed medals but they are improving their skills and endurance. Crista came in at 84th but did a super job as well out of 102 runners and cut her time tremendously.

"Many thanks to the parents and friends who made the long trip to Wamego to support us. We loved seeing all of you there."

Next action

The Norton Community High School cross country team will compete on Thursday in the Trego Invitational Cross Country Meet, which begins at 5 p.m.

Norton volleyball team loses close one to Phillipsburg; beats Huskies

By DICK BOYD

Coach Jill Lively's Norton Community High School girls volleyball team lost a close match to Phillipsburg and defeated Northern Valley last Tuesday at Phillipsburg.

Phillipsburg

Norton won the first game with Phillipsburg, 25-21, then lost 25-20 and 25-23 in two exciting games.

Team statistics were: serve, 89 percent; receive, 57 percent; passing, 75 percent; hitting, 83 percent; kills, 4 percent; blocks, 16; and digs, 30.

Individual leaders were: Amber Engelbert, Klaire Mann, 100 percent; Casey Carter, Chelsea Cox, four aces each, serving; Cox, 78 percent; Rachel Lentz, 68 percent, receiving; Engelbert, 83 percent; Mann, 81 percent, passing; Carter, 73 percent; Cox, 10 assists, setting; Cox, 7 kills; Rebecca Ebert, 6 kills; Engelbert, 3 kills; Whitney Newell, Lentz, Pam Foley, 2 kills each, hitting; Ebert,

7; Lentz, 5, blocking; Lentz, 8 digs; Cox, 7; Mann, 5, defense.

"We played a great match against Phillipsburg," said Coach Lively. "We came out in the first game with five quick points due to aggressive serving and great blocking. Serving was very good throughout this match. Although we served just below our team goal, our 11 aces made up for a few misses.

"Defensively, we did a great job of covering the court. Phillipsburg did a good job of taking our setters out of our offense but other players stepped right in to keep the rally going.

"We are looking forward to playing Phillipsburg in the league meet and sub-state."

Northern Valley

The Lady Jays defeated Northern Valley 25-16 and 27-25.

Team statistics were: serving, 90 percent; receive, 57 percent; passing, 67 percent; setting, 76 percent; hitting, 86 percent; kills, 19 percent; blocks, 2; and digs, 8.

Individual leaders were: Mann, Newell, Cox, 100 percent; Engelbert, 2 aces; serving; LeClair, 100 percent, receive; LeClair, 78 percent; Lentz, 74 percent, passing; Cox, 9 assists; Carter, 7 assists; Lentz, 89 percent, setting; Cox, 9 kills; Ebert, 7; Kylee Witt, and Lentz, 2 each; Newell, 1, hitting; Cox, 2 blocks; Mann, 3; Carter and Lentz, 2 each; LeClair, 1, digs.

"Matches like this one can really tell you what you are made of and our team showed a lot of character. After coming off a tough match with Phillipsburg, we needed to stay strong physically and emotionally. Every one of our players was able to contribute on the court and that allowed some of our starters to stay fresh. We played aggressive at the net and our defensive effort was excellent. We seemed to lose our focus on serving late in the second game when we missed four in a row. That allowed the match to be closer than we wanted it but our determination and hustle pulled us through.

Lady Jay tennis team ties for fourth

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School girls tennis team tied for fourth in the Colby Varsity Invitational Tournament last Saturday in Colby.

Garden City won the championship with 32 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 24; Colby, 24; Norton, 16; Osborne, 16; Goodland, 15; Colby B, 13; and Ulysses, 0.

Norton's No. 1 singles player Jessi Duscher compiled a 2-3 record to place fifth. She lost 6-8 to Jillian Parker, Goodland; lost 3-8 to Sloane Hardman, Osborne; lost 6-8 to Rachel Funk, Colby; won 8-3 over Francesca Moroni, Colby B; and avenged her first match loss by defeating Parker 9-8 (7-2).

In No. 1 doubles, Norton's Keesha Holste and Sara Johnson won two and lost three to place fourth. They won 8-5 over Applegate and Collins, Osborne; won 8-4 over McCall and Langness, Goodland; lost 2-8 to Mannebach and Wark, Colby; lost 1-8 to McMillan and Drees, Garden City; and lost 4-8 to Dusin and Dusin, Phillipsburg.

Samantha Brasted was 1-4 for the day in No. 2 singles and placed sixth. She lost 6-8 to Nikole Schroeder, Colby; lost 2-8 to Kayla Whitley, Garden City; lost 3-8 to Jordon Noel, Osborne; won 8-2 over Jessica Lu, Goodland; and lost 3-8 to Jordon Noel.

The Lady Jays' No. 2 doubles team of Hannah Mills and Reesa Volgamore compiled a 4-1 record but placed fifth. They ended pool play in a three way tie for first place but finished third in the pool after the tiebreaker procedure was applied.

They won 8-3 over Erickson and Kropp, Colby B; won 8-6 over Stefan and Rietcheck, Goodland; lost 3-8 to Fischer and Maynard, Garden City; won 8-0 over Wacacter and Horton, Ulysses; and won 9-7 over Emerson and Oliver, Osborne.

"We had a much improved day of tennis," said Coach Johnson. "We made great strides and competed very well. In many of our

matches, we rose to the level of play and competed hard.

"I was especially proud of our effort even in losses. Several of our losses were close 6-8 or 5-8 matches. One example of this was Jessi Duscher in No. 1 singles. She lost her first three matches but two of those were very hard fought 6-8 contests that could have gone either way. And, in her final match for fifth place, she was able to avenge her first round loss to the Goodland girl.

"We tried a new combination of doubles teams. Holste and Johnson played No. 1 and had the

highest finish for Norton in fourth place with a 2-3 record. Mills and Volgamore at No. 2 doubles had the best record with four wins and one loss and were a little upset about finishing fifth with such a good record but that is just the way it goes.

"In our first tournament of the season in Trego we finished seventh out of eight schools. We were not happy at all with that finish. This tournament was much tougher and we finished in fourth place. If we can improve this much each week, we will be pretty good come regional tournament time."

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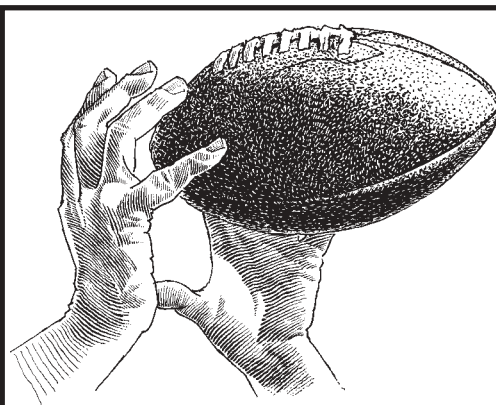


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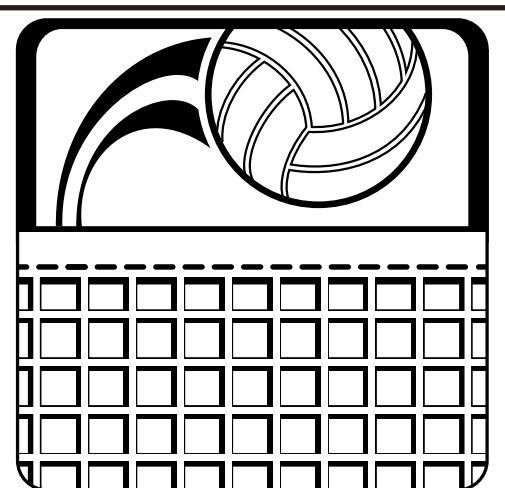
CHEER FOR THE Norton Blue Jays

vs.

Smith Center Redmen

7 P.M., Travis Field, Norton Friday, Sept. 17

Junior Varsity at Smith Center 6:00 p.m., Monday, September 20



FOLLOW THE Lady Jays Volleyball Team

Thursday, September 16 Junior Varsity-Freshmen

vs.

Colby and Hays Beginning 4:30 p.m. in Norton

Tuesday, September 21 Norton Quadrangular vs. Hoxie, Hill City, Stockton Beginning 4 p.m. in Norton

Good Luck to the NCHS Blue Jay Tennis Team

Phillipsburg Varsity Quadrangular beginning at 3 p.m. today, Tuesday, September 14 in Phillipsburg. Junior Varsity vs Phillipsburg and Plainville, beginning 3 p.m., Thursday, September 16 in Phillipsburg.

Cross Country Team

5:00 P.M., Thursday, Sept. 16 at WaKeeney

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