



Norton's Karlie Jones (above) put on a strong finish to place eighth in the girls race and fifth in the Mid-Continent League at the Phillipsburg Invitational cross country meet on Thursday. Kent Mann (below) charges up a hill to take seventh in the race and sixth in the league.

— Telegram photos by Susie Marble

Norton cross country team wins league championship

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School cross country boys team won the Mid-Continent League championship in the Phillipsburg Invitational Meet on Thursday in Phillipsburg. The Blue Jays won the title, followed by Trego, Phillipsburg and Hill City.

Norton senior Derek Volgamore finished highest for the Blue Jays in fifth place with a time of 19-minutes, 53.39-seconds but he had two teammates right behind him. Sophomore Kent Mann placed sixth in 20:00.4 and sophomore Logan Keiswetter was seventh in 20:17.88.

Norton sophomore Jared Engelbert placed 11th in 20:35.88 and Blue Jay junior Jeremy Harding came in 14th in 20:56.22 to complete team competition. Freshman David Counter finished 20th in 22:03.43.

The Norton girls did not have enough runners to compete for the team championship. Osborne was the girls champion, followed by Hill City, Trego and Stockton. Norton junior Karlie Jones placed fifth in 14:42.60. Junior Amber Overlease finished 14th in 16:10.31. Sophomore Morgan Bailey placed 18th in 16:50.33. Senior Crista Rhoades finished 20th in 17:01.15.

Norton dominated the junior varsity boys race. Junior Nathan Morse won the race in 22:26.38. Freshman Andrew Black placed third in 23:48.12 and junior Jake

Kramer finished fourth in 24:14.05.

"We did a super job of running today," said Coach Hager. "Seeing all our runners get out and run as hard as they can is a good thing. We have been battling some sickness for two to three weeks and some of our runners are getting over it.

"Kent ran a great race today as did Derek and Logan. It takes all five boys to get the team gold, however, and I am proud of all of



them.

"Karlie ran the best I have ever seen her run. She had her mind on one thing and that was an MCL medal. Morgan had a much better day than what she has had in the past. It is nice to see her coming around at the right time.

"All three junior varsity boys were looking for some hardware to take home and they all ran to do just that. A first, third and fourth finish is really good."

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Blue Jays begin district play against Thomas More Prep

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School football team will begin district play tonight against Thomas More Prep of Hays in Lewis Field Stadium in Hays.

Kickoff will be at 7:30 p.m.

Norton will take a 4-2 record into the contest against the Monarchs, who have not won this season. Past records make no difference once district play begins. A team's performance in the three district games is the only thing that determines whether a team advances to the playoffs.

Thomas More has played all Class 4A teams in their first six games.

"We've been getting beat up by 4A schools all year and we're looking forward to challenging 3A," said Thomas More Coach Gene Flax following last Friday night's 42-18 loss to Pratt. "We start a new season next week and I really believe we've got a shot at coming out of our district"

Thomas More displayed a balanced offensive attack against Pratt. They rushed for 148 yards on

29 carries for an average of five yards per carry and completed 11 of 17 passes for 169 yards and 65 percent accuracy. They gained 312 yards of offense.

The Monarch offense is led by senior quarterback Trevor Schmidt. The 6-foot, 2-inch, 161-pound signal caller split time with another player last season before taking the position for good. He threw for 451 yards in the Monarchs' predominantly running offense last year. Junior backs Rick Staples and Tait Weatherbee and sophomore back Derek Wiley all spent time in starting roles after mid-season in 2003. Wiley is the biggest back at 200 pounds. Staples rushed for 63 yards on 14 carries, Weatherbee gained 54 yards on just 6 carries and Wiley ran for 21 yards on 6 carries in the game with Pratt.

Norton needed two touchdowns in the fourth quarter to defeat Ellis 14-0 last Friday night. The Blue Jays gained 184 yards on the ground and 34 passing for 218 yards of offense. The Norton defense limited the Railroaders to just 23 yards rushing but gave up

208 yards passing.

"We didn't play well offensively at any position against Ellis," Coach Graber told the Blue Jay Booster Club on Wednesday evening. "Our defense played very well against the run but we had some breakdowns in pass coverage."

"We need to play at a much higher level than we have been the past two weeks and play hard for 48 minutes if we intend to advance to the playoffs."

Senior tailback and defensive back Aaron Overlease, who is Norton's leading rusher and averaging 65 yards per game, will not play tonight due to a leg injury sustained in the Ellis game. He will be replaced by sophomore Blake VanEaton who carried the ball six times for 38 yards in a backup role against Ellis.

"We will miss Aaron on both offense and defense and on special teams but Blake is very capable and we have confidence in him," said Coach Graber. VanEaton is one of the top tacklers on the team from his linebacker position so has seen a lot of playing time.

Lady Jays 2-1 in Smith Center quad

By DICK BOYD

Coach Joan Bolt's Norton Community High School freshmen girls volleyball team defeated Hill City and Smith Center and lost to Beloit in the Freshmen Quadrangular on Oct. 4 in Smith Center.

Hill City

Norton defeated Hill City 25-19, 25-22.

"Our girls played with a lot of confidence against Hill City," said Coach Bolt. "We had many blocks and stuffs in this match and that aggressiveness at the net really gave us an advantage."

Thea Wiseman was leading scorer with 11 points, 4 aces, followed by Alyssa Farber, 6 points, 4 aces; Megan Kats, 5 points, 2 aces; Haley Jones, 5 points; Karlynn Kent, 3 points and Chantille Campbell, 2 points. Chelsea Dodson, Campbell and Kylie Morel led passing. Kats led setting with 26-28 and 4 assists, followed by Wiseman, 23-27, 2 assists and Lacy Ellis, 2 assists.

Farber led attacks with 4 kills, followed by Sara Lentz, 3 kills; Campbell and Jones, 2 kills each.

Campbell and Lentz led blocking with 2 stuffs each. Sydney Clift had 1 stuff, Farber had 1 block and Morel had 1 save.

Smith Center

Norton defeated Smith Center 25-16, 19-25, 15-12.

"This proved to be a little tougher match for us," said Coach Bolt. "Our communication failed on some crucial plays and we ended up going three games with the Lady Redmen. Fortunately, we came back together in the third game to take the victory."

Jones led serving with 9 points, 2 aces, followed by Ashley Martinez, 8 points, 2 aces; Morel, 5 points; Kats, 4 points; Wiseman, 3 points; Kent and Lentz, 2 points each and Dodson and Farber, 1 point each. Jones, Farber and Lentz led passing. Kats led setting with 45-48, 5 assists, followed by Wiseman, 18-20, 4 assists; Ellis, 1 assist.

Jones led attacks with 15-16, 5 kills, followed by Farber, 3 kills; Campbell, 2 kills; Ellis and Lentz, 1 kill each. Rachael Hickman and Campbell had 1 touch block each. Campbell had 2 saves and Jones

and Kent had 1 each.

Beloit

Norton lost to Beloit 15-25, 25-27.

"We were not ourselves in this match," said Coach Bolt. "Playing three straight matches really took a toll on our players. Our girls were not moving well and Campbell left the match with leg cramps. Even with all that, I felt we could have won if we had communicated better."

Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was Jones with 7 points, 2 aces, followed by Lentz and Kats, 3 points each; Wiseman and Farber, 2 points each; Kylie Morel, 1 point.

Jones and Ellis were passing leaders. Kats led sets with 3 assists and Ellis had 2 assists. Jones led attacks with 9-10, 3 kills, followed by Ellis and Lentz, 2 kills each; Farber, Campbell and Hickman, 1 kill each. Campbell had 1 stuffed block and Lentz had 1 block. Kats and Ellis had 1 save each.

"Overall, our girls had a good night," said Coach Bolt. "I am proud of their efforts."

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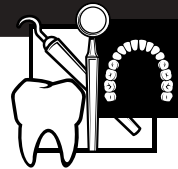
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