

Norton boys take third in league track meet

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys track and field team placed third in the annual Mid-Continent League Track Meet held Friday on the Jep Byrum Track at Ward Field in Norton.

"We didn't have a great day but nobody was dogging it," said Norton head track and field coach Bruce Graber. "We competed well."

"All of our relays ran really well. All had a season's best time or tied for a season's best."

"We had some disappointments but you always do."

"Our boys finishing in third wasn't too bad in this league."

"The decent weather helped and allowed us to set some more personal records."

Phillipsburg won the championship of the boys division with 143 points, followed by Smith Center, 97; Norton, 68; Hill City, 52; Victoria, 49; Osborne, 46; Ellis, 34; Stockton, 33; Trego, 30; Plainville, 4.

Norton senior Derek Volgamore was the Blue Jays' only gold medal winner. He led from start to finish in winning the 1,600-meter run in a season's best time of 4:53.48.

"Derek winning the 1,600-meter run was a highlight," said Coach Graber.

"He has been inconsistent and struggling but he ran a really good race. He was at least 15 seconds below his season's best. It was a good effort on his part."

"We pulled him out of the 4x800-meter relay so he'd be fresher in the 1,600 and it turned out okay since we placed second in the relay."

The Blue Jay 4x800-meter relay team was timed in a season's best, 8 minutes, 58.3 seconds. Team members and time splits were: Nathan Morse, 2:16; Jared Engelbert, 2:12; Logan Kats, 2:17; Blake VanEaton, 2:13.

VanEaton placed second in the 800-meter run in a season's best 2:05.81 and also anchored Norton's 4x100-meter relay team which placed fourth in a season's best 3:40.9.

Members of Norton's 4x100-meter relay team and time splits were: Seth Mills, 11.9; Nathan Broeckelman, 11; Andrew Ables, 11.22; VanEaton, 10.9.

"That's as good as we've handled the stick this season on the 4x100-meter relay," said Coach Graber.

Running on the Blue Jays' 4 x 400-meter relay team and time splits were: Mills, 54.5; Jared Cox, 55.6; Morse, 57.9; VanEaton, 54.5.

Blue Jay senior hurdler Justin Shirk won the silver medal in the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.96. Shirk also placed sixth in the javelin with a personal record throw of 140 feet, 4 inches.

Freshman Jared Cox scored points for Norton in both hurdles races. He was second in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 41.87 and fourth in the 110-meter hurdles in 16.15.

Junior Lance Roe placed second in the pole vault at 12-6 and sophomore Nathan Broeckelman was fifth at 10-6.

Junior Heath Vincent finished

fifth in the shot put with a personal record heave of 45-5.

"Heath threw a foot farther than he ever has in the shot put," said Coach Graber.

Sophomore Jared Engelbert was fifth in the 800-meter run in 2:09.75 and freshman Logan Kats placed sixth in the 3,200-meter run in 11:41.03.

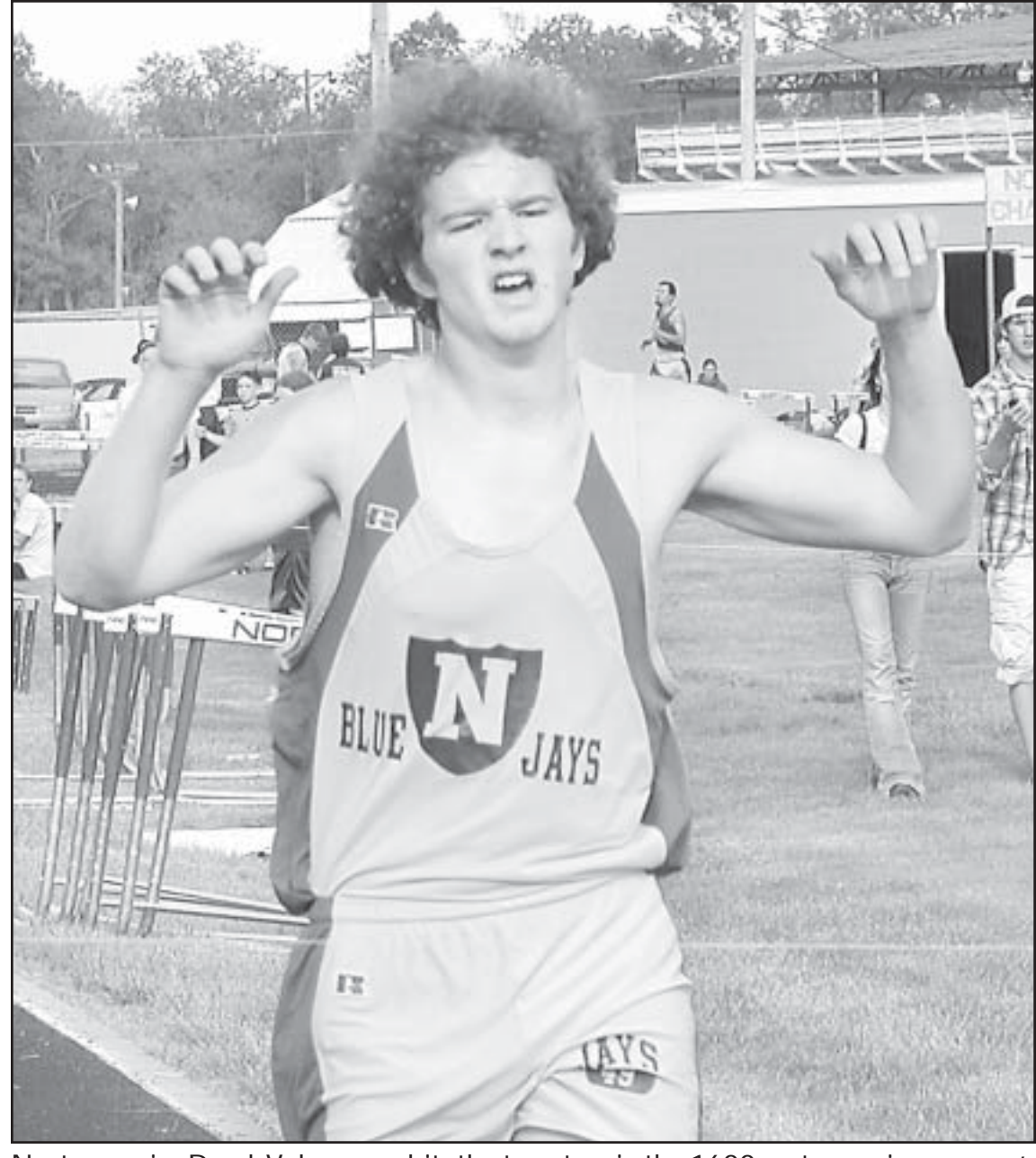
"It was Jared's first time under 2:12," said Coach Graber. "Seeing that big smile on his face put a smile on mine. It was a huge confidence builder for him."

"Logan had not run the 3,200-meters all season but he jumped in and ran a good time. Until we lost Logan Keiswetter and Kent Mann, we had hoped to do some damage in the 3,200-meter and 1,600-meter runs and make a run at second place as a team."

"Our throwers are getting better. We had six personal records in three events. Josh VanSike and Andrew Ables set personal records in two events. Ables added eight feet to his previous best javelin throw."

"Lucas Wiseman had a season's best triple jump and just missed scoring."

Norton boys performances that did not place were: VanSike, 32-0; Ables, 43-9, personal record, shot put; Vincent, 124-1.5; VanSike, 94-11, personal record, discus; Ables, 139-4, seventh, personal record; VanSike, 91-8, personal record, javelin; Broeckelman, 5-6, ninth; Bryce Engelbert, failed opening height, high jump; Wiseman, 17-5; Todd Bolt, 17-11; Morse, 15-5, long jump; Wiseman, 38-6, eighth, season's best; Bolt, 37-8; Wes



Norton senior Derek Volgamore hits the tape to win the 1600 meter run in a season's best 4:53.4 in the Mid-Continent League Track Meet on Friday in Norton.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Georgeson, 36-9, triple jump; Bolt, 13.1; Bryce Engelbert, 13.1, 100-meter dash; Morse, 57.6; Philip VanDerWeele, 70.1, 400-meter dash; Broeckelman, 44.9, season's best; Georgeson, 47.8, personal record, 300-meter hurdles; Volgamore, 2:19, 800-meter run; Mills, 24.2; Bryce Engelbert, 26.8, 200-meter dash.

Next action

Norton will compete Friday in the Class 3A Regional Track and Field Meet at Minneapolis High School.

Teams competing, in addition to Norton and Minneapolis, will be: Belleville, Beloit, Ellinwood, Ellsworth, Southeast of Saline, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Lyons, Phillipsburg, Riley County, Sabetha, Saint George-Rock Creek, Seneca-Nemaha Valley.

The meet will begin at 3 p.m. with the field events. Preliminary running events will begin at 4 p.m. Finals will begin 30 minutes after the completion of the preliminaries.

The top four place winners in each event will advance to the State Track and Field Meet on May 28-29 at Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University.

Medals will be awarded to the top four places in each event as well as to the top two teams.

"It will take a great effort by our athletes in the regional meet to qualify for the state meet," said Coach Graber.

"There will be no free passes."

Norton girls finish eighth in Mid-Continent meet

By DICK BOYD

The Lady Blue Jay track and field team finished in eighth place in the annual Mid-Continent League Track Meet held Friday on

placed first in the pole vault with a height of 9 feet.

Junior Amanda Antrim tied for third with 7-6.

Freshman Chelsea Dodson

state meet."

Sophomore Lacey Roe won the bronze medal in the javelin with a throw of 108-5.

Freshman Courtney LeClair scored points in both hurdles races and the triple jump. She placed fifth in the 100-meter hurdles in 17.1 and sixth in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in 51.90. Courtney also placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 31-0.

Freshman Chelsea Dodson ran the 400-meter dash in a personal record 64.1 seconds to win the bronze.

"Chelsea ran extremely well," said Coach Graber.

"She has come a long way. She has just hung in there and gotten

better.

Junior Naomi Streck just missed placing in the 400-meter dash. She was timed in 66.7, the seventh fastest time.

"Naomi ran well, too," said Coach Graber. "She is learning how to finish."

Junior Karlie Jones placed sixth in the 800-meter run in a season's best 2:36.84.

"Karlie is nursing a foot injury but ran well," said Coach Graber.

The Lady Jays' 4x100-meter relay team finished in fifth place with a season's best 53.43 clocking. Team members and time splits were: Antrim, 14.14; Streck, 13.1; Danielle LeClair, 13.1; Jones, 13.1.

The Lady Jays 4x400-meter relay team was timed in 4:29, which was the seventh best time and tied their season's best. Team members and time splits were: Dodson, 66.4; Streck, 67.0; Courtney LeClair, 69.0; Jones, 67.

Junior Jaclyn Krueger long jumped 14-2.5 for a personal record and just missed scoring.

"It is the first time in several years that one of our girl athletes has jumped over 14 feet," said Coach Graber.

The only league record broken in either the boys or girls divisions was in the girls 4x100-meter relay where Plainville was clocked in 51.23. The previous record of 51.52 was set in 1988 and also held by the Plainville girls.

Norton girls performances which did not place were: Klaire Mann, 28-11; Laura Delimont, 29-4.5, personal record; Tabitha Vincent, 22-6, shot put; Mann, 93-4; Delimont, 82-11, discus; Delimont, 62-10, javelin; Krueger, 14-2.5, personal record; Brianne Nelson, 11-1, long jump; Amber Engelbert, 18.0, 100-meter hurdles; Antrim, 14.1; Nelson, 14.28; Krueger, 14.0, 100-meter dash; Engelbert, 53.8, 300-meter hurdles; Courtney Cox, 2:59, 800-meter run; Streck, 29.5; Nelson, 31.2; Danielle LeClair, 29.7, 200-meter dash.

Norton will compete Friday in the Class 3A Regional Track and Field Meet starting at 3 p.m. at Minneapolis.



Lady Blue Jay freshman Chelsea Dodson makes the turn into the home stretch during her third place finish in the 400 meter dash in a personal record time of 64.1 in the Mid-Continent League Track Meet on Friday in Norton. She was also a member of Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team and pole vaulted.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the Jep Byrum Track at Ward Field in Norton.

Osborne won the girls championship with 83.5 points, followed by Plainville, 81; Victoria, 75; Smith Center, 74; Hill City, 58; Phillipsburg, 55; Trego, 52; Norton, 35; Ellis, 24.5; Stockton, 20.

Chelle Donovan was the Lady Jays' only gold medal winner. She

vaulted 7 and just missed placing.

"Our vaulters had another good day," said Coach Bruce Graber. "We tend to take them for granted because we expect them to do well. Three years ago a vault of eight feet would go to the state meet but now it takes a lot higher vault. As good as our vaulters are, they will have to vault very well in Friday's regional to qualify for the

Blue Jay golfers qualify for state

By DICK BOYD

Coach David Stover's Norton Community High School golf team placed third in the Class 3A Regional Tournament held on Monday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association Golf Course south of Norton.

Phillipsburg won the championship with a 342 score. Thomas More Prep of Hays was second with a 346 and Norton was just eight strokes back with a 354. Other team scores were Ellsworth, 375; Belleville, 410; Minneapolis, 439; Beloit, 452.

The top two teams and top five individuals not from Phillipsburg or Thomas More Prep qualified for the State Tournament on Monday in Hays.

Norton senior Corey Look and Blue Jay junior Dane Krizek qualified for the state tournament as individuals.

Krizek shot a 41/40-81 and was No. 3. Look carded a 40/45-85 and was No. 6.

The other medalists were: Grant Babcock, Phillipsburg, 79, No. 1; Brendon Gross, Thomas More Prep, 80, No. 2; Mark Kennedy, Ellsworth, 84, No. 4; Travis Yoxall, Phillipsburg, 84, No. 5; Brandon Karlin, Phillipsburg, 86,

No. 7; Tyler Halligan, Thomas More Prep, 87, No. 8; Kyle Durlinger, Belleville, 88, No. 9; Mark Brungardt, Thomas More Prep, 89, No. 10.

Additional state tourney qualifiers and their scores were: Justin Williams, St. John's Military, 93 and Jake Olson, Ellsworth, 93.

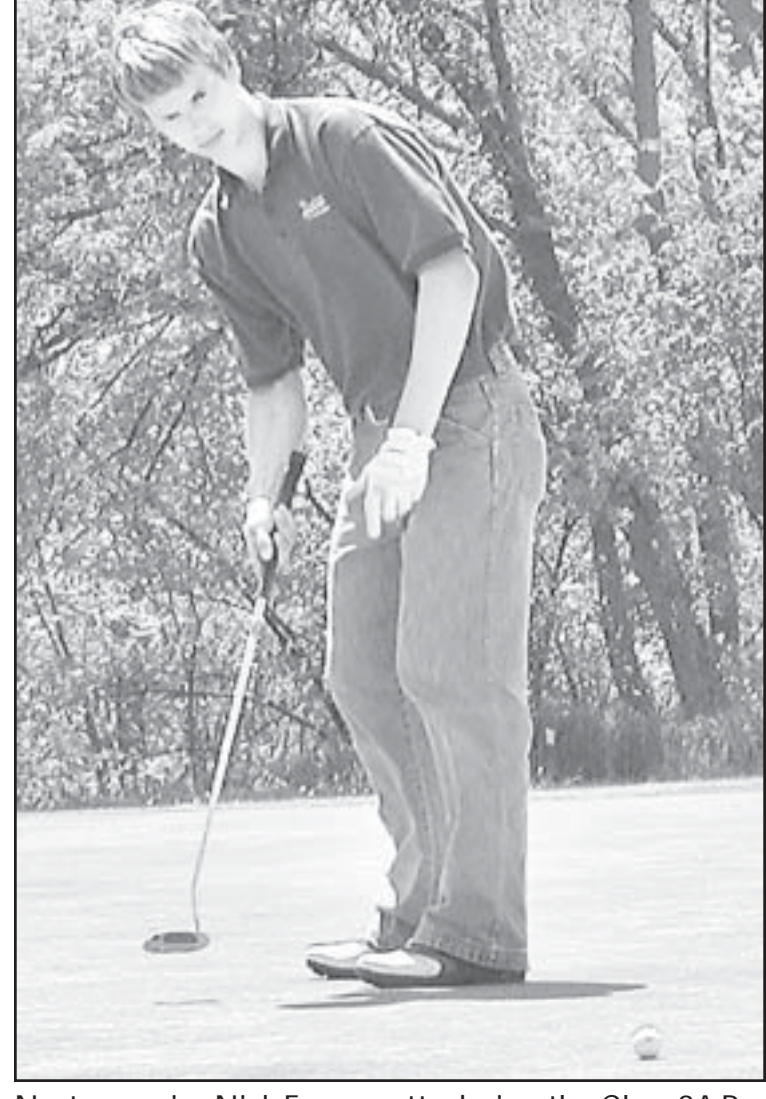
Two Norton golfers, seniors Jared Mindrup and Nick Evans, missed qualifying by one stroke. They shot identical scores of 45/49-94.

Other Norton golfers and their scores were seniors Kyle Kats, 49/50-99 and Ryan Maddy, 51/48-99.

"We knew coming into the tournament that we were going to have to play well to get past two quality teams in Thomas More Prep and Phillipsburg and today just wasn't our day," said Coach Stover.

"In extremely difficult playing conditions created by high winds, our players competed well on every shot the entire day. Unfortunately, we came up just short in team competition."

"The highlight was the performance of Dane Krizek and Corey Look who earned a trip to the state golf tournament with their medalist performances."



Norton senior Nick Evans putts during the Class 3A Regional Golf Tournament played yesterday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association Golf Course south of Norton. Evans was just one stroke short of qualifying as an individual for the state tournament in Hays on Monday. Senior teammates Dane Krizek and Corey Look qualified as individuals. The top two teams also qualified but Norton's team placed third. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd