

# Blue Jay athletes do well in regional track meet

By DICK BOYD

Despite a low team score, the Norton Community High School boys and girls track and field teams performed well in the Class 3A Regional Track and Field Meet on Friday in Minneapolis.

Thirteen personal records were set by Norton athletes and four qualified for the State Track and Field Meet this Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University in Wichita.

Qualifying for state were juniors Lance Roe and Chelle Donovan, pole vault, junior Karlie Jones, 800-meter run and freshman Jared Cox, 300-meter intermediate hurdles.

The top four placers in each event qualified for the state meet.

Roe won the pole vault with a personal best of 13-feet, 6-inches.

Donovan placed second in the pole vault with 9. Cox was third in the 300-meter hurdles with a personal record of 41.4 seconds. Jones also set a personal record of 2:30.9 in placing fourth in the 800-meter run.

Norton athletes just missed qualifying for the state meet with fifth place finishes in five events and sixth place twice.

Donovan has qualified for the state meet both her freshman and sophomore season. She placed sixth last year with a vault of 9 and vaulted 8-6 as a freshman but did not place.

Minneapolis won the boys regional championship with 100 points, followed by Beloit, 79; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 73; Phillipsburg, 61; Riley County, 48.5; Southeast of Saline, 43; Ellsworth, 33.5; Belleville, 27; Norton, 22; Seneca-Nemaha Valley, 20; Sabetha, 13.5; Hoisington, 13; Ellinwood, 12.5; and Saint George - Rock Creek, 8.

Riley County was girls champion with 91.5, followed by Southeast of Saline, 58; Sabetha, 50.5; Ellsworth, 47; Seneca-Nemaha Valley, 43; Phillipsburg, 34.5; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 33.5; Beloit, 33; Belleville 31; Lyons, 30; Saint George-Rock Creek, 24; Minneapolis, 22; Ellinwood, 22; Hoisington, 20; and Norton, 18.

"Our entire track team was just outstanding in Friday's regional track meet," said Norton head track and field coach Bruce Graber.

"As I told our athletes when we got back to town, we didn't just break personal records, we crushed them.

"Our youngsters responded to



Norton junior Lance Roe set a new personal record in winning the gold medal in the pole vault event at the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Minneapolis with a vault of 13 feet, 6 inches.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the pressure of the meet, the pressure of great competition and the heat and did themselves proud.

"We didn't come home with any team trophy but I could not have

come home feeling any better about our youngsters than I did Friday night.

"We were not telling lies when we said it was going to be very

tough for many of our youngsters to get to the big show. Four of them are going and we were one place away in five events and two places away in two more events. As a

coach, you understand you can't expect more than your athletes just giving the very best effort they can. I know our youngsters gave us all that and more.

"Looking at the results from the other regionals, I honestly believe each of our four state qualifiers have the opportunity to bring home some jewelry this weekend. I am excited for them and know they will give another great effort."

## BOYS

Norton senior Justin Shirk placed fifth in the 110-meter high hurdles in 15.90, just one-tenth second behind fourth place.

Sophomore Blake VanEaton finished fifth in the 800-meter run with a personal best time of 2:02.8. He was just eight tenths of a second out of fourth.

"I am extremely excited and happy for our state qualifiers but I am also bitterly disappointed for those youngsters who fell just outside the fourth spot and don't get that reward for their efforts," said Coach Graber.

"Justin Shirk and Blake VanEaton finished fifth in the regional for the second straight year. That's tough to deal with as hard as those youngsters work."

The Blue Jays' 4x100-meter relay team placed fifth with a personal record time of 45.3. They were just four tenths of a second out of fourth place.

Team members and time splits were senior Seth Mills, 11.8; junior Andrew Ables, 11.46; sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, 10.55; VanEaton, 11.47.

"Our 4x100-meter relay team just missed qualifying from the slow heat," said Coach Graber. "That was a monster effort by those guys."

Junior Heath Vincent set a personal record in the shot put with a heave of 47-4 but did not score. He added two feet to his previous best but fell short of sixth place by one foot.

"I think our athletes understand that I am just as proud of Heath Vincent's two feet improvement in the shot as I am of those fortunate enough to make it to the big show," said Coach Graber.

Other Norton boys performances that did not place were: Vincent, 118-9, discus; Ables, 133-11, javelin; senior Lucas Wiseman, 37-1, triple jump; Broeckelman, 10-6, pole vault; 4x800-meter relay team, sophomore Jared Engelbert, 2:10.5; junior Nathan Morse, 2:19; freshman Logan Kats, 2:17; senior Derek

Volgamore, 2:16, total time 9:02; 4x400-meter relay team, Mills, 54.6; Volgamore, 55.3; Morse, 57.7; VanEaton, 52.9, total time 3:40.7.

## GIRLS

Lady Jay freshman Chelsea Dodson set a personal record of 63.9 in the 400-meter dash, which was just seven tenths of a second out of fourth.

Freshman Courtney LeClair finished sixth in the 100-meter high hurdles in 17, just eight tenths of a second from fourth.

Norton's 4x400-meter relay team set a personal record of 4:23.8 in placing fifth. Team members and time splits were: Dodson, 64.8; junior Naomi Streck, 64.8, personal record; Courtney LeClair, 67.2; junior Danielle LeClair, 66.9, personal record.

"Maybe the most emotional I got all day was with the women's 4 x 400-meter relay team," said Coach Graber. "We had a best of 4:29 going in and they ran a 4:23 without Karlie on it. Naomi Streck dropped two seconds off her personal best split and Danielle LeClair, who just found out she was running 15 minutes before the race, ran two full seconds faster than she had been timed through 400-meters.

"It was a great thing to watch the race and then see the girls' reaction when they were told what they had done."

Norton's 4x100-meter relay team also set a personal record in placing sixth with a time of 53. Team members and time splits were: junior Amanda Antrim, 14.18; Streck, 12.7; Danielle LeClair, 13.67; Donovan, 12.58. They were just one and one tenth second out of fourth place.

Junior Klaire Mann threw the javelin 104-.25 to break her personal record by six feet although she did not place.

"Klaire Mann's six-foot improvement in the discus is just as important to me as the performances of those who were fortunate enough to qualify for the state meet," said Coach Graber.

Norton girls' performances that did not place were: Mann, 29-8, shot put; sophomore Lacey Roe, 98, javelin; junior Jaclyn Krueger, 13-7.5, long jump; Courtney LeClair, 31, triple jump; Antrim, 7-6; Dodson, 7, pole vault; Courtney LeClair, 51.25, personal record; senior Amber Engelbert, 54.8, 300-meter hurdles.

Antrim competed in the state meet last year and had the 11th best height in the pole vault.

## Norton golfers played Monday in state tournament in Hays

By DICK BOYD

Norton Community High School senior Korey Look and junior Dane Krizek competed in the Class 3A State Golf Tournament on Monday at the Smoky Hill Country Club in Hays.

Although neither golfer medaled, Coach David Stover said he was very proud of the way they competed. "Both Korey and Dane had problems in their short game play," said Coach Stover.

"Smoky Hill is a course where a quality short game is essential to shooting good scores."

Look shot a 44/43-87 and Krizek carded a 43/50-93. An 84 would have been necessary to medal.

Hesston won the team championship with a 326. Nemaha Valley was second with a 331 and Thomas More Prep of Hays placed third with a 340. Phillipsburg was seventh in the team race with a 355.

Phillipsburg was champion of Norton's regional tournament, which was held on the Norton course. Thomas More Prep was second in Norton's regional.

Top three medalists were Ross Guebelle, Lakin, 71; Zach Potter, Cheney, 73 and Dodge Kemmer, Wichita Independent, 76.

"Today, brings to a close an extremely successful Norton Community High School golf season," said Coach Stover.

"I am very proud of all of our golfers. From top to bottom, we saw improvement all season long. This was truly a quality group of individuals who represented Norton Community High School extremely well."

## Kansas State softball team second with help of Norton graduate

A Norton Community High School graduate helped the Kansas State softball team place second in the National Championship Tournament at the end of April.

Allie Foley, class of 2003, just completed her second season on the K-State softball team. She was starting second baseman for most of the season.

Her sister, Maggie Foley, class of 2001, played on last year's third place national team but took a medical red shirt this year. She plans to play again next year.

The Wildcats went into the tournament in Annapolis, Md., as the 16th seed and fought their way

through the loser's bracket to finish second, said Head Coach Richard Baker.

"The only losses dealt Kansas State came from the Hokies of Virginia Tech and from the eventual winners of the tournament, West Virginia University," he said.

"The Wildcats played tremendous ball. Coming through the losers' bracket to play for the championship, we played more games than anyone in the tournament, playing 12 games in four days.

"The final day we had already played three games back-to-back going into the champion-

ship, while West Virginia had just one.

"I'm very proud of them."

Team members this year included Foley, Alana Reihis, Katie Thompson, Kelly Shockey, Savannah Heard, Jessica Elliott, Ally Fink, Lacie Spain, Kayla Linnebur, Leah Tanking, Trini Najera, Kacie Kennedy, Jessica Rakestraw, Shannon Stadler, Lindsay Weber, Heather Martin and Kelly Hammond.

Joe Reyes coaches the team with Baker.

Allie and Maggie are daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Foley.



Lady Blue Jay junior Karlie Jones (left) hits the finish line to place fourth in the 800 meter run with a personal best time of 2:30.9 in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Minneapolis and qualify for the state meet in Wichita this weekend. Tahnee Matuszewicz, Ellsworth (right), edged Jones for third place by one tenth of a second.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd