

Norton boys first at invitational

By DICK BOYD

For the second straight year, the Blue Jays boys won the championship of the Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of town.

The Norton Community High girls team took second in the season opener on Thursday.

Varsity boys

Norton scored 36; followed by Phillipsburg, 74; and Ness City, 87.

Fifty-four varsity boys competed in the race, which is about 3.4 miles, a little longer than the average.

Norton freshman Zach Bainter ran away from the field to win the individual championship in 18 minutes, 45 seconds.

Buddy Metz, Phillipsburg, was second in 18:51, followed by Tanner McNinch, Ness City, 19:03.

Norton junior Kent Mann put on

a great finishing kick to edge Kyle Merklein, Phillipsburg, for fourth. Mann was clocked in 19:12 and Merklein in 19:13.

They were followed by Clint Bain, Ness City, 19:16; Norton junior Jared Engelbert, 19:20; Justin Joslyn, Hoxie, 19:22; Bryce Marble, Northern Valley, 19:23 and Norton junior Logan Keiswetter, 19:24.

Junior Jared Bebb placed 18th for Norton in 20:11, which would have been 10th in last year's meet.

Norton sophomore Tanner Griffith was 27th in 20:51 and sophomore David Counter was 34th place in 21:29.

Varsity girls

Wheatland won the varsity girls championship with 46 points. Norton was second with 61 and Phillipsburg scored 72 for third.

Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird got her high school cross

country career off to a good start by leading the entire 2.2 mile race and finishing in 13:58.

Phillipsburg's Sydnee Cole, last year's winner in 15:30, ran faster than last year and was second in 14:24 this year.

Third place went to Haley Wolf, Ellis, 14:43 and fourth to Lara Hartmann, Ness City, 14:52.

They were followed by freshman Kara Jo Jones, Norton, 15:12; Alea Gillespie, Wheatland, 15:15; Becky Helm, Oberlin, 15:20; Emily Coca, Phillipsburg, 15:23; Kimber Weiser, Wheatland, 15:27; and Marie Demmin, Hill City, 15:33.

Norton senior Karlie Jones placed 17th in 16:19, seven seconds faster than she ran last year when she placed fifth.

Sophomore Karlynn Kent was 21st in 16:56 and junior Morgan Bailey, 28th in 18:27.

Junior varsity boys

Norton dominated the junior varsity race but team scores were not kept.

The Blue Jays took the first, second, third 12th, 14th and 16th.

Junior Camilo Briceno won the race in 20:34 and freshman Cody Nickell was second in 21:19.

Sophomore Luke VanSike took third in 21:48.

Sophomore Andrew Black was 12th in 24:25; sophomore Bryce Engelbert, 14th, 25:30; and senior Philip Van Der Weele, 16th, 26:17.

Placing for Northern Valley were Casey Dole, fourth, 22:17, and Stanton Nelson, 10th, 23:18.

Junior varsity girls

Norton did not have any junior varsity girls runners.

Northern Valley's Amanda Hopkins won the race in 17:49 and Husky Jena Jessup was fifth in 19:40.

"Our runners did a great job from junior varsity to varsity," said Norton Coach Deyton Hager.

"I thought going in that we could have a good day if we just got out

and ran and didn't think about the aches and pains that have seemed to bother us in practice.

"I was hoping that our boys varsity times that I have been seeing in practice would be here today and they were better.

"I don't think I have ever been as proud of the way my boys ran as I am today. They did a super job.

"We knew Zach would be our front runner but just didn't know if he would be the runner who would be in front at the end of the race!

"Although Zach is a freshman, he showed a lot of poise and control.

"Kent Mann had one of the best finishes that I have ever seen on this tough course.

"But, the team title was not won by just these two boys; the whole team made the victory possible.

"In the girls competition, it was no surprise to me that Laura Lee ran so well and away from the pack the way she did.

"She is one of the best I have seen coming in as a freshman. She will improve as the year goes by.

"KarJo also did an outstanding job as a freshman!

"If we become healthy and get Amber Overlease back in the lineup, we will sneak up on some good teams down the road. But, keep in mind, it is a long road.

"I really didn't think that Camilo would come out and run as hard as he did. His time was so good that he will be on the varsity team for our next race.

"Cody Nickell is another junior varsity boy who we are going to slip in that varsity lineup, due to a great time in this race."

Saturday Norton will be at the Wamego Cross Country Meet. Competition will begin at 10 a.m.

"This is a very hard course," said Coach Hager. "But, I like going back to back on two very hard courses. It will show us just how good we are."



Norton freshman Zach Bainter ran away from the rest of the field to win the boys championship in the Norton Cross Country Invitational Meet on the Norton Golf Course on Thursday. It was a good start for Bainter's high school cross country career and helped the Blue Jays win the boys' team championship. - Telegram photo by Susie Marble



Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird sprints toward the finish line far ahead of the rest of the field to win the girls championship in the Norton Cross Country Invitational Meet on the Norton Golf Course on Thursday. It was Baird's first ever cross country race and her victory helped the Norton girls to a second place team finish. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton tennis team takes fifth in tourney

By DICK BOYD

Norton Community High School varsity girls tennis team placed fifth in the tough ten-team Colby Varsity Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

Colby won the championship with 37 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 30; Liberal, 23; Osborne, 22; Norton, 21; Goodland, 19; Scott City, 18; Garden City, 14; Ulysses, 11; Plainville, 4.

"Overall, I was pleased with our performance," said Norton Coach Jim Green.

No.1 doubles

Norton's No.1 doubles team of

senior Chelle Donovan and junior Hannah Mills placed second.

In their first match, they defeated Liberal's Maddie Plunk and Jessica Lash 7-1. Next, they shut out Garden City's Amber Prince and Jara Strickland 7-0. They outpointed Scott City's Kelsey Tankersley and Amanda Murphy 7-1 in their third match. In their final pool match, they shutout Beth Kreie and Mindy Rouski of Ulysses 7-0.

As the winner of their pool, they played Phillipsburg's Allison Dusin and Kayla Jarvis, the winner of the other pool, for the championship. The Lady Panthers pre-

vailed 7-0 and Norton finished second.

"Our best entry so far in this young season continues to be the No.1 doubles team of Chelle Donovan and Hannah Mills," said Coach Green.

No.1 singles

Senior Jessica Cook played No.1 singles for the Lady Jays and placed seventh.

She lost 1-7 to Rachel Fink, Colby; drew a bye; lost 1-7 to Ashlee Cupell, Liberal; and lost 0-7 to Melinda Schremmer, Phillipsburg.

In the finals, she played Resa Dowell of Ulysses and defeated her 7-5 to place seventh.

"Jessica Cook continues to improve at No.1 singles," said Coach Green.

No.2 singles

Junior Lisa Jones played No.2 singles for Norton and placed seventh.

She lost 0-7 to Logan Wark, Colby; lost 1-7 to Vanessa Owings, Plainville; lost 3-7 to Trista Henderson, Scott City and defeated Niki Eveleigh, Ulysses, 7-5.

In the finals, she defeated Norton sophomore Ashley Maybon, who was playing for Goodland, 7-3, to place seventh.

"Lisa Jones made some major improvements on Saturday," said Coach Green. "Her rallies lasted longer and she moved her opponents around the court."

In pool play Maybon lost 4-7 to Brittany Newacheck, Liberal; lost 4-7 to Sarah Gregory, Osborne; lost 1-7 to Sara Fawver, Phillipsburg; and defeated Ellen Huschka, Garden City, 7-5.

No.2 doubles

Juniors Reesa Volgamore and Kayleigh Brooks played No.2 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed seventh.

They lost 1-7 to Jena McCall and Sandy Johnson, Goodland; lost 5-7 to Amanda Cupell and Stephanie Piper, Liberal; defeated Heidi Smith and Heather Waechter, Ulysses, 7-3 and defeated Kali Asher and Whitney Cole, Phillipsburg, 7-5.

In the finals, Volgamore and Brooks played Jeni Wolters and Andrea Koops, Osborne, and defeated them 7-2 to place seventh.

"Reesa Volgamore and Kayleigh Brooks struggled a little bit on Saturday but still have positive attitudes and work very hard," said Coach Green.

Norton is playing today in the Phillipsburg Quadrangular, which was to be began at 1 p.m.

Norton team unable to cash in on Oakley miscues Friday night

By DICK BOYD

The Oakley Plainsmen downed the Norton Blue Jays, 24-3, at Travis Field on Friday in the first high school football game of the season for both teams.

First quarter

Oakley kicked off and Blake VanEaton returned the ball for Norton to the 26-yard-line. Quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel got a good start with two keepers for seven yards but a procedure penalty cost the Blue Jays five yards. Pfannenstiel was sacked on third down and Chris Davis punted.

The ball rolled dead on the Oakley 46 and the Norton defense limited the Plainsmen to three downs and out. Running back Calder Keller gained nothing as Davis tackled him. Quarterback Chase Sperber gained just two before Andrew Ables brought him down. Oakley tried to pass but it was incomplete and the Plainsmen punted.

Norton fumbled the punt reception and Oakley pounced on the ball on the Norton 22. After a pass fell incomplete, Keller got loose around the left end to score. Sperber passed to end Paul Kuhlman in the end zone on a fake kick to make the score 8-0 for Oakley with 8:04 left in the first

quarter. VanEaton had a good kickoff return. He broke several tackles as he ran to the Norton 37. Fullback Chris Davis plowed up the middle to the 45. Pfannenstiel lost three on a keeper but VanEaton reversed field and got loose on third down and was finally run out of bounds on the Oakley five.

It looked as if the Blue Jays were about to tie the score. Davis gained nothing, then VanEaton bulled to the two. A third-down pass was incomplete and VanEaton lost one on fourth down, turning the ball over to Oakley.

Norton's defense was equally tough on Oakley's first two downs. Robert Cooksey was stopped for no gain and Kelly Younkin gained just three. An illegal procedure penalty against Oakley brought the ball back to the three. Sperber got loose for a first down on the 15 and a face mask penalty against Norton moved the ball to the 22.

Two plays later and Sperber had carried the ball to the Oakley 47. After Younkin made nothing, a bad pitch by Sperber ended up on the ground and Pfannenstiel covered it for Norton on the 34.

Davis plowed ahead for four yards. A pass was incomplete,

Pfannenstiel was stopped for no gain and a fourth down pass fell incomplete, giving the ball back to Oakley on the 30.

The Blue Jays got another break on Oakley's first down when the Plainsmen fumbled and Davvid Stanley fell on the ball for the Blue Jays on the 25. Norton fumbled on first down and recovered after a two-yard loss. VanEaton got the call and was stopped for no gain as the first quarter ended with Norton trailing 8-0 despite playing much of the time in Oakley territory.

Second quarter

A Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete to start the second quarter. On fourth down, Pfannenstiel passed complete to wide receiver Clay Madden but he was just short of a first down and Oakley regained possession.

Once again, Norton's defense held and forced Oakley to punt.

Offsetting penalties required another punt by the visitors and Pfannenstiel returned it. A block in the back penalty against Norton put the ball back on the Norton 42. VanEaton burst through the line for a first down on the Oakley 43. Davis found a big hole made by center Nic Lewis, right guard Pat Burton and right tackle Davvid

Stanley and ran to the 34.

VanEaton ran up the middle for a first down on the 28. Norton's blocking up front continued and Davis carried the ball to the Oakley 21. VanEaton lost three but Davis made up for it as he bulled to the 20. On fourth and two, VanEaton caught a screen pass from Pfannenstiel and weaved his way to the eight for a first down.

It looked as if the Blue Jays would tie the score but it didn't happen. Pfannenstiel was hit as he pitched to Todd Bolt and the ball went awry and on the ground. Bolt recovered on the 14. Pfannenstiel was sacked on the 17 and a flat pass to Davis carried just to the eight.

On fourth down, Coach Graber called on William Wilhite to kick a field goal. Wilhite put the ball through the uprights from 24 yards out, making it an 8-3 game with 5:37 left in the half.

Davis kicked off for Norton and Ables stopped Sperber with a bone-jarring tackle on the Oakley 27. Cooksey handled the ball four straight plays, once on a flat pass, and moved the ball to the Norton 40. Sperber sneaked for a first down but a bad lateral on the next play put the ball on the ground

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