

Boys take second, girls third in Trego cross country meet

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys placed second and girls, third, in the Trego Cross Country Invitational Meet Thursday in WaKeeney.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays won the boys championship with 50 points, followed by Norton, 62; Hoisington, 95; Trego, 106; Ness City, 113; Lakin, 135; Quinter, 138; and Hill City, 149.

The girls championship went to Hill City with 55 points, followed by Thomas More, 57; Norton, 62; Lakin, 73; Quinter, 110; and Trego, 123.

Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird won her second championship in three starts as she ran away from the field to earn the gold in 12 minutes, 44 seconds.

Baird won the Norton Invitational in 13:58, then placed sixth in Wamego in 13:24.43.

In winning at Trego, Baird defeated Molly Schmeidler, Thomas More, who won last year's race in 13:29. Despite bettering her time to 13:18 this year, she was unable to catch the flying Baird and had to settle for second place.

"Laura Lee ran a super race," said Coach Deyton Hager. "She worked very hard this week. We had her running with the boys to improve her time and it paid off for her. Yet, we both know that she is not at the time she needs just yet."

Placing fifth for the Lady Jays was freshman KaraJo Jones in 13:48, her best time of the year. Jones placed fifth at Norton, as well, where she ran 15:12 and 25th at Wamego in 14:31.28.

"KaraJo also ran very well," said Coach Hager. "Her time keeps improving and that is what she must do every week."

Amber Overlease has been nursing an injury so ran for the first time. She placed 16th in 15:10. She placed sixth last year in 14:46.

"With Amber back in the lineup, it seemed to give us more confidence," said Coach Hager. "She is not back to full strength but there were some times this week in practice where she showed me some good things. So, I let her get her feet wet just to see if she could go the distance. We will see better things from her in weeks to come."

Karlynn Kent also improved. She placed 23rd in 15:31 compared to Wamego where she was 53rd in 15:40.49 and 21st in Norton in 16:56.

Karlie Jones, who has been nursing a sore foot, finished in 25th with a clocking of 15:37. She placed seventh in the same race a year ago in 14:49. She finished 17th at Norton in the season opener in 16:19 and 50th at Wamego in 15:34.18.

In the boys division, Norton freshman Zach Bainter was clocked in 17:20 to place seventh. Bainter was first at Norton in

18:45 and did not finish at Wamego, where he tried to run with the senior Ginther twins from Thomas More.

Cole Ginther won in 15:43, quite a bit faster than his winning time of 16:23 last year. Tyler Ginther, who placed second last year in 16:41, finished sixth just ahead of Bainter in 17:08.

"Zach Bainter got back on track in this race," said Coach Hager.

Logan Keiswetter finished right behind Bainter at eighth in 17:44. Keiswetter placed 13th last year in 18:31, 10th in Norton in 19:24 and 20th in Wamego in 19:02.39.

"Logan ran his best time this year and was faster than last year in the same race," said Coach Hager.

Jared Engelbert finished in 13th in 17:56. Last year he was 11th but in 18:24. He was seventh at Norton in 19:20 and 23rd at Wamego in 19:21.02.

Finishing in 18th was Kent Mann in 18:26. He was 15th last year in 18:35.6. Mann placed fourth at Norton in 19:12 and 12th at Wamego in 18:34.34.

Jared Bebb was 26th in 19:03. He placed 18th in Norton in 20:11 and 49th in Wamego in 20:22.99.

Finishing in 30th place for Norton was Camilo Bireno with a time of 19:29. He won the junior varsity race in the Norton Invitational in 20:34 and placed 63rd at Wamego in 20:50.57.

Tanner Griffith placed 40th in 20:16. He finished 27th at Norton in 20:51 and 70th at Wamego in 21:07.31.

Cody Nickell won the junior varsity race in 19:29. He was followed to the finish line by Luke VanSike in 19:36 and David Counter at fourth in 20:01. Counter had placed 34th in the varsity race at Norton in 21:29 and 91st at Wamego in 22:32.06.

Bryce Engelbert also ran for the Norton junior varsity and placed 18th in 22:38. Also competing for the Blue Jay junior varsity was Philip Van Der Wee who placed 23rd in 23:41.

"Cody ran very well today," said Coach Hager. "He knew there was a chance to bring home some hardware."

"Luke did a super job and is improving his time."

"I knew this would not be an easy day for either the boys or girls teams," said Coach Hager.

"We had our work cut out for us today and we came through it really strong."

"The boys' race was really tough and our boys knew they would all have to run well to get the job done. Unfortunately, two of our boys didn't run like we hoped they would."

Norton will compete in the Hill City Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday, beginning at 5 p.m.

Blue Jays fall to Redmen in football

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Pfannenstiel returned the Smith Center kickoff to the 28. On first down, Norton fumbled and Smith Center recovered on the Norton 29. Jones lost two yards, then Wilson ran to the 25 before Dreher tackled him. Jones ran to the 19 but a holding penalty against the Redmen moved the ball back to the 35. Windscheffel ran the keeper and Ables knocked him out of bounds on the 24. On fourth and six, Jared Cox made a timely tackle for Norton on the 20 and the Blue Jays regained possession of the ball.

VanEaton gained one yard, then Pfannenstiel picked up four yards up the middle. A Pfannenstiel pass fell incomplete and Morse punted to the Smith Center 49 with 2:29 left in the first half. Smith Center's second long pass of the night fell incomplete. Rice gained one yard before Matt Engel tackled him. Windscheffel tried a keeper but VanEaton stopped him for no gain. Smith Center punted into the end zone and Norton got the ball on the 20. VanEaton gained nothing and Pfannenstiel was sacked on the 18 as the first half ended with the Redmen leading 20-7.

Third quarter

Smith Center kicked off to start the second half and Pfannenstiel returned the ball to the 30. Pfannenstiel gained four yards on a keeper, then a pass fell incomplete. On third down, Roe broke several tackles as he churned to the 41 for a first down. After another incomplete pass, Norton appeared to lose the ball on a fumble but Smith Center was whistled for grabbing a face mask and, after the penalty, the Jays had the ball on their 43.

Roe gained nothing on the next down, however, and a pass fell incomplete. Morse punted to the 28. An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty against Norton moved the ball to the Smith Center 43. Rice ran to the Norton 45 before VanEaton tackled him. Rice got the call again and ran for a first down on the Norton 28. Jones ran for 10 more yards and another first down.

Rice plunged to the 15 before defensive tackle Mark Scheetz made the tackle. Jones gained one yard, then an encroachment penalty cost the Redmen five yards. Windscheffel ran for a first down on the 7, Rice ran to the 1 and the next down he scored a Smith Center touchdown. Jones tried for two extra points and was stopped but the Redmen had increased their lead to 26-7 with 6:14 left.

Pfannenstiel returned the kickoff to the Norton 30. Roe gained two yards, then Pfannenstiel passed to tight end Jared Cox on the Norton 48 for a first down. A holding penalty against Smith Center was declined. Once again, the Blue Jays were unable to mount a scoring drive. VanEaton lost four yards and Pfannenstiel lost two yards on two plays. Morse punted to the Smith Center 32 and a blocking in the back penalty



Norton linemen block for senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel as he prepares to fire a forward pass during the Blue Jays' game at Smith Center on Friday. Despite having four intercepted passes, Pfannenstiel completed 8 of 17 for 95 yards in the contest.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

against the Redmen moved the ball back to their 20.

On first down, Smith Center got out of the hole when Rice got loose and was finally tackled by Broeckelman on the Norton 25. Jones ran to the 19 and Broeckelman made the tackle again. On the next down, Jones ran over the left side of the line for the Redmen's fourth touchdown. Jones was stopped in his try for two more points but the Redmen led 32-7 with 2:35 still left in the third quarter.

VanEaton returned the kickoff to the 29. VanEaton lost two yards, a pass fell incomplete, then a pass was intercepted by Jared Hayes on the Norton 47. Smith Center fumbled the ball but recovered for a one yard gain. Tate Arnold ran for a first down on the Norton 35. A pass fell incomplete, then Arnold ran over the right side for another Smith Center touchdown. A pass for extra points was incomplete and Smith Center led

38-7 with 23 seconds left in the period.

Pfannenstiel returned the kickoff to the 27. VanEaton gained just one yard as the third quarter ended with Smith Center leading 38-7.

Fourth quarter

In an attempt to close the gap, Norton went to the air again and again with disastrous results. Smith Center intercepted the ball on their 40. On first down, Jones ran over the left side of the line again for a touchdown. Rice was inaccurate in an extra point kick and the Redmen led 44-7 with 11:40 remaining in the game.

Pfannenstiel returned the kickoff to the 23. After losing three yards, he passed to Madden for a first down on the 36. A pass to VanEaton gained three more yards. Pfannenstiel ran to the 42 but another pass was incomplete and Morse punted. Jones returned the ball to the Smith Center 44 but the Redmen were whistled for holding and Norton got the ball at

mid-field.

Pfannenstiel went back to the passing game and Windscheffel intercepted the ball at mid-field. Arnold gained several yards but a personal foul penalty against the Blue Jays moved the ball to the 35. The next down, Rice scored Smith Center's final touchdown of the night. Rice kicked this extra point and Smith Center led 51-7 with 8:19 left.

The Smith Center point advantage put the continuous scoreboard clock into effect. Pfannenstiel returned the kickoff to the Norton 36 and junior varsity players took over at this point for both teams. Tailback Todd Bolt carried the ball nine straight times and, on his final carry, he sprinted 25 yards to the corner of the end zone for Norton's final touchdown as time ran out.

Bolt also ran for two extra points and just missed the end zone to make the final score 51-13 in favor of Smith Center.

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