

# Norton to play Phillipsburg team here on Thursday

By DICK BOYD

The 6-2 Norton Community High School football team will play 7-1 Phillipsburg in the final Class 3A District 10 contest Thursday in Norton.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

The winner of Thursday's game will be the district champion and will have the home field advantage when playing another district runner-up on Tuesday. The loser will play a district winner and will go on the road.

Norton has lost just to unbeaten, state-ranked and defending state champion Smith Center and unbeaten, state-ranked Oakley, both 2A teams.

Phillipsburg's only loss is to Smith Center.

The Panthers have a lot of speed in the backfield. One of their speedsters is 5-feet, 10-inch, 164-pound junior Jarrett Abell. He was named a first-team return specialist and second-team kicker on last year's All-Mid-Continent League team. Abell rushed for 546 yards and 11 touchdowns last season and had seven touchdowns on special teams.

Phillipsburg defeated Thomas More Prep of Hays 53-22 in district play on Friday. Abell had a 30-yard pass interception for a touchdown in that game.

Another Panther speedster is 5-9, 171-pound senior running back and linebacker Travis Yoxall. He was a second-team all-league running back last season. He rushed for 622 yards and 11 touchdowns last season and had 64 tackles and three pass interceptions on defense.

Yoxall scored on touchdowns of 40 yards, 39 yards and 19 yards against Thomas More and he rushed for 105 yards on just six carries.

Another returning all-league player for Phillipsburg is 5-10, 164 pound senior quarterback and defensive back Taylor Redinger. He was a first-team all-league defensive back last year. Redinger scored once against Thomas More.

Cody Jarvis, a 5-10, 196-pound senior center and linebacker, was second team all-league center last year.

Senior fullback Brandon Karlin, a 5-11, 222-pound bruise, also scored for the Panthers Friday.

Norton defeated Thomas More by 21-0 the Friday before but statistics in the two games are interesting. Norton had 260 yards

rushing and 39 passing for 299 total yards. Phillipsburg had 303 yards rushing, 38 passing for 341 total.

On defense, Norton limited Thomas More to 84 yards rushing and 19 passing for 103 total. Phillipsburg held the Monarchs to 87 rushing but allowed 159 passing for a 246 yard total.

In the win over Russell, Norton junior tailback Blake VanEaton remained the all-purpose yards leader for the Blue Jays. He ran for 133 yards, caught one pass for 62 yards and returned one kickoff for 19 yards. For the season he has rushed for 659 yards, caught 197 yards in passes and returned kickoffs for 199 yards for a total of 1,055 yards of offense or 132 yards per game average.

Senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel has completed 41 of 85 passes for a 48 percent completion rate and 617 total yards.

Senior linebacker Lance Roe continues to lead the Blue Jays in tackles. He has 44 solos, 22 assists for 66 total tackles. Junior linebacker VanEaton has 41 solos, 16 assists for 57 total stops and junior defensive back Nathan Broeckelman has 46 solos, 8 assists for 54 total.

"We have a great opportunity Thursday night against Phillipsburg but we'll have to play awfully well to win," said Norton Coach Bruce Graber.

"They have lots of speed and talent. They are confident and they will come in here ready to win."

"We have a history of winning district championships so it would be sweet to get another one."

"Special teams will be huge. We won special teams when we won the battle with them a year ago. Our defense played great in that game. We'll have to win the special teams and eliminate their big plays. We've found more consistency defensively and need to get more consistent on offense. Lately, we've been able to rotate more players on both offense and defense and that has given our players some needed rest in games."

"If we play good defense, keep our offense moving positively and take care of the ball, we've got a chance to win. We should have everyone ready to go healthwise."

"We should have a big crowd and that will give us some positive energy to feed on. It should be an outstanding high school football game."

# Norton boys cross country second in 3A Regional Meet

## One girl makes state with top ten finish

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys cross country team won a trip to the state meet as they placed second in the Class 3A Cross Country Regional Meet on Saturday in Ellsworth.

The girls team finished ninth with one girl winning an individual berth at state after placing in the top five.

The top three boys and girls teams and top ten runners plus top five individuals from non-qualifying teams if they were not included in the top ten qualified for the State Meet at Wamego this Saturday.

Southeast of Saline won the boys championship with 60 points, followed by Norton, 80; Holcomb, 91; Sacred Heart of Salina, 105; Hoisington, 112; Beloit, 135; Lakin, 177; Phillipsburg, 254; Lyons, 260; Bennington, 274; Ellinwood, 287; Cimarron, 303; Oberlin, 315; Ellsworth, 0.

Norton freshman Zach Bainter placed fourth overall and third among team runners in the boys three-mile course with a time of 17 minutes, 48 seconds.

Blue Jay junior Kent Mann, who has been hampered by illness, placed 11th overall and ninth among team runners with a season's best time of 18:24. His previous best was 18:26 at Trego.

Others were Junior Logan Keiswetter, 16th overall, 14th in team runners, at 18:44; junior Jared Engelbert, 26th overall, 24th in team runners, at 19:19; junior Jared Bebb, 32nd overall, 30th in team runners, 19:36.

Also placing for the Blue Jays were freshman Coady Nickell, 35th, 19:41, and sophomore Luke VanSkike, 55th, 20:56.

"I and a lot of young men who have run for me along with seven running for me now have been waiting six years for this moment," said Coach Deyton Hager.

"We ran hard in a tough regional to qualify for the state meet. We have been working for the last two weeks on just running with a teammate who has been right in front of each of them all year and running a series of 20 minute runs just on hills. It seemed to work for us in



Norton cross country runners are shown here competing in the Class 3A Regional Meet on Saturday in Ellsworth. Laura Lee Baird, left, qualified for the State Meet this Saturday in Wamego. Zach Bainter, center, and Kent Mann, right, were members of the Norton boys team which finished second and qualified as a team.

—Photos by Kurt Mann

today's race.

"I knew we were getting close to peaking. Funny thing is, we didn't peak. Don't get me wrong, we ran very well but I think you will see them run better than this in the state meet."

"The pressure is off and now all they have to do is have fun with running."

"I could talk about Zach making it to state in the top 10 as a freshman but this was a team effort today. I don't know of a time I have been prouder of all of them."

Ellsworth won the girls championship with 54 points, followed by Sacred Heart of Salina, 73; Southeast of Saline, 115; Holcomb, 134; Lakin, 135; Beloit, 178; Cimarron,

182; Phillipsburg, 182; Norton, 185; Oberlin, 214; Ellinwood, 240; Bennington, 0; Hoisington, 0; Lyons, 0.

Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird placed fifth in the girls two-mile and fourth among team runners in 12:52 to qualify for the state meet.

Others were freshman KaraJo Jones, 27th overall, 25th in team runners, at 14:17; senior Amber Overlease, 50th overall, 46th in team runners, at 15:04; sophomore Karlynn Kent, 54th overall, 50th in teams, at 15:24; and junior Morgan Bailey, 67th overall, 60th in team runners, at 16:50.

"Going into this tough regional, I knew it would take more than

what we had to make it as a team," said Coach Hager.

"I knew if Laura Lee had just a good day, she would go. I was hoping that KaraJo would sneak in and get a tenth spot or so. But, it just was not meant to be for her this year."

"All of our girls ran hard. I have seen so many girls walk some part of this course in the three times I have been here and I am proud to say that not one of mine did!"

"If you were to see this monster of a course, you would know what I mean."

Runners in Saturday's State Cross Country Meet in Wamego will be from Class 1A through 4A. The 3A boys will run at 11 a.m. and the 3A girls will run at 12 noon.

# Blue Jays outscore Russell in district football contest

(Continued from Page 12) incomplete pass, the Jays were penalized 15 yards for holding. After another incomplete pass, Cook connected with Connor Driscoll for a first down on the Norton 13 where Broeckelman made the tackle. Zachman surprised the Norton defense with a draw play and he gained six yards before Broeckelman tackled him.

The next play, Brooks came roaring into the backfield to sack Cook on the 14. A pass fell incomplete, then Cook ran a keeper to the 3. He was just a few inches short of a first down, however, and the Broncos turned the ball over to the Blue Jays.

On first down, Roe broke about three tackles and was finally stopped on the 14 after an 11 yard gain. Pfannenstiel ran to the 18. VanEaton found running room overnight tackle for a first down on the 36. VanEaton gained two yards on two carries. On third down, Pfannenstiel completed a screen pass to VanEaton. He reversed field and sprinted into the end zone for his third touchdown of the game. Wilhite split the uprights again and the Jays had extended their lead to 28-0 with 2:37 left.

Wann returned Wilhite's kickoff and Logan Kats tackled him on

the 29. After an incomplete pass, Ables and Heath Vincent limited Cook to a one yard gain. After another incomplete pass, Russell punted out of bounds on the Norton 46.

Kats substituted at quarterback for Norton. He handed the ball to Davis and he gained four yards. VanEaton was stopped for no gain but Davis ran for seven more yards and a first down as the third period came to a close with the Jays leading 28-0.

### Fourth quarter

Pfannenstiel quick kicked to start the final period and the ball rolled dead on the Russell 9. Zachman ran for eight yards. Cook gained one yard, then gained a first down on the 20. Zachman lost two yards and Cook was sacked. After another loss created by the aggressive, swarming Norton defense, Russell went into punt formation. It turned out to be a fake but it did not work and Wann was tackled on the 15!

It took the Blue Jays just four plays to score their final touchdown. Roe plowed ahead for one yard, then Bolt ran to the 10. Kats ran a keeper to the 5. Next, Bolt picked up some good blocks on the right side of the line and ran into the end zone. Wilhite kicked the

extra point to extend the Norton lead to 35-0 with 6:01 left in the game.

Wann returned Wilhite's kickoff to the 25. The Norton junior varsity played the rest of the game. After an incomplete pass, Cook connected with Cline on the Russell 43 where Cox made the tackle. A pass was incomplete, Cook fumbled and recovered and another pass was incomplete.

Bolt returned the Bronco punt to the Norton 33. On first down, Norton fumbled and Russell recovered on the Norton 28. After an incomplete pass, Zachman ran to the 19 where Bolt tackled him. Cook's quarterback sneak earned a first down on the 16. Cook passed to Connor Driscoll on the 9, then he passed to Cody Lang in the end zone for the Broncos' only touchdown of the game. The extra point kick attempt was no good and Norton led 35-6 with 2:47 left in the game.

Bolt returned the kickoff four yards to the 15. Kats ran a keeper for nine yards and Brad Nuzum earned a first down on the 30. Nuzum ran for three more yards and Kats gained nothing. Matt Stanley gained two yards and the game ended with the Blue Jays winning 35-6.

## Good Luck at State!

**Laura Lee Baird and the Norton Boys Cross Country Team in Wamego Saturday, October 29**  
**3A Boys run at 11 a.m.; 3A Girls run at 12 noon**

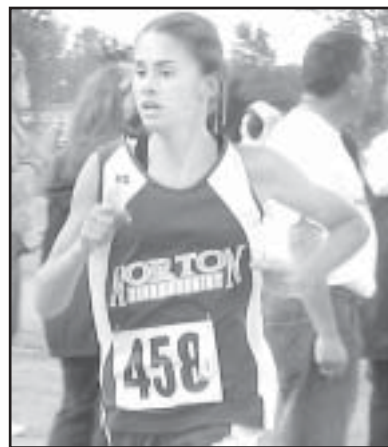


Boy's team with second place plaque, from left, Jared Bebb, Cody Nickell, David Counter, Zach Bainter, Luke VanSkike, Coach Deyton Hager, Kent Mann, Jared Engelbert, Logan Keiswetter, Coach Anne Stiles.

—Photos by Kurt Mann

### Congratulations on Your Regional Placings:

**Boys Team, Second Place**  
**Individual Medalists:**  
**Zach Bainter, Fourth Place**  
**Laura Lee Baird, Fifth Place**



Laura Lee Baird

These Businesses Wish the Cross Country Teams Good Luck at State

**Rural Telephone Natoma Corporation USD 211**

**First State Bank First Security Bank and Trust Co.**

**The Norton Telegram Norton Blue Jay Booster Club**