

# Norton boys sixth in State Cross Country

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School boys cross country team placed sixth in the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet held Saturday morning on the golf course at Wamego.

Freshman Laura Lee Baird competed for Norton in the 3A girls race and was running in about fifth place when she stepped off a concrete golf cart path, turned her ankle and was unable to continue. She was sixth in the Class 3-2-1A Wamego Cross Country Meet at



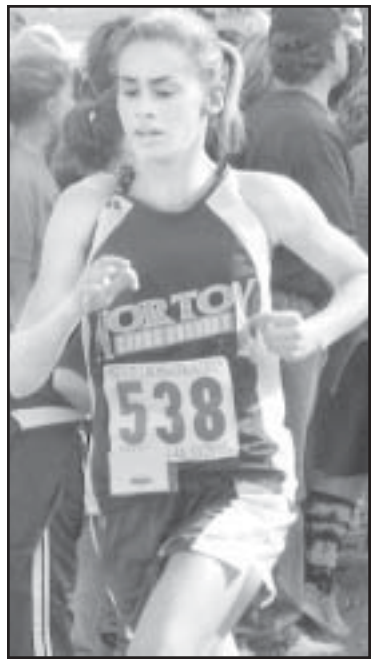
Kent Mann, above, set a personal record 18:14.91. Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird, right, was running strong when this photo was taken.

the start of the season and fifth in the Class 3A Regional Meet at Ellsworth a week ago.

Prairie Village-Kansas City Christian won the 3A boys championship with 78 points, followed by Northern Heights, 102; Southeast of Saline, 112; Wichita-Trinity Academy, 122; Sabetha, 145; Norton, 151; Hesston, 158; Holcomb, 159; Wichita Collegiate, 187; Riley County, 242; Neodesha, 247; Shawnee-Marantha Academy, 260.

Norton freshman Zach Bainter, who failed to finish earlier in the season in the Wamego meet, took nine seconds off his previous personal record on Saturday. He medaled with a 10th place finish individually and fifth place among team runners and ran the three-mile course in 17 minutes, 11.34 seconds.

Junior Kent Mann also set a personal record of 18:14.91, which was ten seconds faster than his previous personal best, and fin-



The Norton cross country boys answered the gun with a strong start in the Class 3A boys three mile race in state competition on Saturday in Wamego. The Blue Jays' first ever team entry in the state meet placed sixth. Norton freshman Zach Bainter, right, ran a personal best 17:11.34 to finish tenth individually and fifth among team runners in the race.

ished 38th individually and 23rd among team runners.

Blue Jay junior Logan Keiswetter finished in 48th individually and 31st among team runners in 18:34.82. It was his third best time of the season.

Norton junior Jared Engelbert placed 59th in 18:52.20 and was 40th among team runners. It was his second best time.

Jared Bebb, another Blue Jay junior, finished in 73rd position and 52nd among team runners in 19:08.24. He was just five seconds off his previous best time.

In addition to the five runners

who made up Norton's team score, the Blue Jays had two others competing. Sophomore Luke VanSkiike placed 80th and 58th among team runners with a personal best of 19:26.65.

Freshman Cody Nickell was just seven seconds off his personal record time with a 19:36.13 for an 85th place and 63rd among team runners.

"We did a great job here today," said Coach Deyton Hager. "I knew it was going to be very hard to get in the top three as a team. Sixth place is very good. There were some very good teams here.

"I think we can still run better than we did but we did some good things as well. Our boys' goal was to run in the 18s and we did that. Our average time as a team was 18:24 and that was great.

"Zach ran a super race to place tenth as a freshman. I see him doing some great things next year for this team.

"The great thing is that we lost no runners from this team and will gain one or two next year who will come in and help us get back to the state meet."

The top three girls teams were Riley County, 59; Ellsworth, 86;



Salina Sacred Heart, 125.

"I feel so badly for our little lady Laura Lee," said Coach Hager. "She was sitting about fifth place when she stepped off a cart path into some grass and rolled her ankle, which made her go down in the race. With her not knowing her status, she did not continue the race.

"Laura Lee will be back next year and running better than she did this year. Both of my freshmen learned hard lessons on this course this year. Zach learned his in the first Wamego meet. It's too bad Laura Lee had to learn hers at the state meet."

## No. 6 seeded Norton loses to Oberlin in Class 3A Sub-State volleyball

By DICK BOYD

Coach Jill Lively's Norton Community High School volleyball team lost to Oberlin 24-26, 12-25 in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament Oct. 22 in Phillipsburg.

Norton was seeded No. 6 and Oberlin No. 3 in the single-elimination tournament. The loss ended the season for Norton with a final 14-15 record.

Oberlin continued on to defeat No. 2 seed Phillipsburg 21-25, 26-24, 25-13 in the semi-finals and outscore No. 1 seed Holcomb 23-25, 25-16, 25-23 in the championship finals.

Oberlin played in the Class 3A State Volleyball Tournament Friday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina but lost in the first round.

"We played very hard in our first game with Oberlin," said Coach Lively. "We picked up a lot of digs and played aggressively.

"There is a lot of emotion in a sub-state tournament and it can work for you or against you. Unfortunately, in the second game, we couldn't put together points to

gain momentum. When your opponent has all the momentum, it is difficult to get it back.

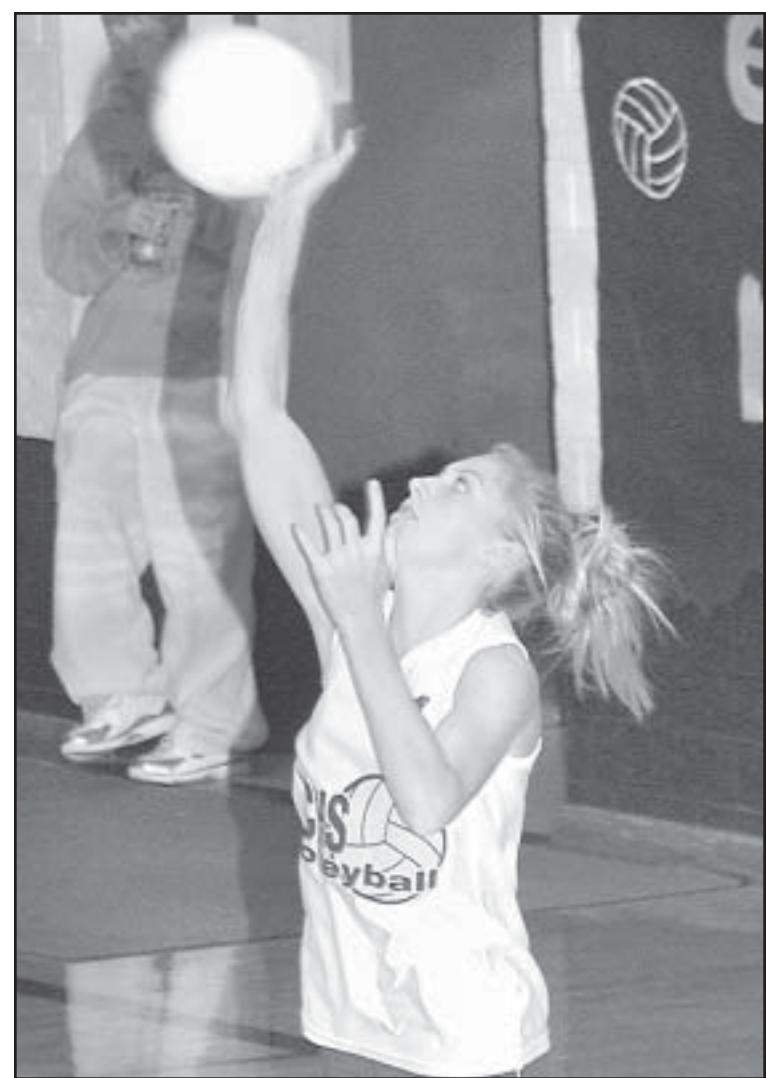
"Oberlin is a very solid team. They played consistently and went on to win the tournament."

Statistics leaders for Norton were: serves — Amanda Antrim, 100 percent, 1 ace; assists — Courtney Cox, 9; Chelsea Cox, 4; kills — Chelsea Cox, Rebecca Ebert, 6 each; Whitney Newell, 2; Rachael Lentz, Maggie Nielsen, 1 each; blocks — Chelsea Cox, Ebert, Alexi Wolf, 2 each; Lentz, 1; digs — Lacey Roe, 13; Lentz, Chelsea Cox, 7 each; Courtney Cox, 6.

"I'm proud of the effort our girls put into this match" said Coach Lively.

"We will miss our seniors next season."

The seniors on this season's Norton volleyball team were Alexi Wolf, Amanda Antrim, Danielle LeClair, Kayla Douglas, Naomi Streck, Rachael Lentz, Klaire Mann, Whitney Newell, Chelsea Cox, Darci Darling and Rebecca Ebert.



Norton senior Chelsea Cox, left, spikes the ball for a point during the Lady Jays' first round match with Oberlin in the Class 3A Sub-State Tournament in Phillipsburg on Oct. 22. Lady Jay senior Alexi Wolf, above, serves the volleyball during Norton's first round match with Oberlin in the tournament.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

## Norton to play at Riley County in Bi-District football game tonight

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School football team will travel to Riley County High School for a Bi-District football playoff game this evening.

Kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

Norton was runnerup in District 10 play after losing 30-14 to Phillipsburg on Thursday. Riley County won their District 9 championship with a 21-7 win over Beloit.

Beloit will travel to Phillipsburg for another Bi-District game this evening.

Only winners of Bi-District games will continue on the road to the state championship with games on Saturday.

Norton tied for second with

Phillipsburg in the Mid-Continent League race since post-season games are not included in league standings. Smith Center was the league champion.

Norton's only losses this season have been to unbeaten Smith Center, defending Class 2A state champion; Oakley, undefeated and state ranked and Phillipsburg, one loss and state ranked.

Riley County's only loss was 14-7 to Silver Lake.

In defeating Beloit, the Falcons limited the Trojans to just 20 yards rushing and allowed 119 yards passing for 139 total yards. Riley County rushed for 200 yards and passed for 90 yards for 290 yards of offense.

Senior running back J.J. Cosh

rushed for 112 yards and scored two touchdowns for Riley County in the game. Both Cosh and senior quarterback Zack Sullivan, who scored once against Beloit, started for Riley County last season when the Falcons were the district runnerup and traveled to Norton for the bi-district contest. Norton won that game 28-7 and advanced to regional play

Unfortunately, Sullivan suffered a compound fracture of his collarbone while making a tackle from his linebacker spot in the final five minutes of the game with Beloit and will miss the rest of the season.

The Norton defense has been very good this season and even played very well against

Phillipsburg most of the time. The Panthers' speed created some long scoring plays that made the final score look worse than it was.

Norton's all-purpose yardage leader is junior tailback Blake VanEaton who has rushed for 728 yards, caught passes totaling 217 yards and returned kick-offs for 254 yards for 1,199 yards of offense. He averages 133 yards of offense per game. He also starts at linebacker where he is one of the leading tacklers.

Norton's senior quarterback Luke Pfannenstiel has completed 45 of 98 passes for 687 yards and a 46 percent completion average.

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