

Norton boys, girls win Plainville track meet

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School boys and girls track teams ran, threw and jumped their way through 40-45 miles per hour winds to win championships of the Plainville Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday at Plainville High School.

The Blue Jay boys rolled up 157 points to outdistance second place Phillipsburg, who scored 107. Hill City was third with 84, followed by Ellis, 63; La Crosse, 49; Victoria, 47; Natoma, 23; Trego Community, 22; Plainville, 6.

The Lady Jays scored 111 points to win the title and Phillipsburg was also second in this division with 84, followed by Ellis, 78; La Crosse, 69; Hill City, 61; Plainville, 55; Trego Community, 51; Victoria, 37; Natoma, 4.

It was the second meet of the season for the Norton thinclads who encountered even higher winds in their season opener at Smith Center where the Lady Jays won the championship and the boys finished second.

"Both our girls and boys had another good meet, despite the high winds," said Coach Graber.

BOYS

Two Norton boys, junior Kent Mann and sophomore Jared Cox, were double gold medal winners.

Mann edged Phillipsburg's Kyle Merklein to win the 1600 meter run in a personal record time of 5:02.68 and hit the finish line first in the 3200 meter run in 11:14.40.

Close behind Mann in both races were freshman Zach Bainter and junior Logan Keiswetter.

Bainter set a personal record with a fourth place in the 1600 meter run in 5:19.68 and Keiswetter set a personal record with a fifth place in the 1600 meter run in 5:28.19.

In the 3200 meter run, Bainter was third in 11:25.21 and Keiswetter placed fourth in 11:38.84.

"Kent Mann ran very well in both distance races," said Coach Graber.

Cox set a personal record in the 110 meter hurdles when he won in 15.78. He won the 300 meter hurdles race in 42.84.

Two other Norton runners also set personal records in the 110 meter hurdles race. Junior Nic Lewis placed third with a time of 17.10 and sophomore Wes Georgeson finished fourth in 17.50. Georgeson had the seventh best time in the 300 meter hurdles in 47.80.

"Jared Cox performed well in the hurdles again," said Coach Graber. "It's good to see Nic Lewis and Wes Georgeson improving in the hurdles."

The 800 meter run belonged to the Norton boys who took the first three places. Junior Blake VanEaton captured the gold medal with a clocking of 2:10.53, followed by junior Jared Engelbert in 2:16.06 in second and junior Jared Bebb in third with a personal best

time of 2:17.59.

"VanEaton had an outstanding 800 meter run and Engelbert and Bebb ran well, too," said Coach Graber.

Three Norton boys scored points in the pole vault. Senior Lance Roe cleared 13 feet to earn the gold medal. Junior Nathan Broeckelman placed third with a clearance of 10'6" and sophomore Tanner Griffith set a personal record with a vault of 9'6" to place fifth.

"Lance Roe had a good vault considering the windy conditions," said Coach Graber.

Norton also struck gold in the 3200 meter relay with the time of 9:17.25, beating second-place Natoma by 12 seconds. Team members were: Bainter, Keiswetter, Bebb and Engelbert.

"I took Blake VanEaton and Kent Mann off the 3200 meter relay to keep them fresh for other races and we still came up really big to win the event," said Coach Graber.

Senior Heath Vincent scored points in the shot put and discus. He heaved the shot 45'3.5" to place second, just 1.5 inches out of first, and threw the discus 131'11" to place third.

The Blue Jays' 400 meter relay team and 1600 meter relay team both placed third. The 400 meter relay team of junior Brett Thomson, Broeckelman, senior Andrew Ables and VanEaton won their heat in 47.18 and the 1600 meter relay team of Broeckelman, Cox, sophomore Logan Kats and VanEaton was timed in 3:45.96.

Ables also scored points in the 200 meter dash, where he finished fourth in 24.50 and the shot put where he placed fifth with a heave of 40'3".

Broeckelman finished in fourth place in the high jump by clearing 5'6" and Lewis was fifth with a personal best 5'6".

Kats won his heat and placed sixth in the 400 meter dash with a personal record of 57.60.

Boys performances that did not place were: freshman Zac Dreyer, 102'11"; senior Josh VanSkike, 94'7.75"; discus: Ables, 132'10"; Dreyer, 111'6"; VanSkike, 96'5"; personal record, javelin; VanSkike, 31'3.5"; shot put; Griffith, 5'2"; high jump; Griffith, 16'10.5"; sophomore Todd Bolt, 17'6.5"; Georgeson, 16'1", long jump; Lewis, 38'8.75", personal record; Griffith, 38'.25", personal record; Bolt, 37'7", triple jump; junior Brett Thomson, 11.8; Bolt, 12.3; Kats, 12.5, 100 meter dash; Thomson, 24.9; Bolt, 25.0, 200 meter dash.

GIRLS

Freshman Laura Lee Baird scored 26 points to lead the Norton girls. She placed first in the 400 meter run with a personal best time of 1:02.71, second in the 3200 meter run in a personal best time of 12:49.69 and second in the 1600 meter run with a personal record

of 5:47.12.

"Laura Lee Baird had another good day," said Coach Graber. "Her 400 meter time was very impressive considering the high winds."

Sophomore Courtney LeClair scored 22 points for the Lady Jays. She won the gold medal in the 100 meter hurdles with a 16.87 clocking and placed second in the 300 meter hurdles in 53.68.

LeClair also placed fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 31'11.75". Senior Chelsea Cox placed fifth with a distance of 31'7".

LeClair was also a member of the third place 1600 meter relay team which was timed in 4:33. Also on that foursome were freshman Katharine Roy, freshman KaraJo Jones and Cox.

"Chelsea Cox ran an excellent anchor leg in the 1600 meter relay," said Coach Graber. "This was the first full meet for Chelsea and she did well."

Jones placed fourth in the 400 meter dash in 1:05.93.

Norton's 400 meter relay team of senior Amber Waggoner, senior Jaelyn Krueger, junior Hannah Mills and senior Naomi Streck placed third with a clocking of 56.04.

Norton scored 16 points in the discus throw. Senior Klaire Mann placed second with a personal record throw of 105', freshman Hayli Bozarth finished in third with a personal best throw of 99'6" and sophomore Chantille Campbell placed fifth with a 93'3.5" effort.

Freshman Wiyanna Paxton placed third in the shot put with a distance of 32'1" and Mann was right behind her in fourth with a heave of 31'4.75".

Bozarth placed sixth in the javelin throw with a distance of 88'9".

"Klaire Mann had a nice day throwing and set a personal record in the discus," said Coach Graber. "We moved some of the throwers around to see how they would do and that turned out pretty well."

The Lady Jays scored 11 points in the pole vault. Senior Chelle Donovan was second with a height of 9', senior Amanda Antrim finished in fifth with a 7' height and freshman Taylor Rossi placed sixth by clearing 7' for a personal best.

Rossi also scored points in two running events. She was fourth in the 800 meter run in a personal record time of 2:48.59 and fifth in the 3200 meter run in 14:06.38.

"Taylor Rossi really carried the torch for us," said Coach Graber. "She set several personal records in getting points for us in three events."

Krueger placed sixth in the 100 meter dash with a clocking of 13.82.

Girls performances that did not place were: Campbell, 88'4"; junior Lacey Roe, 87'5", javelin; sophomore Ashley Martinez,



Norton senior Chelle Donovan cleared nine feet to place second in the pole vault at the Plainville Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday at Plainville High School.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

27'5", personal record, shot put; Roy, high jump; Krueger, 13'6"; Mills, 13'; Streck, 12'8", long jump; Roy, 30'3", personal record, triple jump; Streck, 13.9, personal record; Waggoner, 14.6, 100 meter

dash; sophomore Courtney Cox, 7:16, 1600 meter run; Courtney Cox, 3:13, 800 meter run; Streck, 29.6; Jones, 29.8; Mills, 29.9, 200 meter dash.

NEXT ACTION

The Norton girls and boys high school track teams will compete today in the Phillipsburg Invitational Track Meet at Phillipsburg High School.

The meet will begin at 3:30 p.m.

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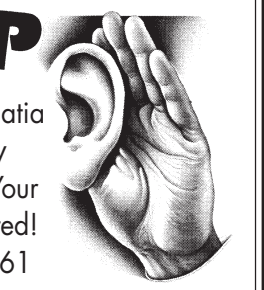
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Norton junior Kent Mann put on a final burst of energy to win the 1600 meter run in the Plainville Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday at Plainville High School. Kent was timed in 5:02.68 and Kyle Merklein, Phillipsburg, at left, was just behind in 5:03.25. Kent was a double winner for the day as he also hit the finish line first in the 3200 meter run in 11:14.40

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