

Norton boys first, girls third in Oberlin Track Meet

By DICK BOYD

Missing their last two track meets due to weather cancellations, the Norton Community High School boys and girls track teams were anxious to compete in the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday and proved it with a first and third place finish, respectively.

A week ago, the Norton Invitational Meet, which had been postponed, was canceled, followed by the Goldsmith Relays at Trego, which had been scheduled for last Friday.

The Norton boys scored 109 points to win the championship, followed by Phillipsburg, 89; Hoxie, 74; Rawlins County, 71; St. Francis, 66; Smith Center, 45; Oberlin, 45; Oakley, 33; Goodland, 19; Grinnell, 8.

Oberlin won the girls championship with 116.67 points, followed by Rawlins County, 90; Norton, 81.33; Oakley, 63; St. Francis, 61; Phillipsburg, 46; Hoxie, 43; Smith Center, 23; Goodland, 22; Grinnell, 6.

Nine meet records were broken or tied, two of them by Norton athletes.

"It was great to see some new competition on a good warm day," said Norton Coach Bruce Graber. "Most of our youngsters handled the heat very well and rose to the level of the competition."

"It was a great win for our young men and our young ladies performed at a very high level and finished behind two very talented teams."

"I was really pleased with the way our youngsters put the disappointments from last week's cancellations behind us and got after it."

BOYS

Norton senior Lance Roe broke the pole vault record as well as his own personal record when he cleared 13-foot-7-inches. The previous record was 13'6", set by Smith, Phillipsburg, in 2004.

"Lance Roe extended his personal record by an inch and that was good enough for a new meet record in the pole vault," said Coach Graber.

"Nathan Broeckelman backed that up with a personal record of his own at 11'6" and a fourth place finish.

Senior Heath Vincent had another good day in his two field events. He won the shot put with a distance of 46' and placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 123'10". Senior Andrew Ables placed fourth in the shot put with a personal record distance of 44'3".

"Our throwers had a tremendous day with Heath Vincent winning the shot and Andrew Ables coming in fourth with a big personal record throw," said Coach Graber.

"Zac Dreyer also had a very solid day." Dreyer, a freshman, competed in the shot, discus and javelin and set a personal record of 338'4" in the shot.

Norton's 3200 meter relay team won the gold medal with a season's best time of 8:50.14. Team members and time splits were: freshman Zach Bainter, 2:11 (personal record); junior Jared Bebb, 2:19; junior Jared Engelbert, 2:10; junior Blake VanEaton, 2:10.

"Our 3200 meter relay team continued to dominate the area teams and lowered their season best from 9:09 to 8:50," said Coach Graber.

Sophomore Jared Cox and junior Nic Lewis had good performances in the hurdles races. Cox placed second in the 110 meter hurdles in 16.36 and Lewis was right behind him in third with a personal record clocking of 16.6.

In the 300 meter intermediate hurdles, Cox was third in 42.86 and Lewis was fourth in a personal best 43.12.

"Cox and Lewis finishing 2-3 in the 110 meter hurdles really got us off to a great start in the running events," said Coach Graber.

"Lewis' time was a very solid personal record for him."

"Lewis came back in the 300 meter hurdles and set a personal record by five seconds to place fourth behind Cox's third place finish."

Lewis also placed fourth in the high jump by clearing 5'4".

Junior Blake VanEaton set a personal record when he placed second in the 400 meter dash with a

time of 51.96. He placed sixth in the 200 meter dash in 23.56 and anchored the 1600 meter relay team which placed fourth with a season's best time of 3:40.2.

Members of the 1600 meter relay team and time splits were: junior Nathan Broeckelman, 57.6; Ables, 54.9; Cox, 55.6; VanEaton, 52.1.

"Blake VanEaton's efforts were very impressive against a very good field in every race he ran," said Coach Graber. "His personal record time of 51.9 in the open 400 was followed by another 52.1 split on the anchor leg of the 1600 meter relay."

Junior Logan Keiswetter set a personal record with a third place finish in the 3200 meter run in 11:11.6 and Bainter finished right behind him in fourth with a personal best clocking of 11:16.35.

Junior Kent Mann finished fourth in the 1600 meter run in 5:02.5 and Keiswetter bettered his previous best time with a fifth place in 5:03.2.

Engelbert won the bronze medal in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:10.88.

The Blue Jays' 400 meter relay team ran a season's best 45.6 but placed fifth in a fast field. Team members and time splits were: junior Brett Thomson, 13.14; Broeckelman, 10.8; Ables, 10.86; Roe, 10.8.

Sophomore Tanner Griffith placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 37'9".

Performances by Norton boys which did not place were: Dreyer, 105'6"; freshman Nish Millan, 86'6", personal record, discus; Ables, 136'; Dreyer, 122'3"; Perrell Stanley, javelin; Dreyer, 38'4", personal record, shot put; Broeckelman, Griffith, high jump; Griffith, 9'6", pole vault; sophomore Todd Bolt, 17'.5"; Griffith, 16'4", long jump; Bolt, 36'; Lewis, 36'6", triple jump; Thomson, 11.81; sophomore Logan Kats, 12.62; Bolt, 12.6, 100 meter dash; Kats, 56.06; freshman Brock Lauer, 60.4, 400 meter dash; Bebb, 2:21; senior Phil Van Der Wee, 2:39, personal record, 800 meter run; Thomson, 24.29; freshman Matt Stanley, 27.1, 200 meter dash; Mann, 11:57.4, 3200 meter run.

GIRLS

Freshman Laura Lee Baird was the meet record-setter for the Norton girls. She hit the finish line in the 800 meter run in the record time of 2:23.12. The previous record holder was Locke of Trego Community who ran the distance in 2:23.28 in 2004.

Baird was a double gold medal winner. She won the 400 meter dash in a personal record time of 60.94.

Baird also anchored the 1600 meter relay team to a second place finish with a season's best time of 4:19.26. Team members and time splits were: sophomore Courtney LeClair, 66; senior Chelsea Cox,



Norton senior Lance Roe cleared the pole vault bar at 13'7" to set a new personal record as well as meet record at the Oberlin

Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday. — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

67; freshman KaraJo Jones, 65; Baird, 61.2.

Baird also anchored the Norton 3200 meter relay team which placed fifth with a clocking of 10:59.8. Their time was 26 seconds better than their season's best. Team members and their time splits were: freshman Taylor Rossi, 2:44, personal record; freshman Katharine Roy, 2:54, personal record; Jones, 2:43.9, personal record; Baird, 2:37.6.

"Laura Lee Baird had a truly outstanding performance in winning the 400 and 800 meter combination against some great competition," said Coach Graber.

"She had two outstanding times, which were both personal records, and then came back and ran a 61 second anchor leg in the 1600 meter relay."

"I was really proud of our 3200 meter relay team. This group knocked 26 seconds off their season's best as Rossi, Jones and Roy all ran personal records for themselves and Baird had a solid anchor leg."

LeClair had another good day in the hurdles races. She won the 100 meter hurdles with a clocking of 16.5 and placed runnerup in the 300 meter low hurdles, tying a personal best time of 49.3.

She also placed fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 31'8.5".

"Courtney LeClair ran two excellent hurdles races with a great win in the 100 meter hurdles ver-

sus a great field and tying her personal record for a second place finish in the 300 meter hurdles," said Coach Graber.

Three Lady Jays scored points in the pole vault. Senior Chelle Donovan placed runnerup with a 9' clearance. Rossi placed fifth with an 8' vault, which was a personal best. Senior Amanda Antrim tied for sixth place at 7'6".

"Chelle Donovan continues to compete and perform at a high level while battling a very tender injury to her foot," said Coach Graber.

"Taylor Rossi improved her personal record in the pole vault by one foot."

Freshman Hayli Bozarth scored points in three different throwing events. She placed runnerup in the discus with a personal best throw of 107'5", fifth in the shotput with a distance of 33'4.5" and sixth in

the javelin with a throw of 96'10".

"Hayli Bozarth really competed at a very high level with a personal record throw in the discus by eight feet and very solid throws in the javelin and shot," said Coach Graber.

Jones placed fifth in the 400 meter dash in 64.1 and fifth in the 200 meter dash in 28.17.

Rossi was clocked in 13:56.3 to place fifth in the 3200 meter run.

Junior Lacey Roe finished fifth in the javlin with a throw of 100'3".

Chelsea Cox placed sixth in the 400 meter dash in 67.6 and seventh in the triple jump with a distance of 30'9.5".

Senior Jaclyn Krueger had the eighth best time in the 100 meter dash with a clocking of 13.78.

Norton girls' performances that did not place were: senior Klaire Mann, 91'; junior Laura

Delimont, 91'8", discus; sophomore Chantille Campbell, 84'3", javelin; freshman Wiyanna Paxton, 31'9.5"; Mann, 31'7", shot put; Roy, high jump; Krueger, 14'6"; senior Naomi Streck, 14'2"; junior Hannah Mills, 13'1", long jump; Roy, 29'5", triple jump; Streck, 14.2; senior Amber Waggoner, 15.03, 100 meter dash; sophomore Courtney Cox, 7:20, 1600 meter run; 400 meter relay team of Waggoner, 15.8; Krueger, 12.8; Mills, 13.6; Streck, 12.54, time of 57.4; Waggoner, 57.1, personal record, 300 meter hurdles; Courtney Cox, 3:05, 800 meter run; Streck, 28.8; Mills, 28.6, 200 meter dash.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys track teams are scheduled to compete today in the Russell Relays, with a 3 p.m. start at Russell High School.



Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird neared the finish line to break the record in the 800 meter run in the Oberlin Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday. Baird's personal best time of 2:23.12 beat the record of 2:23.28 set by Locke of Trego Community in 2004.

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