

# Jays eighth, Lady Jays 12th at Kansas State Track Meet

By **DICK BOYD**

Coach Jason Jones' Norton Community High School boys track team placed eighth out of 40 teams, just seven points out of third, and his Lady Blue Jays finished 12th out of 38 teams competing in Class 3A in the Kansas State High School Track and Field Championships at Cessna Stadium in Wichita on Friday and Saturday.

Two Norton boys earned medals in individual events and six boys medaled in two relays. Three Lady Jays earned medals in five events.

The Kansas state meet is the largest high school track and field meet in the nation with 3500 athletes competing!

Among other local teams, the Beloit girls placed second and the Phillipsburg girls finished in a tie for 23rd. The Phillipsburg boys tied for 23rd and the Beloit boys tied for 26th.

In Class 2A, the Osborne girls were the champions. Plainville finished second and Ellis in fifth. St. Francis girls finished in eighth. Minneapolis boys edged Ellis by one point for the championship and the Stockton boys placed eighth.

In Class 1A, the Atwood boys and girls both won the state championships. In boys competition, Logan and Kensington tied for seventh. In the girls division, Logan tied for 17th. Weskan and Northern Valley tied with Palco, Greensburg and Triplains for 21st.

"Our trip to the state track meet was amazing!" said coach Jones. "First and foremost, out athletes competed very well in this highly competitive meet that posed a number of challenges. They conducted themselves with class, remained focused on the competition, competed with dignity and represented this school and community very well! We are extremely proud of these young men and women for that.

"We are also exceedingly proud of all our athletes and of the season they gave us, highlighted by a wonderful state meet. We are looking forward to next season, knowing that we will deeply miss the presence of each one of this year's senior members. We have been very proud to coach these wonderful athletes who have taught us so much along the way!"

## BOYS

One of the highlights of the boys' performances was the 3200 meter relay team of seniors Blake VanEaton, Logan Keiswetter and Jared Engelbert and sophomore

Zach Bainter who won the gold medal with a super 8:07.57 time. Not only did they beat the second place team Kansas City Christian by nearly six seconds, they took almost 20 seconds off their previous season's best and broke the Norton school record by almost nine seconds!

The Norton record of 8:16.20 was set at the state meet in 1986 by Brent Bohl, Kevin Hahn, Kirk Kasson and Mike Colip.

In addition to running on the record setting 3200 meter relay team, Jared Engelbert came very, very close to Norton's 800 meter run record when he placed second in a photo finish to Lane Boyer of Fredonia, who ran away from the field to also win the 3200 meter and 1600 meter runs. Boyer was timed in 1:56.30 and Engelbert in 1:56.41. Engelbert and Boyer had the second and third fastest times in all classes in the 800 meters. Boyer broke the state record in the 3200 meters and had the fastest time in all classes in the 3200 and 1600.

Engelbert's personal best performance was very close to the Norton school record of 1:55.3 set by exchange student Urs Sahli in 1982. His time of 1:56.41 would have won in all other classes except Class 5A where he would have placed second.

Engelbert and VanEaton combined with senior Kent Mann and junior Logan Kats for a season's best performance in the 1600 meter relay in 3:29.69 which placed them fourth. Holcomb won the race in 3:28.32, just over a second faster. Garden Plain was second in 3:28.83 and Phillipsburg third in 3:29.44.

Norton actually had the fastest time in the preliminaries with a 3:29.17 clocking.

VanEaton had the seventh best preliminary time in the 400 meter dash with a 52.27 and placed seventh in the finals with a 51.79 which was close to his season's best of 51.69.

Two Norton seniors just missed medaling in the field events. Nic Lewis recorded a 40'3.25" distance in the triple jump to place eighth and Brett Thomson leaped 20'6.5" in the long jump for an eighth place finish.

Junior Jared Cox had the 11th best time in the 110 meter hurdles with a clocking of 16.63 and Bainter finished 11th in the 1600 meter run in a personal record time of 4:43.29.

VanEaton also had the 14th best time in the 200 meter dash in 23.90.

"In addition to placing eighth as a team, our boys earned two individual medals while a total of six boys medaled in two relays," said coach Jones. "Our boys posted two new personal records, two seasonal bests and one new school record!"

"Senior Jared Engelbert ran an amazing personal record 800 meter performance by nearly four seconds and senior Blake VanEaton also had an outstanding run in the 400 meter dash to place seventh.

"Our relays were equally impressive with our 4 x 400 meter relay team bettering their season best time by nearly two seconds to place fourth. Our 4 x 800 meter team absolutely lit the place up with a nearly 21 second seasonal best time of 8:07.57 en route to a state gold medal and a new school record!"

"Seniors Brett Thomson and Nic Lewis performed well in the long jump and triple jump, respectively, just missing medals."

## GIRLS

Sophomore Hayli Bozarth threw the discus 132'2" to place second and break, not only her personal record, but the Norton school record.

The record was set by Danielle Roeder in the regional meet in 1996 with a throw of 126'10".

Bozarth also finished in seventh place in the shot put with a heave of 36'5.5".

Sophomore Laura Lee Baird set a personal record as well as breaking the Norton school record in placing third in one of the fastest 800 meter runs in all classes. She was timed in 2:19.60 to break the old record of 2:20.8 set by Susan Miller in the regional meet in 1987.

Baird also broke her personal record in the 400 meter dash with a fourth place finish in 58.40. She was very close to the Norton school record of 58.1 set by Renee Cox in 1982.

Senior Lauren Eck of Beloit won the race in 57.58, less than a second ahead of Baird.

Sophomore Taylor Rossi placed seventh in the pole vault by tying her personal record of 9'.

Junior Courtney LeClair placed eighth in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 17.00. She had the fifth fastest time in the preliminaries with a 16.33 clocking. She also recorded the 11th best time in the 300 meter hurdles with a 50.27 but did not qualify for the finals.

Lady Jay freshman Hannah Waggoner was very, very close to qualifying for the finals of both the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes. She placed ninth in the preliminaries of the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.40 and tenth in the preliminaries of the 100 meter dash in 13.15.

Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of LeClair, Waggoner, senior Hannah Mills and sophomore KaraJo Jones had the tenth best time in the preliminaries with a clocking of 52.43. They missed qualifying for the finals by one half second.

Senior Lacey Roe placed 14th in the javelin with a throw of 98'1".

Senior Laura Delimont finished in 15th place in the discus with a throw of 95'11".

"Our 12th place finish by our girls was highlighted by performances that qualified four girls for the state finals and earned three of our girls state medals in five events," said coach Jones. "In ad-



The Class 3A 800 meter boys race in the State Track Meet in Wichita over the weekend was virtually a dead heat for the gold medal. Fredonia's Lane Boyer, right, edged Norton's Jared Engelbert by 11 hundredths of a second! Boyer easily won gold medals in the 3200 meter and 1600 meter runs but needed every ounce of strength to beat Engelbert by a whisker!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

dition, our girls posted three new personal records and two new Norton Community High School

all-time records!

"It was good to see Hayli and Laura Lee set new school records

and we had outstanding performances by our girls in all other events as well."

# Colby man wins Elmwood Park race

By **MIKE HUGHES**

Colby's John Fabrizio won a thrilling feature race, while Kensington's Cory Struckhoff kept his winning streak intact in racing action at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton, Saturday evening, May 26.

The IMCA Modified feature saw four different leaders in the 20-lap event. Brandon Blochlinger led the opening lap before Rick Schwab took control. Schwab then gave way to Jason Schoenberger on lap 6 with Schwab and Marty Clark close behind. At the crossed flags, it was Schoenberger leading Clark, Schwab, Corey Lagroon, and John Fabrizio. Fabrizio had moved into the runner-up spot by lap 15 and slowly and steadily closed ground on the leader. Fabrizio pulled alongside Schoenberger a couple of times the last two laps, then powered around the leader in turn 4 on the final lap and beat Schoenberger to the checkers by less than a car-length. Lagroon placed third, followed by Bryan Lariviere and Clark.

Heat race winners included Nate Schaben, Clark and Schoenberger. Struckhoff kept his winning streak intact in the IMCA Stock Car division as he won his fourth feature in his last four outings. Jay Hachmeister took the lead at the drop of the green in the 20-lap main event, with Jason McCartney, Dan Lauer, Josh Hudson, Jason Davis, and Struckhoff in pursuit. The first of two caution flags waved on lap 9 when John Huffman spun and was hit by Arnold Williams. Then on the restart, Hudson spun and was tagged by both McCartney and Michael Zajic. When the green flag flew once again, Struckhoff passed Hachmeister on the restart and led the rest of the distance for

the win. Heat one winner Davis finished second, followed by Hachmeister, Lauer, and Bob Rutherford. Struckhoff was victorious in the first heat.

Gene Sneath of Plainville led the first half of the 12-lap IMCA Hobby Stock feature before Marquette's B.J. Dauer took the lead just past the halfway mark. Dauer was able to hold off Sneath to the checkers in the caution free race, with Kelly Karnopp, Dustin McClurg and Dustin Forsberg rounding out the top five. Sneath and Dauer won the two heat races.

The 4-cylinder Young Guns had a season high 8 cars check in for action. Alex Loveless led the first six laps of the 8-lap main event until the lone caution flew on lap 7 when heat one winner Donald Kleine broke and stalled. On the restart, Christopher Kleine of Las Cruces, N.M., passed Loveless and led the final 2 laps for the win. Drew Eagleburger finished second, followed by Dale Heyen. Loveless won the other heat race.

The Cruisers/Econos were back in action and Josh and Chris Graczyk of Kearney, Neb., passed lap one leader Hollister Jones on the second lap and drove away to the checkers. John Annon and Jeff Soderlund finished second, trailed by Jones. The Graczyks also won the heat race.

Racing action returns to the half-mile oval on Saturday evening, June 9, with the regular five divisions. Race time is 7 p.m.

## RESULTS

**IMCA Hobby Stocks**  
Heat 1: 1. Gene Sneath, 2. Jerry Hudson, 3. Dustin McClurg, 4. Dustin Forsberg.

Heat 2: 1. B.J. Dauer, 2. Kelly Karnopp, 3. Frank McClurg, 4. Deric Funk.

Feature: 1. Dauer, 2. Sneath, 3. Karnopp, 4. D. McClurg, 5. Forsberg, 6. Hudson, 7. F. McClurg, 8. Phil Hinger, 9. Laura Hinger, 10. Funk, 11. Josh Latka (DNF).

## IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Jason Davis, 2. Jay Hachmeister, 3. Josh Hudson, 4. Jason McCartney.

Heat 2: 1. Cory Struckhoff, 2. John Huffman, 3. Michael Zajic, 4. Dan Lauer.

Feature: 1. Struckhoff, 2. Davis, 3. Hachmeister, 4. Lauer, 5. Bob Rutherford, 6. John Annon, 7. Arnold Williams, 8. Zajic (DNF), 9. McCartney (DNF), 10. Hudson (DNF), 11. Huffman (DNF), 12. Colton Osborne (DNS).

## IMCA Modifieds

Heat 1: 1. Nate Schaben, 2. Brandon Blochlinger, 3. Corey Lagroon, 4. Jim Bell.

Heat 2: 1. Marty Clark, 2. Mike Petersilie, 3. Randy Wilson, 4. Rick Schwab.

Heat 3: 1. Jason Schoenberger, 2. John Fabrizio, 3. Bryan Lariviere, 4. Barry Maupin.

Feature: 1. J. Fabrizio, 2. Schoenberger, 3. Lagroon, 4. Lariviere, 5. Clark, 6. Schwab, 7. Schaben, 8. Blochlinger, 9. Petersilie, 10. Mark Zorn, 11. Maupin, 12. Wilson, 13. Bell, 14. Mitch Kline, 15. Gary Kline, 16. Brian Calhoun, 17. Doug Shearer, 18. Matt Fabrizio (DNS), 19. Hunter Hembree (DNS).

## 4-cylinder Young Guns

Heat 1: 1. Donald Kleine, 2. Dale Heyen, 3. Drew Eagleburger, 4. Tyrel Smith.

Heat 2: 1. Alex Loveless, 2. Christopher Kleine, 3. Dusty Eagleburger, 4. Elliott Conard.

Feature: 1. C. Kleine, 2. Drew Eagleburger, 3. Heyen, 4. Dusty Eagleburger, 5. Loveless, 6. Smith, 7. Conard, 8. D. Kleine (DNF).

## Cruisers/Econos

Heat: 1. Josh Graczyk/Chris Graczyk, 2. Hollister Jones, 3. John Annon/Jeff Soderlund.

Feature: 1. Graczyk/Graczyk, 2. Annon/Soderlund, 3. Jones, 4. Joe Carter/Jim Carter (DNS).



Norton's Laura Lee Baird set two personal records and broke one school record in the Class 3A division of the State Track Meet in Wichita. Here, she won her preliminary in the 400 meter dash. Later, she broke her personal record in the 400 meter dash and 800 meter dash and set the Norton 800 meter record.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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