

Cross country girls make school history

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
For the first time in school history, the Norton Community High School girls cross country team has qualified for the State Cross Country Meet!

The girls placed second as a team in the Regional Meet on the PDRA Golf Course south of Norton on Saturday.

Although they ran well, too, the Norton boys placed fifth and two Blue Jays qualified individually. The top three teams and top 10 runners including the top five individuals from non-qualifying teams qualified for the state meet.

Sacred Heart of Salina won the girls team championship with 62 points, followed by Norton, 68; Larned, 107; Lakin, 123; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 127; Ellsworth, 132; Cimarron, 133; Beloit, 156; Holcomb, 198.

Winning the boys championship was Scott City with 42 points, followed by Ellsworth, 83; Holcomb, 87; Beloit, 121; Norton, 125; Lakin, 146; Sacred Heart of Salina, 147; Lyons, 195; Hoisington, 207; Ellinwood, 289; Phillipsburg, 346.

GIRLS

Norton junior Laura Lee Baird placed third individually with a time of 16:51 for the 2.5 mile course to qualify for the state meet for the third year.

Lady Jay junior KaraJo Jones placed tenth in 17:57.

Third best time for Norton was turned in by junior Taylor Rossi who placed 18th in 18:45 to qualify for the state meet for the second year in a row.

Freshman Dustyna Sprigg placed 21st in 18:55 and freshman Kaylen Rossi was Norton's fifth finisher in 23rd spot in 18:59.

Also running for the Lady Jays were senior Kylie Morel, 34th in 19:40 and Amanda Ray, 39th in 20:04.

"Our girls ran better than ever," said Norton head cross country coach Tom Hehn.

"They've been running better every week.

"I'm very pleased with their performance and delighted that they could qualify for the state meet as a team."

Finishing in the top 10 individuals, in addition to Norton's Baird and Jones, were: Ally Balderston, Sacred Heart, 16:12, first; Shanae Porter, Beloit, 16:38, second; Shanna Prescott, Larned, 17:10, fourth; Sara Faecher, Sacred Heart, 17:18, fifth; Jordan Bell, Ellsworth, 17:32, sixth; Katy File, Beloit, 17:33, seventh; Caitlin Beckman, Scott City, 17:34, eighth; Whitney Steinike, Ellsworth, 17:50, ninth.

BOYS

Norton junior Zach Bainter

qualified for the state meet for the third straight year by placing second individually in 17:25.

Also qualifying for the state meet for the second year in a row was Blue Jay sophomore Chris Maddy, who ran a season's best 3.1 mile race in 18:26 to place 12th.

Third fastest runner for Norton was junior Jordan Bebb, who placed 23rd in a season's best time of 18:48.

Fourth fastest for Norton was senior Luke VanSlike who finished in 46th in 19:53.

Rounding out the top five for Norton was senior David Counter, who pulled a ham string muscle during the race but still finished in 51st in 19:59.50.

Also running for Norton were freshman Troy Bainter, who was 56th in 20:09 and junior Kerby Brandyberry, who placed 58th with a personal best time of 20:15.

"Zach and Chris ran well," said Hehn. "It's good to see them qualify for the state meet again."

"It's too bad David was injured in the race or we probably would have placed fourth as a team. Overall, we ran pretty well."

"It was a perfect day for the meet and there was a lot of good competition."

Runners, in addition to Bainter, in the top 10 finishers were: Trace Kendrick, Scott City, 16:48, first;



The Norton girls' cross county team made school history when they qualified for the Class 3A State Meet, by placing second as a team in the regional meet in Norton on Saturday. The state meet will be at Wamego Saturday. Enjoying their accomplishment following the plaque presentation are, from left: Taylor Rossi, KaraJo Jones, Kaylen Rossi, Kylie Morel, Laura Lee Baird, Dustyna Sprigg and Amanda Ray.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Tyrel George, Scott City, 17:50, third; Kristofer Bailey, Ellsworth, 18:01, fourth; Zac Anthony, Lakin, 18:02, fifth; Mitchell Gaede, Holcomb, 18:04, sixth; Cosme Chavez, Scott City, 18:05, sev-

enth; Miles Pearson, Scott City, 18:12, eighth; Derek Jensen, Ellsworth, 18:13, ninth; Aaron Catlin, Beloit, 18:15, tenth.

Next action

The Norton girls will run at the State Meet on the golf course in Wamego this Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

The two Norton boys competing will run at 12:30 p.m.

Norton football Blue Jays now 2-0 in district play

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

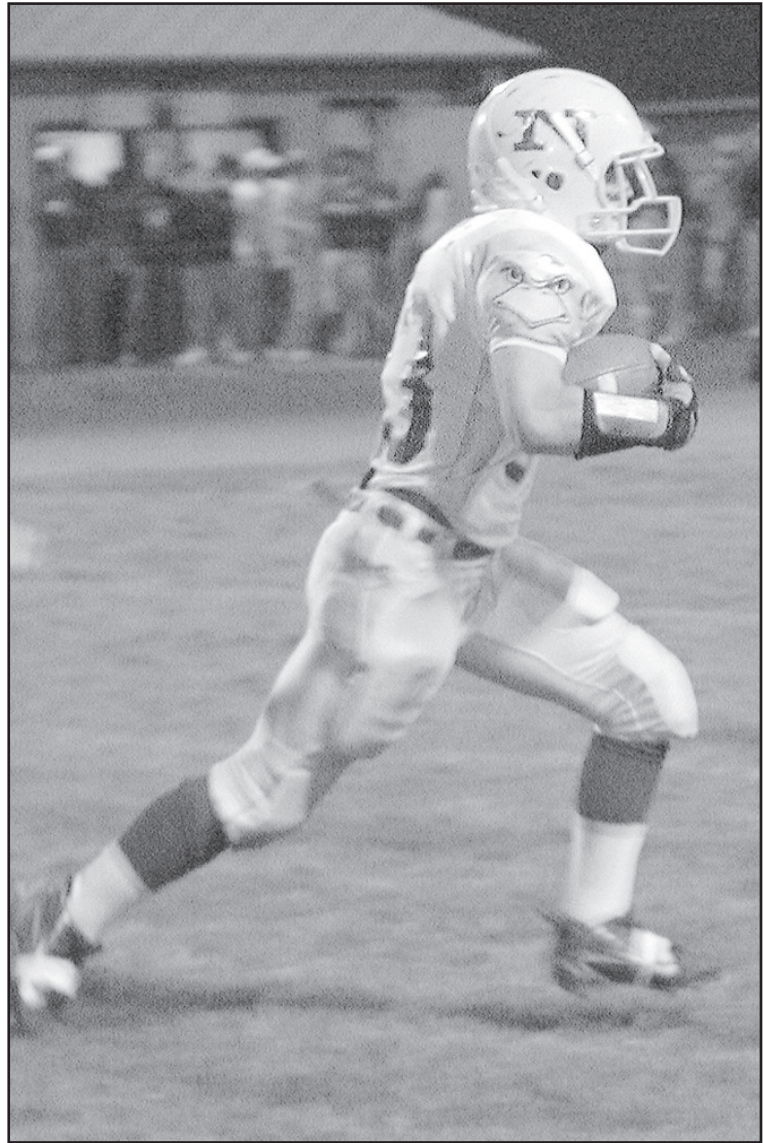
The Norton Community High School and Phillipsburg High School football teams waged a hard fought defensive battle on Friday night in Panther Country but the Blue Jays scored on two of three big plays to win 12-6 and stay unbeaten in District play at 2-0.

Neither team was able to mount an offense in the first quarter, which ended in a scoreless tie. The first play of the second quarter, Norton senior quarterback Logan Kats hit a wide open tailback Todd Bolt for a 55 yard touchdown pass. The kick for extra point was no good and Norton led 6-0 at half-time.

Norton took the opening kickoff in the second half and was driving downfield when the Blue Jays fumbled and the Panthers recovered on their 36. Bolt came through again when he intercepted a Phillipsburg pass and returned it 43 yards to the end zone with 9:03 left in the third period. A run for the extra points was no good but the Jays were on top 12-0.

Phillipsburg responded with a long drive that reached the Norton 2-yard-line but the Blue Jays drove the Panthers back to the 11 and took over. Early in the fourth quarter, Bolt made a nice 52 yard run to the end zone but the apparent Blue Jay touchdown was called back due to a penalty. Two penalties stalled the Blue Jay drive and the ensuing Bolt punt was returned to the Norton 33. Phillipsburg drove in for their only score as quarterback Ryan Swatzell passed 5 yards to Trevor Smith who made a diving catch. The extra point kick was no good and the score was 12-6.

Norton put together one final drive but Phillipsburg held and



Blue Jay junior fullback Matt Stanley had just four carries of the football in Friday night's district win over Phillipsburg, but made the most of them. He gained 31 yards to average almost 8 yards per carry.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

took over on their 20 with 1:23 remaining in the game. The Panthers picked up two first downs and drove into Norton territory. Their hopes of winning ended on fourth and 1 yard when they came up 6 inches short of a first down and Norton took a knee for the 12-6 victory!

"Phillipsburg has a good football team and both teams played hard but I didn't think we were as intense and crisp as we have been," said Norton head coach Lucas Melvin.

"Our practices weren't as good this week and we were just not as prepared. We didn't execute as

well as I had hoped. The adversity we had on the field in the game with Ellis paid off. We knew we had to fight hard to win." Both teams' only losses prior to Friday night were to Smith Center and Ellis. Norton lost to the Railroaders 13-12 and Phillipsburg lost to them by a 14-7 score.

"Our defense played great most of the night. We had a great stand when we held them on our 2 yard line and again at the end of the game."

"Offensively, we moved the ball some but the majority of our problems were self-inflicted. I hoped to be able to pass more but we didn't have good enough field position most of the time."

Statistics were close with Norton having more total offense but Phillipsburg earning more first downs. The Blue Jays finished with 278 yards of offense compared to 229 for the Panthers. Norton had 10 first-and-tens while Phillipsburg picked up 14.

Norton limited Phillipsburg to an average of 3.5 yards per rush for 151 yards while averaging 4.7 yards themselves to gain 164 yards rushing. Norton had 36 more yards passing on 6 of 11 compared to 8 of 16.

Bolt was leading rusher for Norton with 83 yards on 12 carries for a 6.9 yard average. Other Norton ball carriers were: Terrell Lane, 12 for 37; Matt Stanley, 4 for 31; Logan Kats, 12 for 37.

Kats had five pass receivers. Bolt led with 55 yards on 1 catch, followed by Wes Georgeson, 2 for 19; Jared Cox, 1 for 18; Terrell Lane, 1 for 12 and Ashton Draper, 1 for 10.

J.D. Gall kicked off 3 times for a 38.4 yard average and Bolt punted 5 times for a 36 yard average. Bolt had 1 punt return for 7 yards and 1 kickoff return for 18 yards. Lane

had 1 kickoff return for 20 yards. Dustin Zahorsky was leading ball carrier for Phillipsburg with 65 yards on 8 tries. Brett McClain gained 18 yards on 10 attempts.

Norton had a season high 11 penalties for 80 yards compared to 2 for just 15 yards for Phillipsburg.

Starting on offense for Norton were: Robert Derauf, Nish Millan, tackles; Kyle Edgett, Brock Lauer, guards; Preston Herman, center; Jared Cox, tight end; Wes Georgeson, Travis Ray, wide receivers; Logan Kats, quarterback; Todd Bolt, tailback; Matt Stanley, fullback.

Blue Jay defensive starters were: Alex Thomas, Zach Mannel, tackles; Herman, Lauer, ends; Terrell Lane, Stanley, Zac Dreher, linebackers; Kats, Bolt, Ray and Zane Perez, defensive backs.

Leading tacklers for Norton were: Zac Dreher, 15 solos, 1 assist, 16 total; Matt Stanley, 6 solos,

4 assists, 10 total; Todd Bolt, 6 solos, 1 assist, 7 total; Terrell Lane, 5 solos, 1 assist, 6 total; Preston Herman, Logan Kats, Brock Lauer, 5 total each; Zane Perez, 4 total; Jared Cox, Ashton Draper, Zach Mannel, Travis Ray, 3 total each; J.D. Gall, Landon Hamel, Brad Nuzum, Alex Thomas, John Van Doren, 1 total each.

Norton is now 2-0 in District play with the final District game set for Travis Field on Thursday evening versus Oberlin. Kickoff is 7 p.m.

The Red Devils lost their first two District contests to Phillipsburg and Beloit.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Phillipsburg
10	First Downs 14
164	Rushing Yards 151
114	Passing Yards 79
278	Total Offense 229
6-11-0	Passes Completed 8-16-1
1-1	Fumbles Lost 0-1
11-80	Penalties 2-15
5-36	Punts 5-28



Does your bank do this for you?

Big city products, small town service

LOOMIS
211 Commercial St.
308-876-2451



FIRSTSTATE BANK
"Your Partner in Trust"
MEMBER FDIC

ALMA
620 West Main
308-928-2101

www.fs bloomis.com

'Christmas on Us' will keep Norton's shoppers at home, and bring in many from around the area. Many \$\$\$ to win.



Hey Kids!

Attend the Don Heller 40th Annual Halloween Parade and Wiener Roast . . .

Thursday, October 25

Sponsored By The

City of Norton

and the

NORTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT