

Cross country girls 6th

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Competing for the first time as a team in Norton Community High School history in the State Cross Country Meet, the Lady Blue Jay squad placed sixth on Saturday on the golf course at Wamego and all seven runners ran well.

Two members of the Norton boys team also qualified at the regional meet the week before in Norton and also ran well and finished high.

The top three teams in each regional qualified for the state meet and the Norton girls placed second in the regional. The Norton boys placed fifth in the regional but two runners qualified.

GIRLS

Norton junior Laura Lee Baird was the Lady Jays' top finisher as she placed 11th individually out of 100 runners in the 2.5 mile race with an outstanding time of 16:13.61, which was near her season's best of 16:10. Baird placed seventh among runners on teams. Her time was much better than the 16:41.84 she ran on the same course in the Wamego Invitational at the start of the year.

Second high finisher for the Norton girls was junior KaraJo Jones, who was 32nd individually and 22nd among teams with a time of 17:29.67. Again her time was much better than her clocking of 17:48.40 in the Wamego meet earlier.

Freshman Kaylen Rossi was third fastest for the Lady Jays with a 59th place and 37th among teams in 18:31.40. Her Wamego meet time was 18:39.19.

Another Lady Jay freshman, Dustyna Sprigg, was fourth best for Norton in 66th place and 44th among team runners with a time of 18:45.12.

Junior Taylor Rossi finished fifth best for Norton to round out the team score. She was 68th individually and 46th among teams with a clocking of 18:46.19.

Also running for Norton were senior Kylie Morel, 85th individually and 61st as a team member, with a time of 19:35.12 and sophomore Amanda Ray, 87th individually and 63rd as a team member, with a clocking of 19:48.97.

Riley County won the girls championship with 47 points, followed by Whitewater, 84; Belle Plain, 99; Wichita Trinity Academy, 137; Belleville, 141; Norton, 156; Rossville, 172; Salina Sacred Heart, 173; Prairie Village-KC Christ, 201; Larned, 246; Council Grove, 249.

Annie Martin, Riley County, was the individual champion with a time of 14:58.47, followed by Cori Christensen, Medicine Lodge, 15:32.21, second; Jo-Jo Mahaffey, Riley County, 15:45.69, third; Ally Balderston, Salina Sacred Heart, 15:53.57, fourth; Jylian Jaloma, Mt. Academy, 15:57.98, fifth; Kylie Graves, Rossville, 16:00.14, sixth; Miranda Archer, Rossville, 16:09.61, seventh; Megan Duggins, Wichita Collegiate, 16:11.45, eighth; Amanda Callaway, Belle Plain, 16:11.99 and Shanay Porter, Beloit, 16:13.06, tenth.

Balderston won Norton's regional meet. Porter was second and Baird was behind her in



The Norton girls qualified as a team for the first time in history for the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Wamego, and placed sixth. Lady Jays in the crowd of runners early in the 2.5 mile race are junior Laura Lee Baird (center), junior KaraJo Jones (partially hidden by another runner's hair) and junior Taylor Rossi (back right).

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

third.

BOYS

Norton junior Zach Bainter placed fourth among the 104 runners with an excellent time of 17:15.70.

Bainter placed second in Norton's regional meet in 17:25 and won the Wamego meet at the start of the season with a clocking of 17:45.69.

Blue Jay sophomore Chris Maddy placed 24th with a time of 18:20.65. Maddy placed 12th in the Norton regional with a time of 18:26. He also placed 11th at Wamego at the start of the season in 19:11.59.

Scott City was the boys state champion with 75 points, followed by Wichita Trinity Academy, 82; Prairie Village-KC Christ, 93; Southeast of Saline, 141; Holcomb, 143; Ellsworth, 159; Riley County, 173; Belleville, 190; Hillsboro, 203; Silver Lake, 211; Osage City, 211; Richmond-Central Heights, 239.

Individual winner of the boys 3.1 mile race was Trace Kendrick, Scott City, with a time of 16:36.29. Kendrick won the Norton regional with a time of 16:48. Austin Hunt, Belle Plain, was second in 16:50.27, followed by Jerod Barker, Silver Lake, 17:07.08, third; Jimmy Phitts, Belleville, 17:27.77, fifth; Ben Motley, Kansas City Christian, 17:29.91, sixth; Nick Anning, Kansas City Christian, 17:34.77, seventh; Max McClure, Southeast of Saline, 17:43.51, eighth; David Keach, Neodesha, 17:44.63, ninth; Tyrel George, Scott City, 17:45.70. George placed third in the Norton regional meet.

Coach's comments

"Our girls and boys ran well on Saturday," said Norton head cross country coach Tom Hehn.

"Most of them improved their

times over the earlier Wamego meet on basically the same course.

"Our girls were ranked No. 8 in the Kansas State coaches poll after the regional meet and we beat that by two spots.

"Sacred Heart beat us in the regional meet and we outscored them by 17 points.

"Laura Lee and Zach both medaled and Chris missed it by just four places.

"Next season looks good for Norton cross country since we are only losing one state qualifier to graduation.

Huskies' Kayla Field wins medal

By **DICK BOYD**

Northern Valley freshman Kayla Field turned in another great cross country race on Saturday morning by placing 18th to medal in the Class 1A State Cross Country Meet on the golf course in Wamego.

Field's time was 17:20.67 which was better than her 17:25 time when she placed fourth in the 1A Regional Meet the week before at Grainfield.

"She had never run on this course but she ran just the race we planned," said Northern Valley head cross country coach Laryl Rous.

"We wanted her to get in 20th to 25th placed early in the race, move up halfway through and finish strong and that is what she did.

"Just being a freshman and her first time at the state meet, she ran her best and really did well.

"She also had an outstanding first high school season, medaling in every meet in which she competed."



Northern Valley freshman Kayla Field worked hard to place 18th and medal in the Class 1A State Cross Country Meet in Wamego on Saturday. She medaled in every meet this season.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Lady Jay teammates taking a rest from the action watched as junior Katharine Roy dug a ball during the Class 3A State Tournament on Friday at Salina. No. 2 for Norton is senior Courtney LeClair.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Girls gain experience at state

By **DICK BOYD**

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team returned to the Class 3A State Volleyball Tournament after a 22 year absence on Friday but was unable to repeat their tremendous performance in the Sub-State Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 20 in Norton when they defeated three outstanding teams to win the championship and advance.

Norton had been seeded No. 7 in the eight-team sub-state tournament but proceeded to defeat No. 2 seed Lakin, No. 3 seed Cimarron and No. 1 seed Phillipsburg to qualify for the state tournament.

Entering the state tournament in Salina, the Lady Jays were again the underdog and seeded No. 8 and were the only team in the tournament with a losing record.

The eight sub-state champions were divided into two pools with each playing three pool matches on Friday. The top two teams from each pool played in the semi-finals and finals on Saturday.

Norton (13-20) was seeded No. 8 and started versus No. 1 seed Sacred Heart of Salina, who was returning to the state tournament after an appearance the last four seasons and had compiled an impressive 37-3 record.

The Lady Jays played hard but had met their match and lost 14-25, 13-25.

In their second match of the day, Norton played No. 4 seed Pomona. The score was tied 7-all early in the first game but Pomona eventually pulled ahead to 15-8 and won 25-10. In the second game, the Lady Jays were tied with them at 5-5 early but eventually lost 16-25.

Norton's third match was versus No. 5 seed Whitewater. Again, they played even with their opponent early before falling behind. The score was tied 5-all in the first game but Whitewater pulled ahead by 13-9 and eventually won 25-12. The second game was tied a number of times before Whitewater broke away from a 13-all deadlock to win 25-18.

Sacred Heart and Whitewater advanced out of pool play along with No. 2 seed Hutchinson-Trinity and No. 3 seed Silver Lake. In the semi-finals on Saturday,

Silver Lake defeated Whitewater and Sacred Heart outscored Hutchinson Trinity. Silver Lake defeated Sacred Heart for the championship and Whitewater defeated Hutchinson Trinity for third place.

Norton opponents Colby (4-A), Smith Center (2A), Atwood (2A) and Hoxie (1A) all won their sub-state tournaments and competed in their respective state tournaments. Hoxie was the only one to qualify for Saturday's semi-finals and finals and they placed fourth.

SACRED HEART

"Even though we jumped out to an early lead, we could not hold back the Lady Knights from a victory over us in two," said Norton head coach Peggy Cox.

"They were by far the best team we had seen all year and we didn't adjust. We struggled in all aspects of the game and gave up some easy points. I knew this would be a tough match but I hoped we would compete with them."

Hayli Bozarth led Norton in kills with 4, followed by Courtney Cox, 3; Courtney LeClair, 2; Ashlie Hageman, 1.

LeClair and Lacy Keilig each had 1 block. Katharine Roy served 1 ace.

Digs leader was Cox with 5, followed by Bozarth, 4; Shelby Jones, LeClair, Roy, Ashlie Stewart, 2 each; Hageman, Sara Lentz, 1 each. Cox led assists with 5 and Ashley Colip had 1.

POMONA

"In this match, we really struggled getting the ball to the setters," said Cox. "They had several top-spin servers that ate us up. This was something we hadn't seen from any of the teams we have played this season and, I realize in the future, if we plan to be competitive at state, we will have to work on reading different serves and then making the necessary changes."

Bozarth was the kills leader again with 5, followed by LeClair, 2.

Colip, Lentz and Roy each served 1 ace. Cox, Jones and Stewart had 4 digs each, followed by Roy, 2; Colip, Hageman, LeClair

and Lentz, 1 each.

Cox led assists again with 6.

WHITEWATER

"At this point in time, we knew we would not make it out of pool play so our focus was to take some other team with us," said Cox. "Unfortunately, we met up with some more top-spin servers and we just couldn't get much going."

"We did get the ball to the setters and were able to get kills but didn't get any blocks to help take some pressure off the defense."

Bozarth led kills again, this time with 4. She was followed by Cox, LeClair, 3 each; Hageman, Keilig, Lentz, 1 each.

LeClair, Lentz, Roy each served 1 ace. Stewart led digs with 7, followed by Cox, Roy, 4 each; Bozarth, Colip, 3 each; Jones, LeClair, 2 each; Lacy Ellis, 1.

Colip had 7 assists and Cox had 4.

OVERALL COMMENTS

"While we didn't perform like we would have liked at the state tournament, it was a great experience," said Cox. "Being the first Norton team to make it to state in 22 years was incredible and having the fans follow us to Salina was awesome! They cheered us on to the very end and we really appreciate their support and dedication."

"From a coach's perspective, I'm excited about what this team accomplished and, despite their 13-23 record, these young ladies proved to themselves and Norton that they can compete at a championship level. They will never forget the emotions and joy they experienced when they beat Lakin, Cimarron and, especially Phillipsburg, to represent Norton in Salina."

"Hopefully, the returning letter winners from this year's team will remember the feeling of walking into the Bicentennial Center in Salina and having their name announced and make plans for doing it again next year."

Norton seniors on this year's sub-state championship team were: Sara Lentz, Courtney LeClair, Lacy Ellis, Ashlie Hageman, Courtney Cox and Thea Wiseman.



Norton junior Zach Bainter, left, battled David Keach, Neodesha, as they ran up one of the many hills on the golf course at Wamego during the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet on Saturday. Bainter placed fourth and Keach was ninth in the 3.1 mile race.

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