

Track troops open season first and third

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track teams took advantage of nearly perfect weather on Friday to place first and third, respectively, in the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet held on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

The Lady Jays amassed 168.6 points to easily outdistance second place Colby for the championship. The Lady Eagles totaled 121.6 points and were followed in third place by Phillipsburg with 113.7. Fourth place went to Smith Center with 55, followed by Northern Valley, 50.6; Logan, 23.5 and Goodland, 7.

Colby powered to the boys championship with 158 points, followed by Phillipsburg in second with 122 and Norton in third with 95.5. Smith Center placed fourth with 70, followed by Northern Valley, 42.5; Logan, 38 and Goodland, 25.

"This was a wonderful season opening meet for our varsity squads with our girls winning and boys finishing third," said Norton head coach Jason Jones.

"It is always difficult to tell in preseason where the points are going to fall so it always feels good to get out and compete and see where we need to go to work to become more competitive as a team.

"We are very, very pleased with the times and distances that many of our youngsters were able to post this early in the season! It is great to see them experience benefits of their hard work in practice. Our junior varsity athletes, who were coming off a meet on Monday, had their second chance to compete in this opening week of the competitive season and some of them bettered their performances and scored some points in this varsity meet.

"The weather was awesome and our girls and boys took advantage of that. They were able to establish some early marks and we will use those results to set some goals for the remainder of the season.

"We are very excited about continuing to compete and the opportunity to better ourselves as the season really begins to pick up in the coming weeks."

Girls

Norton junior Laura Lee Baird appeared to be in mid-season form as she won two individual gold medals and anchored a Lady Jay relay to another gold.

In the 400 meter dash, she was timed in 59.78 seconds, just off her personal record of 58.4 which she set last year in placing fourth in the state meet. She won her second individual gold with a first place in the 800 meter run with an excellent time of 2:23.69.

Baird anchored the Norton 4 x 400 meter relay team to a first place finish in 4:21.78. Her relay teammates were senior Courtney LeClair, junior KaraJo Jones and freshman Dustyna Sprigg. LeClair also won a gold medal in the 300 meter hurdles with an excellent time of 48.95, was second in the 100 meter hurdles in another good time of 16.93 and was a member of the second place 4 x 100 meter relay team.

Junior Hayli Bozarth won a gold medal and two silver medals in the field events. She heaved the shot 39'5.5" to easily win that event and placed second in the discus with a throw of 120'11" and second in the javelin with a distance of 109'2".

Jones earned three silver medals. She was second in the long jump with a leap of 15'7", second in the 200 meter dash in 28.16 and ran on Norton's second place 4 x 100 meter relay team, which was timed in 53.72. Running with her on the relay team were LeClair, junior Taylor Rossi and sophomore Hannah Waggoner.

Norton's other girls gold medal winner was Rossi, with a clearance of 8'6" in the pole vault to tie for first with Joni Hilburn, Northern Valley. Rossi was a consistent 9' vaulter at the end of last season. Rossi also placed fifth in the 100 meter dash in 14.30.

Waggoner placed second in the 100 meter dash in 13.6 and third in the 200 meter dash in 28.41.

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of senior Courtney Cox, junior Amyla Tan, freshman Kaylen Rossi and freshman Bekah Streck placed second with a clocking of 12:14.89.

Junior Wiyanna Paxton finished second in the shot put event with a heave of 33'10", third in the javelin with a personal best throw of 102'6" and fifth in the discus with a personal best distance of

104'5".

Kaylen Rossi also placed third in the 3200 meter run in 14:35.62.

Sophomore Alyssa Thomson won the bronze medal in the high jump by clearing 4'8".

Sophomore Raven Brown set a personal record in the 100 meter dash with a time of 14.18 to place fourth. Brown also placed fifth in the 200 meter dash in 29.43.

Tan finished fourth in the 800 meter run with a personal best time of 2:53.38.

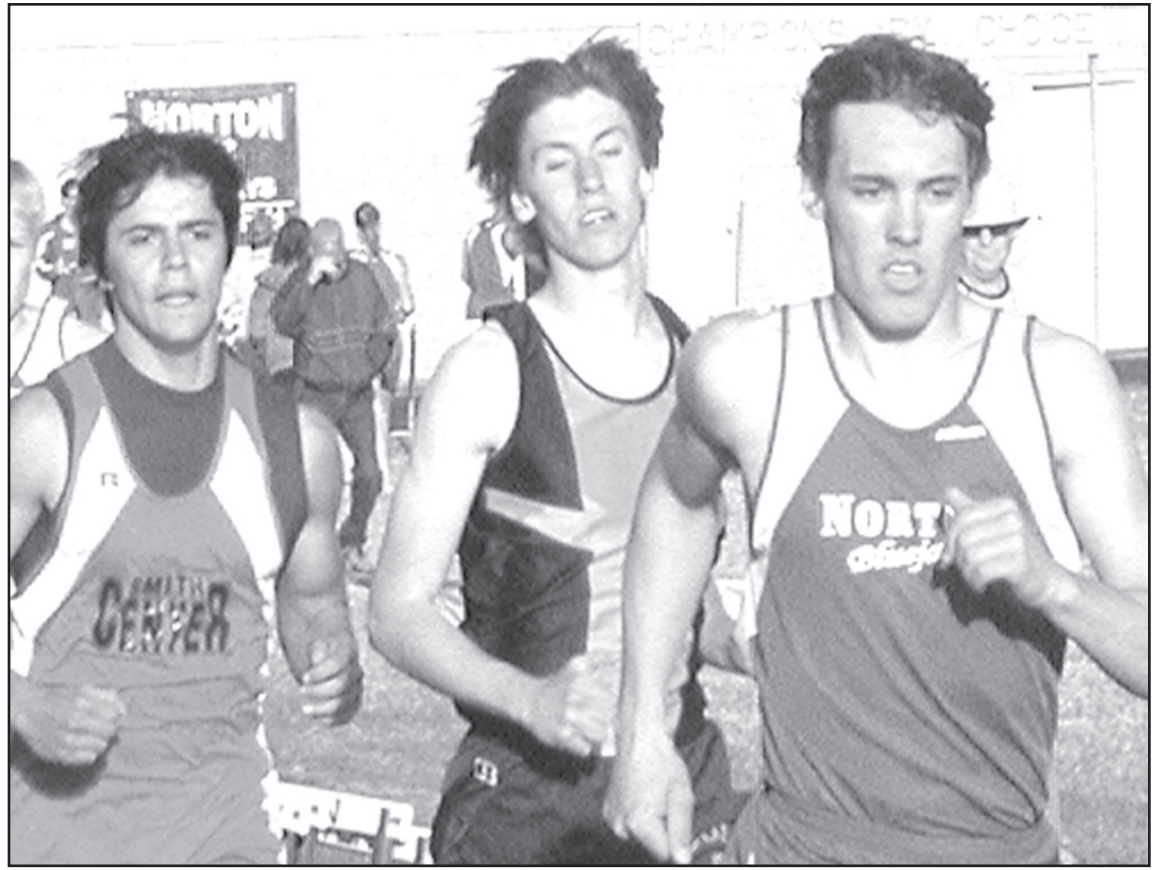
Sixth place finishes went to Sprigg, 1:10.15 in the 400 meter dash and Streck, personal best 16:03.37 in the 3200 meter run.

Times and distances of Norton girls who did not place were: sophomore Lacy Keilig, personal best 27'10"; freshman Morgan Baumann, personal best 23'4"; freshman Sophie Mills, 19'; freshman Katie Scott, 17'4.5", shot put; Lacy Keilig, personal best 73'2"; Morgan Baumann, 56'5"; Katie Scott, 48'7"; Sophie Mills, personal best 68'8"; sophomore Amanda Ray, personal best 68'2"; Lacy Keilig, personal best 63'3"; javelin; Alyssa Thomson, 13'9.25"; Raven Brown, personal best 13'8"; junior Katharine Roy, 13'5", long jump; Dustyna Sprigg, 4'6"; sophomore Brandi Graham, 4'2"; high jump; Brandi Graham, 15.75; sophomore Helen Guerrero, 15.81, 100 yard dash; Dustyna Sprigg, 30.68; Alyssa Thomson, 31.34; Helen Guerrero, personal best 31.64, 200 meter dash; Katharine Roy, 1:13.81, 400 meter dash; Courtney Cox, personal best 7:08.70; Amanda Ray, personal best 7:09.63, 1600 meter run.

Boys

Senior hurdler Jared Cox turned in an outstanding mid-season time for the 300 meter hurdles when he won the gold medal in 40.92, a personal best for him. Cox was also second in the 110 meter hurdles in 16.46 and was a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team which placed second.

Junior Zach Bainter also ran two outstanding races to win gold and silver medals and anchored his 4 x 400 meter relay team to a second place. Bainter won the 800 meter run in the outstanding early season time of 2:06.69 and placed second in the 1600 meter run with another



Blue Jay junior Zach Bainter turned in an excellent time for the first meet of the year in winning the 800 meter run in 2:06.69. Running behind him here were Josh Baden, Colby, who placed second and Joe Osburn, Smith Center. Bainter placed second to Baden in the 1600 meter run and was a member of Norton's second place 4X400 meter relay team.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

excellent time of 4:46.20. Bainter teamed with Cox, junior Brock Lauer and sophomore Landon Hamel to earn the silver medal in the 4 x 400 meter relay in a time of 3:47.18.

Freshman Terrell Lane got his high school track career off to a good start with first, third and fifth places individually and he was also on the fourth place 4 x 100 meter relay team. Lane won the long jump with an outstanding leap of 20'11", was third in the triple jump with an excellent distance of 39'11.5" and fifth in the 100 meter dash in 11.86. His teammates in the 4 x 100 meter relay were senior Logan Kats, senior Todd Bolt and Hamel. They were clocked in 47.46.

Freshman Jeremy Sproul won the first gold medal of his high school career when he was clocked in 54.23 in the 400 meter dash.

Earning silver medals were members of Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team, which was timed in 9:42.53. Team members were senior David Counter, sophomore Chris Maddy, freshman Troy Bainter and freshman Dakota

Dreher.

Bolt placed fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 38'4.5".

Kats finished fifth in the 400 meter dash in 58.09. Counter was fifth in the 1600 meter run in 5:22.01 and Maddy was fifth in the 3200 meter run in 11:33.81.

Counter also earned a sixth place in the 3200 meter run with a personal best clocking of 11:41.31 and Dakota Dreher placed sixth in the high jump by clearing 5'2".

Times and distances of Norton boys who did not place were: Brock Lauer, personal best 12.40; freshman Billy Broeckelman, 13.23; freshman Kaid McKenna, 14.37, 100 meter dash; freshman Spencer Shirk, personal best 29.81, 200 meter dash; Spencer Shirk, personal best 1:05.40, 400 meter dash; Dakota Dreher, 2:17; freshman Zach Porter, personal best 2:43, 800 meter run; senior Luke VanSkiike, 5:47; Zach Porter, personal best 6:10, 1600 meter run; Troy Bainter, 12:46; freshman Kegan Vanover, 13:23, 3200 meter run; Luke VanSkiike, sophomore Casey Robison, Billy Broeckelman, Dakota Dreher,

4:12.21, 4 x 400 meter relay; junior Brad Nuzum, 36'7"; junior Zac Dreher, 36'2"; freshman Ryan Blecha, personal best 34'2"; freshman Justin Griffith, personal best 33'5"; Brock Lauer, 31'1.5", shot put; Zac Dreher, 110'2"; senior Bryce Engelbert, 98'3"; Justin Griffith, personal best 85'5"; Brad Nuzum, 75'3"; Ryan Blecha, 73'4"; discus; Zac Dreher, 122'7"; Bryce Engelbert, 112'7"; senior Wes Georgeson, 107'5"; Justin Griffith, 94'2"; javelin; Todd Bolt, 18'7"; Landon Hamel, 17'9.5", long jump; Casey Robison, 34'5", triple jump; Kaid McKenna, 10'; Billy Broeckelman, 8'6"; Casey Robison, 8'6", pole vault.

Next action

Norton was scheduled to compete today in the annual Smith Center Invitational, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Blue Jay junior varsity will compete in the Trego JV Meet on Monday at WaKeeney, beginning at 4 p.m.

The Norton varsity will compete in the Plainville Invitational on Tuesday, beginning at 3 p.m.

Northern Valley's Austin Herman sets new school record

The Northern Valley junior high track team began their season by traveling to Smith Center to compete in the Kensington Invitational track meet on March 31.

It was a cold and windy day. Eighth grader Austin Herman set a new school record in the triple jump with a leap of 35' 1".

Northern Valley team results:
2nd place - 8th grade boys
2nd place - 8th grade girls
3rd place - 6th & 7th grade boys

5th place - 6th & 7th grade girls
Eighth grade boys:
75m Hurdles, 1st - Austin Herman 11.7, 4th - Calen Bach, 5th - Brandon McDowell

200m, 4th - Austin Herman
400m, 2nd - Austin Herman
1600m, 2nd - Gunnar Hays

High Jump, 6th - Tyler Montgomery
Triple Jump, 1st - Austin Herman 35' 1", 3rd - Calen Bach
Shot, 5th - Nate Land, 6th - Dillon Hogan

Discus, 4th - Dillon Hogan
400m Relay, 3rd - Hays, Bach, Montgomery, Land
800m Relay, 3rd - Hays, Bach, Montgomery, Land

Sixth-Seventh boys:
75m Hurdles, 2nd - Tyson Callaway, 3rd - Phillip Compton
800m, 2nd - Tyson Callaway
1600m, 1st - Tyson Callaway

6:15.4, 2nd - Hunter Chandler
Long Jump, 1st - Phillip Compton 14' 11"

Triple Jump, 1st - Phillip Compton 26' 11"

Shot, 2nd - Ian Vincent

Discus, 1st - Phillip Compton 93' 4", 3rd - Ian Vincent, 5th - Alex Tharman

Ball Throw, 3rd - Jordan Baird, 4th - Ian Vincent, 6th - Dallas Stillion

400m Relay, 3rd - Callaway, Chandler, Baird, Tharman
800m Relay, 3rd - Hilburn, Brown, Stillion, Tharman

Eighth grade girls
75m Hurdles, 4th - Ashley Constable

75m, 1st - Sarah Whitney 11.22, 3rd - Keziah Whitesell, 5th - Kelsey Raburn

100m, 3rd - Kenzi Husted, 4th - Sarah Whitney

200m, 3rd - Melissa Hawks

400m, 4th - Keziah Whitesell, 6th - Ashley Constable

1600m, 3rd - Kynzie Stevens

High Jump, 3rd - Kelsey Raburn, 4th - Kynzie Stevens

Long Jump, 1st - Melissa Hawks 12' 9", 5th - Kenzi Husted
Triple Jump, 5th - Melissa Hawks

Shot, 2nd - Cassie Field
Discus, 2nd - Cassie Field, 3rd - Sarah Whitney

Ball Throw, 2nd - Kenzi Husted, 3rd - Cassie Field
400m Relay, 2nd - Raburn, Hawks, Whitney, Constable

800m Relay, 5th - Field, Hus-

ted, Stevens, Whitesell
Sixth-Seventh girls
400m, 3rd - Erika Chandler

1600m, 1st - Regan Simpson 6:25.7
Shot, 2nd - Haley Graham, 5th - Ashley Jeffries

Discus, 4th - Ashley Jeffries, 6th - Haley Graham
Ball Throw, 1st - Erika Chandler 132' 1", 5th - Ashley Jeffries, 6th - Haley Graham

Triple Jump, 2nd - Erika Chandler

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Georgeson signs with Kearney State College



Norton Community High School senior gridder Wes Georgeson signed a letter of intent to play football for Kearney State College in Kearney, Neb. Watching were his parents Stacy and Trent Richmond and his Blue Jay football coach Lucas Melvin (seated).

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

— THIS IS A PAID AD —

Blue Jay signs with Kearney State

By DICK BOYD

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Wes Georgeson, 6-feet-4-inch, 195 pound senior wide receiver for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football for Kearney State College in Kearney, Neb.

Georgeson was the Blue Jays' leading pass receiver this season with 31 catches for 564 yards and an average of 18.2 yards per catch. He was third high on the team in all purpose yards.

He was a first team offensive selection by the Mid-Continent League coaches after receiving honorable mention last season.

Georgeson also received honorable mention on the *Topeka Capital-Journal* Class 3A all-state team following this season.

"Wes is a very talented young man," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"He has great hands and does a good job of using his speed to

gain yards after catching the ball. He creates a mismatch on the edge with defensive backs because he is 6'4" and most defensive backs are shorter.

"Wes has a lot of potential and ability. If he works hard, he should have a good college career.

"It's nice that he will be in a four-year program at Kearney State. This will give him a longer time to get familiar with the program and coaches and give him a better opportunity to succeed."

Grant Mollring is the running backs coach for Kearney State. He recruits in Kansas and was the coach who recruited Georgeson.

"We're excited to recruit good Kansas players and are extremely happy to add Wes to our roster. We run a spread offense with four receivers on the field at one time and feel that Wes will fit right in as an inside receiver," said coach Mollring.

"When he fills out, we will look at him as a hybrid back, which

is a tight end and wide receiver combination.

"Wes is a very versatile player. He was a good find for us and we're excited to have him come and play for us."

Darrell Morris is the head football coach at Kearney State. He has been on the Lopers' football coaching staff for 22 years and has been the head coach the past eight years. They play in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and are a perennial finisher in the top of the league.

Georgeson is also an outstanding basketball and track athlete for Norton Community High School.

Wes is the son of Stacy and Trent Richmond, Norton.

Jared Hayes, senior defensive back and punt returner for Smith Center, and Ethan Kuhlmann, senior quarterback and linebacker for Kensington, are also among the Kansas players recruited this year by Kearney State.