

Many Riverless winners from area

By DICK BOYD

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Area walkers and runners of all ages participated in the annual Family Fun Run/Walk at the Riverless Festival in Phillipsburg on Saturday, June 7 and a number of the medal winners were from the *Norton Telegram* circulation territory.

Blake VanEaton of Norton was the winner of the 20-29 year old male division in the five mile run with a time of 32:39. Blake also had the fastest time of all the males and received a trophy in addition to a medal for winning his age group.

Marvin Gaines of Logan displayed his physical fitness by winning both the five mile and two

mile runs in the 40-49 year male age group. He was timed in 38:42 in the five mile and 13:37 in the two mile run.

Kyle Merklein of Prairie View won the five mile run in the 15-19 year male age group with a clocking of 33:35.

In the female division of the five mile run, Pam Shelton of Norton placed third in the 40-49 year age group with a time of 45:54.

In the two mile competition, Hannah Pinkerton of Logan was the female winner in the 11-14 year age group with a 14:01 time and won a trophy in addition to her medal for being the overall female winner.

Marcy Gaines of Logan placed second in the two mile run in the

11-14 year female age group with a clocking of 17:49.

Sherry Woodside of Prairie View finished third in the 40-49 year female age group in the two mile run with a time of 30:40.

On the men's side in the two mile run, Steve VanDerVeen of Prairie View placed second in the 30-39 year male age group with a time of 22:47.

Bryan Keiswetter of Norton finished third in the two mile run in the 40-49 year male age group with a time of 21:45.

The top three men's and women's finishers in each age group received medals.

Sponsor of the riverless run/walk was the Phillips County Health Systems.



Blake VanEaton



Hannah Pinkerton



Bryan Keiswetter



Steve VanDerVeen



Penni Sell and Sherry Woodside



Pam Shelton



Marvin Gaines

Super season for Blue Jay track

By DICK BOYD

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In the spring of 2008, the Norton Community High School girls and boys track teams produced one of their most successful seasons with the girls earning their second ever Class 3A state championship and the boys tying for eighth in the state.

In the process, five school records were broken.

"We are extremely proud of the 62 athletes and two managers on the 2008 Norton Community High School track and field team," said Norton head coach Jason Jones. "This season is definitely one to remember and one to cherish and those cherished memories include much more than their competitive accomplishments that have been so well noted publicly."

High point scorer for the girls team was junior Hayli Bozarth, who won two medals at the state track meet and set two new school records during the season. Hayli scored 219 points in track meets this season.

High point scorer for the boys was junior Zach Bainter with 145.25 points earned this season. Zach also won two state track medals.

Coach Jones has announced the names of 16 of the girls athletes who are letter winners for the season. They are: Courtney Cox, Courtney LeClair, seniors; Laura

Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, KaraJo Jones, Wiyanna Paxton, Taylor Rossi, Katharine Roy, juniors; Raven Brown, Bethany Roy, Alyssa Thomson, Hannah Waggoner, sophomores; Sophie Mills, Kaylen Rossi, Dustyna Sprigg, Bekah Streck, freshmen.

Coach Jones also released the names of 16 boys athletes who are letter winners. They are: Todd Bolt, David Counter, Jr., Jared Cox, Bryce Engelbert, Wes Georgeson, Logan Kats, Luke VanSki, seniors; Zach Bainter, Zac Dreher, Brock Lauer, juniors; Landon Hamel, Chris Maddy, sophomores; Troy Bainter, Dakota Dreher, Terrell Lane, Kaid McKenna, freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this season were Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin.

Student managers were juniors Lucy Gosselin and Bloss Jacobus.

Laura Lee Baird set two new school records this season. She ran the 800 meters in 2:19.15 and the 1600 meters in 5:17.95. Hayli Bozarth's two new records are the shot put, with a heave of 45'3.5" and the discus, with a throw of 143'4".

The 4 x 100 meter relay team of Courtney LeClair, Raven Brown, KaraJo Jones and Hannah Waggoner set a new school record of 51.69

"A year from now, we hope we will return 24 athletes from our girls' team of 26 and 19 boys from this year's squad of 26. Those who are coming back have learned many lessons that will become valuable to them in their quest for future success on our team and those who have graduated will hopefully be able to apply some of the lessons of this season to their most important upcoming race -- life.

"Our girls team won eight out of nine meets on the varsity schedule, including the state championship, and our boys' team finished in the top three in five of those nine meets and tied for eighth in the state meet. Our junior varsity teams competed very well at each of their meets and they, along with the varsity athletes, continued to get better as the season progressed. We love it when this happens!

"We do consider this a wonderfully successful season in terms of how we competed on a meet by meet basis but we also recognize

that many other personal and team victories have quietly resulted. In every one of our competitive outings, our athletes were faced with unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances that could have led to negative outcomes. However, our athletes continuously and consistently responded like true champions. They always found a way to do their very best with what they had and, in those circumstances, refused to let those hardships get in their way. This is the mark of a team which is built beyond any competition that has taken place as part of a track and field meet. For this, we are very proud of them!

"We could not be happier with the season that these girls and boys gave us and we are proud to have had the opportunity to work with them. These athletes are great young people who made a great team and they deserve every ounce of success that they earned!"

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Legion heads to Nebraska tourney

The Norton American Legion baseball team will compete in the Holdrege (Neb.) Tournament this weekend. The Blue Jays' first game will be versus Holdrege tonight at 7:30.

They are scheduled to play three games in the tournament on Saturday and one on Sunday.

"This will be a tough tournament and it will provide plenty of competition for us," said Norton Legion head coach Joe Durham.

The Norton Legion has not played their last two scheduled games due to circumstances beyond the control of the teams they were to play. They were scheduled to play Colby here on Sunday, June 15 and at Stockton on Tuesday, June 17.

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