

# Forty-seven students report for '09 track

By DICK BOYD

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Third year head coach Jason Jones has 22 young women and 25 young men competing for positions on the 2009 Norton Community High School track teams.

The Blue Jay track and field athletes include 11 letter winners and eight state qualifiers from a year ago on the girls team and seven letter winners and two state qualifiers on the boys team.

Norton will open the track season in the Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center on Monday. Field events will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The 3200 meter run will also begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by the other running events at 5 p.m. There will be no preliminaries.

Varsity competition for Norton will begin on Thursday with the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

Field events will begin at 3:30 p.m. and running events at 5 p.m. No preliminaries will be held and all events will be run as finals. All athletes may be entered.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Goodland, Logan, Northern Valley, Phillipsburg and Smith Center.

Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in both boys and girls divisions. Medals will be awarded for the first three places in each event.

Assisting coach Jones again this season will be Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin.

Coach Jones is a Logan native. A 1994 Logan High School graduate, he was the Class 1A state pole vault champion. He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays on a track scholarship and pole vaulted for the Tigers. He was an all-conference performer and graduated in December, 1998.

He was head track coach and

assistant football coach at Fowler High School for three years before moving to Norton. He was a teacher and assistant football and track coach in Norton for four years before becoming head track coach last season.

"Once again, we are very excited to begin track season in Norton," said coach Jones. "We are thrilled with the levels of desire that our 47 total athletes bring to our program.

"In addition to 11 letter winners and eight state qualifiers among our girls and seven letter winners and two state qualifiers on our boys team, we have strong freshmen numbers, which we love to see, with four females and eight males, who we expect to add depth to our team in a number of areas.

"Injuries will play a part for us this season. As of right now, four members of our roster, two of whom competed in the state meet last year, are recovering from major, season-ending type previous injuries.

"We are hopeful that, at some point throughout the season, we will be able to get them back out on the track in some competitive manner.

"Our youngsters have all been working very hard at practice, continuing to ready themselves for competition and success.

"Our junior varsity will begin with the meet at Smith Center on Monday and all our athletes will compete in our home meet on Thursday. These meets will give us an idea where we are in all events.

"They will also offer our youngsters who have been working so hard a chance to compete and have some fun.

"We cannot wait to start competing! We invite all sports fans and community members alike to join us at our home track meet on Thursday, where they can support every active member of our team while they compete at home. We look forward to seeing you!"

## Track Schedule

Mon., April 6 - Smith Center JV Meet, Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.  
Thurs., April 9 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3:30 p.m.  
Mon., April 13 - Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, Goodland, 4:45 p.m.  
Tues., April 14 - Smith Center Invite, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
Fri., Sat., April 17-18 - K.U. Relays, Lawrence  
Mon., April 20 - Trego Freshmen/Soph. Meet, WaKeeney, 4 p.m.  
Tues., April 21 - Plainville Invitational, Plainville, 3 p.m.  
Fri., April 24 - Lexington Invitational, Lexington, Neb., 3 p.m.  
Fri., April 24 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.  
Mon., April 27 - Freshmen/Soph. Meet, Hill City, 4 p.m.  
Fri., May 1 - Goldsmith Relays, WaKeeney, 3:30 p.m.  
Tues., May 5 - Oberlin Invitational, Oberlin, 3 p.m.  
Fri., May 8 - Russell Relays, Russell, 3 p.m.  
Mon., May 11 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 4 p.m.  
Fri., May 15 - Mid-Continent League Meet, Plainville, 3 p.m.  
Fri., May 22 - Regional Championships, Cimarron  
Fri., Sat., May 29-30 - State Championships, Wichita

### Girls team

The 11 returning letter winners are: Laura Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, KaraJo Jones, Taylor Rossi, seniors; Raven Brown, Bethany Roy, Alyssa Thomson, Hannah Waggoner, juniors; Kaylen Rossi, Dustyna Sprigg, Bekah Streck, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Amanda Delimont, Emily Scott, seniors; Kendra Engelbert, Lacy Keilig, Kelsey Nuzum, juniors; Morgan Baumann, Katie Scott, sophomores; Abby Bainter, Sady Keilig, Erin Terrell, Caren Thomson, freshmen.

Laura Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, KaraJo Jones and Taylor Rossi are all three-year letter winners.

Last year's Lady Jays team won eight out of nine meets on the varsity schedule, placing second only at the Mid-Continent League Meet. They were champions of the Regional Meet in Lakin and won the Class 3A State championship in Wichita.

Baird was the league champion in the 800 meter run in 2:21.53 and league champion in the 1600 meter run in 5:17.95. She was also the regional champion in the 800 meters in 2:21.56, placed second

in the 400 meter dash in 1:00.14 and second in the 1600 meters in 5:29.41. She also qualified for the state meet as a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team which won the regional championship with a clocking of 4:12.12.

In the state meet, Baird placed second in the 800 meters in 2:21.59, second in the 1600 meters in 5:18.33 and third in the 400 meters in 1:00.71. Her 4 x 400 meter relay team placed fourth in the state meet with a time of 4:14.55.

Bozarth was a double gold medal winner in the shot put and discus in the league meet where she heaved the shot 45'3.5" and threw the discus 138'5".

In the regional, Bozarth won three gold medals! She had a distance of 43'3" in the shot, threw the discus 119" and had a javelin throw of 121'7".

In the state meet, Bozarth placed second in the shot put with a heave of 44'1.5" and second in the discus with a throw of 137'9".

Taylor Rossi won the pole vault in the Mid-Continent League Meet with a height of 9'9". She was the regional champion with a clearance of 9'6" and placed sixth in the state meet with a height of

9'0". Hannah Waggoner placed third in the 100 meter dash in 13.03 and third in the 200 meter dash in 27.59 in the league meet.

Taylor Rossi, Raven Brown and Hannah Waggoner teamed with Courtney LeClair, who is now competing for Colby Community College, to place third in the 4 x 100 meter relay in the league meet with a time of 52.46.

KaraJo Jones, Dustyna Sprigg, Laura Lee Baird and Courtney LeClair won the 4 x 400 meter relay in the regional meet with a time of 4:12.12.

The 4 x 100 meter relay team of Brown, Jones, Waggoner and LeClair qualified for the state meet with a second place finish in the 4 x 100 meter relay with a time of 51.69.

Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team placed fourth in the state meet with a clocking of 4:14.55. The Lady Jays' 4 x 100 meter relay team of LeClair, Taylor Rossi, Jones and Waggoner placed seventh in 51.96 at the state meet.

KaraJo Jones qualified for the state meet with a long jump of 17'3.75" to place second in the regional meet. Alyssa Thomson also qualified for the state meet with a 4'10" high jump to place fourth in the regional meet.

During the season, Baird and Bozarth both broke individual Norton school records and the 4 x 100 meter relay team did as well.

Baird set a new mark in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:19.15 to place third in the K.U. Relays, broke the school record in the 1600 meters with a time of 5:17.95 in winning the event in the league meet.

Bozarth broke the school record in the shot put with a heave of 45'3.5" in the league meet to win the gold medal and set a new record in the discus with a throw of 143'4" in winning first at the Russell Relays.

The 4 x 100 meter relay team of LeClair, Brown, Jones and Wag-

goner set a new school record with a time of 51.69 to place second at the regional meet.

### Boys team

The seven returning lettermen are: Zach Bainter, Zac Dreher, Brock Lauer, seniors; Chris Maddy, junior; Troy Bainter, Dakota Dreher, Terrell Lane, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Jordan Bebb, Josh Gallentine, seniors; Ashton Draper, Adam Myers, Zane Perez, Casey Robison, juniors; Ryan Blecha, Justin Griffith, Spencer Shirk, Kegan Vanover, sophomores; Seth Antrim, Damien Davis, Kurt Douglas, Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry, Joe LeClair, Tye Nickell and Justin Waggoner, freshmen.

The Norton boys finished in the top three in five of the nine varsity meets last season and finished eighth for the second year in a row at the state meet.

Zach Bainter had another outstanding season in 2008 en route to earning his third track letter. He won gold medals in the 800 meter and 1600 meter runs in the league meet. He was timed in 2:03.96 in the 800 and 4:47.16 in the 1600 meters. He qualified for the state meet with two runner-up finishes in the regional meet. He was timed in 2:03.26 in the 800 meters and 4:41.60 in the 1600 meters.

In the state meet, Zach placed fourth in the 1600 meters in 4:39.26 and sixth in the 800 meters in 2:03.21.

Bainter teamed with last year's seniors Jared Cox and Logan Kats and Landon Hamel to win the league championship in the 4 x 400 meter relay in 3:37.75.

Terrell Lane won the long jump championship in the regional meet with a leap of 21'10.5", placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 42'2.5" and second in the 200 meter dash in 23.44.

In the state meet, Lane placed third in the long jump with a leap of 21'7.75" and third in the triple jump with a distance of 43'3.5".

# Norton boys golf team has five returning letter winners

By DICK BOYD

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Head coach David Stover has five returning letter winners on the 2009 Norton Community High School golf team.

Letter winners returning to play for the Blue Jays are seniors Logan Kelly and Kyle Mindrup and juniors J.D. Gall, Marcus Herman and Connor Pfannenstiel.

Other teammates this season are Ashley Colip, Jacob Van-

Skike, seniors; Cole Archer, David Cressler, Andrew Otter, Tanner Morel, Zach Porter, Shaylyn Boteler, Nikki McVey, Ashley Millan, Katie Gall, sophomores; Taylor Meder, Mitchell Shelton, Tyler Lewis, Robert Blecha, freshmen.

The Norton golfers will open the season in the annual Redmen Invitational Golf Tournament on Tuesday in Smith Center.

Competing in addition to Nor-

ton and Smith Center will be teams from Beloit, Osborne, Phillipsburg, Lakeside, Rock Hills, Trego Community and Belleville.

Tea off time will be 3 p.m.

Norton will also host the annual Norton Invitational Golf Tournament on Thursday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton.

The Norton tournament will begin at 9 a.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton, will be Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hill City, Hoxie, Ness City, Northern Valley, Oakley, Phillipsburg, Quinter, Smith Center and Stockton.

Team medals will be awarded to the members of the top three teams and to the top ten individuals. A plaque will be awarded to the top team.

Norton will also host the Norton Junior Varsity Golf Tournament on Tues., May 5.

Norton placed fourth in the regional tournament last year, qualifying Preston Herman for the state tournament, where he just missed medaling by two strokes. Also on that team were J.D. Gall, Marcus Herman and Kyle Edgett,

who graduated along with Preston Herman.

Norton was also fourth last year in the tough Mid-Continent League Tournament behind champion Phillipsburg, runner-up Trego Community and Osborne.

Phillipsburg went on to tie with Wichita Collegiate for the Class 3A state championship and place second based on a tiebreaker and Trego won the state championship in Class 2A.

Clayton Cox is the assistant golf coach this season.

"I am very excited about the upcoming golf season," said coach Stover. "We have the opportunity to be a very competitive team. With five returning letter winners, we have a solid nucleus.

"The key for team success will be the development of our underclassmen and their ability to

compete for varsity positions.

"As always, the competition in the area should be at a high level. In the Mid-Continent League,

Phillipsburg and Trego both return quality teams and individuals from last season's state championship finishes."

## Golf Schedule

Tues., April 7 - Smith Center Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., April 9 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 9 a.m.  
Tues., April 14 - Ellis Invitational, Ellis, 3 p.m.  
Tues., April 14 - Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
Fri., April 17 - Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
Tues., April 21 - Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
Fri., April 24 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
Tues., April 28 - Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., April 30 - Trego Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.  
Mon., May 4 - TMP Invitational, Hays (Smoky Hill), 9 a.m.  
Tues., May 5 - Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., May 7 - Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.  
Thurs., May 7 - Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.  
Mon., May 11 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.  
Thurs., May 14 - MCL Tournament, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
Mon., May 18 - Regional Golf, Goodland, 9 a.m.  
Tues., May 26 - State Golf, Wichita (Tallgrass CC), 9 a.m.

# Blue Jay taking his football South

By DICK BOYD

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Matt Stanley, Norton Community High School senior, has signed a letter of intent to play football for Dodge City Community College in Dodge City.

Stanley, a 5-foot-8-inch, 175 pound fullback-linebacker for the Blue Jays, received a number of post-season honors this year.

He was chosen by vote of the league coaches to the Mid-Continent League All-League football second team on both offense and defense.

He was also named Class 3A All-State on defense by the Kansas Football Coaches Association.

Matt was second high tackler for Norton this season, posting 75 total tackles.

On offense, he was second high rusher, averaging 4.5 yards

per carry.

"Matt was a great player for us the last four years," said Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"He practiced very hard and really played hard. He is a very tough young man with lots of football smarts.

"Matt is a great competitor.

"Dodge City plays in the Jayhawk Conference, one of the toughest in the nation. His coach, Bob Majeski, will be in his second year of rebuilding the team and is looking for players like Matt Stanley."

Coach Majeski, a former Kansas State University football player, also praised Stanley. "He is a good, tough young man," said Majeski. "He fits into our concept of trying to regain the physical aspect of the football program at Dodge City.

"There are a lot of talented

people out there but we want ones who play hard. Sometimes winning is just playing a little harder and longer than your opponent.

"Matt is also a tremendous wrestler who knows how hard you have to work to win.

"We run a tight ship and expect a lot out of our players but feel it will pay off. We expect them to train hard, focus on the program and never miss or be late for a meeting or practice. If players do not meet our requirements, they're gone."

As a wrestler, Stanley placed sixth this season at 160 pounds in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament.

He has also been an outstanding member of the Norton American Legion baseball team.

Matt is the son of Shelli and Perrell Stanley.

## Stanley signs with Dodge City Community College



~ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton Community High School senior football player Matt Stanley signed a letter of intent to play football for Dodge City Community College in Dodge City. Also pictured are his mother, Shelli and Head Norton Football Coach Lucas Melvin. Not pictured is his father, Perrell.

Good Luck and Congratulations

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