

# Girls 3rd, boys 4th in conference track

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams continued to show improvement in many areas as the girls placed third and the boys fourth in the Mid-Continent League Track Meet on Friday in Plainville.

The Smith Center girls won the championship with 131 points, followed by Ellis, 98; Norton, 82; Phillipsburg, 72; Hill City, 66; Trego Community, 54; Plainville, 30; Osborne, 20; Stockton, 20.

Hill City was the boys champion with 99 points, followed by Osborne, 93; Smith Center, 84; Norton, 82; Phillipsburg, 72; Stockton, 46; Plainville, 37; Ellis, 8; Trego Community, 5.

"Our athletes did well," said Norton head track coach Jason Jones. "We competed very well. A lot of great things happened for us throughout the day.

"The teams who outscored us are very good but we continued to improve and set some more personal records and season bests!

"We will work to continue to improve our marks as we head into regionals and state over the next two weeks.

"The highlight of the day was Hayli Bozarth setting a new school record and breaking her own league record in the shot put by two inches!

"We are pleased to see our athletes continuing to improve as we get nearer to the portion of the season when performance and improvement is necessary. We are extremely proud of our athletes and eager to see what our best efforts make happen in the regionals and state. It will be fun for us and our athletes!"

## GIRLS

Senior Hayli Bozarth's shot put performance was awesome as she heaved the iron ball 45'5.5" to win the gold medal en route to setting a new personal and school record, as well as league record!

Bozarth also placed second in the discus with a throw of 131'10" and fourth in the javelin with a throw of 114'9.75".

Senior Lady Jay KaraJo Jones continued to fly through the air to win gold medals. She was first in the long jump with a leap of 16'8". She also placed fourth in the 200 meter dash with a clocking of 27.15.

Jones was also a member of the 4 x 100 meter relay team which

placed third with a time of 53.33. Running with her were junior Raven Brown, freshman Sady Keilig and junior Hannah Waggoner.

Jones also ran with the Lady Jays' 4 x 400 meter relay team which also won the bronze medal with a time of 4:23.63. Other members of the foursome were sophomore Dustyna Sprigg, junior Raven Brown and Waggoner.

Waggoner won the bronze medal in both the 100 meter dash and 200 meter dash. She was timed in 12.71 in the 100 meters and in 27.01 in the 200 meters.

Senior Laura Lee Baird ran just one race in the meet. She was timed in 5:53.50 in the 1600 meter run and placed second.

Sophomore Kaylen Rossi finished fourth in the 3200 meter run with a time of 14:34.93.

Lady Jay freshman Sady Keilig placed fourth in the pole vault with a clearance of 7'6" and sixth in the high jump with a clearance of 4'8".

Sprigg finished fifth in the 400 meter dash in 1:07.48.

The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Rossi, junior Kendra Engelbert, Sprigg and sophomore Bekah Streck placed fifth with a clocking of 12:11.96.

Distances and times of Norton girls which did not place were: senior Amanda Delimont, 32'9.25", 9th; junior Lacy Keilig, 27'8", 13th, shot put; Amanda Delimont, 83'5", 11th; Lacy Keilig, 62', 16th, discus; junior Bethany Roy, 103'6.5", 7th, javelin; Sady Keilig, personal record 14'10", 8th; freshman Caren Thomson, 13'2.5", 12th, long jump; Dustyna Sprigg, 30'5.25", 9th; junior Raven Brown, 29'10", 11th, triple jump; junior Alyssa Thomson, 4'6", 7th, high jump; Caren Thomson, 20.06, 10th, 100 meter hurdles; Caren Thomson, 57.81, 8th, 300 meter hurdles; Raven Brown, 14.38, 14th, 100 meter dash.

## BOYS

Norton senior Zach Bainter continued his string of gold medals in the distance events. He pulled away from the field to win the 800 meter run in 2:04.23 and to win the 1600 meter run in 4:33.57. In the 3200 meter run, he joined sophomore brother Troy and freshman Zach Hartwell. After a lot of jockeying, Zach found himself in second behind Plainville's Brady Johnson, whom he had beaten in the 1600 meters. With half a lap left, Zach turned his steady run into a sprint and came very close



Norton senior Karajo Jones wasted no time in getting the baton to junior Raven Brown to get the Lady Jays off to a good start in the 4 x 100 meter relay in the Mid-Continent League track meet in Plainville on Friday. The foursome of

Jones, Brown, freshman Sady Keilig and junior Hannah Waggoner won bronze medals with a third place finish, just over a second out of first place!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

to catching Johnson at the tape! Johnson won the gold with a time of 10:30.16 and Zach was just two seconds back with a 10:32.20.

Hartwell placed third with a 10:56.36 and Troy Bainter fourth in 11:02.74 as Norton earned 18 points in the race! Hartwell and Troy both set personal records.

Blue Jay senior Zac Dreher finished with the silver medal in the javelin with a throw of 158'7" and sophomore brother Dakota Dreher continued to high jump well as he tied his personal record height of 5'10" to win a silver medal as well.

Continuing to pole vault well was freshman Seth Antrim with a vault of 11'6" to place second and win the silver medal. Norton junior Ashton Draper placed third to earn the bronze medal in the 400 meter dash in 53.17.

Freshman Tye Nickell is also doing a good job of pole vaulting. He placed fourth with a vault of 10'6". Nickell also anchored the 4 x 800 meter relay team to a fourth place finish in 9:23.86. Running with him were Troy Bainter, Dakota Dreher and Hartwell.

Fifth place in the pole vault went to Norton junior Casey Robison with a clearance of 10'. Sophomore Terrell Lane placed

sixth in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23.60.

Blue Jay senior Jordan Bebb finished sixth in the javelin with a throw of 139'.

The other two Norton relays also placed fifth. The team of senior Brock Lauer, Bebb, junior Zane Perez and Lane was timed in 47.07 in the 4 x 100 meter relay. The foursome of Lauer, Nickell, Dakota Dreher and Draper was timed in 3:43.73 in the 4 x 400 meter relay.

Norton boys' performances that did not place were: Jordan Bebb, 42'2", 9th; sophomore Ryan Blecha, 41'1.5", 11th; sophomore

Justin Griffith, 38'5.5", 14th, shot put; Ryan Blecha, 102'1", 12th; Justin Griffith, 101'5", 13th, discus; Justin Griffith, 117'5", 13th, javelin; Zane Perez, 17'3.25", 9th; Casey Robison, 15'9.75", 11th, long jump; Zac Dreher, 48.31, 9th, 300 meter hurdles; Terrell Lane, 11.76, 8th; Zane Perez, 12.38, 16th; Brock Lauer, 12.47, 17th, 100 meter dash; Ashton Draper, 23.51, 7th; Brock Lauer, 24.40, 12th, 200 meter dash; freshman Justin Waggoner, personal record 1:02.21, 15th, 400 meter dash; sophomore Kegan Vanover, 2:40.23, 10th, 800 meter run; Kegan Vanover, personal best

5:38.75, 11th; senior Josh Gallentine, personal best 5:55.10, 12th, 1600 meter run.

## Next action

Norton will compete on Friday in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet in Cimarron. Field events will begin at 3 p.m. and preliminary running events will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton and Cimarron, will be Ellinwood, Ellsworth, Goodland, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Holcomb, Southwestern Heights, Lakin, Larned, Lyons, Medicine Lodge, Phillipsburg and Sterling.

# Blue Jay selects Cloud County

By DICK BOYD

*nortontelegram@nwkansas.com*  
Norton Community High School senior basketball player Lacey Wallingford has signed a letter of intent to play for Cloud County Community College in Concordia.

Wallingford moved to Norton this school year with her family and the 5'10" forward became a mainstay in coach Kevin Jilka's Lady Jay quintet, who finished with a 17-5 record.

She averaged 9 points per contest and was second high in rebounds with 5.1 per contest and second high in free throw percentage at 66.7 percent.

Wallingford was also third high in season steals with 41. She hit 53 percent of her two-point shot attempts, which was also second high on the Lady Jay team.

Wallingford received honorable mention on this season's Mid-Continent League All-League

Team by vote of league coaches.

Prior to her Norton experience, Lacey played on a number of teams, including summer travel teams. Her previous honors have included best rebounder, best freshman player and most improved player.

"Lacey will be a great asset to the Cloud County basketball team," said coach Jilka.

"She can run the floor for a big girl and, at her size, can play out on the perimeter, which is a great advantage.

"Cloud County is getting a great person for their basketball program, no question about that."

"We are happy to sign Norton senior Lacey Wallingford to play for us next season," said Cloud County head girls basketball coach Brett Erkenbrack. "She helped the Lady Blue Jays to an outstanding 2008-09 season as one of the leading scorers and rebounders.

"It is to her credit, as well, that she was selected to play in both the North Central Kansas All Star Game and the Colby All Star Game at the conclusion of the season."

Erkenbrack, a long-time head coach at Cloud County, guided the Lady Thunderbirds to a 26-7 record in the 2008-09 season, the fourth consecutive year they have finished with at least 26 victories.

Lacey is the daughter of Deena and Jeff Wallingford of Norton.

## Lacey Wallingford signs with Cloud County Community College



Norton Community High School senior basketball player Lacey Wallingford has signed a letter of intent to play next season for Cloud County Community College in Concordia. Pictured with her during the signing are her father, Jeff, at left and head Norton girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka. Not pictured was her mother, Deena.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations from... **Bridges Group, Inc.** INSURANCE

# Legion baseball to huddle

All young men interested in playing this season for the Norton American Legion Baseball Team are invited to a team meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday in the Norton American Legion Post Home.

Those attending can use the south entry way.

Coaches Steve Jeltz and Louis Keiswetter are looking forward to an outstanding season with quality returning squad members as well as new talent.

Fourteen games and/or tournaments are on this season's schedule.

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