

Blue Jay girls sixth, boys seventh at 3A state track

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams competed in the 2009 Kansas State Track & Field Championships on Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium in Wichita and turned in some sparkling performances as the girls placed sixth as a team and boys seventh in Class 3A competition.

The six Lady Jays competing earned a total of six medals in scoring 37 points. Eleven Norton boys participated, producing three new personal records including a new school record and scoring 28 points.

Approximately 3700 girl and boy athletes in Classes 1A through 6A competed in the largest high school track meet in the nation!

"We had a good weekend," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. "We are extremely proud of the 21 athletes who represented the school and community of Norton in our sport's highest level of competition. They deserve everything they earned and the entire community should feel proud of them, as well. They did an amazing job and this trip was a good conclusion to a successful season!"

Douglass won the 3A girls championship with 56 points, followed by Garden Plain, 42.33; Belle Plaine, 42; Beloit, 40; Rossville, 39; Norton, 37; Marion, 32; Mound City, 32; Ellinwood, 25 and Conway Springs, 23, in the top 10. Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays tied for 22nd with 9 points and Phillipsburg tied for 34th with 2 points.

The Ellis girls won the championship in 2A with 47 points. Oakley was third with 42, Smith Center fifth with 36.5, Trego Com-

munity tenth with 28, Oberlin tied for 18th with 10, Osborne tied for 21st with 8, Stockton tied for 25th with 6, St. Francis tied for 30th with 5, Plainville and Hill City tied for 34th with 3 each.

The Colby girls placed 16th in Class 4A with 14 points.

Garden Plain won the Class 3A boys title with 72 points, followed by Oskaloosa, 33; Herington, 33; Mound City, 33; Marion, 30; Beloit, 29; Norton, 28; Riley County, 27; Holcomb, 23.5; Hutchinson-Trinity, 21, in the top 10.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays placed 28th with 9, Goodland scored 1.5 to finish 35th and Phillipsburg scored 1 point to tie for 36th. In Class 2A boys competition, St. Francis and Smith Center tied for 11th with 21 points each, Osborne tallied 20 to tie for 13th, Hill City and Oberlin each scored 12 to tie for 19th, Atwood was 24th with 9.5, Plainville tied for 30th with 6, Stockton and Ellis tied for 38th with 1 each.

GIRLS

Norton senior Hayli Bozarth completed an outstanding high school career by earning gold medals in the shot put and discus and placing fifth in the javelin. She heaved the shot 44'6", threw the discus 134'4" and threw the javelin 118'1".

Hayli won the discus by eight feet over the second place finisher and heaved the shot almost four feet farther than the second place girl. In the javelin, she finished 10 inches out of third place.

"Hayli led our girls' charge and put her finishing touches on an outstanding high school track career," said coach Jones. "In her final competition as a Lady Blue Jays, Hayli brought home three state medals!"



Lady Blue Jay senior KaraJo Jones completed an outstanding prep career with a runner-up finish in the Class 3A long jump in the Kansas State Track & Field Championships in Wichita. Her silver medal effort was a leap of 17'5". KaraJo also had the 11th best time in the 200 meter dash in 27.21 and ran on the 4 x 100 meter relay team which had the 10th best time with a clocking of 52.51.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior Hayli Bozarth jumped high in the air to gain extra momentum as she threw the javelin in the Class 3A division of the Kansas State Track & Field Championships over the weekend in Wichita. She finished just 10 inches short of a bronze medal in the javelin but won golds in both the shot and discus events.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton senior KaraJo Jones finished her prep track career by winning the silver medal in the long jump with an excellent leap of 17'5".

"Both Hayli and KaraJo will be sorely missed in our program but we were glad that they were able to go out in such a fashion," said coach Jones. "They deserve every ounce of that success."

Lady Jay junior sprinter Hannah Waggoner earned two state medals. She was fifth in the 100 meter dash in 12.99 and fifth in the 200 meter dash in 26.88 after running a 26.69 in the preliminaries to qualify for the finals. "It was nice to see Hannah win two medals of her own," said coach Jones.

KaraJo also competed in the 200 meter dash where she placed 11th with a time of 27.21 and she ran the opening leg of the 4 x 100 meter relay.

The Lady Jay foursome of Jones, junior Raven Brown, freshman Sady Keilig and Waggoner finished in 52.51, the 10th best time.

Norton junior Alyssa Thomson cleared 4'10" in the high jump to place 12th. Sady Keilig also competed in the pole vault but did not clear the opening height.

Lady Jay sophomore Dustyna Sprigg attended the meet as an alternate on the 4 x 100 meter relay team.

BOYS

Norton's amazing senior distance runner Zach Bainter came within .08 of a second of winning three gold medals in the state meet!

On Friday, he easily outdistanced the field to win the 3200 meter run in a supertime of 9:48.13 to break his own and the Norton school record! The second place finisher was 11 seconds behind.

On Saturday, he captured his second gold medal of the state meet when he cruised to the finish line in 4:28.86, a personal best which was four seconds ahead of the second place finisher.

In the 800 meter run on Saturday afternoon, Zach led on the back stretch of the final lap but Travis McDaniel of Sedgwick found an extra surge of energy and made a run at him. The two appeared to go over the finish line about even but the electronic timer recorded McDaniel's time as 1:59.20 and Bainter's as 1:59.28.

The previous Norton school record in the 3200 meter run was 9:50.47 set by James Dillon in 1981.

"Zach Bainter closed his career as a Blue Jay in a very impressive fashion," said coach Jones. "On Friday, he won the 3200 in record time, then came back on Saturday to win the 1600 with a personal record and followed that with a very close second in the 800 meters. He also ran the opening leg of the 4 x 800 meter relay and had us in the lead when he passed the baton. "These performances gave him



Norton senior distance ace Zach Bainter easily won gold medals in the Class 3A 3200 meter and 1600 meter runs in the Kansas State Track & Field Championships as well as getting his Blue Jay 4 x 800 meter relay team a lead on the first leg but was just edged at the finish line in the 800 meter run by Travis McDaniel of Sedgwick. Both young men had outstanding sub-two minute times but the automatic timer at the finish line recorded McDaniel's time as .08 of a second faster!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

his own set of three state medals from one weekend and scored 28 points for us!

"He, too, will be greatly missed and we are glad that he was able to finish his time with us in such a gratifying manner."

Norton freshman Seth Antrim continued to go higher in the pole vault. He cleared 13' in the event to set a personal record and finish eighth best. The top seven in each event earned points. Blue Jay junior Ashton Draper qualified for the finals in the 400 meter dash with a time of 51.72 and ran eighth best in the finals with a clocking of 51.94.

Zac Dreher, a Norton senior, threw the javelin a distance of 152'10", which was 13th farthest.

Norton sophomore Terrell Lane ran the 200 meter dash and was timed in 23.88, which was 15th fastest. Ashton Draper also ran the 200 meters and was timed in 24.38, 16th best. The Norton boys qualified two relays in the

previous Friday's regional meet in Cimarron and both had the 13th best time in the state meet. The Jays' 4 x 100 meter relay team of senior Brock Lauer, senior Jordan Bebb, sophomore Justin Griffith and Lane was timed in 45.94 and Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Zach Bainter, sophomore Troy Bainter, freshman Zach Hartwell and freshman Tye Nickell was clocked in 8:45.77.

Three Norton boys were present as alternates, if needed. They were freshman Bryan Henry and sophomore Dakota Dreher in the 4 x 800 meter relay and junior Zane Perez in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

"All of our boys competed very hard and most of their performances reflect that," said coach Jones. "A couple of our boys finished eighth, one spot out of the medals, and that hurts pretty badly sometimes but, nonetheless, those are great performances. It is an honor to earn the opportunity to compete in this track meet."

More coach's comments

Huskies, Trojans fare well at 1A state meet

By DICK BOYD

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Five track and field athletes from Logan and three from Northern Valley performed in the Class 1A division of the Kansas State Track & Field Championships held Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Northern Valley

Lady Husky junior Alison Cole won the silver medal in the high jump by clearing 5'2".

"Alison had her best series of jumps for the season," said Northern Valley coach Chuck Fessenden. "She cleared all of the heights, starting with 4'6" and finishing with 5'2", on her first attempt. Her first two attempts at 5'4" were very close.

"It was a great way for Alison to finish the season."

Northern Valley senior Nathaniel Graham completed his prep career by placing sixth in the javelin with a throw of 160'5" to earn a state medal.

"Nathaniel got a good throw right away in the javelin," said coach Fessenden.

"He had a couple of nice throws in the finals but his first one turned

out to be his best.

"It was great to see Nathaniel medal this year after just missing out in 2008. This was a fine way for Nathaniel to finish his senior year."

Lady Husky sophomore Kayla Field just missed medaling in the 3200 meter run with an eighth place finish in a time of 12:47.7.

"Kayla finished just out of the medals and ran so much better than she did last year at the state meet when she was a freshman," said coach Fessenden.

"We were happy to see her finish the year with a season's best time."

Logan

Logan sophomore Brady Tien was a gold medal winner in the pole vault with a personal best height of 13'6".

"Brady picked a great day for a new personal record," said Logan head track coach Chris Graham. "He's been clearing 13'6" in practice the last few weeks but just hadn't done it at a meet yet.

"Coach Conrad Cormon has done an awesome job with all our vaulters and Brady really works at it. You about can't get him off

the runway at practice. With him it's always, 'Can I have one more run?' except there might be five more 'one more's'. But, that's what it takes."

Logan senior Levi Kiser cleared 12' in the pole vault to place tenth. "Levi has been a great competitor for us," said coach Graham. "It was so great to see him qualify for the state meet because he's that caliber of an athlete. He had been vaulting well during practice the week before qualifying but just didn't quite have enough on Friday to place.

"We're going to miss his leadership and attitude. He's been a great young man to work with."

Trojan junior Tyson Pabst placed seventh in the preliminaries of the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 16.96, just missing the finals. "Tyson was running well, then hit a hurdle, said coach Graham. "He recovered but finished just not quite fast enough to qualify for the finals.

"He's had a good season and should have another quality season next year."

The Trojans' 4 x 100 meter relay team of Tien, Kiser, Pabst and

"Our girls and boys made the most of their weekend and put their best feet forward to compete on the grand stage and we are very proud of them," said coach Jones. "When they won, they won with pride and character and when they were beaten they did so with dignity. This was the final trip to state track for six of our athletes. That definitely adds a bitter-sweet flavor to our experience since we will deeply miss all of them.

"We are very proud of all of our athletes for competing with character and class. These athletes capped off a great season for us with a great showing at the state track and field meet!"

Senior girls this year were Laura Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, Amanda Delimont, KaraJo Jones, Taylor Rossi and Emily Scott. Senior boys were Zach Bainter, Jordan Bebb, Zac Dreher, Josh Gallentine and Brock Lauer.

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

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