

Runners kick in new season in a big way

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams got the new season underway in a big way for new head coach George Rossi on Thursday with double championships in the annual Norton Invitational at the Prairie Dog Golf Course south of Norton!

In fact, the Lady Jay runners compiled the lowest possible team score by finishing first, second, third, fourth and fifth among team runners.

It was the fourth straight championship of the Norton event for the Lady Jays. The Blue Jay boys

placed second two years ago and third last year after having won three years in a row.

Hill City was the only other girls team in the meet and they finished second behind Norton with 45 points.

The Norton boys won the championship with 45 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 61; Oberlin, 67; Plainville, 70 and Trego Community, 103.

"We were very pleased with our effort and the results," said coach Rossi.

GIRLS

"Our girls got off to a fast start and ran in a pack most of the race and used that method to overtake

Good start for Husky ladies

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies welcomed Western Plains and Thunder Ridge to their gymnasium for their only home games of the season. The Huskies didn't act as very good hosts.

Here is how coach Chuck Zimmerman put it:

"Our young starters grew up very quickly from last Friday. Our veteran players led the way with their skills and we were playing in front of a very good crowd. All this led to our defeating both teams.

"Against Western Plains we just dominated from the start with our serving which did not allow the Bobcats to get into their power game as they were only able to send 'free balls' over the net which we promptly sent back with the force in which we have been trained to use.

"In the first set, Alison Cole served seven straight while in the second set Kenzie Chandler served 8 straight as the team scored points off these girls, great serves."

The final score was 25-13, 25-23.

The coach continues:

"Against Thunder Ridge, which was our first Conference game of the season, we started out strong with Karen Wenzl serving 11 straight which the team converted into points which put us up 12-3. We then went on to win the first set 25-10.

"In the second set we jumped out to an 11-5 lead but then 'relaxed' which allowed the Longhorns to come back. We just didn't take care of business and Thunder Ridge won 24-26 to force a third set.

Husky football falls 26-0

The Northern Valley football Huskies opened the new season against Palco Friday evening and it didn't quite come out as hoped. The Roosters pinned up a 26-0 victory.

Palco ended the first quarter 8-0, 16-0 at half, failed to score in the third and put up 10 points in the final period.

Scoring for Palco were Landon Keller, 62-yard run, Keller, 33-yard run, Keller, 24-yard run, and a 2-point safety.

The statistics:
Rushing - Huskies 31 carries for -2 yards; Roosters 54 carries for 303 yards.

Passing - Huskies 5 of 12 for 11 yards; Roosters 0-4.

First downs - Huskies 5, Roosters 11.

Penalties - Huskies 10 for 75 yards; Roosters 10 for 78 yards.

Fumbles - Huskies, 6, lost 1; Roosters 2, lost 1.

Punts - Huskies 5 for 145 yards, 29.0 average; Roosters, 4 for 11 yards, 27.5 average.

Individually for the Huskies:

Rushing - Jacob Gallentine, 5 carries, 8 yards, 1.6 average; Dusty Eagleburger, 11, 15, 1.3; Austin Herman, 15, -27, -1.8.

Passing - Herman, 12 attempts, 5 completions, 11 yards.

Pass receptions - Eagleburger,

1 for -5 yards; Colton Lowry, 3 for 13 yards; Gallentine, 1 for 3 yards.

Pass interceptions - Lowry, 1 for 18 yards.

Punting - Lowry 5 for 145 yards, 29.0 average.

Punt returns - Eagleburger, 1 for 11 yards.

Kickoffs - Jeremy Brown, 2 for 81 yards, 40.5 average.

Kickoff returns - Callaway, 1 for 7 yards; Gunnar Hays, 3 for 42 yards, 14.0 average.

Tackles-assists-total - Lowry, 8-1-9; Eagleburger, 4-1-5; Callaway, 2-1-3; Herman, 3-1-4; Jeremy Brown, 1-0-1; Gallentine, 8-5-13; Bach, 1-0-1; Zachary Vincent, 10-3-13; Bryant Tharman, 3-0-3; Sean Braun, 2-1-3; Dillon Hogan, 3-1-4; Hutch Gehrke, 9-6-15.

Coach Chuck Fessenden had these comments:

"We really struggled on offense. We made some plays in the first half, but penalties killed us. The second half we had very few penalties on offense.

"The defense played fairly solid most of the game. A couple of missed tackles resulted in touchdowns for Palco. We are going to have to correct our problems on offense, if we are going to be successful."

several runners.

"Our girls do need to work on getting in better shape and trimming our times down. All our girls have been improving each day and they have been working each day to get better. This meet served us well to evaluate what we need to work on and where we are in our conditioning."

The younger girls led the way for the Lady Jays. Freshman Regan Simpson placed second individually with a time of 18:21.00 for the 2.5 miles. Freshman Kamilla Jones was third with a time of 18:26.00. Sophomore Abby Bainter was third fastest for Norton with a time of 18:47 for a fifth place finish.

Norton junior Kaylen Rossi placed sixth with a clocking of 19:09.00 and junior Dustyna Sprigg rounded out the five-girl Norton team with a seventh place in 19:15.00.

Also running for the Norton girls varsity was freshman Julia

Kent who finished right behind Dustyna in eighth place with a time of 19:24.00.

Kayla Lowry, Northern Valley junior, won the gold medal in the girls varsity race with a time of 17:27.00.

Two Lady Huskies placed in the junior varsity girls race. Sophomore Kynzie Stevens placed third in 20:11.00 and junior Natasha Yost finished sixth in 26:41.00.

Finishing out the varsity top ten individuals were Kelsey Vincent, Hill City senior, ninth in 19:51.00 and Dayna Shaw, Wheatland junior, tenth in 20:07.00.

BOYS

"Overall, we were extremely happy with the turnout of today's race for our boys," said coach Rossi.

"Our conditioning is not quite where I had hoped for all of the boys but I am very proud of their effort. These boys have a great work ethic for the most part and I know they are not satisfied with

where they are at this time."

Norton sophomore Zach Hartwell led the way for the Blue Jays boys, finishing second individually with a time of 18:22.00 for the 3.1 mile race.

Junior Troy Bainter placed tenth with a clocking of 19:37.00. Sophomore Bryan Henry was 13th in 20:13.00 and junior Kegan Vanover finished close behind in 14th with a time of 20:22.00.

Rounding out the Norton boys team with a 26th place finish was junior Zach Porter in 22:14.00.

Also running for Norton were freshman John Renner, who finished right behind Zach in 27th with a time of 22:20.00 and senior Matt Miller in 35th with a clocking of 24:36.00.

In junior varsity action, Norton junior Cole Archer placed 11th in 23:38, followed by freshman Ryan Bainter, 12th in 24:43 and senior Grant McClymont, 17th in 27:18.

Plainville sophomore Brady

Johnson won the boys individual gold medal with a time of 17:58. Mason Gillespie, Wheatland senior, was third in 18:43 and Luke Friess, Hoxie sophomore, was fourth in 18:44.00. Phillipsburg senior Chris Ceman finished fifth in 18:54.00 and Oberlin sophomores Dalton Jones and Tyler Shields finished sixth and seventh, respectively, with times of 19:01.00 and 19:10.00. Eighth place went to Logan Stephens, Wheatland senior, in 19:19.00 and Hill City senior Lewen Ninemire placed ninth in 19:29.00.

"Both our girls and boys teams have their work cut out for them this week as we travel to Wamego, which is the site of one of the biggest and best meets in the state," said coach Rossi.

"We will face the best teams in Class 3-2-1A and the course there is the most difficult course that we run on.

"Our goal is to improve each day and meet."

Bluejay tennis off to good start

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School girls tennis team continued to show early season improvement on Saturday when they placed third in the Colby Varsity Tournament after placing third in the Hays Tournament on Thursday.

Colby No. 1 won the team championship with 30 points, followed by Osborne, 24; Norton, 17; Plainville, 16; Liberal, 14; Colby No. 2, 7.

Norton's Morgan Baumann placed fourth in No. 1 singles. She defeated Katera Harter, Colby No. 2, 8-2; lost to Jessica Gregory, Osborne, 8-4, in pool play. In bracket play, she lost to Caitlyn Wark, Colby No. 1, 8-1. In the finals, she lost to Plainville's Jessica Collins, 8-4, to place fourth.

"Morgan's play is getting better," said coach Green. "She was able to defeat a Colby player she lost to last week. Then, she lost to the Plainville player she had beat-

en on Thursday. Morgan needs to be a little more aggressive."

Allie Corbin and Meaghan Peterson played No. 1 doubles for the Lady Jays and finished in third place. They defeated Laura Juenemann and Paige Roopchan, Colby No. 2, 8-2 and lost to Ashley Oliver and Jamie Cockerham, Osborne, 8-2. In bracket play, they lost to Barbara Bickner and Kayla Hockersmith, Colby No. 1, 8-2. In the finals, they defeated Valarie Rito and Kelsi Moree, Liberal, 8-1, to place third.

"Allie and Meaghan finally figured out how to play together and mashed Liberal 8-1 in their final match," said coach Green.

Vanessa Danesan played No. 2 singles for the Lady Jays and also placed third. She defeated Keana Keck, Colby No. 2, 8-5 and lost to Aubrey Geist, Osborne, 8-2. In bracket play, she lost to Plainville's Kendra Husman, 8-3. In the finals, she defeated Lauren Schoaff, Colby No. 1, 8-4 to place third.

"Vanessa continues to be consistent and gave us another third place finish," said coach Green. "She is placing the ball well and moving her opponents around. She is our most consistent player."

In No. 2 doubles, Rachel Shepard and Nikki McVey teamed up for the Lady Jays and placed third. They lost to Hannah Matchell and Madison Gawith, Colby, No. 2, 8-7(9-7) and defeated Mackenzie Cameron and Jenna Dible, Osborne, 8-2. In bracket play, they lost to Susan Nguyen and Alyssa Camfield, Liberal, 8-0. In the finals, they defeated Hannah Matchell and Madison Gawith, Colby No. 2, 8-4, to place third.

"Some of our players had family

plans for the Labor Day weekend, so Rachel and Nikki moved up from the junior varsity team. They played extremely well," said coach Green.

"They almost made it into the match for first place, then placed third by winning in a tiebreaker against Colby."

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5:00p.m. Eternity Focus
6:00p.m. Knight Illusions
7:00p.m. Clint Decker
8:30p.m. Knight Illusions

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1:30p.m. Festival grounds open
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3:00p.m. Sarah Rudd
4:00p.m. Team X-Treme
5:00p.m. Glass Envelope
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