

Runners shine at Wamego Invitational

By DICK BOYD

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After winning the championships of their own invitational meet to start the 2009 season, the Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams turned in another outstanding performance in the challenging Wamego Invitational on Saturday by placing second and third, respectively.

GIRLS

Riley County won the girls championship with 80 points, followed by Norton, 88; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 88; Rossville, 88; Northern Heights, 126; Southeast of Saline, 151; Jefferson County, 170; Sabetha, 209; Overland Park, 227; Council Grove, 232; Mission Valley, 265; Doniphan West, 294; Pike Valley, 310.

Norton placed second over TMP and Rossville based on the finish of their sixth place girl.

Lady Jay freshman Regan Simpson finished tenth individually with a time of 18:09. Second best for Norton was freshman Kamilla Jones in 18:44 for a 19th place. Third best for the Lady Jays was junior Dustyna Sprigg with a clocking of 19:02 for 23rd. Sophomore Abby Bainter was timed in 19:18 for 29th spot.

Rounding out the top five for the Lady Jays was freshman Julia Kent with a time of 19:20 for 30th. Junior Kaylen Rossi was sixth for Norton and made the difference in the team scores with a time of 19:44 for 41st place.

There were 104 runners in the girls race and the top 40 places medaled.

"This was a fantastic day for

our Norton girls," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi.

"Four of the top ten teams in Class 3A were here and we did very well against them.

"The weather turned very warm and muggy before the race and our girls were able to compete very well. Our girls ran with great desire and I felt each one gave every ounce of energy they had during the race.

"Our top five girls medaled and Kaylen was just one spot out of the medals but her effort secured the difference between second and fifth place in the team scores.

"Wamego is a tough course but the crowds are large and our teams love to compete there.

"Our girls still need to work on conditioning, especially in the middle part of the race. We have

good starts and great finishes but we gave up some positions during the middle stages of the race. Our times are still not quite where we would like them.

"We need to train with the same intensity we had in today's race and the times will drop."

BOYS

Riley County edged Olpe 120 to 121 for the boys team championship and Norton won third with 127. Overland Park was fourth with 131 and Southeast of Saline fifth with 136.

Rounding out the top ten teams were: Hillsboro, 138; Pretty Prairie, 180; Jefferson County, 216; Wellsville, 218; Doniphan West, 258. Trego Community placed 13th with a 284.

Top runner for Norton was sophomore Zach Hartwell, who placed third with an 18:36. Next

came sophomore Bryan Henry, 19th in 19:32 and junior Troy Bainter, 27th in 19:49. Junior Kegan Vanover placed 46th with a 20:49 and freshman John Renner rounded out the top Norton five with a 47th place and time of 21:00. Junior Cole Archer was the Blue Jays' sixth finisher with a time of 23:01 for 90th.

The boys race attracted 126 runners.

"The day started with a great effort from our girls and the boys were able to duplicate the girls and finish with a great third place finish out of 17 boys teams," said coach Rossi.

"Just as in the girls race, there were several ranked teams present from Class 3A.

"Zach ran a gutsy race and had a great kick to finish third. Our freshman John Renner also gained

about 20 places in the last mile to place 47th. One of our team goals is not to let any other runner pass us in the last 150 yards and not a single runner on the entire Blue Jay team was passed in the chute.

"This race shows that we are improving but we must not let these results go to our heads. We need to improve both conditioning and times in order to be competitive down the road.

"Several teams in our region are very competitive and, if we don't train intensely, those teams will beat us."

Next action

The Norton girls and boys cross country runners will have another good test when they compete in the Hays Invitational on Thursday in Hays with starting time set for 3:45 p.m.

Bluejay tennis places third at Phillipsburg tourney

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School varsity girls tennis team placed third in the Phillipsburg Invitational on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 24 points, followed by Trego Community, 16; Norton 11;

Russell, 5.

Morgan Baumann played No.1 singles for Norton and placed fourth. She lost to Malorie Witmer, Phillipsburg, 8-2; lost to Brittany Rohr, Russell, 8-4 and lost to Jackie Albin, Trego, 8-2.

"Morgan gave us another good effort at No.1 singles," said coach Green.

"She does an excellent job of keeping the ball in play and makes every point a long rally."

In No.1 doubles, Allie Corbin and Meaghan Peterson played for the Lady Jays and finished in third place. They lost to Brooke Lawyer and Ember Ward, Phillipsburg, 8-7 (7-2); defeated Laurie Beard and Jessica Pugh, Phillipsburg JV,

8-1 and lost to Amelia Fabrizio and Leah Flax, Trego, 8-5.

"Allie and Meaghan played a great match against Phillipsburg and were ahead most of the set," said coach Green.

"It was an outstanding effort and a very close match. This was the best match that the girls have played against Phillipsburg."

Vanessa Danesan played No.2 singles for Norton and won the gold medal. She outpointed Chelsey Edwards, Phillipsburg, 8-3; defeated Taylor Funk, Russell, 8-3 and outscored Emily Wyse, Trego, 8-2.

"Vanessa had a great day playing tennis," said coach Green.

"She was able to defeat the

Russell entry whom she had lost to earlier and go undefeated for the day."

Playing No.2 doubles for the Lady Jays and placing second were Emily Juenemann and Kyra Fulton. They lost to Kim Nguyen and Sage Ratliff, Phillipsburg, 8-3; lost to Shelbie Christensen and Kaci Ferguson, Phillipsburg JV, 8-6 and outscored Victoria Morris and Bailey Fritts, Trego, 8-5.

"Emily and Kyra defeated the Trego girls, which caused a three-way tie for second place," said coach Green. "In the three-way tie, the girls had a winning percentage of 44.7 percent, which was the highest winning percentage of the

three teams so they were awarded the second place medals."

Next action

Both the Norton varsity and junior varsity girls tennis teams were in action today.

The Norton varsity returned to Phillipsburg for the Phillipsburg Quad.

The Lady Jay junior varsity traveled to Russell for competition.

On Thursday, the Norton junior varsity will compete in the Phillipsburg JV Quad.

Next Tuesday, Norton will compete in the Goodland JV Tourney.

All four competitions will begin at 3 p.m.

Husky volleyball on road goes 3-3

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies traveled to Grinnell for the Huskies' side of pool play and started off with Quinter.

"We rocketed to a 6-1 start and were feeling good about how things were going and then — yes, you guessed it — relaxed, one of the cardinal sins in volleyball. We went on to win the first set 25-20 but let Quinter come back to win the second 22-25 which meant a third set in which we did win but had to fight a very determined Bulldog team to do it with a score of 25-21," explained coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"We basically played down to our opponent's level in this opening game. Well, if that's what they were going to do, in the next game would be a good time to play to our opponent's level as we took on 2A #3 ranked Decatur County.

"We did respond and played well giving the Red Devils all they wanted in the first game as our skills were working well but we did lose 22-25 and in the second set fell by the score of 12-25," he said.

"We then took on 3A Lakin and again were apprehensive in playing a bigger school and lost the first set 24-26, but realized we were just as good and even better and in the second and third sets played some of our best ball of the

day and won 25-19, 25-18 to move to 2-1 for the day.

"Then came the game for which we scheduled this tournament — Weskan. The very team that stopped us from going to state last year. The team that was ranked 3rd in 1A coming into this tournament.

"We started off very well as we used our style of power ball and they could not stop us. We went on to a 25-19 win. Weskan then showed why they went to the state tournament last year as they did not cave in but came back and out played us with their power, 13-25. This set up the deciding set — the girls did not want Weskan to win again and we played well to win 25-18 to knock off the third ranked team in our division," coach Zimmerman said.

"This win put us at 3-1 in the pool which seeded us second and sent us on to the championship bracket. None of our girls have ever played in a championship bracket so this was going to be a new experience for them, and it showed.

"We apparently thought the day was over as our first opponent, Hoxie, out hustled and out played us with their style of play as they picked our defense apart by hitting soft shots between us while occasionally hitting a thumper.

We just did not adjust and lost 19-25, 22-25.

"We played our last game of the day against Wallace County (Sharon Springs) and just did not have the energy left to do a good brand of ball. We lost in 3 sets — 25-22, 21-25, 17-25," he said.

"We ended the day with a 3-3 record — fourth place in the 10 team tournament and played some very good ball plus some that was not so good. We'll take the positives from this weekend tournament and hope to improve on our weaknesses to become a stronger team for future tournaments.

"We want to thank the fans who traveled to support us. This, as they will attest, was a very long day. We left home at 7:45 a.m. and returned at 12:30 a.m. That's 14 hours ^ yeah! And you wonder why we were tired. But, we survived and will go on from here.

"By the way, in case anyone is interested we, the Lady Huskies Volleyball team, was ranked 6th in Class 1A before the tournament. I'm sure we will be dropped as a result of our play but at least we have opened some eyes around the state of Kansas and we will continue to improve our play so that we can hopefully be ranked again when it counts most — at the end of the season," the coach concluded..

Jayvee football opens with 18-14 win

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team got their 2009 season started last Tuesday evening with an 18-14 win over a visiting Phillipsburg eleven.

The young Blue Jays jumped out to a 12-0 lead when they scored on their first two possessions. First, they drove the ball 70 yards with Trey Millan scoring from four yards out. After a Panther turnover, the Blue Jays scored on their very next play on a 30-yard pass from Dalton Miller to Dillon McConney.

In the second quarter, Norton scored again on a 40 yard pass from Jordan Wahlmeier to Mc-

Conney to give the Blue Jays an 18-0 lead at halftime.

Neither team scored in the third quarter. After two Norton turnovers in the final period, the Panthers scored both times to narrow the final margin of victory to 18-14.

With about three minutes left in the game, the Panthers had the ball and were driving inside Norton territory but McConney intercepted a Phillipsburg pass with about a minute and a half left to clinch the victory for the home team!

"Our players did very well for their first game of the season," said Norton coach Wade Church.

"Scoring on our first possession shows how much our players

wanted to play in this game.

"The offensive line did a terrific job all night, blowing people off the line and creating running room for our backs.

"On the defensive side, we did a good job for three quarters of preventing them from scoring.

"When it was crunch time, the defense came up with a big stop to seal the victory for us.

"It was a good start to the season. We saw a lot of good things in addition to some we can improve on as a team. The rest of the season should be exciting."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team played Oberlin in Oberlin on Monday.

Telegram sports: (785) 877-3361

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

FOOTBALL:

Norton Blue Jays vs. Smith Center Redmen 7 p.m. Friday in Smith Center
Norton Junior Varsity vs. Smith Center 6:30 p.m. Monday in Norton
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Thunder Ridge 7 p.m. Friday in Almena
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Heartland Christian 4 p.m. Monday in Colby
Logan Trojans vs. Lakeside 7 p.m. Friday in Lakeside

VOLLEYBALL:

Norton Lady Jays V vs. Goodland 4:30 p.m. Thursday in Norton
Norton Lady Jays V, JV vs. Hoxie and Hill City 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Hoxie
Norton Lady Jays C-team vs. Colby, Hays, Wheatland 4:30 p.m. Monday in Norton
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Logan and Alma 5 p.m. Tuesday in Alma
Logan Lady Trojans V vs. Stockton/Thunder Ridge/Franklin 3 p.m. Today in Kensington
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Northern Valley and Alma 5 p.m. Tuesday in Alma

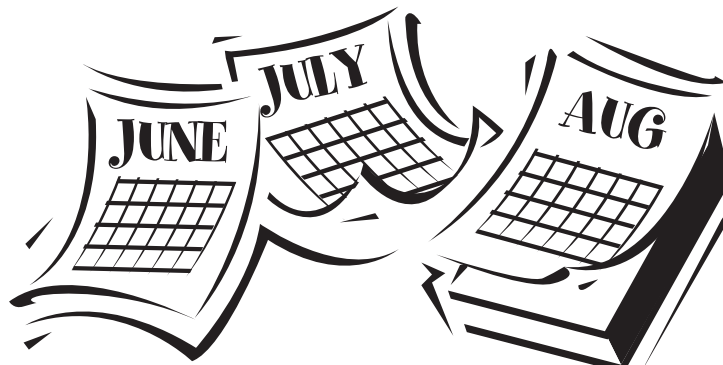
CROSS COUNTRY:

Norton Cross Country in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays
Northern Valley Huskies in Hays Invitational 3:45 p.m. Thursday in Hays

TENNIS:

Norton Lady Jays V in Phillipsburg Quad 3 p.m. Today in Phillipsburg
Norton Lady Jays JV in Russell JV Tourney 3 p.m. Today in Russell
Norton Lady Jays JV in Phillipsburg JV Quad 3 p.m. Thursday in Phillipsburg
Norton Lady Jays JV in Goodland JV Tourney 3 p.m. Tuesday in Goodland

Community Calendar



Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA.

Events may be e-mailed to:

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

or mailed to **215 South Kansas Avenue**

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR IS SPONSORED BY:
NORTON VALLEY HOPE AND THE PIZZA HUT/TACO BELL

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