

# Jays start 2010 track season

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Pleasant weather greeted the athletes, coaches and fans at the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on Friday on the Jep Byrum Track in Travis Stadium in Norton as the host boys team won the championship and the Lady Jays placed third.

The Norton boys rolled up 145 points to outscore runner-up Colby by 36 points. The Eagles totaled 109 points and third place Goodland had 91. The Cowboys were followed by Phillipsburg, 68; Smith Center, 64; Logan, 45; Northern Valley, 36.

On the girls side, Smith Center edged Colby 161-159 to win the championship. The Norton girls were third with 80, followed by Phillipsburg, 54; Logan, 52; Northern Valley, 39; Goodland, 5.

"For most of our team members, this was their first chance to compete this season and it is nice to get some introductory times and distances," said Norton head track coach Jason Jones.

"It is always fun to see the athletes get out and compete and experience the benefits of their hard work in practice.

"Our junior varsity athletes, who were coming off their first meet on Monday, had their second chance to compete in the first week of our competitive season. Some of them bettered their performances from Monday and scored some points at this varsity meet!

"On both teams, we had multiple personal records and did very well in respect to final team standings. That is fun to see this early and we are proud of the way our athletes competed. All of them were able to establish some early marks and we will use those results to set some goals for the remainder of the season.

"We are very excited about continuing to compete and working to take advantage of the opportunity to better ourselves as the season moves into full swing."

## GIRLS

Norton junior Dustyna Sprigg was the only gold medal winner for the Lady Jays. She set a personal record in winning the triple jump with a distance of 32'9.5".

Dustyna also scored points for Norton in three other events. She placed fourth in the 200 meter dash with a personal record time of 28.57, fourth in the 400 meter dash in 1:06.31 and was a member of the 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed third in 11:26.53. Running with her on the relay

were sophomore Abby Bainter, freshman Kamilla Jones and senior Kendra Engelbert.

Freshman Regan Simpson got her high school track career underway by winning medals in 800 meter and 1600 meter runs. She finished runner-up in the 800 meter run in 2:43.09 and won the bronze medal in the 1600 meter run with a clocking of 6:09.96. She also placed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 14'3.5".

Lady Jay freshman Julia Kent also had a good opening day for her prep career by winning a silver medal in the 3200 meter run with a personal record time of 14:35.53.

Norton freshman Kamilla Jones started her high school track career by winning three bronze medals. In addition to running on the 4 x 800 meter relay team, she placed third in the 800 meter run in 2:57.12 and third in the pole vault with a clearance of 7'6".

Abby Bainter won a second medal when she placed third in the 3200 meter run in 15:12.40 and senior Alyssa Thomson won the bronze in the high jump by clearing 4'10".

Lady Jay freshman Alec Melvin just missed a medal with a fourth place finish in the discus with a throw of 87'1". She also placed fifth in the javelin with a throw of 92'9".

Sophomore Erin Terrell finished fifth in the 400 meter dash with a clocking of 1:07.17.

Freshman Teslee Nickell placed sixth in the shot put with a heave of 30'5.75".

Norton results in events where the Lady Jays did not score were: Alec Melvin, 29'6", 7th, shot put; Teslee Nickell, 78'2", 9th, discus; Alyssa Thomson, 75'11", 10th; Teslee Nickell, 67'3", 12th, javelin; Kamilla Jones, 13'9.5", 8th, long jump; freshman Juliana Miller, 4'2", 10th, high jump; Juliana Miller, 6'6", 7th, pole vault; sophomore Caren Thomson, 19.62, 10th, 300 meter hurdles; freshman Maggie Henry, personal record 14.94, 16th, Caren Thomson, 19.93, 23rd, 100 meter dash; Alyssa Thomson, 31.50, 11th; Maggie Henry, 32.00, 13th, 200 meter dash; Kendra Engelbert, personal record 1:08.00, 7th; Maggie Henry, personal record 1:14.46, 15th, 400 meter dash.

## BOYS

Senior sprinter Ashton Draper had a field day in his first meet of the year, entering four events and winning four gold medals!



What a difference one hundredth of a second makes! Sophomore runners from Norton, Zach Hartwell, and Northern Valley, Gunnar Hays, sprinted down the back stretch at the end of the 3200 meter race in the Norton Invitational track meet on Friday in Norton and only one hundredth of a second separated them at the finish line. Hartwell won in a personal best time of 10:53.08 and Hays was timed in 10:53.09.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

He won the 200 meter dash with a personal record time of 23.27, hit the tape first in the 400 meter dash in 52.47, was a member of Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team which won the gold in 45.15 and anchored the Blue Jay 4 x 400 meter relay team to a first place finish in 3:38.75.

Running with Ashton in the 4 x 100 meter relay were seniors Landon Hamel and Zane Perez and junior anchor Terrell Lane. On Ashton's 4 x 400 meter relay team were Landon Hamel, sophomore Tye Nickell and sophomore Bryan Henry.

Terrell Lane won a second gold medal in the long jump with a leap of 20'2.5" and won silver medals in the triple jump with a distance of 39'10.75" and the 200 meter dash in 23.62.

Norton had two other gold medal performances. Junior Ryan Blecha heaved the shot 44' to win that event and sophomore Zach Hartwell ran his best ever in the 3200 meter run to hit the tape in 10:53.08.

Ryan Blecha won a second medal when he placed third in the javelin with a throw of 138'4".

Zane Perez won the silver med-

al in the long jump with a leap of 18'8.25". Junior Troy Bainter set a personal record in the 1600 meter run with a second place finish in 5:09.01 and Bryan Henry also set a personal record in finishing second in the 800 meter run in 2:11.50.

Members of Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team also won silver medals with a second place finish in 9:11.08. On the foursome were Troy Bainter, Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry and freshman John Renner.

Bainter won the bronze medal in the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:27.37.

Nickell won a second medal by placing third in the pole vault with a personal record clearance of 11'6".

Hamel placed fifth in the 300 meter hurdles in 43.62 and junior Billy Broeckelman finished fifth in the pole vault with a personal record 10'6" performance.

Junior Justin Griffith placed fifth in two events: the shot put where he heaved the iron ball 41'7" and the javelin where he threw the spear a personal record distance of 127'.

Junior Kegan Vanover placed

sixth in the 1600 meter run with a personal record clocking of 5:36.16.

Norton performances in events where the Blue Jay boys did not score were: sophomore Trey Millan, 33'.5", 21st; sophomore Damien Davis, personal record 31', 22nd; freshman Dalton Miller, 31', 22nd; freshman Lucas Engel, personal record 30'1.5", 25th; freshman Dylan Sprigg, 27'8", 30th; sophomore Robert Blecha, personal record 26'8", 31st, shot put; Dalton Miller, personal record 109'1", 9th; Justin Griffith, personal record 107'10", 10th; Ryan Blecha, 106'2", 12th; Trey Millan, 85'8", 21st; Dylan Sprigg, 83'9", 23rd; Damien Davis, personal record 81'2", 25th; Lucas Engel, personal record 74'2", 27th; Robert Blecha, 71'6", 30th, discus; Trey Millan, personal record 109'8", 13th; Damien Davis, 85'5", 24th; Dalton Miller, 84'1", 25th; Dylan Sprigg, 74'7", 26th; Robert Blecha, personal record 70'9", 29th, javelin; freshman Lane Bigge, 15'4", 15th, long jump; Joe LeClair, 34'1.5", 10th; Lane Bigge, personal record 30', 16th, triple jump; senior Casey Robison, 5',

7th; Billy Broeckelman, NH, high jump; freshman Carson McKenna, 10', 7th; Casey Robison, 9'6", 8th; Brett Terrell, 9'6", 8th; sophomore Justin Waggoner, personal record 9', 10th, pole vault; Joe LeClair, DNF, 110 meter hurdles; Joe LeClair, DNF, 300 meter hurdles; Lane Bigge, personal record 12.75, 19th; Carson McKenna, 12.75, 19th; Brett Terrell, personal record 12.84, 22nd; Justin Waggoner, personal record 12.90, 23rd, 100 meter dash; Justin Waggoner, personal record 26.46, 14th, 200 meter dash; John Renner, 2:26.30, 8th, 800 meter run; sophomore Kurt Douglas, 6:08, 10th, 1600 meter run; Kegan Vanover, 12:28.07, 7th, 3200 meter run; Billy Broeckelman, Ryan Blecha, Tye Nickell, Justin Griffith, 47.32, 4 x 100 meter relay; Justin Waggoner, Brett Terrell, Carson McKenna, Trey Millan, 49.46, 4 x 100 meter relay.

## Next action

The Norton girls and boys varsity track and field teams will compete today in the annual Smith Center Redmen Relays, which will begin at 3 p.m. with field events.

# Golf team places third

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School varsity golf team hosted the annual Norton Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association course and placed third, just three points out of first, out of 12 teams competing in sunny, slightly breezy weather.

Phillipsburg won the team championship with 356 total points.

Goodland and Norton tied for runner-up with 359 points each but the Cowboys won a card playoff to finish ahead.

Fourth place went to Hoxie with a 364 and they were followed by: Atwood, 381; Smith Center, 389; Oakley, 413; Quinter, 415; Colby, 431; Hill City, 436; Norton B, 443; Norton C, 457.

Norton senior J.D. Gall tied for No. 1 medalist with a 41-38-79 but Alex Hobelmann, Smith Center, beat him on a one-hole playoff to take top honors.

Norton senior Connor Pfannenstiel also medaled; he shot a 44-45-89 for No. 9 best in the tournament.

Medalists were: Alex Hobelmann, 79; J.D. Gall, 79; Joel Linn, Goodland, 81; Kyle Hoover, Phillipsburg, 85; Zach Ruda,

Atwood, 86; Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg, 88; Eric Linnell, Hoxie, 88; Cayle Taylor, Hoxie, 88; Connor Pfannenstiel, 89; Blaine Luther, Goodland, 89.

Other scores for the Norton varsity foursome were: senior Marcus Herman, 43-48-91 and junior Cole Archer, 48-52-100.

Also playing for the Norton varsity and their scores were freshman Eli Bozarth, 55-54-109 and sophomore Taylor Meder, 54-58-112.

Playing for the Norton B team and their scores were: junior Ashley Millan, 56-52-108; junior Nikki McVey, 54-54-108; junior Tanner Morel, 56-55-111; freshman Treven Rossi, 57-59-116 and freshman Dustan Daniels, 60-61-121.

The members of the Norton C team and their scores were: freshman John Risewick, 53-56-109; freshman Chris Fisher, 58-53-111; freshman Andrew Ellis, 61-56-117; freshman Cassius Dole, 61-59-120 and freshman Jordan Hartwell, 66-58-124.

Competing as individuals for Northern Valley were Hutch Gehrke, 50-58-108, 39th place and Samuel Field, 62-62-124, 67th place.

"Overall, we played much better today than in our season

opener last Monday at Smith Center," said Norton head golf coach David Stover.

"As a team, we took a one shot lead into the back nine holes but just weren't able to hold off a good Phillipsburg team. Goodland won a card playoff for the runner-up spot.

"J.D. Gall really came through to shoot one of his best rounds, tie for the tournament championship and medal for the second straight tournament.

"He lost the gold medal on a one-hole playoff.

"Connor Pfannenstiel continued his consistent play to earn his second consecutive individual medal, as well.

"For us to continue to improve as a team, our depth needs to get better.

"I really think we made a step in the right direction today, both with our varsity and junior varsity squads."

## Next action

Norton competed in the Ellis Invitational on Monday in Ellis.

Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

The Blue Jays will also travel to Goodland today for the Goodland Invitational.

Tea off time is 2 p.m.



Norton senior J.D. Gall completes a drive during the Norton Invitational Golf Tournament at the Prairie Dog Recreation Association course south of Norton on Friday. J.D. tied for No. 1 medalist and the Blue Jays also tied for the team runner-up spot.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd