

Jays place fourth, third at Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls track team placed fourth and the boys finished third in the annual Redmen Relays in Smith Center on Tuesday.

Very high winds prevailed during the entire meet but only the boys pole vault event was canceled.

Smith Center won the girls championship with 148.5 points, followed by Beloit, 88; Phillipsburg, 79; Norton, 70; Belleville, 69.5; Thayer Central, Neb., 64; Trego Community, 61.

Beloit was the boys champion with 149 points, followed by Thayer Central, Neb., 129; Norton, 90; Smith Center, 87; Phillipsburg, 73; Belleville, 46; Trego Community, 21.

"We bettered ourselves in many ways in this meet," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones.

"The wind was unbelievably strong and gusty all meet long but we competed right through

it. On top of that, we registered many personal records!

"It is still very early and we are still moving some people around a little to figure out which combinations may give us our best chances of success late in the season.

"Our athletes competed hard. Some of them had some wonderful days and posted some great marks, given the conditions of the day.

"We continue to be proud of the effort our athletes are giving. We feel good about the overall direction of our team and we will continue to work hard to better ourselves in every event."

GIRLS

Norton freshman Regan Simpson set two personal bests en route to two gold medals and a silver in the meet. She was timed in 2:39.30 in the 800 meter run and in 5:59.48 in the 1600 meter run.

Regan was also a member of the 4 x 800 meter relay team which finished runner-up with a time of 11:11.63. Running with her were junior Dustyna Sprigg, freshman

Kamilla Jones and senior Kendra Engelbert.

Senior Alyssa Thomson tied for second in the high jump with a clearance of 4'8".

Earning bronze medals for the Lady Jays were Dustyna Sprigg, personal best 33'1.25" in the triple jump; sophomore Abby Bainter, 14:33.97 in the 3200 meter run and sophomore Erin Terrell, Kendra Engelbert, Alyssa Thomson and Dustyna Sprigg, 4:40.26 in the 4 x 400 meter relay.

Three Lady Jay freshmen finished fourth in their events. They were Teslee Nickell, personal record 33'5.5" in the shot put; Kamilla Jones, personal record 8' in the pole vault and Julia Kent, 14:48.97 in the 3200 meter run.

Freshman Alec Melvin set a personal record with a 32'9" heave of the shot to place fifth and she also finished fifth in the javelin with a personal best throw of 101'.

Erin Terrell placed sixth in the 200 meter dash in 30.22 and Kamilla Jones set a personal record of 2:46.65 in the 800 meter run with a sixth place finish.

Times and distances of Norton girls who did not place were: Alec Melvin, 63'6", 13th; Teslee Nickell, 60'4", 14th, discus; Alyssa Thomson, personal record 93'4", 7th; Teslee Nickell, personal record 80'6", 12th, javelin; Kamilla Jones, personal record 14'5", 7th; Regan Simpson, 13'9.75", 10th, long jump; Juliana Miller, personal record 4'6", 12th, high jump; Juliana Miller, 6'6", 8th, pole vault; Dustyna Sprigg, 1:09.15, 8th, 400 meter dash.

BOYS

Senior Ashton Draper won two gold medals and two silver medals for the Norton boys squad.

Ashton was timed in 53.19 in his 400 meter dash first place finish and also was a member of the Blue Jay 4 x 100 meter relay team which sprinted to the gold medal with a 45.58 time. Other members of the foursome were: senior Landon Hamel, senior



Lady Blue Jay freshman Regan Simpson gave notice on Tuesday in the Redmen Relays in Smith Center that she will be a force to be reckoned with this season. She is shown winning the 1600 meter run and also earned the gold in the 800 meter run.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior Landon Hamel, right and fellow senior teammate Ashton Draper got a smooth handoff in the 4 x 100 meter relay on Tuesday in the Redmen Relays in Smith Center. The foursome of Hamel, Draper, senior Zane Perez and junior Terrell Lane won the gold medal with a time of 45.58.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Zane Perez and junior anchor Terrell Lane.

Ashton was runner-up in the 200 meter dash in 24.53 and anchored the 4 x 400 meter relay team to a second place finish in 3:43.22. Running with him were Landon Hamel, sophomore Tye Nickell and sophomore Bryan Henry.

Sophomore Zach Hartwell was Norton's other gold medal winner. He was timed in 11:15.93 in the 3200 meter run.

Terrell Lane also earned two silver medals. He placed runner-up in the long jump with a leap of 20'2.5" and was second in the triple jump with a distance of 41'2". He also placed third in the 200 meter dash in 25.07.

Junior Ryan Blecha won a bronze medal in the shot put with a heave of 43'4" and he also placed fourth in the discus with a personal record throw of 129'8".

Landon Hamel finished fourth in the 300 meter hurdles in 43.82 and sophomore Joe LeClair placed fourth in the 110 meter hurdles in 17.33.

The Blue Jay boys 4 x 800 meter relay team of junior Troy Bainter, Zach Hartwell, freshman John Renner and Bryan Henry placed fourth in 9:27.96.

Bryan Henry also finished sixth in the 800 meter run in 2:14.03.

Times and distances by Norton boys which did not place were: junior Justin Griffith, 38'1", 12th; freshman Dalton Miller, 29'10.5", 24th, shot put; Justin Griffith, personal best 124'2", 9th; Dalton Miller, 105'1", 16th, discus; Ryan Blecha, 133', 7th; Justin Griffith, 120'6", 13th; Dalton Miller, personal record 108'10", 18th, javelin; Zane Perez, 17'3.5", 10th, long jump; Joe LeClair, personal record 34'8.75", 11th, triple jump; junior

Billy Broeckelman, NH; senior Casey Robison, NH, high jump; Zane Perez, 12.64, 10th; Billy Broeckelman, personal record 12.79, 11th; Joe LeClair, 13.71, 18th, 100 meter dash; Troy Bainter, personal record 2:18.38, 10th; John Renner, 2:26.10, 15th, 800 meter run; Troy Bainter, 5:11.75, 7th; Zach Hartwell, 5:20.48, 8th; junior Kegan Vanover, 6:14.16, 14th, 1600 meter run; Kegan Vanover, 12:59.75, 7th, 3200 meter run.

Next action

The Norton varsity girls and boys track teams will compete in the annual Plainville Invitational on Tuesday, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Norton junior varsity thincads will compete on Monday in the Trego Freshman/Sophomore Meet in WaKeeney, beginning at 4 p.m.

Local players are honored

By DICK BOYD

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Northern Valley Seniors Alison Cole and Christina Anderson and junior Staci Dole were chosen for Cheyenne Conference first team post-season girls basketball honors by vote of the league coaches.

Cole and Anderson were both unanimous choices.

Also honored on the first team were Logan sophomore Caley Greving and Thunder Ridge junior Sammy Krueger.

Receiving honorable mention were Samantha Tien, Logan sophomore; Alethea Bennett, Logan sophomore; Cheyenne Grauerholz, Thunder Ridge senior and Brittany Kirchhoff, Thunder Ridge senior.

"Alison Cole will surely go down in the Northern Valley history books as one of the very best to put on a Husky uniform," said Northern Valley girls head basketball coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"Alison led us in scoring with a 16 point average, in rebounding with 11 caroms per game and deflects with 142. Eighty-three of her deflects were blocks. If blocked shots were a statistic that was kept statewide, I believe she would have been among the state leaders.

"Alison not only led during the games but in practices as well as she demonstrated to her teammates that, if you want to be good, you have to practice hard each and every day.

"Christina will be remembered as a hard nosed player who left it all on the floor and did not spare her body in the process.

"The best compliment given to Christina by another coach was that she drove to the basket harder than anyone they had played all season. Christina led us in assists with 94 and in three-point shooting with 36 for the season and a 38 percent accuracy average, one of the tops in our part of the state.

"Christina also led us in free throws made as well as percentage as her drives to the basket forced our opponents to foul. She made 67 charities at a 69 percent clip. She was second in our statistics in scoring with 13 points per game and in rebounds with five per contest. She was also second in steals.

"Christina will also go down as a practice player who pushed her teammates to excel as she and Alison realized this was the only way to become the team we needed to be if we were to be as successful as we were.

"Our third all-conference member was our junior point guard Staci Dole. Staci has improved her skills to the point that the other league coaches deemed her the best point guard in the conference and I believe they are correct. She handled the ball over 95 percent of the time in getting us into our offenses and did so with relatively few turnovers.

"Staci was runner-up in team assists with 74 and field goal accuracy at 46 percent. She was third in field goals made with 52, third in steals with 49 and third in free throws made with 49 and in accuracy with 57 percent. Staci was also a power on defense as she was fourth on our team in deflects."



Norton junior Tanner Morel is shown competing for the Blue Jay varsity golf team in the Goodland Invitational tournament on Tuesday.

— Telegram photo by Tom Betz

Jays faced high wind

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity golf team played in the Goodland Invitational tournament on Tuesday and the biggest challenge for every team was just finishing as the players encountered 40 m.p.h. winds gusting to over 60 m.p.h.!

Colby won the team championship with a 367, followed by Goodland, 381; Hoxie, 388; Hays JV, 391; Ulysses, 393; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 405; Norton, 407; Oakley, 429; Scott City, 433; Atwood, 447; Quinter, 466.

Norton senior J.D. Gall continued to lead the Blue Jays by shooting a 47-50-97, which was just two strokes out of the medals.

Gall was followed by senior Marcus Herman, 49-52-101; sophomore Taylor Meder, 52-52-104 and junior Cole Archer, 53-52-105.

Also playing for Norton and their scores were: junior Tanner Morel, 55-55-110 and senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 55-57-112.

Medalists were: Kade Brown, Oberlin, 85; Ryley Haas, Colby, 87; Eric Linnell, Hoxie, 89; Joel Linin, Goodland, 89; Paul Schiferl,

Colby, 91; Dylan Stithem, Colby, 91; Kyle Hedlund, Hays JV, 91; Garrett Berry, Oberlin, 92; Tyler Jones, Goodland, 94; Jacob Mendoza, Ulysses, 95.

"Don't let the overall scores from the entire field fool you," said Norton head golf coach David Stover. "It was the extremely difficult playing conditions that were the cause for the higher scores from everyone in the tournament.

"It was primarily a day where the final results may not be a true indication of how you played, both individually and as a team.

"The best part of the day for us was the play of Taylor Meder, Cole Archer and Tanner Morel. We have been looking for improvement in play from the golfers in their spots in the lineup and I feel we got that from these three today."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity golfers will play in the next two tournaments for the Blue Jays. Today, they will compete in the Hill City JV Invitational in Hill City with tee off at 3 p.m. On Tuesday, they will play in the Goodland JV Invitational in Goodland, beginning at 2 p.m.

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