

Jays have outstanding MCL track performance

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams turned in some outstanding performances en route to runner-up finishes in the annual Mid-Continent League track meet held Friday in Smith Center.

Smith Center won the girls championship with 137 points, followed by Norton, 95.5; Phillipsburg, 68; Trego Community, 64; Osborne, 54; Hill City, 47; Plainville, 38.5; Stockton, 29; Ellis, 26.

Osborne was the champion of the boys' competition with 136.5 points, followed by Norton, 101; Hill City, 93; Smith Center, 77; Plainville, 58; Stockton, 39; Phillipsburg, 37; Ellis, 7; Trego Community, 5.5

"Both of our teams were out-

scored for the championships by very solid teams," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones.

"We continued to improve in multiple areas, setting 19 new individual personal records and three season bests in our relays!

"Our athletes showed up, competed hard and bettered themselves. We are extremely proud of their efforts and performances. Great things happened for us throughout the day's competition.

"We love to see these performances at this point in the season and we will work to continue to improve as we head into regional and state meets.

"We could not be more proud of our girls and boys and the manner in which they prepared, competed and conducted themselves. We

are very pleased that our athletes continue to improve as we near the portion of the season when performance and improvement are necessary. We are eager to see what we can make happen on both sides the next two weeks."

GIRLS

Norton freshman distance runner Regan Simpson was a double gold medal winner, breaking the finish line string in both the 1600 meter and 3200 meter runs.

She was timed in the 1600 meters in a personal record time of 5:42.32. This is the eighth best time in all classes so far in the Salina Journal Honor Roll and trails only the leader, Ruder of Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, in Class 3A.

Regan's time in the 3200 meter run was 13:06.62. Lady Jay junior Dustyna Sprigg won one gold medal and came within 34 hundredths of a second of winning another. She set a personal record of 33'4" in winning the triple jump and was timed in a personal record time of 2:31.35 in the 800 meter run where she was edged for the second time this season by Phillipsburg's Raegan Vanderplas.

Norton senior sprinter Hannah Waggoner proved that she is getting faster every week as she gets back in shape after missing the early part of the season due to injury. She won the silver medal in both the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes and anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a fourth place finish.

She was timed in 13.94 in the 100 meter dash and clocked in 28.31 in the 200 meter dash. Running with her in the 4 x 100 meter relay were sophomore Erin Terrell, freshman Katherine Boteler and freshman Juliana Miller. They were timed in a season best 54.31.

The Norton girls earned 18 points in the 3200 meter run when Regan Simpson placed first, followed by freshman Julia Kent in third with a personal record time of 13:25.82 and sophomore Abby Bainter in fifth place with a clocking of 14:13.15.

Twelve points were scored by the Norton pole vaulters. Freshman Kamilla Jones placed third with a vault of 8', followed by Juliana Miller with a personal record height of 7'6" and freshman Katherine Boteler in fifth with a 7' clearance.

The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Dustyna Sprigg, Kamilla Jones, senior Kendra Engelbert and sophomore Erin Terrell won silver medals with a time of 10:42.50.

Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay



Norton senior Ashton Draper anchored the Blue Jay 4 x 400 meter relay team to an exciting first place finish to complete competition in the annual Mid-Continent League Track Meet in Smith Center on Friday. Observing in the background was sophomore Bryan Henry, who was also a member of the foursome along with junior Billy Broeckelman and freshman Jacob Brooks. Draper also won the 400 meter dash, placed third in the 200 meter dash and anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a fourth place.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

team of Erin Terrell, Kendra Engelbert, senior Alyssa Thomson and Dustyna Sprigg finished the day's competition with a season best time of 4:26.91 for fourth place.

Kamilla Jones leaped a career best 15'6" to place fifth in the long jump. Freshman Alec Melvin finished sixth in the shot put with a heave of 34'1". Alyssa Thomson tied for sixth in the high jump with a 4'8" clearance.

Erin Terrell placed sixth in the 300 meter hurdles in 54.92.

Distances and times of Norton girls which did not place were: freshman Teslee Nickell, 33'7.5", 7th, shot put; Alec Melvin, 92'1", 9th; Teslee Nickell, 88'8", 11th, discus; Alec Melvin, personal best 103'11", 10th; Teslee Nickell, personal best 88'10", 14th; Alyssa Thomson, 82'9", 15th, javelin; Juliana Miller, 4'6", 11th, high jump; sophomore Caren Thomson, 20.13, 8th, 100 meter hurdles; Caren Thomson, 1:00.54, 8th, 300 meter hurdles; freshman Maggie Henry, 16.59, 15th, 100 meter dash; Maggie Henry, 31.85, 14th, 200 meter dash; Maggie Henry, personal record 1:13.82, 14th, 400 meter dash; Kamilla Jones, 2:47.31, 8th, 800 meter run.

BOYS

Senior sprinter Ashton Draper was a double gold medal winner and also earned a bronze medal.

Ashton, who has the second fastest time recorded this season in the 400 meter dash in Class 3A on the Salina Journal Honor Roll, was timed in 50.94 to win the event.

In the final race of the evening, the 4 x 400 meter relay, Ashton anchored the Blue Jay foursome to an exciting victory in 3:32.36. Running with him were sopho-

more Bryan Henry, freshman Jacob Brooks and junior Billy Broeckelman. They replaced Osborne, who was the runner-up, as the seventh fastest team in the Salina Journal Honor Roll and third fastest in Class 3A.

Ashton also placed third in the 200 meter dash in 23.52 and anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a fourth place finish in 45.78. Running with him were senior Zane Perez, freshman Jacob Brooks and Billy Broeckelman.

Bryan Henry just missed a personal record in the 800 meter run with a 2:07.45 clocking to win the silver medal. He also placed fifth in the 400 meter dash in 53.38.

Junior Ryan Blecha improved his best distance in the shot put with a heave of 45'6" to place runner-up. Junior Justin Griffith was right behind him in third with a personal best heave of 43'2.75".

Ryan also placed fourth in the discus with a throw of 122'1" and sixth in the javelin with a personal best throw of 146'3".

Junior Billy Broeckelman won the silver medal in the pole vault with a clearance of 11'6". Senior Casey Robison was right behind him in third with a 9' vault.

Norton distance runners sophomore Zach Hartwell and junior Troy Bainter had career best days. Zach was runner-up in the 3200 meter run with a personal best time of 10:50.92 and Troy was right behind him in third with a personal best clocking of 10:51.76.

Zach placed fourth in the 1600 meter run with a career best time of 4:56.21 and Troy was sixth with a personal record clocking of 4:58.89.

The two were also members of Norton's runner-up 4 x 800 meter

relay team which was timed in a season best time of 8:50.20 to place second. Running with them were Bryan Henry and freshman John Renner.

Jacob Brooks also earned a point for the Blue Jays with a sixth place finish in the 200 meter dash in 24.90.

Distances and times of Norton boys which did not place were: freshman Dalton Miller, 31', 17th, shot put; Justin Griffith, 105'4", 12th; Dalton Miller, 99'8", 15th, discus; Dalton Miller, personal record 118'4", 14th; Justin Griffith, 117'3", 16th, javelin; Zane Perez, 16'5.75", 14th, long jump; Casey Robison, 5'2", 7th; John Renner, NH, high jump; Jacob Brooks, 12.50, 9th, 100 meter dash; John Renner, 2:23.42, 10th, 800 meter run; sophomore Kurt Douglas, personal best 5:43.80, 13th, 1600 meter run; junior Kegan Vanover, personal best 11:48.10, 7th, 3200 meter run.

Next action

Norton will return to Smith Center this Friday for the Class 3A Regional Track and Field Meet which will be held at Hubbard Field.

Field events will begin at 3 p.m. and will be followed by running preliminaries at 4:30 p.m. and running finals at 6 p.m.

This regional track meet is expected to be one of the toughest 3A regionals in the state of Kansas. Competing, in addition to Norton and Smith Center, will be teams from Beloit, Ellinwood, Ellsworth, Goodland, Southeast of Saline, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Holcomb, Lakin, Larned, Marysville, Minneapolis, Phillipsburg and Riley County.

Cost of admission will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for children K-12.



Norton Lady Jay freshman Regan Simpson is shown leading the pack during her gold medal winning performance in the 3200 meter run in the annual Mid-Continent League Track Meet in Smith Center on Friday. Regan also won the 1600 meter run with a personal record time. Running in third place and finishing third was freshman Julia Kent. Sophomore Abby Bainter placed fifth as the Norton girls totaled 18 points in the race.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jay golf hosts Mid-Continent League Tournament, places third

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School golf team hosted the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Thursday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association course south of Norton and placed third in the team standings.

Phillipsburg won the six-man team championship for the sixth consecutive year by carding a 348. Trego Community was 10 strokes back with a 358 and Norton just six strokes behind them with a 364.

Plainville was fourth with a 366, followed by Ellis, 382; Hill City, 396; Smith Center, 398; Stockton, 401; Osborne, 410.

Phillipsburg won the two-man competition with a 170 and Norton trailed by just eight strokes in second with a 178. Stockton was third with a 181, followed by Smith Center, 183; Osborne, 196; Ellis, 202; Trego, 209; Plainville, 224; Hill City, 225.

Norton's two-man team consisted of senior J.D. Gall, who shot an 89 and senior Connor Pfannenstiel, who carded an 89 as well. Gall edged Pfannenstiel for No. 10 medalist. Senior Marcus Herman was also a member of the two-man team and shot a 94.

Trego was the four-man champion with a score of 364, followed

by Plainville, 366; Phillipsburg, 367; Ellis, 389; Norton, 393; Hill City, 396; Stockton, 467; Smith Center, 485.

Members of Norton's four-man team and their scores were: freshman Andrew Ellis, 92; junior Cole Archer, 98; junior Ashley Millan, 99; freshman John Rise-wick, 104. Also playing for the Norton four-man team and his score was freshman Eli Bozarth, who shot a 110.

The medalists were: Brock Morgan, Phillipsburg, 80; Koby Beougher, Stockton, 84; Tyler Compton, Plainville, 85; Brad Pfannenstiel, Trego, 87; Cameron Staples, Trego, 87; Ryan Hoover, Phillipsburg, 88; Alex Hobelmann, Smith Center, 88; Blake Fritts, Trego, 88; Gage Younger, Ellis, 89; J.D. Gall, 89.

Coach's comments

"Unfortunately, we did not play as well today as we had hoped on our home course with good scoring conditions to challenge for a conference championship," said Norton head golf coach David Stover.

"Once again, Phillipsburg played consistent golf all day to earn their sixth straight league championship.

"We need to put today behind us quickly with the very short turnaround before the Class 3A Tournament in Smith Center on

Monday."

Next action

Norton competed in the Class 3A Regional Golf Tournament

on Monday in Smith Center but results were not available by press time at the Norton Telegram.



Blue Jay senior Connor Pfannenstiel finished teeing off as this photo was taken during the annual Mid-Continent League Golf Tournament on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association course south of Norton on Thursday. Pfannenstiel shot an 89, the 11th lowest score in the tournament.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior Cole Archer is shown sinking a putt during the annual Mid-Continent League Golf Tournament on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association course south of Norton on Thursday.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd