



Norton qualifies six athletes for 100th State Track meet

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams turned in some outstanding performances in the tough Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Smith Center.

The Norton boys team qualified four athletes and the girls squad two athletes for this weekend's Kansas State Track and Field Championships in Wichita's Cessna Stadium.

The top four finishers in each event in the meet, considered to be the toughest regional meet in Class 3A, qualified for the state event, the largest high school track and field meet in the nation.

The Norton girls and boys had a number of athletes who just missed the trip to the state meet with fifth, sixth and even seventh place finishes.

Smith Center and Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays tied for the girls championship with 80 points, followed by Hoisington, 70; Beloit, 60; Riley County, 42; Phillipsburg, 35; Marysville, 35; Minneapolis, 33; Ellinwood, 23; Lakin, 21; Larned, 19; Ellsworth, 18; Norton, 16; Holcomb, 16;

Qualifying for the state track championships in Wichita on Friday and Saturday were senior sprinter Hannah Waggoner in the 200 meter dash and senior high jumper Alyssa Thomson.

Qualifying for the state meet on the boys side was senior sprinter Ashton Draper in the 200 meter dash, 400 meter dash and 4 x 400 meter relay along with teammates junior Billy Broeckelman, sophomore Bryan Henry and freshman Jacob Brooks.

Bryan Henry also qualified in the 400 meter dash.

Coach's comments

"We are extremely proud of the efforts our athletes gave in Friday's regional track and field meet in Smith Center," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones.

"They competed very hard and embraced the competition. We continued to get better on both sides and that is all we can ask for at this point in the season.

"Our girls team tied for 13th and two of our girl athletes, Alyssa Thomson and Hannah Waggoner, earned the opportunity to represent our school and community in this weekend's state meet in Wichita. We cannot wait to take

relay team which qualified. Tye Nickell will be their alternate. We are very excited for these boys, as well, and look forward to their opportunities at the state level.

"Our athletes did exactly what we asked of them. They spent the entire day devoted to and committed to positively controlling their efforts and performances. Our young athletes learned a lot about competing at the regional level and all of our athletes displayed an unbelievable amount of sportsmanship and class as they handled themselves with the utmost poise and character. For that, we are very proud of them. That is the mark of champions.

"We are very excited about our athletes who qualified and earned opportunities to compete at the state meet and look forward to next season when we hope to build upon the experiences that all of our athletes have gained throughout this season's competition."

GIRLS

In addition to the two Norton girls who qualified for the state meet, ten Lady Jay performances placed fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth to just miss qualifying.

Alyssa Thomson did not have one of her better days in the high jump, clearing 5'1" to place fourth. She had to win a jump off in order to qualify.

Hannah Waggoner placed third in the 200 meter dash with a time of 27.87.

Freshman Regan Simpson just missed a trip to the state meet with a fifth place finish in the 1600 meter run with a time of 6:01.49. Regan also competed in the 3200 meter run where she placed seventh in 13:20.20.

Norton junior Dustyna Sprigg also just missed a trip to Wichita with a fifth place finish in the 800 meter run in 2:32.12. She missed fourth place by three and one-half seconds.

Dustyna was also close to qualifying for state in the triple jump where she finished in sixth place with a distance of 33'1.25". She missed fourth place by 5.5".

Lady Jay freshman Alec Melvin placed sixth in the javelin with a personal record throw of 107'. She was just 2.5 feet out of fourth place. Alec also had personal bests in the shot put with a heave of 34'8" and in the discus with a throw of 101'1", finishing seventh in both events.

Freshman Kamilla Jones finished seventh in the pole vault with an 8' clearance.

Other Norton girls performances which did not place were: freshman Teslee Nickell, 33'4.5", 8th, shot put; Teslee Nickell, 82'5", 10th, discus; freshman Kamilla Jones, 14'5.5", 12th, long jump; freshman Juliana Miller, NH, high jump; freshman Katherine Boteler, 7'6", 11th, pole vault; Hannah Waggoner, 14.30, 100 meter dash; freshman Julia Kent, 13:47.75, 11th, 3200 meter run; Erin Terrell, Juliana Miller, Katherine Boteler, Hannah Waggoner, personal best 54.18, 12th, 4 x 100 meter relay; Erin Terrell, senior Kendra Engelbert, Alyssa Thomson, Dustyna Sprigg, 4:27.64, 11th, 4 x 400 meter relay; Dustyna Sprigg, Kendra Engelbert, Kamilla Jones, Erin Terrell, 10:55.63, 8th, 4 x 800 meter relay.

BOYS

Norton senior sprinter Ashton Draper had a super day, winning the 400 meter dash in 51.49, the 200 meter dash in 23.92 and anchoring the 4 x 400 meter relay to a fourth place finish in 3:36.08. Running with him were sophomore Bryan Henry, freshman Jacob Brooks and junior Billy Broeckelman.

Henry won his heat in the 400 meter dash in a personal best time of 52.54 to place third overall.

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Bryan Henry, junior Troy Bainter, freshman John Renner and sophomore Zach Hartwell placed fifth in a season best time of 8:38.79 and was just under three seconds out of fourth and a state qualifying performance.

The Blue Jay boys' 4 x 100



Norton freshman Jacob Brooks began his leg of the 4 x 400 meter relay after receiving the baton from sophomore Bryan Henry in the 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Smith Center. The Blue Jay foursome of Henry, Brooks, junior Billy Broeckelman and senior Ashton Draper placed fourth to qualify for the state meet in Wichita.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior Ashton Draper started his leg of the 4 x 400 meter relay in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Smith Center after receiving the baton from junior Billy Broeckelman. The foursome of Draper, Broeckelman, sophomore Bryan Henry and freshman Jacob Brooks placed fourth to qualify for the state meet in Wichita.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior Hannah Waggoner sprinted across the finish line to place third in the 200 meter dash in the 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Smith Center and qualify for this weekend's state meet.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Southeast of Saline, 10.

Southeast of Saline won the boys championship with 68 points and was followed by Beloit, 65; Riley County, 58; Phillipsburg, 48; Hoisington, 40; Norton, 33; Minneapolis, 32; Ellinwood, 31; Smith Center, 21; Ellsworth, 21; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 21; Lakin, 21; Larned, 16; Goodland, 16; Marysville, 5.

advantage of the opportunities these two girls have grasped.

"On the boys side, we finished seventh in the team standings and four of our boys qualified to compete in the state meet. Ashton Draper won two individual regional championships and Bryan Henry placed third and combined with Billy Broeckelman and Jacob Brooks on the 4 x 400 meter

meter relay team of Billy Broeckelman, Jacob Brooks, junior Justin Griffith and Ashton Draper finished seventh in 45.65 but was just 29 hundredth of a second out of fourth!

Norton junior Ryan Blecha had another good day in the throws but just missed qualifying for the state meet. He threw the discus a personal record distance of 139'10" to place sixth in that event. He missed fourth place by a yard.

Ryan heaved the shot 44'5" to place seventh, missing fourth place by less than two feet, and threw the javelin 140'11" to finish 11th.

Other performances by Norton boys which did not place were: junior Justin Griffith, 41'11", 14th, shot put; Justin Griffith, 122'7", 18th, javelin; sophomore Tye Nickell, 11'6", 8th; Billy Broeckelman, 11'6", 10th; pole vault; Jacob Brooks, 12.49, 10th, 100 meter dash; Bryan Henry, 2:14.54, 7th, 800 meter run; Zach Hartwell, 11:06.50, 8th; Troy Bainter, 11:17.53, 12th, 3200 meter run.

Next action

The Norton track and field athletes who qualified will compete on Friday and Saturday in the largest high school track meet in the nation in Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Athletes from all six enrollment classes will compete.

It will be the 100th state track meet in Kansas and each qualifier



Lady Blue Jay senior Alyssa Thomson cleared the bar enough times in the high jump to place fourth in the 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Smith Center.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

will receive a special Centennial Medallion. All former gold medal winners in the high school track meet in addition to Kansas Olympic and NCAA champions

will be honored at a reception on Thursday evening.

Norton won the championship of the first Kansas State Track Meet!

Sports Correspondent

The Norton Telegram is seeking two correspondents for Northern Valley High School and Logan High School sports. This is a part time position including writing and taking photos. Call The Telegram at 877-3361 for more information.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 South Kansas, Norton, Kansas - Phone 785-877-3361
e-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com