

Norton cross country takes first and second Senior night held against Goodland

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls won the championship and the boys were the runner-up in the Hays Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday, Sept. 16.

The Norton girls scored 38 points to win the Class 1-4A championship. They were followed by Colby with 41 and Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays with 48.

Ness City won the boys championship with 34 points, followed by Norton, 49; Colby, 79; Plainville, 88 and Stockton, 119.

GIRLS

"This is a difficult race," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi.

"First of all, all classes run at the same time although Class 5-6A are scored separately from the 1-4A. It is hard at times to tell how the runners are doing.

"Not until after the race did I realize that as a team our girls improved their time by 45 seconds. It wasn't until the final 200 meters that Katelyn, Julia and Kamilla were able to pass Colby's No. 4 runner to seal the win for us.

"This race is basically a triangular between Norton, TMP and Colby so every position is of vital importance. This course, even though it is very flat, is difficult

because there is no place to coast or catch your breath. It is just run as fast as you can all the time.

"I am very pleased with the fact that we are running faster. The trick now is to keep improving. Our team needs to really work on the second mile split and bring it down closer to the first mile split. Our girls must take advantage of every practice and use that time to improve and not just on race days."

Norton junior Astrid Moen placed fourth in the team competition and sixth individually with a personal record time of 16:10. She was followed in the Lady Jays' five-member team by freshman Darcy Bainter, 12th, personal record 17:09; freshman Katelyn Engelbert, 13th, personal record 17:37; sophomore Julia Kent, 14th, 17:39 and sophomore Kamilla Jones, 15th, 17:44.

Also running for Norton and their places and times were: senior Dustyna Sprigg, 17th, 18:07 and junior Abby Bainter, 25th, 19:31.

The top ten individual girls runners and their times were: Heather Ruder, TMP, 15:07, first; Emilea Finley, Colby, 15:38, second; Jessie Rubottom, Ness City, 15:58, third; Katrina Kaus, Colby, 16:01, fourth; Kendra Pfannenstiel, Ness City, 16:08, fifth; Astrid Moen, Norton, 16:10, sixth; Taylor Gabel, Ness City, 16:28, seventh;

Lacie Bourne, Ness City, 16:35, eighth; Allison Pfeifer, TMP, 16:38, ninth; Katherine Kaus, Colby, 16:57, tenth.

BOYS

"The boys race mirrored the girls race in that it is hard to tell how the Blue Jay runners are doing in their 'race within the race,'" said coach Rossi.

"Again, looking at the results, we find that most of our boys greatly improved their time from last year and from Wamego. John Renner cut more than two minutes from last year and set a personal record as did Troy Bainter, Marc Miller and Alec Hager.

"We were beaten by a very good Ness City team. We need to finish a bit better and work on the second and third mile splits. If we can improve these things, we will be competitive at the end of the season.

"Our junior varsity boys each set personal records. The junior varsity race was run with all classes together. Keith Sander ran a great race, placing 18th out of 98 runners."

Blue Jay junior Zach Hartwell led the Norton boys to the finish line. He placed fifth individually in 17:52. He was followed by senior Troy Bainter, 7th, personal record 18:00; junior Bryan Henry, 10th 18:06; freshman Marc Miller, 13th, personal record 18:37 and

freshman Alec Hager, 14th, personal record 18:42 to comprise the five-member Norton team.

Other Norton runners with their placing and time were: sophomore John Renner, 16th, personal record 18:47 and senior Kegan Vanover, 25th, 20:52.

As noted, Keith Sander ran fastest for Norton in the junior varsity race with an 18th place and personal record time of 20:03. He was followed by senior Cole Archer, 48th, personal record 21:16; sophomore Ryan Bainter, 64th, personal record 21:59; freshman Garret Otter, 76th, personal record 22:34 and freshman Chris Chambers, 81st, personal record 22:48.

The top ten boys runners in the varsity race were: Brady Johnson, Plainville, 16:39, first; Kyle Schauvliege, Ness City, 17:07, second; Wyatt Beckman, Ness City, 17:37, third; Dustin Reed, Colby, 17:46, fourth; Zach Hartwell, Norton, 17:52, fifth; Dustin Kriley, Stockton, 17:57, sixth; Troy Bainter, Norton, 18:00, seventh; Josh Snodgrass, Ness City, 18:01, eighth; Dray Carson, Ness City, 18:04, ninth; Brian Henry, Norton, 18:06, tenth.

Next action

Norton's cross country runners will compete next in the Hill City Invitational on Thursday, beginning at 3:45 p.m.

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The Norton Community High School girls volleyball team hosted Goodland on "Senior Night" Thursday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in a best three of five games match and showed improvement despite losing three straight.

Scores of the games were: 17-25, 16-25, 15-25. The first game was closer than the final score indicates. Norton led briefly early in both the second and third tests.

Honored prior to the matches were Norton senior players and their parents: Bekah Streck, Joan and Steve; Katie Gall, Patty and John and Sharrelle Shinn, Janelle and Harold.

"The Lady Cowgirls were a tough team," said Norton head volleyball coach Peggy Cox. "While we played better than we have previously, we made some mental errors that were costly and avoidable.

"We didn't make the adjustments in our defense when Goodland started tipping and they were able to score some easy points.

"Our serving was the best it has been, both in percentage and aces scored but just was not enough to overcome the deficit in points."

Erin Terrell led in kills with five, followed by Caren Thomson, four; Bekah Streck, Teslee Nickell, one.

Aces leaders were Kylie Nuzum, Terrell and Johnnye Ruder with three each, followed by Sharrelle Shinn and Nickell, one each.

Terrell also led in digs with six, followed by Shinn, five; Nuzum, four; Ruder, three; Streck, Nickell, two each; Thomson, Brianna Karnopp, one each.

Nickell was assists leader with six; Ruder had two.

Thomson and Karnopp each had one block.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity played Goodland in five games and won two. Scores were: 17-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-12, 13-15.

"This was a tough loss for our junior varsity," said Norton assistant coach Christine Thompson. "Overall, we played very confident and under control the entire night. We played very aggressive and attacked Goodland every chance we got.

"Even though we came away with a loss, it was one of the best matches we have played all season so far. Our record at this time is 3-5."

Team statistics were: kills - Bailey Ambrosier, 12; Katherine Boteler, Alec Melvin, 5 each; Rachel Slipke, 3; Chelsi Mc Reynolds, Mariah Farber, 2 each; Alexis Lively, 1; assists - Farber, 12; Boteler, 9; digs - Melvin, 6; Brae Bigge, Bailey Ambrosier, 2 each; Boteler, Slipke, 1 each; blocks - Boteler, Ambrosier, Melvin, 1 each; aces - Farber, 10; Boteler, 4; Ambrosier, 3; Bigge, Melvin, 1 each.

Next action

Norton will travel to Hill City today to play varsity and junior varsity matches with Hill City and Hoxie. Competition will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Huskies play first home match

The Lady Huskies opened the home season on our new court with a 25-14 first set victory over Palco but in volleyball one set does not win the match.

Our team came out and played very well against Palco with all the skills working and showing some power in the process as we convincingly won the first set. But, we relaxed and allowed the Roosters to have some success which turned the momentum over to their side of the net and we lost

the second set 22-25.

The third set was a back and forth match in which we just "free balled" most of our combinations over the net which they easily turned into power of their own which we did not handle resulting in a 23-25 loss.

In our second match of the night we faced Southern Valley of Nebraska. This team handled Palco with ease before we played them so the obvious thought was we were going to be in way over our

heads. But, our girls didn't see it that way and came out and played very aggressive on offense while taking the hits that Southern Valley smacked at us and controlled them with very good defensive digs to make Southern Valley know they were going to have to play hard to defeat us.

We had everyone serving well and all our passers, Melissa Hawks, Staci Dole, Ashley Constable, Erika Chandler and Kelli Whittenburg passed the ball to

the target so that our setters, Haley Graham, Kelsey Rabum and Kenzi Chandler all had opportunities to set our hitters who are also our passers. These combinations were on target, we hustled the entire game and played a good team and that's all a coach can ask for. We did get beat 12-25, 19-25 but we, the team and the coaches, came away smiling because we knew we played well, we were just defeated by a better team, but they had to work very hard for the victory.

Go Blue Jays!!!

The Norton Blue Jays celebrate their homecoming week with spirit and pride



The Norton Cheerleaders Homecoming Float won first place. "Can the Cardinals" was their theme. Rachael Slipke, Caren Thomson, Katherine Boteler, Katie Koch and Jerad Shelton give a shout out to the crowd. Telegram photo by Harriett Gill



When the Norton Community High School football players returned from the locker room after their half time intermission in the homecoming game with Plainville on Friday night, the Norton fourth, fifth and sixth grade football players were there to welcome their heroes back onto the field. Leading the Norton football players were Ryan Blecha, No. 51 and Luke Ninemire, No. 56. Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



One of three humorous skits presented by Arts students at the homecoming pep rally on Friday is shown unfolding here. The object was for a Norton and Plainville student to compete to see who could slide a cookie from their forehead to mouth the fastest. Just as in the other two competitions, Norton was the clear winner! Pictured are, from left, Luke Ninemire a/k/a Coach Melvin, Katie Gall, Landon "Tug" Keiswetter a/k/a Norton cheerleader, the Norton Blue Jay, moderator Andrew Otter, Mariah Farber, Bekah Streck and Matt Carlton, a/k/a the unhappy Plainville contestants. Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



The Norton Blue Jay was greeting fans prior to the Norton-Plainville homecoming football game on Friday night. Among those he welcomed to Travis Field was Lauren Perez, daughter of Kelli and Rudy Perez. Telegram photo by Dick Boyd