



Freshmen Katelyn Engelbert, left, and Darcy Bainter are two solid members of Norton's outstanding girls cross country team. They are shown here competing in the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday. Katelyn placed second best for Norton with a personal best time of 16:26 and Darcy was right behind her with a personal record time of 16:44.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Blue Jays take first and second at the Oberlin Invitational cross country meet

By **DICK BOYD**  
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Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams turned in outstanding performances placing second and first, respectively, in the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday at the Oberlin Golf Course.

The Lady Jays placed second to a top quality McCook squad. McCook scored 29 points, followed by Norton, 62; Colby, 63; Quinter, 134; Oakley, 137; Oberlin, 151; Southwest, 154.

The Norton boys defeated McCook and all other teams to win the championship. The Blue Jays scored 43 points, followed by McCook, 59; Oberlin, 73; Colby, 79; Phillipsburg, 96.

## GIRLS

"Our girls came to Oberlin tonight focused and ready to run," said coach Rossi. "Conditions were nearly perfect and our times reflect the conditions."

"Seven of our eight runners set personal best times."

"Astrid Moen and Katelyn Engelbert ran outstanding races with great finishes."

"Again, our three, four and five runners prove to be the runners who set up our good team scores."

"McCook beat us rather easily but we love running against girls who are so fast since it helps us become better as a team."

"Colby is also great competition with only five points separating us in the last three meets."

"Our girls have set their goal to work harder in practice and keep improving. Tonight was a big step in the right direction."

Norton junior Astrid Moen placed fifth individually in a personal best time of 15:50. Following her for the Lady Jays were freshman Katelyn Engelbert, 11th, personal best 16:26; freshman Darcy Bainter, 13th, personal best 16:44; sophomore Kamilla Jones, 16th, personal best 17:25 and sophomore Julia Kent, 17th, 17:30.

Other Norton runners and their placing and times were: senior Dustyna Sprigg, 21st, personal best 17:41; junior Abby Bainter, 23rd, 17:51 and freshman Marisa Maddy, second in the junior varsity race, personal best 18:23.

The top ten girls runners and times were: Finley, Colby, 15:05, first; Sughroue, McCook, 15:21, second; Kaus, Colby, 15:43, third; Sughroue, McCook, 15:48, fourth; Astrid Moen, Norton, 15:50, fifth; Geschwent, McCook, 16:00, sixth; McConville, Southwest, 16:02, seventh; Bair, McCook, 16:10, eighth; Tolliver, McCook, 16:13, ninth; Nichols, McCook, 16:19, tenth.

## BOYS

"Running six personal records

on the varsity and three in the junior varsity race tonight was a great way to end the evening and walking away with a first place trophy was the icing on the cake," said coach Rossi.

"Zach Hartwell defended his title tonight with an outstanding mental and physical race."

"Our younger runners Renner, Miller and Hager continue to improve and become more mature runners. Bryan Henry is finding his form from last year."

"The only downside was that Troy Bainter was unable to finish the race."

"Our boys have also set goals for the rest of the season. They don't want practice to be easier; they want harder practices and more miles because they know what they need to do in order to do well at regional and hopefully the state meet."

"As a coach, you could not ask for a better group. So, I will oblige them and we are going to run, run, run, the next few weeks."

Norton junior Zach Hartwell won the boys race for the second year in a row with a personal best time of 16:39.

He was followed by junior Bryan Henry, 8th, 17:49; sophomore John Renner, 14th, personal best 18:11; freshman Marc Miller, 16th, 18:25; freshman Alec Hager, 21st, personal best 18:47.

Also running for Norton was senior Kegan Vanover who placed 22nd with a time of 18:51.

Norton junior varsity boys runners and their places and times were: senior Cole Archer, 6th, 20:29; freshman Keith Sander, 8th, 20:31; sophomore Ryan Bainter, 19th, personal best 21:44; freshman Garret Otter, 23rd, personal best 22:26; freshman Chris Chambers, 24th, personal best 22:38.

Gunnar Hays of Northern Valley also continued to run well, leading the boys varsity race for awhile before being passed by Norton's Hartwell to place second.

Jon Compton, also of Northern Valley, placed 35th in 19:39.

The top ten boys runners, times and placing were: Hartwell, Norton, 16:39, first; Hays, Northern Valley, 16:48, second; Friess, Hoxie, 16:58, third; Shields, Oberlin, 17:14, fourth; Lopez, Phillipsburg, 17:32, fifth; Custer, Cambridge, 17:42, sixth; Jones, Oberlin, 17:44, seventh; Henry, Norton, 17:49, eighth; Buller, Goodland, 17:50, ninth; Nally, Colby, 17:52, tenth.

## Next action

The Norton Community High School cross country teams will compete next Thursday, October 7 in the Mid-Continent League Meet in Phillipsburg, starting at 4:30 p.m.

# Norton Tennis team wins runner-up

By **DICK BOYD**  
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Coach Jim Green's Norton Community High School varsity tennis team played very well in the Trego Invitational on Saturday in WaKeeney, placing runner-up to an outstanding Claflin team and defeating a number of other strong teams.

Claflin won the championship with 40 points, followed by Norton, 31; Trego, 27; Phillipsburg, 24; Tribune, 21; Hoisington, 19; Victoria, 6; Osborne, 0.

"It was another great team effort to finish second," said coach Green. "All four of our entries scored points for our team total. I was extremely pleased that we were able to finish ahead of Trego, Phillipsburg and Tribune. They all have strong teams that we see over and over again during the season."

**No.1 singles**  
Norton's No.1 singles player Tawni Griffey remained unbeaten for the season. She shutout Lindsey Ney, Hoisington, 8-0; shutout

Emily Wyse, Trego, 8-0; shutout Malorie Witmer, Phillipsburg, 8-0 and defeated Allie Hipp, Claflin, 8-5 to win the gold medal.

"Tawni continues to be at the top of her game," said coach Green. "She won easily until she met Allie Hip in the finals. Allie had defeated Nina Bwalya, Hoisington, last year's regional champion, in a close match."

"Allie and Tawni were slugging it out in the finals. Both players were hitting the ball extremely hard and there were a number of hard fought points. Tawni pulled away and closed out the match. It was another great performance."

**No.2 singles**  
Norton's No.2 singles player Morgan Baumann defeated No.4 seed Shalee Myers, Tribune, 8-7(4) in the first round. Next, she lost to Witmer 8-5 to drop into the consolation bracket. There she outpointed Wyse 8-6, then lost to Jackie Albin, Trego, 8-3 to place sixth.

"Morgan played the match of the year when she knocked off Myers of Tribune in the first round," said

coach Green. "It was a great victory, taking away team points that Tribune usually gets and making it possible for our team to finish ahead of Tribune."

"Morgan continues to be very consistent and is becoming more aggressive."

**No.1 doubles**  
Norton's No.1 doubles team of Rachel Shepard and Meaghan Peterson were seeded eighth in the bracket and placed seventh. They defeated Brook Lawyer and Shelby Christensen, Phillipsburg, 8-6; lost to No.1 seed Morgan Hekele and Norel Kirmer, Claflin, 8-2; lost to Ember Ward and Chelsey Edwards, Phillipsburg, 8-2 and defeated Kaylie Schneider and Kelsey Crittenden, Tribune, 8-5.

"I was a little disappointed in the seed Rachel and Meaghan received and felt they should have been seeded higher," said coach Green. "Seeding is very important in a double elimination tournament. They made the best of their location in the bracket by advancing in the first round and playing the No.1 seed in the

second round. They played well against Claflin."

"In their final match, they met Schneider and Crittenden of Tribune who were seeded above them in the bracket and were able to win easily. They showed that they deserved a higher seed."

**No.2 doubles**  
Nikki McVey and Kyra Fulton were unseeded in doubles and placed tenth. They lost to No.2 seed Amelia Fabrizio and Leah Flax, Trego, 8-0; defeated Brunswig/Hafliger, Trego, 8-5; outscored Oliver/Cockerham, Osborne, 8-6 and lost to Lawyer/Christensen, Phillipsburg, 8-3.

"Nikki and Kyra were unseeded and had to depend on the luck of the draw to be placed in the bracket," said coach Green. "Losing in the first round, the best they could do is finish in ninth place."

"Fighting through the backside, they made it to the match for ninth. Playing against a solid Phillipsburg team, they put up a good fight but came up a little short. Their tenth place scored additional points for our team."



Norton junior Zach Hartwell and Northern Valley junior Gunnar Hays had quite a battle in the boys cross country race on Tuesday in Oberlin. Hays led for awhile but Hartwell passed him toward the end of the race to win the gold medal for the second year in a row.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Junior Varsity places fourth in Goodland

By **DICK BOYD**  
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity tennis team turned in an excellent performance in the Goodland Junior Varsity Tournament on Tuesday, September 21 when they placed fourth, just three points out of second.

Phillipsburg won the championship with 32 points, followed by Tribune, 26; Scott City, 26; Norton, 23; Trego No.1, 21; Mixed, 12; Trego No.2, 5.

"It was a beautiful day for tennis and our team had an outstanding day at Goodland," said Norton assistant coach Crystal Montgomery. "We just missed second place."

"Being a young team has its disadvantages but we work hard to improve with every tournament. Many of our players will be moving up to varsity next season so we want them playing in as many matches as possible."

**No.1 singles**  
Sierra Black played No.1 singles for Norton and won the gold medal. She defeated Jacy Buchholz, Trego No.1, 6-3; outpointed Callan Race, Scott City, 6-3 and outscored Shelby Hild, Tribune, 6-4, to win the championship.

"Sierra had an exceptional day," said coach Montgomery. "She had some close matches but came through when it counted to win the matches. This was her best tournament of the season. She had a great backhand stroke and kept

her opponents running"

**No.1 doubles**  
Ruth Kendall and Carla Jo Long played No.1 doubles for the Lady Jays and placed seventh.

Ruth and Carlo Jo lost to Tia Brunswig and Beth Hafliger, Trego No.1, 6-1; lost to Mary Kearns and Kyla Ellis, Mixed, 6-1 and lost to Brenna Beeson and Idalia Chavez, Scott City, 6-1.

"No.1 doubles can have some tough competition and we are still working on implementing the doubles' strategy," said coach Montgomery. "Ruth and Carla Jo struggled throughout the day but they continued to work hard and attempt new things. They don't have a lot of experience playing doubles together but they communicated well and had a great attitude."

**No.2 singles**  
Katie Koch played No.2 singles for Norton and placed third.

She lost to Holly Wilcoxson, Scott City, 6-0; defeated Crystal Day, Trego, 6-3 and outscored Amanda Berggren, Tribune, 6-2, to place third.

"Katie also had an outstanding day, finishing in third," said coach Montgomery. "She played consistently and had some great shots, placing it where her opponent wasn't. Her strokes kept improving during this tournament and she had some great volleys."

**No.2 doubles**  
Rickele Green and Jessica White played No.2 doubles for the Lady Jays and finished in fifth place.

They lost to Cheyenne Phillips and Kimberly Day, Trego No.1, 6-2; defeated Desiray Skrdlant and Hannah Pollock, Norton, 6-1; lost to Evelyn Craig and Natasha Nuygen, Scott City, 6-0 and outpointed Cory Garner and Sonya Stanton, Trego No.2, 6-3.

"After starting off slow, Rickele and Jessica played a tremendous last match to place fifth," said coach Montgomery. "They started to play the net more, which allowed them to win points faster. Their volleys are hard and placed in the right spot, making it impossible for opponents to get to."

**No.2 doubles**

Desiray Skrdlant and Hannah Pollock also played No.2 doubles on a mixed team and placed seventh.

They lost to Evelyn Craig and Natasha Nuygen, Scott City, 6-0; lost to Rickele Green and Jessica White, Norton, 6-1 and lost to Cheyenne Phillips and Kimberly Day, Trego No.1, 6-2.

"Desiray and Hannah played some tough doubles teams and improved," said coach Montgomery. "They played well."

"They need to learn how to anticipate where the ball is going so they can be prepared to get to it."

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