



Junior Varsity teams open track season

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School junior varsity girls and boys track members opened the 2011 season on Monday with a runner-up finish with 103 points by the boys and third place finish with 64 points by the girls in the Kiwanis Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center.

"Our athletes did an excellent job of handling themselves and competing very well in their opener," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones.

"We are happy with the effort that our athletes gave and their results in their first track and field competition of the season and, for some, of their high school careers.

"They were able to establish some solid marks with performances leading to six personal records and team points in 30 events!

"Additionally, they brought home solid team finishes.

"We are excited about the future for these young girls and boys and the improvements that

are sure to come for them as they continue to compete throughout the season."

GIRLS

Two Norton girls won gold medals. Freshman Rickete Green won the javelin with a throw of 72'7" and freshman Marisa Maddy placed first with a pole vault of 6'6".

Maddy was also fourth in the 800 meter run in 2:57.54 and fifth in the 1600 meter run in 6:51.79.

Green was also runner-up in the shot put with a heave of 28'5.75" and third in the discus with a throw of 75'1".

Freshman Haley Wallingford was runner-up in the discus with a throw of 77'3.5" and runner-up in the javelin with a throw of 62'6".

Freshman Johnnye Ruder placed in three events. She finished fourth in the 100 meter hurdles in 22.32, sixth in the 100 meter dash in 15.10 and sixth in the 200 meter dash in 32.12.

The Norton girls other points came from sophomore Sofie Hansson who placed fifth in the long jump with a leap of 9'8".

Other Norton girls results were: freshman Cristine Nelson, 24'2", 8th; Wallingford, 23'8", 10th, shot put; Nelson, 70', 7th; sophomore Alexis Lively, 45'5", 17th, discus; Nelson, 45'7", 9th, javelin; Lively, 16.7, 9th, 100 meter dash.

BOYS

Norton freshman Austin Hager won three gold medals in the boys competition. He was first in the 100 meter dash with a clocking of 12.24 and first in the pole vault with a height of 11".

Hager was also a member of the 4 x 100 meter relay team which won the gold medal with a time of 49.44. Other team members also winning gold medals were freshman Trevor Lewis, sophomore Carson McKenna and sophomore Lane Bigge.

Hager, Lewis and McKenna were also members of the 4 x 400 meter relay team which was runner-up in a time of 4:05.67. Running with them was freshman Travis Cressler.

Lewis also won a second gold medal with a first place finish in the triple jump with a winning

distance of 36'9.25". Lewis was also runner-up in the long jump with a leap of 18'7".

McKenna also scored points in the pole vault and 100 meter dash. He finished runner-up in the pole vault by clearing 10' and was fourth in the 100 meter dash with a personal best time of 12.60.

Sophomore Dylan Sprigg scored points in two events. He placed third in the discus with a personal record throw of 108'5" and fifth in the javelin with a personal record throw of 96'6". Sprigg was also a member of the 4 x 100 meter weight relay team which finished runner-up with a clocking of 52.97 but received no points. Other members of that relay foursome were: junior Damien Davis, sophomore Lucas Engel and freshman Isaac Schaefer.

Davis also placed fourth in the shot put with a career best 34' heave.

Cressler scored points in four different events. In addition to running on the runner-up 4 x 400 meter relay team, Cressler finished third in the 400 meter dash in 1:02.38, fifth in the 200 meter

dash in 26.89 and fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 30'7".

Freshman Drew Schrum placed in two events. He was runner-up in the 1600 meter run in 5:38.66 and fourth in the 800 meter run in 2:31.98.

In addition to running with the gold medal winning 4 x 100 meter relay team, Bigge placed sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 30'5.5".

Engel finished sixth in the shot put with a personal best distance of 33'1.75" in addition to running on the 4 x 100 meter weight relay team.

Other Norton boys results were: Sprigg, personal best 30'1", 16th; Schaefer, 28'6", 20th; junior Kurt Douglas, 28'1.5", 21st; freshman Cole Renner, 26'7", 25th; junior Gun Lee, 25', 27th; freshman Zach Esslinger, 62'6.5", 30th, shot put; Engel, 84'7", 12th; Douglas, 79'1", 19th; Schaefer, 74'6", 21st; Renner, 71'11", 22nd; Esslinger, 65'6", 26th; Lee, 62'9", 28th, discus; Davis, 91'8", 9th; Renner, 73'3", 12th; Esslinger, 70'9", 13th, javelin; freshman Cody Temmel, 16'9.75", 8th; Schrum,

14'3.5", 11th, long jump; freshman Jared Shelton, 7'6", 10th, pole vault; Bigge, 12.82, 10th; Temmel, 13.00, 13th; Shelton, 14.20, 22nd; freshman Mark Baxter, 14.87, 23rd, 100 meter dash; Bigge, 27.63, 11th; Baxter, 31.48, 16th, 200 meter dash; freshman Chris Chambers, 3:15.95, 13th, 800 meter run.

Next action

Competition for the Norton varsity track members will begin today during the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

Field events begin at 3:30 p.m. and running events at 5:00 p.m. No preliminaries will be held and all events will be run as finals. All athletes may be entered.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Goodland, Logan, Northern Valley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Smith Center and Victoria.

Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in both girls and boys divisions. Medals will be awarded for the first three places in each event.

Six local athletes receive All-Conference honors

By DICK BOYD
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Two Northern Valley High School and four Logan High School basketball players have received All-Cheyenne Conference honors by vote of league coaches.

Selected to the Girls First Team by a unanimous vote was Northern Valley senior Staci Dole. She was also a first team selection last season.

Also a repeat first team choice was Logan junior Caley Greving. Lady Trojan junior Hannah Pinkerton was also selected to the first team.

On the first team with Dole, Greving and Pinkerton were Kelsey Atchison, Thunder Ridge junior and Traci Knipp, Palco senior.

Sammy Krueger, Thunder Ridge senior, received honorable mention.

Northern Valley junior Austin Herman was chosen to the Boys First Team along with Jordan

Girard and Mark Pakkebieb, both Logan seniors.

Also on the Boys First Team were Zach Horn, Thunder Ridge senior; Nathan Larson, Thunder Ridge junior and Keaton Newell, Palco senior.

Coaches' comments

"The league coaches recognized Staci Dole's value not only to this year's team but one coach said he didn't realize how good she was until last year's talent left," said Northern Valley girls coach Chuck Zimmermann. "Another coach said that if he had Staci, he knew his team would have gone to the state tournament.

"Staci's statistics indicate just how important she was to our team."

Staci averaged 15 points per game this season, 5 rebounds per contest, 3.1 steals per game and hit 36 percent of her shots from beyond the arc.

"Caley Greving played power forward for us, led us in every

category and has been one of our go to players the past two years," said Logan girls coach Brandon Gehring.

"Almost every team we played focused on her defensively but she still averaged 14 points per game."

Greving also averaged 9 rebounds and 2.6 steals per contest.

"Hannah Pinkerton played shooting guard for us," said coach Gehring. "Hannah really came on late this season and took over some of the scoring.

"She has really become a very good defender and slasher to the basket."

Pinkerton averaged 7.3 points per game and 2.3 steals per contest.

"It was nice to see Austin Herman make the All-Conference basketball team," said Northern Valley boys coach Chuck Fesenden. "He had a very solid season for us.

"In addition to being outstand-

ing on offense, Austin was also very consistent on the defensive end of the floor.

"We are looking forward to good things from him next year since he is only a junior."

Austin averaged 10.4 points per game this season, 6 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game.

"Jordan Girard was our floor leader," said Logan boys coach Paul Prewo.

"He was the guard who made the team run. When we needed an outside shot knocked down, we usually looked to him.

"Jordan had two big scoring games of the season. He scored 25 points against Palco on February 4 and 20 points against Northern Valley on March 1, the first round of Sub-State.

"Jordan was also an integral part of our upset of No.1 seed Cheylin and earning the runner-up Sub-State trophy, the first since 1997."

Girard averaged 10.4 points per game, 3 assists, 6.3 rebounds and

2 steals per contest.

"Mark Pakkebieb was our emotional leader," said coach Prewo.

"He was a wonderful force down low. Not many people could stop Mark, even though they were quite a bit taller than his six feet height. Mark was usually our top scorer and many opponents strategized how to stop Mark. Zones were utilized because, if Mark was guarded alone, he usually either scored or went to the free throw line.

"Mark's two biggest scoring evenings were December 11 against Stockton where he had 22 points and January 7 against Golden Plains where he hit 19 points. Mark was another reason for our run in Sub-State. He led us with 15 points in our upset of No.1 seeded Cheylin, who had three posts all taller than he was."

Pakkebieb averaged 12.7 points per game, 7.8 rebounds, 2 assists and 1 steal per contest.

Norton golfers take fourth at Redmen invite

By DICK BOYD
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The sophomore-dominated Norton Community High School golf team opened the 2011 season on Tuesday with a fourth place finish in the Redmen Invitational in Smith Center.

Of the 25 young women and men on the team, 16 are sophomores and three members of the four person team on Tuesday were sophomores.

A Blue Jay senior, Cole Archer, had the low score for Norton; however, with a 93.

Phillipsburg won the championship with a 347, followed by Trego Community, 353; Smith Center, 375; Norton, 394; Stockton, 400; Osborne, 401; Beloit, 415; Rock Hills (Mankato), 433; Belleville, 458.

In addition to Archer's 47/46-93, the other three Norton scores were Christopher Fisher,

46/52/98; Eli Bozarth, 46/54-100 and John Risewick, 53/50-103, all sophomores.

Also playing for Norton and their scores were sophomore Andrew Ellis, 54/51-105 and sophomore Treven Rossi, 56/58-114.

Individual medalists were: Alex Hobelmann, Smith Center, 82; Kody Beougher, Stockton, 83; Cameron Staples, Trego Community, 86; Brock Morgan, Phillipsburg, 86; Brad Pfannenstiel, Trego Community, 86; Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg, 86; Ryan Hoover, Phillipsburg, 87.

"As a team, we did not play as well today as I had anticipated," said head Norton golf coach David Stover. "The conditions were as good as we could have hoped for but we did not take advantage, especially on the back nine as a team, where we did not play very well.

"I was pleased with the season

starts of Cole Archer and Christopher Fisher, both shooting career-low tournament rounds.

"We will continue to work on our overall game improvement in all areas as we host the Norton Invitational on Friday."

Next action

Norton will host the annual Norton Invitational Golf Tournament today on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf

course south of Norton.


Tee off time is 9 a.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton, will be Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Phillipsburg, Quinter and Smith Center.

Team medals will be awarded to the members of the top three teams and to the top ten individuals. Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams.

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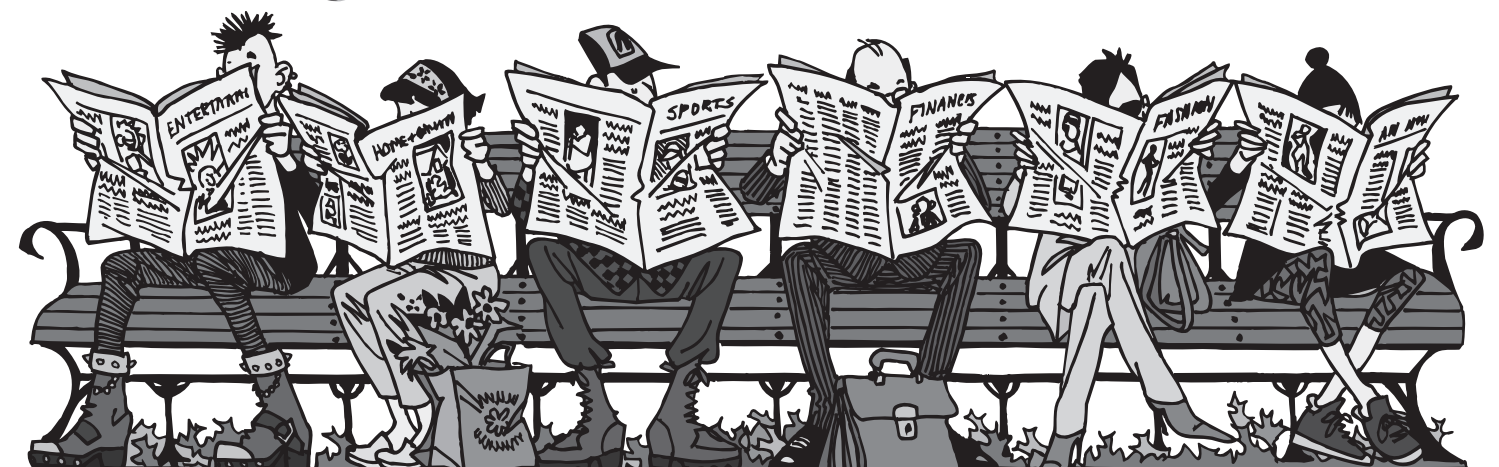
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