

Blue Jays take sixth at Russell

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Hampered by illness and injury, the Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams both placed sixth in the Russell Relays on Friday.

The Concordia girls won the team championship with 118 points, followed by Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 75.5; Russell, 65.5; Phillipsburg, 64; Scott City, 59; Norton, 51; Beloit, 50; Abilene, 40; Chapman, 35.

Scott City was the boys champion with 126 points, followed by Beloit, 118; Phillipsburg, 87; Russell, 66; Concordia, 61; Norton, 44; Abilene, 29; Chapman, 12; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 12.

"We are generally pleased with the results from Russell," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. "Our girls and boys competed hard and well. Outside of the illness and injury we are battling right now, we feel like things are beginning to come together for us just as we want them to as we enter the league meet on Friday.

"We are continuing to get healthier and we will continue to work to reach full strength as a team.

"Our girls and boys set some personal records again and we always enjoy seeing those.

"We are excited about the Mid-Continent League Meet coming up Friday and we plan to work to keep getting better as we enter the post season."

GIRLS

Sophomore Teslee Nickell was the Norton girls only gold medal winner. She heaved the shot 36'11.5" to win that event.

Senior Dustyna Sprigg won medals in three events. She placed runner-up in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:31.55 and was a

member of both the 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed runner-up in 10:53.70 and the 4 x 400 meter relay team which finished third in 4:18.16.

Running with Sprigg in the 4 x 800 relay and the 4 x 400 meter relay were freshman Bailey Ambrosier, freshman Katelyn Engelbert and sophomore Kamilla Jones.

Sprigg was runner-up in the 800 meter run to TMP's outstanding runner Heather Ruder. The Lady Monarch was timed in 2:30.60, which was less than one second ahead of Sprigg!

Ambrosier placed in four events. In addition to running in the two relays, she finished fifth in both the pole vault and 400 meter dash. She cleared 8'6" in the pole vault and was timed in 1:04.57 in the 400 meter dash.

Engelbert placed in three events. She ran in the two relays and also finished third in the 400 meter dash in 1:02.77.

Jones also scored points in three events. In addition to being part of the two relay teams, she placed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 15'1".

Freshman Darcy Bainter placed in two long distance runs. She was fourth in the 3200 meter run in 13:10.53 and fifth in the 1600 meter run in 6:15.30.

Lady Jay freshman Marisa Maddy set a personal record of 2:43.01 to place sixth in the 800 meter run and was also a member of the 4 x 100 meter relay team which finished sixth in 56.18. Also in that foursome were sophomore Katherine Boteler, freshman Johnnye Ruder and sophomore Juliana Miller.

Distances and times of Norton girls which did not place were: Nickell, 66', 18th, javelin; Sprigg, 31'10.5", 7th; Engelbert, 29'11", 9th, triple jump; Miller,

did not qualify, high jump; Jones, 8', 8th; Maddy, 8', 8th, pole vault; Ruder, 19.76, 100 meter hurdles; Ruder, personal best 14.56; Miller, 14.65, 100 meter dash; Boteler, 30.09, 200 meter dash; sophomore Julia Kent, 13:41.16, 7th, 3200 meter run.

BOYS

Although no Norton boys were able to earn gold medals, sophomore Jacob Brooks placed runner-up in the 200 meter dash, just missing the gold by seven hundredths of a second.

Brooks was timed in a personal record time of 22.89 and Dalton Smith of Scott City edged him in 22.83!

Brooks scored points in the 100 meter dash and two relays as well. He ran with junior Tye Nickell, senior Billy Broeckelman and junior Bryan Henry to place third in the 4 x 400 meter relay in 3:38.21 and anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a fourth place finish in 45.06. Running with him were freshman Austin Hager, Broeckelman and junior Trey Millan.

Brooks also placed fourth in the 100 meter dash in 11.40 seconds. He was two hundredths of a second out of third and 32 hundredths of a second out of first. Scott City's Smith was the winner in 11.09.

The Blue Jays' 4 x 800 meter relay team placed third in 9:14.07. Running on the foursome for Norton were Henry, sophomore John Renner, senior Dakota Dreher and junior Dillon McConney.

Nickell placed fourth in the 800 meter run with a personal best time of 2:15.07.

Freshman Alec Hager produced his personal best clocking in the 3200 meter run with a fifth place finish in 11:31.10.

Norton scored 10 points in the pole vault where senior Billy

Broeckelman and junior Seth Antrim tied for third with 12' clearances.

Distances and times of Norton boys which did not place were: junior Casey Temmel, 38'11", 12th; junior Damien Davis, 34'6", 17th; sophomore Dalton Miller, 30'5.5", 22nd, shot put; Miller, 107'5", 15th; Temmel, 90'7", 18th; Davis, 80'9", 22nd, discus; Millan, 119'3", 11th; Davis, personal record 119', 12th; Nickell, personal best 113'10", 13th, javelin; McConney, 17'6", 10th, long jump; junior Jordan Wahlmeier, 35'7.5", 11th, triple jump; Dreher, 5'6", 7th; Wahlmeier, did not qualify, high jump; Nickell, 11', 7th, pole vault; Wahlmeier, 47.53, 12th, 300 meter hurdles; Austin Hager, 11.70; Millan, 11.94, 100 meter dash; Henry, 24.05, 7th; Austin Hager, personal best 24.48, 21st, 200 meter dash; McConney, personal best 56.53, 7th; Henry, did not qualify, 400 meter dash; Renner, personal record 2:18.50, 8th, 800 meter run; senior Kegan Vanover, 5:41.74, 14th, 1600 meter run; Vanover, 12:59.93, 9th, 3200 meter run.

Next action

The Mid-Continent League Track and Field Meet will be held on Friday in Phillipsburg, beginning at 3 p.m. with field events.

Preliminary running events will begin at 4 p.m. and finals will begin at approximately 5 p.m.

Participating teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Ellis, Hill City, Osborne, Plainville, Smith Center, Stockton and Trego Community.

Plaques will be awarded to the first place girls and boys teams. Medals will be awarded to the top four placers in all events.



Norton freshman Darcy Bainter hits the finish line to place fourth in the 3200 meter run in the Russell Relays on Friday in a time of 13:10.53. Earlier in the meet, she finished fifth in the 1600 meter run in 6:15.30. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton freshman Alec Hager, left, set a personal record of 11:31.10 in placing fifth in the 3200 meter run in the Russell Relays on Friday. He is shown here as he prepared to pass a runner from another school. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Intent to wrestle at Kearney signed

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Troy Bainter, two-time state wrestling champion for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Bainter compiled a 35-2 record his senior season when he wrestled at 130 pounds. His four-year career record is 122-21. He is one of only 10 four-time State Tournament placers in Norton wrestling history and ranks No.6 among career wins by Norton wrestlers in the coach Bill Johnson era.

This season, Bainter led the Norton team in falls with 20, tied for first in decisions with 9, was second in team points with 179, third in takedowns with 49 and tied for fourth in escapes with 17.

Troy was named co-"Most Outstanding Wrestler" of the Norton team this year by the Blue Jay coaches.

He has received an Academic Award from the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association. Troy and his teammates who won the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament championship were named by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association to their All-Academic State Championship Wrestling Team.

Troy was also named the winner of the "Underdog Match of the Year" award from the Norton coaches for his win over previously unbeaten Daniel DeShazer, Wichita Heights, in the Newton Tournament of Champions.

"Troy had an excellent high school wrestling career and was also a good student," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

"His hard work ethic and personal drive to succeed will help him at the next level. He will discover that the sport of wrestling is very competitive in college.

"Troy was a four-time state medalist, two-time state champion and three-time state finalist. All of these accomplishments should lead to a successful college experience.

"The University of Nebraska at Kearney wrestling team has been one of the top five teams in the nation every year for the past 10 years. He will be wrestling for one of the best NCAA Division II

teams in America."

"We are very excited that Troy has chosen to continue his education and wrestling career for our Loper wrestling team," said UNK head wrestling coach Marc Bauer.

"Troy is a solid student-athlete and, given the opportunity, we believe he has all the tools to be a successful college wrestler. I consider Troy to be a top-notch, hardworking and dedicated young man. He is a class act.

"His success in high school proves to us that he has what it takes to be a future leader in our program.

"This recruiting class, combined with last year's class, is loaded with solid talent up and down the line-up. If they can stay

focused and continue to challenge themselves at the next level, this group has what it takes to capture a team national championship.

"We look forward to working with Troy. We thank Norton's coach Johnson for encouraging Troy to consider this his home during his college career. As you know, he's a tremendous young man."

What coach Johnson said about the quality of the wrestling program at UNK was not an overstatement.

UNK was the 2008 NCAA Division II National Champion and was the National Runner-up in 2003, 2006 and 2007. They were Regional Champions in 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

The Lopers were the NWCA/Cliff Keen National Duals Division II Champions in 2003 and 2007.

They have had 12 National Champion wrestlers in NAIA and NCAA Division II and 10 National Runners-up. The Lopers have had 23 NAIA All-Americans and 76 NCAA Division II All-American wrestlers.

In addition, UNK has produced 110 Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-Americans.

Troy has also been an excellent member of Norton's cross country and track teams and will be a four-year letterman in both sports.

Troy is the son of Vicki and David Bainter.

Troy Bainter signs with University of Nebraska at Kearney



Troy Bainter, two-time state wrestling champion for Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to wrestle for the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He is pictured here with his father, David, and mother, Vicki, in the front row and Norton assistant wrestling coach Doug Ray, left, and Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson, right, in the back row.

~ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations *Bridges Group, Inc.*
from... INSURANCE

Huskies take second

The Northern Valley Husky boys track team took second in the Rock Hills Invitational last Friday with 79.5 points.

Austin Herman won the triple jump with 39'10" followed by Jordan Baird in fourth with 36'0" and Tyson Callaway placed fifth with 35'4".

Hunter Chandler tied for fifth and sixth place in the high jump with a height of 5'8".

Herman took third in the long jump with 18'10.75".

Matt Dole took fifth in the pole vault with a height of 11'0".

Gunnar Hays won the 1600 meter run in 4:47.12 and also won the 3200 meter run in 10:30.02.

Colton Lowry won the 800 meter run in 2:04.74 followed by Herman in fourth in 2:09.26.

The 400 meter relay team of Zach Vincent, Chandler, Baird and Phillip Compton took third in a time of 49.28.

The 1600 meter relay team of Baird, P. Compton, Callaway and Colton Lowry placed fourth in a time of 3:52.24.

The 3200 meter relay team of Hays, Herman P. Compton and Lowry won in a time of 8:48.7.

Head coach Chuck Fessenden said, "We competed very well at Mankato against some good teams. The triple jump and 800 turned out to be big events for us. Colton and Austin ran their best times of the season in the 800. This is the first meet that we have been able to run our strongest 3200 meter relay team and they stepped up with an excellent time. Gunnar ran good times in the 1600 and 3200 without a lot of pressure from the other runners. We were glad to see Matt Dole finally get back over 11'0" in the pole vault. Our 400 meter relay team really helped our team with a third place finish."

Norton Adult Co-ed Softball

\$150.00 Entry Fee Per Team

Deadline is May 20

Season Starts June 5

Call Bart Brooks at 871-0860 with questions and to sign up