

# Twelve Norton athletes qualify for State

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School girls track and field team placed fifth, just four points out of third, and the Blue Jays boys finished seventh in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg.

The meet was considered to be the toughest of any of the four regional meets around the state. There were 16 schools competing.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays won the girls championship with 91.75 points, followed by Smith Center, 76; Minneapolis, 51; Marysville, 49; Norton, 48; Holcomb, 42; Phillipsburg, 42; Southwestern Heights, 41; Scott City, 23; Hoisington, 22.75; Larned, 22; Beloit, 21.5; Riley County, 15; Lakin, 13.

Scott City was dominant in rolling to the boys championship with 83 points. Runner-up Riley County scored just 58 points and edged Phillipsburg, who tallied 55 points. Beloit was just behind in fourth with 54. Hoisington was fifth with 50, followed by Southwestern Heights, 44; Norton, 35; Holcomb, 31; Minneapolis, 30; Goodland, 28; Ellsworth, 26; Larned, 25; Lakin, 19; Smith Center, 12; TMP, 7; Marysville, 1.

The top four finishers in each event qualified for this Friday and Saturday's Kansas State High School Track & Field Meet at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Three Norton boys and nine Lady Jays qualified. A number of Norton athletes placed fifth or sixth in their events to just miss a trip to the State Meet.

Highlights for Norton were two individual gold medal performances, 12 new personal records and a new school relay record!

"Wow! In a lot of ways, we had an absolutely amazing day," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. "Both girls and boys turned in very solid and respectable performances."

"We are proud of our athletes

and their efforts and are happy we will take 13 of them to compete in the state meet. Our athletes competed very hard and they embraced the competition, just as we had asked them to do. We continued to get better on both sides and that is all we can ask for at this point in the season.

"Our athletes did exactly what we had asked them to do. They spent the entire day devoted to and committed to positively competing. We learned a lot about competing at the regional level and our athletes displayed an unbelievable amount of sportsmanship and class. They handled themselves with character. For that, we are very proud of them. That is the mark of people who will be successful in life."

"We are very excited about our athletes who qualified and earned opportunities to compete at the state meet and we look forward to all that this week will bring."

## GIRLS

Norton sophomores Teslee Nickell and Alec Melvin scored 26 points in the field events.

Nickell won the gold medal in the shot put with a heave of 40'6.5".

Melvin qualified for state in three events. Alec placed fourth in the shot put with a distance of 33'9.25"; third in the discus with a throw of 104'6" and third in the javelin with a personal best throw of 112'11".

"Our female throwers started our day off very well," said coach Jones. "Teslee captured the regional shot championship and will be joined at state by Alec, who had an amazing day as well, qualifying in three events."

Lady Jay junior Astrid Moen and freshman Darcy Bainter placed third and fourth, respectively, in the 3200 meter run and set personal records in the process to qualify for the state meet. Moen was timed in 12:31.60 and Bainter in 12:38.02.

"Astrid and Darcy ran a wonderful race, pushing each other all



Norton sophomore Jacob Brooks leans across the finish line to place runner-up in the 200 meter dash in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg and qualify for the state meet. Jacob was timed in 23.27 and the winner, Dalton Smith, Dodge City, at right, edged him by 49 hundredths of a second! - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the way," said coach Jones.

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of freshman Bailey Ambrosier, Moen, sophomore Kamilla Jones and senior Dustyna Sprigg placed fourth in a personal best 10:09.03, which also broke the Norton school record.

The previous record was set at the state meet in 2002 by Stef Sloan, Megan Walter, Callie Graber and Abbey Keiswetter with a time of 10:21.

"These girls ran what was a wonderful race by cutting over 25 seconds off our fastest time this season and setting a new school record in the process," said coach

Jones.

The Lady Jays' 4 x 400 meter relay team also had a tremendous performance, placing third with a personal record clocking of 4:12.06. Running on that foursome were junior Erin Terrell, Ambrosier, Sprigg and freshman Katelyn Engelbert.

"These girls cut over six seconds off our fastest time in order to qualify for state," said coach Jones.

"Both of these relays are led by the experience of Dustyna Sprigg."

"These relay girls did an amazing job of competing and earning

the right to keep competing. We cannot wait to see them take advantage of what they have earned next week. What an awesome job!"

Bailey Ambrosier just missed qualifying for state in the pole vault. She placed fifth with a vault of 8'6". The third and fourth place qualifiers each cleared 9'.

Freshman Marisa Maddy will accompany the Norton girls as an alternate on both relays.

Distances and times of Norton girls which did not place were: Jones, 14'1", 12th, long jump; Sprigg, 31'6.75", ninth; Engelbert, 30'1.5", tenth, triple jump; Maddy, 8', 8th; Jones, 8', 11th, pole vault; Engelbert, personal record 1:02.54, 8th; Ambrosier, personal best 1:03.24, 9th, 400 meter dash; Sprigg, 2:42.24, 10th, 800 meter run.

## BOYS

Three Norton boys competed in the pole vault where the Blue Jays earned 20 points.

Junior Seth Antrim won the gold medal by vaulting 13'. Freshman Austin Hager finished runner-up with a personal best vault of 12'6".

Norton senior Billy Broeckelman placed fifth, also with a 12'6" vault, but more misses.

In addition to Antrim and Hager, Norton sophomore Jacob Brooks also qualified for the state meet with a runner-up finish in the 200 meter dash with a time of 23.27. Dalton Smith of Scott City edged him by 49 hundredths of a second for the gold medal.

Jacob just missed qualifying in the 100 meter dash where he placed sixth in 11.66, which missed fourth place by 14 hundredths of a second!

Norton junior Zach Hartwell had several disappointments. He placed fifth in the 1600 meter run with his time of 4:51.48 and missed fourth place by just over two seconds. In the 3200 meter run, he finished sixth in 11:03.09 and missed fourth place by 12 seconds.

Zach was also a member of Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed sixth in 8:37.91, missing fourth place by just seven and a half seconds. Running with him were junior Tye Nickell, senior Troy Bainter and junior Bryan Henry.

Henry also had a disappointment when he easily won his heat of the 400 meter dash in a personal best time of 52.39 but four runners in the next heat had faster times. He was just 31 hundredths of a second behind the fourth place runner!

"We are very excited for our three boys who qualified for the state meet," said coach Jones.

"We look forward to their opportunities in the state meet."

Distances and times of Norton boys which did not place were: junior Casey Temmel, 39'3.5", 15th, shot put; freshman Trever Lewis, 16'11", 16th; junior Dillon McConney, 16'9.5", 17th, long jump; junior Jordan Wahlmeier, 37'9.75", tenth; Lewis, 35'3.5", 14th, triple jump; Brooks, 5'10", 8th; Wahlmeier, no height, high jump; Bainter, personal best 2:12.69, 9th; sophomore John Renner, 2:18.03, 13th, 800 meter run; Bainter, 5:18.06, 11th, 1600 meter run; freshman Alec Hager, personal best 11:05.01, 7th, 3200 meter run; Austin Hager, Broeckelman, junior Trey Millan and Brooks, 45.84, 8th, 4 x 100 meter relay; Nickell, Broeckelman, McConney, Henry, 3:44.94, tenth, 4 x 400 meter relay.

## Next action

The 12 Norton athletes who qualified for the Kansas Track & Field Meet will compete on Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University in Wichita.

Class 1A, 2A and 3A events will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday and conclude by 2 p.m. on Friday when Class 4A, 5A and 6A events begin.

Beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, competition will be held all day in all classes.



Blue Jay junior Seth Antrim, left, is shown winning the gold medal in the pole vault in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg. Seth cleared 13' and freshman teammate Austin Hager finished runner-up with a personal best 12'6" to qualify both for the state meet this weekend in Wichita.

Lady Jay sophomore Teslee Nickell, right, won the gold medal in the shot put event in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg. She heaved the iron ball 40'6.5" to qualify for the state meet this weekend in Wichita.

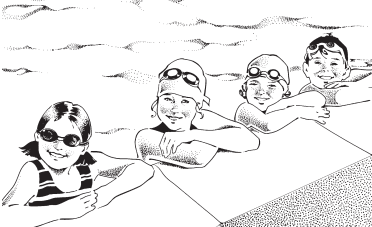
Norton freshman Darcy Bainter, left, and Lady Jay junior Astrid Moen are pictured here at the bottom on the left, as they follow Anna Trahan, Minneapolis, in the 3200 meter run in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Phillipsburg. Moen placed third in 12:31.60 and Bainter was fourth in 12:38.02, both in personal record times, to qualify for the state meet. Trahan barely outprinted them to the finish line for the runner-up spot with a time of 12:31.58, two hundredths of a second ahead of Moen! - All Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



## Way to go Jays! Good Luck at State!

## Norton Municipal Swimming Pool OPENS SUNDAY, MAY 30

POOL HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY: 1-5 P.M. & 6:30-8:30 P.M.  
FRIDAY-SUNDAY: 1:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.



Daily Admission Price: \$1.50 Per Person • 20 Punch Card: \$25.00  
Season Tickets: Individual-\$30.00 • Family: \$75.00 (Immediate Family Only)  
Private Pool Party: 40 People or Less-\$75.00; • Over 40 People-\$100.00

The pool will be closed if any of the following occur: 5 swimmers or less; lightning, rain or severe storms in the immediate area; or if the outside temperature is 65 degrees or colder. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult and are admitted to the pool free. There is no lifeguard on duty at the baby pool.

Ashley Smith-Maybon, Pool Manager — Dennis Maybon, Assistant Manager

## Jumping and Throwing for Gold!

