



Blue Jay junior Seth Antrim clears a height in the Class 3A pole vault where he placed runner-up in the Kansas State Track Meet in Wichita with a clearance of 13'. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton High track teams bring home the hardware

By DICK BOYD

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Twelve Norton Community High School girls and boys competed in the 101st Kansas State Track & Field Championships on Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

The nine Lady Jays in the competition scored 18 points to tie for 13th out of 36 teams in Class 3A and the three Norton boys participating scored 14 points to finish 18th in Class 3A.

The top four finishers in all events in the four regional meets the week before qualified to compete at the Kansas State Meet, the largest high school track meet in the nation! Over 3,500 athletes competed in the meet.

Rossville was the 3A girls champion with 64 points and Thomas More Prep-Marian was runner-up with 53. Tying for third place with 49 points were Wichita-Independent and Douglass. Fifth place went to Conway Springs with 34, followed by Marysville, 30; Garden Plain, 25 and Smith Center, Sabetha and Minneapolis, tied for eighth with 24. Rock Creek was 11th with 22 points and Southwestern Heights was 12th with 21.

Tying with Norton for 13th were Richmond-Central Heights and Hoisington.

Beloit was 21st with 9 points, Scott City and Riley County each tallied 3 points to tie for 29th with three other schools.

In the 3A boys division, Hutchinson Trinity won the championship with 69 points, Scott City was runner-up with 51, Riley County third with 37, Conway Springs fourth with 35 and Phillipsburg fifth with 34. Minneapolis tied for tenth with Hoisington with 20 each, Beloit tied for 16th with Galena with 16 points each. Goodland was in 20th with 11 points.

The Northern Valley boys placed seventh in Class 1A with 28 points. Centralia was the champion with 68 points, Pretty Prairie was runner-up with 46 and Moscow just behind in third with 45 points.

The Cheylin boys tied for 17th with Thunder Ridge and St. John with 12 points. Logan tied for 20th with South Gray and Caldwell with 10 points. Wheaton, Hoxie and Pleasanton tied for 23th with 8 points. Quinter scored 4 to tie with Sharon Springs and Cunningham for 32nd.

The Olpe girls won the 1A championship with 43.5 points and Victoria was runner-up with 38. Hoxie placed tenth with 21, Thunder Ridge tied for 20th with Coldwater with 13 points each. Quinter tied for 25th with Madison with 10 points each.

Logan finished 32nd with 5 points and Wheatland was 33rd with 4.

In Class 2A, the Plainville girls



Norton junior Astrid Moen almost caught another runner as she crossed the finish line to place fourth in the 3200-meter run in a personal-best time at state. She was also a member of Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed third. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

placed eighth with 22 points and Oberlin was 14th with 17.5. Osborne tied for 27th with West Elk with 8 points. Oakley finished 29th with 7.5, Trego was 33rd with 4 and Hill City was 36th with 2.

In Class 4A, the Colby girls tied for the championship with Baldwin with 41 points. The Russell girls placed 13th with 19 points and the Russell boys tied for 32nd with Pratt with 5 points.

Coach's comments
"We had a great weekend!" said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. We are extremely proud of the athletes who represented the schools and community of Norton in our sport's highest level of athletic competition. They deserve everything they earned and the entire community should feel proud of them. They did a great job and this trip was a great conclusion to a successful season.
"All of our girls and boys competed very well and very hard and the performances and results really reflected that. Even in the cases of those whose performances did not earn them medals, our athletes handled themselves well. Earning the right to compete in this meet is a testament to their athletic success and, for that, they all deserve recognition as being great athletes. It is an honor in and of itself

to earn this opportunity.

"We were a young team in terms of both age and experience in the state meet. Despite that, our athletes set three personal records and medaled in 7 of 11 total entries!

"Our Blue Jays made the absolute most of their weekend and put their best efforts forward to



Norton sophomore sprinter Jacob Brooks edges another competitor to place fourth at state. His finish was just one half second out of first in the 200 meter dash.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

compete on their largest stage and we are extremely proud of them. When they medaled, they medaled with class and, when they did not, they did so with sportsmanship and character.

"We hope to return next year with a year of competition and experience under our belts. We are very proud of each one of them for doing what they did as champions with both character and class. These athletes finished off a great season for us with a very solid showing at the state track and field meet!"

GIRLS

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team, which placed fourth with a school record time in the regional meet a week earlier, finished third in the state meet with a clocking of 10:14.04. Running on the foursome were freshman Bailey Ambrosier, junior Astrid Moen, sophomore Kamilla Jones and senior Dustyna Sprigg.

Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of junior Erin Terrell, Ambrosier, Sprigg and freshman Katelyn Engelbert also had a great meet. After qualifying for the finals with a personal record timing of 4:11.11 on Friday, they set another personal best with a clocking on Saturday of 4:09.75 to place fourth. They finished just over a half second behind third place Marysville!

"It was nice to see both girls' relays medal," said coach Jones. "The 4 x 400 meter relay team setting personal records in both the preliminaries and finals was great.

"This was the final high school competition for Dustyna Sprigg. We will deeply miss her in the future."

Moen also won an individual medal with a fourth place finish in the 3200 meter run with a personal



Lady Jay senior Dustyna Sprigg nears the finish line to anchor her 4 x 800 meter relay team to a third place finish at state. Running with her were Bailey Ambrosier, Astrid Moen and Kamilla Jones.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

best clocking of 12:11.25.

"Astrid earned her own fourth place medal with a personal record in the 3200," said coach Jones.

The Lady Jays also earned points in the shot put where sophomore Teslee Nickell placed fourth with a heave of 36'4".

"It was good to see Teslee earn a fourth place medal in the state meet," said coach Jones.

Sophomore Alec Melvin qualified for the state meet in three events but did not medal. Her results were: 99'1", discus, 11th; 105'4", javelin, 12th; 30'2", shot put, 14th.

Lady Jay freshman Darcy Bainter also qualified for and competed in the 3200 meter run where she finished 12th in 13:11.89.

Norton freshman Marisa Maddy accompanied the Norton girls as an alternate on both relay teams.

BOYS

The three Norton boys who competed in the state meet all medaled, two of them in the pole vault.

Junior Seth Antrim was the runner-up in the pole vault with a clearance of 13' and freshman Austin Hager placed sixth with a height of 12'.

In the running events, junior Jacob Brooks placed sixth in the 200 meter dash preliminaries on Friday with a time of 23.69, then came back in Saturday's finals to place fourth in 23.07. Dalton Smith of Scott City edged him by nine hundredths of a second for third and Jacob was only half a second out of first!

"We're happy that all three boys earned medals in the state meet," said coach Jones.

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