

# Norton track teams excel in regional meet

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Jason Jones' Norton Community High School girls track and field team placed fourth, just five points out of third, and the Blue Jay boys finished fifth, just six points out of fourth, in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Beloit.

The meet was considered to be the toughest of any of the four Class 3A regional meets around the state. There were 14 girls schools and 15 boys schools competing.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays won the girls championship with 84 points, followed by Cimarron, 82; Beloit, 75; Norton, 70; Minneapolis, 49; Phillipsburg, 47; Scott City, 44; Hoisington, 38; Russell, 18; Holcomb, 16; Southwestern Heights, 12; Lakin, 11; Goodland, 8; Salina Sacred Heart, 4.

Salina Sacred Heart won the boys championship with 103 points, followed by Scott City, 79; Phillipsburg, 76; Beloit, 64; Norton, 58; Holcomb, 49; Hoisington, 39; Cimarron, 16; Lyons, 16; Russell, 15; TMP

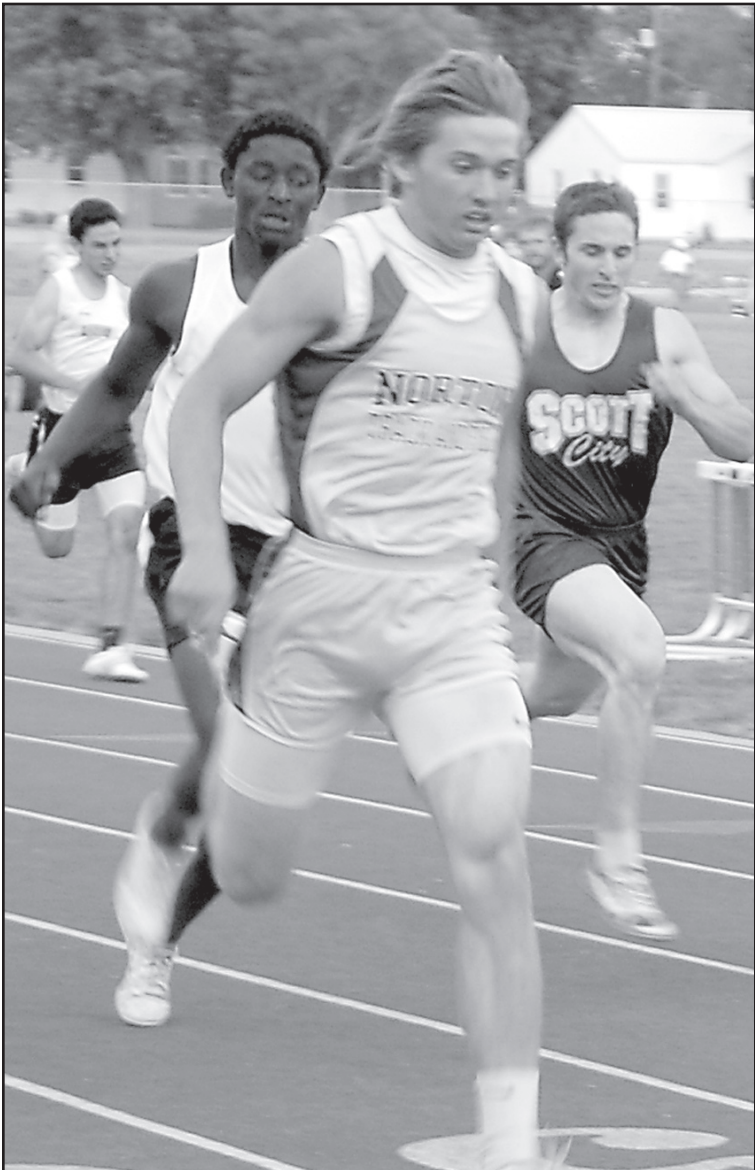


Norton sophomore Austin Hager clears the bar at 13' in the pole vault to place runner-up in the Class 3A Regional Meet in Beloit on Friday and qualify for the State Meet this weekend. He cleared the same height as champion Blue Jay senior Seth Antrim, who had fewer misses.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

of Hays, 14; Minneapolis, 12; Goodland, 8; Lakin, 7; Southwestern Heights, 2.

The top four finishers in each event qualified for this Friday and Saturday's Kansas State High School Track and Field



Norton junior Jacob Brooks sprints across the finish line in a personal record time of 21.99 to place runner-up in the 200 meter dash in the Class 3A Regional Meet in Beloit on Friday. He also placed runner-up in the high jump and fourth in the 100 meter dash to qualify for the State Meet in all three events.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Meet at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Six Norton girls and five Blue Jay boys qualified for the state meet. One girl and one boys relay placed fifth, just missing a trip to the state meet. Along the way, Norton athletes set ten personal records!

"We had a wonderful day of competition," said coach Jones. "It was hot and it was windy but our athletes got off the bus and competed like champions!"

"Fourth and fifth places by our teams are very respectable performances in this tough meet. We are proud of our athletes and their efforts. We had many personal bests and won five gold medals.

"Our athletes did exactly what we had asked them to do. This track meet was about being tough, competing tough and doing the little things right. Our teams did just those things. We learned a lot about competing at the championship level and our girls and boys displayed sportsmanship and class.

"We love the effort with which our athletes competed. We are happy about the personal records that came on a day when the weather was not ideal. We are very excited about our athletes who qualified and earned opportunities to compete at the state meet. We look forward to all that this week will bring!"

### GIRLS

Junior Alec Melvin qualified for the state meet in three events: the discus, shot put and javelin. She won the discus with a throw of 113'6", placed runner-up to junior teammate Teslee Nickell with a personal best shot put distance of 37'8" and finished third in the javelin with a throw of 113'5".

Nickell won her favorite

event, just edging Melvin with a shot put distance of 37'8.75".

Norton's other gold medal in the girls division came in the pole vault where sophomore Bailey Ambrosier cleared a personal record height of 10'.

Lady Jay sophomore Katelyn Engelbert set a personal record in the 800 meter run with a runner-up finish in 2:28.41.

Freshman Sierra Griffith also ran her fastest ever in the 3200 meter run where she was clocked in 12:34.71 to place runner-up.

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Griffith, Ambrosier, Engelbert and junior Tawni Griffey also qualified for state with a third place finish in 10:14.11.

Just missing a trip to the state meet was freshman Kenzie Esslinger who set a personal record by clearing 9' in the pole vault and placed fifth.

Sophomore Cristine Nelson placed sixth in the discus with a throw of 96'3".

The Lady Jay 4 x 400 meter relay team of senior Erin Terrell, Engelbert, junior Kamilla Jones and Ambrosier added a point to the Norton total with a sixth place finish in 4:22.13.

Distances and times of Norton girls that did not place were: Jones, 14'5.5", 7th, long jump; sophomore Marisa Maddy, 8', 7th, pole vault; Ambrosier, 1:04.85, 7th, 400 meter dash; sophomore Darcy Bainter, 13:34.76, 8th, 3200 meter run.

### BOYS

Norton junior Jacob Brooks didn't win a gold medal but scored 20 points himself and anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a sixth place finish and another Blue Jay point.

Brooks placed runner-up in the high jump with a personal best jump of 6'2" and finished

runner-up in the 200 meter dash in a personal best time of 21.99.

Brooks also placed fourth in the 100 meter dash in 11.02.

Running with Brooks in the 4 x 100 meter relay were sophomore Austin Hager, senior Bryan Henry and senior Trey Millan. They were timed in 44.16.

Henry outsprinted a field of outstanding 400 meter runners to win the gold in a personal best time of 49.89! Henry also anchored Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay to a fifth place finish in 8:36.72. Running with him were sophomore Marc Miller, senior Zach Hartwell and sophomore Alec Hager.

Hartwell also qualified for the state meet with an impressive third place finish in the 3200 meter run with a personal best time of 10:35.33.

Making a habit of winning gold medals and doing it again was senior pole vaulter Seth Antrim. He cleared 13' to win again and edge teammate Austin Hager, who placed runner-up with the same clearance but

more misses.

Alec Hager added another point to the Norton boys total with a sixth place finish in the 3200 meter run in 11:26.79.

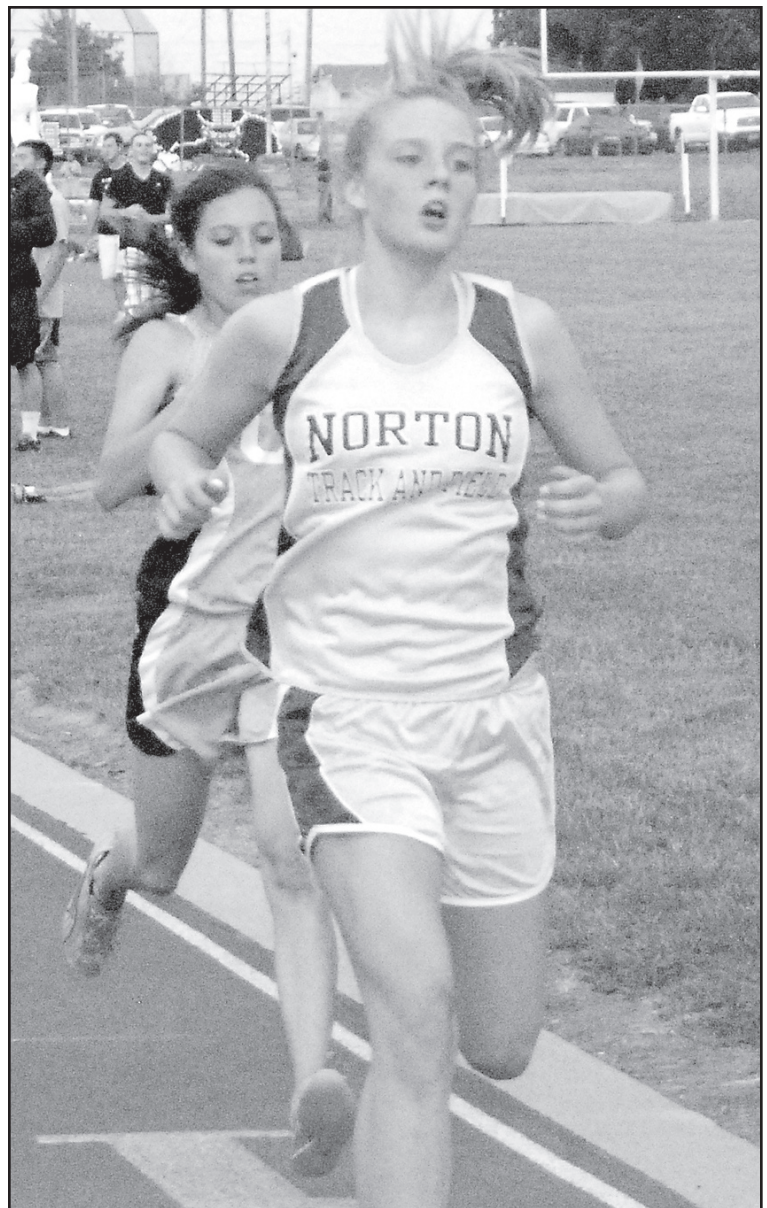
Distances and times of Norton boys which did not place were: senior Dillon McConney, 18', 13th, long jump; senior Jordan Wahlmeier, personal best 39'10.25", 7th, triple jump; Miller, 11', 13th, pole vault; Miller, 2:11.00, 10th, 800 meter run.

### Next action

The six Norton girls and five Norton boys who qualified for the Kansas Track and Field Meet will compete on Friday and Saturday in Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University in Wichita.

Competition in Classes 4A, 5A and 6A will begin at 7:45 a.m. on Friday and conclude by 1:40 p.m. Events in Classes 1A, 2A and 3A will not begin until 2:10 p.m. on Friday.

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



Norton freshman Sierra Griffith passes another runner at the finish line to place runner-up in the grueling 3200 meter run in the Class 3A Regional Meet in Beloit on Friday and qualify for the upcoming State Meet. She set a personal record time of 12:34.71. Griffith was also a member of Norton's state qualifying 4 x 800 meter relay team.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Area athletes qualify for state track

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Seven athletes from Logan and two from Northern Valley qualified for the Kansas Track and Field Meet this weekend in Wichita during the Class 1A Regional Track Meet in Hays on Friday.

The Logan girls tied with Dighton for eighth place in team standings and Northern Valley placed 19th. The Husky boys finished in seventh place and the Trojan boys tied for 13th with Greeley County.

The girls champion was Quinter with 66 points, followed by Greeley County, 62; Hoxie, 51; Sharon Springs, 48; Weskan, 43; Grainfield-Wheatland, 43; Otis-Bison, 42; Logan, 27; Dighton, 27; Triplains, 26; Palco, 18; Cheylin, 16; Stockton, 13; Golden Plains, 12; Natoma, 12; Victoria, 11; Chase, 10; La Crosse, 9; Northern Valley, 8; St Francis, 4; Wilson, 4; Brewster, 2.

Winning the boys championship was La Crosse with 128 points, followed by Grainfield-Wheatland, 51; Hoxie, 44; Golden Plains, 37; Sharon Springs, 35; St. Francis, 28; Northern Valley, 27; Weskan, 26; Quinter, 22; Wilson, 20; Stockton, 20; Triplains, 16; Greeley County, 14; Logan, 14; Otis-Bison, 13; Cheylin, 13; Victoria, 13; Healy, 12; Natoma, 9; Dighton, 8; Brewster, 5; Chase, 3.

The top four individuals or relays in each event qualified for the state meet this Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

### Northern Valley

Northern Valley's senior distance ace Gunnar Hays scored all but one of the Hus-

kies' 27 points with two gold medals and a bronze medal in three races.

Hays won the 3200 meter run with a time of 10:28.49 and was first in the 1600 meter run in 4:40.49. His third place time in the 800 meter run was 2:05.63.

Scoring one point for a sixth place finish in the javelin was sophomore Ian Vincent with a throw of 143'1".

The Lady Huskies' only state qualifier was freshman Kortney Cunningham who was runner-up in the high jump with a 5' clearance.

Northern Valley boys times and distances that did not place were: sophomore Hunter Chandler, 5'8", 7th, high jump; sophomore Jordan Baird, 19'4.5", 10th; freshman Phillip Bryant, 19'4.25", 11th, long jump; Baird, 23.90, 12th, 200 meter dash; Baird, 11.60, 14th, 100 meter dash; Bryant, Chandler, Baird and freshman Philip Rupp, 48.02, 9th, 4 x 100 meter relay; freshman Clint Cole, no height, pole vault.

Cunningham also placed 11th in the triple jump with a distance of 31'7" and ran the 100 meter hurdles but did not qualify for a position.

### Logan

The Logan boys 4 x 400 meter relay team of sophomore Brett Pinkerton, junior Albert Tello, junior Martinez Fidencio and senior Tracy Archer placed third with a time of 3:39.12.

Archer also placed third in the pole vault with a clearance of 12'.

The foursome of Pinkerton, Archer, Tello and Fidencio also finished fifth in the 4 x 100 meter relay with a clocking of 46.34.

Fidencio also had the 9th best time in the 200 meter dash with a clocking of 23.55.

Logan's senior girls Caley Greving and Hannah Pinkerton each qualified for the state meet in two events and freshman Justice Voss in one event.

Greving placed third in the javelin with a throw of 109'1" and fourth in the shot put with a heave of 33'10.75".

Pinkerton placed runner-up in the pole vault with a clearance of 9' and fourth in the 1600 meter run with a time of 5:43.94. She also placed sixth in the 800 meter run with a clocking of 2:39.48.

Voss finished fourth in the 100 meter dash in 12.96.

Times and distance of Logan girls that did not place were: senior Paige Buss, 14.40, 11th, 100 meter dash; Voss, 28.69, 7th; Buss, 30.18, 11th, 200 meter dash; freshman Courtney Schneider, freshman Morgan Goble, Buss, Voss, 55.21, 7th, 4 x 100 meter relay; junior Katie Becker, 84'1", 11th, discus.

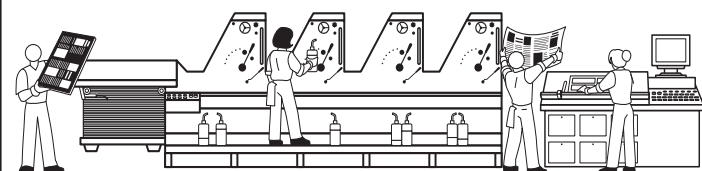
### Next action

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

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