

Points season wraps up at Elmwood Park Speedway

By Mike Hughes

After being rained out Saturday night (yes, it did rain in northwest Kansas), racing action resumed on Sunday evening, July 29, at Elmwood Park Speedway in Norton to wrap up the Norton County Fair. The points season also wound up for four of the five classes at the half-mile oval.

In the IMCA 305 Sprint Car feature, Darren Berry of McCook, Neb. led all 15 laps to win his third feature of the season and secure the track championship. Mike Spear chased Berry the whole distance but had to settle for second, followed by heat race winner Howard VanDyke, Randy Bantam and Greg Reiners.

In the IMCA Modified main event, Jeff Walters led the first half of the 10-lap event but Beloit's Brian Calhoun took the lead at the halfway mark and held on for his second win of the season. Walters was second and heat race victor Tim Watts of Beloit third. Calhoun's win and Watts' third place finish tied them for the track championship.

Belleville's Tyler Frye won his second IMCA Sport Mod feature. Frye took the lead from

Cory Struckhoff on lap three and never looked back. Struckhoff was able to hold off Troy Attwood for the runner-up spot, with Kaid Calhoun and Chris Heim completing the top five. Heat race winners were Struckhoff and Frye.

Heat one winner Josh 'The Hammer' Hudson took the lead at the drop of the green in the IMCA Stock Car main event. Hudson led the first five laps before Casey Werkmeister of North Platte, Neb. took control and led the remaining 10 laps for his first win at Norton. Hudson was able to hang on to second, trailed by Michael Dancer, Eric Kinderknecht and Jason Rogers. Jason Davis won the other heat race. Jay Hachmeister had his four-race winning streak come to an end, but his 11th place finish was still good enough to earn him the track championship.

Brian Stich of Topeka made the long haul worthwhile. After winning the second IMCA Hobby Stock heat race, Stich took the lead from 'Neon' Leon Pfannenstiel on lap two of the 12-lap feature and drove on to score his first win of the year at Norton and snap Anthony Martin's undefeated streak.

Martin, the first heat race winner, chased Stich most of the race but had to settle for second, good enough, though, to clinch the track championship. Cody 'Bam Bam' Graham, Pfannenstiel, and 'The Wild Child' Garrett Hager rounded out the top five.

The 2012 racing season will wrap up at Elmwood Park Speedway on Labor Day weekend. The United Rebel Sprint Series, IMCA Sport Mods, and Vintage cars will be in action on both Saturday & Sunday, September 1-2. Race time will be 7 p.m. both nights.

The motorcycle races scheduled for Aug. 13 have been canceled.

IMCA Hobby Stocks

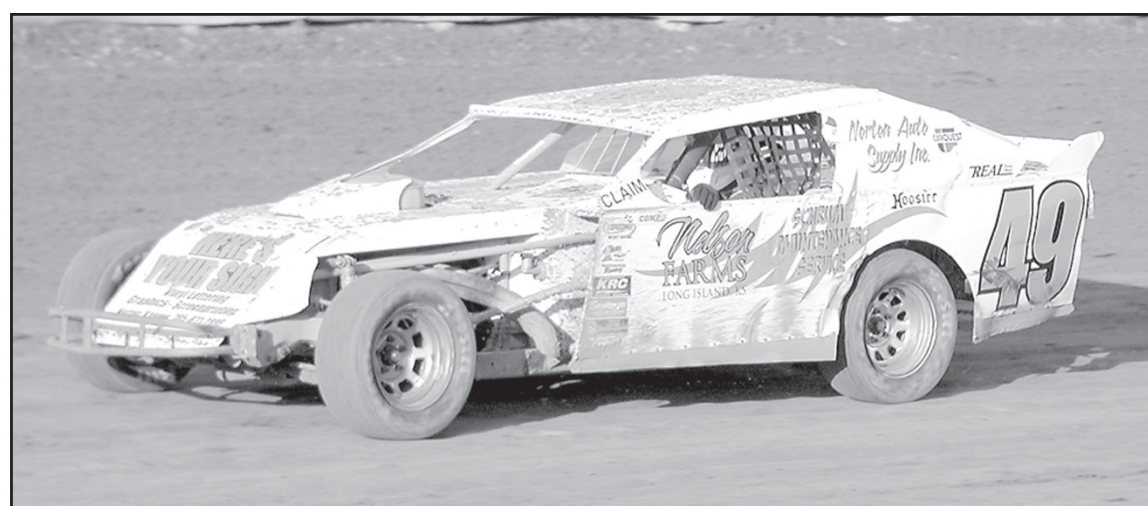
Heat 1: 1. Anthony Martin, 2. Cody Graham, 3. Leon Pfannenstiel, 4. Jeremy Couse.

Heat 2: 1. Brian Stich, 2. Garrett Hager, 3. Jason Grabast.

Feature: 1. Stich, 2. A. Martin, 3. Graham, 4. Pfannenstiel, 5. Hager, 6. Couse, 7. Brad McCoy, 8. Roger Garrison, 9. Theron Martin, 10. Michael Smith (DNF), 11. Grabast (DNS), 12. Jeremy Wagner (DNS), 13. Ray Caldwell (DNS).

IMCA Sport Mods

Heat 1: 1. Cory Struckhoff, 2.



Dan Lauer makes his way around the Elmwood Park Speedway at the Norton County Fair races Sunday night to place seventh in the feature race. Saturday night's races were cancelled due to rain. The next races will be the Vintage car races on Sept. 1-2.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Chris Heim, 3. Jason McCartney, 4. Tyler Watts.

Heat 2: 1. Tyler Frye, 2. Austin Walker, 3. Kaid Calhoun, 4. Jay Weigel.

Feature: 1. Frye, 2. Struckhoff, 3. Troy Attwood, 4. Calhoun, 5. Heim, 6. Brian Conness, 7. Dan Lauer, 8. McCartney, 9. Weigel, 10. Frank McClurg, 11. Walker (DNF), 12. J.R. Ewing (DNF), 13. Watts (DNF).

IMCA Stock Cars

Heat 1: 1. Josh Hudson, 2. Ja-

son Rogers, 3. Chase Conaway, 4. J.R. McCreery.

Heat 2: 1. Jason Davis, 2. Eric Kinderknecht, 3. Casey Werkmeister, 4. Bob Rutherford.

Feature: 1. Werkmeister, 2. Hudson, 3. Michael Dancer, 4. Kinderknecht, 5. Rogers, 6. Rutherford, 7. Dustin McClurg, 8. Pat Bedore, 9. McCreery, 10. Darin Racek, 11. Jay Hachmeister, 12. Conaway (DNF), 13. Davis (DNF).

IMCA 305 Sprint Cars

Heat: 1. Howard VanDyke, 2. Darren Berry, 3. Randy Bantam, 4. Greg Reiners.

Feature: 1. D. Berry, 2. Mike Spear, 3. VanDyke, 4. Bantam, 5. Reiners, 6. Ron Hadley, 7. Nate Berry (DNF).

IMCA Modifieds
Heat: 1. Tim Watts, 2. Jeff Walters, 3. Brian Calhoun.

Feature: 1. Calhoun, 2. Walters, 3. Watts.

Norton Motocross track brings local competitors to points race

By Dana Paxton

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The Nebraska Cornhusker Motocross Association held a points race at the Norton Motocross track Sunday, July 22 with riders from Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas competing.

Local racer Jeremy Sproul of Norton won the Open Outlaw class, earning him 25 points, followed by Brandon Kats in fifth for 16 points.

In the Mini-Open, Prairie View rider Kelson Kats placed fourth for 18 points.

In the PIT Bike class, Nick Mandl of Norton placed second and got 22 points.

No Women's A class was run and no local ladies rode in the Women B class. In the Women C class, Oberlin's Kyleana Blau took second, earning herself 22 points.

In the open 65 race, there were no local racers. There were also no local riders in the VET A and B divisions.

In the PeeWee Open, John Burmaster of Oberlin won and took away 25 points as his

reward.

Garret Otter of Norton rode in the 250 C class and took eighth place and got 13 points.

Ty Kats of Prairie View won the 65 6-8 class for 25 points and he was followed by John Burmaster coming in second for 22 points.

Trey Kats placed third in the 65 9-11 class for a total of 20 points followed by Nicholas Mandl Jr., of Norton, in eighth for 13 points.

There were no local riders in the 250 B class for this race.

Ty Kats took another first and 25 more points when he won the PeeWee 7-8 class and he was followed by John Burmaster in third with 20 points.

In the PeeWee 4-6 class, Jeremiah Hansen of Alma placed third with 20 points, followed by Corbin Puga in fifth with 16 points.

Brandon Kats of Prairie View won the Open-Amateur class and received 25 points.

Norton's own Christopher Fisher then came in second for 20 points.

No local racers rode in the Over 40 class this time.

Kelson Kats of Prairie View placed second in the 85 12-16 class, which gave him 22 points.

In the 85 7-11 class, Norton's Trenton Chisham placed seventh for a total of 14 points.

Jeremy Sproul added 25 more points to his total for a first place win in the 450 Open A class.

Christopher Fisher added 22 points to his daily total by placing second in the 450 Open B class.

The last race of the day was the 450 Open C class and the only local rider, Garret Otter, placed fifth and got 16 points for his efforts.

The next races to be held in Norton will be a big two day race on Aug. 4 and 5.



The Nebraska Cornhusker Motocross Association held a points race at the Norton Motocross track on Sunday, July 22 with riders from Nebraska, Colorado and Kansas competing. (Pictured) Local racer Jeremy Sproul of Norton won the Open Outlaw class. The next races to be held in Norton will be a big two day race on Aug. 4 and 5.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

K-18 team finishes season with state tourney loss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton K-18 baseball team completed their 2012 season on Friday night with a 19-6 loss to an excellent Beloit team in the opening round of the 61st annual K-18 Baseball State Tournament in Lucas.

Norton was the third place team in the West Regional the week before and Beloit was the runner-up team in the East Regional.

The Blue Jays had a hard time hitting the Beloit pitcher and also committed eight errors.

"It definitely wasn't one of our better games this season," said Norton head coach Rick Green. "I think most of it was nerves but we have to learn to battle them. Beloit had some very good pull hitters and did a great job putting the ball in play. Unfortunately, we did not make the routine plays. It's tough to beat anyone with that many errors."

Eight players batted for Beloit in the top of the first inning and they scored three runs. Norton tallied one run in the bottom of the inning to make it a 3-1 score. Mickey Hahn singled and Josh VanLaeys walked and Hahn scored on a passed ball.

Beloit added one more run in the top of the second but Norton was unable to score in the bottom and trailed 4-1 after two innings.

Another Beloit run in the top of the third and none by Norton in the bottom of the inning made it 5-1 after three.

Beloit scored three more runs in the top of the fourth to extend their lead to 8-1.

Norton scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth to cut the Trojan lead to 8-3. VanLaeys doubled, Kobie Unterseher was hit by a pitch and advanced and Jace Ruder walked. VanLaeys and Unterseher both scored.



Norton third baseman Jace Ruder kept one Beloit runner from scoring in Friday's K-18 State Tournament game when he caught him between third and home, ran him down and tagged him out.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Three more runs by Beloit in the top of the fifth extended their lead to 11-3 and Norton was unable to score in the bottom of the inning.

Beloit scored two more times in the top of the sixth to make it 13-3.

Norton had their best scoring inning of the game, adding three runs in the bottom of the sixth to cut the Beloit lead to 13-6. VanLaeys walked, Unterseher was hit by a pitch and advanced, Will Ellis walked and Clint Cole blasted a double. VanLaeys, Unterseher and Ellis all scored.

Unfortunately for Norton, Beloit had their best scoring inning in the top of the seventh when they scored six runs to extend their lead to 19-6.

Norton was unable to mount a rally in the last of the seventh and the Blue Jays' excellent season ended with a 17-9 record.

Mickey Hahn, Josh VanLaeys and Clint Cole each had one hit for Norton.

Norton had seven walks and 10 strike outs. Jacob Green pitched the first

four innings for Norton and was the losing pitcher. He gave up six hits, walked three and struck out five batters. He was relieved by Clint Cole, who hurled the final three innings. He gave up 10 hits, walked three and struck out three batters.

"Both Jacob and Clint pitched well enough to win as they created a lot of ground balls," said coach Green.

"We lost to only four different teams this season.

"I am really proud of what these boys accomplished and look forward to good things from this group, both at the K-18 and American Legion level!"

Assistant coach for Norton was Brad Cox.

Norton has competed in the K-18 State Tournament a number of different years and has placed in the top four teams on five occasions. The Blue Jays were fourth in 1971, fourth in 1986, runner-up in 1990, third in 1992 and won the championship in 2001.

Tournament results

In the second game on Friday

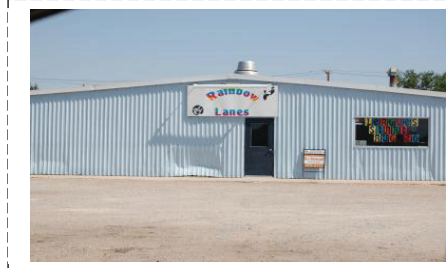
evening, Victoria defeated Concordia F&A 12-1. Victoria is unbeaten and was the champion of the West Regional. Concordia was fourth in the East Regional.

In Saturday games, Osborne, East Regional champion, defeated Colby, fourth in the West Regional 17-7 and Belleville, third in the East Regional, beat Smith Center, second in the West Regional 8-6.

In Sunday's semi-final games, Victoria outscored Beloit 11-1 and Osborne defeated Belleville 20-6.

The finals will be today when Beloit plays Belleville at 6:30 p.m. for third place and Victoria plays Osborne in the nightcap for the state championship.

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The Norton Disc Golf Club will be holding a clinic Saturday, August 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Elmwood Park, Norton
Equipment Provided - Raffle for Giveaways and Everyone will get 15% Off Coupon to End Zone for Discs
EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN

