

Norton Cross Country wins at regionals

By DICK BOYD

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On Saturday in Cimarron, the Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams won first and runner-up, respectively, in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet for the third year in a row to qualify for this Saturday's State Meet at Rim Rock Farm, northwest of Lawrence.

Until three years ago, the Norton girls and boys cross country teams had not qualified in the same year for the state meet but, in Cimarron in 2009, the Norton girls placed third in the regional and the boys finished runner-up. Two years ago, the girls won the championship and the boys were runner-up when the regional meet was held in Larned. The meet was also held in Cimarron a year ago.

The top three girls and boys teams qualified for the state meet along with the fastest 10 individual runners. Also qualifying for state are the top five individuals from non-qualifying teams if not in the top 10.

The Norton girls won the championship with 29 points, followed by Cimarron, 70; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 75; Holcomb, 82; Scott City, 85.

In the boys race, Holcomb repeated as champion with 60 points, followed by Norton, 64; Scott City, 75; Cheney, 108; Lakin, 134; Southwestern Heights, 144; Chaparral, 173; Phillipsburg, 189; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 203; Cimarron, 204.

GIRLS

Norton sophomore Sierra Griffith led the Lady Jays to the finish line with a third place individually and clocking of 18:45. She was followed by junior



One of the secrets to success for the Norton girls cross country team is keeping as least five girls close to each other since team scores are based on five runners. Three of the Lady Jays are shown using this philosophy in the Regional Meet at Cimarron. They are, from left, Darcy Bainter, Julia Kent and Sierra Griffith.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Darcy Bainter, fifth in 19:04; junior Katelyn Engelbert, sixth, 19:10; freshman Molly Maddy, eighth, 19:19 and senior Julia Kent, tenth, 19:26. All five were medalists.

Also running for Norton were junior Marisa Maddy, 21st, 20:20 and senior Kamilla Jones, 37th, 22:04.

"Our girls did a fantastic job today, winning the regional title for the third year in a row," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi.

about our goals and our girls accomplished them all.

"Now, we focus on the big race at Rim Rock this week. The 3A girls race is wide open with several teams that can contend for the championship. Our girls must focus and run with the tenacity that they have shown many times this year."

The top 10 girls finishers were: Heather Ruder, Thomas More Prep-Marian, 17:51.69, first; Kari Blattner, Cimarron, 18:21.71, second; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 18:45.40, third; Isabelle Koopman, Cimarron, 18:48.41, fourth; Darcy Bainter, Norton, 19:04.29, fifth; Katelyn Engelbert, 19:10.37, sixth; Lidia Montano, Cheney, 19:14.92, seventh; Molly Maddy, Norton, 19:19.54, eighth; Rylie Koester, Hoisington, 19:22.62, ninth; Julia Kent, Norton, 19:26.80, tenth.

BOYS

Norton junior Marc Miller was first to the finish line for the Blue Jay boys with a fourth place individual finish and time of 19:55. He was followed by freshman Brendon Frack, seventh, 20:17; junior Alec Hager, ninth, 20:34; sophomore Dalton Vanover, 13th, 20:45; junior Keith Sander, 35th, 22:24.

Also running for Norton were senior John Renner, 46th, 22:47 and senior Ryan Bainter, 66th, 26:11.

"Words cannot tell how proud we are of our boys' effort today," said coach Rossi. "For the fourth year in a row, both teams have qualified for the state meet."

"Every one of these young men did exactly what we set out to do and came very close to a regional championship, almost beating Holcomb, the No.1 ranked team in the state!"

"Marc Miller, Brendon Frack and Alec Hager were all able to medal and Dalton Vanover came from the very end of the pack and nearly medaled himself. The run of the day had to come from Keith Sander. We preached all week that the number five runner had to be in the top 35 in order for our team to qualify for state. At the two mile mark, Keith was in 44th place and at the end he moved up to 35th."

"Our guys proved that they can run with the best teams in the state. We just have to run with the same intensity at state and, if we do, who knows what these guys can do."

The top 10 boys finishers were: Wyatt Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, 19:10.18, first; Peter

Wiebe, Southwestern Heights, 19:18.09, second; Joey Meyer, Scott City, 19:18.42, third; Marc Miller, Norton, 19:55.71, fourth; Chris Harbert, Kingman, 19:58.29, fifth; Micah Dehning, Cheney, 20:11.17, sixth; Brendon Frack, Norton, 20:18.37, seventh; Misal Banderas, Holcomb, 20:29.50, eighth; Alex Hager, Norton, 20:34.47, ninth; Caleb Stewart, Holcomb, 20:35.28, tenth.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will compete Saturday in the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm, located five miles northwest of Lawrence.

The girls will run at 10:30 a.m. and the boys will run at 12 noon.



Every position counted for the Norton boys in the Regional Cross Country Meet in Cimarron on Saturday. The Blue Jays' Alec Hager gave it his all as he passed a Holcomb runner just a few feet from the finish line.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Blue Jays suffer big upset against Beloit on Friday

By DICK BOYD

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Beloit used a quick score offense, beginning with the first play of the game, to hand the Norton Community High School football team only its second loss of the season on Friday night at Travis Field.

After scoring on the opening kickoff, Beloit dominated and the Trojan offense was so effective that they did not punt in the game, which they won 56-9.

It was the second District win for Beloit, who defeated Phillipsburg in District play the week before. Norton defeated Minneapolis a week ago in their first District contest.

Phillipsburg beat Minneapolis on Friday night in the other District game, setting up a final District game between Norton and Phillipsburg this Thursday evening in Phillipsburg. Norton will have to defeat the Panthers to move on in the Playoffs.

Coach Lucas Melvin's 6-1 Blue Jays were stunned on the opening kickoff when Beloit returned the kick 87 yards for a touchdown. After a two-point run, the Trojans led 8-0.

Beloit scored twice more in the first quarter while Norton's only score came on a 31 yard field goal by Austin Hager to give the visitors an early 20-3 lead.

Two more touchdowns in the second quarter extended the Beloit lead to 34-3 at halftime.

Norton's only fumble came at the start of the second half and led to another Beloit touchdown and was followed by the Blue Jays' only pass interception for another score, making the tally 50-3 after three quarters.

The visitors drove for another touchdown in the fourth quarter before a 64 yard pass from senior quarterback Dalton Miller to senior tailback Jacob Brooks produced Norton's only touchdown.

"They haven't punted all season and, like other teams, we couldn't stop them but we had opportunities to score and couldn't," said coach Melvin. "We were inside their 20 yard line three times and didn't score. We made mistakes and you can't make mistakes against

a team like Beloit. Penalties and turnovers hurt us.

"Seeing how physical they were, it tells me we need more time in the weight room."

First quarter

Norton's Austin Hager kicked off to Beloit and Tanner Niemczyk returned the ball 87 yards for a touchdown. Payton Vetter ran for two extra points and Beloit led 8-0.

Carson McKenna returned the inside kickoff to the Norton 38 but two motion penalties hindered the Blue Jay offense as they did all night. After an incomplete pass, Jacob Brooks punted to the Beloit 30. An unnecessary roughness penalty against Norton moved the ball to the Beloit 44. After five running plays, the Trojans went to the air and quarterback Payton Vetter completed a long pass to 6'6" Austin Budke, who was tackled on the Norton two-yard line. Vetter scored, the run for two-points failed and Beloit led 14-0 with 8:48 left.

Hager returned the kickoff to the Norton 24 but, after three plays, Brooks went back into punt formation. It was a fake and Brooks passed to senior wide receiver John Risewick who was finally stopped on the Beloit 6-yard line! The Blue Jays were unable to score a touchdown but came away with a 31 yard field goal by Austin Hager to cut the Beloit lead to 14-3 with 5:25 left.

The Trojans returned Hager's kickoff to mid-field. On second down, Stanten Krone ran for another Beloit touchdown. A pass for two extra points failed, making it 20-3 with 5:09 left.

Brooks returned the kickoff to the Norton 36. First down runs by Brooks and quarterback Miller and a fourth down pass completion to Risewick put Norton on the Beloit 39. Miller ran the keeper for 8 more yards and junior tailback Tanner Furbush got a first down on the 25. A flat pass from Miller to Brooks earned another first down on the 15. Three plays gained no more yards for Norton.

Second quarter

A fourth down pass fell incomplete. The Trojans then put together their longest drive of

the game which ended with a Niemczyk 3 yard run. Vetter ran for two-points and it was 28-3 with 8:37 left.

The kickoff went out of bounds on the Norton 28. Furbush had a great 36 yard run to the Beloit 36 but, once again, the Beloit defense held. After one first down, Vetter connected with Budke on a long pass and Krone scored from 2 yards out. A pass for two points failed but Beloit led 34-3 with 4:16 left.

Hager returned the kickoff to the 21. After one first down, Miller passed to Risewick and he carried the ball to the Norton 40. Miller ran the keeper to the Beloit 40. Pass interference and horse collar penalties against Beloit moved the ball closer to the goalline but Norton was unable to score.

Third quarter

Beloit kicked off and the ball went out of bounds so Norton got it on their 35. The Blue Jays' only fumble of the game was recovered by Beloit and they scored again on a 14 yard pass from Vetter to Budke. Vetter ran for two extra points, extending the Beloit lead to 42-3 with only 45 seconds gone in the second half.

Furbush returned the kickoff to the Norton 36. Miller gained a first down on the 50, then passed over the middle to Brooks for a first down on the Beloit 17.

Miller was sacked three times by the aggressive Beloit defense and, on fourth down, Budke intercepted his aerial and rambled 72 yards untouched for another Beloit touchdown. Vetter passed to Niemczyk for two extra points, making the score 50-3 with 6:29 left.

The huge lead by Beloit put the continuous clock into effect.

After the kickoff, Norton was unable to move the ball and punted to the Norton 45 as the quarter ended.

Fourth quarter

Beloit drove down the field for one final touchdown. Krone scored from 22 yards out. The extra points run failed and the Trojans led 56-3 with 9:57 remaining.

After the kickoff, Norton got

their only touchdown of the game when Miller hit Brooks with a perfect pass for a 64 yard touchdown. The extra point kick was blocked, leaving the score at 56-9 with 2:13 left.

Both teams' junior varsity elevens completed the game.

Starting lineup

Starting on offense for Norton were senior Andrew Ellis, senior John Risewick, wide receivers; senior Carson McKenna, tight end; sophomore Wyatt Harting, left tackle; senior Treven Rossi, left guard; junior Cole Renner, center; senior Lane Bigge, right guard; senior Dylan Sprigg, right tackle; senior Dalton Miller, quarterback; senior Jared Bohl, fullback; senior Jacob Brooks, tailback.

Defensive starters for the Blue Jays were senior Eli Bozarth and Renner, ends; Bigge and junior Kolton Harting, tackles; sophomore Stewart Whitney, noseguard; Rossi and Bohl, linebackers; McKenna and junior Austin Hager, cornerbacks; Risewick and Brooks, safeties.

Individual statistics

Tanner Furbush gained 30 yards on 10 carries, followed by Dalton Miller, 19 for 15; Jacob Brooks, 7 for 7; Jared Bohl, 3 for 7; Jared Tallent, 1 for 7.

Miller completed 5 of 15 passes for 127 yards; Brooks completed 1 of 2 passes for 68 yards. Brooks caught 3 passes for 106 yards and John Risewick caught 3 passes for 89 yards.

Austin Hager kicked off 2 times for an average of 29.5 and Kolton Harting kicked off 1 time for 41 yards.

Brooks had 3 kickoff returns for 57 yards, followed by Hager, 2 for 19; Furbush, 1 for 16; McKenna, 1 for 9.

Leading tackler was Carson McKenna with 5 solos, 1 assist; followed by Cole Renner, 3 solos, 2 assists; Treven Rossi, 4 solos, 1 assist; Jared Bohl, 4 solos; Eli Bozarth, 3 solos, 1 assist; Jacob Brooks, 3 solos, 1 assist; Austin Hager, 3 solos, 1 assist; John Risewick, 2 solos, 2 assists; Lucas Engel, 1 assist; Kolton Harting, 1 solo; Wyatt

Harting, 1 assist; Jordan Karnopp, 1 solo; Trever Lewis, 1 solo; Cody Temmel, 1 assist.

Next action

Norton's final District game will be this Thursday at Phillipsburg.

The game will be played at 7 p.m. at their new field which is just east of their high school.

"They are a very good team; their only loss was to Beloit," said coach Melvin.

"Their quarterback, Sean Newlan, is one of the best quarterbacks in the state. He can run or pass very accurately."

The winner of the game will advance in the playoffs.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton	Beloit
12	First Downs 11
67	Rushing 195
195	Passing 110
262	Total Yards 305
6-17-1	Passes Compl. 6-9-0
1-1	Fumbles Lost 0-0
2-25	Punts 0-0
12-94.5	Penalties 4-40

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Nov. 6

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