

Norton cross country had a great season

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Tremendous seasons are becoming a tradition for the Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams who had another fabulous record in 2012 under the guidance of fourth year head coach George Rossi.

For the second straight year, the Lady Jays finished runner-up in the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm near Lawrence and the Blue Jay boys moved up from fourth a year ago to a solid third place finish.

Along the way, the Norton girls earned seven meet championships and the Blue Jay boys won three meet championships with two runner-up places.

The Norton girls were Mid-Continent League cross country champions for the fifth year in a row and the Blue Jays boys won the league crown for the ninth year in a row!

The Lady Jays were winners of the Norton Invitational for the seventh year in a row and the Norton boys were champions for the fourth straight year.

Coach Rossi had 11 girls and 13 boys on this year's team.

Returning letter winners for the girls were: Kamilla Jones, Julia Kent, seniors; Katelyn Engelbert, Darcy Bainter, Marisa Maddy, juniors; Sierra Griffith, Jesika Smith (out with injury), sophomores.

Other squad members were Steph Hager, senior; Molly Maddy, Raenee Patterson, Kylie Perez, freshmen.

Returning boys lettermen were: John Renner, Ryan Bainter, seniors; Marc Miller, Alec Hager, juniors; Dalton Vanover, sophomore.

Other squad members were: Chris Chambers, Keith Sander, Kailen Kawahara, juniors; David Smith, sophomore; Brendon Frack, Skylar Johnson, Weston Erbert, James King, freshmen.

The assistant coach was Lindsey Bailey.

Norton Invitational

The season opened with the annual Norton Invitational on Thursday, Aug. 30. The Lady Jays won the championship for the seventh straight year and the Blue Jay boys were champions for the fourth year in a row.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 27; Oberlin, 64; Plainville, 67; Wheatland, 79. Sierra Griffith placed third in 17:55, followed by Darcy Bainter, fourth, 18:26; Katelyn Engelbert, eighth, 18:59; Molly Maddy, ninth, 19:01; Julia Kent, tenth, 19:12.

Boys team scores were: Norton, 27; Phillipsburg, 69; Plainville, 72; Stockton, 76; Oberlin, 95. Marc Miller was second in 19:24, followed by Brendon Frack, third, 19:50; Dalton Vanover, fourth, 20:09; Alec Hager, sixth, 20:13; John Renner, 15th, 21:48.

Wamego Invitational

On Saturday, Sept. 8, the Norton girls won the championship of the Wamego Invitational for the third year in a row and the boys placed fourth.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 57; Overland Park Christ Prep, 73; Easton-Pleasant Ridge, 94; Riley County, 94. Griffith placed eighth in 17:06, followed by Bainter, 12th, 17:27; Engelbert, 13th, 17:29; Jones, 16th, 17:42; Kent, 19th, 17:53.

Boys team scores were: Christ Preparatory Academy, 30; Wellsville, 127; Holcomb, 129; Norton, 152. Miller finished eighth in 18:16, followed by Hager, 16th, 18:39; Frack, 19th, 18:50; Vanover, 43rd, 19:37; Keith Sander, 88th, 21:36.

Hays Invitational

The Lady Jays won their third championship of the season by outrunning everyone in the Hays Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 13 and the Norton boys placed runner-up.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 42; Ness City, 58; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 96; Colby, 122; Oakley, 129; Plainville, 129; Goodland, 140. Griffith finished third in 15:17, followed by Engelbert, eighth, 15:50; Bainter, ninth, 16:02; Kent, tenth, 16:03; Jones, 12th, 16:12.

Boys team scores were: Ness City, 51; Norton, 64; Goodland, 67; Thomas More Prep, 100;



One of the secrets of the Norton Community High School girls cross country team this season was that they started together and stayed together during races. They are shown here beginning the Class 3A Regional in Cimarron where they won the championship for the third year in a row! Pictured are, from left, Julia Kent, runner from another school, Darcy Bainter, Sierra Griffith, Marisa Maddy, Kamilla Jones, Katelyn Engelbert, Molly Maddy. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



The Norton Community High School boys cross country team placed runner-up in the Class 3A Regional this season for the third year in a row. They are pictured here as they began the race, which was held in Cimarron. They are, from left, Marc Miller, Alec Hager, runner from another school, Brendon Frack, Ryan Bainter, John Renner, runner from another school, Dalton Vanover, Keith Sander. Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Colby, 110; Stockton, 129; Plainville, 145. Hager was fastest for Norton with a third place in 18:17, followed by Frack, seventh, PR18:48; Miller, eighth, 18:50; Vanover, tenth, PR18:53; Sander, 36th, 20:59.

Rim Rock Classic

The Norton girls and boys had their toughest meet to date on Saturday, Sept. 22 at Rim Rock Farm near Lawrence. The girls placed ninth out of 28 teams and the boys were 15th out of 34 teams. Several states were represented.

Griffith was fastest to the finish line again for Norton with a 54th place in 17:14, followed by Bainter, 67th, 17:27; Molly Maddy, 76th, 17:40; Engelbert, 80th, 17:45; Marisa Maddy, 91st, 17:52.

Fastest Norton boy was Hager with a 53rd in 18:06, followed by Miller, 67th, 18:16; Frack, 68th, 18:18; Vanover, 115th, 19:02; Renner, 211th, 20:50.

Oberlin Invitational

Both Norton girls and boys won the championship of the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday, Sept. 25.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 52; McCook, 71; Oberlin, 80; Colby, 102; Wheatland, 114. Norton top five team placers were: Griffith, ninth,

17:00; Bainter, tenth, 17:05; Engelbert, 11th, 17:05; Marisa Maddy, 13th, 17:15; Kent, 14th, 17:18.

The Blue Jay boys won the meet championship for the eighth year in a row with a team total of 30 points, followed by Colby, 41; McCook, 62; Oberlin, 85. Miller won the gold medal in the race with a time of 17:53, followed by Hager, fifth, 18:21; Frack, eighth, 18:36; Vanover, tenth, 18:42; Renner, 17th, 20:22.

Mid-Continent League Meet

The Mid-Continent League Cross Country Meet was held on Thursday, Oct. 4 on the golf course in Phillipsburg and the Norton girls and boys won the championship. It was the fifth league title for the girls and the ninth straight for the boys.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 16; Plainville, 39; Hill City, 40. Bainter was second individually with a time of 16:45, followed by Kent, fifth, 16:58; Griffith, sixth, 17:08; Engelbert, seventh, 17:09; Jones, eighth, 17:24.

Boys team scores were: Norton, 21; Phillipsburg, 28; Plainville, 57; Hill City, 60; Stockton, 72; Ellis, 99; Osborne, 103. Miller was second in 17:55, followed by Hager, fourth, 18:16; Frack, fifth, 18:19; Vanover, 11th, 18:55; Ryan Bainter, 24th, 20:19.

Lakeside Invitational

The Norton girls won another championship and the boys placed fifth in the tough Lakeside Invitational at Downs on Thursday, Oct. 11.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 50; Sacred Heart of Salina, 68; Southeast of Saline, 76; Lincoln, 107; Oberlin, 109; Belleville, 143; Beloit, 143; Pike Valley, 201; Tescott, 226. Griffith was first home for the Lady Jays with a fourth place in 16:40, followed by Bainter, 11th, 17:03; Kent, 12th, 17:04; Engelbert, 13th, 17:09; Molly Maddy, 16th, 17:34.

Boys team scores were: Southeast of Saline, 79; Belleville, 85; Pike Valley, 95; Sacred Heart of Salina, 99; Norton, 102; Lincoln, 145; Phillipsburg, 212; Beloit, 217; Minneapolis, 234; Stockton, 249. Miller was fastest for Norton with a seventh place in 18:00, followed by Frack, 12th, 18:44; Hager, 13th, 18:45; Vanover, 25th, 19:09; Renner, 54th, 20:51.

Class 3A Regional Meet

The Class 3A Regional Meet was held Saturday, Oct. 20 in Cimarron and Norton girls and boys both performed great. The Lady Jays won the regional championship and the Blue Jay boys placed runner-up for the third year in a row!

Girls team scores were: Norton, 29; Cimarron, 70; TMP-Marian of Hays, 75; Holcomb, 82; Scott City, 85. Griffith finished first for Norton with a third place in 18:45, followed by Bainter, fifth, 19:04; Engelbert, sixth, 19:10; Molly Maddy, eighth, 19:19; Kent, tenth, 19:26.

Boys team scores were: Holcomb, 60; Norton, 64; Scott City, 75; Cheney, 108; Lakin, 134; Southwestern Heights, 144; Chaparral, 173; Phillipsburg, 189; TMP, 203; Cimarron, 204. Miller hit the finish line first for Norton with a fourth place in 19:55, followed by Frack, seventh, 20:17; Hager, ninth, 20:34; Vanover, 13th, 20:45; Sander, 35th, 22:24.

Class 3A State Meet

The Norton girls and boys returned to Rim Rock Farm near Lawrence on Saturday, Oct. 27 for the Class 3A State Meet and finished the season with a runner-up for the girls and third place for the boys.

For the second year in a row, Douglass won the girls championship and the Norton girls placed runner-up. The Norton boys placed third, up one spot from their 2011 state finish.

Girls team scores were: Douglass, 76; Norton, 94; Salina Sacred Heart, 121; Pleasant Ridge, 129; Riley County, 141; Southeast of Saline, 146; Sabetha, 159; Osage City, 176; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 20; Cimarron, 225. Griffith ran another great race for the Lady Jays, turning in a PR 16:38 to finish 18th. She was followed by Kent, 26th, 17:02; Bainter, 29th, 17:10; Engelbert, 32nd, 17:18; Molly Maddy, 37th, 17:31. Also running for the Lady Jays were: Jones, 43rd, 17:37; Marisa Maddy, 66th, 18:10.

Top ten boys team scores were: Hutchinson Trinity, 75; Scott City, 110; Norton, 123; Holcomb, 133; Riley County, 136; Southeast of Saline, 139; Wellsville, 165; Marion, 173; Sabetha, 192; Cherokee-SE, 219. Miller also ran an outstanding race for the Norton boys, setting a personal record with a time of 17:28 to finish 13th. He was followed by Frack, 22nd, PR17:44; Hager, 30th, PR17:55; Vanover, 45th, PR18:25; Renner, 77th, season's best 19:15. Also running for the Blue Jay boys were: Sander, 95th, 20:25; Bainter, 97th, 21:05.

Coach's comments

"We were really proud of our girls, who ran their hearts out today," said coach Rossi. "We told our guys to run all out and see what happens and they really came out strong."

"We will lose five outstanding seniors: Kamilla Jones, Julia Kent, Steph Hager, Ryan Bainter and John Renner. This is a very special group as all except Steph were freshmen when I became the head coach so we have been through a lot."

"Many thanks to my assistant coach, my wife, parents, administration, students, alumni, fans and the local news media for their outstanding support of our cross country program."

"Norton fans are the best, loudest and most active fans on the course."

"Your support means everything to our team."

Northern Valley basketball season opens Saturday

The Northern Valley Huskies start their basketball season this Saturday at home against Palco at 6:30 p.m.

The time of the Purple and Gold tournament date has yet to be announced but will be played between Dec. 3 and Dec. 8 in WaKeeney.

On Dec. 14, the Huskies take on Wheatland at home, at 6:30 p.m.

On Dec. 18 they go up against Wilcox-Hildreth at home at 6:30 p.m.

The final game of 2012 will be the Junior Varsity Boys Tourney at Hill City Dec. 28-31.

The first game of 2013 will take place against Logan at Logan on Jan. 4 at 6:30 p.m. Watch for dates of the 2013 season.

Norton Boys and Girls Basketball Schedule

Friday, Nov. 30 - Goodland, Girls, Boys Here 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 6-7-8 - Topside Tip-Off - Goodland TBA

Tuesday, Dec. 11 - Stockton Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 14 - Phillipsburg Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15 - NQOT JV Tourney Girls, Boys - Quinter 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 - Cambridge Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 28 - C-Team Tourney, Boys - Hill City 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 29 - C-Team Tourney, Boys - Hill City 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 31 - C-Team Tourney, Boys - Hill City 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 4 - Osborne Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 5 - C-Team Tourney - Phillipsburg 9 a.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 8 - Plainville Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 11 - Trego Community There 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 12 - Mid-Continent

League Feather Bracket TBA

Monday, Jan. 14 - MCL Quarterfinal Boys TBA

Tuesday, Jan. 15 - MCL Quarterfinal Girls TBA

Friday, Jan. 18 - MCL Semifinals Girls, Boys at Fort Hays

Saturday, Jan. 19 - MCL Finals Girls, Boys at Fort Hays

Friday, Jan. 25 - Colby Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 29 - Smith Center Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1 - Hill City Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2 - Atwood Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 5 - Oberlin Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 12 - Hoxie Girls, Boys There 4:45 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 15 - Ellis Girls, Boys Here 4:45 p.m.

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Feb. 28-March 2 - Sub-State Girls, Boys in Norton

Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., March 7-10 State Tourney Girls, Boys TBA

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

BASKETBALL:

Norton Girls and Boys vs. Goodland in Norton 4:00 p.m. Friday

Northern Valley Girls, Boys vs. Palco in Almena 6:30 p.m. Friday

Northern Valley Boys in Purple and Gold Tourney in WaKeeney Dec. 3-8

Logan Girls, Boys vs. Triplains-Brewster in Logan 4 p.m. Friday

Logan Girls, Boys in Sagebrush Shootout in Brewster TBA Dec. 4-7-8

WRESTLING:

Norton Varsity in Hoxie Invitational 9 a.m. Saturday

Norton Junior Varsity in St. Francis Invitational 9:30 a.m. Saturday