

# Another successful track season for the Lady Jays

By DICK BOYD

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Seventh year head coach Jason Jones and his Norton Community High School girls track and field team had another successful season in 2013.

The Lady Jays' season highlights were: first, Smith Center JV Meet; second, Norton Invitational; third, Smith Center Redmen Relays; eighth, Trego Freshman/Sophomore Meet; fourth, Plainville Invitational; fourth, Phillipsburg Invitational; third, Goldsmith Relays (Trego); second, Oberlin Invitational; fifth, Russell Relays; 11th, Hill City Invitational; second, Mid-Continent League Championships in Hill City; fifth, 3A Regional Championships in Holcomb; 14th, 3A State Championships in Wichita.

High point scorer for the Norton girls for the third straight year was senior Alec Melvin with 196 points.

Coach Jones announced the following Norton Lady Jay letter winners for the season: Kamilla Jones, Alec Melvin, Teslee Nickell, seniors; Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, Cristine Nelson, Johnnye Ruder, juniors; Kenzie Esslinger, Sierra Griffith, sophomores; Casey Ambrosier, Hanna Brooks, Cayanna Campbell (provisional), Molly Maddy, Peyton Renner, Lexi Voss, freshman.

Sophomore Adrienne Hager lettered as a manager. Assistant coaches this season were Dale Engelbert, Lucas Melvin, Doug Reusink and Jeremy Hawks.

## Review of season

On Monday, April 1, Norton took mostly freshmen to the Smith Center JV Track Meet and won the championship with 130 points. Russell was runner-up with 87. Freshman Molly Maddy placed first in the 3200 meter run with a time of 14:02.13 and also won the gold in the pole vault with a 7' clearance. Freshman Lexi Voss won the discus with a throw of 88' and placed runner-up in the shot with a heave of 28'10.5". Freshman Hanna Brooks medaled in three events. She won the long jump with a leap of 13'8.25", placed third in the triple jump with a distance of 27'8.5" and fifth in the 100 meter dash in 15.20. Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of freshman Peyton Renner, freshman Casey Ambrosier, freshman Cayanna Campbell and Brooks placed first in 5:04.20. Renner won the triple jump with a distance of 30'5", was third in the long jump at 13'5.25" and third in the pole vault at 6'6". Casey Ambrosier earned a second gold medal in the 800 meter run in 2:59.72, placed runner-up in the long jump at 13'8" and runner-up in the triple jump at 29'1". Freshman Raenee Patterson won the 1600 meter run with a time of 7:01.71. Campbell placed third in the 100 meter dash in 14.98.

The Norton Invitational was held on Friday, April 15 and Norton tied with Phillipsburg for runner-up with 94 points. Colby won the championship with 121 points, Oberlin scored 76 and Northern Valley 44. Four throwers scored 33 points for Norton. They were: senior Alec Melvin, first, discus, 110'8.5"; junior Cristine Nelson, fourth, discus, 91'3"; senior Teslee Nickell and freshman Lexi Voss, tied for sixth, discus, 88'9"; Melvin, runner-up, shot, 34'1"; Nickell, third, shot, 31'10"; Melvin, fourth, javelin, 103'8".

Junior Katelyn Engelbert was runner-up in the high jump at 4'10". Senior Kamilla Jones was third in the long jump at

14'4".

Running even results were: Bailey Ambrosier, first, 400 meter dash, 1:04.76; junior Katelyn Engelbert, first, 800 meter run, 2:40.68; Bailey Ambrosier, Engelbert, sophomore Sierra Griffith, senior Kamilla Jones, first, 4 x 800 meter relay, 10:50.27; freshman Molly Maddy, third, 3200 meter run, personal record 13:47.39.

On Friday, April 12, Beloit won the Redmen Relays in Smith Center, followed by Thayer Central, 116; Norton, 108.5; Marysville, 88; Smith Center, 56. Melvin scored 24 points. She was first in the discus with a personal record of 125'5"; runner-up, shot, personal record 38'2.5"; third, javelin, 115'2". Nickell was fourth in the shot, 30'11" and Nelson was third in the discus, 89'8". Bailey Ambrosier placed fourth in the pole vault, 8'6". Casey Ambrosier placed fifth in the triple jump with a personal record leap of 31'3". Engelbert was fifth in the high jump, 4'10". Sophomore Kenzie Esslinger was fifth in the pole vault, 7'6".

Running event results were: Bailey Ambrosier, first, 400 meter dash, 1:04.58; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Jones, Engelbert, Marisa Maddy and Bailey Ambrosier, first, 4:32.03; 4 x 800 meter relay of Bailey Ambrosier, Jones, Engelbert, Casey Ambrosier, runner-up, 11:01.32; Engelbert, first, 800 meter run, 2:37.24; Jones, third, long jump, 14'4.75"; Bainter, third, 1600 meter run, 6:03.60; Molly Maddy, third, 3200 meter run, personal record 13:32.79; Marisa Maddy, fourth, 200 meter dash, 29.99; junior Johnnye Ruder, fourth, 300 meter hurdles, personal record 54.79; Casey Ambrosier, sixth, 800 meter run, 2:52.50.

The Norton junior varsity girls competed in the Freshman-Sophomore Trego Invitational on Monday, April 15 and placed sixth. Lexi Voss earned first in the shot, personal record 29'5"; first in the discus, 86'3" and sixth in the javelin, 63'10.5. Raenee Patterson placed fourth in the 800 meter run in 3:11.42 and fourth in the 1600 meter run in 6:48.62.

On Tuesday, April 16, Norton placed fourth, just two points out of third, in the Plainville Invitational. Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays won the championship with 138.5 points, followed by Oberlin, 104.5; Plainville, 87; Norton, 85.

Field events results were: Bailey Ambrosier, runner-up, pole vault, 8'6"; Melvin, runner-up, shot, 34'5"; third, discus, 105'7"; Nickell, third, shot, 31'7.5"; Peyton Renner, fourth, triple jump, 30'8.5"; Esslinger, fourth, pole vault, 7'6".

Results of running events were: Bailey Ambrosier, first, 400 meter dash, 1:04.94; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Bailey Ambrosier, Jones, Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, runner-up, 4:32.84; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Bailey Ambrosier, Engelbert, Jones, Casey Ambrosier, third, 11:03.97; Engelbert, first, 800 meter run, 2:35.37; Bainter, third, 1600 meter run, 6:04.02; Molly Maddy, third, 3200 meter run, 13:46.31; Ruder, sixth, 300 meter hurdles, 55.88; Marisa Maddy, sixth, 200 meter dash, personal record 29.62; Casey Ambrosier, sixth, 800 meter run, 2:47.43.

The Lady Jays also finished fourth in the Phillipsburg Invitational on Friday, April 19. "Our athletes competed hard in a really tough meet," said coach Jones. "It was the most competitive field we've seen. We estab-

lished personal records in multiple areas."

Field events results were: Melvin, first, shot, 35'2.5"; runner-up, discus, 103'6"; fourth, javelin, 96'1"; Renner, third, long jump, personal record 14'6.5"; fifth, triple jump, personal record 31'2.25"; Bailey Ambrosier, third, pole vault, 9'6"; Nickell, fourth, shot, 33'1.5"; Cristine Nelson, fifth, discus, 94'1"; sixth, shot, personal record 32'4"; Voss, sixth, discus, personal record 92'9".

Running results were: Engelbert, first, 800 meter run, 2:35.52; Bainter, runner-up, 3200 meter run, 13:33.39; fourth, 1600 meter run, 6:07.63; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Engelbert, Bailey Ambrosier, Casey Ambrosier, Jones, third, 11:11.38; Molly Maddy, fourth, 3200, 13:51.41; sixth, 1600 meter run, 6:26.93; Casey Ambrosier, fifth, 800 meter run, 2:48.10; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Marisa Maddy, Engelbert, Jones, Bailey Ambrosier, fifth, 4:29.49.

The Goldsmith Relays were held on Friday, April 26 and the Norton girls placed third out of 14 teams. Colby won with 106, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays scored 77 and Norton tallied 68 points. Norton didn't win a gold medal for the first time in the season but won enough other places to finish strong.

Field event results were: Melvin, second, discus, 112'1"; third, shot, 35'2"; sixth, javelin, 97'1"; Nickell, fourth, shot, 32'6.5"; Nelson, fifth, shot, personal record 32'6"; sixth, discus, 89'2"; Bailey Ambrosier, runner-up, pole vault, 9'6"; Kenzie Esslinger, sixth, pole vault, 8'; Jones, fifth, long jump, 15'1.5".

Results of running events were: Bailey Ambrosier, runner-up, 400 meter dash, 1:03.11; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Bailey Ambrosier, Casey Ambrosier, Engelbert, Jones, runner-up, 10:55.18; Bainter, third, 3200 meter run, 13:12.34; fourth, 1600 meter run, personal record 6:02.29; Ruder, fourth, 300 meter hurdles, 55.19; Engelbert, fifth, 800 meter run, 2:43.60; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Engelbert, Jones, Bailey Ambrosier, Hanna Brooks, fifth, 4:31.90; Molly Maddy, sixth, 3200 meter run, 13:32.92.

On Tuesday, April 30, Norton competed in the Oberlin Invitational and performed the best of the season with a runner-up team finish.

Field event results were: Melvin, first, shot, 37'5.25"; first, discus, 115'2"; third, javelin, 104'4"; Bailey Ambrosier, first, pole vault, 9'; Engelbert, runner-up, high jump, 4'10"; Nelson, third, discus, 92'4"; fifth, shot, 31'2"; Voss, fourth, discus, 89'7"; Jones, fifth, long jump, 15'; Esslinger, fifth, pole vault, 7'6"; Renner, sixth, triple jump, 30'11"; Molly Maddy, sixth, pole vault, 7'.

Results of running events were: Bailey Ambrosier, runner-up, 400 meter dash, 1:05.30; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Engelbert, Bailey Ambrosier, Casey Ambrosier, Brooks, third, 4:33.90; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Engelbert, Bailey Ambrosier, Casey Ambrosier, Jones, third, 11:01.55; Engelbert, fourth, 800 meter run, 2:46.13; Bainter, fourth, 3200 meter run, 13:28.12; Casey Ambrosier, fifth, 800 meter run, 2:48.01; Molly Maddy, sixth, 3200 meter run, 14:08.97.

Norton took a partial team to the Russell Relays on Friday, May 3 and placed fifth. The highlight was Bailey Ambrosier's school record 10'6" pole vault performance. She actually tied Megan Hillebrand's NCHS

record set in 2003. Bailey also placed third in the 400 meter dash in 1:05.06 and fifth in the 200 meter dash in 28.91. Bailey ran with Ruder, Esslinger and Marisa Maddy in the 4 x 100 meter relay where they placed sixth in 55.85.

Other field event results were: Melvin, first, shot, 36'1.75"; runner-up, discus, 106'7"; javelin, third, 107'9"; Nelson, sixth, discus, 83'4"; sixth, shot, 30'5.5".

Norton junior varsity athletes competed in the varsity Hill City Meet on Monday, May 6. Lexi Voss placed sixth in the discus with a throw of 87'11".

On Thursday, May 9, the Mid-Continent League Meet was held in Hill City and the Lady Jays placed runner-up as a team. Phillipsburg won the team title with 101 points, Norton scored 97 and Ellis tallied 71.5.

Field events results were: Melvin, first, shot, personal record 38'6"; third, discus, 113'5"; javelin, sixth, 107'5"; Bailey Ambrosier, first, pole vault, 10'; Esslinger, runner-up, pole vault, 9'6"; Engelbert, third, high jump, 4'8"; Jones, fifth, pole vault, 8'; Renner, fourth, triple jump, 31'; Jones, fifth, long jump, 14'10.75".

Running events results were: Bailey Ambrosier, runner-up, 400 meter dash, 1:04.82; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Bailey Ambrosier, Engelbert, Jones, Casey Ambrosier, first, 10:59.24; Engelbert, runner-up, 800 meter run, 2:37.46; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Engelbert, Bailey Ambrosier, Jones, Brooks, third, 4:36.98; Bainter, runner-up, 3200 meter run, 13:15.88; fourth, 1600 meter run, 6:06.68; Molly Maddy, fourth, 3200 meter run, 13:43.58.

The Class 3A Regional Track Meet was held in Holcomb on Friday, May 17 and the Norton girls placed fifth, qualifying seven for the State Track Meet. Melvin won the shot put with a heave of 35'9.5" and won the discus with a distance of 106'1". She was also sixth in the javelin with a throw of 109'3". Bailey Ambrosier tied for first in the pole vault at 10' and Esslinger tied for third at 9'6". The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Engelbert, Jones, Casey and Bailey Ambrosier, placed runner-up in



Norton senior Alec Melvin is pictured winning the shot put event in the Phillipsburg Invitational track meet earlier this season. She heaved the shot 35'2.5" at Phillipsburg and was a constant points scorer, not only in the shot but the discus and javelin. Alec was the points leader for the Norton girls track and field team again this season.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

10:38.02. Bainter was fourth in the 3200 meter run in 13:15.20. Renner placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 32'7.25".

Bailey Ambrosier was also sixth in the 400 meter dash in 1:03.71. Engelbert was sixth in the 800 meter run in 2:38.18.

The 103rd Kansas State Track & Field Meet was held Friday and Saturday, May 24-25 at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

The Norton girls placed 14th out of 57 teams in Class 3A. Bailey Ambrosier won her second consecutive state gold medal in the pole vault and broke her Norton record with a clearance of 10'8". Melvin placed runner-up in the discus with a throw of 121'1" and sixth in the shot put with a heave of 35'. The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Bailey Ambrosier, Jones, Casey Ambrosier and Engelbert placed seventh with a time of 10:19.4. Esslinger finished ninth in the pole vault at 8'6" and Bainter was 14th in

the 3200 meter run in 13:13.32.

## Coach's comments

"We are proud of the athletes and managers who formed the 2013 NCHS track and field team," said coach Jones. "They have given us success and tradition to build upon next year.

"We plan on returning 16 girls athletes next season. They have all gained valuable experience that will help them towards future successes. We sincerely hope those who graduated will take some of what they gained this year and previous years as Blue Jay athletes into their futures.

"We showed improvement all season and were competitive through post-season. We need to get better at some little things that can sometimes make a big difference and will focus on doing so next year.

"We enjoyed sharing the season with our athletes, are proud of them and look forward to the future with them."

## Legion splits openers

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton American Legion baseball team split a double header on Tuesday evening at Osborne to open their 2013 season.

The Blue Jays did not appear to be ready for the season to begin in the first game when the Bulldogs surprised them with a 21-0 shutout in two and one-half innings.

It was the difference between night and day in the second contest when the visiting Norton nine won an impressive 19-6 victory!

In the nightcap, Norton trailed 5-3 after four innings but was very competitive. The Blue Jays tied it at 6-all in the fifth inning and scored 13 more runs in the sixth to win going away!

Norton's lone run in the top of the first came when lead-off hitter Mickey Hahn tripled and scored later in the inning. Osborne tallied twice in the bottom of the second to take a 2-1 lead and added three more runs in the bottom of the third to make it 5-1.

Two more Norton runs in the top of the fourth cut the Osborne lead to 5-3. Lane Bigge got on base on an error, Toby Nickell singled and Gavin Lively got on base on an error. Bigge and Nickell both

scored.

Osborne was held scoreless in the bottom of the fourth.

In the top of the fifth, the Blue Jays scored three more runs to take a 6-5 lead. Hahn, Andrew Ellis and Trever Lewis singled, Bigge got on base on a fielder's choice, Nickell singled and Clint Cole singled. Hahn, Ellis and Bigge all scored.

The Bulldogs tied the score at 6-all with a solo home run by Ubelaker in the bottom of the fifth.

After that, it was all Blue Jays as Norton banged out nine hits in the top of the sixth and scored 13 runs to win decisively 19-6! Jordan Dole was hit by a pitch and walked, Jacob Green singled, Hahn tripled, Ellis singled, Lewis singled, Bigge singled, Clint Cole singled, Gavin Lively singled, Travis Cressler walked, Dole singled, Green, Hahn, Ellis and Lewis all walked and Bigge singled.

Norton had 19 hits in the game, eight walks and eight strike outs. Mickey Hahn was leading hitter, going a perfect 4 for 4 with the bat. Ellis was 2 for 3 while Lewis, Bigge, Cole and Lively were all 2 for 4 at the plate. Nickell was 3 for 5 batting.

Winning pitcher was Clint Cole, who allowed eight hits,

walked three batters and struck out four.

The losing pitcher was Clark.

"The first game, we were very nervous," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"They hit better than us, they pitched better than us and they won.

"In the second game, we played just like I knew we could play. Our defense was outstanding! Clint Cole pitched a great game. Gavin Lively made an outstanding catch. Mickey Hahn and Jordan Dole made good plays in the infield as did Toby Nickell.

"Osborne brought the same pitcher who pitched the first game to close out the second game and we scored 12 runs on him. We changed our approach at the plate and hit him very hard!

"Also, I can't say enough about how well we played defensively in the second game!"

## Next action

Norton was scheduled to play a double header at Colby this Sunday but it was postponed by the Eagles and will be played at a later date.

Norton will travel to Loomis, Neb. to play on Tuesday, beginning at 6 p.m.

*We are very proud  
of all the area athletes!*