

Another great year for Norton runners

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School 2013 girls and boys cross country teams produced tremendous seasons once again under the tutelage of fifth year head coach George Rossi.

The Norton girls won seven meet championships in addition to placing runner-up for the third straight year in the Class 3A State Meet. The Blue Jay boys, hampered by injuries most of the season, had one championship, two runner-up finishes, a third, fifth and sixth place and tenth place finish in the State Meet.

The Norton girls were winners of the Norton Invitational for the eighth year in a row and the Blue Jay boys won the league crown for the fifth straight year.

The Lady Jays were Mid-Continent League cross country champions for the sixth year in a row and the Norton boys, who had won the league title for nine straight years, placed runner-up.

Returning girls letter winners were: Katelyn Engelbert, Darcy Bainter, Marisa Maddy, seniors; Sierra Griffith, junior and Molly Maddy, sophomore. Other team members were junior Burgundy Sorter, sophomores Raenee Patterson and Kylie Perez and freshmen Shania Burns, Macayla Kent and Starla Tischhauser.

Returning boys lettermen were: Marc Miller, Alec Hager, seniors; Dalton Vanover, junior; Brendon Frack, sophomore. Other members were Keith Sander and Garret Otter, Kai-len Hawakara, seniors; David Smith, junior; Weston Erbert, Skylar Johnson, James King, sophomores and Nate Hartwell and Harrison Woodyard, freshmen.

Assistant coach was Lindsey Bailey and student manager was Jesika Smith.

Norton Invitational

The season opened with the annual Norton Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 5. The Norton girls fought off a strong Oberlin challenge to win their eighth straight championship and the Norton boys finished nine points ahead of Phillipsburg to earn their fifth championship in a row. Girls team points were: Norton, 42; Oberlin, 43; Wheatland, 69; Plainville, 75.

Sierra Griffith was fastest for Norton, placing fourth individually with a time of 17:40, followed by Darcy Bainter, fifth, 17:43; Marisa Maddy, 11th, 18:41; Katelyn Engelbert, 12th, 18:42; Molly Maddy, 13th, 19:09.

Boys team scores were: Norton, 35; Phillipsburg, 44; Plainville, 62; Oberlin, 84; Trego Community, 112.

Marc Miller hit the finish line first for the Blue Jays with a second place and time of 19:22, followed by Nate Hartwell, third, 19:40; Dalton Vanover, fourth, 19:53; Weston Erbert, 18th, 22:05; Keith Sander, 27th, 23:08. Also running for Norton was Garret Otter, 29th, 23:30.

The very competitive Wamego Invitational was held on Saturday, Sept. 14. The Norton girls won the championship for the fourth year in a row and the Blue Jay boys placed eighth. The boys were running without two of their top runners. The boys



Norton senior Marc Miller is pictured leading the Norton Community High School cross country team to a tenth place finish during the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm near Lawrence on Saturday, Nov. 2.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

were fourth last year and second the two previous years.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 60; Lenexa-Christ Prep, 64; Easton-Pleasant Ridge, 89; Sabetha, 124; Holcomb, 155; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 156; Silver Lake, 184; Riley County, 194; Lawrence-Bishop Seabury, 247; Scandia, 257. There were 107 girls runners. Griffith was first to finish for Norton again, placing second in 16:48, followed by Bainter, 11th, 17:34; Engelbert, 15th, 17:42; Molly Maddy, 17th, 18:07; Marisa Maddy, 30th, 18:54. Also running for Norton were Patterson, 33rd, 19:03; Sorter, 49th, 19:58.

Lenexa-Christ Prep won the boys title with 38 points, followed by TMP, 138; Silver Lake, 142; Sabetha, 153; Riley County, 153; Belleville, 164; Easton-Pleasant Ridge, 202; Norton, 209; Wellsville, 210; Holcomb, 214. There were 130 boys runners. Hartwell was first to the finish line for Norton with a 15th place and time of 18:57. He was followed by Miller, 16th, 18:58; Vanover, 38th, 19:55; Sander, 95th, 22:09; Erbert, 99th, 22:36. Also running for Norton was Otter, who placed 107th in 22:57.

Norton competed in the Hays Invitational on Thursday, Sept. 19. The Lady Jays won the championship for the third year in a row and the Norton boys placed sixth. Girls team scores were: Norton, 38; Ellinwood, 51; Colby, 88; Goodland, 88; Plainville, 110; TMP, 119. Griffith continued to lead the Norton girls with a fourth place in 16:59, followed by Bainter, sixth, 17:21; Engelbert, eighth, 17:34; Molly Maddy, tenth, 17:41; Marisa Maddy, 16th, 18:04. Also running for Norton was Patterson, 22nd, 18:40.

Boys champion was Ellinwood with 33 points, followed by Goodland, 57; TMP, 65;

Colby, 105; Plainville, 120; Norton, 123. Miller hit the finish line first for Norton in fourth with a time of 18:14, followed by Vanover, 23rd, 20:31; Otter, 37th, 22:16; Sander, 39th, 22:24; Erbert, 41st, 22:52. Also running for Norton was James King, who placed 42nd in 23:09.

The Blue Jays competed in the toughest meet of the year on Saturday, Sept. 28 when they ran in the Rim Rock Classic north of Lawrence. The Norton girls placed seventh out of 29 teams and 238 runners and the Blue Jay boys finished 33rd out of 35 teams and 285 runners. Girls champion was Park Hill, Mo, with 91 points, followed by Marantha Academy, 171; Smithville, Mo, 172; Tonganoxie, 181; Chanute, 211; Ellinwood, 237; Norton, 249. Bainter was fastest for Norton, finishing 54th in 17:50, followed by Molly Maddy, 55th, 17:50.01; Griffith, 70th, 18:10; Engelbert, 71st, 18:11; Marisa Maddy, 84th, 18:34. Also running for Norton were Patterson, 159th, 19:33 and Sorter, 206th, 20:58.

Boys champion was Hickman with 109 points, followed by Lenexa Christ Prep, 143; Wichita West, 171; Andover, 193; Grain Valley, 220; Pembroke Hill, 225; Girard, 244; Mulvane, 251; Tonganoxie, 296; Smithville, 322. Miller placed highest for the Norton boys with a 25th place and clocking of 18:06, followed by Vanover, 193rd, 20:58; Sander, 230th, 22:18; Otter, 236th, 22:42; Erbert, 238th, 22:53.

Near perfect weather greeted the runners at the annual Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday, Oct. 1. The Norton girls repeated as the champions and the Blue Jay boys placed second after eight straight championships. Girls team scores were: Norton, 44; Oberlin, 48; Colby, 64; Mc-



Lady Jay junior Sierra Griffith is shown setting the pace for her teammates during Norton's runner-up finish in the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm near Lawrence on Saturday, Nov. 2.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Cook, 78; Oakley, 116. Bainter was fastest for Norton, placing sixth in 17:12, followed by Griffith, seventh, 17:16; Engelbert, eighth, 17:17; Molly Maddy, 12th, 17:33; Marisa Maddy, 18th, 18:02. Also running for Norton were Patterson, 19th, 18:25 and Sorter, 26th, 19:37.

Boys team scores were: McCook, 28; Norton, 57; Colby, 68; Oberlin, 96; Oakley, 103. Miller successfully defended his individual championship from a year ago with a gold-medal winning time of 17:57. He was followed by Vanover, sixth, 18:57; Alec Hager, 15th, 19:51; Otter, 24th, 21:19; Erbert, 26th, 22:00. Also running for Norton was Sander, 32nd, 24:14. Hager had recovered from injuries and ran for the first time this season.

The Mid-Continent League Cross Country Meet was held on Thursday, Oct. 10 in Phillipsburg. For the sixth year in a row, the Lady Jays won the championship. The Norton boys had won the league championship for nine straight years but placed second. Girls team scores were: Norton, 17; TMP, 34; Plainville, 48; Oakley, 57. TMP and Oakley are new league members. The meet was also held as an invitational. Griffith was fastest for the Lady Jays with a second place finish and time of 17:21, followed by Bainter, fourth, 17:32; Marisa Maddy, seventh, 18:23; Engelbert, eighth, 18:42; Molly Maddy, ninth, 19:14. Also running for Norton was Patterson, 14th, 20:02.

Boys team scores were: Phillipsburg, 32; Norton, 39; TMP, 42; Plainville, 78; Hill City, 83; Smith Center, 89. Miller crossed the finish line in 18:55 to place third; followed by Hartwell, fifth, 19:05; Vanover, 15th, 20:00; Hager, 16th, 20:06; Sander, 36th, 22:20. Also running for Norton were: Otter,

37th, 22:34 and Erbert, 40th, 22:55.

The Norton runners traveled to Downs for the Lakeside Invitational on Thursday, Oct. 17. For the second year in a row, the Norton girls won the championship and the Norton boys placed fifth, the same as last year. Girls team scores were: Norton 67; Oberlin, 69; Sacred Heart of Salina, 70; Southeast of Salina, 77; TMP, 150; Minneapolis, 156; Beloit, 175; Lincoln, 178; Lakeside, 233; Pike Valley, 267. Griffith was fastest Norton girl with a sixth place finish in 16:58, followed by Bainter, ninth, 17:09; Marisa Maddy, 14th, 17:34; Engelbert, 23rd, 17:50; Molly Maddy, 26th, 17:56. Also running for the Norton girls were Patterson, 34th, 18:22; Sorter, 61st, 19:49.

Boys team scores were: TMP, 93; Sacred Heart of Salina, 96; Belleville, 97; Phillipsburg, 140; Norton, 142; Natoma, 161; Southeast of Salina, 163; Beloit, 185; Minneapolis, 222; Smith Center, 265; Tescott, 274; Stockton, 275; Lincoln, 302; Oberlin, 349. Miller led the way again for the Blue Jay boys, placing sixth in 18:17, followed by Hartwell, 11th, 18:41; Hager, 37th, 19:38; Vanover, 38th, 19:39; Sander, 64th, 20:48. Also running for Norton were Otter, 85th, 21:43; Erbert, 90th, 21:58.

The end of the season was near as the Norton girls and boys entered the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet in Ellsworth on Saturday, Oct. 26. The Lady Jays came through with a regional championship and the boys placed third, both qualifying for the upcoming State Meet. It was the fourth regional title in a row for the Lady Jays and the boys qualified for the State Meet for the fifth year in a row.

Girls team scores were: Norton, 43; Sacred Heart of Salina,

82; Southeast of Salina, 90; Holcomb, 119; Minneapolis, 132; TMP, 141; Lakin, 156; Beloit, 186; Cimarron, 187. Norton had three regional medalists: Griffith, fourth, 17:09; Bainter, sixth, 17:16 and Engelbert, ninth, 17:33. Marisa Maddy was 13th in 17:51 and Molly Maddy placed 16th in 18:08. Also running for the Norton girls were Patterson, 27th, 18:42; Sorter, 56th, 20:35.

Boys team scores were: Sacred Heart of Salina, 62; TMP, 82; Norton, 96; Holcomb, 117; Beloit, 143; Southeast of Salina, 146; Phillipsburg, 146. Miller was fastest for Norton with a fifth place in 18:38, followed by Hartwell, ninth, 18:48. Both young men medaled. They were followed by Vanover, 17th, 19:24; Hager, 20th, 19:30; Otter, 49th, 21:14. Also running for Norton were Sander, 55th, 21:35; Erbert, 64th, 22:57.

The big test was next with the State Meet being held at Rim Rock Farm on Saturday, Nov. 2. The Blue Jay runners came through once again. The Lady Jays placed second, the same as in 2011 and 2012 and to the same team, Douglass. The injury hampered Norton boys placed tenth after finishing third in 2012. It was the fifth straight year that both the Norton girls and boys had qualified for the state meet.

Girls team scores were: Douglass, 78; Norton, 81; Hiawatha, 94; Southeast of Salina, 109; Sacred Heart of Salina, 136; Atchison County, 146; Hutchinson Trinity, 161; Caney Valley, 189; Haven, 216; Pleasant Ridge, 233; Fredonia, 249; Council Grove, 259. Griffith placed 12th in 16:49 to become an All-State runner. She was followed by Bainter, 32nd, 17:50; Marisa Maddy, 38th, 17:57; Molly Maddy, 43rd, 18:05; Engelbert, 44th, 18:10. Also running were Patterson, 68th, 18:47; Sorter, 85th, 19:45.

Boys team scores were: Hesson, 88; Sacred Heart of Salina, 114; Riley County, 126; Hiawatha, 132; TMP, 145; Halstead, 151; Silver Lake, 152; Kansas City Christian, 155; Chaparral, 165; Norton, 194; Wellsville, 238; Council Grove, 304. Miller placed 19th for Norton with a clocking of 17:59 to earn All-State honors. He was followed by Hager, 42nd, season best time of 18:42; Hartwell, 52nd, 18:56; Vanover, 69th, 19:20; Sander, 89th, season best time of 20:15. Also running were Otter, 97th, personal best 20:59 and Erbert, 98th, season best of 21:30.

"What a wonderful season for our girls," said coach Rossi. "Our expectations were set very high and we were extremely disappointed when we found out we were runner-up to Douglass by a slim three-point margin."

"Our girls have every reason to hold their heads high. We won every race this season with the exception of the Rim Rock Classic and today."

"Our boys have been through a lot this year with injuries but they stuck together and fought their way to the state meet. We are very proud of their efforts this year."

Three Lady Jays chosen All-Mid-Continent League

By DICK BOYD

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The All-Mid-Continent League Volleyball Team for 2013 has been chosen by vote of the league coaches and three Norton Community High School players are among those honored.

Caitlyn Cox, a 5'10" freshman, was chosen to be the second team and Bailey Ambrosier, 5'9" senior and Katie Bohl, 6' junior, received honorable mention.

Named to the first team were three Phillipsburg players, 5'11" senior Mattison Dusin, 5'8"

senior Madysen Frantz and 5'5" junior Mindy Gower. Dusin was a repeat first team honoree and Frantz was a second team choice last year.

Also selected for the first team were Alexcia Deutscher, 5'8" Ellis sophomore, who was named to the second team last year; Lynzee Mace, 5'8" Smith Center senior, who received honorable mention last season; Drew Mann, 5'11" Smith Center junior; Mindy Gower, 5'5" Phillipsburg junior and Lexie McDowell, 5'10" Hill City sophomore.

Named to the second team

along with Norton's Cox were: Laura Dennis, 5'10" Oakley senior; Kaitlin Albert, 5'5" Smith Center senior; Cheyanne Hileman, 5'7" Smith Center junior and Shania Werner, 5'5" Plainville sophomore.

Receiving honorable mention along with the Lady Jays' Ambrosier and Bohl were: Jordan Baxter, 5'5" Smith Center senior; Kaleigh Soneson, 5'8" Ellis senior; Rilee Brown, 5'3" Stockton junior and Rachel Coomes, 6' Phillipsburg sophomore. Soneson received honorable mention last year, as well.

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