

Lady Jays finish second at Plainville Invitational

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School girls track team placed runner-up to Oberlin and the Blue Jay boys thinclads finished sixth out of nine teams in the annual Plainville Invitational Track Meet held last Tuesday.

Oberlin won the girls championship with 111 points, just edging Norton who scored 103. Third place went to Ellis with 98, followed by Russell, 70; Plainville, 67; Trego Community, 54; Victoria, 22; La Crosse, 17; Stockton, 15.

Boys team champion was La Crosse with 108 points, followed by Russell, 93; Plainville, 83; Stockton, 77; Ellis, 58; Norton, 51; Oberlin, 38; Victoria 37; Trego Community, 12.

"Overall, we had a great day!" said Norton head coach Jason Jones.

"It was windy all day long but, for the most part, our athletes fought through that pretty well.

"We had some things that did not go as planned but that is to be expected in early meets. On the flip side, we saw some outstanding performances from some of our people in this meet. That is exciting.

"We did post new personal records in various areas on both sides and that is always what we want to see.

"We are very proud of the effort our athletes are giving and we are excited about these teams' future as we move towards our

championship season."

GIRLS

Norton senior Darcy Bainter had a tremendous day in the distance races, winning gold medals in both the 3200 meter and 1600 meter races! Darcy was timed in a personal best time of 5:58.21 in winning the 1600 meters and was clocked in 13:01.81 in the 3200 meters. In the 3200 meters, she finished over 50 seconds ahead of the second place runner.

Norton's other gold medal was won by senior Bailey Ambrosier in the pole vault where she cleared 9'6". Bailey also placed third in the 400 meter dash in 1:05.88.

Senior Cristine Nelson had a good day throwing weights. She finished second in the shot put with a distance of 30'4" and set a personal record with a throw of 99'3" for a third place finish in the discus.

Two of Norton's relays also won silver medals. The Lady Jays' 4 x 400 meter relay team of junior Sierra Griffith, sophomore Casey Ambrosier, senior Katelyn Engelbert and Bailey Ambrosier finished second in 4:28.02.

The same foursome also finished second in the 4 x 800 meter relay with a clocking of 10:52.94.

Junior Kenzie Esslinger finished runner-up behind Ambrosier in the pole vault with a clearance of 9'.

Griffith placed second in the



Norton senior Cristine Nelson releases the discus during competition in the Plainville Invitational Track Meet on April 22. Cristine set a personal record with a 99'3" throw to place third and also finished second in the shot put with a distance of 30'4".

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

300 meter hurdles in 52.32.

The Lady Jays' 4 x 100 meter relay team of freshman Baylee Miller, junior Burgundy Sorter, freshman Caitlyn Cox and Engelbert finished third in 54.53.

Sophomore Raenee Patterson placed fourth in the 3200 meter run in 14:40.72.

Sophomore Peyton Renner finished fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 30'5.5".

Miller placed fifth in the high jump by clearing 4'8".

Earning one point each with sixth place finishes were Cox,

84'3", javelin; 30.20, 200 meter dash; 1:10.90, 400 meter dash; freshman Miah Melvin, 7', pole vault; Casey Ambrosier, 2:47.59, 800 meter run.

Performances by Lady Jays which did not place were: sophomore Dakota Rose, personal record 79'1", 12th, discus; Dakota Rose, 59'6", 15th, javelin; Peyton Renner, 13'9", 11th, long jump; sophomore Hanna Brooks, 12'9.75", 14th, long jump; Casey Ambrosier, 29'7.5", 7th, triple jump; Burgundy Sorter, 15.28, ninth, 100 meter dash; Hanna

Brooks, 15.63, 11th; 100 meter dash; Miah Melvin, 16.19, 15th, 100 meter dash; Hanna Brooks, 31.07, 8th, 200 meter dash; Peyton Renner, 32.34, 11th, 200 meter dash; Miah Melvin, 1:16.91, 12th, 400 meter dash.

BOYS

The Norton boys had two individual champions, senior Austin Hager in the pole vault and senior Marc Miller in the 1600 meter run.

Austin cleared 12'6" in the pole vault and Marc was timed in 5:07.18.

Junior Kobie Unterseher finished behind Austin for second place in the pole vault by clearing a height of 10'6".

Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, sophomore Jordan Dole, sophomore Gavin Lively and senior Tanner Furbush placed third in 45.88. They were only 36 hundredths of a second out of first!

Finishing fifth were: Dole, 18'3", long jump; personal best 24.52, 200 meter dash; Furbush, 37'4", triple jump; junior Deon Lyle, 5'6", high jump; junior Jordan Karnopp, 20.25, 110 meter hurdles; sophomore Ryan Thraikill, 5:40.62, 1600 meter run.

Also finishing fifth was Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of Unterseher, junior Christian Boser, Dole and junior Conor Cox. They were timed in 3:49.71.

Finishing in sixth were senior Travis Cressler, 128.11", javelin

and freshman Koby McEwen, 5'6", high jump and personal best 48.25, 300 meter hurdles.

Performances by Norton boys which did not place were: sophomore Cameron Heikes, personal best 37'8", tenth, shot put; freshman Jacob Green, 37'4.75", 11th, shot put; junior Mickey Hahn, 35'8", 15th, shot put; Mickey Hahn, personal best 127', 7th, discus; Conor Cox, 121'10", ninth, discus; Jacob Green, 110'2", 11th, discus; Cameron Heikes, 114', 11th, javelin; Tanner Furbush, 17'5", 8th, long jump; Christian Boser, 34'5.75", 13th, triple jump; Koby McEwen, 34'5.5", 14th, triple jump; Jordan Karnopp, 48.75, 8th, 300 meter hurdles; Gavin Lively, 12.44, 10th, 100 meter dash; junior Derick Campbell, 12.49, 14th, 100 meter dash; Tanner Furbush, 12.60, 17th, 100 meter dash; Gavin Lively, 25.49, 11th, 200 meter dash; Christian Boser, 25.91, 15th, 200 meter dash; Unterseher, 59.35, tenth, 400 meter dash; Campbell, personal best 1:00.22, 14th, 400 meter dash; Cox, 1:05.56, 16th, 400 meter dash; Cressler, Hahn, Heikes, Green, 49.63, 4 x 100 meter relay.

Next action

The Norton varsity girls and boys will compete next in the annual Goldsmith Relays this Friday, May 2, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Blue Jays face toughest competition yet at Phillipsburg

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams faced their toughest competition yet this season on Friday in the Phillipsburg Invitational Track Meet.

The Norton girls finished fifth and the Blue Jay boys placed seventh.

Beloit won the girls championship with 127.67 points, followed by Concordia, 92.5; Phillipsburg, 76.5; Russell, 76; Norton, 66.5; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 58; Smith Center, 54.

Beloit also won the boys championship with 150 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 114; TMP-Marian, 92; Smith Center, 72; Russell, 61; Concordia, 36; Norton, 32.

"Our athletes competed hard and well," said Norton head coach Jason Jones. "This is a good meet for us as it offers us the most competitive field we've seen.

"The weather was ideal; our athletes stepped up in some areas and we were able to establish some new personal records.

"We are proud of both of our teams and look forward to the very competitive Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney on Friday."

GIRLS

Senior Bailey Ambrosier continued to dominate the pole vault event, winning with a clearance of 9'6".

Junior Kenzie Esslinger tied for fourth place with a vault of 8'6".

Senior Darcy Bainter looked strong again in the distance running as she won the gold medal in the 3200 meter run in 13:05.08. Darcy also won a gold medal in the 4 x 800 meter relay along with junior Sierra Griffith, senior Katelyn Engelbert and sophomore Casey Ambrosier. They were timed in 10:37.82.

Griffith, Casey Ambrosier,

Engelbert and Bailey Ambrosier ran in the 4 x 400 meter relay race and finished third in 4:21.37.

Griffith placed third in the 1600 meter run in 6:08.95 and freshman Baylee Miller finished third in the high jump with a clearance of 4'10".

Freshman Caitlyn Cox set a personal record of 98'3" with a fourth place finish in the javelin. Bailey Ambrosier placed fourth in the 800 meter run in 2:35.86 and Engelbert was right behind her in fifth with a clocking of 2:47.77.

Fifth place finishes went to senior Cristine Nelson, 31'2.75", shot put and 92'4", discus.

Sophomore Raenee Patterson placed sixth in the 3200 meter run in 14:28.01. Griffith finished sixth in the 300 meter hurdles in 51.26.

Performances by Norton girls which did not place were: freshman Kira Robertson, 27'1", tenth; freshman Josie Otter, 25'4", 12th, shot put; sophomore Dakota Rose, 74'7", 11th, discus; freshman Miah Melvin, 70'2", 13th; Dakota Rose, personal best 61'5", 16th, javelin; sophomore Peyton Renner, 13'6.5", 12th; sophomore Hanna Brooks, 12'10", 15th, long jump; Peyton Renner, 31'3.5", ninth; Casey Ambrosier, 30'3.25", 12th, triple jump; Miah Melvin, 7', ninth, pole vault; Baylee Miller, 14.45, 13th; junior Burgundy Sorter, 15.25, 15th, 100 meter dash; Caitlyn Cox, 29.21, tenth; Burgundy Sorter, 31.15, 12th; Hanna Brooks, 35.36, 15th, 200 meter dash; Caitlyn Cox, personal best 1:09.89, 8th; Miah Melvin, personal best 1:12.92, 9th, 400 meter dash; Baylee Miller, Katelyn Engelbert, Burgundy Sorter, Caitlyn Cox, 54/21, 7th, 4 x 100 meter relay.

BOYS

Senior Austin Hager continued to display his expertise in the pole vault, winning the



The battle for second place in the 1600 meter run in the Phillipsburg Invitational Track Meet was a photo finish between Phillipsburg's Wyatt Ratzlaff, left, and Norton's Marc Miller. Officials determined that Ratzlaff hit the finish line two hundredths of a second before Miller!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

event with a 13'6" clearance.

Senior Marc Miller and Phillipsburg's Wyatt Ratzlaff had a photo finish for second place in the 1600 meter run, which was also named the John Mason Mile. Ratzlaff edged Miller. He was clocked in 4:48.83 and Miller had a personal best time of 4:48.85.

Winner of the race was Beloit's Alex Conn, who was timed in 4:28.77.

Conn received the traveling trophy from John Mason, former All-American runner for Fort Hays State University. Mason ran the equivalent of 31 times under the four-minute mile!

Blue Jay junior Deon Lyle set a personal record when he cleared 5'10" to finish fourth in

the high jump. Freshman Koby McEwen placed fifth in the high jump with clearance of 5'8".

Freshman Jacob Green finished fifth in the shot put with a personal best heave of 42'.

Two Norton relays finished fifth. The 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, sophomore Jordan Dole, sophomore Gavin Lively and senior Tanner Furbush was timed in 45.72 and the Blue Jay 4 x 800 meter relay team of sophomore Ryan Thraikill, freshman Cruz Leon, freshman Trenton Wright and junior Jordan Karnopp was clocked in 9:58.99.

Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of junior Kobie Unterseher, junior Christian Boser, Dole and junior Conor Cox finished sixth in 3:44.20.

Junior varsity golfers kick-off season in Hill City

By **DICK BOYD**

The Norton Community High School Junior Varsity Golf Team opened their 2014 season on April 17 in the Hill City JV Golf Tournament.

No team scores were kept.

Norton's individual scores were: sophomore Nick Peterson, 48; freshman Mitchell Hickman, 57; sophomore James Berry, 58; freshman Layton

Miller, 58; freshman Will Ellis, 59.

"It was a good start to our junior varsity season," said Norton head coach David Stover.

"We were able to get many players on the course for the first time this season and, for their first tournament, they did very well.

"The highlight of the day was the play of Nick Peterson,

shooting a career-tournament low and earning the first NCHS medal of the season.

"We look to build off today's experience and continue to improve as the season rolls on."

Tournament medalists were: Ryan Allen, Stockton, 46; Wade Niermeier, Hoxie, 46; Tanner Townley, Trego, 46; Matt Stutsman, Northern Valley, 48; Nick Peterson, Norton,

48; Caden Kemp, Trego, 49; Clay Ward, Phillipsburg, 49; Zack McLaughlin, Plainville, 49; Blake Vrbas, Plainville, 50; Braden Mishler, Trego, 50; Larissa Howard, Trego, 50; Dylan Hamilton, Ness City, 52; Colten Bach, Northern Valley, 52.

The Norton Junior Varsity Team's next action will be in their own Invitational May 6 on the Prairie Dog Golf Course.

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