

Norton Blue Jays have successful season

By DICK BOYD

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Under the guidance of eighth year head coach Jason Jones, the Norton Community High School boys track and field team had another successful season in 2014.

They had only one meet championship, the Norton Invitational, but were competitive in all other meets.

High point scorer was senior Austin Hager with an even 100 points.

Coach Jones announced the following letter winners for the 2014 season: Travis Cressler, Tanner Furbush, Austin Hager, Trevor Lewis, Marc Miller, seniors; Christian Boser, Derick Campbell, Conor Cox, Jordan Karnopp, Deon Lyle, Kobie Unterseher, Stewart Whitney (provisional), juniors; Tevin Brown, Jordan Dole, Brendon Frack (provisional), Gavin Lively, Ryan Thrailkill, sophomores; Jacob Green, Tyus Henson, Cruz Leon, Koby McEwen, Trenton Wright, freshmen.

Manager was Dawn Herring. Assistant coaches again this season were: Dale Engelbert, Lucas Melvin, Doug Reusink and Jeremy Hawks.

Season review
The Smith Center JV Meet on Monday, April 17 opened the season for Norton and the junior varsity Blue Jay boys placed fourth. Freshman Koby McEwen won two gold medals. He was first in the high jump at 5'8" and first in the 300 meter hurdles in 49.84. He also placed third in the triple jump with a distance of 33'11.5". Junior Breven Sondergaard was second in the javelin with a throw of 124'6". Freshman Cruz Leon placed second in the 400 meter dash in 1:04.89 and junior David Smith finished third in the 800 meter run in 3:15.97. Sophomore Cameron Heikes placed third in the discus with a personal record throw of 106'2". Freshman Trenton Wright was third in the 400 meter dash in 1:08.80 and Heikes also placed fourth in the javelin with a throw of 120'7". Wright finished fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 30'3.75" and Sondergaard placed sixth in the shot put with a heave of 34'10".

The Norton Invitational Track Meet was held at Travis Field on the Jep Byrum Track on Friday, April 11 and the Norton boys won the championship! The Blue Jays scored 154 points, followed by Oberlin, 137; Northern Valley, 131; Colby, 62; Smith Center, 27; Logan, 14. "We had a lot of positive surprises and solid performances for this early in the season," said coach Jones.

Senior Austin Hager cleared 12'6" to win the pole vault. Senior Travis Cressler won the javelin with a personal record throw of 142'4". Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, junior Kobie Unterseher, sophomore Jordan Dole and sophomore Tevin Brown won gold medals with a time of 45.46. The 4 x 400 meter relay team of senior Trevor Lewis, Unterseher, junior Christian Boser and junior Conor Cox also won gold medals with a clocking of 3:49.43.

Freshman Nate Hartwell also won a gold medal in the 3200 meter run with a time of 11:48.18. Brown won the 100 meter dash in 11.61. Senior Tanner Furbush placed second in the triple jump with a distance of 39'6". Lewis placed second in the long jump with a personal record leap of 20'3". Junior Deon Lyle placed second in the high jump with a clearance of 5'8". Freshman Jacob Green finished second in the discus with a throw of 113'6". A second Norton 4 x 100 meter relay team placed second in 46.77. Members of that team were Derick Campbell, sophomore Gavin Lively, Lewis and Furbush.

Sophomore Ryan Thrailkill finished third in the 1600 meter run in 5:41.83 and fifth in the 800 meter run in 2:44.03. Freshman Koby McEwen finished second in the high jump at 5'8", fifth in the triple jump with a personal best distance of 35'7" and fifth in the 300 meter hurdles in a personal record time of 48.81. Cox finished third in the

discus with a personal record throw of 109'6" and Lyle was fourth in the triple jump with a distance of 36'4.5". Other fourth place finishes were: Unterseher, 10'6", pole vault; Furbush, personal record 18'9.75", long jump; 24.73, 200 meter dash; Green, 38'7.75", shot put; Cox, 57.46, 400 meter dash; junior Jordan Karnopp, 20.72, 110 meter hurdles.

The Norton boys competed in the Redmen Relays on Tuesday, April 15 and placed fifth as a team. Beloit won the championship with 164 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 125; Thayer Central, 117; Smith Center, 105; Norton, 38; Belleville, 34; Pike Valley, 24; Marysville, 14; Thunder Ridge, 13.

Hager was Norton's only gold medal winner. He cleared 13'6" to win the pole vault. Hager, Jordan Dole, Gavin Lively and Tanner Furbush ran in the 4 x 100 meter relay and placed third in 46.65. Other Norton placings were: Dole, third, 200 meter dash, 25.14; Lewis, fourth, long jump, 19'2.25"; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Dole, Unterseher, Boser and Cox, fourth, 3:43.53; Tevin Brown, fourth, 100 meter dash, 12.08; Lively, fifth, 100 meter dash, 12.36; Lyle, fifth, high jump, 5'8"; weight relay of Cressler, Mickey Hahn, Green and Sondergaard, fourth, 51.79.

The Trego JV Meet was held on Monday, April 21, in WaKeeney. Norton scored 14 points and set five personal records. Trenton Wright placed second in the 800 meter run in 2:31.96. Cruz Leon finished third in the 400 meter dash in 1:01.95.

The Plainville Invitational Track Meet was held on Tuesday, April 22 and Norton placed sixth out of nine teams. The Blue Jays had two champions: Hager in the pole vault and Marc Miller in the 1600 meter run. Austin cleared 12'6" and Marc was timed in 5:07.18. Kobie Unterseher placed second in the pole vault with a clearance of 10'6". Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Lively and Furbush placed third in 45.88. Their time was 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; Lyle, 5'6", high jump; Karnopp, 20.25, 110 meter hurdles; Thrailkill, 5:40.62, 1600 meter run; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Unterseher, Boser, Dole and Cox, 3:49.71.

Norton competed in the Phillipsburg Invitational Track Meet on Friday, April 25 and placed seventh. Beloit won the title with 150 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 114; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 92; Smith Center, 72; Russell, 61; Concordia, 36; Norton, 32. "This was a good meet for us because it was the most competitive meet we've seen," said coach Jones. Hager won the pole vault again with a clearance of 13'6". Miller and Phillipsburg's Wyatt Ratzlaff had a photo finish for second in the 1600 meter run, also known as the John Mason Mile, in honor of the former All-American runner. Ratzlaff was timed in 4:48.83 and Miller in a personal record time of 4:48.85! Alex Conn, Beloit, was the winner of the race and the traveling trophy.

Lyle set a personal best of 5'10" to place fourth in the high jump and McEwen placed fifth in the high jump at 5'8". Green finished fifth in the shot put with a personal record heave of 42'. Two Norton relays placed fifth. The 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Lively and Furbush was timed in 45.72 and the 4 x 800 meter relay team of Thrailkill, Leon, Wright and Karnopp was clocked in 9:58.99. Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of Unterseher, Boser, Dole and Cox finished sixth in 3:44.20.

The Blue Jay boys finished fourth in the Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney on Friday, May 2. Goodland won with 125 points, followed by Thomas More Prep-Hays, 101; Wichita County, 69; Norton, 53; Plainville, 42.5; Colby, 42; Ness City, 36; Victoria, 30.5; Oakley, 18; Trego, 14; Oberlin, 11.



Norton senior Austin Hager had a state championship in mind for four years of competing in the pole vault in the Class 3A Kansas State Track & Field Meet in Wichita and finally reached that goal this season! He is shown here during his competition in the state meet, where he cleared 14' to win the gold medal!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

"We had a great meet," said Norton coach Jones. "Many of our athletes really improved on their previously posted times and distances." Norton had three runner-up finishes. Hager was second in the pole vault with a clearance of 13'6". Lewis long jumped 19'7.25" for second and the 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Furbush and Lively was second in 45.60. Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of Unterseher, Boser, Dole and Lewis was third in 3:39.57. Green placed third in the shot with a heave of 42'2" and Lyle was third in the high jump at 5'10". Dole placed fourth in the 200 meter dash with a personal record time of 24.34; Miller placed fifth in the 800 meter run in 2:06.54 and Unterseher placed fifth in the pole vault with a personal record clearance of 11'6".

The Oberlin Invitational Meet was held on Tuesday, May 6 and Norton placed third as a team. Winner was Smith Center with 122.5 points followed by Hoxie, 102.5; Norton, 96; Oakley, 64; Atwood, 61.5; St. Francis, 41; Oberlin, 38; Wheatland, 30.5; Phillipsburg, 2.

Highlight of the meet for Norton was four Blue Jays winning gold medals! Hager won the pole vault at 13'6", Lewis long jumped a personal record distance of 20'4.75" for the gold, Miller won the 800 meter run in 2:04.99 and Jacob Green set a personal record of 42'10.25" in winning the shot put event!

Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Furbush and Lively placed second but had an excellent time of 45.37. Lyle finished runner-up in the high jump at 5'8"; Thrailkill was third in the 1600 meter run with a personal record time of 5:25.97; Boser placed third in the 400 meter dash with a personal best of 55.89; Unterseher was fourth in the 400 meter dash with a personal record time of 56.76; the foursome of Thrailkill, Wright, Leon and Karnopp placed third in the 4 x 800 meter relay in a time of 9:47.50; the 4 x 400 meter team of Unterseher, Boser, Dole and Lewis was fourth in 3:42.20; McEwen finished fourth in the high jump at 5'6"; Lively was fourth in the 100 meter dash in a personal record time of 11.49; Furbush placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 37'9"; Dole finished fifth in the 200 meter dash with a personal best clocking of 24.25; Lewis placed sixth in the 200 meter dash with a personal record time of 24.38; Furbush finished sixth in the long jump with a leap of 17'10".

Norton competed in the Rus-

sell Relays on Friday, May 9 and placed sixth as a team. Phillipsburg won the championship with 131 points, followed by Beloit, 95; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 80; Russell, 68; Scott City, 60; Norton, 43; Hoisington, 42; Minneapolis, 25.

Deon Lyle was the only gold medal winner for Norton. He cleared the high jump bar for a personal record height of 6'2". Trevor Lewis placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20'4.5"; Miller finished second in the 800 meter run with a personal best time of 2:03.36; the 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Furbush and Lively was third in the excellent time of 45.71; Hager placed fourth in the pole vault at 13'6"; Green was fourth in the shot put with a personal best of 44'9.5"; Lively

placed fifth in the 100 meter dash in 11.84; Dole finished sixth in the 200 meter dash in 24.39.

The Mid-Continent League Track Meet was held Thursday, May 15 in Phillipsburg and Norton placed sixth. Phillipsburg won the championship with 123 points, followed by Thomas More Prep-Hays, 101; Smith Center, 82; Plainville, 69; Stockton, 62; Norton, 55; Ellis, 29; Oakley, 24; Hill City, 10. Miller earned a gold medal in the 1600 meter run with a personal best time of 4:47.33. His time ranked in the top ten in the Hays Daily News and Salina Journal honor rolls. Miller also placed second in the 800 meter run with an excellent time of 2:07.13.

Lewis placed second in the long jump with a leap of 20'1.5 and Green was second in the shot put with a heave of 42'9.25". Hager placed third in the pole vault at 13'6". Sam Dreiling, TMP, won with a vault of 14' and L.T. Meitler, Smith Center, placed second at 13'6" with fewer misses than Hager.

Other Norton placings were: Lyle, fourth, high jump, 6'; 4 x 800 meter relay team of Lewis, Tyus Henson, Thrailkill, Cruz Leon, third, 9:25.76; 4 x 400 meter relay team of Unterseher, Cox, Dole and Lewis, fourth, 3:40.35; Lively, sixth, 100 meter dash, 11.92; 4 x 100 meter relay team missed a handoff and had no time.

The Class 3A Regional Track Meet was held in Phillipsburg on Friday, May 23. It was considered to be the toughest regional track meet in the state. Beloit was the champion with 108 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 94; Hesston, 65; Sacred Heart of Salina, 57; Marion, 46; TMP, 37; Southeast of Salina, 30; Minneapolis, 27; Norton, 24.

Hager cleared 14' to win the pole vault championship and successfully defend his regional championship from 2013. Lyle placed second in the high jump with a personal record height of 6'4". Lyle tied the eventual winner with his height but had more misses.

Since the top four finishers in each event qualified for the upcoming state meet, a number of fifth place finishers for Norton barely missed the trip to Wichita. One was Miller in

the 800 meter run. He was timed 2:03.80, which just missed qualifying by less than two seconds! Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Dole, Furbush and Lively was timed in 45.32 and just missed qualifying by two hundredths of a second! The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Miller, Lewis, Leon and Henson was timed in 8:54.22.

The 104th Kansas State Track & Field Meet was held on Friday and Saturday, May 30-31 at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

With all enrollment classes competing, it is the largest high school track meet in the nation!

Austin Hager reached his goal by winning the pole vault with another clearance of 14'. "He finished his high school career by winning an individual state championship!" said coach Jones. "A four year state meet competitor in that event, he closed his career with the finish he has been working towards for four years!"

Dreiling of TMP and Jackson Meyer, Rock Creek, also cleared 14' but Hager had fewer misses. Lyle placed third in the high jump by tying his personal record of 6'4". He was edged for second by Ryan Mayorga, TMP, who had fewer misses. Mayorga also edged Lyle for the championship with fewer misses in the regional meet.

Coach's comments
"We are proud of our team members; they found success in many ways," said coach Jones. "Additionally, they have given us more success to build upon next year."

"We hope and plan to return 17 athletes from our boys' team who have all gained valuable experience from this season."

"As always, we sincerely hope those who have graduated will be able to take some of what they gained as individuals from us this year and over their years as Blue Jay track and field athletes to their futures. We will miss them deeply."

"As a team, we showed improvement all season long and we were also competitive all year long. Most of our athletes responded well when needed and found a way to do their very best. We enjoyed sharing the season with them, are proud of them and look forward to the future with them."

BLUE JAY SPORTS CAMP

JULY 15 THROUGH JULY 17 — GRADES 1-8

Grades 1-4 Volleyball, 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (Stull Gymnasium)	_____
Grades 5-8 Volleyball, 10:15 a.m.-noon (Stull Gymnasium)	_____
Grades 3-5 Football, 9 a.m.-10 a.m. (Practice Football Field)	_____
Grades 6-8 Football, 10:15 a.m.-noon (Practice Football Field)	_____
Grades 1-4 Girls Basketball, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (East Campus)	_____
Grades 5-8 Girls Basketball, 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (East Campus)	_____
Grades 1-4 Boys Basketball, 1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. (Stull Gymnasium) _____	_____
Grades 5-8 Boys Basketball, 2:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. (Stull Gymnasium) _____	_____

Volleyball: Christine Thompson; Football: Lucas Melvin; Girls' Basketball: George Rossi; Boys' Basketball: Joe Cox

Cost: (Volleyball and Girls Basketball)

Grades 1 through 4	One Sport - \$20.00; Two Sports - \$30.00
Grades 5 through 8	One Sport - \$30.00; Two Sports - 45.00

Cost: (Football and Boys Basketball)

First Session Football or Basketball	\$20.00
First Session Football and Basketball	\$30.00
First Session Football and Second Session Basketball	\$30.00
Second Session Football or Basketball	\$30.00
Second Session Football and Basketball	\$45.00

Each camper will receive a Blue Jay Sports Camp T-shirt for attending!

Return the bottom portion of the registration form along with payment to
Lucas Melvin, 711 West Crane, Norton, Kansas 67654

REGISTRATION IS DUE BY JULY 7 TO INSURE T-SHIRT THE FIRST DAY OF CAMP!

Name: _____ Grade Entering Fall '14 _____

Name or Nickname on T-Shirt _____

Shirt Size: Youth Small (6-8); Youth Medium (10-12); Youth Large (14-16)
 Men's Small (34-36); Men's Medium (38-40); Men's Large (42-44)

Sports: Football (3-5); Football (6-8) Volleyball (1-4); Volleyball (5-8)
 Girls Bball (1-4); Girls Bball (5-8); Boys Bball (1-4); Boys Bball (5-8)

PARENTAL OR GUARDIAN RELEASE: We (I) give permission for the enrollment of _____ in the 2014 Blue Jay Sports Camp.

We (I) hereby release the camp staff from any claim on account of any accidental injury during the time of the camp. _____

(Signature) Please note any physical problems your child has that the staff needs to be aware of _____

The Blue Jay Sports Camp is an individual undertaking and is not sponsored by or affiliated with USD #211