

Norton runners win own meet

BY DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School cross country team won the boys varsity championship in the Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday at the Prairie Dog Course south of Norton.

It was the 2004 season opener for Norton.

Team scores were: Norton, 48; Wheatland, 57; Trego, 92; Phillipsburg, 103; Hoxie, 112; Ness City, 112; Oberlin, 145; and Ellis, 170.

Chris Dickman, Wheatland, was the boys winner in 19-minutes, 17-seconds for the three-mile course. Norton senior Derek Volgamore was right behind him in second place with a clocking of 19:23.

Just one second separated the next three runners. Wheatland's Andrew Mense was timed in 19:39 and Tanner McNich, Ness City, was fourth in 19:40. Norton sophomore Logan Keiswetter finished one second behind him for fifth place in 19:41.

Norton sophomore Jared Engelbert placed tenth with a time of 20:11 and fellow sophomore Kent Mann was right behind him in 11th place with a clocking of 20:16.

Other boys varsity finishers for Norton were junior Jeremy Harding, 22nd, 21:45; freshman David Couter, 25th, 22:18; and junior Jake Kramer, a transfer from Jennings High School, 36th, 23:57.

Wheatland won the girls varsity championship with 17 points, followed by Trego, 38, and Oberlin, 65.

Norton's top finisher was junior Karlie Jones who placed fifth in 16:26 for the two-mile course.

Senior Crista Rhoades placed 27th with a time of 20:27.

Junior Amber Overlease was among the leaders but fell during the race and did not finish.

Sydnee Cole, Phillipsburg, was the individual girls varsity champion with a time of 15:30. She was followed by Anna Albers, Wheatland, 15:41; Allee Gillespie, Wheatland, 15:59; and Carissa Heim, Hoxie, 16:08.

The Norton junior varsity boys runners did well. Junior Jon Harding placed second in 23:04. Freshman Andrew Black was fourth in 24:21 and junior Nathan Morse was fifth in



Norton senior Derek Volgamore (left) and Blue Jay sophomore Logan Keiswetter challenged a Wheatland runner for the lead during the Norton Invitational Cross Country meet on Thursday. Volgamore finished in second place and Keiswetter was fifth as the Blue Jays won the team championship. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd.

24:58.

"Wow, what a great season's start this was for Norton cross country," said Coach Hager. "Our boys did a great job as a team and individually. Derek ran great and just got caught at the last second. Logan was battling some health issues but ran through them and finished in a good spot for our team."

"Jared and Kent ran great for their first time as varsity runners on the cross country team. Their tenth and 11th spots helped us win the team title. I told Jeremy that it was up to him if we were going to keep the meet championship at home for the first time and he did a great job. David did a super job and ran the course faster than he has so far this season."

"If our girls were all healthy, I could have seen what they are capable of doing on a very tough course. Karlie ran great. I was not expecting her to finish that high in her first race as a cross country runner. Crista ran well; she is not totally in

condition but is very close. Amber was battling some sickness and just could not finish the race. Sophomore Morgan Bailey came up with a knee injury a few days before the meet and was not able to finish this extremely tough course."

"Our junior varsity boys did a great job, too. Jon came out and ran really hard and Andrew ran very well despite not having a great time in the first three weeks of the season. Nathan did a great job but is not quite in the condition he needs to be."

"Overall, we did a super job in our season opening meet."

NEXT ACTION

This Saturday, Norton will compete in the Wamego Cross Country Meet on the golf course at Wamego. Competition will begin at 10:30 a.m.

There will be no room for sickness or mistakes on this very hard course," said Coach Hager. "I love having to go back to back on two very hard courses. It will show us what we are made of."

BY DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School girls tennis team opened the season on August 28 with a seventh place finish in the Trego Round Robin Tournament, then tied Plainville in a dual last Tuesday.

TREGO TOURNAMENT

Russell won the championship with 28 points, followed by Trego, 25; Phillipsburg, 20; a mixed team, 19; Colby, 15; Tribune, 14; Norton, 12; Plainville, 7.

Senior Jessi Duscher played No. 1 singles for Norton. She lost 5-8 to Celine Coorcet, Tribune; 4-8 to Brittney Parke, Trego; and 6-8 to Logan Wark, Colby, of the mixed team in round play. In the finals, she defeated Melinda Schremmer, Phillipsburg, 8-7 (7-4) to place seventh.

Norton's No. 1 doubles team of senior Keesha Holste and sophomore Hannah Mills also placed seventh. They lost 4-8 to Emily Howard and Lindsay Wineinger of Tribune; 1-8, to Emily Deines and Melia Mattke, Trego; and 5-8 to Audrey Krug and Mallory

Maloney, Russell, in round play. In the finals, they defeated Katie Nicholas and Vanessa Owings, Plainville, 8-2, to place seventh.

Junior Samantha Brasted played No. 2 singles for Norton and placed sixth. In round play, she defeated Kala Reynolds, Tribune, 8-3; lost 1-8, to Leanna Newcomer, Trego; and lost 7-8 (6-8) to Rashaun Wilson, Colby, of the mixed team. In the finals, she lost 2-8 to Francesca Moroni, Colby.

Norton's No. 2 doubles team of senior Sara Johnson and sophomore Ressa Volgamore finished in fourth place. In round play, they defeated Tribune's Kara Wendt and Rachel St. John, 8-6; defeated Trego's Julia Albin, and Samantha Augustine, 8-6; and lost 7-8 to Cassie Dietz and Kacey Armbruster, Trego, on the mixed team.

In the finals, they lost 6-8, to Jessica Gudenkauf and Jaycee Gfeller, Russell.

PLAINVILLE

The Lady Jays won four and lost four to tie Plainville in varsity play.

In No. 1 singles, Duscher lost 7-8 (1-6) to Bjornstad in the first

round, then defeated Owings 8-7 (7-5) in the next round.

Holste and Mills defeated Nicholas and Amber Cooper 8-2 in No. 1 doubles and defeated Emily Jones and Husmann 8-5 in the next round.

In No. 2 singles, Brasted lost 8-3 to Owings in the first round, and lost 3-8 to Bjornstad in the second round.

Norton's No. 2 doubles team of Johnson and Volgamore lost 6-8 to Jones and Husmann in the first round and defeated Nicholas and Cooper 8-5 in the next round.

JUNIOR VARSITY

Plainville had only six players so they competed at the junior varsity level, too. Sophomore Kayleigh Brooks played No. 1 singles for Norton's junior varsity. She lost 0-6 to Bjornstad. In No. 1 doubles, junior Jessica Cook and sophomore Lisa Jones lost 4-6 to Nicholas and Cooper. Sophomore Brianne Nelson lost 2-6 to Owings in No. 2 singles. Norton's No. 2 doubles team of senior Claudia Lacy and senior Kelli Johnson lost 0-6 to Jones and Husmann.

Norton junior varsity volleyball opened season with wins at home

The Norton Community High School junior varsity girls volleyball team opened the season last Tuesday at home with wins over Osborne and Colby.

OSBORNE

Norton defeated Osborne 25-11 and 25-120.

"We handled them pretty easily," said Coach Peggy Cox. "We served an incredible 90 percent from the line with 19 of those as aces. Courtney LeClair was ace leader with nine aces. Lacey Roe had six aces and Alexi Wolf had three aces. Further statistics were not available due to technical difficulties."

COLBY

The Lady Jays defeated the Colby Eagles 14-25, 25-22 and 15-13.

"Our match with the Lady Eagles proved to be an exciting one," said Coach Cox. "We were a little slow getting started in the first game. Colby fired over some

serves that we struggled in passing to our setter and we couldn't get much of an offense going. What we did manage to put up and attack, Colby dug up and put back to us."

"In the second game, we let them string some points together in the first six rotations before we did the same. As we began to score, the better our communication on the court became. We moved our feet and good things happened. Passes were inside the 10-foot line which allowed the setters to get them up and then the hitters did their job by putting them away. Our offense remembered to cover their hitters and it just flowed."

"In the third game, we kept the intensity and composure up until point 14. We were so excited that we became a little scattered and allowed Colby four points in a row, making the score 14-13. At any point in time, we only needed to side-out but it took until the next

Colby serve to put the game away. We passed, set and killed to end the match."

Norton also served very well against Colby. The Lady Jays averaged 87 percent serving with eight aces. LeClair led the aces with three, followed by Wolf, two and Darci Darling, Roe and Naomi Streck, one each. Other statistics were not available.

NEXT ACTION

Next competition for the Norton junior varsity girls volleyball team will be on Saturday when it competes in the Junior Varsity Tournament in Quinter. Play will begin at 9 a.m.

Due to the holiday, the Northern Valley football story will be in Friday's paper

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