

# Norton girls, boys perform well at Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

Fighting through winds gusting to 50 and 60 miles per hour, Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School girls and boys track teams placed first and second, respectively, in the Smith Center Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday in Smith Center.

"In my 32 years as a track coach, I've never been to a track meet where the wind has blown as hard," said Coach Graber.

"For our teams to place first and second was a great start for the season.

"I am really proud of our effort. We fought hard and got what we could get. The wind blowing in your face can be a real strain. Our mental toughness really made a difference.

"I told our team that marks and times didn't mean a thing today. Effort and results were what counted.

The Norton girls scored in every event to run away from the competition. They tallied 135 points compared to 90 for second place Beloit. Smith Center was third with an 87, followed by Belleville, 80.33; Phillipsburg, 80; Thayer Central of Hebron, Neb., 62.66; Trego Community, 51.

Beloit was a big winner in the boys division. The Trojans scored 191.5 points compared to 98.5 for second place Norton. Phillipsburg was right behind in third place with 98 points, followed by Thayer Central of Hebron, Neb., 97; Smith Center, 83; Belleville, 50; Trego, 10.

## GIRLS

Sophomore Courtney LeClair was high scorer for Norton in individual events with 26 points in three events. She also ran on Norton's 1600 meter relay team which placed second. Courtney won the 300 meter low hurdles in 52.7 seconds, placed second in the 100 meter hurdles in 17.2 and second in the triple jump with a distance of 30-feet-4.25-inches.

"Courtney LeClair really had a good day," said Coach Graber. "She was closing on the Beloit girl in the 100 meter hurdles when that girl fell and Courtney had to slow down to avoid hitting her or she would have won both hurdles races."

Freshman Laura Lee Baird started her high school career with a bang. She earned 18 points on her own and played a major role in 12 other points scored by the Lady Jays' 3200 meter and 1600 meter relays.

Baird won the gold medal in the 1600 meter run in 5:58. Beloit junior Lauren Eck, who had edged Laura Lee for fourth place in the Class 3A regional cross country run back in October, drafted behind her the entire race. Down the home stretch, Eck went around her but Baird responded by passing Eck to win the gold.

Baird placed second to Eck in the 800 meter run where Eck used the same strategy to draft behind her until the final straightaway. This time Eck was able to stay ahead of her. Eck finished in 2:35.29 and Baird was clocked in 2:38.2.

Baird anchored the Norton 1600

meter relay team which placed second in 4:40.9. Time splits were: LeClair, 1:11; freshman Katharine Roy, 1:15; freshman Kara Jo Jones, 1:10.7 and Baird, 63.3.

She also anchored the 3200 meter relay team which placed fourth in 11:58.3. Time splits were: Jones, 2:54; Roy, 3:08; freshman Taylor Rossi, 2:56; Baird, 2:50. It was the first time that Jones and Roy had run 800 meters in competition.

"Laura Lee Baird had a great day," said Coach Graber. "In addition to winning the 1600 meters and placing second in the 800 meters, she anchored the 3200 meter and 1600 meter relays. Her 63 second split in the 1600 meter relay is phenomenal the way the wind was blowing."

The Norton 400 meter relay team also earned a gold medal with a clocking of 56.29. Team members were: senior Amber Waggoner, senior Jaclyn Krueger, junior Hannah Mills and senior Naomi Streck.

"These girls don't have great speed and we had one bad handoff so their winning time amazed me," said Coach Graber.

"Naomi Streck had as good a day as she's had. In addition to anchoring the 400 meter relay team, she placed fourth in the long jump and sixth in the 100 meter dash."

Streck leaped 13'8.25" in the long jump and ran the 100 meter dash in 13.56, a personal record.

Senior Chelle Donovan was the other gold medal winner for the Lady Jays. She won the pole vault with a height of 8'6". Senior Amanda Antrim placed third by clearing 7'6".

Junior Lacy Roe threw the javelin 96'10" to place third. In addition to running on the 3200 meter and 1600 meter relays, Jones ran the 400 meter dash and 200 meter dash. She placed third in the 400 with a time of 66.5 and fifth in the 200 in 28.7.

Taylor Rossi ran the 3200 meters in addition to competing on the 3200 meter relay team and placed third. She was clocked in 13:51. "Her best time last year was 13:48 so her time in this meet was huge, considering the 50 mile per hour wind she was running into," said Coach Graber. "She ran great tactically, drafting where she could."

Sophomore Courtney Cox placed seventh in the 1600 meter run in 7:13, which was a personal record. "Courtney competed better than ever in the 1600 meters," said Coach Graber. "She beat her previous personal record by 25 seconds and was running into that stiff wind."

Older sister senior Chelsea Cox won her heat in the 400 meter dash and placed sixth overall with a time of 69.9. "Chelsea has been injured so it was nice to see her perform so well," said Coach Graber.

Katharine Roy tied for third in the high jump with a clearance of 4'6", which was a personal record. She also placed fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 28'4.5".

Two freshmen girls earned points in the shot put in their first high school meet. Wiyanna Paxton placed third with a distance of

35'9" and Hayli Bozarth finished right behind her in fourth with a 35' heave.

Sophomore Chantille Campbell placed fifth in the discus with a personal best throw of 99'5".

"Our freshmen Wiyanna Paxton and Hayli Bozarth and sophomore Chantille Campbell all threw well and set some good season opening marks," said Coach Graber.

The girls weight relay team placed second in the 400 meter relay with a time of 1:02. Team members and splits were: Paxton, 17.8; Bozarth, 16.04; Roe, 14.21; senior Klaire Mann, 14.35.

Girls performances that did not place were: junior Laura Delimont, 91'10", personal record; Mann, 90'6", discus; Bozarth, 88'5", personal record; Campbell, 88'4", personal record; javelin; Mann, 30'3.5", shot put; Rossi, 6'6", personal record, pole vault; Krueger, 13'4.5"; Mills, 12", long jump; Krueger, 13.87; Waggoner, 14.06, personal record, 100 meter dash; Courtney Cox, 3:27, 800 meters; Streck, 29.4; Mills, 29.9, 200 meters.

## BOYS

"Our boys didn't win many events but they earned a lot of fourths, fifths and sixths and I told them that's the way you win track meets," said Coach Graber.

Sophomore Jared Cox was high scorer for the Norton boys with 16 points earned with a first place finish in the 300 meter hurdles in 44.3 and third place finish in the 100 meter hurdles in a personal best 15.74.

He was also a member of the 1600 meter relay team which placed fifth in 3:57.9. Team members and their time splits were: junior Nathan Broeckelman, 58.7; Cox, 57.7; sophomore Logan Kats, 58.5; freshman Zach Bainter, 63.

"Jared Cox looked great in the hurdles," said Coach Graber. "He wasn't quite as smooth in the 100 meter hurdles but set a personal record. He struggled in the 300 meter hurdles but still won."

Junior Blake VanEaton was edged at the tape to place second in the 800 meter run in 2:16.4. He also anchored the 3200 meter relay team to a second place finish with a time of 9:20. Team members and time splits were: junior Kent Mann, 2:20; junior Logan Keiswetter, 2:22; Bainter, 2:22; VanEaton, 2:14.

"Blake VanEaton had a great day. He made a great effort to try to win the 3200 meter relay with a 2:14 split and did a great job in the open 800 meters as well," said Coach Graber.

VanEaton was also the anchor man on the 400 meter relay team but a mishandled baton caused them to be disqualified. Other team members were: junior Brett Thomson, junior Nathan Broeckelman and senior Andrew Ables.

Senior Lance Roe battled through the high winds to place first in the pole vault with a height of 12'6".

Sophomore Logan Kats won his heat of the 400 meter dash and placed third overall with a time of 57.9. Junior Jared Bebb tied for sixth in the 400 meters with a clock-



Norton freshman Laura Lee Baird neared the finish line to win the 1600 meter run in 5:58 at the Smith Center Invitational track meet on Tuesday. Behind her is junior Lauren Eck, Beloit, who took the lead on the final straightaway after drafting behind Laura Lee the entire race. Laura Lee then put on a burst of speed to hit the tape first.

- Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

ing of 60.2.

Norton senior Heath Vincent scored points in both the shot put and discus throw. He finished second in the shot with a heave of 45'1" and sixth in the discus with a throw of 123'9".

Senior Andrew Ables scored in the javelin and shot. He placed fifth in the javelin with a throw of 130'1" and sixth in the shot with a heave of 41'6".

"Our throwers had a good day," said Coach Graber. "They scored 12 points and that's a lot when you consider the tough competition. Andrew Ables was only six or seven feet off his personal record in the javelin and Zac Dreher had a great throw for a freshman."

Dreher threw the javelin 122'3". The Blue Jays' distance runners scored nine points in the 3200 meter run. Junior Kent Mann placed third in 11:13, freshman Zach Bainter was fifth in 11:18 and junior Logan Keiswetter was sixth in 11:19.

Keiswetter placed fifth in the 1600 meter run in 5:36.5.

"It was a miserable day for our distance runners but they all ran long distances and fought through it," said Coach Graber.

"Jared Engelbert hasn't been running as much but we put him in one race and he earned a fourth place." Engelbert was timed in 2:16.9 in the 800 meter run.

Mann placed sixth in the 800 meters in 2:21.

Junior Nathan Broeckelman tied for fifth place in the high jump by clearing 5'8" to set a personal record.

"Nathan Broeckelman had a good day in the high jump and tied his personal best," said Coach Graber.

Junior Nic Lewis is competing in track for the first time and his first meet efforts got Coach Graber's attention. Lewis placed fifth in the triple jump with a leap of 36'2.25" and also competed in the 110 meter hurdles where he was timed in 17.66 to place seventh. Lewis also competed in the high jump but did not make opening height. He also competed in the 200 meter dash where he was timed in 24.7.

"Nic Lewis has never been out for track and did great in his first meet," said Coach Graber. "He competed in the hurdles, triple jump and high jump, all of which are technique events. When he gets the technique down, he will do well."

Sophomore Wes Georgeson placed sixth in both the 110 meter hurdles and 300 meter hurdles. He set personal records in both races. He was timed in 17.65 in the 110s and 46.5 in the 300s.

"Both Wes Georgeson and Nic Lewis made the finals in the 110 meter hurdles and finished with only one hundredths of a second

difference in their times," said Coach Graber.

Junior Brett Thomson placed fifth in the 200 meter dash with a clocking of 24.2.

Norton's freshman relay team of Matt Stanley, Brock Lauer, Brad Nuzum and Zac Dreyer placed second in the 400 meter dash in 51.95 and fourth in the 1600 meter relay with a time of 4:24.3.

Non-scoring performances by Norton boys were: Zac Dreyer, 104'7"; freshman Nish Millan, 83'3", personal record, discus; senior Josh VanSkeike, 31'11", shot put; 78'3", javelin; Nathan Broeckelman, failed opening height, pole vault; sophomore Todd Bolt, 16'3.25"; Georgeson, 15'9", long jump; Georgeson, 35'9", triple jump; Bolt, 12.49; Kats, 12.47; Thomson, 11.9, 100 meter dash; Bainter, 5:47, 1600 meter run; Stanley, 61.7, 400 meter dash; Ables, 24.4, 200 meter dash.

There are 11 lettermen on this year's Norton boys track squad.

They are Heath Vincent, Lance Roe, Andrew Ables, seniors; Blake VanEaton, Kent Mann, Logan Keiswetter, Jared Engelbert, Nathan Broeckelman, juniors; Logan Kats, Jared Cox, Todd Bolt, sophomores.

The other 20 squad members were inadvertently omitted from the season opening story in the March 31 *Norton Telegram*. They are: Josh VanSkeike, Phillip VanDerWeele, seniors; Brett Thomson, Perrell Stanley, Nic Lewis, Jared Bebb, juniors; Luke VanSkeike, Brian Ulmer, Travis Ray, Tanner Griffith, Wes Georgeson, Bryce Engelbert, David Counter, sophomores; Matt Stanley, Brad Nuzum, Nish Millan, Brock Lauer, Josh Gallentine, Zac Dreyer, Zach Bainter, freshmen.

## Next action

Norton will compete in the Plainville Invitational Track Meet on Tuesday at Plainville High School.

The meet will begin at 4 p.m.



Norton junior Blake VanEaton hit the tape to finish the 800 meter run in the Smith Center Invitational track meet on Tuesday. Blake was timed in 2:16.43 and appeared to win the race but Brad Sells, Belleville, on the outside of the track and not pictured, just edged VanEaton in 2:16.21. Placing fourth for Norton at left was junior Jared Engelbert, who put on a great finishing kick and was timed in 2:16.97. VanEaton also anchored the 3200 meter relay team which placed second.

## Here's Our List:

### FAW'S GARAGE INVENTORY LISTING

- 2002 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED 4 DOOR 4 WHEEL DRIVE — Dark garnet red, leather seats, 3.7 V-6, automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power seats, power sunroof, power: windows/locks/mirrors, stereo cassette and CD player, steering wheel radio controls, sunscreen glass, trailer tow, aluminum wheels.
- 2005 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB 2 WHEEL DRIVE — Flame red with gray cloth seats, SLT, sport appearance, 3.7 liter V-6, automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power: seat/windows/locks/mirrors, stereo with CD player, sunscreen glass, chrome plated aluminum wheels, keyless entry, 7,000 miles.
- 2005 CHEVROLET COLORADO CREW CAB — Light pewter metallic with gray leather bucket seats, 3.5 engine, automatic, air conditioning, tilt wheel, cruise control, power seat, heated front seats, power: windows/locks/mirrors, stereo and CD player, trailer tow package, Z-71 suspension, aluminum wheels, keyless entry, bed liner, 5,000 miles.
- 2003 DODGE RAM 1/2 TON SHORT BOX REGULAR CAB 2 WHEEL DRIVE PICKUP — Flame red with gray 40/20/40 seating, SLT with sport appearance, 4.7 V-8, five speed automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power: seat/windows/locks/mirrors, stereo with CD player, sliding rear window, trailer tow package, cast aluminum wheels, keyless entry, 23,000 miles.
- 2003 DODGE RAM 1/2 TON SHORT BOX REGULAR CAB 2 WHEEL DRIVE PICKUP — Atlantic blue pearl with gray, 40/20/40 seating, SLT, 4.7 V-8, five speed automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power: windows/locks/mirrors, stereo with CD player, sliding rear window, 20" aluminum wheels, new tires, trailer tow package, bed liner, keyless entry, 43,000 miles.
- 2002 DODGE RAM 1500 QUAD CAB SHORT BOX 2 WHEEL DRIVE — Bright silver with gray, 40/20/40 seating, SLT with sport appearance, 4.7 V-8, automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power: windows/locks/mirrors, stereo cassette and CD player, sliding rear window, auto dimming rear view mirror, cast aluminum wheels, keyless entry, 49,000 miles.
- 1998 DODGE RAM 3/4 TON QUAD CAB LONG BOX 4 WHEEL DRIVE — Deep amethyst pearl with silver lower two-tone and gray, 40/20/40 seating, SLT 5.9 Cummins turbo diesel, H.D. 5 speed manual, air, tilt, speed, power: seat/windows/locks/mirrors, stereo with cassette, aluminum wheels, trailer tow package, 88,000 miles.
- 1997 DODGE 1/2 TON CLUB CAB SHORT BOX 4 WHEEL DRIVE — Bright red with silver lower two-tone, cloth 40/20/40 seating, SLT, 5.9 V-8, automatic, air, tilt, cruise, power: windows/locks/mirrors, AM-FM stereo, nerf bars, bed liner, chrome wheels, 133,000 miles.
- 1996 FORD F250 3/4 TON EXTENDED CAB SHORT BOX 4 WHEEL DRIVE — Light blue with cloth 40/20/40 seating, XLT, 7.3 power stroke diesel, 5 speed manual, air, tilt, cruise, power: windows/locks, stereo with cassette, 5th wheel hitch, new clutch, dual tanks, aluminum wheels, 137,000 miles.

## FAW'S GARAGE INC.

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