

Norton girls fourth, boys seventh at Russell

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School girls and boys track teams placed fourth and seventh, respectively, on Friday in the Russell Relays, their toughest meet so far this season.

The Concordia girls dominated the meet with 176.33 points, followed by Abilene, 86.33; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 64.33; Norton, 48; Larned, 46; Scott City, 42; Beloit, 31; Phillipsburg, 27; Chapman, 22; Russell, 7; Minneapolis, 2.

Abilene won the boys championship with 124.5 points, followed by Beloit, 84; Concordia, 77; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 65; Phillipsburg, 61; Minneapolis, 54; Norton, 35.5; Scott City, 26; Chapman, 15; Russell, 10; Larned, 5.

"I thought our youngsters rose up against some great competition and cool weather and had some remarkable performances," said coach Graber.

"There was a ton of talent at this meet and, had the weather been more conducive, we would have seen a ton of records broken."

The Norton girls set personal records or season's bests in nine events and the Norton boys had 15 personal records or season's best performances.

GIRLS

Norton freshmen girls runner Laura Lee Baird and thrower Hayli Bozarth had some outstanding performances.

Baird set a new personal record in winning the 400 meter dash in 59.8 seconds and was near a personal best when she won the 800 meter run in 2:24.05. She also anchored the 1600 meter relay team to a third place finish in 4:21.42.

Relay team members and their time splits were: sophomore Courtney LeClair, 68.8; senior Chelsea Cox, 68.3; freshman KaraJo Jones, 63.3; Baird, 61.3. "Laura Lee Baird became only the second female I've coached in 32 years to go under 60 seconds in the open 400 and then came back and ran away from the field in the 800 meter run. She also ran a 61 second leg in anchoring the 1600 meter relay team," said the coach. "That's a very impressive performance."

Bozarth set a personal record when she threw the discus 108'11" to place third. She also finished in third place in the shot put with a heave of 34'4". Bozarth placed in a third event when she threw the javelin 94'10.5" to finish sixth. "Hayli's third place finishes in the discus and shot put, with a personal record in the discus, were very impressive against an outstanding field of competitors," said coach Graber.

Senior Chelle Donovan continued to score points in the pole vault. She cleared 9' to finish fifth.



Norton freshman Hayli Bozarth placed third in the discus with a personal best throw of 108'11" in the Russell Relays on Friday. She also finished third in the shot put with a distance of 34'4" and sixth in the javelin with a throw of 94'10.5".

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Freshman Taylor Rossi placed fifth in the 3200 meter race with a personal best time of 13:12.72, which beat her previous best time by 36 seconds.

Lady Jay senior Naomi Streck placed sixth in the long jump with a leap of 14'2.75".

Chelsea Cox placed sixth in the triple jump with a distance of 31'25".

Sophomore Courtney LeClair triple jumped 30'9" and freshman Katharine Roy triple jumped 30'4" but neither of them placed.

"Our triple jumpers all showed a lot of improvement even though there were no personal record jumps," said coach Graber. "We did things much better."

Norton junior Laura Delimont finished sixth in the discus with a throw of 95'5.5".

"I'm very happy for Laura as she had been stuck at 91' in the discus for several meets and jumped her personal record out four feet," said coach Graber.

LeClair finished sixth in both the 100 meter and 300 meter hurdles in an excellent field of

hurdlers. She was timed in 17.24 in the 100 meter hurdles and 51.97 in the 300 meter hurdles.

Jones recorded the seventh best time in the 400 meter dash with a personal record 63.5 clocking.

"KaraJo's 400 meter personal record would have placed very high at any other meet we have competed in this season," said coach Graber. "I think she can run in the 61 second area by regional time if it warms back up."

Norton's 400 meter relay team had the seventh best time with a season's best clocking of 54.0. Team members and time splits were: senior Amanda Antrim, 14.47; senior Jaelyn Krueger, 12.3; junior Hannah Mills, 14.3; Streck, 12.9.

"Our 400 meter relay team took a second and a half off our season's best and still was shut out of the points by the speed at this meet," said coach Graber. "This tells you a lot about the competition at this meet."

Other Norton girls' performances which did not place were: sophomore Chantille Campbell,

77'3.5", discus; freshman Wiyanna Paxton, 79'9"; Campbell, 78'10.5", javelin; Paxton, 31'6.5"; Delimont, 30'3", shot put; Roy, high jump; Antrim, 7'6"; Rossi, 7'6", pole vault; Krueger, 13'9", long jump; Krueger, 13.84; Streck, 13.98; senior Amber Waggoner, 14.08, personal record, 100 meter dash; sophomore Courtney Cox, 7:02, personal record, 1600 meter run; Chelsea Cox, 66.7, 400 meter dash; Waggoner, 55.89, personal record, 300 meter hurdles; Courtney Cox, 3:10, 800 meter run; Jones, 28.92; Streck, 29.62; Mills, 29.84, 200 meter dash.

BOYS

The Norton boys had no gold medal winners but two Blue Jays won silver medals. Senior Lance Roe cleared 12'6" to place second in the pole vault.

"Lance Roe had to deal with some adverse conditions of weather and lack of warm up time but still finished second in a competition that was tough on everyone," said coach Graber.

Junior Blake VanEaton ran a personal best of 51.37 to finish second in the 400 meter dash.

VanEaton also anchored Norton's 3200 meter relay team which took 10 seconds off their season's best time they recorded on Tuesday in Oberlin to place fifth. They were timed in 8:43.67.

Relay team members and time splits were: junior Jared Engelbert, 2:10.5; freshman Zach Bainter, 2:11; junior Logan Keiswetter, 2:12; VanEaton, 2:09.8.

"Our men's distance crew was really phenomenal," said coach Graber.

"Our 3200 meter relay team took 10 seconds off their season's best to finish fifth in a field of great teams."

VanEaton also anchored Norton's 1600 meter relay team which placed sixth in a season's best time of 3:41.2.

Relay team members and time splits were: sophomore Jared Cox, 55.5; junior Brett Thomson, 55.6; junior Jared Bebb, 58.6; VanEaton, 51.4.

Junior Kent Mann had a good day in the distance races. He ran a personal best 4:44.41 to place third in the 1600 meter run and was timed in a personal record 10:54.45 in finishing fifth in the 3200 meter run.

"All three of our 1600 meter runners set personal records with Kent Mann leading the way with a 4:44 for third, Bainter placing sixth and Keiswetter just out of the money with a 5:03," said coach Graber.

"Jared Bebb cut four seconds off

his best in the 800 meters by running a 2:13.7."

Keiswetter had the seventh best time in the 3200 meter run with a personal best clocking of 11:03 and Bainter was right behind him with the eighth best time, a personal record 11:08.

"In the 3200 meter run, Mann, Keiswetter and Bainter all set personal records again with Mann placing fifth overall in a field that probably included at least four upcoming state medal winners," said coach Graber.

Cox placed in both hurdles events. He was fourth in the 300 meter intermediate hurdles in 42.43 and fifth in the 110 meter high hurdles in 16.16.

Bainter finished sixth in the 1600 meter run in a personal record time of 5:02.78.

Senior Heath Vincent placed sixth in the shot put with a distance of 45'9.75".

Blue Jay junior Nathan Broeckelman tied for sixth in the high jump by clearing 5'6".

Junior Nic Lewis came within less than a second of scoring in both the 110 meter and 300 meter hurdles races, where he set personal records. He was timed in 16.53 in the 110s and 43.53 in the 300s.

"Nic Lewis had personal records in both hurdle races and is improving every time out," said coach Graber.

Sophomore Wes Georgeson also showed improvement in the hurdles. He set a personal record of 46.1 in the 300s and was timed in 18.4 in the 110s.

"Wes Georgeson showed improvement, especially in the 300 meter hurdles," said coach Graber.

Boys performances which did not place were: Vincent, 122'11.5"; freshman Zac Dreyer, 97'11"; senior Josh VanSkiike, 89'5.5", discus; Dreyer, 118'6"; VanSkiike, 104', javelin; Dreyer, 35'10.5"; VanSkiike, 31'25", shot put; Lewis, high jump; Broeckelman, 11', pole vault; sophomore Todd Bolt, 17'9"; sophomore Tanner Griffith, 17'6", long jump; Bolt, 37'9"; Lewis, 38'1"; Griffith, 37'3.5", triple jump; Thomson, 11.72, personal best; Kats, 12.34, personal best; Bolt, 12.5, 100 meter dash; Kats, 56.50, 400 meter dash; VanEaton, 2:20.8; Bebb, 2:13.7, personal record; Engelbert, 2:15.9, 800 meter run; Thomson, 24.39; Kats, 25.2, 200 meter dash.

Next action

The annual Mid-Continent League Track Meet will be held on Friday at Travis Field and on the J.J. Byrum Track in Norton.

Competing, in addition to Norton, will be teams from Hill City, Trego Community, Plainville, Stockton, Phillipsburg and Smith Center.

Field events will begin at 3 p.m. and preliminary running events will begin at 4 p.m.

Norton

sixth in golf invite

By DICK BOYD

Coach David Stover's Norton Community High School golf team placed sixth out of 11 teams competing in the Colby Invitational Tournament last Thursday in Colby.

Goodland won the championship with a score of 355, followed by Colby, 357; Hoxie, 363; Hays High JV, 365; Oberlin, 366; Norton, 369; Scott City, 371; Oakley, 397; Atwood, 405; Ness City, 408; Garden City JV, 517.

Norton's low scorer was junior Michael Ward with a 45-43-88 which was good enough for No.7 medalist. Also contributing to the Blue Jays' four-man score were senior Clay Madden, 46-47-93; senior Jordan Herman, 47-47-94; sophomore Preston Herman, 44-50-94.

Also playing for Norton and their scores were: junior Pat Burton, 54-48-102 and senior Blake Jacques, 49-55-104.

Medalists were: Chris Staley, Colby, 78; Jon Richards, Oberlin, 78; Nathan Linin, Goodland, 80; David Heyd, Scott City, 85; Travis Kleweno, Hays JV, 85; Jared Stoecklein, Ness City, 85; Michael Ward, 88; Cole Finley, Colby, 88; Jake Moss, Hoxie, 89; Brandon Douglas, Goodland, 89.

"Our entire goal coming into today's tournament was to see improvement after a disappointing outing at Thomas More Prep and we were able to accomplish that," said coach Stover.

"Overall, we played better golf but there are still many areas of the game that need work.

"This was one of our better team scores of the season but we need to keep improving as we enter the home stretch of the season.

"On the individual side, Michael Ward played solid all day to earn his second individual medalist honors of the season."

Next action

The Mid-Continent League Golf Tournament will be held on Thursday in Plainville on the Rooks County Course.

Tee off will be at 3 p.m.

Blue Jays compete in junior varsity golf

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity golf team competed in the Trego Junior Varsity Invitational Golf Tournament last Thursday.

Phillipsburg won the tournament with a 336 score, followed by Trego No.2, 350; Trego No.1, 379; Plainville, 386; Thomas More Prep, 405; Ellis, 415; Russell, 435; Oakley, 436; Stockton, 451; Hoisington, 468; Norton, 476; Quinter 559. Hays and Hill City also competed but did not have full teams.

Low scorer for Norton was freshman Logan Kelly with a 57-51-108. Norton's other three players and their scores were: senior Tyler Neff, 54-60-114; senior Greg Wilson, 59-64-123; sophomore Lacy Ellis, 62-69-131.

Top ten medalists were: Ryan Pfannenstiel, Trego, 80; Chris Schneider, Phillipsburg, 81; Adam Bowman, Phillipsburg, 83; Blake Born, Hill City, 85; Adrian Barker, Phillipsburg, 85; Bryan Flax, Trego, 86; Chris Orr, Hill City, 86; Tanner Burkhardt, TMP, 87; Nathan Windholz, Hays, 87; Zack Wood, Phillipsburg, 87.

"I am proud of the effort our junior varsity group has shown from start to finish this season," said Norton coach David Stover.

"Although the score at times didn't reflect it, this group has worked hard and has improved greatly since the beginning of the season.

"With continued hard work, some of these golfers have a chance to be varsity contributors in seasons to come."



Norton junior Kent Mann put on a final sprint to place third in the 1600 meter run with a personal record time of 4:44.41 in the Russell Relays on Friday. Less than a second ahead of him is Abilene's McClain, who placed second. Mann also set a personal record of 10:54.45 to place fifth in the 3200 meter run.

Nobody covers the Blue Jays like we do!



THE NORTON TELEGRAM