

Norton girls second, boys ninth in regional

Eleven athletes qualify for state meet

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School girls track team placed second and his Blue Jay boys track team finished ninth in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet on Friday in Ellsworth.

Beloit won the girls championship with 68 points and Norton was second with 61. Third place went to Oberlin with 59.5 and Southeast of Saline placed fourth with 54. They were followed by Medicine Lodge, 46; Salina-Sacred Heart, 42; Holcomb, 42; Cimarron, 35; Ellsworth, 32; Ellinwood, 31; Hoisington, 29; Phillipsburg, 24; Lyons, 18; Bennington, 12; Lakin, 3.

Beloit was also the boys champion. The Trojans scored 118 points. Phillipsburg was second with 90, followed by Southeast of Saline, 54; Lakin, 48; Holcomb, 39; Oberlin, 38; Ellsworth, 36; Hoisington, 35; Norton, 31; Medicine Lodge, 21; Salina-Sacred

Heart, 15; Bennington, 14; Lyons, 12; Ellinwood, 5.

The top four placers in each event qualified for this Friday and Saturday's State Track Meet at Cessna Stadium in Wichita. Five Norton girls and six Blue Jay boys qualified for the state meet.

"Our young people performed extremely well in adverse conditions," said coach Graber.

"I can only remember one other regional meet which was more miserable than this one." The temperature hit 100 degrees and stayed there for most of the meet.

"In addition to the weather, it was as strong a regional in our good events as I've seen. We knew going in that it could be a tough regional," said coach Graber.

"We had some conditions that were not ideal. They had a new ring for the shot put and it was pretty slick. The location of the pole vault was not good. It was right in the middle of a major walk-

way coming off a bridge. They tried to keep people from walking in front of the pit but it was hard. No wonder no one vaulted very well.

"They did a good job of running the meet; there weren't any protests.

"I found out after the meet that some of our athletes were coming down with the flu. The 100 degrees temperature made it less than ideal for them to compete.

"We qualified for the state meet in 12 events. That is a lot considering the toughness of our regional. Coming out of a strong regional should help us score points at state."

GIRLS

The Lady Jays had just one individual champion. Freshman Hayli Bozarth won the gold medal in the shot put event with a heave of 34-feet-9-inches.

Bozarth also scored eight more points in the discus where she threw it a personal record distance of 114'8" to place second.

"Haley had a great day. She threw six feet farther than she ever has in the discus," said coach Graber.

"Her 34 feet in the shot put was just short of her personal record. Because of the slickness of the ring, she had to stand in the front to throw."

Sophomore Courtney LeClair qualified for the state meet with personal bests in both hurdles races. She placed second in the 100 meter hurdles in 15.70 and fourth in the 300 meter hurdles in 48.40.

"Courtney had an outstanding meet, setting personal records in both hurdles," said coach Graber. "She set her personal best in the preliminaries of the 100s with a 15.03 time. She has matured a lot. She has a good work ethic."

Senior Chelle Donovan became a four year qualifier for the state meet in the pole vault. She placed second with a vault of 9'. Donovan placed sixth in the state meet last season with the same 9' height. Her sophomore year, she finished fifth in the state, again with a 9' vault. She also competed in the pole vault in the state meet her freshman season but did not place.

"Chelle has done a great job all spring in the pole vault," said coach Graber. "She has been bothered by a foot injury but has fought through the pain. She has been limited in her jumps but still qualified for the state meet for the fourth time."

Junior Lacey Roe will make her first appearance in the state meet. She qualified this year by placing fourth in the javelin with a throw



Norton senior Lance Roe placed second in the pole vault with a 12' height at the regional track meet on Friday in Ellsworth. He will return to the state track meet in Wichita where he placed fifth last year.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



Norton freshman Zach Bainter began his leg of the 3200 meter relay after taking the baton from junior Jared Engelbert during the regional track meet on Friday in Ellsworth. The foursome of Engelbert, Bainter, junior Logan Keiswetter and junior Blake VanEaton placed third with a season's best clocking of 8:27.70 and qualified for this weekend's state track meet in Wichita.



Norton sophomore Courtney LeClair cleared a hurdle en route to a fourth place finish in the 300 meter hurdles in a personal best time of 48.40 in the regional track meet on Friday in Ellsworth. She also placed second in the 100 meter hurdles and set a personal record time of 15:03 in the preliminaries to qualify for the state meet in both races.

of 108'9".

"It was nice to see Lacey qualify for the state meet," said coach Graber. "She was sitting third going into the finals but one girl moved ahead of her."

Lady Jay freshman Laura Lee Baird qualified for the state meet in two races. She placed second in the 400 meter dash in 59.20 and fourth in the 800 meter run in 2:25.6.

"Laura Lee had another great meet, qualifying for state in two races," said coach Graber.

"The 400 meter race was really close. It would not surprise me if the top three finishers out of our regional will be the top three in the state."

Three Norton girls just missed a berth in the state meet by placing fifth in their events. Freshman Wiyanna Paxton placed fifth in the shot put with a distance of 31'4.5". Fourth place finisher was Rory Wendelin, Oberlin, with a distance of 31'6".

"Wiyanna did well in the shot for a rookie," said coach Graber. "She was bumped out by just one and one-half inches."

Senior Klaire Mann placed fifth in the discus with a throw of 99'11".

"Klaire came really close to qualifying in the discus," said coach Graber. "That's where it is the hardest. If you aren't a senior, you can use a fifth place for motivation for next year."

Freshman Taylor Rossi finished fifth in the pole vault with a personal record height of 8'6". The fourth place finisher had the same height but fewer misses.

"Taylor had a great day," said coach Graber. "She made 8'6" for the first time in the pole vault and placed sixth in the 3200. Her technique is getting good in the pole vault. She will have a good career."

Lady Jay senior Amanda Antrim tied for sixth in the pole vault with Christa Hardy, Oberlin. Both girls cleared 8'. Antrim was hampered by injuries last season but competed in the state meet her sophomore season and placed 11th with an 8' vault.

Rossi also came close to qualifying for the state meet in the 3200 meter run where she was timed in 13:27 and finished in sixth place.

The Lady Jays' 400 meter relay team ran a season's best 52.80 but had the seventh best time and finished just out of the points. Team members and time splits were: Antrim, 14.3; senior Jaclyn Krueger, 12.94; junior Hannah Mills, 12.76; senior Naomi Streck, 12.86.

Norton's 1600 meter relay team, which set the Mid-Continent League Track Meet record the week before, ran three seconds slower on Friday and recorded just the ninth best time. They were clocked in 4:12.30. Team members and time splits were: freshman KaraJo Jones, 63.2; senior Chelsea Cox, 64.7; Streck, 63.9; Baird, 60.4.

"We didn't run that poorly in the

1600 meter relay," said coach Graber. "We ran well enough to have qualified in other regionals."

Other performances by Norton girls which didn't score points were: Streck, 13'9.75"; Krueger, 13'6"; long jump; Chelsea Cox, 31'10.75"; freshman Katherine Roy, 31'5.5", triple jump; Krueger, 13.30, personal best, 100 meter dash; Jones, 1:03.90, 400 meter dash.

BOYS

Norton junior Blake VanEaton was the Blue Jay boys' only gold medal winner. He led a field of 51 second runners to hit the tape first in the 400 meter dash with a 51.30 time.

"Blake had a great day," said coach Graber. "He ran close to his personal best in the 400 meters and ran well on the relays."

VanEaton also anchored the 3200 meter relay which finished third with a season's best time of 8:27.70. Team members and time splits were: junior Jared Engelbert, 2:05.8; freshman Zach Bainter, 2:06.8; junior Logan Keiswetter, 2:10.5; VanEaton, 2:04.6.

"Our 3200 meter relay team ran well but there were a couple of times faster than ours," said coach Graber. "We need to crank our time down some for the state meet."

Junior Kent Mann also qualified for the state meet with a third place finish in the 1600 meter run with a

personal best time of 4:43.00.

"Kent continues to lower his time in the 1600 meters," said coach Graber. "He had another great run."

Senior Lance Roe placed second in the pole vault with a height of 12'. He will return to the state meet where he finished fifth last year with a vault of 13'.

"Lance has been vaulting better and will perform better at the state meet," said coach Graber. "Conditions for vaulting on Friday were less than ideal."

Norton's 1600 meter relay team had a 4:48.00 clocking, the ninth best time. Team members were: sophomore Logan Kats, junior Brett Thomson, senior Andrew Ables and VanEaton.

Junior Nic Lewis just missed qualifying for the state meet with a 39'8" distance for fifth place in the triple jump, which was just one inch off his personal record.

Performances by Norton boys which did not score points were: senior Heath Vincent, 125'6", discus; Ables, 136'1", javelin; Vincent, 42'10.5"; Ables, 40'2.5", shot put; sophomore Tanner Griffith, 38'5.5", triple jump; Lewis, 15.80, personal record; sophomore Jared Cox, 16.20, 110 meter hurdles; Thomson, 11.80, 100 meter dash; Lewis, 43.10, personal record; Cox, 44.30, 300 meter hurdles; Engelbert, 2:09.60, 800 meter run; Keiswetter, 11:00.2, 3200 meter run.



Lady Jay freshman Hayli Bozarth heaved the shot put 34'9" to win the gold medal at the regional track meet on Friday in Ellsworth. She also threw the discus a personal record 114'8" to place second and qualify for the state meet in both events.