

Varsity track ready to go

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Second year head coach Jason Jones has 28 young women and 28 young men competing for positions on the 2008 Norton Community High School track team.

The Blue Jay track and field athletes include 12 letter winners and 6 state competitors from a year ago on the girls team and 8 letter winners and 4 state competitors on the boys team.

Norton opened the track season on Monday in the Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center. Results were not available at press time.

Varsity competition for Norton will begin on Friday with the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

Field events will begin at 3 p.m. and running events at 5 p.m. No preliminaries will be held and all events will be run as finals. All athletes may be entered.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Goodland, Logan, Northern Valley, Phillipsburg and Smith Center high schools.

Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in both boys and girls divisions and medals will be awarded for the first three places in each event.

Assisting coach Jones again this season will be Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin.

Student managers are Lucy Gosselin and Bloss Jacobus, both juniors.

Coach Jones is a Logan native. A 1994 Logan High School graduate, he was the Class 1A state pole vault champion. He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays on a track scholarship and pole vaulted for the Tigers. He was an all-conference performer and graduated in December, 1998.

He was head track coach and assistant football coach at Fowler High School for three years before moving to Norton. He was a teacher and assistant football and track coach in Norton for four years before becoming head track coach last season.

"We are very excited about the number of young women and men who are on our team this year and thrilled with the levels of talent and desire that these athletes bring to our program," said coach Jones.

"In addition to 20 letter winners, half of whom were state competitors, we have very strong freshmen numbers, which we love to see. We expect that the 8 freshman females and 12 freshman males will add depth to our team in a number of areas.

"Our athletes have all been working very hard in practice on a daily basis and continuing to ready themselves for competition and success.

"The junior varsity meet and our home meet on Friday will provide us with an opportunity to see where we are in a number of events. Since we will have unlimited entries, all of our athletes will have a chance to compete in our meet. This will offer our athletes who have been working so hard a chance to get out and have some fun while competing against athletes from other schools.

"We are glad that the track season has arrived and cannot wait to start competing! We invite all sports fans and community members alike to join us at our home track on Friday, where they can see and support every active member of our team competing at home. We look forward to seeing you at the track!"

Girls team

The 12 returning letter winners are Courtney Cox, Courtney LeClair, seniors; Laura Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, Amanda Delimont, KaraJo Jones, Wiyanna Paxton, Taylor Rossi, Katharine Roy, juniors; Bethany Roy, Alyssa

Thomson, Hannah Waggoner, sophomores.

Other squad members are Amy-la Tan, junior; Raven Brown, Allie Corbin, Brandi Graham, Helen Guerrero, Lacy Keilig, Kelsey Nuzum, Amanda Ray, sophomores; Morgan Baumann, Jade Braun, Kelsie Griffith, Sophie Mills, Kaylen Rossi, Katie Scott, Dustyna Sprigg, Bekah Streck, freshmen.

Courtney LeClair is a three-year letter winner. She has been the Mid-Continent League champion in the 100 meter hurdles the past two seasons and was league champion in the 300 meter hurdles her sophomore season and placed second in the league in the event last season.

LeClair was second in the regional meet in both the 100 and 300 meter hurdles to qualify for the state meet in both events for the second straight season. She placed eighth in the 100 meter hurdles in the state meet.

Laura Lee Baird, Hayli Bozarth, Amanda Delimont, Wiyanna Paxton, KaraJo Jones and Taylor Rossi are all two-year letter winners.

Baird was the 400 meter dash champion in the Mid-Continent League for the second straight season last year. She also won the 800 meter run championship her freshman season and was second last year. She placed second in the 400 and 800 in the regional meet last year to qualify for the state meet for the second straight season.

After placing second in the 400 meters and sixth in the 800 meters in the state meet her freshman year, Baird broke the Norton school record in placing third in 2:19.60 in the 800 meters and was fourth in the 400 meters in the state meet last season with a time of 58.40, which was less than a second from the Norton school record.

The previous Norton 800 meter record was 2:20.8 set by Susan Miller. The Norton 400 meter dash record of 58.1 is held by the former Renee Cox.

Bozarth was the Mid-Continent League shot put champion last season, placed second in the league in the discus and third in the javelin. She won the gold medal in the discus and placed second in the shot put event in the regional meet to qualify for both events in the state meet.

In the state meet last season, Bozarth threw the discus 132'2" to place second and break the Norton school record of 126'10" held by Danielle Roeder. She also placed seventh in the state meet in the shot put with a heave of 36'5.5".

Taylor Rossi placed second in the league meet in the pole vault with a personal record height of 9' and cleared the same height to finish second in the regional meet. Rossi continued her consistency in the state meet, where she also cleared 9' to place seventh.

Norton's 1600 meter relay team of Baird, LeClair, Hannah Waggoner and KaraJo Jones placed second in the league meet last season but just missed a state meet berth when they finished in fifth place in the regional meet.

The Lady Jays' 400 meter relay team of LeClair, KaraJo Jones, Waggoner and senior Hannah Mills placed third in the league meet last season, second in the regional meet and tenth in the state meet.

Waggoner placed third in the 200 meter and 100 meter dashes in the Mid-Continent League meet as a freshman last season. She placed third in the 200 meters and fourth in the 100 meters in the regional meet. Waggoner placed ninth in the 200 meters and tenth in the 100 meter dash in the state meet.

As a team last season, the Norton girls were runner-up in the league meet, tied for the team championship in the regional meet and placed 12th in the state meet.

Boys team

The Goodland School Board hired a head football and track coach for the high school Monday night, replacing Jonathan Dansel, who is going to work on the family's farm by Weskan.

Kent Teeter will lead the Cowboys next fall. Teeter was the head coach at Hays High School for the 2006-2007 school year and an assistant football coach for the Great Bend Panthers for the past season.

The Panthers won eight games and lost three for the season.

Schedule

Mon., March 31 -- Smith Center JV Meet, Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.
 Fri., April 4 -- Norton Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.
 Tues., April 8 -- Smith Center Invite, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
 Mon., April 14 -- Trego JV Meet, WaKeeney, 4 p.m.
 Tues., April 15 -- Plainville Invitational, Plainville, 3 p.m.
 Fri., April 18 -- JV in Phillipsburg Meet, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
 Fri., April 18 -- Lexington Invitational, Lexington, 2 p.m.
 Fri., Sat., April 18-19 -- Kansas Relays, Lawrence TBA
 Mon., April 21 -- Hill City JV Meet, Hill City, 4 p.m.
 Fri., April 25 -- Goldsmith Relays, WaKeeney, 3:30 p.m.
 Tues., April 29 -- Oberlin Invitational, 3 p.m.
 Fri., May 2 -- Russell Relays, Russell, 3 p.m.
 Fri., May 9 -- Mid-Continent League Meet, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
 Fri., May 16 -- Regional Track Meet, Lakin, 3 p.m.
 Fri., Sat., May 23-24 -- State Track Meet, Wichita TBA

The eight returning lettermen are: Todd Bolt, Jared Cox, Wes Georgeson, Logan Kats, Luke VanSkiike, seniors; Zach Bainter, Zac Dreher, juniors; Chris Maddy, sophomore.

Other squad members are: David Counter, Bryce Engelbert, seniors; Josh Gallentine, Brock Lauer, Brad Nuzum, juniors; Landon Hamel, Adam Myers, Zane Perez, Casey Robison, sophomores; Troy Bainter, Ryan Blecha, Billy Broeckelman, Dakota Dreher, Justin Griffith, Terrell Lane, Kaid McKenna, Zach Porter, Spencer Shirk, Jeremy Sproul, Kegan Vanover, freshmen.

Jared Cox is a three-year letterman. He placed sixth in the state meet in the 300 meter hurdles as a freshman. Last season he was league champion in the 300 meter hurdles and finished third in the 110 meter hurdles. He also placed third in the 110 meter hurdles and sixth in the 300 meter hurdles in the regional meet. In the state meet, he finished in eleventh place in the 110 meter hurdles.

Logan Kats is Norton's other three-year letterman. He is the only remaining member of the Blue Jays' 1600 meter relay team which won the league championship, placed third in the regional meet and fourth in the state meet.

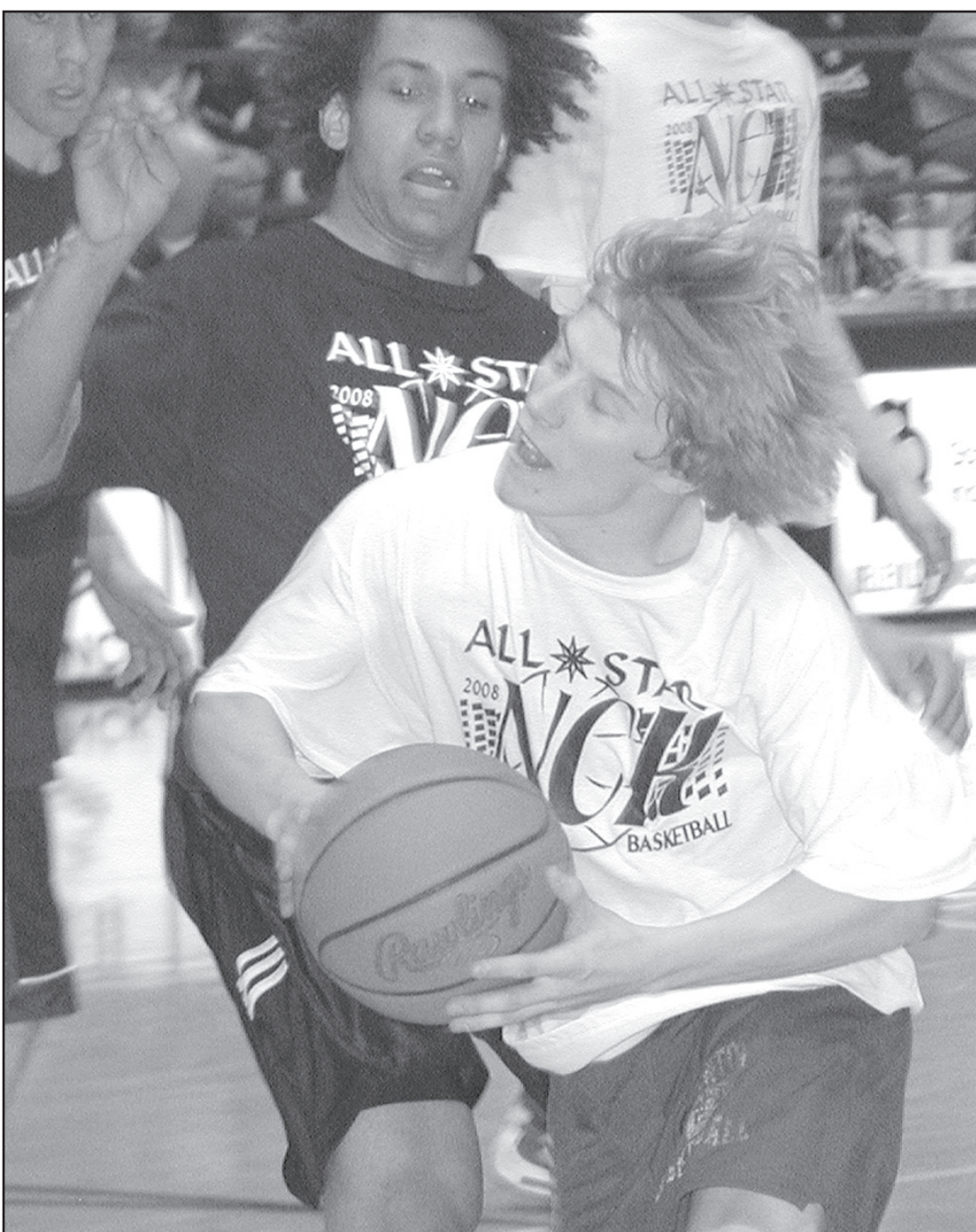
Wes Georgeson is a quality hurdler who placed fifth in the league meet last year in the 110 meter hurdles and fifth in the same event in the regional meet, just missing a place in the state meet. He made the trip to the state competition as a relay alternate.

Zach Bainter was the Mid-Continent League champion last season in the 1600 meter run, placed fourth in the 800 meters in the league and is the only remaining member of the Blue Jays' 3200 meter relay team which won the gold medal in the league. He placed fourth in the 1600 meter run in the regional meet and his 3200 meter relay team also qualified for the state meet with a second place finish.

Bainter finished eleventh in the 1600 meter run in the state meet last season and his 3200 meter relay team won the state championship with a school record time of 8:07.57. Seniors Blake VanEaton, Logan Keiswetter and Jared Engelbert were the other members of the team. They broke the Blue Jay school record of 8:16.20 which was held by Brent Bohl, Kevin Hahn, Kirk Kasson and Mike Colip.

The Blue Jay boys won the league championship last season, placed third in the regional meet and eighth in the state meet.

The Kats on the move



Norton Community High School senior point guard Logan Kats drove inside to shoot during the boys' North Central Kansas All-Star Basketball Classic on Saturday evening in Bryant Gymnasium at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. Kats was Norton's second leading scorer, top three-point shooter, leading free throw shooter, assists and steals leader this season. He was also an All-Mid-Continent League selection.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton golf team on the road today

By **DICK BOYD**

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Coach David Stover and his 2008 Norton Community High School golf team opened the season today in the annual Smith Center Invitational and will host the Norton Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton.

The Norton tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Competing teams, in addition to Norton, will be Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hill City, Hoxie, Oakley, Phillipsburg, Quinter, Stockton and Smith Center.

Norton will award medals to the top three teams and to the top six individuals. Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams.

Norton will also host the Norton Junior Varsity Golf Tournament on Tues., April 29.

Twenty-two young men and women are competing for this year's team, six of whom are returning letter winners. Seniors Preston Herman and Kyle Edgett, juniors Logan Kelly and Kyle Mindrup and sophomores J.D. Gall and Marcus Herman won letters last season.

Norton placed fourth in the Mid-Continent League Tournament last year in both the 4-man and

6-man competition. Gall was the league runner-up medalist with a career low 76 and won All-Mid-Continent League honors.

The Blue Jays shot a season low team score in the regional tournament but did not place high enough to qualify for state competition. Returning members of that team are Gall, Edgett, Preston Herman and Marcus Herman.

Other team members this season are: Andrew Black, Lacy Ellis, Kylie Morel, seniors; Ashley Colip, David Roman, Jacob VanSkiike, juniors; Connor Pfannenstiel, sophomore; Andrew Otter, Cole Archer, Tanner Morel, Kyra Fulton, Nikki McVey, Katie Gall, Ashley Millan, Shaylyn Boteler, David Cressler, freshmen.

Coach Stover's assistant coach again this season will be Keith Hauser.

"I am excited about the upcoming season," said coach Stover.

"We return a very experienced group of players with six letter winners heading the group.

"I believe this group will show improvement throughout the season and I look for good results this spring.

"Phillipsburg and Trego Community are both returning quality golf squads and will be the early favorites in the league."

Schedule

Tues., April 1 -- Smith Center Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
 Fri., April 4 -- Norton Invitational, Norton, 9 a.m.
 Tues., April 8 -- Ellis Invitational, Ellis, 3 p.m.
 Tues., April 8 -- Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
 Fri., April 11 -- Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
 Tues., April 15 -- Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
 Fri., April 18 -- Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
 Tues., April 22 -- Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
 Thurs., April 24 -- Trego Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 24 -- Logan Invitational, Logan, 3 p.m.
 Mon., April 28 -- Thomas More Prep Invitational, Smoky Hill, Hays, 9 a.m.
 Tues., April 29 -- Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.
 Thurs., May 1 -- Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.
 Thurs., May 1 -- Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
 Mon., May 5 -- Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.
 Thurs., May 8 -- Mid-Continent League Tournament, Ellis, 3 p.m.
 Mon., May 12 -- Regional Golf TBA 9 a.m.
 Mon., May 19 -- State Golf, Salina Municipal, Salina, 9 a.m.

Goodland names new grid coach

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