

Track opens on the road

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School track and field athletes opened the 2008 season by competing in the Junior Varsity Meet in Smith Center on Monday.

The Blue Jay athletes placed seventh in both girls and boys competition.

"We were very pleased with the efforts that the 14 young ladies and 8 young men who attended this meet gave in what was, for some of them, their first taste of track and field competition in a long time. The weather was not ideal but that is always part of this sport and we felt that our athletes did an excellent job of handling themselves and competing in adverse conditions.

"Our young ladies and men competed well. They established some early marks in the heat of competition and it always does wonders for morale to finally get out and perform.

"We are excited about the future for these athletes and the improvements that are sure to come for them as they continue to compete throughout the junior varsity season. These athletes' next meet is our home meet today."

Girls
Thayer Central won the championship with 124 points, followed by Russell, 104; Republic County, 95; Smith Center, 63; Phillipsburg, 49; Beloit, 43; Norton, 30.

Raven Brown placed third in

the 100 meter dash with a time of 14.19. Amanda Delimont finished third in the discus with a throw of 82'11".

Raven Brown also placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 12'2.5".

Also finishing fourth were Amyla Tan with a time of 3:08 in the 800 meter run and Bekah Streck with a clocking of 18:37 in the 3200 meter run.

Placing fifth in the 100 meter hurdles was Kelsey Nuzum in 23.65 and Allie Corbin finished in fifth place in the shot put with a heave of 26'9.5".

Lacy Keilig placed right behind Corbin in the shot put with a distance of 26'4.5" to place sixth.

Corbin also finished sixth in the discus with a throw of 74'7".

Times and distances of Norton girls who did not place were: Amanda Delimont, 26'1.75"; Morgan Baumann, 23'; Sophie Mills, 22'2.75"; Katie Scott, 17'9"; shotput; Morgan Baumann, 59'3"; Lacy Keilig, 57'4"; Katie Scott, 51'8"; discus; Sophie Mills, 60'8"; Lacy Keilig, 60'; Amanda Ray, 58'; javelin; Brandi Graham, NH, high jump; Amyla Tan, 14.96; Brandi Graham, 14.98; Helen Guerrero, 15.11; Jade Braun, 16.49; Kelsey Nuzum, 17.01; 100 meter dash; Helen Guerrero, 32.45; Jade Braun, 36.81; 200 meter dash; Amanda Ray, 7:16.68, 1600 meter run.

Boys
Smith Center won the team

championship with 137 points, followed by Thayer Central, 130; Beloit, 115; Russell, 92; Phillipsburg, 62; Republic County, 20; Norton, 7.5.

Kegan Vanover placed fourth in the 3200 meter run in 13:21.01.

Kaid McKenna tied for fifth in the pole vault with a height of 8'6".

Justin Griffith placed sixth with a throw of 98'6" in the javelin.

Josh Gallentine finished sixth in the 1600 meter run in 6:21.29.

Times and distances of Norton boys who did not place were: Ryan Blecha, 32'4"; Justin Griffith, 30'; shot put; Ryan Blecha, 97'9"; Justin Griffith, 79', discus; Billy Broeckelman, NH, pole vault; Kaid McKenna, 13.03; Billy Broeckelman, 13.06, 100 meter dash; Billy Broeckelman, 27.66; Spencer Shirk, 30.14, 200 meter dash; Spencer Shirk, 1:07, 400 meter dash; Zach Porter, 2:56, 800 meter run; Zach Porter, 6:38.32, 1600 meter run.

Next action
Norton is hosting the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet today on the 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.

Good start for golf team

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School golf team opened the 2008 season on Tuesday with an outstanding second place finish in the annual Smith Center Invitational.

Phillipsburg, one of the Mid-Continent League pre-season title favorites, won the championship with a 345. Norton carded a 376, followed by Osborne, 383; Lakeside, 394; Smith Center, 396; Beloit, 436.

Norton's J.D. Gall was third individual medalist with a 43-43-86. Next best for Norton was Connor Pfannenstiel with a 46-48-94, which tied for seventh medalist.

Also scoring for the Blue Jays were Preston Herman, 53-45-98 and Kyle Edgett, 50-48-98.

The other two Norton golfers and their scores were: Marcus Herman, 49-53-102 and Logan

Kelly, 50-52-102.
Medalists were: Jeff Jarvis, Phillipsburg, 74; Chris Schneider, Phillipsburg, 83; J.D. Gall, 86; Ryan Sturgeon, Osborne, 91; Jake Bertrand, Osborne, 92; Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg, 93; Ryan DeBey, Lakeside, 94.

"We were able to begin the season with a solid start, finishing second to a very good Phillipsburg squad," said Norton head golf coach David Stover. "As is generally the case early in the season, our short game was not very sharp today, especially on the putting green. We also hurt ourselves with too many penalty strokes but these are both areas we can and will be able to improve on as the season progresses.

"Individually, J.D. Gall got the season off to a very good start, earning a third place finish with a very consistent round of golf. Also, Connor Pfannenstiel shot a

career-best round of golf to earn a tie for the last medalist honors. Unfortunately, Connor lost his first varsity individual medalist honor in a card playoff."

Next action
Norton will host the Norton Invitational Golf Tournament today on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton, beginning 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.

The top three teams will receive individual medals and the top six individuals will receive medals. Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams.

The Blue Jay golfers will compete in the Ellis Invitational in Ellis on Tuesday, beginning at 3 p.m.

Area athletes doing well at Fort Hays

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Area athletes competing for Fort Hays State University got the 2008 outdoor track and field season off to a good start by placing in the Alex Francis Invitational hosted by the Tigers on Saturday.

On the boys side, Norton freshman Blake VanEaton and his 4 x 400 meter relay teammates placed

second with a time of 3:34.01. VanEaton also ran the open 800 meters and was timed in 2:05.16. Jared Bebb, also a freshman from Norton, ran the 800 meters in 2:07.84.

Tim McElroy, freshman from Logan, placed fourth in the shot put with a distance of 48'10.75". He was also eighth in the discus with a throw of 147'4" and tenth in

the hammer throw with a distance of 141'9".

In the girls division, Katie Kersenbrock, senior from Oakley, was a member of the gold medal winning 4 x 400 meter relay team which was timed in 4:07.19.

She also placed second in the 400 meter dash in 1:01.66 and fourth in the 800 meter run in 2:27.36.

All Star at Work

Wes Georgeson, senior post player for Norton Community High School's boys' basketball team, passed to a teammate during the North Central Kansas All-Star Basketball Classic on Saturday in Bryant Gymnasium at Cloud County Community College in Concordia. Georgeson was Norton's leading scorer, most accurate shooter, second leading rebounder, second in steals, second in blocked shots and was an All-Mid-Continent League selection this season.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton Blue Jay signs letter

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Chantille Campbell, a senior at Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play fast pitch softball for Barton County Community College in Great Bend.

Chantille has played eight years of softball in Norton, most recently with the Lady Storm. Norton's Kirk Foley has coached Chantille six of those years.

"I think she has a real good chance of making it in college softball," said Foley. "She'll have excellent coaching by guys who do it all the time. She had a good showing in the Sunflower Showcase. They play three games there and she got some good looks."

Also coaching her last season were Erin Hill and Maggie Foley.

Coach Tom Curtis is a veteran

coach who started the girls fast pitch softball program at Barton County and has been the head coach for 25 years. He said he remembers Chastity Harman from Norton playing for him and likes the Norton athletic tradition.

His Barton County teams have qualified for the national junior college tournament three times and he ranks No. 2 in wins in junior college with 661 victories. Only one other team they play has a winning percentage against them.

Barton County plays in the tough Jayhawk Conference and also plays quality non-conference foes.

Coach Curtis's ability to coach winning teams has been rewarded by his induction into the Kansas American Softball Association Hall of Fame.

Although they recruit nationwide, coach Curtis said half of

their players are from Kansas. Their softball season is in March and April and they play 60 games in 60 days. They scrimmage in the fall from August to October.

"We're looking forward to Chantille playing for us," said coach Curtis.

"We want players with overall athletic ability who can run, throw and hit and Chantille can do all of these! Her athletic ability really impressed me.

"It's nice to have quality Kansas girls playing for us. We don't want to overlook anyone who has softball talent.

"We are happy that we can give Chantille a chance to prove herself and possibly go on to play at a higher level."

Chantille is the daughter of Julie and Darin Campbell, Norton.

Darin was the Lady Storm's team manager.

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Campbell Signs with Barton Co. Community College



Observing as Norton's Chantille Campbell signed a letter of intent to play fast pitch softball with Barton County Community College in Great Bend were her mother Julie and father Darin and, in the back, from left Barton County Assistant Softball Coach Heather Hitschmann, Barton County Head Softball Coach Tom Curtis and Chantille's Norton coach Kirk Foley.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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