



Norton junior Laura Lee Baird left the rest of the field behind as she sprinted into the first curve of the final lap in the 800 meter run in the Smith Center Invitational. The distance between Baird and the others grew even more by the time she hit the finish line in the meet record time of 2:22.9.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton sophomores Hannah Waggoner and Raven Brown placed third and fourth, respectively, in the 100 meter dash in the Smith Center Invitational Track Meet last Tuesday. Waggoner also placed second in the 200 meter dash and anchored the Norton 4 x 100 meter relay team to a second place finish.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Outstanding performances by Blue Jays

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity track team competed on a cold day in the Smith Center Invitational Meet last Tuesday and turned in some outstanding performances despite the weather.

The Lady Jays won their second straight championship, after earning the title in the Norton Invitational previously.

The Norton boys finished in fifth after placing third in the Norton Invitational.

Norton won the girls championship with 151.5 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 110; Smith Center, 103; Beloit, 88; Thayer Central, 70.5; Belleville, 42; Trego Community, 14.

In boys competition, Thayer Central was the champion with 170 points, followed by Beloit, 136; Smith Center, 115.5; Phillipsburg, 78; Norton, 69; Belleville, 43.5; Trego Community, 14.

Girls

Two Norton girls were triple gold medal winners, both of them juniors.

In the field events, Hayli Bozarth won the shot put with a heave of 39'5.25", the discus with a throw of 126'3" and the javelin with a personal best distance of 114'5".

Laura Lee Baird dominated the races. She won the 400 meter dash in 60.9, the 800 meter run in a meet record breaking time of 2:22.9 and came from behind on her leg to anchor the 4 x 400 meter relay team to a first place finish in 4:26.95.

On the relay team with Baird were senior Courtney LeClair, junior KaraJo Jones and freshman Dustyna Sprigg.

Courtney LeClair had a good day in the hurdles. She won the 100 meter hurdles in 16.22 and placed third in the 300 meter hurdles in 50.60.

Junior Taylor Rossi was Norton's other gold medal winner in the girls division. She cleared 9' to tie her personal record height.

Lady Jay sprinter sophomore Hannah Waggoner placed second

in the 200 meter dash in 28.20 and third in the 100 meter dash in 13.63. She also anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a second place finish in 54.15. Running with her were LeClair, Rossi and Jones.

Sophomore Alyssa Thomson won the silver medal in the high jump by clearing 4'10". KaraJo Jones earned the bronze medal in the long jump with a leap of 14'8.5" and bronze medal in the 200 meter dash in 28.37.

Norton's weight relay team of juniors Bozarth, Amanda Delimont and Wiyanna Paxton and freshman Sophie Mills placed second in the 4 x 100 meter relay in 1:01.60.

Freshman Kaylen Rossi finished fourth in the 3200 meter run in 14:51.31. Sophomore Raven Brown placed fourth in the 100 meter dash with a personal best time of 13.92.

Paxton placed fifth in the discus with a throw of 95'8" and sixth in the javelin with a distance of 94'10". Sprigg placed sixth in the high jump with a clearance of 4'4".

Delimont finished in sixth place in the shot put with a personal record of 32'3". Taylor Rossi placed sixth in the 1600 meter run in 6:21.41.

The Lady Jays' 4 x 800 meter relay team of Kaylen Rossi, senior Courtney Cox, freshman Bekah Streck and junior Amyla Tan placed fifth in 12:34.20.

Times and distances of Lady Jay performances which did not place were: Wiyanna Paxton, 30'3.5", shot put; Amanda Delimont, 75'4", discus; Sophie Mills, 61'2", javelin; Raven Brown, 13'.5"; Alyssa Thomson, 12'6", long jump; junior Katharine Roy, 31.36, 200 meter dash; Dustyna Sprigg, personal best, 1:09.01, 400 meter dash; Amyla Tan, 2:55.88; Sophie Mills, 3:06.99, 800 meter run; senior Courtney Cox, personal best 6:56.67, 1600 meter run; Bekah Streck, personal best 15:55.18, 3200 meter run.

Boys

Junior Zach Bainter was a double gold medal winner for the Blue Jay boys. He won the 800 meter

run in 2:07.72 and the 1600 meter run in 4:48.90.

Bainter also anchored the 4 x 400 meter relay team to a fifth place finish in 3:47.06. Running with him were senior Jared Cox, junior Brock Lauer and freshman Jeremy Sproul.

Cox won several individual medals. He won the gold medal in the 300 meter hurdles in 41.52 and the silver medal in the 110 meter hurdles where he was timed in 15.90.

Sproul placed third in the 400 meter dash in 55.38 and sixth in the 200 meter dash in 24.47. Sproul was also a member of Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team which placed fifth in 48.15. Running with him were sophomore Landon Hamel, Lauer and junior Brad Nuzum.

Freshman Terrell Lane finished third in the long jump with a leap of 19'6.5" and fifth in the triple jump with a distance of 38'11".

Senior Wes Georgeson placed fourth in the javelin with a throw of 142'11" and fifth in the 110 meter hurdles in 17.83.

Senior David Counter finished fourth in the 3200 meter run with a

personal best time of 11:24.11.

Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Counter, senior Luke Van-Skike, sophomore Chris Maddy and freshman Dakota Dreher placed fifth with a clocking of 10:02.14.

Times and distances of Norton boys' performances that did not place were: Zac Dreher, 36'5.25"; Brad Nuzum, 32'6"; Brock Lauer, 30'11.5", shot put; Zac Dreher, 91'3"; Brad Nuzum, personal best 85'2", discus; Zac Dreher, 120'3", javelin; Landon Hamel, 16'11.25", long jump; sophomore Casey Robison, 33'2", triple jump; Dakota Dreher, NH, high jump; freshman Billy Broeckelman, NH; freshman Kaid McKenna, NH; Casey Robison, NH, pole vault; Brock Lauer, personal best 12.09; Terrell Lane, 12.14, 100 meter dash; Landon Hamel, 25.98, 200 meter dash; Landon Hamel, 58.84, 400 meter dash; Dakota Dreher, 2:24.60, 800 meter run; David Counter, 5:26.51; Luke VanSkike, 6:05.34, 1600 meter run; Chris Maddy, 11:51.85; Troy Bainter, personal best 12:39.99, 3200 meter run.

Coach's comments

"Again, our athletes performed very well!" said Norton head track coach Jason Jones.

"We were very glad we got to compete as the weather did not look like it was going to cooperate. The day turned out fine, though, and most of our athletes were able to overcome the cool conditions.

"We did have some injuries on the boys' side that forced us to throw some relays together at the last minute but our boys responded well and we scored some points in those events despite the last-minute changes.

"It is very difficult to compare times and distances from this meet to those of our home meet where we were blessed with sunshine and calm winds. At this meet, it was very cool for the duration of the competition. We produced fewer personal records than we did the week before but most of our athletes ran times and achieved distances that were very close to those earned at the first meet and, we love to see that, given the type of day with which we were dealing.

"We are very proud of the effort our athletes are giving and we are equally proud of the results that they are posting.

"We feel great about the direction in which we appear to be heading and we continue to be very excited about the remainder of the season. We feel like we are looking forward to some awesome performances in the near future!"

Next action

On Monday, the Norton junior varsity competed in the Trego JV Meet in WaKeeney.

Today, the Norton varsity will compete in the Plainville Invitational Meet, beginning at 3 p.m.

On Friday of this week, varsity members will compete in the Lexington Invitational and junior varsity track and field athletes will compete in the Phillipsburg Meet, which will be held in Smith Center and begin at 3 p.m.

Also, on Friday and Saturday, some members of the Norton varsity will compete in the annual Kansas Relays at Lawrence with times to be announced.

'Jay wrestling banquet set

Wrestlers, coaches, parents and fans are invited to attend the 2008 Norton Community High School Wrestling Awards Banquet at 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 20 in the Norton junior high gymnasium.

The Norton Blue Jay 2007-008 Wrestling Team, which placed fourth in the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament, will be honored during the banquet.

Those attending are asked to bring your own table service, a main dish and two of the following: salad, vegetable, dessert.

Drinks will be provided.

Following the dinner, the coaching staff will honor the wrestling team and present several team awards.

"We invite anyone who wants to help honor the accomplishments of this fine team and the 2008 senior class," said head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

"There is no way for us to send invitations through the mail to everyone who supported us throughout the season So, consider this an invitation for all to attend."

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