

# Blue Jays qualify 21 for state track meet

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams had outstanding performances on Friday in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet in Cimarron, winning both second place plaques and qualifying 18 athletes for the state meet!

The Lady Jays came especially close to winning the championship, losing the title by one point to longtime rival Phillipsburg.

In addition to finishing runner-up in both girls and boys divisions, the girls qualified six Lady Jays and the Norton boys qualified 12 athletes for the Kansas State Track & Field Championships this Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Phillipsburg won the girls championship with 67 points, followed by Norton, 66; Hoisington, 55; Cimarron, 50; Ellsworth, 46; Ellinwood, 45; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 44; Southwestern Heights, 38; Lyons, 37; Lakin, 33; Holcomb, 27; Larned, 24; Medicine Lodge, 18; Sterling, 7.

The boys champion was Holcomb with 98 points, followed by Norton, 77; Hoisington, 51; Lakin 48; Southwestern Heights, 44; Ellsworth, 40; Lyons, 38; Goodland, 35; Thomas More Prep, 35; Phillipsburg, 23; Ellinwood, 22; Medicine Lodge, 15; Larned, 15; Sterling, 13; Cimarron, 4.

"We are extremely proud of the performances that our athletes posted in the regional track and field meet in Cimarron," said Norton head track and field coach Jason Jones. "We continued to get better in many areas on both sides. We had an outstanding day!

"Our girls' team came home with two new personal records and one champion. Hayli Bozarth continued her string of victories in the shot put and six of our female athletes were in the top four in their events to earn the opportunity to represent our school and community in the state meet. That is awesome and we cannot wait to take advantage of the opportuni-

ties that we have grasped!

"On the boys' side, we also had an awesome day with nine new personal records, four championships and a total of 12 of our boys qualifying to compete in the state meet. Ashton Draper won the 400 meter dash and Zach Bainter had an absolutely wonderful day. He dominated the middle distance and distance events by capturing regional championships in all three of his events, the 800 meters, 1600 meters and 3200 meters. We are very excited for all of our boys who qualified and we look forward to their opportunities this weekend!

"Our athletes spent the entire day devoted to and committed to positively controlling their own preparations, efforts and performances. They displayed an unbelievable amount of sportsmanship and class and handled themselves with the utmost poise and character. It is these qualities that make us most proud of them because this is the mark of true champions!"

## GIRLS

Norton senior Hayli Bozarth proved her self once again to be worthy of the favorite's role as she heaved the shot put 44'9", more than four feet farther than the second place finisher!

Bozarth also qualified for competition in the state meet in the discus with a second place throw of 123'6" and a third place throw of 112'2" in the javelin.

Lady Jay senior KaraJo Jones had another good day jumping and running. She won the silver medal in the long jump with an outstanding leap of 17'3.5" and placed fourth in the 200 meter dash in 26.92. She also ran the opening leg for the 4 x 100 meter relay team which placed fourth in 52.33. Running with her were junior Raven Brown, freshman Sady Keilig and junior Hannah Waggoner.

Waggoner also qualified for the state meet by placing third in the 100 meter dash in 12.66 and third in the 200 meter dash in 26.80.

Sady Keilig and junior Alyssa Thomson also qualified for the state meet with fourth place finishes. Keilig was fourth in the pole vault with a clearance of 7'6" and Thomson was fourth in the high jump with a clearance of 4'10".

Norton sophomore Dustyna Sprigg set a personal record in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:04.79 but placed fifth to just miss a trip to the state meet. Sprigg also set a personal record in the triple jump with a distance of 31'4.5" but her eighth place was out of the running for a state berth. Sprigg will make the trip to the state meet, however, as an alternate on the 4 x 100 meter Lady Jay relay team.

Also just missing a state berth was the Lady Jays' 4 x 400 meter relay team, which placed fifth in 4:15.49. Running on that foursome were Jones, Sprigg, Keilig and Waggoner.

Two Lady Jays had sixth place finishes. Junior Bethany Roy was sixth in the javelin with a throw of 98'7" and sophomore Kaylen Rossi was sixth in the 3200 meter run with a clocking of 14:11.28.

Competing but not placing for the Norton girls was senior Amanda Delimont, who finished eighth in the shot put with a heave of 32'6" and 11th in the discus with a throw of 88'8". Sady Keilig also placed 12th in the long jump with a leap of 14'6.75" and Brown finished 10th in the triple jump with a distance of 30'.25".

## BOYS

Norton senior Zach Bainter dominated his three races, easily bringing home the gold in every one!

Bainter was timed in 10:16.76 in the 3200 meter run, 4:34.14 in the 1600 meter run and an excellent 1:59.05 to break his own personal record in the 800 meter run!

Junior Ashton Draper also broke his personal record in winning the gold medal in the 400 meter dash in a time of 51.37!

Members of Norton's 4 x 100 meter relay team won silver medals and qualified for the state meet in the process. The foursome of

senior Brock Lauer, senior Jordan Bebb, sophomore Justin Griffith and sophomore Terrell Lane was timed in 45.49 and missed gold medals by less than a second!

Blue Jay senior Zac Dreher threw the javelin a personal record distance of 165'3" to place fourth and earn a trip to the state meet.

Draper also earned a second state meet berth in the 200 meter dash where he placed third in 23.69 and Lane finished fourth in 23.82 to also qualify in a second event.

Despite running the 200 meter dash in a personal record time of 24.08, Lauer placed fifth to just miss a trip to the state meet in that event.

Norton freshman Seth Antrim will compete in the state meet in the pole vault after placing fourth with a vault of 12'6".

The Blue Jay 4 x 800 meter relay team of sophomore Troy Bainter, freshman Tye Nickell, freshman Zach Hartwell and freshman Bryan Henry qualified for the state meet with a fourth place finish in the time of 9:01.24.

Placing fifth and just missing qualifying for the state meet were junior Zane Perez with a personal record distance of 19'4" in the long jump and sophomore Dakota Dreher with a height of 5'10" in the high jump.

Lane added another point to the Norton team total with a sixth place finish in the 100 meter dash in the personal record time of 11.40.

Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team of Lauer, Nickell, Dakota Dreher and Draper placed eighth in 3:41.38.

Other Norton boys' efforts that did not place were: Jordan Bebb, personal record 45'11", shot put; Jordan Bebb, personal record 141'2", javelin; Tye Nickell, pole vault; Brock Lauer, personal record 11.53, 9th, 100 meter dash; Zach Hartwell, 10:58.30; Troy Bainter, 11:14.00, 3200 meter

run. Two Blue Jay boys will also make the state meet trip to Wichita as alternates.

They are Dakota Dreher in the 4 x 800 meter relay and Zane Perez in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

## Next action

The Norton track and field ath-

letes who qualified will compete on Friday and Saturday in one of the largest high school track meets in the nation in the Kansas State Track & Field Championships in Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Athletes from all six enrollment classes will compete.



Norton senior Hayli Bozarth was awesome in the shot put ring again on Friday in the Class 3A Regional Track Meet in Cimarron when she heaved the iron ball 44'9" to continue her season winning streak. She also qualified for this weekend's state meet in Wichita with a second place finish in the discus and third place in the javelin.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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