

# Norton Cross country teams win championship

**By Dick Boyd**  
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Head coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams both opened the 2011 season in championship fashion by winning the Norton Invitational Meet for the third year in a row on Thursday on the Prairie Dog Association Golf Course south of Norton.

It was the sixth straight championship of the Norton event for the Lady Jays.

The Norton boys placed third three years ago and second four years ago after having won three years in a row.

"The heat was on today," said coach Rossi. "I don't recall a race being as hot as it was today."

"Our girls ran very well despite the heat and I'm proud of the way our young men handled themselves in the heat."

The Norton girls won the championship with 27 points, followed by Oberlin, 49; Hill City, 72; Plainville, 78.

The Blue Jay boys scored 40 points to win the title, followed by Oberlin, 45; Phillipsburg, 74; Plainville, 78; Stockton, 112.

The runners were competing in 100 plus degree weather with no wind.

### GIRLS

Norton sophomore Darcy Bainter was first to hit the finish line for the Lady Jays. She was third in 18:16 for the 2.5

mile course. Sophomore Katelyn Engelbert finished fifth in 18:43 and junior Julia Kent placed tenth in 19:49. Finishing just behind Kent in 11th place was sophomore Marisa Maddy in 19:50 and just behind her in 12th place was junior Kamilla Jones with a clocking of 20:13.

These five girls made up the Norton team score.

Also running for Norton and their finishes and times were: freshman Sierra Griffith, 16th, 21:38 and freshman Jesika Smith, 27th, 24:09.

"Winning is a great way to start the season," said coach Rossi. "Our times were not as good as last year but that was the case for just about everyone, not just our girls."

"Darcy ran very well along with Katelyn. Julia, Marisa and Kamilla who were all within two minutes of Darcy and that is an important statistic to us."

"We need to close the 1-5 split down. The freshmen Sierra and Jesika learned that cross country is a very difficult sport."

"I am pleased with our effort today. We know where we are and what we need to do to get better."

Runners in the top 10 in addition to those from Norton were: Leslie VanLoenen, Hill City, 18:08, first; Marlee McKenna, Hoxie, 18:13, runner-up; Cassidy Rathbun, Plainville, 18:31, fourth; Tustin Taylor, Grainfield-Wheatland, 18:48,



Norton senior Zach Hartwell led his champion Blue Jay boys to the finish line in the annual Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday on the Prairie Dog Association Golf Course south of Norton. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

sixth; Madi Niblock, Hoxie, 18:49, seventh; Addie Johnson,



Norton sophomore Darcy Bainter was the first finisher for the champion Lady Jays in the annual Norton Invitational Cross Country Meet on Thursday on the Prairie Dog Association Golf Course south of Norton. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Grainfield-Wheatland, 18:57, eighth; Winter Polivka, Oberlin,

19:16, ninth.

### BOYS

Norton senior Zach Hartwell was first to finish for the Blue Jay boys as he placed fifth in 19:06 for the 3.1 mile course.

He was followed by sophomore Marc Miller, who was clocked in 20:08 to finish ninth. Finishing right behind Miller in tenth was sophomore Alec Hager in 20:10.

Senior Bryan Henry was timed in 20:45 and placed 15th. Rounding out the top five for the Blue Jays' team score was junior John Renner with a time of 21:26 to place 17th.

Other Norton boys runners and their finishes and times were: freshman Dalton Vanover, 20th, 22:16 and junior Ryan Bainter, 27th, 23:46.

Five Norton boys competed in the junior varsity race.

Sophomore Andrew Smith placed ninth in 25:14 and sophomore Garret Otter was right behind him in tenth with a time of 25:15. Senior Eric Becker placed 12th in 25:24 and sophomore Chris Chambers finished 13th with a time of 25:34. Freshman David Smith was 18th in 41:19.

"The boys' championship was a great topper to the day," said coach Rossi.

"There were some very good runners in the boys race."

"Again, the heat was very oppressive. I do feel bad for the freshmen who had to endure the heat for their first race. But, if

they can survive today, they will be able to handle anything."

"As with the girls, our boys learned a lot about themselves today. We have a great deal of work to do to get where we need to be but I think we are on the right track."

Runners in the top 10 in addition to those from Norton were: Brady Johnson, Plainville, 17:33, first; Gunnar Hays, Northern Valley, 18:14, runner-up; Luke Friess, Hoxie, 18:32, third; Tyler Shields, Oberlin, 19:00, fourth; Shane Jones, Hill City, 19:46, sixth; Brendan Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, 19:57, seventh; Wyatt Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, 20:05, eighth.

### Northern Valley results

Northern Valley had two runners in the varsity run and three running junior varsity.

In addition to Gunnar Hays' outstanding runner-up finish in the varsity run, Husky junior Jon Compton placed 11th in 20:15.

In the junior varsity race, Northern Valley freshman Philip Rupp placed fourth in 23:40; Husky freshman Macy Kasson finished fifth in 23:56 and senior Brandon McDowell placed 19th in 43:20.

### Next action

Norton will compete in the annual Wamego Invitational on Saturday.

The 1-2-3A girls will run at 11 a.m. and the 1-2-3A boys will run at 11:30 a.m.

## Football

(Continued from page 12)

to the Ellis 45, then got loose to the 9-yard line! Next he ran to the 2. Wahlmeier plunged to the 1 and Nickell got nothing as the Railroaders held and took over possession of the pigskin.

Hunsicker tried to run the ball up the middle but Lewis limited him to 1 yard.

The next down, Millan recovered a fumbled pitchout in the end zone for another Norton touchdown! The extra kick was no good but Norton had extended their lead to 25-7 with 4:19 left.

Hager's squib kick was recovered by Ellis on their 33. Herl ran around left end for 7 yards and, helped by a face mask penalty against Norton, the Railroaders moved the ball. After they got a first down on the Blue Jay 30, the gang tackling Norton defenders shut them down. A pass on fourth and 10 was intercepted

by Nickell on the Norton 13.

Nickell ran for a first down on the 24, Austin Hager picked up 3 yards and a pass to Millan from Wahlmeier carried to the 33-yard line as the quarter came to a close with Norton leading 25-7.

### Fourth quarter

Wahlmeier got the final period off to a great start by keeping the ball and running 28 yards to the Ellis 39-yard line!

Austin Hager plunged for 1 yard, then got a first down on the Ellis 26. Wahlmeier went back up top and connected with Brooks for another Blue Jay touchdown. Hager's kick was good for the extra point and it was 32-7 with 10:13 left in the contest.

Hager's kickoff was recovered by Ellis on their 27. A first down fumble was recovered by Tyler Lewis on the Ellis 27. Brooks ran to the 12 for a first down, then Millan gained 3 more.

The teams had offsetting penalties, then Brooks found a hole in the middle of the Ellis line and sprinted for another Norton touchdown from 9 yards out. An attempted pass for 2 extra points was unsuccessful but Norton was well on the way to victory with a 38-7 advantage and 8:12 remaining in the game.

Hager's kickoff rolled into the end zone. Ellis went to the air and McKenna intercepted a pass and returned it for an apparent touchdown but it was nullified by a block-in-the-back penalty. With Nickell and Millan continuing to make yardage, Norton appeared to be going for yet another touchdown but Ellis stopped them and took over possession of the pigskin.

The Railroaders made it to their 44-yard line before the Jays stopped them when Stewart Whitney and Dylan Sprigg and others sacked Hunsicker.

One play later, Norton was a

38-7 winner over an Ellis team who had played them much closer in the recent past.

### Next action

The Blue Jays now look to the West where they will take on the always tough St. Francis Indians this Friday evening, beginning at 7 p.m.

St. Francis lost 26-2 to an excellent Colby eleven in their opener last Friday.

Under third year head coach Nathan Smith, the Indians run a

wishbone offense of the Smith Center variety and employ a 4-3 defense. They have five returning starters on offense and six returnees on defense.

"We focused for three weeks on the Ellis game, now we will have to work hard this week to correct the mistakes we made."

"St. Francis has an extremely large line with players weighing 255 pounds, 245 pounds, 230 pounds and 220 pounds. It will be a challenge for us and we

will need to play very physical again."

### GAME STATISTICS

Norton		Ellis
16	First Downs	8
249	Rushing	114
67	Passing	9
316	Total Yards	123
6-10-0	Passes Comp.	2-12-4
1-1	Fumbles Lost	3-3
2-29	Punts	3-30.5
6-65	Penalties	10-70

## College conference set for Sept. 22

Every year, thousands of Kansas high school students face one of the most important decisions in their lives--where to continue their education. It's a choice that will have a lasting effect on their future lives--everything from how much they will earn to where they will live can be affected by the education they choose. With dozens of post-secondary options to choose from, that decision can be overwhelming, even with the help of counselors and parents.

To help make that decision easier, the Kansas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers will host a college planning conference for high school and transfer students in your area. This event will give prospective students the opportunity to gather information about public and private colleges, universities and technical schools in Kansas and the region. Representatives will be

available from each institution to answer questions about academic programs, financial assistance opportunities, student life and athletics.

The conference will be held Thursday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Colby Community College, Student Union 1255 S Range in Colby, KS 67701



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