

Logan and Northern Valley compete at State

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Five athletes from Northern Valley and five from Logan competed in the 104th Kansas Track & Field Meet last Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

The Northern Valley girls scored 6 points and tied for 32nd out of 57 teams and the Logan girls tallied 5 points and tied for 38th.

The Northern Valley boys placed 40th out of 55 teams by scoring 4 points.

Northern Valley

Sophomore Brooke Baird cleared 9' to place third in the Class 1A pole vault.

"Brooke was able to get over all of her heights with no misses," said Northern Valley head coach Chuck Fessenden. "We would have liked to have seen her make 9'6" but she came up a little bit short."

Senior Jordan Baird competed in the 200 meter dash and was timed in 23.44 "He ran a good race," said coach Fessenden. "He missed making the finals by one-hundredth of a second!"

Senior Hunter Chandler cleared 6' in the high jump, which was not as high as he had gone earlier but he was hampered by a recent injury. "In addition to recovering from an injury, Hunter unfortunately had

a case of stomach flu this past week," said coach Fessenden. "He was still able to get over 6' but we would have liked to see what he could have done if he was healthy."

Husky junior Clint Cole placed fifth in the pole vault with a clearance of 12'6". "Clint vaulted very well and set a personal record of 12'6"," said coach Fessenden. "He made all of the heights without any misses until 13'."

Northern Valley junior Phillip Bryant competed in the long jump and had a best leap of 18'4". "Phillip injured his knee slightly on his first jump in the long jump and did not jump up

to his ability," said coach Fessenden. "This was a good experience for him and, hopefully, he will have another opportunity next year."

"Overall, I felt like our track team had a good year and I am looking forward to next season."

Logan

The Logan girls tied for 38th out of 57 Class 1A teams with 5 points.

Senior Michaela Girard was timed in 13.03 in the 100 meter dash finals where she placed seventh. In the 200 meter dash finals, Michaela finished eighth with a time of 27.53 in the finals.

Lady Trojan Christen Grevling placed seventh in the shot put with a heave of 35'3".

The Logan girls 4 x 100 meter relay team of Girard, Grevling, freshman Karlee Braun and freshman Kayla Hofaker finished tenth with a time of 53.55.

Kayla Hofaker also placed 11th in the long jump with a leap of 15'4". She also competed in the 400 meter dash where she was timed in 1:05.58 for 15th best clocking.

In boys 1A competition, sophomore Austin Tien tied for ninth in the pole vault with a clearance of 12'.

"I was happy with how our team performed. With such

young talent, I knew that we would be awe-struck right off the bat," said Logan head coach Dustin Patee. "This did effect some of our athletes" performances but not to the extent that I had anticipated.

"We came home with three personal bests which were Austin in the pole vault and Michaela in the 100 meter and 200 meter dashes. Also earning three medals were Christen in the shot and Michaela in the 100 and 200.

"It was a great trip and the way to end a solid year for our track team."

Legion team starts season with wins over Oakley

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton American Legion baseball team opened the 2014 season on a winning note on Friday, May 30 by outscoring Oakley in a doubleheader in Oakley.

Norton won the first game 8-6 and dominated the second game with a 12-5 score.

The opener was a close one with Norton leading by just 6-5 after four innings but the Blue Jays outscored the Plainsmen 2-1 in the sixth inning for the two run win.

Neither team scored in the first inning. In the top of the second, Norton tallied four runs when Gavin Lively led off with

a single and, with two outs, Mickey Hahn singled, Andrew Ellis doubled and Dalton Miller singled and three more runs were scored.

The Blue Jays added two more tallies in the top of the third when Jordan Dole walked, Jacob Brooks singled, Andrew Ellis doubled again and Miller singled again, making it 6-0 in the visitors' favor.

Oakley scored 3 runs in the bottom of the third to cut the Norton lead to 6-3.

Norton was unable to score in the top of the fourth and Oakley added 2 more runs to make it 6-5.

The Blue Jays scored 2 insurance runs in the top of the sixth

when Trever Lewis singled and Jacob Brooks blasted a home run!

One run by Oakley in the bottom of the sixth was too little, too late.

Norton had 12 hits, 5 walks and 8 strike outs. Mickey Hahn was leading hitter with 3 hits in 5 at-bats. Ellis, Miller and Green each collected 2 hits.

Andrew Ellis was the winning pitcher. He allowed no hits in three and one-third innings, walked 6 batters and had 5 strike outs. Jacob Green relieved him and gave up 1 hit, walked 4 and struck out 6.

In the nightcap, Norton had a big third inning when they scored 5 runs and a big fourth

stanza when they ran 6 runs across home plate in the 12-5 victory.

Norton scored a single run in the top of the second when Lively gained base on an error, Dole was hit by a pitch and Lively scored.

Oakley had scored 1 run in the bottom of the first and tallied 3 more in the bottom of the second to take a 3-1 lead.

Not to worry, the Blue Jays scored 5 runs in the top of the third when Lewis singled, Green walked, Toby Nickell doubled, Lively doubled, Dole doubled, Lane Bigge walked and Hahn walked. Lewis, Green, Nickell, Lively and Dole paraded across home plate.

Oakley was held scoreless in the bottom of the third and Norton scored 6 more runs in the top of the fourth. Lewis and Green both walked, Nickell singled, Lively was hit by a pitch and advanced, Dole got on base, Dalton Miller singled and Bigge got on base. Lewis, Green, Nickell, Lively, Dole and Miller all scored.

Oakley added a single run in the bottom of the fourth, making the final 12-5 in favor of the visitors from Norton.

The Blue Jays collected 8 hits, walked 9 times and had just 3 strike outs. Leading hitter was Nickell who went 2 for 4.

Toby Nickell was the winning pitcher. In four innings, he gave

up 3 hits, walked 9 and struck out 7 batters. He was relieved by Gavin Lively who pitched one inning, allowing no hits, walking 1 and striking out none.

Coaches Comments

"We played well enough to win both games," said Norton head coach Scott Ellis.

"Our pitching was subpar but we managed to get outs when we had to. They only had four hits in 12 innings but had numerous base runners due to bases on balls and hits by the pitcher.

"Our defense was very good and our hitting was fantastic!"

K-18 ball team opens season with doubleheader against Colby

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton K-18 baseball team opened the 2014 season in a doubleheader with Colby in Norton on Thursday, May 29 and, after losing the first game 11-3 rallied to shutout the Eagles 12-0 in the nightcap.

Shutouts have been the name of the game for the Blue Jays since then as they traveled to Oakley on Monday, June 2 and returned with 11-0 and 10-0 shutouts over the Plainsmen!

Colby

In the first contest with Colby, Norton actually took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Riley Sides led off with a single and Josh VanLaeyes followed with a single that drove him home.

Colby took a 2-1 lead with 2 runs in the top of the second but Norton answered with 2 more runs of their own in the bottom of the inning to lead 3-2. Will Ellis and Ross Cole both walked and Braden Smith singled and Ellis and Cole both scored.

Colby had a big top of the

fifth inning when the Eagles took the lead for good with 9 runs to win 11-3.

Norton had just 4 hits in the game, 4 walks and 3 strike outs.

Trenton Wright was the losing pitcher, allowing 8 hits, walking 6 and striking out 7 batters.

In the nightcap, Josh VanLaeyes pitched to only 13 batters and allowed no hits as Norton won 12-0.

The Blue Jays scored 3 runs in the bottom of the first inning when VanLaeyes walked, Jacob Green singled and Trenton Wright singled and all three scored.

The bottom of the second inning was really big for Norton when they scored 8 runs to stretch their lead to 11-0. Jace Ruder struck out but made it to first, Dallas Gosselin was hit by a pitch and advanced, Braden Smith and VanLaeyes both walked, Green slammed a double, Collin Aufer walked, Trenton Wright singled and Will Ellis walked. All eight scored.

Norton's final run came in the bottom of the third inning when Aufer singled and scored later

in the inning.

Norton had 5 hits; Green and Wright were each 2 for 3 at the plate.

Norton also had 11 walks and 8 strike outs.

Winning pitcher Josh VanLaeyes allowed no hits, walked no batters and struck out 9.

"Colby will be one of two teams that I feel will be vying for the league title," said Norton head coach Rick Green. "We had our chances to sweep them but let the first game get away from us."

"I am really happy the way we bounced back in the second game. Both Trenton and Josh threw well but our defense in the first game wasn't where I hoped it would be. I also left Trenton in a little too long but he battled hard and this will help him later in the season."

"Josh had a no-hitter in the second game and allowed only three base runners which I was impressed with since he missed all of last season."

Oakley

Pitching was the name of the game for Norton when they

traveled to Oakley for a double header.

In the opener, Jacob Green allowed no hits, walked none and struck out 11 in the 11-0 win.

Norton scored 2 runs in the first inning when VanLaeyes, Green and Aufer all singled and VanLaeyes and Green scored.

In the top of the second, Sides singled and Ruder walked and Sides scored to make it 3-0. Green singled, Aufer walked, Ellis got on base on a fielder's choice and Hayden Wiltfong walked and all four scored in the top of the third to make it 7-0.

The Blue Jays got 1 run in the top of the fourth when Green walked and Aufer doubled him home. Three more Norton runs were scored in the top of the fifth when Sides singled, Wiltfong walked and Cole singled and all three scored to make the final 11-0.

Norton had 9 hits, 6 walks and 6 strike outs. Leading hitters were Green, who was 2 for 3; Sides, who was 2 for 3; Cole, who was 2 for 3 and Aufer, who was 2 for 2 at the plate.

Hayden Wiltfong was the pitcher in the second game and also allowed no hits by the Plainsmen in the 10-0 win. He had no walks and 9 strike outs.

Norton scored 1 run in the top of the first when Green, Aufer and Wright all walked and Green scored. One more Norton run in the second inning came when Smith walked and scored later in the inning to make it 2-0.

Green walked and scored later in the top of the third and it was 3-0.

The top of the fourth was the big inning for Norton, however, as they tallied 7 runs to extend the lead to 10-0. Cole singled, Wiltfong got on base, Smith walked, Sides walked, VanLaeyes walked, Green was hit by a pitch and advanced, Aufer singled and Wright walked. All except Wright scored.

Norton had only 2 hits in the game but 10 Norton batters walked. The Blue Jays had no strike outs in the game!

"As I stated in the pre-season article, I thought pitching would be a strong point for us this season," said coach Green. "Well,

tonight kind of supported my feelings. In the first game, Jacob threw a perfect game and Hayden had a no-hitter in the second game. Both of them had good mechanics on a difficult mound.

"We got our bats going a little better than the other night as a lot of our outs were hard hit balls."

"Our pitchers were in complete control of the games. Jacob faced 15 batters and had 11 strike outs and Hayden faced 13 batters and had 8 strike outs and neither allowed any walks, which is always a plus!"

Next action

Norton was scheduled to travel to Colby to play Colby's No.2 team on Thursday but had to postpone the game due to a shortage of Norton players on that night. Now, Norton's next games will be in Norton on Monday versus Hill City.

Two six inning games will be played, beginning at 6 p.m.

Lady Thunder ball team starts their season

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Norton Thunder Girls Softball Team will begin 2014 season play on Tuesday, June 10 when they host Atwood at Busch Field, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The Thunder will have nine returning players from last season. They are: Shelby Mulford, Ashley Hildebrand, Shauna Gibson, Kristen Dole, Kirstin Georgeson, Tara Brachtenbach of Hill City, Amanda Kessler of Hill City, Sabre Plant of Hill

City and Kim Bradford of Hill City.

Joining the team this season are: Neysa Carlson, Samantha Mulford, Kailey Gill, Kasadie Brennförder, Tessa Reynolds of Hill City, Grace Randel of Oberlin and Jenna Randel of Oberlin.

Coaches are Brandon Gay, Candace Gay and Tim Plante. Bat girl is Braidyn Plante.

"I'm really excited about our team this season," said coach Gay. "We're returning nine players and we have seven girls

who are with us for the third or fourth season. We have great veteran leadership and a lot of the finer aspects of the game are clicking for us at practice so far. But, we also have added some talented players from Hill City and Oberlin and some talented young players."

"Softball in northwest Kansas is changing. There are fewer teams and everyone is 18 or under, so you have teams with wide age ranges. Our ages range from 13 to 18. We're going to a couple of tournaments where

we'll face some teams from bigger central and eastern Kansas towns, many of whom play high school softball. It's always a challenge keeping up with those teams but we want to play and we're looking forward to the challenge."

"We rely on fund raisers and sponsors for all of our funds so the girls really appreciate the support of the community," said coach Gay.



Norton Thunder Schedule

Tues., June 10 - Atwood Here Busch Field 6:30 p.m.
Fri., June 13 - Osborne There 7 p.m.
Sat., Sun, June 14-15 - ASA Tournament - Hays
Thurs., June 19 - Smith Center Here Busch Field 6:30 p.m.
Tues., June 24 - Smith Center There 6:30 p.m.
Sat., Sun., June 28-29 - ASA Tournament - Salina
Tues., July 1 - Atwood There 6:30 p.m.
Fri., July 11 - Osborne Here Blue Jay Park 7 p.m.

Popular Biking Across Kansas annual event attracted 1,000 bicyclists

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The 40th annual Biking Across Kansas bicycle ride, the most extensive bicycling ride across the Sunflower State, began Friday, May 30 at the Kansas-Colorado border west of Elkhart in southwestern Kansas and will total 555 miles.

The beginning of the event Friday was a short ride from the border to Elkhart, a distance of just 18 miles.

The route of this year's ride was Elkhart to Satanta, 62 miles, Saturday; Satanta to Spearville, 78 miles, Sunday; Spearville to Ellinwood, 80 miles, Monday; Ellinwood to Salina, 72 miles, Tuesday; Salina to Wamego, 88 miles, Wednesday; Wamego to Oskaloosa, 66 miles, Thursday; Oskaloosa to Hiawatha, 56 miles, Friday; Hiawatha to Highland at the Kansas-Missouri border, 35 miles, Saturday.

Through the years, a number

of bikers from the Norton area have participated in BAK. None are listed from Norton County this year as being among the approximately 1,000 who have signed up from 28 states as well as Canada, Ireland and Australia.

The following have signed up from our general area: Eric Annis, Oakley; Thomas Annis, Oakley; Vicki Becker, Plainville; Amanda Bickle, Hays; G. Susan Bowles, Hays; Martin

Burton, Bird City; Amy Choitz, Hays; Randy Clinkscales, Hays; Brian Dillner, Beloit; Susan Dillner, Beloit; Peter Euler, Ellis; Pam Jones, Hays; Michael Lacy, Hays; Tanner Lacy, Hays; Tyler Lacy, Hays; John McClure, Osborne; Sandra Nicholson, Hays; Kathy Rome, Hays; Laryl Rous, Beloit; Randy Schlitter, Hays; Shelley Schmidt, Hays; Charlene Smith, Athol; Dottie Vohs, Smith Center; Eldon Vohs, Smith Center;

John Walz, Ellis; Ross Wichman, Hays; Cindy Zerfas, Ellis.

Michael Lacy of Hays is a Norton native who has made a number of BAK trips.

Each overnight stop community had special welcoming events for the bikers, who stayed in gymnasiums or pitched tents outside. Each day, their suitcases and duffle bags filled with extra clothes, riding outfits and personal belongings were transported to the next overnight stop

by truck so the cyclists could just ride their bicycles without being overloaded.

Participants enjoy the state's favorable cycling conditions but the main goal of Biking Across Kansas is to have fun, get some exercise and experience the beauty of the Kansas landscape and friendliness of its people.

For more information, go to BAK's website at www.bak.org.