

Norton boys place third in State Track Meet

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bruce Graber's Norton Community High School boys track team earned the third place trophy in Class 3A in the Kansas State High School Track and Field Meet on Friday and Saturday at the Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Competing in the largest prep track meet in the nation, with nearly 3,600 competitors, the Blue Jays compiled 34.33 points, just 4.66 points behind Minneapolis who tallied 39 to place second. Hillsboro won the championship with 48 points.

Norton and Minneapolis tied for third in the regional meet the week before with 71 points and Beloit was the regional winner with 76 points. The Trojans were the defending state champions but did not fare as well in the state meet this year, placing 20th with 13.33 points.

Phillipsburg finished fourth in Norton's regional meet but was able to score only 11 points and tied for 22nd.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays and Conway Springs tied for fourth with 33 points. Oakley tied for 17th with 15 points.

Two Norton girls competed and they scored 2 points to tie for 33rd. The Minneapolis girls placed fourth with 46 points. Beloit was fifth with 38 and Oakley scored 5 to tie for 24th.

"I'm really proud of our boys and girls track athletes," said Coach Graber. "They realize that great things happen when you work hard and believe in yourself."

"I tell all our athletes that medals get tarnished but memories of the experience are most important."

"It's been a great spring and great year for our athletes. They are to be commended for all they have accomplished all year long."

"It was a great way for our senior boys to go out. The last two years have been great. They won the Mid-Continent League championship and placed second in the regional both years, finished fifth a year ago in the state meet and third this year."

In Class 1A, the Logan girls of the Cheyenne Conference scored 16 points to tie for 12th place.

The Jennings boys of the Western Kansas Liberty League scored 8 points to tie for 28th.

The Northern Valley boys tallied 4 points to tie for 41st.

The Hoxie girls of the Northwest Kansas League placed second in Class 2A with 50 points. St. Francis of the Northwest Kansas League was ninth with 20 points.

Trego Community High School of the Mid-Continent League finished tenth with 19 points. Smith Center of the MCL placed 12th with 16 points. Oberlin of the Northwest Kansas League finished in 17th place with 12 points.

Osborne of the MCL was 19th with 11 points. Ellis and Plaineville girls, both of the MCL, were 24th with 9 points and 25th with 8 points, respectively. Hill City, also of the MCL, scored 3 points to place 39th.

In Class 2A boys competition, Smith Center placed fourth with 32.5 points. Oberlin finished in a tie for ninth with 22 points. Osborne was 15th with 20 points and St. Francis was 18th with 15 points. Ellis of the MCL finished in 22nd with 10 points. Trego scored 5 points to place 29th. Hill City and Hoxie tied for 36th with 3 points each.

Norton Boys

Blue Jay senior Jared Sloan successfully defended his state championship from a year ago in the 110 meter high hurdles and 300 meter intermediate hurdles. In Friday's preliminaries, he was timed in 14.77 in the 110 hurdles and was clocked in an NCHS school record time of 14.17 in Saturday's finals. Sloan broke his own school record the week before in the regional meet when he ran 14.20.

Sloan won his preliminary 300 meter hurdles flight on Friday with a clocking of 40.04. Jay Coles, Cimarron, won the other flight of the day with a time of 39.98.

In Saturday's finals, Sloan won the gold with a time of 39.93 and Coles was second in 40.59.

Sloan also cleared 6'2" to tie for third in the high jump.

A fourth event for Sloan was the 4 x 100 meter relay where he ran with senior Jared Foley, junior Seth Mills and freshman Blake

VanEaton. They finished fourth in their heat on Friday with a time of 44.44 and placed sixth in Saturday's finals with a clocking of 44.59.

Athletes' times on Saturday were generally not as good as on Friday due to windy conditions.

Norton senior Jared Foley placed fourth in his preliminary 200 meter race on Friday with a time of 23.77 to qualify for Saturday's finals. He recorded a 23.90 in the finals to place second behind Ryan Mortimer of Minneapolis by just two-tenths of a second.

Foley just missed qualifying for the finals in Friday's preliminaries of the 400 meter dash. He was clocked in 51.54 and placed fifth. Qualifying in fourth was Austin Hamilton, Belle Plaine, with a time of 51.51, just three-hundredths of a second faster.

The fourth place runner in the other preliminary flight was clocked in 51.58, four-hundredths slower than Foley.

Foley and Evan Kahle, Oakley, were both timed in 49.6 in the regional meet. Judges picked Kahle the winner. Foley's time was a new NCHS school record. Kahle also did not run as fast at the state meet. He made the finals, however, and placed fourth with a time of 50.74. Denny Tweedy, Phillipsburg, was fifth with a time of 51.09.

"It was a great way for Sloan to end his career," said Coach Graber. "He was in the high risk hurdles races and the 4 x 100 meter relay and really came through. He didn't go as high as his 6'6" school record in the high jump but did well considering the pressures of the other three races."

"We finished only six-hundredths of a second out of third in the 4 x 100 meter relay. That's half a stride difference."

"Our boys had a disappointing day on Friday. We just didn't get done what we wanted. We had some letdowns but bounced back on Saturday and did great!"

"The championship was still on the table. I told them to just keep doing what we've been doing and let the chips fall where they may. We competed a lot better on Saturday. We gave all you could ask for. The conditions on Saturday were nasty. The wind was strong and swirling and times were not very good but our boys handled it well."

"We were back in the hunt on Saturday. Foley ran the 200 meters in lane eight. It's the hardest lane to run in but he ran a great race. He vindicated himself from his 400 meter run on Friday. He barely made the 200 meter finals on Friday, then came from behind to place second on Saturday."

Also completing his track and field career for Norton was senior Joel Griffiths. A major points scorer all season for the Blue Jays in the shot put and discus, he qualified for the state meet in only the discus. He missed qualifying in the shot put by one inch in the regional meet.

Griffiths placed 12th in the state meet in the discus with a throw of



Norton senior Jared Foley (left) appears to edge Austin Hamilton of Belle Plaine for a fourth place finish in the 400 meter dash preliminary heat and earn a berth in the finals in the Class 3A State Track Meet at Cessna Stadium in Wichita last weekend. Foley was timed in 51.54 seconds but Hamilton was clocked in 51.51 and Foley was out. Foley placed second in the 200 meter dash and anchored Norton's sixth place 4 x 100 meter relay team. Norton senior Jared Sloan completed a successful prep track and field career last weekend in the Class 3A State Track Meet at Cessna Stadium in Wichita. Below, he glides over a hurdle en route to winning the 110 meter hurdles race in a new NCHS school record time of 14.17. He also won the 300 meter hurdles. Sloan was the defending champion in both races.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



132'1".

"Joel scored a lot of points for us this season," said Coach Graber. "He will play football in college."

"Jered Sloan and Jared Foley also had awesome seasons for us. They will compete in track in college. All three young men are talented and hard working and will continue to be successful in college."

"We also have a lot of talented underclassmen who are excited about having another try."

Norton Girls

Norton sophomores Chelle Donovan and Amanda Antrim were the only state qualifiers from

the Lady Jay track and field team. Both competed in the pole vault.

Donovan placed sixth by clearing nine feet. Antrim cleared eight feet and finished 11th.

"Chelle placed sixth and tied her personal record," said Coach Graber. "Both girls had some problems earlier in the season but got back in the groove and both

qualified for the state meet. Their performance at the state meet will help their confidence."

Donovan also competed in the pole vault at the state meet as a freshman so she has the chance to be a four-time state meet competitor.

Logan Girls

The Logan girls 4 x 800 meter

relay team placed third with the personal best time of 10:16.94. Team members were senior Val Jackson, junior Lane Webb, sophomore Melanie Berg and freshman Bethany Clements.

"They had a wonderful time," said Logan Head Coach Linda Nighswonger. "Their time was 20 (Continued on Page 10)"

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