

Norton girl's relay team places fourth nationally

By DICK BOYD

Norton's Laura Lee Baird was a member of the 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed fourth in the 15-16-year-old division in the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics held July 26 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Md.

The Kansas team was clocked in 9:24 for the race. Other members of the team were Bailey Ochs, Hoxie; Annie Martin, Riley County and Amanda Callaway, Belle Plain.

The top two finishing teams both broke the national record. Cedar Valley, Iowa Track Club won the gold medal with a time of 8 minutes-58.8 seconds, bettering the previous record of 9:03.

Second place 3M Track Club of Oakland, Calif., was timed in 9:01.

Third place finish went to the United Stars Track Club of Philadelphia, Pa. with a clocking of 9:19.

The Kansas girls entered the national competition with two gold medal performances. On June 16, they placed first with a time of 9:54 in the USA Track and Field Missouri Valley Championship at Emporia State University in Emporia.

On July 14, they won first place at the USA Track and Field Region Nine Championship at Kansas University, Lawrence, with a time



Laura Lee Baird



Bailey Ochs

of 9:44. The Kansas foursome competed for the Kansas Flyers Track Club. Their coach was Bob Smith, Delphos.

Baird, who is the daughter of Leslie and Jim Baird of Norton and granddaughter of Ruth and Roger Hartman, Norton, and Betty Baird, Logan, will be a sophomore at Norton Community High School this fall. She will compete in cross country, basketball and track during the school year.

Ochs and Callaway will also be sophomores this school year and Martin will be a junior.

Also competing for the Kansas Flyers Track Club in the 17-18-year-old division was the 4 x 800 meter relay team of Jenna Mellen, Clearwater; Lauren Eck, Beloit; Amy Pierson, Clay Center and Kelli Kopper, Cimarron.

They placed fifth in the USA Track and Field National Junior Olympics in Baltimore with a clocking of 9:37.

Norton Open disc golf tourney draws 27 players

By DON MORDECAI

Twenty-seven participants from all over the state, including Hays, Salina, Beloit, Colby, Wichita and Winfield, took part in the 12th annual Norton Open Disc Golf Tournament last Saturday. There were also two players from Nebraska.

Seven of the participants were from Norton and here is how they fared: Don Mordecai played in the pro division and tie for 3rd place. Chad Gasper got 3rd place in the Advanced Division, and his wife, Charlotte, got 3rd in the Women's Division. Nathan Morse placed 3rd and James Fawcett, 5th, in Intermediate Men's Division. Todd Zink edged out Chris Davis and Michael Zink to win the HS Division. Charlotte Gasper won a T-shirt in the "Ring of Fire Contest".

The tournament was won by a college student from Hays, Tracy Ruder. Tracy shot an impressive 97, which is 11 throws

under par. This might seem like a "good score," but it is very low considering the first round was played using the new alternate pin placements that were just installed by the city. The new pins played about 6-8 throws harder. Dale Henry and others have worked very hard to complete the new pin placements before this tournament and the Norton Disc Golf Club and Don Mordecai would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in this process.

Once again, the disc golf course looked great. The fairways were mowed, the tee boxes and stairways were trimmed, and the fallen branches and debris were removed. Thanks to the city crews for their hard work all year long in keeping our parks in tip-top shape.

Also our sponsors this year were tremendous! Many prizes were awarded by local businesses and extra cash was given out to the pro divisions. Because of this, players will be back to Norton. A big

thanks to all of the tournament sponsors.

About \$570 was taken in entry fees, while more than \$1,200 was given out in cash prizes.

Here is a list of all the Norton businesses who gave money/merchandise:

\$50 sponsorship, Valley Hope Association, Moffet Drug; \$35 sponsorship, First Choice Insurance Agency, Bullock Inc.; \$25 sponsorship, Natoma Corporation. J and R. Liquor, Jay's Woodwork Shop; The First State Bank, Gil's Barber Shop, Deanna Braun Ins., Nex-Tech, F&F Iron and Metal Co., Lamont A. Shirk, DDS.

Merchandise sponsors were: Lightning Disc Golf (\$250), EndZone Sporting Goods/Office Supply (discs), Norton Disc Golf Club (6 wooden mini discs), and MaceMan Disc Golf Gear (major tournament sponsor).

A special thanks goes to Cindy Mordecai who made lunch for all the players.

Sports teams getting ready

The 2006 fall sports seasons for football, volleyball, tennis and cross country at Norton Community High School began with practices on Monday of this week.

Lucas Melvin is the new coach of the football team. They are practicing daily at 6 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Chuck Zimmerman is the new high school volleyball coach.

Jim Green returns as tennis coach and Deyton Hager as cross country coach.

The first football game will be here versus two-time Class 2A

state champion Smith Center at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 1.

First volleyball action will be on Tuesday, Aug. 29 when Norton travels to Colby to play Colby and Osborne. Matches will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Tennis will begin competition on Saturday, Aug. 26 with the Trego Round Robin at WaKeeney, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The first cross country meet is the Norton Invitational at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31.

Softball team takes second in state

By DICK BOYD

The Northwestern Kansas area team of young women athletes placed second in the Class C Women's Adult Fast Pitch Softball Tournament held Saturday, July 22 in Topeka.

The team included players from Graham, Norton, Rooks, Ellis and Trego counties. They practiced at the Hill City Ball Complex. Dawn Kenyon of Bogue was the team's player/manager.

Members of the team from Norton were Maggie Foley, Erin Hill and Allison Foley.

The state tournament was played at the Shawnee Community Fields in Topeka.

In their first contest, the Northwestern Kansans scored an 18-4 win over Topeka. Maggie Foley, the centerfielder, tallied one run as she went two for four with a triple and single.

Erin Hill, who played shortstop,

scored one run and hit a single. Allison Foley played second base and tallied one run while hitting a single and double.

In their second game, the Northwestern nine lost a 2-1 contest to Abilene.

Next, they outscored the Topeka Cats 14-3.

In the championship game, the Northwestern team lost a 7-1 contest to the same Abilene team who edged them earlier. Erin Hill

scored the only Northwestern team run as she walked and then tallied. Allison Foley singled in the game.

Sports news phone line: 877-3361

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Norcatour family impressive in run

By TOM DREILING

The name "Helm" played prominently in the recent 11th annual Colby Nine Run and Walk. The Helms in this case are from Norcatour.

Aaron Helm took first in the 5K men's run with a clocking of 22:13, Jacob Helm placed first in the 2K men's run with a time of 10:03 and Matthew Helm was second in the 2K men's run with a time of 10:20.

Timothy Helm took part in the 2K men's walk and Debra Helm took part in the women's 2K walk. (Times and placings were not recorded for the walkers).

Here are the run results from the

event (listed by category, finish, name, time and where the competitor is from), as reported by the *Colby Free Press*:

• 10K run: 1. Jeff Becker, 39:31, Colby; 2. Donny Boucher, 42:51, Goodland.

• 5K run, men: 1. Aaron Helm, 22:13, Norcatour; 2. Doug Johnson, 22:59, Colby; 3. Nathan Reed, 25:35, Colby; 4. Kevin Cox, 25:51, Colby; 5. Dustin Reed, 26:32, Colby.

• 5K run, women: 1. Mary Nyambura, 23:21, Colby; 2. Becca Jones, 26:48, Manhattan; 4. Megan Barlow, 27:20, Colby; 5. Erin Jones, 33:16, Chicago, Ill.

• 2K run, men: 1. Jacob Helm,

10:03, Norcatour; 2. Matthew Helm, 10:30, Norcatour; 3. Tim Needham, 10:52, Sharon Springs.

• 2K walk, men: Timothy Helm, Norcatour; Wesley Stegeman, Colby.

• 2K walk, women: Debra Helm, Norcatour; Marlene Pfeifer, Trinity Pfeifer, Marilyn Herble, Ceanna Rinehart, all of Colby.

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Bill Nelson, Secretary

Sons of the American Legion

Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.

James Railsback, Commander
Alan Hale, Adjutant

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