

Exceptional showing by Norton runners at Wamego

By DICK BOYD

Coach Deyton Hager's Norton Community High School boys cross country team placed second and his girls cross country team finished third in Class 3-2-1A in the tough Wamego Cross Country Invitational held Saturday on the golf course at Wamego.

The Blue Jay boys finished in sixth place last year and the girls placed seventh.

Wichita Trinity Academy won the boys championship with 67 points, just one point in front of Norton's 68. Third place went to Hillsboro with a distant 101, followed by Riley County 151; Sabetha, 157; Christ Preparatory Academy, 170; Jefferson County, 238; Rock Creek, 260; Trego Community, 267; Northern Heights, 274; Wellsville, 301; Centralia, 316; Lawrence-Bishop Seabury, 316; Wabaunsee, 325; Burrton, 362; Pike Valley, 382; McLouth, 392.

Riley County won the girls championship with 42 points, followed by Wabaunsee, 83; Norton, 106; Wellsville, 112; Northern Heights, 113; Christ Preparatory Academy, 128; Wichita Trinity Academy, 154; Horton, 171; Hillsboro, 186; Pike Valley, 255; Trego Community, 265.

"I figured the rainy weather would get to our runners but I think it made them focus on what they had to do just that much more," said coach Hager.

Boys

Norton sophomore Zach Bainter placed third individually, just 15 seconds out of second and 23 seconds out of first. Cody McMillen, Hillsboro, won the gold medal with a time of 17:53. He was followed by Brock Mintie, Wichita Trinity, in 18:01 and Bainter in 18:16.

Sean Leihy, Hillsboro, was fourth in 18:36 and Derek Poor, Wellsville, placed fifth in 18:40. Norton seniors Logan Keiswetter and Kent Mann were eighth and ninth, respectively, with times of 18:49 and 18:54. Blue Jay senior Jared Engelbert finished in 17th position in 19:19 and senior Jared Bebb completed the five-man team with a 31st place and time of 19:54.

Also running for Norton and their times and places were: sophomore Jordan Bebb, 19:56, 33rd and freshman Chris Maddy, 20:06, 37th.

There were 114 total boys runners.

"Our boys knew they would have to run well to get in the top

three as a team," said coach Hager. "With only four of these boys having experience running on this hard course plus the rain, it would prove to be a hard day. Several other teams were running with our boys and could very easily have been in the top three themselves. It came down to put up or shut up and our boys did just that.

"I was so proud of the way they ran. Most of all, I was proud of how they took it when they learned that they lost the team title by just one point. You could almost see the hunger in their eyes. Like I told them, I would rather be where we are than in Wichita Trinity's shoes looking back at us and not knowing what is to come on down the road.

"Zach ran with a vengeance, knowing in the back of his head that, just a year ago, he didn't finish this race. It was nice to know from him when it was all said and done that he had more juice left. He will get a chance to use it the next time we come to Wamego when there will be more on the line than just a medal." The state meet will be in Wamego again this year.

"Logan's time was 19:02 last year and this year he ran much better but the big thing was how he placed. He jumped up 10 spots



The 114 runners in the boys 3.1 mile race at the Wamego golf course during Saturday's cross country competition began the race in a tight pack. Norton runners included, from left, Kent Mann, Zach Bainter, Logan Keiswetter, Jared Engelbert and Jared Bebb.

— Photo courtesy of Patsy Maddy

from last year," said coach Hager. "Although Kent's time was 20 seconds slower, he jumped up one spot in the team standings. Jared Engelbert improved his time as well but, like Logan, the big improvement was his team placing jumping from 23rd to 17th. That was big.

"Jared Bebb improved his time so much. Running a 20:22 last year and coming in with a 19:54 this year was very good for him. And, his little brother Jordan and freshman Chris Maddy coming in close behind made it the first time we have placed all runners in the medal rounds."

Girls

Norton sophomore Laura Lee Baird placed fourth with a time of

16:22 out of 94 total girls runners. The gold medal went to Annie Martin, Riley County, with a clocking of 15:01. She was followed by Hope Winkler, Sabetha, 15:52 and Katie Henry, Riley County, 16:14. In fifth behind Baird was Jo-Jo Mahaffey, Riley County, in 16:56.

Norton Lady Jay sophomore Taylor Rossi placed tenth in 17:19 and sophomore KaraJo Jones was right behind her in 11th with a time of 17:23.

Freshman Amanda Ray finished 42nd in 19:33 and junior Kylie Morel completed the five-girl Norton team with a 44th place in 19:36. Also running for the Norton girls was freshman Hannah Waggoner, who placed 55th in

20:23. "Our girls ran very well," said coach Hager. "I really didn't know what we would do as a team. The teams here were very good.

"Laura Lee keeps on pushing herself and that is what she will have to do all year long.

"Taylor and KaraJo ran a great race. Their running made a big difference on how our team was to finish.

"Amanda, Kylie and Hannah found out what cross country is all about and they hung right in there with some very good runners."

Next action

Norton will compete in the Trego Invitational Meet on Thursday in WaKeeney, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Husky football loses at home again

The Northern Valley football team lost 46-0 to Eastern Heights on Friday in Alma.

Eastern Heights made three touchdowns in the first quarter.

Early in the first, Michael Iman rushed 48 yards to give the Mustangs six points. With 5:19 showing, Joe Suchsland made a 9-yard run into the end zone. Suchsland caught a pass from Iman for the extra points. Clinton Capps made the third touchdown on a 45-yard run at 3:32, followed by Suchsland bringing in the extra points.

At 9:55 in the second, Capps scored on a 27-yard run. Suchsland ran in the points after. With 2:06 left in the half, Capps was in the end zone again for six more points.

At 7:47 in the third, Capps rushed 44 yards for the Mustangs' last touchdown. Suchsland ran in

the extra points. Less than two minutes later, Eastern Heights made a safety, giving them a 46-0 lead. The game was called in the third due to the 45-point rule.

Richie Kersch led rushing for Northern Valley with 48 yards on 19 carries. He was followed by Ethan Hays, -16 on 8; Travis Redeker, 12 on 2; Jacob Gallentine, -1 on 1; and Johnson, 1 on 2.

Hays completed 3 of 5 passes for 4 yards. Receiving were Kersch, 1 for 0 yards; Drew Eagleburger, 1 for 2 yards; and Tanner Jessup, 1 for 2 yards.

Jessup made 4 punts for 90 yards, while Hays punted once for 14 yards. Chase Miller made one kick-off for 45 yards. Kick-off returns were made by Kersch, 3 for 39 yards; Miller, 1 for 5 yards; and Gallentine, 1 for 18 yards.

Tackles were made by Jessup, 6 solos; Cameron Duede, 5 solos, 2 assists; Nathaniel Graham, 5 solos, 1 assist; Miller, 5 solos; Kersch, 3 solos; Eagleburger, 3 assists; Gallentine, 2 solos; and Redeker, 1 solo.

The Northern Valley Huskies will travel to Kensington to play the Goldbugs on Friday. Kick-off is set for 7 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

N. Valley	E. Heights	
3	First Downs	5
44	Yards Rushing	301
3	Yards Passing	5
47	Total Yards	306
3-5	Passes Comp.	2-4
3-1	Fumbles	3-2
0-0	Penalties	3-20
5-105.20.8	Punts	1-22-22.0

Husky volleyball still seeking win

Victory continues to elude the Northern Valley volleyball ladies as they lost to Norton, 13-25, 19-25 and to Phillipsburg 18-25, 10-25. Their record now is 0-6.

In NV's defense, however, they took the court minus a couple of impact players in this Sept. 5 action.

Against Norton, Kelli Cole and Megan Cole both had 1 assist each; Andrea Lowry 3 digs; Alison Cole, 5 blocks; Kelli Cole, 2 setting assists; and Alison Cole, 2 kills.

Against Phillipsburg, Kelli Cole and Andrea Lowry had 5 digs each; Kelsey Kinderknecht, 4 set-

ting assists; and Kelli Cole, 3 kills.

Among the coach Christine Eveleigh's comments were: "We had a tough night. As a team we had a couple of impact players not able to play in these two matches and this really hurt us going up against very competitive teams like Norton and Phillipsburg."

Junior high jayvee gets two wins

The Norton Junior High junior varsity volleyball won their first game of the season against Ellis on Aug. 31, and then continued to win, beating Phillipsburg on Sept. 7.

"The junior high junior varsity started off their season with a win against the Ellis Steamliners," said coach Lynette Archer. "The JV's scores were 26-28, 25-23, 15-19, winning 2 out of 3 games. The team was nervous right from the beginning. They seemed to find their footing late in the first match. They pulled together and were able to bounce back quickly.

"The team consists of 15 eighth graders and 2 seventh graders. The girls are working hard in practice and are improving daily. We need to work on our serving and attacking the ball more aggressively.

"Win number two and three came against Phillipsburg on Thursday night at home. The JV played two complete games against the Panthers. I was thrilled at the opportunity to play two JV games. We have 17 girls on the JV

and it makes it easier to get them playing time.

"In the first game, the scores were 25-19, 22-25, 15-8. The second game scores were 25-23, 25-14. "Our serving was a lot better this

time. The girls seemed to be focused and determined to play well. The team will continue to work on communication and the fundamentals. Overall, it was a very successful night for the team."

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