

Cross country teams tops at Trego invite



Norton junior Zach Bainter passes a runner during the 2007 season opening Norton Invitational cross country meet on Aug. 30. Bainter placed second on that day, but has since won the individual championships at Wamego and Trego, where he outran the Ness City runner who beat him in Norton. -Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Tom Hehn's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country teams won the team championships in the Trego Invitational Cross Country Meet last Thursday in WaKeeney.

BOYS
With Zach Bainter leading the way with an individual championship, the Blue Jay boys won the team title with 31 points, followed by Ness City, 36; Victoria, 85; Trego, 88; Ellis, 103; Stockton, 122.

Every Norton varsity boys runner ran his season's best time.

Bainter was timed in 17:24.22. It was Bainter's second straight championship after winning at Wamego in 17:45. Bainter also placed third last season at Trego in 18:33.

In the season opening Norton Invitational, Bainter took second individually to Ness City's Colton McNinch but, this time, he defeated McNinch for the gold medal. McNinch was timed in 17:34 in Norton and had an almost identical 17:34.79 at Trego. Bainter cut 19 seconds off his time of 17:43 in the Norton Invitational.

Ness City also edged Norton for the team title in the Norton Invitational by a score of 42-44.

The Ness City boys are tied for the No. 4 ranking in Class 1A and the Norton boys are ranked No. 5 in Class 3A in the state of Kansas in the poll by the Kansas Cross Country Coaches Association.

Chris Maddy placed fourth with a time of 18:45.47. Maddy placed 16th last year at Trego in 20:13.

Third fastest for Norton was Luke VanSkiike, who placed fifth right behind Maddy with a clocking of 19:15.87. VanSkiike was 27th last season at Trego in 21:22.

Performing fourth best for the Blue Jays was David Counter, who placed ninth in 19:21.25.

Rounding out Norton's five person team was Jordan Bebb, who finished 14th in 20:02.67. Bebb placed 17th last year at Trego in 20:14.

Also competing for the Blue Jays were Troy Bainter, 20th in 20:20.56 and Josh Gallentine, 36th in 22:11.82.

Six Norton runners also competed in the junior varsity race. Kerby Brandyberry placed tenth in 22:45.33, followed by Cole Archer, 13th in 23:16.55; Grant McClymont, 15th in 23:46.94; Kegan Vanover, 16th in 23:49.61; Matt Miller, 19th in 24:28.36; Adam Myers, 31st, 29:19.62.

Archer, McClymont and Miller had season's best performances. It

was the first run for Brandyberry and Vanover.

"Our boys ran well. Ness City has a really good team and beat us for the Norton championship," said coach Hehn.

"The entire race, Zach dueled the Ness City runner who had beaten him for the individual championship in Norton, then he blew him away at the finish.

"Luke really had a strong finish, as well. He passed three Ness City runners in the final 100 meters."

In addition to McNinch's second place finish, Ness City runners Dustin Schuler, Dustin Foster and Kyle Calvin, who were passed by VanSkiike, placed sixth, seventh and eighth, respectively.

GIRLS

Laura Lee Baird and KaraJo Jones led the Norton girls to the team championship, finishing second and third, respectively.

Norton scored 15 points in winning the team title.

Baird was clocked in 16:20.34, her best time of the season.

Jones also had a season's best in 17:11.60.

In sixth place for the Lady Jays was Taylor Rossi in 17:43.96, also a season's best.

Turning in the fourth best time for Norton was Kaylen Rossi who finished in seventh in 18:30.98, a

personal best. Right behind her in eighth was Dustyna Sprigg in 18:45.59.

Others who ran for the Norton Lady Jays were: Amanda Ray, 15th in 20:21.22 and Kylie Morel, 16th in 21:27.46. Ray's clocking was her season's best.

Aubrey Frederking, Ellis, the Norton Invitational champion, also won the gold medal at Trego with a clocking of 15:55.01. Baird also placed second in the Norton Invitational.

Natasha Gabel of Ness City placed fourth in 17:16.02 and Haley Wolf of Ellis was fifth in 17:41.39. Amanda Echols of Hill City was 13th in 19:39.94.

"I was disappointed that we were the only girls team at the meet," said coach Hehn.

"Laura Lee ran a very strong race and KaraJo was right behind her. Our girls are running better in every race.

"It's nice to see both of our teams ranked in the state coaches' poll."

The Norton cross country teams will compete in the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Blue Jay runners also competed in the Hill City Invitational on Thursday but results were not available for Friday's paper.

Norton's Joel Griffiths in Saturday's line up

When Emporia State University plays Fort Hays State University in football Saturday evening at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays, Norton senior Joel Griffiths will be the starting left tackle on offense for the visitors.

Griffiths was a second team All-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association selection last year and started every game for the Hornets.

Emporia State is 3-0 for the young season and Fort Hays is 2-1 after losing last Saturday at Washburn.

This will be the Hall of Fame game for Fort Hays and kickoff will be at 7 p.m.

Jayvee football now 2-1

The Norton Community High School junior varsity football team extended their season record to 2-1 with a weather-shortened 8-0 victory over Plainville on Monday evening on the Cardinals' home field.

With 9:12 remaining in the second quarter, stormy weather moved in and the game was called at that point.

"We came out of the gate playing very well on both sides of the ball," said coach Stover.

"Defensively, we were very aggressive from the opening snap. Offensively, we executed extremely well, especially in the line.

"Although the game was cut short by inclement weather, we saw improvement in the short time we were on the field."

Next action

The Norton junior varsity football team will play Hill City here on Monday, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Junior high volleyball busy

The Norton Junior High 8th grade varsity volleyball team traveled to Phillipsburg on Sept. 11 for a quadrangular.

out sluggish, timid and again missed their serves. This caused the first game to go downhill and the girls lost 13-25.

The first match was against host Phillipsburg. The Blue Jays were tense and consequently missed a great deal of serves, which, said coach Erin Hill, "hurt our performance and a chance at winning."

The second game, however, found the girls rallying better, looking more relaxed and they began to make some serves in and over, and they won 25-23.

The Lady Jays lost 15-25, 17-25.

In the third game to decide game and match, Norton came out fired up and ready to beat the Tigers. And they did just that, as they ran away with the game, 15-1.

The ladies took on Ellis in the second match of the night. In an earlier meeting, Norton had beaten Ellis easily at home. However (in this match), the girls' serves again were not going over the net, resulting in losing 21-25, 27-25, 12-15.

"I was very proud of how the girls fought back after the first game," coach Hill said. "They never gave up and inched their way back into the second game and pulled out the victory."

In the third match of the evening, the girls came together, started making serves consistently and started playing, as the coach said, "our" game of volleyball. They beat Plainville in two games, 25-16, 25-19.

The coach said she wishes the team could play all the time like they did in the third game. "Our serves were in, our rallies were good, and we were setting up the ball and hitting well," she said.

On Sept. 13, the Norton teams hosted the Stockton Tigers for their second home matches of the season. The 8th grade varsity team came

Kylie Nuzum served 14 serves in a row for points in this game, the jubilant coach said. The Norton jayvee teams also won their matches over the Stockton Tigers.

Good road show for Husky volleyball

The Northern Valley volleyball Lady Huskies traveled to Logan to take on Alma, Neb. and the host Trojans and played their best ball of the season.

"Then against our final league foe the host Logan Trojans we turned up the intensity and played extremely well," he said.

"Yes, we were defeated by Alma, (13-25, 11-25), but, we played well. We handled their spikes so well that they had to change their plan of attack. We dug the ball, we blocked well, we just played well against Nebraska's Class 3A (Kansas classification) 5th ranked team," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

The key was again the Huskies' ability to dig their attacks as Joni Hilburn, Karen Wenzl and the rest of the team covered the court well.

"We blocked very well as Alison Cole, Stephanie Tubbs, Jessica Largent and Wenzl all had blocks that helped our cause," he said.

"Because our passing was improved our setter Megan Cole was able to gamble and get the ball to

the spot she needed to set to and as a result our hitters were able to crank up some heat that the Trojans could not stop. A. Cole, Tubbs, Largent, Wenzl and even our setter Megan Cole all had some terrific spikes," the coach said. The 25-18, 25-20 victory over Logan finished league play in which the Huskies accumulated a 4-1 record and at this time is good enough for second — depending on the remaining league games to be played by the other teams.

not play until the Ellis tournament in which we will face some stiff competition but it's getting close to the time of the season that good teams need to be playing against good competition to prepare them for the post season that is just around the corner.

"We thank the fans who followed us to Logan. Your support is always welcome and we hope you enjoyed what you saw. You didn't see it all as coach Largent and I both know there is more, but we made a huge step," he said.

Logan Trojan volleyball record 4-3

The Logan Trojan varsity volleyball ladies took on Kensington, Stockton and Phillipsburg at home on Sept. 12. Here are the results:

3/4; blocks, Autumn Tien 1 solo.

Vs. Kensington
25-13 won
25-17 won
Team stats: Serves, 42/47, 10A, 89 percent; attacks, 24/29, 16K; sets, 28/29, 12A; serve receives, 16/29, 55 percent; blocks, 1; dinks, 3/3, 3K.

Record: 3-2
Coach Robin VanLaey's comments: "I am very pleased with the teamwork we showed today. Our level of play stepped up a notch and seemed to also be more consistent through the night."

Vs. Stockton
25-14 won
25-17 won
Team stats: Serves, 43/49, 11A, 88 percent; attacks, 36/43, 18K; sets, 36/36, 13A, serve receives, 20/30, 67 percent, blocks, 3; dinks, 1/1.

Stockton had 30/32 serves, 93.8 percent.

Individual leaders — serves, Anna Zillinger 12/12, 1A; attacks, Shelley Kemper 15/17, 8K; sets,

Shaley VanLoenen 18/18, 7A, Anna Zillinger 12/12, 4A; serve receives, Shelley Kemper 9/10, Jenny Archer 3/3; blocks, Shelley Kemper 1 solo, 1 assist, Autumn Tien 1 solo, Aspen Larson 1 assist.

Record 4-2
Vs. Phillipsburg
10-25 loss
20-25 loss
Team stats: serves, 24/31, 1A, 77 percent; attacks, 34/42, 8K; sets, 35/36, 6A; serve receives, 29/46, 63 percent; dinks, 8/8, 1K.

Phillipsburg was 48/51 serving, 3A, 94.1 percent.

Individual leaders: serves, Autumn Tien 8/9, Leandra Sparks 3/3; attacks, Jenny Archer 5/6, 3K, Savannah Sammons 5/5, 2K, Shelley Kemper 9/12, 3K; sets,

Shaley VanLoenen 19/20, 5A; serve receives; Jenny Archer 12/17, Shelley Kemper 9/13.

Record 4-3
Coach's comments: "We were a little tight the first game and struggled to get into the match, but I am very proud of how hard we fought in the second game.

"We never quit and I feel that we played right with a very talented Phillipsburg team.

"I wish we would have served better in order to not 'take ourselves out of the match.'"

On Sept. 18, Logan lost to Alma, Neb., 11-25, 17-25 and to Northern Valley, 18-25, 20-25.

Northern Valley lost to Alma, 13-25, 11-25.

C-team volleyball Jays win 1, lose 2 at Hill City

The Norton Community High School volleyball C-team defeated Colby and lost to Hays High and Hill City in a quadrangular on Thursday in Hill City.

Perfect servers for Norton were Shaylyn Boteler, Sophie Mills, Katie Gall and Bekah Streck.

HAYS HIGH
Norton lost to Hays High 14-25, 16-25.

COLBY
Norton defeated Colby 25-22, 25-20.

"We were very excited about this win because Colby defeated us in August," said coach Lively. "Serving was much more aggressive and we racked up 11 aces, 5 from Katie Gall. Leading the way in passing was Sharrelle Shinn.

"We really lost our spark and couldn't string any points together," said coach Lively. "Volleyball is a game of ups and downs and we have to try to stay off that roller coaster. We will see Hill City several times in the next few weeks, so we hope to redeem ourselves."

Additional comments
"The evening was a good team effort and we improved in several

keep the ball alive."

HILL CITY
Norton lost to Hill City 19-25, 15-25.

"The evening was a good team effort and we improved in several

areas since our first matches of the season," said coach Lively.

"We hadn't played since August 27 but will be getting into a very busy schedule, playing up to three times a week, so we will be learning a lot.

"All our girls saw some playing time and I was pleased with their effort."

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