

Track and Field meet celebrates 100 years

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The Kansas State Track & Field Championships, the largest high school track and field meet in the nation, is always special for athletes and spectators alike but this year it was extra special because it was the 100th anniversary of the event.

The centennial meet called for a celebration and the Kansas State High School Activities Association rolled out the red carpet to honor all former state champions the past 100 years.

On Thursday, May 27, the night before Friday and Saturday competition in Cessna Stadium at Wichita State University in Wichita, the public was invited to a memorabilia display of photos and other items from past state meets, all categorized by decades.

In addition, a program was held during which former Kansas Olympians and NCAA champions were introduced and interviewed about their accomplishments.

Champions were also recognized during Friday and Saturday's competition when they presented medals to the medalists in each event.

On Saturday afternoon, time was allotted for all former state champions, Olympic and NCAA champions from Kansas and head coaches of state championship teams to walk, separated by decades, a Centennial Victory Lap around the 400 meter track at Cessna Stadium.

The top four athletes in every event in the regional track meets the week before qualified to compete at the state level and each received a special centennial medallion.

Norton first state champion team

Norton Community High School received some extra attention since the Blue Jays were the champions of the first State Track & Field Meet held in Emporia in 1911 and also won the state championship in 1915.

Marion won the 1912 state championship, Wichita was state champion in 1913 and 1914 and Topeka won the state championship in 1916.

Norton English/Journalism teacher Robin Sides provided the Telegram with information on the early meets taken from the high school yearbook.

In 1911, the top two finishers in each event in the meets in the six congressional districts qualified for the state meet. Norton hosted the Sixth District Meet and won that championship as well.

"The amphitheatre at Elmwood Park was filled to the brim with hopeful, cheering rooters," reported the yearbook on the District Meet.

"Norton's Lyman Arnold, by far the star man, took first in four events and second in two, making 26 of Norton's 49 points. He won the 220 yard dash, 220 yard hurdles, 120 yard hurdles and shot put and took second in the discus and 100 yard dash.

"The beautiful silver loving cup, presented by the Commercial Club of Norton and the best cup of the kind in the state, was gloriously won by our boys. Norton

received the honor nobly and respectfully and, in our rejoicing, we accept the victory virtuously and without boasting."

Phillipsburg placed second to Norton with 16 points.

The Norton Telegram of April 19, 1911 had a long article prior to the District Meet to drum up enthusiasm from local residents. "It will be one round of gaiety for the people of Norton, the surrounding country and also the vast army of visitors who will be here on that day," said the writer.

"The festivities were to begin with 'a delicious chicken dinner the proceeds of which will be used to send girls to the national Y.W. conference at Cascade Colo.

"The stores will be closed during the meet thus giving everybody a chance to attend. Our boys will win because N.C.H.S. is in a winning mood. It can't be otherwise. Just come out and watch them do it.

"Having spent the day in this manner you will be ready for the evening program. At the Auditorium the Senior class will present 'The Kingdom of Hearts Contest', the greatest extravaganza of the season."

In the 1911 State Track Meet in Emporia, Norton tallied 20 points to win the championship. Arnold continued to compete well, winning gold medals in the 220 yard dash and 220 yard hurdles. Norton also won the mile relay in a time of 3:44.2. In the story in the Norton Telegram following the state victory, the writer closed by saying, "The last quarter mile of the mile relay in which Arnold participated was the most spectacular feature of the day."

The 1915 State Track Meet was held in Manhattan. Norton's Joe Casey, Roy Wynn and Robert Schultz were the stars for Norton. Casey was high scoring man for Norton and second high scoring man for the meet. Casey won the shot put and low hurdles and was third in the high hurdles. Schultz won the discus. Wynn took third in the discus and the shot put, according to the yearbook.

"The boys brought home a beautiful loving cup which was given to the winning team," said the yearbook.

The first girls State Track Meet was in 1972 and Norton won state championships in 1982 and 2008.

The Logan girls were state champions in 1985 and the Hill City girls won the state track title in 1976.

The Northern Valley boys won the state championship in 1986 and 1987.

The Hill City boys were state track champions in 1969, 1970, 1971, 1978, 1979 and 1997.

Norton girl state champions
1980-4 x 400 meter relay, new state record, Susan Colip, Angela McKie, LaNell Cox, Renee Cox, 4:01.1.

1981 - Renee Cox, 400 meter dash, 58.3 and Brenda Wolf, shot put, 40'5".

1982 - LaNell Cox, new state record, 300 meter hurdles, 44.7; Brenda Wolf, shot put, new state record, 40'9"; 4 x 400 meter relay, Amy Bullock, LaNell Cox, Renee Cox, Teddi Blackim, 4:03.4.

1983-4 x 400 meter relay, Amy

Bullock, Colleen Strayer, LaNell Cox, Renee Cox, 4:05.6.

1988 - Shawna Shearer, 3200 meter run, 11:39.40.

1996 - Danielle Roeder, shot put, 37'10".

2009 - Hayli Bozarth, shot put, 44'6"; discus, 134'4".

Norton boy state champions

1911 - Arnold, 220 yard dash, 24.4; 220 yard hurdles, 28.4; mile relay, 3:44.2.

1912 - Curly Madden, 100 yard dash, 11.6; 220 yard dash, 27.0; mile relay, 4:17.0.

1915 - Joe Casey, 220 yard hurdles, 27.0, shot put, 43'1"; Bob Schultz, discus, 96'1".

1921 - Lyne Munn, shot put, 47'1"; javelin.

1938 - Jack Mechsner, pole vault, 12'0"

1943 - Seth Antrim, 440 yard dash, 50.9.

1982 - Urs Sahli, 1600 meter run, 4:27.5.

1992 - Justin Hoffman, long jump, 22'2.25"; Jeremy Hawks, shot put, 54'9.5".

1993 - Justin Hoffman, triple jump, 43'2.75"; Ryan Manning, discus, 168'7".

1994 - Ryan Manning, discus, 181'2".

1998 - Neal Philpot, shot put, 53'7".

1999 - Neal Philpot, discus, 170'2".

2000 - Neal Philpot, shot put, 58'7"; discus, 178.4".

2001 - Terry Petrie, 100 meter dash, 11.13, 200 meter dash, 22.51.

2003 - Jered Sloan, 110 meter hurdles, 14.72, 300 meter hurdles, 38.51.

2004 - Jered Sloan, 110 meter hurdles, 14.39, 300 meter hurdles, 39.93.

2007 - 4 x 800 meter relay, Blake VanEaton, Zach Bainter, Logan Keiswetter, Jared Engelbert, 8:07.57.

2009 - Zach Bainter, 1600 meter run, 4:28.86, 3200 meter run, 9:48.13.

Area girl state champions
1972-Jan White, Phillipsburg, discus, 104'10".

1973-Korene Cromwell, Ransom, 880 yard run, 2:24.6; medley relay, Ransom, 1:55.9.

1974 - Juanita Neff, Oberlin, 880 yard run, 2:24.0.

1975 - Cindy Worcester, Hill City, 880 yard run, 2:16.3; mile run, 5:20.0; Korene Cromwell, Ransom, 880 yard run, 2:22.6.

1976 - Cindy Worcester, Hill City, 220 yard dash, 25.9; mile run, 5:13.6.

1977 - Juanita Neff, Oberlin, 440 yard dash, 58.2; 880 yard dash, 2:16.0.

1978 - Bogue, 440 yard relay, 51.9.

1979 - Rose Stephens, Lenora, 800 meter run, 2:20.9; 1600 meter run, 5:18.0.

1980 - Sherri Brogden, Hill City, long jump, 17'7.75"; 1600 meter relay, Logan, 4:08.4.

1981 - Pam Sansom, Logan, 1600 meter run, 5:25.3; long jump, 17'5.5".

1982 - Pam Sansom, Logan, long jump, 17'3.25".

1984 - Kelly Pakkebie, Logan, 200 meter dash, 26.1; Starla Sproul, Lenora, shot put, 37'6".

1985 - Kelly Pakkebie, Logan, 100 meter dash, 12.3; 200 meter dash, 25.5; 400 meter dash, 57.8.

1986 - Kelly Pakkebie, Logan, 200 meter dash, 26.0; 400 meter dash, 58.1; Laura Niblock, Logan, shot put, 39'1".

1988 - Jodi Chestnut, Logan, 100 meter dash, 13.35; Laura Niblock, Logan, shot put, 42'1".

1989 - 800 meter relay, Oberlin, 1:47.73; Jodi Chestnut, Logan, 100 meter dash, 13.33.

1990 - Sherri Elwood, Oberlin, 800 meter run, 2:18.95; Jody Gaskill, Oberlin, 3200 meter run, 11:54.80; Cher Grunert, Logan, discus, 117'5".

1991 - Sherri Elwood, Oberlin, 800 meter run, 2:15.36; Darcy Kaiser, Hill City, shot put, 38'8".

1992 - Sherri Elwood, Oberlin, 800 meter run, 2:17.49; 1600 meter run, 5:11.; 3200 meter run, 11:27.53; Traci Elwood, Oberlin, high jump, 5'5".

1993 - Sherri Elwood, Oberlin, 800 meter run, 2:16.7; 1600 meter run, 5:09.8; 3200 meter run, 11:32.9; 800 meter relay, Logan, 1:48.06.

1994 - Kristin Johnson, Phil-

lipsburg, javelin, 140'5"; 400 meter relay, Northern Valley, 52.43; 800 meter relay, Northern Valley, 1:50.07; 1600 meter relay, Logan, 4:13.46.

1995 - Chanda Triplett, Logan, 400 meter dash, 1:00.32

1996 - Chris Triplett, Logan, shot put, 43'7.25".

1997 - Chris Triplett, Logan, shot put, 44'4".

1998 - Chris Triplett, Logan, shot put, 44'11.75"; discus, 129'8".

1999 - Sonya Triplett, Logan, shot put, 37'7".

2000 - Sonya Triplett, Logan, shot put, 39'6.5"; 3200 meter relay, Northern Valley, 10:03.32.

2001 - Jennifer Lawellin, Hill City, 200 meter dash, 26.62; Sonya Triplett, Logan, shot put, 41'0"; discus, 128.7".

2002 - 400 meter relay, Phillipsburg, 51.62; Jennifer Lawellin, Hill City, 300 meter hurdles, 45.56; Amanda Lowry, Northern Valley, 1600 meter run, 5:28.12; 3200 meter run, 11:52.48.

2007 - Alison Cole, Northern Valley, high jump, 5'4".

Area boy state champions

1920 - Clapp, Logan, 880 yard run, 2:05.6.

1933 - Sam Francis, Oberlin, shot put, 51'2.5"

1946 - Hamilton, Oberlin, long jump, 22'8.5".

1948 - Hiram Faubion, Phillipsburg, 120 yard hurdles, 14.9.

1949 - Veryl Switzer, Bogue, long jump, 20'7.25".

1950 - Veryl Switzer, Bogue, long jump, 22'1.5"; pole vault, 10'11".

1952 - Carl Neff, Oberlin, javelin, 158'1".

1956 - Bob Vernon, Oberlin, discus, 155'5".

1957 - Bob Vernon, Oberlin, discus, 169'10".

1958 - Bob Vernon, Oberlin, discus, 175'11".

1962 - Jan Jantzen, Hill City, 100 meter dash, 10.3; Bob Johnson, Logan, pole vault, 12'10".

1963 - John Mason, Phillipsburg, mile, 4:25.6; Bob Johnson, Logan, pole vault, 12'9".

1964 - John Mason, Phillipsburg, 880 yard run, 1:57.2; Loren Lett, Logan, pole vault, 12'3.5".

1966 - Jack Georgeson, Lenora, pole vault, 13'4.25"

1967 - Dale Alexander, Bogue, 440 yard dash, 48.9; 880 yard run, 1:59.4; 880 yard relay, Bogue, 1:32.5.

1968 - medley relay, Phillipsburg, 3:44.3; Juan Alexander, Bogue, 440 yard dash, 52.0; Greg Odgers, Bogue, 880 yard dash, 2:01.0; Roger Sides, Northern Valley, high jump, 6'2.5"; mile relay, Bogue, 3:33.3.

1969 - John Elliott, Phillipsburg, 880 yard run, 1:58.3; mile, 4:25.0; Mike Alexander, Hill City, 100 yard dash, 9.8; 220 yard dash, 21.5; 880 yard relay, Hill City, 1:31.5.

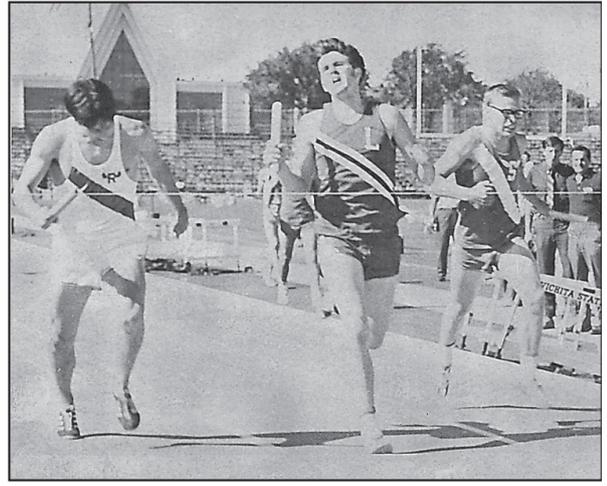
1970 - Mike Alexander, Hill City, 100 yard dash, 10.1; 220 yard dash, 22.7; 880 yard relay, Hill City, 1:31.1; Juan Alexander, Bogue, 440 yard dash, 50.3; Lauren Hogan, Logan, 880 yard run, 2:00.3; mile relay, Lauren Hogan, Nolan Cromwell, Larry Donahey, Bob Jackson, 3:30.0.

1971 - Loren Jones, Phillipsburg, long jump, 23'3.25"; Leonard Jones, Hill City, 100 yard dash, 10.3; 220 yard dash, 23.0; 440 yard dash, 49.6; 880 yard relay, Hill City, 1:31.9; mile relay, Hill City, 3:25.5; Marvin Switzer, Bogue, 100 yard dash, 10.3; 220 yard dash, 23.3.

1972 - Stuart McGowne, Oberlin, discus, 158'0"; Marvin Switzer, Bogue, 100 yard dash, 10.3; Nolan Cromwell, Ransom, 440 yard dash, 50.2; long jump, 22'5.75"; Bill Lowry, Northern Valley, mile, 4:29.7; two-mile, 9:48.3; Rick Bauer, Lenora, 120 yard hurdles, 14.5; 180 yard hurdles, 19.3; medley relay, Ransom, 3:38.7.

1975 - Mike Jilka, Hill City, 120 yard hurdles, 14.6.

1976 - Phil Switzer, Bogue, 100 yard dash, 9.78; Dale Snyder, Logan, 880 yard run, 1:59.9; mile, 4:26.4.



This action photo from the 1970 State Track & Field Championships held in Wichita was taken by current Telegram sportswriter Dick Boyd who was covering sports for the Phillips County Review at the time. We have chosen it to run with our 100th anniversary story in honor of the thousands of exciting gold medal performances in the 100 years of the meet. Shown edging two other runners in a courageous finish in the 4 x 400 meter relay was Bob Jackson, a Logan High School senior at the time who is retiring this school year as Logan superintendent and principal. At left, is a runner from Emporia Roosevelt, whose team placed second and at right is a runner from Spearville, who won the bronze medal. The Logan foursome also consisted of Lauren Hogan, Nolan Cromwell and Larry Donahey.

- Photo courtesy of Bob Jackson

1977 - Phil Switzer, Bogue, 100 yard dash, 10.6; 220 yard dash, 22.5; Melvin Hair, Ransom, high jump, 6'4".

1978 - Phil Switzer, Hill City, 100 yard dash, 10.3; Rodney Brogden, Bogue, long jump, 22'4.5".

1979 - Mike Worcester, Hill City, 1600 meter run, 4:31.6; J.P. Worcester, Hill City, 3200 meter run, 9:43.1; Rod Brogden, Hill City, long jump, 22'5.5"; 3200 meter relay, Hill City, 8:10.3.

1980 - Mike Worcester, Hill City, 3200 meter run, 9:37.4.

1984 - Jon Rittgers, Hill City, 110 meter hurdles, 15.0; Reid Danielson, Lenora, 400 meter dash, 50.5.

1985 - Jim Berkeimer, Oberlin, 110 meter hurdles, 14.9.

1986 - 1600 meter relay, Hill City, 3:26.1; Travis Vallin, Northern Valley, 100 meter dash, 11.3; 300 meter hurdles, 39.2; Shane Baird, Northern Valley, 200 meter dash, 22.5; 400 meter dash, 48.9; 400 meter relay, Northern Valley, 44.5; 1600 meter relay, Northern Valley, 3:25.6.

1987 - Rodger Swanson, Hill City, 110 meter hurdles, 15.1; Travis Vallin, Northern Valley, 100 meter dash, 11.2; 300 meter hurdles, 38.3; 1600 meter relay, Northern Valley, 3:28.20; 3200 meter relay, Northern Valley, 8:16.1.

1988 - Craig Ayers, Hill City, 110 meter hurdles, 15.46; 1600 meter relay, Hill City, 3:28.51"; 3200 meter relay, Northern Valley, 8:16.54.

1991 - Billy Wuggazer, Phillipsburg, 800 meter run, 1:57.00; 1600 meter run, 4:21.65; 3200 meter run, 9:25.99; 400 meter relay, Northern Valley, 44.20.

1992 - Darby Roberts, Hill City, javelin, 227'0".

1993 - Darby Roberts, Hill City, javelin, 241'0"; Chris Schemper, Northern Valley, 400 meter dash, 50.74.

1994 - Jason Jones, Logan, pole vault, 14'.

1995 - Kerry Bates, Hill City, 100 meter dash, 11.30; Jeremy Lehning, Logan, javelin, 210'6".

1996 - Geoff Riley, Hill City, 300 meter hurdles, 39.99; Nathan Jones, Logan, discus, 16'3"; 400 meter relay, Northern Valley, 44.86.

1997 - Mike Appelhans, Hill City, 100 meter dash, 10.99; 200 meter dash, 22.64; Geoff Riley, Hill City, 300 meter hurdles, 39.68; 1600 meter relay, Hill City, 3:28.19; Nathan Jones, Logan, discus, 159'0"; 3200 meter relay, Logan, 8:24.75.

1998 - Mike Appelhans, Hill City, 100 meter dash, 10.97; 200 meter dash, 22.08.

1999 - Shaun Morrissey, Phillipsburg, 200 meter dash, 23.40; 400 meter dash, 50.84; Jeff Schmidt, Phillipsburg, long jump, 22'1"; Mike Appelhans, Hill City, 100 meter dash, 10.88; Logan Davignon, Hill City, pole vault, 14'; Rusty Kitzke, Ransom, high jump, 6'4"; Travis Tillitson, Ransom, triple jump, 43'1.5".

2003 - 3200 meter relay, Ober-

lin, 8:27.79.

2004 - Teryn Grafel, Oberlin, 110 meter hurdles, 15.19.

2005 - Teryn Grafel, Oberlin, 110 meter hurdles, 15.32; 300 meter hurdles, 40.02.

2006 - Teryn Grafel, Oberlin, 110 meter hurdles, 14.55; 400 meter relay, Hill City, 43.99; 1600 meter relay, Hill City, 3:31.55; Tim McElroy, Logan, discus, 160'0".

2007 - Tim McElroy, Logan, shot put, 54'6"; discus, 159'9".

2008 - Mike Wickham, Phillipsburg, 110 meter hurdles, 15.12; 400 meter relay, Phillipsburg, 44.37.

2009 - Alex VanLoenen, Hill City, discus, 147'7"; Brady Tien, Logan, pole vault, 13'6".

INDOOR STATE TRACK

Indoor State Track & Field Championships were held for boys from 1955 to 1978 and for girls from 1975 to 1978. State champions from the area are listed here.

GIRLS

1975 - Sue Jilka, Hill City, 60 yard dash, 7.3; Cindy Worcester, Hill City, 880 yard run, 2:19.5.

1976 - Cindy Worcester, Hill City, 400 yard dash, 59.7; 880 yard run, 2:18.6.

1977 - Juanita Neff, Oberlin, 400 yard dash, 59.4; 880 yard run, 2:26.0; 440 yard relay, Oberlin, 52.5.

BOYS

1963 - John Mason, Phillipsburg, mile, 4:44.4.

1966 - Jack Georgeson, Lenora, high jump, 6'3".

1967 - Dale Alexander, Bogue, 880 yard run, 1:59.9.

1969 - John Elliott, Phillipsburg, 880 yard run, 2:00.5; mile, 4:32.0; Juan Alexander, Bogue, 440 yard dash, 51.8; Roger Sides, Northern Valley, high jump, 6'3"; mile relay, Bogue, 3:37.4.

1970 - Mike Alexander, Hill City, 60 yard dash, 6.4; Leonard Jones, Hill City, 440 yard dash, 52.0; Temoer Terry, Bogue, long jump, 22'1.25".

1971 - Loren Jones, Phillipsburg, long jump, 21'11".

1972 - Loren Jones, Phillipsburg, high jump, 6'1"; long jump, 22'6.75"; Rick Bauer, Lenora, 70 yard low hurdles, 8.2.

1973 - Marvin Switzer, Bogue, 60 yard dash, 6.4; Nolan Cromwell, Ransom, 440 yard dash, 51.5; Bill Lowry, Northern Valley, mile, 4:35.3; Rick Bauer, Lenora, 70 yard low hurdles, 8.1.