

Norton High School track season opens Monday

By Dick Boyd
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Norton Community High School's sixth year head coach Jason Jones has welcomed a total of 56 athletes for this spring's Blue Jay girls and boys track and field teams.

There are a total of 21 girls and 35 boys on the rosters.

The girls team returns 11 letter winners from last year and the boys team returns 12 lettermen.

Fifteen of the 56 Norton track and field athletes are freshmen.

Norton will open the track season in the Kiwanis Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center on Monday, April 2. Field events will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The 3200 meter run will also begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by the other running events at 5 p.m. There will be no preliminaries.

Norton Invitational Meet

Varsity competition for Norton will begin on Thursday, April 5 with the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

Field events will begin at 3:30 p.m. and running events at 5 p.m. No preliminaries will be held and all events will be run as finals. All athletes may be entered.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Goodland, Logan, Northern Valley, Oberlin and Smith Center.

Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in both girls and boys divisions. Medals will be awarded to the first three places in each event.

Assisting coach Jones again this season will be coaches Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin. Jeremy Hawks, a Norton Community High School graduate and former Blue Jay track athlete, has joined the coaching staff as an assistant coach.

Student managers are Alexis Lively, Sierra Black and Adrienne Hager.

Head coach's background

Coach Jones is a Logan native. A 1994 Logan

High School graduate, he was the Class 1A state pole vault champion.

He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays on a track scholarship and pole vaulted for the Tigers. He was an all-conference performer and graduated in December, 1998.

He was head track coach and assistant football coach at Fowler High School for three years before moving to Norton. He was a teacher and assistant football and track coach in Norton for four years before becoming head track and field coach.

"We are very excited that track season has begun," said coach Jones. "With 56 total athletes and 23 returning letter winners, we have a nice core group of leaders returning.

"We are off to a good, solid start at practice and our girls and boys continue to work hard to ready themselves for competition.

"We will look towards the early meets to provide us with competition baselines and those meets will also offer our youngsters, who have been working hard, a chance to compete and have some fun.

"We cannot wait to open the competitive season!"

GIRLS

The 11 returning letter winners for the Norton girls team are Erin Terrell, senior; Katherine Boteler, Kamilla Jones, Julie Kent, Alec Melvin, Teslee Nickell, juniors; Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, John-nye Ruder, sophomores.

Other squad members are Tawni Griffey, Stephanie Hager, Pippa Nelson, juniors; Rickele Green, Cristine Nelson, sophomores; Sheridan Dillehay, Kenzie Esslinger, Sierra Griffith, Molly Scott, Jesika Smith, freshmen.

The Lady Jays' season highlights a year ago were runner-up finishes in the Norton Invitational and Redmen Relays in Smith Center, a championship in the Plainville Invitational, runner-up in the Mid-Continent League Track Meet in Phillipsburg and a fifth place, just four points out of third, in the toughest regional meet in the state, which was also in Phillipsburg.

The top four placers in each regional event qualify for competition in the State Meet in Wichita. Nine Norton girls earned a trip to the state meet. Nickell and Melvin scored 26 points in field events in the regional. Nickell heaved the shot 40'6.5" to win the gold medal. Melvin placed third in the discus, third in the javelin and fourth in the shot. Junior Astrid Moen, a foreign exchange student, placed third in the 3200 meter run and Bainter followed her to the finish line in fourth place.

Two Norton relays also qualified for state competition. The 4 x 400 meter relay team of Terrell, Ambrosier, Jones and senior Dustyna Sprigg placed third with a personal best time and the 4 x 800 meter relay team of Ambrosier, Moen, Jones and Sprigg placed fourth with a new school record.

Norton placed 13th as a team in the State Meet. The 4 x 800 meter relay team finished third and the 4 x 400 meter relay team placed fourth. Moen finished fourth in the 3200 meter run and Nickell was fourth in the shot.

BOYS

The 12 returning lettermen on the Norton boys team are Seth Antrim, Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry, Dillon McConney, Trey Millan, Casey Temmel, Jordan Wahlmeier, seniors; Jacob Brooks, John Renner, juniors; Alec Hager, Austin Hager, Trever Lewis, sophomores.

Other squad members are Damien Davis, Joe LeClair, seniors; Lane Bigge, Lucas Engel, Carson McKenna, Dalton Miller, Chris Morse, Dylan Sprigg, juniors; Chris Chambers, Travis Cressler, Marc Miller, Cole Renner, Drew Schrum, sophomores; Christian Boser, Derick Campbell, Conor Cox, Noah Johnson, Jordan Karnopp, Breven Sondergaard, Kobie Unterseher, Clay Vanover, Dalton Vanover, Stewart Whitney, freshmen.

Season highlights for the Norton boys included third place finishes in the Plainville Invitational and Phillipsburg Invitational. Hartwell had a great day at Phillipsburg, winning both the "John Mason Mile" in a personal record time and the 3200 meter run. A runner-up finish in the Oberlin

2012 Track Schedule

- Monday, April 2 - Smith Center JV Meet, Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 5 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 10 - Smith Center Invite, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
- Monday, April 16 - Trego Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, WaKeeney, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 17 - Plainville Invitational, Plainville, 3 p.m.
- Friday, April 20 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
- Monday, April 23 - Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, Hill City, 4 p.m.
- Friday, April 27 - Goldsmith Relays, WaKeeney, 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 1 - Oberlin Invitational, Oberlin, 3 p.m.
- Friday, May 4 - Russell Relays, Russell, 3 p.m.
- Monday, May 7 - Hill City Invitational, 4 p.m.
- Friday, May 11 - Mid-Continent League Meet, WaKeeney, 3 p.m.
- Friday, May 18 - Regional Championships, TBA
- Friday, Saturday, May 25-26 - State Championships, Wichita

Invitational and third place in the Mid-Continent League Meet in Phillipsburg were among the other highlights.

Norton placed seventh in the toughest of the four regional meets, which was held in Phillipsburg. Antrim won the gold medal and Hager was runner-up in the pole vault. Brooks was runner-up in the 200 meter dash.

All three Norton boys also medaled in the State Meet in Wichita where the Blue Jays placed 18th as a team. Antrim placed runner-up in the pole vault, Hager was sixth in the pole vault and Brooks finished fourth in the 200 meter dash.

Norton High School golf season will tee off on Tuesday

By Dick Boyd

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Norton Community High School's 2012 golf team will begin the season Tuesday, April 3 in the Redmen Invitational in Smith Center, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Blue Jays have seven returning lettermen on the 20-member squad. They are Taylor Meder, senior; Chris Fisher, Treven Rossi, John Risewick, Eli Bozarth, Andrew Ellis, Cassius Dole, juniors.

Other squad members are Clayton Esslinger, senior; Jordan Hartwell, Ryan Bainter, Javen Colip, Dustan Daniels, Vaughn Newman, Jamie Harshbarger, juniors; Branson Addington, Garret Otter, sophomores; Derek Rowh, Chance Uehlin, Connor Griffey, David Smith, freshmen.

"Quite a few of our golfers got a taste of varsity action last season and had some success," said Norton head golf coach David Stover. "With seven returning lettermen, depth should be a strength of our team as we have many players competing for varsity spots.

"Our team should show improvement as the season progresses.

"Once again, the Mid-Continent League should be very competitive with Phillipsburg and Ellis leading the way with many teams in contention for the league title this spring."

Norton Invitational

The Norton Invitational Tournament is normally very early in the season but it will be later this season.

The Norton Invitational will be held on Thursday, April 19 on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south

2012 Track Schedule

- Tuesday, April 3 - Redmen Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 10 - Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
- Friday, April 13 - Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 17 - Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
- Thursday, April 19 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 24 - Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, April 26 - I-70 Invitational, Ellis/Trego, 9 a.m.
- Monday, April 30 - TMP Invitational, Hays (Smoky Hill), 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 1 - Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, May 3 - Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, May 3 - Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
- Friday, May 4 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
- Monday, May 7 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10 - Mid-Continent League Tournament, Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.
- Monday, May 14 - Regional Golf Tournament, Lakin, 9 a.m.
- Monday, May 21 - State Golf Tournament, Goodland, 9 a.m.

of Norton. Tee off time has been changed to 3 p.m. this year.

Norton will also host the Norton JV Invitational Tournament around the same time as previously. It will be on Tuesday, May 1 with tee off also set for 3 p.m.

Last season

Norton's large sophomore class received a lot of experience last season which should help them as juniors this year.

After placing fourth at Smith Center and fifth in the Norton Invitational, the Blue Jays were eighth at Goodland. Their worst day was at Thomas More Prep in Hays where they finished

13th but they rebounded the next time out to play their best of the season at Colby, where they placed fifth, just two points out of fourth.

Fisher, Bozarth and Ellis were on the Norton foursome at Colby, along with senior Cole Archer. Risewick was the fifth man.

Norton played even better in the Phillipsburg tournament but only placed fifth again. It was six-man play. Bozarth, Ellis, Fisher and Risewick were among the Norton players.

The Mid-Continent League Tournament in Osborne was next and the Blue Jays finished

seventh in a very tough tournament. Ellis, Fisher, Bozarth, Risewick, Dole and Meder were among the Norton players.

The season ended with the Regional Tournament in Goodland, where Norton placed sixth as a team and was unable to qualify anyone for the state tournament. Among those competing for Norton were Ellis, Fisher, Risewick and Bozarth.

Coach's background

Coach Stover is a graduate of St. John's of Beloit High School and Fort Hays State University.

He is completing his 23rd year of teaching. After teaching six years at Macksville, he is in his 17th year of teaching and coaching in Norton.

He has been the Norton Community High School head golf coach during his entire tenure at Norton and has also been boys assistant basketball coach all 17 years.

Coach Stover was an assistant Norton high school football coach for five years. Prior to that, he was Norton junior high assistant football coach for five years and Norton junior high head football coach for five years.

Clayton Cox is the assistant golf coach again this season.

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  **APRIL 22**

Correction

On the upcoming Relay For Life fund-raisers printed in the Tuesday, March 27 edition of the Norton Telegram, Gill's Barber-shop will be offering all services for \$10, not just hair cuts.

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Let's Play Ball!

Softball and Baseball Registration
ENTRY FORMS DUE
MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2012, 5:00 P.M.

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BOYS BASEBALL
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Division II Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Grade

OTHER TEAMS
T-Ball Coed League Ages 5 through Kindergarten
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COACHES MEETINGS:
THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2012 —
7:00 p.m. - T-Ball • 8:15 p.m. - Boys Division I
FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012 —
7:00 p.m. Boys Division II
MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012 —
7:00 p.m. Girls Division I • 8:15 p.m. Girls Division II

Youth Track and Field Fun Day — Saturday, May 12
Entry Forms Due April 2, 2012; Kindergarten through Sixth Grade

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Norton Recreation Commission
(785) 877-3087