

Norton track teams wrap up successful season

By Dick Boyd

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Under the leadership of sixth year head coach Jason Jones, the Norton Community High School girls and boys track and field teams had another successful season in 2012.

The Lady Jays' season highlights were third, Norton Invitational; second, Smith Center Redmen Relays; second, Plainville Invitational; second, Phillipsburg Invitational; second, Oberlin Invitational; first, Mid-Continent League Championships; fourth, Regional Meet in Beloit and sixth, State Meet.

Highlights for the Norton boys were third, Norton Invitational; fifth, Smith Center Redmen Relays; third, Plainville Invitational; fifth, Phillipsburg Invitational; third, Goldsmith Relays; fifth, Russell Relays; second, Mid-Continent League Championships and fifth, Regional Meet in Beloit.

High point performer for the Norton girls for the second straight year was junior Alec Melvin with 199 points and high point boys athlete for the second year in a row was junior Jacob Brooks with 187.25 points.

Coach Jones announced the following Norton Lady Jay letter winners for the season: Erin Terrell, senior; Katherine Boteler (provisional), Tawni Griffey, Kamilla Jones, Julia Kent, Alec Melvin, Teslee Nickell, juniors; Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, Johnnie Ruder, sophomores; Sheridan Dillehay, Kenzie Esslinger, Sierra Griffith, Jesika Smith (provisional), freshman.

Norton boys letter winners are: Seth Antrim, Damien Davis, Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry, Joe LeClair (provisional), Dillon McConney, Trey Millan, Casey Temmel, Jordan Wahlmeier (provisional), seniors; Jacob Brooks (provisional), Carson McKenna, Dalton Miller, John Renner (provisional), Dylan Sprigg, juniors; Alec Hager, Austin Hager, Trevor Lewis, Marc Miller, Drew Schrum (provisional), sophomores; Christian Boser, Conor Cox (provisional), Jordan Karnopp, Dalton Vanover, freshmen.

Assistant coaches this year were Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton, Lucas Melvin and Jeremy Hawks.

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

Review of season

On Monday, April 2, Norton started the season in the Smith Center JV Meet with the girls winning the championship and the boys placing fifth.

Junior Stephanie Hager won the 300 meter hurdles and sophomore Rickete Green won both the shot and javelin events.

In boys action, freshman Dalton Vanover was runner-up in the 3200 meter run.

The varsity season opened on Thursday, April 5 with the annual Norton Invitational on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field where both girls and boys placed third.

Oberlin won the girls title with 143 points, followed by Colby, 127; Norton, 112.5; Smith Center, 81 in fourth. Three Norton girls won gold medals. Junior Alec Melvin won the discus with a throw of 102'7", sophomore Bailey Ambrosier won the pole vault with a height of 9'6" and freshman Sierra Griffith earned the gold in the 3200 meter run in 13:18.20.

Norton junior Teslee Nickell was runner-up in the shot with a heave of 34'10" and Melvin was third in the shot with a distance of 33'2". Norton finished one-two-three in the 3200 meter run. Sophomore Darcy Bainter was second in 13:52.55 and junior Julia Kent third in 13:55.63.

Sophomore Katelyn Engelbert was runner-up in the 400 meter dash in 1:04.47 and Ambrosier was third in 1:04.95. Junior Tawni Griffey placed second in the 1600 meter run in 6:13.64. Norton's 4 x 800 meter relay team of Engelbert, Griffey, Ambrosier and junior Kamilla Jones placed second in 10:48.10.

Smith Center won the boys title with 119 points, Goodland was runner-up with 104 and Norton totaled 91. Senior Bryan Henry won the 400 meter dash in 54.91 and sophomore Austin Hager earned the gold in the pole vault with a height of 13'.

Placing runner-up was the 4 x 100 meter relay team of Hager, Henry, senior Trey Millan and junior Jacob Brooks which was timed in 45.69. Brooks was also third in the 100 meter dash in a personal record 11.29, senior Casey Temmel was third in the shot with a distance of 39'8.75", junior Dalton Miller third in the discus with a personal best throw of 121'3", sophomore Trevor Lewis third in the long jump with a leap of 18'9", senior Zach Hartwell third in the 1600 meter run in 5:02.64 and sophomore Marc Miller third in the 3200 meter run in 10:56.38.

On Tuesday, April 10, Norton girls and boys competed in the annual Redmen Relays in Smith Center. The Lady Jays scored 95 points to place runner-up to champion Beloit with 149. Smith Center was third with 84, followed by Trego, 70; Phillipsburg, 65.

Melvin set a personal record of 116'2" in winning the javelin and also won the discus with a throw of 107'5". She was fourth in the shot at 34'2". Engelbert won the 800 meter run in 2:33.87 and anchored the 4 x 400 meter relay team to victory in 2:28.33. Running with her were Terrell, Ambrosier and Griffey. The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Engelbert, Ambrosier, Griffey and Jones was runner-up in 10:36.76. Griffey was runner-up in the 3200 in 13:30.96, Bainter was third and Kent fifth. Griffey set a personal record with a runner-up finish in the 1600 meter run in 6:07.46.

The Norton boys placed fifth. Beloit won with 167 points, followed by Thayer Central, 117; Phillipsburg, 100; Smith Center, 77; Norton, 74. Brooks won the 200 meter dash in 23.62, and was second in the 100 meter dash in 11.72 and anchored



Norton senior Bryan Henry finishes strong to bring his 4 x 400 meter relay team home for a runner-up place in the Oberlin Invitational Meet on Tuesday, May 1. Running with him were Jacob Brooks, Carson McKenna and Dillon McConney.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the 4 x 100 meter relay team to a runner-up in 46.14. Austin Hager, Millan and McKenna ran with him. Antrim won the pole vault at 13'6"; Hager was second at 12'. The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Hartwell, Henry, Marc Miller and Alec Hager was second in 8:52.59.

On Monday, April 16, the Norton girls placed ninth and the boys second in the Trego Freshmen-Sophomore Meet. Freshman Kenzie Esslinger earned the Norton girls only gold medal. She set a personal record with a vault of 8'6". Sophomore Cristine Nelson was second in the shot and second in the discus. Junior Lane Bigge set a personal record of 104'9" when he won the discus. Freshman Dalton Vanover won the 3200 meter run in 12:08.57 and freshman Stewart Whitney placed second in the shot with a personal best distance of 35'9".

The Plainville Invitational was Tuesday, April 17. The Norton girls placed runner-up with 119 points to champion Oberlin, who scored 128. Trego was third with 90. Ambrosier won the pole vault and Maddy was second, both going 8'6". Jones was third in the pole vault. Ambrosier was third in the 400 meter dash and Griffey won the 3200 meter run with a 13:00.93 personal record time. Bainter was second and Kent third. Engelbert won the 800 meter run in 2:41.07. Melvin set a personal record in winning the discus with a throw of 117'3". She was second in the shot at 36'5" and third in the javelin at 109'2". Nickell was fourth in the shot at 35'6". The 4 x 800 meter relay team was second and the 4 x 400 meter relay team placed third.

La Crosse won the boys title with 151 points, Plainville scored 97 and Norton tallied 90. Austin Hager set a personal record in winning the pole vault at 13'6" and tying the meet record. Antrim was second at 12'6". Marc Miller placed fourth in the pole vault and won the gold in the 800 meter run. Hartwell was first in the 1600 meter run in 4:59.28 and Alec Hager won the 3200 meter run in 11:43.62. Brooks was second in the high jump and third in the 200 meter and 100 meter dashes. Brooks also anchored the 4 x 100 meter relay team to second place in 44.78. Running with him were Austin Hager, Henry and Millan. The 4 x 800 meter relay team placed third.

On Friday, April 20, the Phillipsburg Invitational was held and the Norton girls were the runner-up to champion Beloit. Nickell won the shot with a heave of 37'3 and Melvin was second with a personal best distance of 37'2.5". Melvin was also second in the discus and javelin. Jones was second in the long jump, Ambrosier second in the 400 meter dash and Engelbert third. Griffey, Bainter, Kent finished third through fifth in the 3200. The 4 x 800 team of Griffey, Maddy, Bainter and Ambrosier was second.

Beloit also won the boys division; Norton was fifth. Antrim won the pole vault with a 13' height. Hager was runner-up at the same height. Marc Miller won the 800 meter run with a personal best 2:08.45 and was fourth in the pole vault. Brooks won the 200 meter dash, was third in the 100 and third in the high jump. Brooks ran with Austin Hager, Henry and Millan to place second in the 4 x 100 meter relay. Hartwell was second in the John Mason Mile, which he won a year ago. Marc Miller, Austin Hager, freshman Christian Boser and Henry won the 4 x 800 meter relay.

The Hill City Freshman-Sophomore Meet was held Monday, April 23. The Norton girls and boys set 14 personal records. The girls finished sixth as a team. Sophomore Cristine Nelson set a personal record in the shot with a heave of 30'10". Freshman Kenzie Esslinger won the pole vault with a personal best height of 7'9". The boys placed fifth. Freshman Stewart Whitney placed in three events: shot, discus and 100 meter dash and anchored the 4 x 100 relay.

On Monday, April 30, the Goldsmith Relays were held in WaKeeney. The Norton girls placed fourth. Nickell won the shot, Melvin was second in the javelin, third in the shot and fourth in the discus. The 4 x 800 team of Griffey, Griffey, Jones and Engelbert placed runner-up.

The Norton boys finished third. Brooks won the high jump and 100 meter dash and was runner-up in the 200 meter dash in a personal record time of 22.64. The 4 x 800 team of Marc Miller, Hartwell, Alec Hager and Henry won the gold medal.

Hartwell was second in the 1600 meter run, Marc Miller won the 800 and Henry won the 400 meter dash. Marc Miller was second in the pole vault.

On Tuesday, May 1, the Norton girls placed second to champion Oberlin in the Oberlin Invitational. Nickell was second in the shot and Melvin was fourth. Melvin was also second in the discus and third in the javelin. Ambrosier won the pole vault with Esslinger third and Jones fifth. Kent, Griffey and Bainter finished second, third and fourth in the 3200 meter run. Griffey set a personal record with a third place in the 1600 meter run in 6:06.78. Engelbert was second in the 800. Griffey, Ambrosier, Jones and Engelbert placed second in the 4 x 800 and Terrell, Ambrosier, Jones and Engelbert placed third in the 4 x 400.

In boys action, Smith Center was the champion and Norton placed sixth. Henry won the 400 with a personal record 51.94. Brooks, McKenna, McConney and Henry were second in the 4 x 400 meter relay. Marc Miller, Hartwell, Austin Hager and Henry were third in the 4 x 800. Hartwell placed third and Alec Hager fourth in the 3200. Brooks was second in the 100 and third in the high jump. Marc Miller was third in the pole vault and fifth in the 800.

Despite illnesses and absences due to school schedule conflicts, both Norton girls and boys turned in excellent performances at the Russell Relays. Beloit won the girls title; Norton was seventh, just nine points out of fourth. Melvin won the shot at 36'6" and the discus with a throw of 109'5" and was fourth in the javelin at 107'4". Nickell was fourth in the shot at 34'11" and sixth in the discus. Kent and Griffey were third and fourth in the 3200. Jones set a personal record with a fourth in the long jump at 15'8".

The Norton boys placed fifth; Beloit was the champion. Antrim won the pole vault at 13', Henry won the 400 meter dash with a personal record time of 51.81 and Brooks won the 200 meters in a personal record time of 22.10. Hartwell was second in the 3200 with a personal record 10:43.77. Marc Miller had a personal best 2:06.9 to place third in the 800.

On Monday, May 7, the Norton junior varsity competed in the varsity Hill City Invitational. The Norton girls did not score; eight Norton boys set personal records. Freshman Jordan Karnopp set a personal record in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 18.58 to place third.

The annual Mid-Continent League meet was held on Friday, May 11 in WaKeeney. In by far the best outing of the season, the Norton girls were the league champions and the boys placed runner-up. Nickell won the shot with a heave of 37'7.5" and Ambrosier won the pole vault at 9'6". Ambrosier, Maddy, Bainter and Engelbert won the 4 x 800, Engelbert was second in the 800, Ambrosier was third in the 400. Melvin was second in the shot at 36'7.25", third in the discus at 107'11" and third in the javelin at 115'2". Griffey set a personal record of 5:57.73 with a second place in the 1600 and was second in the 3200 as well. Maddy was third in the pole vault and Jones was fifth. Jones was third in the long jump.

In boys competition, Antrim won the pole vault at 13'6", Henry was first in the 400 at 52.24 and Brooks first in the high jump at 6'. Brooks was also second in the 200 and fourth in the 100.

Hartwell placed runner-up in the 1600 and the 3200. The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Hartwell, Henry, Miller and Schrum placed third and Miller was third in the 800.

On Friday, May 18, the Class 3A Regional Meet was held in Beloit with the top four in each event qualifying for the State Meet. The Norton girls finished fourth. Melvin qualified in three events with a first in the discus, second in the shot with a personal record 37'8" and third in the javelin. Nickell won the shot with a heave of 37'8.75" and Ambrosier won the pole vault at 10'. Engelbert was second in the 800 with a personal record time of 2:28.41 and Griffey was runner-up in the 3200 with a personal best 12:34.71. The 4 x 800 team of Griffey, Ambrosier, Engelbert and Griffey was third in 10:14.11.

The Blue Jay boys placed fifth in the Regional. Brooks was second in the high jump at 6'2", second in the 200 meter dash with a personal record of 21.99 and fourth in the 100 meters. Henry won the 400 meter dash with a personal record time of 49.89. Hartwell was third in the 3200 with a personal record clocking of 10:35.33. Antrim won the pole vault and Hager was second, both going 13'.

On Friday and Saturday, May 25-26, the 102nd Kansas State Track & Field Championships were held at Cessna Stadium in Wichita with six Norton girls and five Norton boys competing. The Lady Jays scored 27 points to place sixth out of 40 teams. Ambrosier won the gold medal in the pole vault with a height of 9'6". Melvin was fourth in the discus at 116'6", fifth in the shot at 35'7" and 14th in the javelin at 102'4". Nickell was third in the shot at 35'11". The 4 x 800 meter relay team of Griffey, Ambrosier, Griffey and Engelbert finished fourth in 10:20.90. Engelbert was 11th in the 800 and Griffey was 14th in the 3200.

The Norton boys placed 27th with 9 points. Brooks was third in the 200 at 23.13, sixth in the 100 meters at 11.14 and eighth in the high jump at 6'. Antrim was seventh in the pole vault at 13' and Hager was eighth at 13'. Hartwell was ninth in the 3200 with a personal record of 10:32.32 and Henry was ninth in the 400 with a clocking of 51.77.

Coach's comments

"We are proud of the athletes and managers who formed the 2012 NCHS Track and Field Team," said coach Jones. "As a team, they were successful in many ways and they carried this season's competitive torch well. They have given us success and tradition to build upon next year.

"We are looking to return 18 girls and 23 boys who have gained valuable experience that will help them in their quest for future successes. We sincerely hope that those who graduated will be able to apply some of what they gained to their futures.

"We improved all season long and were competitive through the post-season. We love to see our athletes improving and will use this season's results to drive our efforts next year. Most of our athletes responded positively and did their best. This is all we want of them.

"We enjoyed sharing the season with them, we are proud of them and look forward to the future with them."



These three Lady Jays, from left, freshman Sierra Griffith, junior Julia Kent and sophomore Darcy Bainter are shown competing in the grueling 3200 meter run in the Phillipsburg Invitational Meet on Friday, April 20. They could always be counted on to produce a lot of points for Norton from just this one race.



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