Cross country teams win big at Oberlin Invite

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Tuesday was a great day for running and coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls and boys cross country runners took advantage of the near perfect weather to win championships at the an-

nual Oberlin Invitational Meet. The girls were edged by Mc-Cook for the championship last year but the Blue Jay boys won the championship for the eighth year in a row

The Norton girls scored 52 points to easily outdistance Mc-Cook, who tallied 71. Oberlin was third with 80, followed by Colby, 102; Wheatland, 114.

The Norton boys scored 30 points, followed by Colby, 41; McCook, 62; Oberlin, 85.

GIRLS

Norton's top five girls ran in an excellent group, separated by just 18 seconds.

First to finish for the Lady Jays was sophomore Sierra Griffith, who placed ninth in 17:00. She was followed by junior Darcy Bainter, tenth, 17:05; junior Katelyn Engelbert, 17:05, 11th; junior Marisa Maddy, 13th, 17:15 and senior Julia Kent, 14th, 17:18.

Also running for Norton were senior Kamilla Jones, 16th, 17:48 and freshman Molly Maddy, 17th, 17:53.

Norton freshman Raenee Patterson won the girls junior varsity race in 18:55. Freshman Kylie Perez was third in 20:02 and senior Steph Hager finished seventh in 21:33.

"We were very interested to see how our girls would come

back after only a couple of days after Rim Rock," said coach Rossi. "Our girls came out determined and ready to win.

"McCook has won this race for the last several years and we have always trailed them but tonight we were able to get the upper hand.

"We were grouped up very well; however, we need to move our first few up into the top three or four but we are very happy with the results. It says a lot about how these girls come out to run each race.

"Our girls really need to work hard the next few weeks. Our goals are clear and the task is very difficult and our girls know what they need to do."

The top ten finishers in the girls division were: Molly Sughroue, McCook, 15:27:63,

first; Winter Polivka, Oberlin, 16:02.36, second; Andrea Browne, Colby, 16:07.92, third; Taylor Tustin, Wheatland, 16:16.62, fourth; Marlee McKenna, Hoxie, 16:26.45, fifth; Cassa McConville, Southwest, 16:28.16, sixth; Darbi Rouse, Oberlin, 16:35.45, seventh; Hayley Ribordy, Oakley, 16:46.97, eighth; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 17:09.94, ninth; Darcy Bainter, Norton, 17:05.11, tenth.

BOYS

Junior Marc Miller not only led the way for the Blue Jays but he was the first runner to finish, winning the gold medal in 17:53.

Junior Alec Hager was second fastest boy, placing fifth in 18:21, followed by freshman Brendon Frack, eighth, 18:36; sophomore Dalton Vanover, tenth, 18:42 and senior John Renner, 17th, 20:22.

Also running for Norton were senior Ryan Bainter, 25th, 21:26 and junior Keith Sander, 28th, 21:37.

Running for the junior varsity and their places and times were: freshman Weston Erbert, tenth, 22:07; freshman James King, 12th, 22:19; freshman Skylar Johnson, 13th, 22:26; junior Chris Chambers, 15th, 23:17; sophomore David Smith, 19th, 24:23.

"It was good to see our Norton boys continue their winning ways at Oberlin by winning for the eighth year in a row," said coach Rossi.

"Marc and Dalton ran much better times than last year at Oberlin. Brendon had yet another solid race and John Renner had one of the best finishes of his career, passing at least seven runners in the last 200 meters

Norton head coach George Rossi encourages junior Marc Miller as he runs away from the field to place first in the boys cross country race at the Oberlin Invitational on Tues-

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

and the last one on the finish

"As with our girls, our boys did not have much rest after our race on Saturday in Lawrence but they came out and ran a very competitive race."

The top ten placers in the boys race were: Marc Miller, Norton, 17:53.01, first; Hunter Felker, McCook, 18:08.58, second; Adan Eaton, Southwest, 18:12.01, third; John Faber, Colby, 18:15.90, fourth; Alec Hager, Norton, 18:21.23, fifth; Alec Onstad, Colby, 18:24.07, sixth;

Ben Baird, Brewster, 18:25.82, seventh; Brendon Frack, Norton, 18:36.77, eighth; Kiel Howell, Cambridge, 18:41.69, ninth; Dalton Vanover, Norton, 18:42.90, tenth.

Next action

The Norton cross country runners will get some rest prior to their next competition.

They will compete on Thursday, Oct. 4 in the Mid-Continent League Meet on the golf course in Phillipsburg, beginning at 4:30 p.m.



Lady Jay sophomore Sierra Griffith sprints to the finish line to place first among Norton girl runners at the Oberlin Invitational on Tuesday while junior Darcy Bainter takes second

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Volleyball team improves

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School varsity volleyball team displayed improved play on Tuesday evening in Goodland when they defeated Wray, Colo. 25-19, 25-17; gave Goodland a run for their money before losing 15-25, 20-25 and outscored Wheatland-Grinnell 23-25,

"We were very proud of the way our girls played tonight," said coach Jilka.

"Other than the first game against Goodland, we are passing the ball much better. We're not passing great yet but we have been working very hard on that in practice and it showed tonight.

"The biggest thing for us was that we hustled and played hard all night long and that was great

"Our players got to a lot of loose balls that we probably wouldn't have early in the year.

"We just need to keep improving every day so we will be ready by tournament time."

Wray, Colo.

Junior Bailey Ambrosier led in kills with 4, followed by senior Bri Karnopp, 3; sophomore Kaitlyn Bohl, 2; senior Alec Melvin, 1.

Assists leader was junior Johnnye Ruder with 5; senior Teslee Nickell had 3 assists.

Bohl had 2 blocks and Ruder had 1. Digs leader was Ruder with 4, followed by Ambrosier, 2, Kar-

Nickell served 4 aces and Karnopp served 1

Goodland

Ambrosier had 3 kills and Nickell had 2. Nick-

ell also had 4 assists and Ruder had 1. Karnopp had 2 blocks while Ambrosier and Nickell each had 1. Digs leader was Karnopp with 5, followed by senior Katherine Boteler, 3; Bohl,

Wheatland-Grinnell

1; Nickell, 1.

Ambrosier had 5 kills, followed by Karnopp, 3;

Ruder led with 6 assists while Nickell had 3. Ambrosier, Bohl, Nickell and Melvin each had 1 block.

Digs leader was Ambrosier with 4, followed by Ruder, 3; Karnopp, 2.

Karnopp served 2 aces and Melvin served 1. **Junior varsity**

The Norton junior varsity also won two out of three matches on Tuesday night.

After losing to Goodland 20-25, 19-25, they de-

feated Wray 25-19, 25-22 and outscored Wheat-

land-Grinnell 25-18, 25-16. Against Goodland, freshman Lauren Mordecai

had 2 kills, followed by freshman Casey Ambrosier, 1; freshman Peyton Renner, 1; sophomore Sheridan Dillehay, 1.

Sophomore Adrienne Hager and Renner each had 4 assists. Mordecai had 1 block. Dillehay led in digs with 4, followed by freshman Nickala O'Hare, 3; freshman Hanna Brooks, 1; Renner, 1; freshman Kristin Georgeson, 1.

Georgeson also had 1 serving ace.

In the win over Wray, Renner had 5 kills, followed by Casey Ambrosier, 4; sophomore Morgan Farber, 2; Brooks, 2; Mordecai, 1

Assists leader with 5 was Hager, followed by Renner, 2; Mordecai, 1.

Georgeson led in digs with 10, followed by Farber, 7; Hager, 5; O'Hare, 3; Dillehay, 3; Renner, 2; Mordecai, 1.

O'Hare and Dillehay each served 1 ace and Georgeson served 2 aces.

No statistics were available on Norton's win over Wheatland-Grinnell.

"This group played much better as the night wore on," said coach Jilka. "We became much more aggressive at the net and started hitting it

"We still must learn to pass the ball better as we give up too many easy points during a match. "We played harder but still have to go after all

balls and learn to play hard all the time. "Hopefully, we can continue to improve as the year goes on."

C-team

The Norton C-team lost to Wray 25-23, 21-25, 10-15 and lost to Goodland 23-25, 25-17, 7-15. "Our C-team girls played much better tonight,"

said Norton assistant coach Traci Uehlin. "We were more consistent with our passing and made our serves."

Next action

Norton played in the Hays Quad with Hays, Norton, Abilene and Salina South on Thursday evening. This Saturday, Norton will compete along with Oberlin, Atwood, Hoxie and St. Francis in the Oberlin Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m.

Norton will play St. Francis in the second varsity match in the Senior High Gym and Norton will play Atwood in the opening junior varsity match in the Junior High Gym.

Next Tuesday, Norton will host Smith Center and Trego Community in matches beginning at 5 p.m.

Varsity matches will be held in the NCHS Stull Gym in this order: Norton vs. Smith Center, Smith Center vs. Trego and Norton vs. Trego.

Junior varsity matches will be held in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in the same order.

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