

# Blue Jay track season opens

By **DICK BOYD**

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Seventh year head coach Jason Jones has welcomed 49 athletes to this spring's Blue Jay girls and boys track and field teams.

There are a total of 21 girls and 28 boys on the rosters.

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

Sixteen of the 49 Norton track and field athletes are freshmen.

Norton will open the track season on Monday, April 1 in the Kiwanis Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center. Field events will begin at 4 p.m. with running events beginning at 4:30 p.m.

## Norton Invitational Meet

Varsity competition for Norton will begin next Friday, 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.

The 3200 meter run will begin at 5 p.m. and will be followed by the the running events around 5:45 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.

During a break in the action, Norton senior track and golf athletes and their parents will be honored.

Assisting coach Jones again this season will be coaches Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Lucas Melvin and Jeremy Hawks. Student managers are Adrienne Hager and Lizzie Smith.

## 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 excited that practice has begun," said coach Jones.

"With 49 total athletes and 22 returning letter winners, we have a nice core group of experienced leaders returning.

"We are off to a solid start in practice. We will look towards the early meets to provide us with competitive baselines and those meets will offer our girls and boys 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 girls letter winners are: Kamilla Jones, Alec Melvin, Teslee Nickell, seniors; Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Marisa Maddy, Cristine Nelson, Johnnye Ruder, juniors; Kenzie Esslinger, Sierra Griffith, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Sophie Manegold, junior; Casey Ambrosier, Hanna Brooks, Cayanna Campbell, Molly Maddy, Shelby Mulford, Nickala O'Hare, Raenee Patterson, Peyton Renner, Lexi Voss, freshmen.

The Lady Jays' season highlights a year ago were a championship in the Norton Invitational, a championship in the Mid-Continent League Meet in WaKeeney, runner-up placings in the Redmen Relays in Smith Center, Plainville Invitational, Phillipsburg Invitational and the Decatur Community Invitational in Oberlin, third place in the Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney, fourth place in the toughest Regional Meet in Beloit and sixth in the State Track Meet in Wichita.

The top four finishers in the regional meet qualified for state competition. Six Norton girls qualified.

Alec Melvin qualified in the discus, shot and javelin, Teslee Nickell in the shot, Bailey Ambrosier in the pole vault, Katelyn Engelbert in the 800 meter run, Sierra Griffith in the 3200 meter run and Griffith, Ambrosier, Engelbert and Tawni Griffey in the 3200 meter relay.

Ambrosier brought home the gold medal from the state meet with a vault of 9'6". Melvin was fourth in the discus with a throw of 116'6" and fifth in the shot with a heave of 35'7". Nickell placed third in the shot with a distance of 35'11.25" and the 4 x 800 meter relay placed fourth in 10:20.90.

## BOYS

The 11 returning Norton boys lettermen are: Jacob Brooks, John Renner, Dylan Sprigg, se-

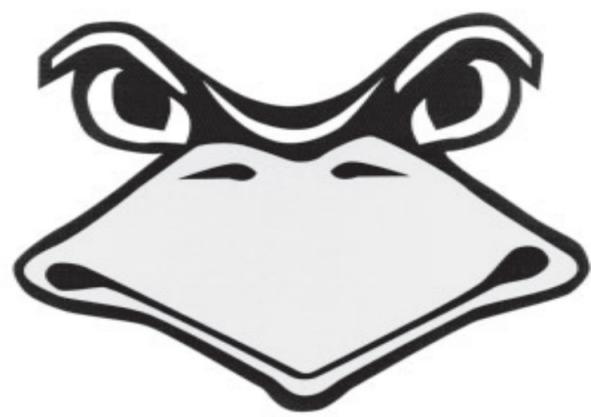
niors; Alec Hager, Austin Hager, Trevor Lewis, Marc Miller, juniors; Christian Boser, Conor Cox, Jordan Karnopp, Dalton Vanover, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Lane Bigge, Lucas Engel, seniors; Travis Cressler, Tanner Furbush, Kailen Kawahara, Cole Renner, Andre Valencia, juniors; Derick Campbell, Kobbie Unterseher, Stewart Whitney, sophomores; Andrew Bashford, Weston Erbert, Brendon Frack, Riley Hager, Cameron Heikes, Michael Kasson, Ryan Thrailkill, freshmen.

The Norton Blue Jay boys season highlights from a year ago included a championship of the Norton Invitational, a runner-up in the Mid-Continent League Meet in WaKeeney, third place in the Plainville Invitational, fourth in the Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney, fifth, three points out of third in the Redmen Relays in Smith Center, fifth, one point out of fourth, in the Phillipsburg Invitational, fifth, two points out of fourth, in the Russell Relays and fifth, six points out of fourth, in the toughest Regional Meet in Beloit.

Five Norton boys qualified in the Regional for the State Meet in Wichita. They were Jacob Brooks, high jump, 200 meter dash, 100 meter dash; senior Bryan Henry, 400 meter dash; senior Zach Hartwell, 3200 meter run; senior Seth Antrim, pole vault; Austin Hager, pole vault.

Brooks and Antrim both medaled in the State Track Meet. Brooks placed third in the 200 meter dash in 23.13 and sixth in the 100 meter dash in 11.14. Antrim finished seventh in the pole vault with a clearance of 13'.



*Good Luck in this year's Spring Sports Blue Jays!*

## Norton Track and Field Schedule

Mon., April 1 - Smith Center JV Meet, Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.  
 Fri., April 5 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3:30 p.m.  
 Tues., April 9 - Smith Center Redmen Relays, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
 Mon., April 15 - Trego Freshman/Sophomore Meet, WaKeeney, 4 p.m.  
 Tues., April 16 - Plainville Invitational, Plainville, 3 p.m.  
 Fri., April 19 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.  
 Mon., April 22 - Hill City Freshman/Sophomore Meet, Hill City, 4 p.m.  
 Fri., April 26 - Goldsmith Relays, WaKeeney, 3:30 p.m.  
 Tues., April 30 - Oberlin Invitational, Oberlin, 3 p.m.  
 Fri., May 3 - Russell Relays, Russell, 3 p.m.  
 Mon., May 6 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 4 p.m.  
 Thurs., May 9 - Mid-Continent League Meet, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
 Fri., May 17 - Regional Championships, TBA  
 Fri., Sat., May 24-25 - State Championships, Wichita

## Golf Season Schedule

Tues., April 2 - Redmen Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
 Tues., April 9 - Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
 Fri., April 12 - Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
 Tues., April 16 - Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.  
 Thurs., April 18 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 1 p.m.  
 Tues., April 23 - Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.  
 Thurs., April 25 - I-70 Invitational, Ellis/Trego, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 29 - TMP Invitational, Hays (Smoky Hill), 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 30 - Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.  
 Thurs., May 2 - Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.  
 Thurs., May 2 - Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.  
 Fri., May 3 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.  
 Mon., May 6 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.  
 Thurs., May 9 - Mid-Continent League Tournament, Plainville, 1 p.m.  
 Mon., May 13 - Regional Golf, TBA, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., May 20 - State Golf, Seneca-Nemaha Valley, 9 a.m.

# Norton Golf season to kick off Tuesday

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School 2013 golf team will open their season on Tuesday, April 2 in the Redmen Invitational in Smith Center, beginning at 3 p.m.

The Blue Jays have 10 returning lettermen on the 23-member squad. They are: Ryan Bainter, Eli Bozarth, Javen Colip, Casius Dole, Andrew Ellis, Christopher Fisher, Jordan Hartwell, John Risewick, Treven Rossi, seniors and Garret Otter, junior.

Other squad members are: Dustan Daniels, Dalton Miller, Vaughn Newman, seniors; Branson Addington, junior; Mickey Hahn, Noah Johnson, Derek Rowh, David Smith, Chance Uehlin, sophomores; James Berry, Skylar Johnson, Nick Peterson, Quinton Porter, freshmen.

"We are very excited about the upcoming season," said Norton head golf coach David Stover.

"Without a doubt, the strength of our team this season will be in the experience we have returning. With 12 seniors and 10 returning lettermen, we have high hopes for this season's squad.

"The competition for varsity spots should be very good and that should only help us improve as a team.

"As for the Mid-Continent League race, Phillipsburg, Ellis and Trego should all have excellent squads and the league as a whole should be very competitive."

Clayton Cox is the assistant golf coach again this season.

Last season, Norton opened the season with a runner-up finish at Smith Center, followed by sixth at Goodland, third in the Norton Invitational, third in the Trego Invitational, ninth at Thomas More Prep in Hays, fifth in the Colby Invitational, fourth in Phillipsburg, fifth in the Mid-Continent League Tournament in Phillipsburg and sixth in the

Class 3A Regional Tournament in Lakin.

The Norton Invitational Tournament will be held on Thursday, April 18 on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton.

Tee off time will be at 1 p.m. this year.

Norton will also host the Norton JV Invitational Tournament on Tuesday, April 30 with tee off time set for 3 p.m.

## 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 24th year of teaching. After teaching six years at Macksville, he is in his 18th 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 18 years.

Coach Stover was an assis-

tant 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.



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### 2013 RACE SCHEDULE

## ELMWOOD PARK SPEEDWAY

March 29	Play Day	6 to 9 p.m.	Friday
March 30	305-M-SC-HS-SM	6:00 p.m.	Saturday
April 13	308-M-SC-HS-SM	6:00 p.m.	Saturday
May 11	305-M-SC-HS-SM	7:00 p.m.	Saturday
June 15	305-M-SC-HS-SM	7:00 p.m.	Saturday
July 27	FAIR 305-M-SC-HS-SM	7:00 p.m.	Saturday
July 28	FAIR 305-M-SC-HS-SM	6:00 p.m.	Sunday
August 17	305-M-SC-HS-SM	7:00 p.m.	Saturday
August 31	VINTAGE-URSS 305-SC	7:00 p.m.	Saturday
September 1	VINTAGE-URSS 305-SC	6:00 p.m.	Sunday

**TRACK INFO CALL RICK SCHWAB 785-871-0851 OR 785-877-5562**  
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