

Norton Blue Jays take first, second places

By DICK BOYD

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Running in near perfect weather, the Norton Community High School girls cross country team repeated as champions and the Blue Jay boys runners finished runner-up after eight straight championships in the annual Oberlin Invitational Meet on Tuesday.

The Norton girls scored 44 points, followed by Oberlin, 48; Colby, 64; McCook, 78; Oakley, 116.

The McCook boys scored 28 points, followed by Norton, 57; Colby, 68; Oberlin, 96; Oakley, 103.

GIRLS

First to finish for the Lady Jays was senior Darcy Bainter in 17:12 for sixth place. Right behind her in seventh was junior Sierra Griffith in 17:16 for seventh place. Senior Katelyn Engelbert was one second behind Griffith in 17:17 for eighth place. Also medaling was sophomore Molly Maddy who was timed in 17:33 to place 12th. Senior Marisa Maddy completed Norton's five-runner team with an 18:02 time and 18th place.

Also running for the Norton girls and their times and places were sophomore Raenee Patterson, 18:25, 19th; junior Burgundy Sorter, 19:37, 26th.

Norton girls also won the top two places in the junior varsity race. Freshman Macayla Kent won the race in 20:01 and freshman Shania Burns was runner-up in 20:15. Sophomore Kylie Perez placed fifth in 21:10 and freshman Starla Tischhauser finished 20th in 29:51.

"Our girls have had a grueling schedule the last couple of weeks with the Hays meet, then the Rim Rock Classic in Lawrence and now the Oberlin meet with only two days turnaround," said Norton head cross country coach George Rossi. "We are very happy with the result tonight by winning this meet.



Norton senior Marc Miller, right, and Layton Werth, Brewster, battled it out in the boys cross country race in the Oberlin Cross Country Invitational Meet on Tuesday before Marc sprinted ahead at the finish to earn his second straight gold medal in the meet.

- Courtesy photo

There are not many teams at this meet but the ones that do compete are very good. Oberlin has a fantastic, young team and to beat them anytime says a lot for our girls.

"Once again, Molly Maddy continues to improve her time and place along with all the other girls working to improve their placing as a team.

"On the junior varsity, we have a bit of a friendly rivalry with Shania Burns and Macayla Kent. Shania has won two of the four meets and Macayla was the champion tonight. They need to keep pushing each other.

"We have a bit of time before the Mid-Continent League meet next week so we need to get our legs back under us and then continue to focus on defending our league title next Thursday."

The top ten finishers in the girls division were: Molly Sughroue, McCook, 15:08, first; Winter Polivka, Oberlin, 15:29, second; Andrea Browne, Colby, 16:26; Taylor Tustin, Wheatland/Grinnell, 16:37, fourth; Caitie Shields, Oberlin, 16:50, fifth; Darcy Bainter, Norton, 17:12, sixth; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 17:16, seventh; Katelyn Engelbert, Norton, 17:17,



Norton seniors Katelyn Engelbert, left, and Marisa Maddy concentrate on the course as they compete in the Oberlin Cross Country Invitational Meet on Tuesday. Both ran well as members of the Lady Jays' five member team which repeated as champions.

- Courtesy photo

eighth; Kaelyn VanEaton, Oakley, 17:18, ninth; Jakobi Blau, Oberlin, 17:19, tenth.

BOYS

Norton senior Marc Miller successfully defended his championship from 2012 by hitting the finish line first again. He was timed in 17:57.

Next to place for the Blue Jays was junior Dalton Vanover in 18:57 to place sixth. Senior Alec Hager has recovered from injuries and ran for the first time this season, placing 15th in 19:51. Fourth fastest for Norton was senior Garret Otter who was timed in 21:19 to place

24th. Rounding out Norton's five-man team was sophomore Weston Erbert who was timed in 22:00 and placed 26th.

Also running for Norton was senior Keith Sander, who placed 32nd in 24:14.

Fastest for the Norton junior varsity boys was sophomore James King, who placed fourth in 20:57. Sophomore Skylar Johnson finished in ninth with a time of 22:01. Senior Kailen Kawahara was timed in 25:16 for 19th, followed by junior David Smith, 20th in 25:24 and freshman Harrison Woodyard, 21st in 25:28.

"Marc Miller ran a fantastic race to defend his first place finish last year," said coach Rossi.

"Dalton Vanover ran his best race of the year to finish sixth and Alec Hager ran his first race of the year and was able to pull out the final medal position of 15th.

"Like the girls, our guys did not have any break after Rim Rock and it was great to get Alec back in the lineup.

"Although we were unable to defend the title that our boys held for eight years, I was very pleased with most of the effort tonight.

"James King and Skylar Johnson may be pushing for a varsity spot with their finishes tonight. Both had great efforts in the junior varsity race."

The top ten finishers in the boys race were: Marc Miller, Norton, 17:57, first; Layton Werth, Brewster, 18:07, second; Aaron Faber, Colby, 18:23, third; Mikey Erickson, McCook, 18:31, fourth; Hunter Felker, McCook, 18:55, fifth; Dalton Vanover, Norton, 18:57, sixth; Dustin Payton, McCook, 18:57, seventh; Taye Collicott, McCook, 19:05, eighth; Adryan Lucero, McCook, 19:11, ninth; Isaac Langan, McCook, 19:13, tenth.

Northern Valley runners

Macy Kasson ran for Northern Valley in the boys varsity race and placed 19th in 20:26.

Huskies' Camden Cox placed seventh in the junior varsity race in 21:48 and Northern Valley's John Towery placed 16th in 23:50.

Matt Florence of Northern Valley finished 24th in the junior varsity race in 27:42.

Next action

The Norton cross country runners will compete on Thursday, Oct. 10 in the Mid-Continent League Meet on the golf course in Phillipsburg, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Norton tennis team places fifth in Trego Invitational

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity tennis team placed fifth, just three points out of third, in the Trego Invitational Tennis Tournament on Saturday, Sept. 28 in WaKeeney.

Central Plains won the championship with 31 points and Hoisington was right behind them with 30 points. Phillipsburg finished third with 21 and Victoria scored 18 for fourth. Norton scored 17 points for fifth, followed by Tribune, 15; Trego, 14; Osborne, 10.

"This tournament was different than our usual tournament," said Norton head coach Jim Green.

"All the singles and all the doubles played in the same bracket. There were 15 entries in the singles and 16 entries in

the doubles. Seeding was decided in a coaches meeting before the start of the tournament. Neither of our singles players were seeded. Our No. 1 singles player Audrie Burge drew in against the number one seed, Besa Bwalya of Hoisington. Our No.2 singles player Morgan Griffey drew in against Taylor Beacher of Phillipsburg.

"Doubles fared a lot better. Our No.1 doubles team of Ashley Hildebrand and Jessica White was seeded third and our No.2 doubles team of Rickele Green and Molly Scott was seeded seventh."

Sophomore Audrie Burge lost 8-0 to Besa Bwalya, Hoisington and lost 8-2 to Kimberly Day, Trego, in singles.

"Audrie discovered first hand how good the best singles player is in our area," said coach

Green. "Hopefully, it was a learning experience."

"Audrie did not win her second match but she did a number of things to show that she is becoming a better player. Against Day of Trego, she was hitting the ball to move her opponent around. She also took some risks and went to the net, putting herself in a position to win the point."

Seniors Ashley Hildebrand and Jessica White placed fourth in doubles. They defeated Annie Aeschilman and Morgan Woelk, Tribune, 8-1; outscored Ella Sherwood and Allyson Denning, Trego, 8-1; lost 8-3 to Keeley Hipp and Janae Ryan, Central Plains and lost 8-(7-2) to Mariah Coomes and Brittni Groothoff, Phillipsburg.

"Ashley and Jessica started the day with an easy win over

Tribune," said coach Green. "Then, they played a hard-hitting team from Trego but still won easily. In the third round, they met the No.2 seeded team from Central Plains. This was a rough match against two talented players. Our girls won three games but could not stay with the Central Plains players. Next came the match for third place against Phillipsburg. Our girls fell behind early and had trouble catching up but kept battling at 3-4. They were still down at 6-7 and played a great game to win at 40-love and send the match to a tiebreaker. In the tiebreaker, our girls fell behind early and were not able to make a come back."

Sophomore Morgan Griffey played singles and lost 8-1 to Taylor Beacher, Phillipsburg and lost 8-1 to Cassidy Hild,

Tribune.

"Morgan is one of our most improved players," said coach Green. "She is a consistent hitter and works hard in all of her matches."

Senior Rickele Green and junior Molly Scott placed fifth in doubles. They defeated Lindsey Solida and Karlye Stephen, Phillipsburg, 8-4; lost 8-5 to Keeley Hipp and Janae Ryan, Central Plains; outscored Ella Sherwood and Allyson Denning, Trego, 8-5 and defeated Jessica Shauf and Melissa Stout, Hoisington, 8-2.

"Rickele and Molly had an outstanding day," said coach Green.

"Seeded seventh, they defeated Phillipsburg 8-4 to start the day. Then they met the No.2 seed Central Plains. They played them extremely close

and were tied with them at 5-5. They almost pulled off the upset of the tournament. In the next round, they defeated Trego's best doubles team 8-5, then went on to defeat Hoisington's best team 8-2. They really got off to a good start against Hoisington, going up 5-0 and continued to play well.

"It was a great finish for them, playing the No.2 seeds close and defeating two No.1 teams on their way to fifth place."

Next action

Norton placed third, just four points out of first, in the Colby Tennis Tournament on Tuesday but complete results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Norton will also play at Sacred Heart of Salina this Saturday.

Lady Huskies win at Cambridge

By Mike Stephens

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Northern Valley's Lady Huskies traveled to Cambridge, Neb., on Saturday, Sept. 28 for a triangular match with Cambridge and Golden Plains. Northern Valley's varsity girls came away with two wins on the night. Their first victory was against Cambridge with scores of 25-18 and 25-21.

Brooke Baird and Kortney Cunningham led the Huskies with seven kills each, and Brooke Hammond had two.

Cunningham led with two solo blocks, Hammond, Shayna Vincent and Sarah Baird each had one solo block.

Cunningham was also the Huskies leading scorer, with 11 points, followed by Khriissanna Van Patten with 10 points, Vincent, nine points and two aces, Makayla Smith and Hammond each had seven points, and Brooke Baird had six points and one ace.

"Our girls have been working really hard this week and im-

proved on serve receive and hitting," said head coach Kirsten Baird.

The Huskies junior varsity squad also beat Cambridge in two matches, 25-16 and 27-25.

Sarah Baird, Elexsa Anderson, Allison Keith and Kylie Kinderknecht each had one kill.

The leading scorer was Elexsa Anderson with 12 points, Kylie Kinderknecht with 11 points, Allison Keith, 10 points, Talia Lowry, six points, Brianna Martin, six points, Sarah Baird, four points and Makayla Smith, three points.

The second match against Golden Plains proved to be much tougher, but the Huskies prevailed in three sets, 25-19, 22-25 and 30-28. With the victory, the Lady Huskies improved their record to 11-3 on the season.

Kortney Cunningham led the team in kills with 13, Brooke Baird had 11, Khriissanna Van Patten and Shayna Vincent had five kills each, setter Brooke Hammond had four and Sarah

Baird, one kill.

Brooke Hammond led the way with 20 points and two aces, followed by Khriissanna Van Patten with 17 points and one ace, Kortney Cunningham had 13 points and two aces, Makayla Smith had 11 points, Brooke Baird nine points and one ace, and Shayna Vincent with seven points.

Kortney Cunningham was the leading blocker with nine solo blocks and three assists, Shayna Vincent had three solo blocks, and Sarah Baird had three assists.

"Last week the Lady Huskies were ranked number five and Golden Plains was ranked number six. Our girls are playing so well right now, and are continuing to improve," said coach Baird.

Results from Tuesday, Sept. 24 matches:

Northern Valley beats Healy, 25-3 and 25-8

Northern Valley beats Palco, 25-22 and 25-23

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