

Lady Jays bring home another championship

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkans.com

The Norton Community High School girls won the championship and the Blue Jay boys placed third in the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet held on Saturday in Ellsworth.

The top three girls and boys teams qualified for this Saturday's State Championship Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm northwest of Lawrence along with the fastest 10 individual runners. Also qualifying for state were the top five individuals from non-qualifying teams if not in the top 10.

The Norton girls won the regional championship for the fourth year in a row and the Norton boys also qualified for the state meet for the fifth year in a row.

The Norton girls won the regional championship with 43 points, followed by Sacred Heart of Salina, 82; Southeast of Saline, 90; Holcomb, 119; Minneapolis, 132; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 141; Lakin, 156; Beloit, 186; Cimarron, 187.

In the boys race, Sacred Heart of Salina was the champion with 62 points, followed by Thomas More Prep of Hays, 82; Norton, 96; Holcomb, 117; Beloit, 143; Southeast of Saline, 146; Phillipsburg, 146.



Lady Jay sophomore Molly Maddy pushes herself during the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Ellsworth as a fan from another school encourages her runner. Molly ran another steady race for the regional champion Norton girls team.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Sacred Heart and Southeast of Saline but our girls were able to get in front and stay there for the race.

"The Ellsworth course was very demanding with constant steep uphill and downhill pitches. It was nice to see Sierra, Darcy and Katelyn win regional medals and Marisa and Molly finishing in the top 16.

"Cross country is not only very demanding physically but the mental part can make or break you and our girls were extremely strong in both. At the finish line, our girls had nothing left in the tank. That is what it takes to win big races; you have

to sell out and go.

"We will have to take it to a new level next week at Rim Rock Farm which, like Ellsworth, is a very demanding course. The state meet is wide open with five or six teams with a legitimate chance to win.

"I know our girls will give it their all to achieve their goal."

The top ten girls finishers were: Allison Stutterheim, Southeast of Saline, 16:39, first; Karia Blattner, Cimarron, 17:03, second; Lucy Giles, Minneapolis, 17:09, third; Sierra Griffith, Norton, 17:09, fourth; Carlie Shupe, Minneapolis, 17:13, fifth; Darcy Bainter, Nor-



Norton senior Alec Hager flies through the air as he sprints down hill during the Class 3A Regional Cross Country Meet on Saturday in Ellsworth. Alec has been a strong member of the Norton boys team since recovering from an early season injury.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

ton, 17:16, sixth; Alex Elmore, Salina Sacred Heart, 17:29, seventh; Katelyn Engelbert, Norton, 17:33, eighth; Samantha Regjo, Lyons, 17:33, ninth; Alexandria Chandler, Southwestern Heights, 17:34, tenth.

BOYS

Senior Marc Miller was the fastest Norton boy, hitting the finish line in 18:38 to medal and place fifth. Also medaling

was freshman Nate Hartwell who placed ninth in 18:48. They were followed by junior Dalton Vanover, 17th, 19:24; senior Alec Hager, 20th, 19:30 and senior Garret Otter, 49th, 21:14.

Also running for the Norton boys were senior Keith Sander, 55th, 21:35 and sophomore Weston Erbert, 64th, 22:57.

"Our boys put it on the line today! said coach Rossi. "This is

the fifth year in a row that both girls and boys teams have qualified for the state meet.

"We knew what we needed to do and the guys did exactly that.

"Marc led the way for us as he has done all year. Freshman Nate ran with a pack the entire race and was able to pull away in a fantastic sprint to the finish to become the only freshman boy to medal.

"The races of the day, however, belong to Dalton and Alec who blasted their way into the top twenty and then Garret made a move about mile two and ran his best race as a Blue Jay to seal the boys' bid to the state meet.

"This team has fought injury and adversity all year but, like our girls, they came out and gave every ounce of energy for 3.1 miles.

"The boys race in the state meet is also wide open. If our young men can repeat the effort we had today, who knows what can happen!

"Coach Bailey and I are extremely excited for next week's state races."

The top ten boys finishers were: Alex Conn, Beloit, 17:01, first; Wyatt Ratzlaff, Phillipsburg, 17:22, second; Chris Sandquist, Salina Sacred Heart, 18:12, third; Andrew Hess, Thomas More Prep, 18:19, fourth; Marc Miller, Norton, 18:38, fifth; Joshua Bergkamp, Salina Sacred Heart, 18:41, sixth; Stratton Brown, Salina Sacred Heart, 18:44, seventh; Isaac Stanley, Cimarron, 18:45, eighth; Nate Hartwell, Norton, 18:48, ninth; Ulysses Ponce, Southwestern Heights, 18:48, tenth.

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will compete Saturday in the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet at Rim Rock Farm, located five miles northwest of Lawrence.

The Norton girls will run at 10:30 a.m. and the Norton boys will run at 11:30 a.m. Girls awards will be at 12:05 p.m. and boys awards at 12:30 p.m.

Huskies lose to Thunder Ridge

By Mike Stephens

mstephens@nwkans.com

The Northern Valley Huskies football team hosted the Thunder Ridge Longhorns on Friday in Almena. The Huskies hung tough in the first half but the Longhorns prevailed, 53-22.

The Huskies threw the ball a lot more than normal against the Longhorns. In the first quarter, Hunter Chandler threw an 18 yard touchdown pass to Phillip Bryant to get the Huskies on the board first, 6-0.

The Longhorns answered back with Trent Rietzke, who would score the game's next two touchdowns, on runs of six and 37 yards, respectively and giving the Longhorns a 16-6 lead.

In the second quarter, Dylan Bretton connected with Garrett Krueger on a 10 yard scoring strike, extending the Longhorns lead to 23-6.

With 17 seconds remaining in the half the Huskies cut into the lead when Matt Stutsman hauled in a two yard pass from Hunter Chandler and the Huskies went into the break trailing by nine points, 23-14.

In the second half, the Longhorns size was too much for the Huskies to overcome. Garrett Krueger set the tone in the third quarter with two long touchdown runs of 34 and 52 yards, and extending their lead over the Huskies, 38-14.

Trent Rietzke would add to the Longhorns lead with a 52 yard touchdown run at the end of the third quarter and a 60 yard punt return for touchdown in the fourth quarter, 53-14 Longhorns.

Jordan Baird would add a 25 yard touchdown run for the Huskies late in the fourth, but it didn't change the outcome as the Huskies lose big to the visiting Longhorns, 53-22.

Coach's comments-

"We played fairly solid defense for the first two quarters, but Thunder Ridge was able to come up with three big plays in the third quarter," said head coach Chuck Fessenden. They hit two dive plays for long runs and scored on a broken play. Offensively, we threw the ball more than we had in our previous games. Our kids played hard but eventually Thunder Ridge's size advantage was too much for us to overcome. We must regroup and prepare ourselves for Thursday's game at Golden Plains."

Huskies rushing:

Phillip Bryant - 9 rushes, 25 yards

Jordan Baird - 18 rushes, 100 yards

Hunter Chandler - 14 rushes, 32 yards

Matt Stutsman - 1 rush, 8 yards

Huskies passing:

Hunter Chandler - 14 for 25, 76 yards, 2 TD's, 1 Int.

Matt Stutsman - 0 for 1, 0 yards

Huskies receiving:

Phillip Bryant - 2 receptions, 20 yards, 1 TD

Clint Cole - 5 receptions, 24 yards

Jordan Baird - 4 receptions, 26 yards

Matt Stutsman - 3 receptions, 6 yards, 1 TD

Huskies tackling:

Phillip Bryant - 11 solo, 4 assists

Hunter Chandler - 6 solo, 4 assists

Jordan Baird - 6 solo, 1 assist

Ame Baird - 3 solo, 3 assists

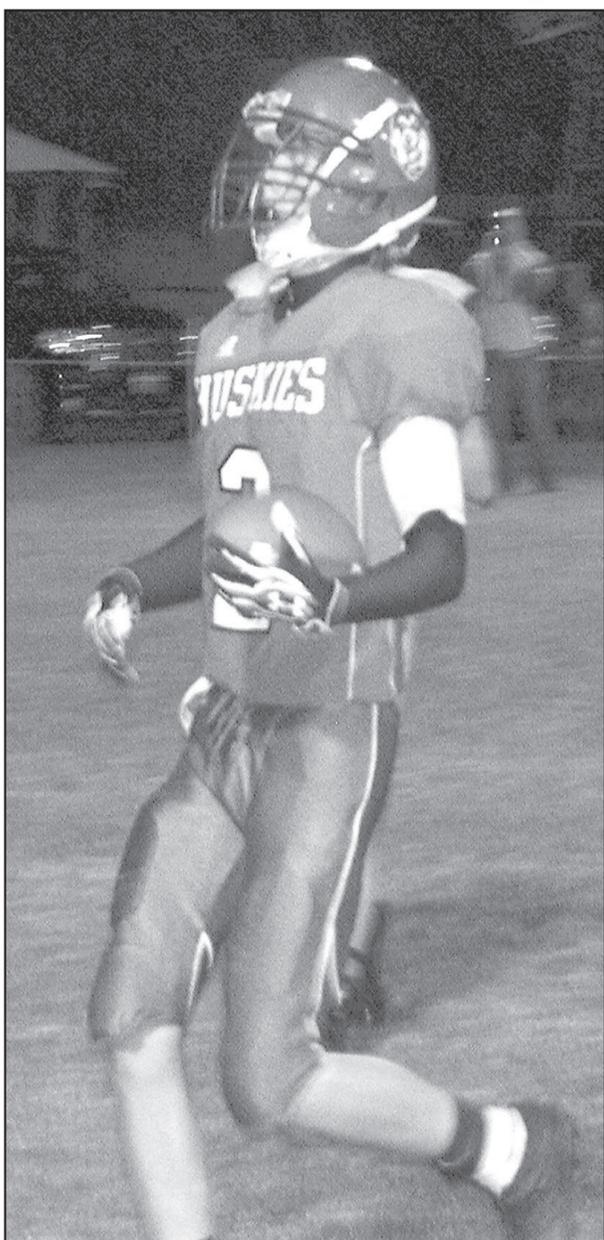
Clint Cole - 4 solo, 1 assist

Matt Stutsman - 2 solo, 0 assist

Brant Cox - 2 solo, 0 assist

Matt Florence - 1 solo, 0 assist

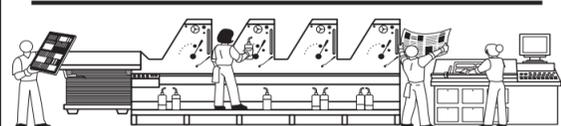
Carson Montgomery - 1 solo, 0 assist



Matt Stutsman's two yard touchdown reception from Hunter Chandler right before halftime got the Huskies within 9 points of the Thunder Ridge Longhorns. The second half belonged to the visitors as they beat the Huskies at home 53-22.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

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