

Football team honored at banquet

By DICK BOYD

The 2003 Norton Community High School football team was honored at the annual Football Banquet sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club on Sunday in the Norton 4-H Building.

The Blue Jays had another outstanding season, compiling an 11-1 record for the second year in a row, losing only to eventual three-time state champion Conway Springs.

Following a carry-in meal, Coach Bruce Graber introduced each member of the team and made comments to the large crowd about each player as he called them forward.

Graber also presented a number of individual awards which had been voted upon by the coaches and players.

By vote of his teammates, senior lineman Kai Mann received the "Most Inspirational Player" award, the most prestigious of all the awards.

The players also chose Mann and senior quarterback/linebacker Dan Roeder as team captains.

Other award recipients selected by vote of the players were: senior Jered Sloan, "Most Valuable Defensive Back" and "Most Valuable Pass Receiver"; senior Bo Pfannenstiel, "Most Valuable Linebacker"; senior Sean Lauer, "Most Valuable Defensive Lineman"; senior C.J. Thiele, "Most Valuable Offensive Lineman"; senior Dan Roeder, "Most Valuable Offensive Back"; and freshman Nathan Broeckelman, "Scout Team Player of the Year."

Receiving Gatorade Awards were: senior Charlie Foley, "Special Teams Player of the Year"; Dan Roeder, "Player of the Year" and "Offensive Player of the Year"; Bo Pfannenstiel, "Defensive Player of the Year"; junior



Norton football coach Bruce Graber talked to his players at the end of the 2003 football season. The Blue Jays

went 11-1 losing only to three-time state-champion Conway Springs.

Aaron Overlease, "Rookie of the Year", and Kai Mann, "Will to Win Athlete of the Year".

The last two seasons, the Blue Jays have been Mid-Continent League, district, bi-district and regional champions. They finished the season ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press consensus poll behind Conway Springs.

Coach Graber pointed out that this year's 18 seniors have compiled a 31-4 record the past three seasons.

from the season, a Blue Jay football sweatshirt, and a framed helmet drawing, signed by all.

Coach Graber thanked the players; assistant coaches Kevin Jilka, Lucas Melvin, Jason Jones, David Stover and Todd Fulton; managers Cody Morland and Jared Mindrup; faculty and students, cheerleaders, band, news media and the entire community for contributing to the successful season.

Brad Schumacher, Hays, representing AFLAC, made a special presentation to Coach Fulton, who was chosen as AFLAC National Assistant Coach of the Year. Schumacher presented a plaque to Fulton, as well as a plaque to Norton Community High School in recognition of Fulton's honor.

Norton freshman take seventh

By DICK BOYD

Coach Todd Fulton's Norton Community High School freshmen boys basketball team defeated Oberlin 58-37 on Wednesday to place seventh in the Joe Green Invitational C-Team Tournament in Hill City.

Led by Brian Juenemann's 12 points on six baskets, the young Blue Jays jumped out to a huge 19-4 lead in the first quarter. After a 14-9 second quarter in Norton's favor, the Norton quintet led 33-13 at halftime.

Norton outscored Oberlin 15-12 in the third quarter to extend their lead to 48-25 with one quarter remaining.

Juenemann ended with 20 points. Nic Lewis scored 11, followed by Jared Engelbert, 8; Corey Rutherford, 8; Mathew Shepard, 7; Aaron Daniels, 4.

Andy Leitner led Oberlin with 16 points. Kurt Olson added 8 and Jace Robinson 6.

"We played our best game of the season today," said Coach Fulton after the win. "Each player contributed with intensity and effort for four quarters."

"During this tournament, we

improved greatly as a team and look for good things in the new year."

QUINTER

The freshmen Blue Jays were seeded No. 4 and lost to No. 5 Quinter by a 66-43 score in the first round last Monday.

Norton trailed 23-8 after the first quarter and played Quinter much closer in the final three quarters but the initial deficit was too much to make up. Quinter outscored Norton just 13-9 in the second quarter to take a 36-17 halftime lead.

The Blue Jays were outscored by 13-11 in the third quarter to make the tally 49-28 and Quinter had just a 17-15 advantage in the fourth period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Juenemann with 15 points, followed by Lewis, 11; Shepard, 9; Blake Wolf, Daniels, Engelbert and Lucas Bailey, 2 each.

Trent Blackwill led Quinter with 20. Brice Kesler added 14 to the Quinter total.

"We played with effort and improved on our skills," said Coach Fulton.

PALCO

No. 8 seed Palco lost to No. 1

seed Phillipsburg in the first round so Norton played Palco in the consolation bracket on Tuesday and lost 42-37.

Norton held an 11-8 lead after one quarter but the Blue Jays were outscored 15-9 in the second quarter to trail 23-20 at intermission. Palco outscored Norton 7-3 in the third period to take a 30-23 advantage into the final stanza. The Blue Jays outscored the Roosters 15-12 in the fourth quarter to cut the final margin of victory by Palco to just five points.

Lewis was Norton's leading scorer with 11, followed by Juenemann, Daniels and Shepard, 6 each; Engelbert, 5; Rutherford, 3.

Butch Hamel led Palco with 22 points. Brandon Hamel added 9.

"In this game, we learned that you have to play hard all the time," said Coach Fulton. "We are getting better but we need to step up our play."

Next action

Next competition for the Norton freshmen boys and girls will be versus Osborne in Norton next Tuesday at 4 p.m.

Wrestling tourney set for Saturday

By DICK BOYD

The annual J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament will be held on Saturday in the Norton Community High School Memorial Gym with teams from Atwood, Beloit, Hoxie, Leoti, Quinter, Russell, Scott City, Smith Center, Norton and Cozad, Neb., competing.

Freshmen head for Smith Center

By DICK BOYD

Norton will play in the Smith Center Freshmen Boys Invitational Basketball Tournament on Saturday in Smith Center.

Other teams competing will be Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Phillipsburg and Smith Center.

The first game begins at 10 a.m. and will be between Smith Center and Phillipsburg. The Norton vs. TMP contest will follow.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

It is the 39th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the seventh annual Durham tournament. It was renamed six years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton, the former longtime wrestling coach at the school.

Jake's many honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

The tournament will begin with Round One at 10 a.m.

Admission to the entire tourna-

ment is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission to Session No. 2, which begins around 3:30 p.m., is \$3 for adults through kindergarten. Preschool children are admitted free.

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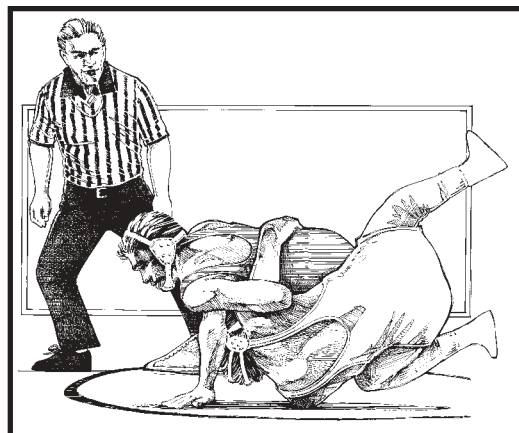
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Go, Norton Blue Jays!



Wrestling
Sat., Jan. 10
10 A.M. and 5 P.M.
J.R. "Jake"
Durham
Invitational
Tournament

Featuring Teams From:
Atwood, Beloit, Hoxie, Leoti,
Quinter, Russell, Scott City,
Smith Center, Norton
and Cozad, Nebraska

Basketball
Tues., Jan. 6
 Beginning at 6:30 P.M.
 Norton at Oberlin

Fri., Jan. 9
 Beginning at 4 P.M.
 Norton vs. Osborne
 NCHS Memorial Gym, Norton

Saturday, Jan. 10
 Freshmen Boys Tournament
 10 A.M. in Smith Center
 C-team Girls vs. Phillipsburg
 10 A.M. in Phillipsburg

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