

Wrestlers open season Saturday

Norton wrestling returns nine starters from last year's championship team

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson begins his 15th season as head wrestling coach at Norton Community High School. He has 38 team members, including nine lettermen and eight returning state medalists from last season's Class 3-2-1A state championship team.

Coach Johnson's teams have built a championship tradition but, despite many seconds, thirds, fourths and fifths, had not won the big prize until the last two years.

Norton placed second in the state tournament in 1996-'97 and 1997-'98 and third in 1995-'96. After placing 13th in 1998-'99, the Blue Jay grapplers tied for fourth in 1999-'00 and placed third in 2000-'01.

Norton moved up to Class 4A the next year and placed fifth in the state tournament after winning the regional.

In 2002-'03, Norton compiled a perfect 12-0 dual record and went undefeated in the Mid-Continent League to win the championship. Norton won the regional but placed second to Hoxie at state.

In 2003-'04, the Blue Jays put together another perfect dual record when they went 16-0 to repeat as Mid-Continent League champions. Norton placed second to defending state champion Hoxie in the regional tournament but dethroned the Indians in the state tournament.

Last season, Norton was a perfect 15-0 in dual competition and won the Mid-Continent League dual championship for the tenth consecutive year and dominated the league tournament, winning it for the sixth year in a row and ninth out of ten years.

In 2004-'05, the Blue Jays won five of six invitational tournaments, including the 48th annual Newton Tournament of Champions. Norton is the smallest school to ever win this prestigious tournament.

During the year, Norton met and finished above the eventual Kansas 6A tournament runner-up, the 5A champions, the 4A champions and the Oklahoma Class 2A state champions, which is equivalent to Kansas 4A.

The Blue Jay wrestlers won the championship of the most competitive regional tournament in the state, qualifying nine wrestlers for the state tournament. They led the state tournament from start to finish, rolling to the championship and defeating the second place team by 51.5 points.



Junior Nathan Broeckelman, left, and senior Clay Madden work for an opening during their takedown exhibition match at last night's ranking matches for the Norton Community High School wrestling team. Madden wrestles at 119 pounds and is a three-time state champion. Broeckelman is a two-time state medalist and is wrestling at 125 pounds.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The Norton senior class is led by five state medalists. Clay Madden compiled a 33-3 record last season en route to a 112 pound state championship. Madden is a three-time state champion. He was also the 112 pound champion his sophomore year and the 103 pound champion his freshman season.

Lance Roe was the 152 pound state champion last year and compiled a 37-1 record. Roe placed fourth at state at 135 pounds his sophomore year and fifth his freshman season.

Luke Pfannenstiel is a two-time state medalist. He placed fourth at 140 pounds last season and had a 30-5 record. Pfannenstiel placed fifth at state at 112 pounds his freshman season but had to sit out his sophomore season due to an injury.

Twin brothers Jon and Jeremy Harding are also returning state medalists. Jeremy was fifth in the state tournament last year at 135 pounds and compiled a 28-9 record. Jon placed sixth at state last season at 130 pounds and was 30-13 for the season.

Davvid Stanley is also a returning senior letterman. Stanley had a 25-17 record as a starter at 171

pounds last season. The other three returning state medalists are juniors. Nathan Broeckelman placed third in the state tournament last year at 119 pounds and had a 30-8 record. He was the state runner-up at 119 pounds his freshman year.

Blake VanEaton placed sixth at 145 pounds in last year's state tournament and had a 27-17 record.

Kent Mann placed fifth in the state tournament at 103 pounds his freshman year. Last season, Mann just missed qualifying for state at 125 pounds and finished with a 22-11 record.

Other team members and their tentative weight classes are: Tyler Burns, 171; William Wilhite, 171, seniors; Jared Bebb, 125; Matt Ward, 125; Camilo Briecno, 160; Jordan Durham, 160; Perrell Stanley, 215, juniors; David Counter, 103; Aaron Van Der Wege, 112; Aaron Husted, 130; Travis Ray, 130; Bryce Engelbert, 130 (injured); Austin Brown, 135; Todd Bolt, 135; Brian Ulmer, 140; Jeff Soderlund, 140; Clay McMullen, 145; Zach Mannel, 275, sophomores; Phillip Becker, 103; Zach Bainter, 112; Breyer Simmonds, 119; Donny

Hildebrand, 119; Kerby Brandyberry, 119; Jordan Bebb, 135; Logan Kelly, 135; Bradley Nuzum, 145; Brock Lauer, 152; Coady McMullen, 152; Michael Zink, 275, freshmen.

"We have the luxury of only graduating one wrestler, Michael Sprigg, off our state championship team of a year ago," said Coach Johnson.

"It will be very hard for any newcomers to crack the varsity lineup. But, we look for senior Will Wilhite to make a run at it at 171 pounds. Will is a transfer from St. Paul, Minnesota who was in our school system last year but suffered a knee injury in football and could not wrestle.

"Three other first year varsity wrestlers to look for are junior Perrell Stanley at 215, sophomore Zach Mannel at 275 and freshman Zac Bainter at 112.

"Senior Davvid Stanley is a returning varsity wrestler who just missed qualifying for the state tournament at 171 pounds last year. We look for him to improve greatly and contend for his first state medal.

"We also feel that we have many other quality sophomores who could step into the varsity lineup

and place in the state tournament if any varsity wrestler would go down with an injury. They will be gaining valuable experience by wrestling in several varsity tournaments in Nebraska.

"The eight returning state medal winners will obviously be our strength. And, it looks like all eight of them will be in consecutive weights. This will make us very tough to beat from about 119 to 160 pounds. These guys have been through our system for many years and have been successful at all levels. We look for them to lead our team.

"Our weaknesses will be in the two lower weights that will feature newcomers and the two upper weights that will also have first year varsity wrestlers."

Coach Johnson predicts the following Mid-Continent League finish without including the Blue Jays: Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Plainville, Ellis, Trego Community, Osborne, Stockton, Hill City.

"Outside the league, I look for Oakley to be strong this season," said Coach Johnson. "Although St. Francis graduated several wrestlers, they will still have many quality wrestlers."

Assisting with coaching duties again this season will be Deyton Hager and Doug Ray. Student managers are Kayla Douglas, Lexi Wolf, seniors; Jessica Sprigg, Lacey Roe, juniors; Andrew Black, sophomore.

Norton High Wrestling Schedule

- Saturday, Dec. 3 - Hoxie Invitational at Hoxie, 9 a.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 3 - Junior varsity in Alma Tournament, 10 a.m.
- Friday, Dec. 9 - Junior varsity at Southern Valley Invite, Oxford, 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 10 - Clay Center Invitational at Clay Center, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 15 - Phillipsburg/Stockton dual in Norton, 6 p.m.
- Fri. & Sat., Dec. 16-17 - Holiday Classic in Goodland, 2 p.m. & 10 a.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 7 - J.R. Durham Invitational in Norton, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 12 - Smith Center/Trego dual in WaKeeney, 5 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 13 - Junior varsity in Elm Creek Invitational, Elm Creek, Neb., 2:30 p.m.
- Fri. & Sat., Jan. 13-14 - Newton Tourn. of Champions, 11:30 a.m. & 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 24 - Hays/Kearney, Neb. dual in Norton, 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 28 - Mid-Continent League Tournament in Ellis, 10 a.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3 - Plainville/Ellis dual in Ellis, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 4 - Panther Classic (V & JV), Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 9 - Osborne/Hill City dual in Osborne, 5 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 11 - Colby Junior Varsity Tournament, 9 a.m.
- Fri. & Sat., Feb. 17-18 - Regional Tournament TBA
- Fri. & Sat., Feb. 24-25 - State Tournament, Fort Hays State University

Logan girls basketball team will open season at WaKeeney

By DICK BOYD

The Logan High School girls basketball team will begin the 2005-'06 season on Friday when they travel to WaKeeney to play Trego Community of the Mid-Continent League.

Both girls and boys games will be played, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Head Coach Linda Nighswonger's Lady Trojans play in the Cheyenne Conference where they were 3-2 last season. They placed fourth in the conference tournament. The Lady Tro-

jans had a 13-9 record last season.

Coach Nighswonger is beginning her seventh year as head coach of the Lady Trojans. Her overall record at Logan is 94-45.

Two starters return for the Lady Trojans' new season. Both are seniors. Megan Brumbaugh is a 5-foot, 5-inch guard who averaged 3.6 points, 3.7 assists, 2.2 rebounds and 2 steals per game last season. She hit 68 percent from the free throw line.

Jenny Noel is a 5-6 guard who averaged 4 points, 4 rebounds, 2.5

assists, and 1.9 steals per game last season. She hit 83 percent from the charity stripe.

Brumbaugh and Noel are the only returning letter winners.

Other players expected to make major contributions to the team are juniors Bethany Clements, 5-2 guard; Anne Hartman, 5-8 forward and Brandie Sammons, 5-6 guard.

Other squad members are: Jenny Archer, 5-7 guard/forward; Amberlea Edwards, 5-2 guard; Ashley Eshbaugh, 5-4 guard;

Shelley Kemper, 5-11 guard/forward; Aspen Larson, 5-8 guard/forward; Savannah Sammons, 5-10 forward/center; Shaley Van Loenen, 5-9 guard/forward, sophomores; Carri Brobst, 5-8 forward; Kathryn Hartman, 5-4 guard; Allyson Pakkebie, 5-5 guard; Jennifer Ruff, 5-8 forward; Autumn Tien, 5-11 forward/center; Anna Zillinger, 5-6 guard, freshmen.

Assistant coach is Beth McDonald. Student managers are Tiffany Clements, Holly Sparks

and Leandra Sparks.

"We have a very young team as far as varsity experience is con-

cerned but I look for us to be a much quicker and more athletic team," said Coach Nighswonger.

Logan High School Basketball Schedule

- Friday, Dec. 2—Trego Community, There, 4:45 p.m.
- Tues.-Sat., Dec. 6-9/10—Round Robin Tourney, Plainville, TBA
- Friday, Dec. 16—Kensington, There, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 20—Natoma, Here, 4 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 6—Golden Plains, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Mon.-Sat., Jan. 9-14—League Tournament, Phillipsburg, TBA
- Tuesday, Jan. 17—Palco, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 20—Northern Valley, There, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 24—Mankato, There, 6:30 p.m. (V)
- Friday, Jan. 27—Eastern Heights, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 31—Stockton, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 3—Kensington, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 7—White Rock, Here, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 10—Western Plains, Ransom, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 14—Palco, There, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 17—Eastern Heights, Agra, 4:30 p.m.
- Mon.-Sat., Feb. 20-25—Regionals, TBA
- Feb. 27-March 4—Sub-State, TBA
- Tues.-Fri., March 7-10—State Tournament, Hays, TBA

Logan boys basketball begins on Friday

By DICK BOYD

In his third year as head coach of the Logan High School boys basketball team, Joel Lovesee has welcomed "a very experienced team with a deep bench."

The Trojans will travel to WaKeeney on Friday to open the season versus the Trego Community Golden Eagles from the Mid-Continent League. The girls games will begin at 4:45 p.m.

Coach Lovesee has four returning starters from last year's team which had a 3-2 record in the Cheyenne Conference and finished 9-11 overall. Two of the returning starters are seniors.

Bryant Reese is a 6-foot-2-inch guard/forward who averaged 15.1 points, 6.7 rebounds and 2.2 blocks per game last season. Troy

Babcock is a 5-10 guard with a game average of 8.3 points, 3 assists and 2 steals.

The other two returning starters are juniors. Tim McElroy is a 6-1 center who averaged 8.9 points and 6 rebounds per game. Kyle Brobst is a 6-foot guard with a game average of 5.8 points, 2.6 rebounds and 2 assists.

Four other returning players expected to provide valuable playing time for the Trojans are Lee Van Loenen, 6-1 center/forward; Wes Riley, 6-foot center/forward; seniors; Kevin Burge, 5-11 guard; Kevin Pinkerton, 5-10 guard, juniors.

Other squad members are: Jake Tien, 6-foot; Jeff Brown, 6-foot; Tanner Pabst, 5-11; Lonnie Woods, 6-1, juniors; Zach Long,

5-10; Brady Breese, 5-10; Payton Chestnut, 6-1; Ethan Gottschalk, 6-5, sophomores; Eli Rundle, 5-10; Levi Kiser, 5-9; Charley Harmon, 5-10, freshmen.

Coach Lovesee expects his team to be right in the thick of the Cheyenne Conference title race and challenge for the championship. He looks for Kensington, Palco and Northern Valley to be tough opponents.

"We feel we have a great shot at making post-season play," said Coach Lovesee.

"In addition to having four returning starters and four more excellent players to back them up, we have two sophomores who show lots of promise. Ethan Gottschalk has great hands and post moves and point guard Zach Long is a

very smart player."

Assistant coach is Jim Ashmore. Coach Lovesee's overall record is 20-24.

High School Sports This Week



- WRESTLING:**
 - Norton in Hoxie Invitational Tournament (in Hoxie) 9 a.m., Saturday
 - Norton Junior Varsity in Alma Varsity Tourney (in Alma) 10 a.m., Saturday
- BASKETBALL:**
 - Logan vs. Trego Community (in WaKeeney) 4:45 p.m., Friday
 - Northern Valley vs. Atwood (in Atwood) 6:30 p.m., Friday
 - Northern Valley vs. Golden Plains (in Alma) 4 p.m., Saturday