

# Norton football banquet honors Blue Jay gridgers

By DICK BOYD

The 2005 Norton Community High School football team was honored at the annual football banquet sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club on Sunday in the school cafeteria.

The Blue Jay gridgers had another outstanding season, compiling a 6-4 record, tying for second in the tough Mid-Continent League and finishing as District and Bi-District runnerup.

Norton's only losses were to repeat Class 2A state champion Smith Center; Class 2A playoff team Oakley, who lost only to the Redmen; Class 3A playoff team Phillipsburg, who lost only to Smith Center and 3A state champion Southeast of Saline and to Riley County, who had only two losses, one to state 3A runnerup Silver Lake.

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

Coach Graber also presented individual awards, which had been voted upon by the coaches and players.

Junior tailback and linebacker Blake VanEaton was chosen by vote of the coaches and players as the "Most Inspirational Player", the most prestigious of all the awards.

Players and coaches also chose senior offensive and defensive tackle Heath Vincent as the recipient of the "Gut Buster Award".

The following award winners were chosen by the players: senior Luke Pfannenstiel, "Most Valuable Defensive Back"; senior Lance Roe, "Most Valuable Linebacker"; senior tackle Austin Brooks, "Most Valuable Defensive Lineman"; Blake VanEaton, "Most Valuable Offensive Back"; senior Clay Madden, "Most Valuable Pass Receiver"; senior tackle Davvid Stanley, "Most Valuable Offensive Lineman"; sophomore back Logan Kats, "Scout Team Player of the Year".

Elected team captains for the year were Luke Pfannenstiel and Lance Roe.

Coach Graber was complimentary of this season's team, which had nine seniors. "Our seniors will be sorely missed, not only as players, but as outstanding young men," said Coach Graber. "They've been in the playoffs all four years and have done a great job."

Senior members of the team were: Clay Madden, William Wilhite, Nathan Morse, Luke Pfannenstiel, Lance Roe, Austin Brooks, Andrew Ables, Heath Vincent and Davvid Stanley.

Coach Graber thanked the players; assistant coaches Kevin Jilka, Lucas Melvin, Jason Jones

and Todd Fulton; managers Logan Kelly and Breyer Simmons; faculty; students; family members; cheerleaders; band; news media and the entire community for contributing to the successful season.

"The support this community gives our football program is unparalleled," said Coach Graber. "Our players buy in because they know they are playing for something special."

"We didn't have big players and no All-Americans but I knew at the start of the season that we would win the games we were supposed to win and have a chance to win those we weren't supposed to win."

"We played well together and enjoyed the games. There were no egos on this team. It was fun to work with them."

"The four teams we lost to were 38-2 when we played them. We were competitive in all four losses and came within a play or two of winning several of them. That speaks volumes for these young men. Our ability to bounce back from adversity was tremendous."

The seniors presented a large, full-color, framed photo of themselves to Coach Graber and smaller, full-color framed photos of themselves to the assistant coaches.



Senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152 pounds, tries a takedown move on senior Lance Roe, 160 pounds, in a takedown exhibition match during Norton's ranking matches Tuesday evening in the junior high gym. These two returning state medal winners and 12 teammates will wrestle for the Blue Jays in their season opening Hoxie Invitational Tournament on Saturday. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

# Norton wrestlers will open season in Hoxie on Saturday

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team will compete in the annual Hoxie Invitational Tournament on Saturday in the Hoxie High School gym.

The tournament will begin at 9 a.m., one-half hour later than normal.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Hoxie, will be teams from Dodge City, Oakley, Oberlin,

Plainville and Trego Community in addition to Lakin and Cimarron who were added this year.

Norton Coach Bill Johnson released names of the following wrestlers who will compete for Norton and their weight classes:

- 103 - Sophomore David Counter
- 112 - Freshman Zach Bainter
- 119 - Senior Clay Madden
- 125 - Junior Nathan Broeckel-

- man
- 130 - Junior Kent Mann
- 135 - Senior Jon Harding
- 140 - Junior Blake VanEaton
- 145 - Senior Jeremy Harding
- 152 - Senior Luke Pfannenstiel
- 160 - Senior Lance Roe
- 171 - Senior William Wilhite
- 189 - Senior Davvid Stanley
- 215 - Junior Shane Stanley
- 275 - Sophomore Zach Mannel

# Northern Valley players named to all-league football team

Five football players from Northern Valley and three from Logan made this year's Cheyenne Conference All-League football team or received honorable mention.



Joey Copper



C. Kinderknecht



Clarke Nelson



Andrew Sheley



Avery Thalheim

On offense, the first team offensive linemen were Mark Belisle, Palco; Jason Sales, Kensington; and Derek Foreman, Kensington. Tim McElroy, Logan, and Andrew Sheley, Northern Valley, made honorable mention.

Butch Hamel, Palco, and Randall Irving, Kensington, were the first team offensive ends, while Donald Lowe, Eastern Heights, made honorable mention.

Northern Valley's Joey Copper

was chosen as the first team quarterback.

Offensive backs were Rodney Landis, Palco, and Grant Levin, Kensington, on the first team; and Clarke Nelson, Northern Valley, and Jess Rietzke, Kensington, as honorable mentions.

Ethan Kuhlmann, Kensington, was chosen as the first team punter, while Shay Simoneau, Palco, received honorable mention.

Butch Hamel, Palco, made first

team kicker.

On defense, Andrew Sheley of Northern Valley, Mark Belisle of Palco, and Jason Sales of Kensington were chosen as the first team defensive linemen. Garrett Becker of Logan, Cole Kinderknecht of Northern Valley, Alan Knipp of Palco and Dylan Gross of Western Plains received honorable mention.

First team linebackers were Clarke Nelson, Northern Valley; Rodney Landis, Palco; and Jess

Rietzke, Kensington. Honorable mention went to Ben Suchland, Eastern Heights; Wes Riley, Logan; Dalton Nuttle, Western

Plains; and Dylan Nuttle, Western Plains. Joey Copper, Northern Valley, and Grant Levin, Kensington,

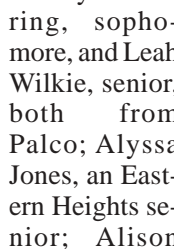
were chosen as the first team defensive backs. Northern Valley's Avery Thalheim received honorable mention.

# Cheyenne Conference names All-League volleyball players

Several area girls were chosen to the Cheyenne Conference All-League volleyball team this year.

On the first team, Kelli Cole, a Northern Valley junior, and Shelley Kemper, a Logan sophomore, were chosen. Also on the first team were Claire Cole, a Kensington junior; Amy Flax, junior, and Jill Weeks, senior, both from Western Plains; and Kendra Matteson, a senior from Eastern Heights.

Stephanie Tubbs, a sophomore from Northern Valley, made it on the second team. Joining her were



Bailey Gehring



Leah Wilkie



Alyssa Jones



Alison Mishler

a Western Plains senior; and JoAnn Yoxall, a Kensington sophomore.

Receiving honorable mention were senior Megan Brumbaugh and junior Bethany Clements,

both from Logan; junior Andrea Lowry, from Northern Valley; and junior Kelsey Rahjes, from Kensington.

## Give A Gift That The Whole Family Can Enjoy All Year Long

*Stop by the Telegram Office and Let Us Help You Get Your Gift Subscription Delivered Right Away!!*

PLEASE SEND A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS

PLEASE START A NEW SUBSCRIPTION FOR ME

PLEASE ADD TO THE FOLLOWING SUBSCRIPTION

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT SUBSCRIPTION FROM \_\_\_\_\_

MY CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IS ENCLOSED

**NORTON, PHILLIPS, GRAHAM, DECATUR & FURNAS COUNTIES:**  
 1 Year—\$60.00 • 6 Months—\$32.00 • 3 Months—\$18.00  
**ELSEWHERE IN KANSAS AND NEBRASKA:**  
 1 Year—\$70.00 • 6 Months—\$37.00 • Student (9 Mo.)—\$52.50  
 Less than 6 months would be \$15.00 per month  
**ELSEWHERE IN UNITED STATES:**  
 1 Year—\$76.00 • 6 Months—\$42.00 • Student (9 Mo.)—\$57.00  
 Less than 6 months would be \$15.00 per month  
 TAX IS INCLUDED IN ALL PRICES

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

215 South Kansas Avenue, Norton • 785-877-3361; E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com