

# Norton, Northern Valley football players receive honors from large daily papers

By DICK BOYD

Norton's Lance Roe and Luke Pfannenstiel and Northern Valley's Joey Copper and Clarke Nelson have received post-season football honors from the state's large daily newspapers.

Roe, a 5-foot-9-inch, 160-pound senior linebacker and fullback, received honorable mention in the *Salina Journal* and honorable mention on the All-Class 3A team in the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

Pfannenstiel, a 5-10, 155-pound senior defensive back and quarterback, was named to the 11-Man First Team by the *Hays Daily News*.

Copper, a senior quarterback and safety, was named to the 8-Man First Team by the *Hays Daily News* and received honorable mention in the *Salina Journal*, *Topeka Capital-Journal* and *Wichita Eagle*.

Nelson, a senior running back and linebacker, received honorable mention in the *Hays Daily News*, *Salina Journal*, *Topeka Capital-Journal* and *Wichita Eagle*.

Among the area players named to the *Hays Daily News* All-Area Super 11 Team were: Jarrett Abell, junior, running back, defensive back, Phillipsburg; Gabe Cox, senior quarterback, safety, Weskan; Taylor Jones, senior running back, defensive back; Taylor Lyon, senior offensive lineman, defensive

end; Kerby Rice, sophomore, running back, defensive back; Calder Keller, senior, running back, defensive back, Oakley; Rodney Landis, senior, running back, linebacker, Palco; Grant Levin, junior, running back, defensive back, Kensington.

Members of the *Daily News* 11-Man first team, in addition to Pfannenstiel, included Cole Erbert, Ellis; Michael Hubbard, Smith Center; Chase Schippers, Thomas More Prep; Mitch Schmidt, Trego Community; Chase Sperber, Oakley.

On the 11-Man second team were Daren Haas, Ellis; Tucker



L. Pfannenstiel



Lance Roe



Joey Copper



Clarke Nelson

Mall, Thomas More Prep; Jake Nichols, Smith Center; Aaron Racette, Brett Ziegler, both of Oakley; Garrett Wickham, Phillipsburg.

Players named 11-Man honorable mention included Denton Bailey, Oberlin; Taylor Dix, Plainville; Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg; Justin LaBarge, Ellis; Jonathan Porter, Kelly Younkin, both of Oakley; Nathan Schuler, Thomas More Prep; Joe Windscheffel, Smith Center.

Named to the *Daily News* 8-Man first team, along with Copper, were Mark Belisle, Shay Simoneau, both of Palco; Shaun McKinney, Weskan; Jason Sales, Kensington; Jared VonFeldt, Victoria.

Making the 8-Man second team were Skylor Flaska, Clayton Hoffman, Greg Sander, all of Victoria; Dylan Gross, Western Plains; Brett Spesser, Golden Plains; Laken Steele, Jason Young, both of Weskan; C.J. Lawson, Natoma.

Included in the honorable mention list with Nelson were Butch Hamel, Palco; Jared Pfeifer, Cody VonLintel, both of Victoria; Ryan Stevenson, Golden Plains.

Coach D.J. Basgall of Palco's Eight-Man Division II state runner-up football team was named "Coach of the Year" by the *Daily News*.

The *Salina Journal's* All-Area Top 11 Team included Abell; Hubbard; Jones; Keller; Justin Schropp, Class 3A State Champion Southeast of Saline's quarterback and defensive back and D.J. Fulhage, Beloit's all-around player.

Coach Pat Haxton of Southeast

of Saline, a former Norton Community High School player, was named the *Salina Journal's*, "Coach of the Year".

Players named to the *Journal's* All-Area Second 11 included Landis, Lyon and Ziegler.

Receiving honorable mention by the *Journal*, in addition to Roe, Copper and Nelson, were Bailey; Belisle; Justin Casey, Plainville; Josh Conway, Osborne; Jason Crawford, Natoma; Haas; Levin; Nichols; Racette; Rice; Jason Sales, Kensington; Schmitt; Sperber; Stevenson; VonFeldt; Wickham; Tyler Zachman, Russell.

Jones and Schropp were named to the *Wichita Eagle's* All-State Top 11. Hubbard was chosen for

the Third 11. Schropp and Fulhage were chosen on offense on the Class 3A Team. Receiving honorable mention on offense in Class 3A were Zach Sullivan, J.J. Cosh, both of Riley County. Receiving honorable mention on defense were Wickham and Sullivan.

Making the offense in Class 2-1A were Lyon and Jones and named to the defensive team was Hubbard. Honorable mention on offense went to Andy Bartz, Trego Community; Hubbard; Nichols; Ziegler; Windscheffel; Keller; Rice. Named honorable mention on defense were Nichols; Johnathan Porter, Oakley; Rice; Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley; Conway; Keller; Sperber; Windscheffel.

Landis was named to the 8-Man Team on offense and Sales and Cox were named to the defensive team. Receiving 8-Man honorable mention on offense, in addition to Nelson, were Sander, Simoneau, Levin, McKinney. Named honorable mention on defense, in addition to Copper, were Belisle; VonFeldt; Young; Pfeifer; Justin Rietzke,

Kensington; Steele; Levin.

Jones and Schropp both made the *Capital-Journal's* All State First Team. Hubbard was chosen to the All-State Third Team. Abell was chosen for the All-Class 3A defensive team. Named honorable mention in 3A, in addition to Roe, were Jarvis; Wickham; Cosh; Fulhage; Dane Starnes, Riley County; Sullivan.

Named to the All-Class 2-1A Team were Hubbard, Ziegler, Jones on offense and Lyon on defense.

Receiving honorable mention were Bartz; Cody Garrett, Trego; Cole Halbleib, Oakley; Nichols; Porter; Racette; Bailey; Casey; Conway; Keller; Schmitt; Sperber; Erbert; Kyle Spena, Trego Community; Jason Thomas, Oberlin.

Landis was named to the All-Eight-Man offense. Sales and Cox were chosen on defense. Named honorable mention, in addition to Copper and Nelson, were VonFeldt, Belisle, Flaska, Levin, Simoneau, Pfeifer, Rietzke, Hamel.

## Two Blue Jays chosen to Class 3A All-State team

By DICK BOYD

Seniors Luke Pfannenstiel and Lance Roe have been chosen on defense to the Class 3A All-State Football Team by the Kansas High School Football Coaches Association.

Pfannenstiel, a 5-foot-10-inch, 155-pound defensive back, was a defensive leader for Coach Bruce Graber's 6-4 Blue Jays. He had four fumble recoveries and three pass interceptions. He also had 32 solo tackles and 8 assists. He returned eight kickoffs for a 21.6 yard average and seven punts for a 9.7 yard average.

Pfannenstiel was a unanimous All-Mid-Continent League selection on defense this season and was honorable mention as a junior.

Pfannenstiel was also Norton's quarterback and received honorable mention in the league at that position where he completed 48 of 107 passes for 724 yards and a 15.1 yards per reception average. He passed for eight touchdowns and ran for three.

The 5-9, 160-pound Roe was the leading tackler for Norton from his linebacking position. He recorded 61 solo tackles and 30 assists. He also had two fumble recoveries and one pass interception.

Roe was named second team All-Mid-Continent League this season on defense and received honorable mention as a junior.

Roe also played fullback on offense for the Blue Jays.



L. Pfannenstiel



Lance Roe

Both young men were elected team captains at the end of the season.

Also honored by the Coaches Association on defense were: James McCartney, Hesston, 6-2, 295-pounds, lineman; Garin Beam, Rock Creek, 6-1, 215-pounds, lineman; Gabe Cline, Lyons, 6-1, 220-pounds, lineman; Jason McGhee, McLouth, 6', 245-pounds, lineman; Lucas Jackson, Jayhawk Linn, 6-1, 200-pounds, lineman; Devin Tarrant, Conway Springs, 5-10, 195-pounds, linebacker; Michael Lacy, Southeast of Saline, 5-11, 189-pounds, linebacker; Zach Jones, Garden Plain, 6', 160-pounds, linebacker; Justin Martin, Hoisington, 5-10, 150-pounds, defensive back; Jordan Daerr, Garden Plain, 5-9, 155-pounds, defensive back.

Named to the offensive team were: Justin Schropp, Southeast of Saline, 6-1, 165-pounds, quarterback; Brody Helm, Conway Springs, 5-9, 160-pounds, running back; Kevin Stewart, McLouth, 5-10, 175-pounds, running back; Reed

Hammond, Hesston, 5-10, 180-pounds, running back; Kevin Riggan, Mission Valley, 5-11, 254-pounds, lineman; Kyle Clawson, Ellinwood, 6-3, 245-pounds, lineman; Jeren Scheer, Garden Plain, 5-10, 210-pounds, lineman; Sheldon Barnhardt, Lakin, 6-6, 280-pounds, lineman; Gerrick Maples, Frontenac, 6-1, 240-pounds, lineman; Joel Gill, McLouth, 6-2, 205-pounds, tight end; Chase Boucher, Wabaunsee, 6-3, 190-pounds, wide receiver; Kevin Sechrist, Lyons, 6', 160-pounds, wide receiver.

D.J. Fulhage, Beloit, 5-10, 176-pounds, was named the punter/kicker.

The coaches also chose a Class 6A, 5A, 4A and 2A team.

Selected to the Class 2A team on offense were Michael Hubbard, 6-2, 205-pound lineman; Taylor Lyon, 5-11, 240-pound lineman; Taylor Jones, 6-1, 200-pound running back, all of Smith Center; Mitch Schmitt, 5-8, 175-pound running back, Trego Community.

Among those selected for the Class 2A team on defense were: Justin Casey, 6', 188-pound back; Tyler Brungardt, 5-10, 193-pound linebacker; Conner McMullen, 5-9, 183-pound linebacker, all of Plainville; Justin LaBarge, 6-1, 190-pound end; Daren Haas, 5-11, 175-pound linebacker, both of Ellis; Cody Garrett, 6-1, 185-pound end, Trego Community; Josh Conway, 6-1, 170-pound back, Osborne.

## Norton grad runs track at Wichita

Jared Foley, a sophomore from Norton, is a middle distance runner for the Wichita State University men's track team.

Last season, he was a member of the 4 x 400-meter Shocker relay team which placed second in the Missouri Valley Conference Outdoor Championships. He earned a varsity letter his freshman year.

He is also running for the Shockers during the indoor season, which began Saturday, Dec. 10 with the All-Comers Meet at Kansas State University in Manhattan and continues through March 11.

Foley ran the open 400-meter dash and also ran on the 4x400-meter relay team in the K-State meet. He was ninth out of 23 runners in the 400 with an excellent indoor time of 51.34. His Wichita State 4 x 400-meter relay team also finished ninth out of 18 teams. No team scores were kept.

The next competition for the team will be Friday, Jan. 13, in the Missouri Invitational at the University of Missouri in Columbia.

A 2004 graduate of Norton Community High School, Foley was a key member of Coach Bruce Graber's Blue Jay track team, which placed third in the state meet in Wichita in 2004.

During his senior season, he set a new Norton High 400-meter record of 49.6 seconds.

The son of Anna and Craig Foley, Norton, he is majoring in sports administration.

## Freshman wrestling at Fort Hays

By DICK BOYD

James Annon, redshirt freshman from Norton, is wrestling well for the 13th nationally ranked Fort Hays State University team.

Annon has compiled a 12-6 record at 133 pounds.

He was the bright spot for the Tigers in the University of Nebraska-Kearney Open Tournament on Dec. 10 where he finished second.

In the first round, he won a 7-2 decision over Jean Charles, Chadron State. In the next round, he won a 17-4 major decision over Shelby Lauderdale, Mo., Baptist. In the championship semi-finals, Annon shutout Brandon Gifford, Wyoming University, 3-0.

He lost a 17-5 major decision to Brett Allgood, Nebraska-Kearney, in the championship finals.

The Tigers will return to action on Jan. 5, when they travel to Warrensburg for a dual with Central Missouri State.

## Norton graduate coached champion state football team

By DICK BOYD

Pat Haxton, a 1984 graduate of Norton Community High School, is the head coach of the Class 3A 2005 state champion Southeast of Saline High School football team.

After his team defeated Silver Lake for the state championship, Pat likened the experience to "reaching the top of the mountain" and said his players had worked extremely hard since last summer to reach their championship goal.

En route to the championship, they defeated Class 3A's top four teams, Phillipsburg, 26-13; Conway Springs, 32-0; Garden Plain, 26-22 and Silver Lake, 30-28.

Pat was also named "Coach of the Year" by the *Salina Journal* after this year's championship season and he has been chosen as an assistant coach in the 2006 Kansas Shrine Bowl.

Based on Pat's past achievements, it's a certainty that he also dedicated himself to the "climb up the mountain".

Pat grew up in Norton where his parents, Marceil and Dean Haxton, owned and operated a grocery store. He was a starting tackle on both sides of the ball his senior year when the Blue Jays, coached by Neil Melillo, were the first Norton team to ever qualify for the state championship game. They lost 13-6 to No. 1 state ranked Fredonia in the Class 4A title game and ended with a 10-3 record.

His junior year, Norton lost to Wellington in the semi-finals following a controversial decision by the officiating crew. It was the "Blue Jays' only loss as they finished 11-1.

Pat's senior year, he was honored by being chosen to the *Salina Journal's* Class 3A All-Area Team as well as the *Topeka Capital Journal's* and *Wichita Eagle's* Class 3A First Team as an offensive lineman.

As a result of his prep prowess, Pat was recruited by Garden City Community College, where he played for two years. After his juno career, he was recruited by Peru State College, Peru, Neb. His senior year at Peru, he was named an NAIA All-American and was first team All-Conference. The Peru team, coached by Tom Shea, compiled a 10-2 record in Pat's senior year and was ranked in the top ten nationally all season.

Pat is married to the former Melanie Guthrie of Norton. They have four children, Taylor, 14; Ryan, 11; twins Alex and Lexus, 7.

"To this day, Norton is still considered to be home to Melanie and me," said Pat. "We still keep Norton in our thoughts all the time."

"Last year, playing against Norton was one of the biggest thrills I've had as a coach and, this year, going to Phillipsburg was also special just because it was near Norton."

"I will always have tremendous memories about Norton and all the special people there who helped mold me into what I am. I try to create an atmosphere here that is similar to what I was given in Norton. I'm at a place now that has very good parental and community support, a great school system and a lot of hard working loyal young men; sounds a lot like Norton to me."

## Norton junior varsity basketball teams compete in quadrangular at Oakley

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams played in the Junior Varsity Basketball Quadrangular on Saturday in Oakley.

The Norton girls won both games of a three-team round robin and the boys went 1-1 in a four-team tournament bracket to place second.

### GIRLS

Norton defeated Oberlin 59-7 in the first round.

The young Lady Jays held quarter leads of 19-0, 31-1 and 41-5.

KaraJo Jones was leading scorer for Norton with 13 points, followed by Katharine Roy, Hayli Bozarth, 10 each; Taylor Rossi, Haley Jones, Wiyanna Paxton, 6 each; Ashley Colip, 4; Amanda Delimont, Courtney Cox, 2 each.

"Our girls did a good job after a short night following the game in Phillipsburg on Friday," said Norton Assistant Coach George

Rossi.

"We came out strong against Oberlin. We did a good job of moving the ball and getting good shots."

Norton defeated Quinter, 35-27, in its second game of the day.

The Lady Jays led 7-4 after one quarter and the score was tied 13-13 at half-time. Norton was on top 24-19 after three quarters.

Bozarth was leading scorer for Norton with 12 points, followed by KaraJo Jones, 5; Roy, Cox, Paxton, 4 each; Rossi, Colip, 3 each.

Nemecheck led Quinter with 8 points; Coberly added 7.

"Our game with Quinter was a bit of a different story," said Coach Rossi.

"We really came out flat. Our hustle in the first half was not at all what we were expecting. Quinter was just taking it to us. We were able to get a series of steals in the second half that led to baskets that

gave us the lead and we were able to hang on for the win.

"We gained a lot of experience and learned of several things that we need to work on."

### BOYS

The Norton boys defeated Oakley, 61-40, in the opening round of the tournament, then lost the championship game to Quinter, 64-39.

Norton held quarter leads of 17-11, 35-21 and 50-28 in the victory over Oakley.

Logan Keiswetter was leading scorer for Norton with 22 points, followed by Zach Dreher, 15; Preston Herman, Matt Stanley, 8 each; Logan Runnion, 6; Blake Wolf, 2.

"I was pleased with the way we played in the game with Oakley," said Norton Assistant Coach David Stover.

"After getting off to a slow start, we were able to play better defensively, which led to many offen-

sive opportunities.

"As a whole, we were able to see improvement from all players in many aspects. It was a good way to open the tournament."

In the championship contest, Norton trailed Quinter by quarters 15-11, 37-19 and 53-32.

Leading scorer for Norton was Logan Runnion with 12 points, followed by Zach Dreher, 10; Matt Stanley, 8; Logan Keiswetter, 5; Preston Herman, Blake Wolf, 2 each.

Ochs was scoring leader for Quinter with 15 points. Bird added 10.

"We ran into a buzz saw in the title game," said Coach Stover. "It was a combination of good Quinter offense and subpar defensive execution on our part that was the difference in the contest."

"I thought our effort and competitiveness was good. We are continuing to see improvement in many aspects of our play."