

# Banquet honors Blue Jay football players

**By DICK BOYD**  
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A large crowd of parents and fans was present Sunday evening in the high school cafeteria to honor the Norton Community High School football team during the annual banquet sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club.

The Blue Jays, guided by second year head coach Lucas Melvin, compiled an impressive 8-3 record, tied for second in the tough Mid-Continent League, won the District championship, won the Bi-District Championship and placed runner-up in the Regional contest.

Norton's only losses were to four-time Class 2A state champion

Smith Center, by one point to an excellent Ellis eleven and to Scott City in the Regional game.

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

Senior members of this year's team were: Logan Kats, quarterback, defensive back; Jared Cox, tight end, linebacker; Travis Ray, wide receiver, defensive back; Wes Georgeson, wide receiver, defensive lineman; Todd Bolt, tailback, defensive back; Aaron Husted, tight end, defensive back; Preston Herman, center, defensive end; Kyle Edgett, offensive guard, defensive tackle; Zach Mannel,

offensive tackle, defensive tackle; Alex Thomas, offensive tackle, defensive tackle.

Coach Melvin thanked the players, assistant coaches Todd Fulton, Kevin Jilka, David Stover and Jason Jones; managers Ben Kaus, Levi Ninemire, David Cressler and Shelby Schaefer; Hannah Fulton and Robert Blecha, filmers; school faculty and administration; Ray Hildebrand and the groundskeepers; Kirk Foley, statistics; students; family members; cheerleaders; band; Blue Jay Booster Club; news media and the entire community for contributing to the successful season.

"We built on last year and went one step further this year," coach

Melvin told the crowd. "We beat a high powered offensive team when we beat Beloit and beating Phillipsburg was special, too. It was also nice that we were unbeaten at home. We like to protect our turf.

"Our junior varsity also had a tremendous season and improved a lot during the season. They were 5-1 with their only loss to Smith Center. The state of our football program is good but we're hungry for more. It is easy to say but it will take a lot of hard work, sacrifice

and selfless attitude.

"We're getting in the weight room more often and we have encouraged our football players to compete year around in some sport.

"We love football and know that it teaches lessons for life. Athletes are role models and we need to hold each other accountable on and off the field.

"We must never be satisfied in this program. We must keep working hard.

"Next fall, we will have a very

competitive schedule with many new teams. We look forward to next season because, when you play good competition, you get better,

"We have a great future in Norton football."

Coach Melvin presented a miniature Norton football helmet to each of the senior players and they presented to him a Blue Jay football which they had autographed

The senior players also presented a Pizza Hut gift certificate to each of the assistant coaches.

## Two wrestling for Fort Hays

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Norton senior Eric Johnson and Norton junior James Annon are both wrestling for No. 18 nationally ranked Fort Hays State University in Hays.

Johnson started his college wrestling career at the University of Central Oklahoma, where he compiled a record of 16-16. He transferred to Fort Hays this year and is wrestling at 149 pounds.

Annon has wrestled for Fort Hays both his freshman and sophomore seasons and is competing at 141 pounds. He had a 14-12 record his freshman year. He compiled a record of 16-11 and placed second in the NCAA Division II West

Regional/RMAC Championships his sophomore season.

Prior to last Saturday's Nebraska-Kearney Open, Annon had an 11-4 record this season. In the season opener versus Division I Stanford, he had one match and won a 7-6 decision.

Next, in the Central Missouri Open, he won three matches and lost two.

On November 18 in the Northern Colorado Open, Annon placed second with a 3-1 record.

In the Bob Smith Open at Fort Hays State on Saturday, Dec. 1, Annon placed second with a 4-1 record. His only loss for the day was to Kyle Evans of Central Oklahoma, the No. 1 nationally

ranked wrestler in his weight class and the defending national champion.

Johnson has been fighting through some injury problems so has had just 8 matches and is 3-5. He did not compete in the Bob Smith Open.

Johnson was a two-time state champion when wrestling for Norton Community High School where he compiled a career record of 116-12. He is the son of Joy and Bill Johnson of Norton.

Annon was also a two-time state wrestling champion for Norton Community High School where his career record was 128-23. He is the son of Lydia and Robert Annon Jr. of Norton.

### Game times change

The beginning time for the Norton-Stockton basketball games on Saturday has been changed to 6 p.m. since there will be no junior varsity games.

The Norton varsity girls will play Stockton in the first game, followed by the Norton varsity boys versus Stockton.

Both games will be in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. The Blue Jay Booster Club will make a special presentation prior to the boys game.

## Jayvee tournament here Saturday

Norton will host a Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament on Saturday for teams from Norton, Quinter, Oakley and Trego Community.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m. with the Norton girls playing the Quinter girls in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium and the Oakley girls versus the Trego girls in Wilmeth

Kirk Memorial Gym.

The girls championship game will be at 12:30 p.m. in the Stull Gym with the third place game at the same time in Wilmeth Kirk.

The Norton boys will play Oakley at 10:30 a.m. in the Stull Gym and the Quinter and Trego boys will play at the same time in Wilmeth Kirk.

The boys championship contest will be at 2 p.m. in the Stull Gym with the boys third place contest set for the same time in Wilmeth Kirk.

Medals will be awarded to the top two teams for both boys and girls.

Admission price is \$2 for students and \$3 for adults.

## Northern Valley Ladies fall to Trego

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies opened the 2007-08 basketball season against WaKeeney on Monday in the Purple and Gold Tournament and were defeated 65-27.

"What this boiled down to was experience vs. non-experience as the WaKeeney team had six very solid and experienced players while our ladies' team can only boast of one player who has played more than one season of varsity basketball. What transpired during this opening game, hopefully, was a lesson on how the game has to be played in order for us to be successful the rest of the way," coach Chuck Zimmerman said.

"We were outdone in every category. That is the negative. The positive, I thought, was at times our half court defense did some things well and we must build on that so as to create more opportunities for our offense," he said.

"Stats leaders in this opening game were as follows: deflects (when a player gets a hand on an opponent's pass, dribble etc. basically a hustle play that is a huge indicator of how hard a team is playing). Our team had 18 deflects. On any game in which we had won I would have pointed to this team

stat as a huge reason we won as it indicates how hard we worked to create turnovers. We did not win this game, but, we were hustling on defense all the same. Our leader was Christina Anderson with 5 followed by Alison Cole with 4 and Megan Cole with 3," the coach explained.

"Our steals (which often times comes as a result of a deflect) leaders were Megan Cole and Christina Anderson with 3 each, as the team had 10 total," he said.

"Rebounding honors went to Alison Cole who grabbed 7 with Christina Anderson taking 3 off the boards. This statistic has to be improved upon for us to be successful. We were out rebounded 18-35 and cannot survive the season without a better effort from all our team members when they are on the floor," Zimmerman added.

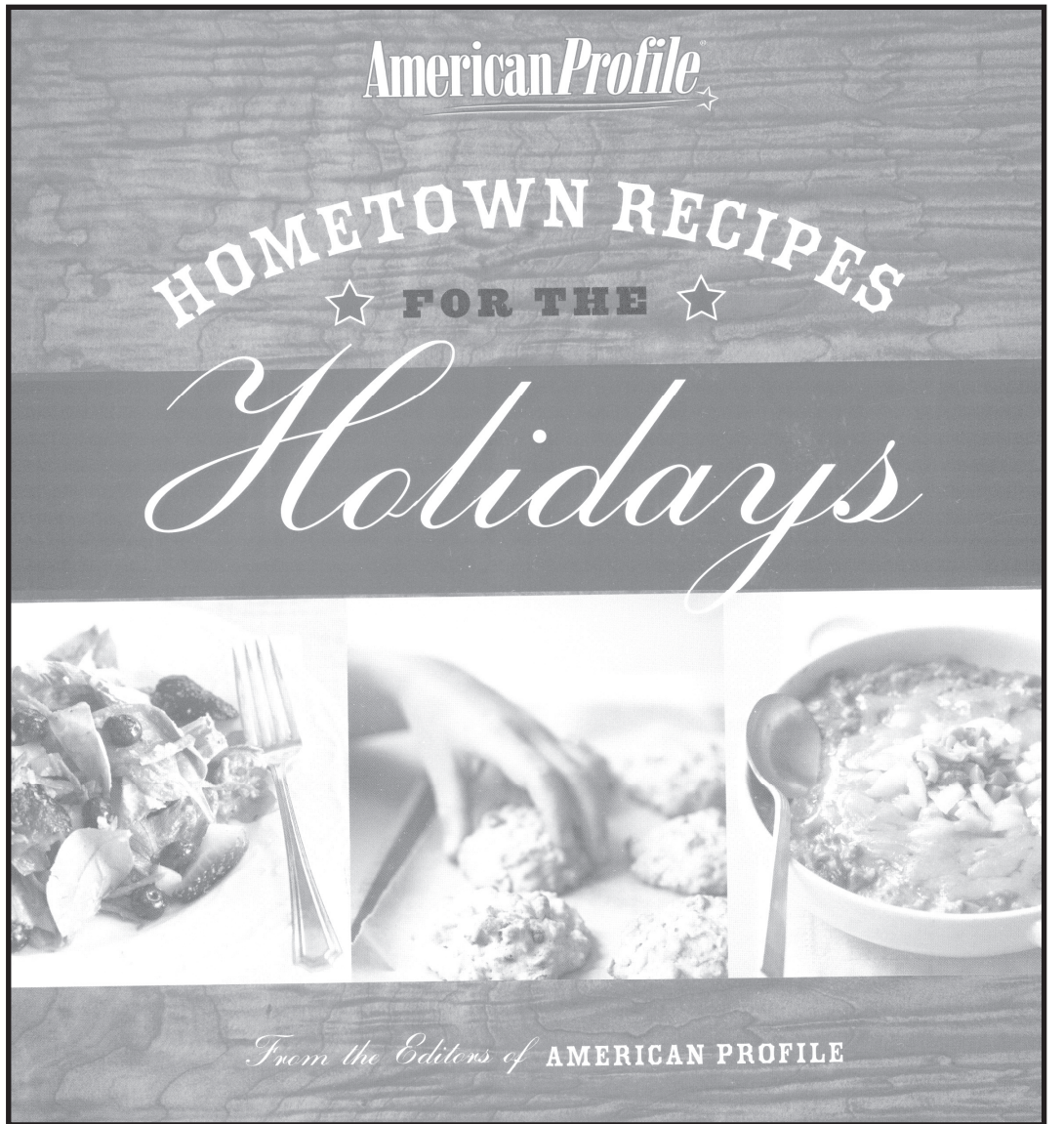
"Our assist (a pass that leads to a point scored by a teammate) leader was Megan Cole. as she found 4 team mates open for scores while Alison Cole, found 3," he said.

"When we 'get' to play again (we have had 4 games 'iced' out) we hope to have learned from this first outing and will improve as the season continues," the coach

said. Scoring for the Huskies were: Karen Wenzel 2; Megan Cole 2; Alison Cole 10; Joni Hilburn 5; Christina Anderson 3; Brittney Braun 3; Jessica Largent 2.

## Hometown Recipes for the Holidays

The editors of American Profile have compiled the nation's most delicious recipes—straight from their readers



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