

Legion coach getting ready

By DICK BOYD
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Joe Durham, head coach of the Norton American Legion baseball team, is making plans and recruiting players for this summer's season.

Assistant coaches again this season are expected to be Steve Jeltz, Bill Manning, Craig Foley and Kevin Jilka.

"Bill Manning and Craig Foley are veteran Norton baseball coaches and Kevin Jilka holds most of the baseball records at Fort Hays State University," said coach Durham.

"Steve Jeltz brings a lot of major league experience to our team.

"All these coaches made major contributions to last year's successful season.

"Anyone who follows baseball knows that the better your pitchers are, the more chance you have to succeed. Coaches Manning, Foley and Jilka worked with our pitchers last year and it showed as our win to loss total improved.

"The Norton American Legion baseball team is coming off one of its longest and most productive seasons and is preparing for what could be a very successful

season. "We were very, very close to going to the state tournament. I asked coach Jeltz if we might have played too many games last season when we ended up 26-24 and he said the only way you improve is to play games.

"Losing Nate Morse, Aaron Daniels and Chris Davis, three quality players, hurts. Landon Hamel and Zane Perez coming up from K-18 baseball should help us.

"Our schedule is filling up nicely as some teams who we haven't played in years would like to play us this year. So far, we have two tournaments with another possible one in the works.

"There are some real quality young men who haven't come out for baseball for a couple of years due to something or another who might return this year along with players from local towns who might want to play.

"Garrett Tacha and Jacob Bracht are from Hoxie and play for us since Gove County no longer has a team."

Returning players for Norton are Logan Keiswetter, Todd Zink, Jordan Durham, Logan Runnion,

Matt Stanley, Andrew Soderlund, Brian Ulmer, Garrett Tacha, Jacob Bracht and Aaron Pulec. Blake Wolf is still experiencing shoulder problems from an accident a year ago but is eligible and may be able to play.

"On paper, we look very good for this season but, in reality, we need more players," said coach Durham.

"Playing in the Holdrege tournament showed that. We played five games in three days and the loss of Blake Wolf on day two showed the importance of a quality bench.

"One thing I liked about our team last year was the older players understanding that for our team to get better, younger players would have to play and, almost to a man, there was no complaining.

"Also, having Logan "Stretch" Keiswetter with a great arm helps any pitching staff.

"With spring break upcoming, our Legion team will have a meeting to see exactly how many players we will have this year. Any young man from around the surrounding area who wants to play should contact me at (785) 874-4405.

Bolt'en for Hutchinson

By DICK BOYD
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Todd Bolt, a 5-foot-9-inch, 160 pound senior at Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to play football for Hutchinson Community College in the Jayhawk Conference this fall.

A three-year letter winner for the Blue Jays, Bolt was a first team defensive back in the Mid-Continent League this season and received honorable mention as a junior.

On offense, the Mid-Continent League coaches honored him as first team punter, second team running back and second team kick returner.

Bolt was named to the Class 3A defensive team by both the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and the *Wichita Eagle-Beacon* and to the 11-Man Second Team by the *Hays Daily News*.

The *Salina Journal* did not select any players for post-season honors this year.

Bolt did it all on both sides of the ball for the Blue Jays this season. His rushing, pass receiving, kick-off returns, punt returns and pass interceptions totaled 1,532 yards this season, first in all-purpose yards on the team. He led the team with seven pass interceptions and was third high tackler from his defensive back position.

Bolt was also second on the team in all-purpose yards his junior season.

He is also a letter winner in wrestling and track and placed fifth in the state wrestling tournament this year.

"I'm excited for Todd. This is a great opportunity for him," said



Norton Community High School senior football player Todd Bolt, signed a letter of intent to play football for Hutchinson Community College. On hand for the signing were his parents, Joan and Ben Bolt, and Blue Jay head football coach Lucas Melvin.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin.

"He'll do well. He knows it won't be easy but, if he goes as hard as he did for us, things should work out well for him.

"We could always depend on Todd to come through for us on both offense and defense.

"I'm really proud of him and know he will enjoy playing college football.

"An honor roll student, he's a class act on and off the field."

"First of all, Todd is a great

young man," said Hutchinson Community College head football coach Rion Rhoades.

"We like his character. He has the skills we look for at defensive back. He can run and has good agility.

"He comes to us from Norton, who has a great football tradition. They play in a very competitive league, the Mid-Continent.

"We look forward to having Todd on our team."

Todd is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bolt, Norton.

Local, area athletes competing

By DICK BOYD
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Blake VanEaton and Jared Bebb, both of Norton, Tim McElroy of Logan and Katie Kersenbrock of Oakley are all members of the indoor track and field team at Fort Hays State University.

VanEaton, Bebb and McElroy are all freshmen and Kersenbrock is a senior. Parents of the freshmen are Mr. and Mrs. Robert VanEaton, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Bebb and Mr. and Mrs. Mickie McElroy. Parents of Kersenbrock are Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne Kersenbrock, formerly of Oakley and now of Newton. Katie is the granddaughter of Rev. and Mrs. Jack Kersenbrock, Norton.

The Fort Hays thinclads competed in the MIAA Indoor Championships on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 29 and March 1 in Joplin, Mo. The men's team finished with 47 total points and placed fifth in the team standings while the women's team finished with nine total points and eighth in the team standings.

Kersenbrock was a member of the women's 4 x 400 meter relay team which finished fifth with a time of 4:04.07. Kersenbrock also ran the 800 meter run and placed seventh in 2:22.29.

VanEaton ran in the distance medley relay which placed eighth in 10:54.93. He also competed in the 800 meter run and placed 17th in 2:01.08.

McElroy placed tenth in the weight throw with a heave of 51'0.25".

For the season, Kersenbrock has the second best time on the Lady Tiger squad in the 600 yard run. She placed fifth in the Charlie Foster Classic in Kearney, Neb. with a clocking of 1:32.80.

Her 4 x 400 meter relay team has the three fastest times of the year for the Lady Tigers. The fastest was at the MIAA championships. Second fastest was 4:05.82 which they ran in the Prairie Wolf Invitational in Lincoln, Neb. when they placed sixth.

Their third fastest time of the season was 4:11.48 when they placed second in the UNK All Comer meet in Kearney, Neb.

VanEaton has run the fourth and fifth fastest times for Fort Hays this season in the 800 meter run. He was timed in 2:00.65 in the Prairie Wolf Invitational and won the race in the UNK All Comer meet with a clocking of 2:02.08. He was a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team which placed

second in 3:34.46, the fourth fastest time this season by a Fort Hays quintet in this race.

VanEaton was a member of the 4 x 400 meter relay team which placed third in the Charlie Foster Classic in 3:31.50, the third fastest time this year for Fort Hays.

VanEaton was also a member of the distance medley relay team which placed fourth in the Prairie Wolf Invitational in 10:24.17, the fastest time this season by a Fort Hays relay team. His distance medley relay team also placed eighth in the MIAA championships in 10:54.93, the second fastest time this season by a Tiger quintet.

Bebb and VanEaton were members of the 4 x 440 yard relay team which placed ninth in the Central Missouri Invitational in Warrensburg, Mo. with a season's best time of 3:38.16.

Bebb placed sixth in the 800 meter run in 2:08.56 in the UNK All-Comer meet and eighth in the 1000 meter run in 2:49.61 in the Charlie Foster Classic.

A select number of Tiger men's and women's athletes will next compete in the NCAA II Indoor Championships on March 14-15 in Mankato, Minn.

Husky junior high girls take third

The Northern Valley Junior High girls took on Damar in February action, and ended up doubling the score (plus 1) to post a 25-12 victory, and snag third place in the GNEC Tournament.

The girls ended their season with a 7-7 record.

The Huskies had a 7-2 lead at the end of the first quarter and 13-7 at the half. When the buzzer ended action in the third frame, the Huskies held a comfortable 19-10 advantage. The ladies capped off the evening by scoring 6 points in the final period while holding Damar to just 2.

Scoring were Erika Chandler 11, Ashley Constable 7 and Cassie Field 7.

Coach Kevin Largent had these comments: "In the third place game of the GNEC tournament, the Junior Lady Huskies faced a very improved Damar team, with the Huskies winning 25-12.

"We faced Damar for the fourth time since Jan. 17 and, as anyone knows, it is hard to beat any team twice, not to mention four times in the same season. Damar played very tough and is an improving team; however, our depth and determination proved to be the difference.

"Erika led us in scoring with 11 and Cassie and Ashley had 7 a piece. Katie once again led us in

rebounding with 7 and Erika had 5. The girls were able to finish their season at 7 wins and 7 losses and placed third in the GNEC.

"This season has been a long

one, and I appreciate the hard work and time these ladies put into the season. We will sorely miss our outgoing eighth graders and wish them success in the future."

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1:00 p.m., Norton Correctional Facility Minimum Side
6:00 p.m. Medium Side

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
10:30 a.m., Norton Christian Church

SUNDAY, MARCH 9
6:00 p.m., Heartland Worship Center, Agra, KS

MONDAY, MARCH 10
2:00 p.m., Norton Community High School, Speak to Norton and Northern Valley Students

MONDAY, MARCH 10
6:00 p.m., The Rock-Smoothies and Snacks Dinner and Speaking to area JH and HS Students

TUESDAY, MARCH 11
7:30 p.m. East Campus Auditorium
Speak to Parents and Community

— Ray McElroy —

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Now is a good time to shop NORTON

Former 'Jay wrestler to nationals

By DICK BOYD
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James Annon, a junior from Norton who wrestles at 141 pounds for Fort Hays State University, is one of just four Tigers to qualify for the NCAA Division II Championships on March 14-15 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Annon qualified by placing fourth in the West Regional/RMAC Championships on Saturday, March 1 in Las Vegas, N.M. to extend his season record to 21-9.

In the regional, Annon opened with a 13-8 decision over Keith Johnson, Mesa State. In the quarter-finals, he lost a technical fall in 5:51 to Kyle Francis, Western State. After that loss, he had plenty of work to do in the wrestleback side of the bracket but got the job

done.

He wrestled Johnson again and decided on him 6-3 this time. Next, he decided Kenneth Montour, New Mexico Highlands 8-7 to reach the consolation championship where he faced Francis again. This time he lost a 7-2 decision to place third.

As a team, Fort Hays placed sixth with 49.5 points while Nebraska-Kearney won the team championship with 154 total points.

Coming into the tournament, Annon was on a five match winning streak. It started with a 9-5 decision over Brady Shatto, Chadron State. After that win, he decided Aeron Hill, Newman University, 10-7, then won a 13-6 decision over Cory Bloodgood, Central Missouri.

Next, he decided Kyle Francis, Western State, 9-7, the same wrestler he lost to in the regionals. He also lost a 10-6 decision to Francis earlier in the season.

In his final match before regionals, Annon decided Jeff Rutledge, Nebraska-Kearney, 6-5.

James is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Annon, Norton.

Eric Johnson, a senior from Norton, wrestled this season at 149 pounds but was plagued by injury.

He started his college wrestling career at the University of Central Oklahoma but transferred to Fort Hays.

Johnson did not wrestle after the dual with Western State on February 8. He compiled a 4-6 record this season.

Eric is the son of Mr. and Mrs.

Sports news? Call us at (785) 877-3361, or 6908

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Division II Third, Fourth Grade
Division III Fifth, Sixth, Seventh Grade
T-Ball Coed League Ages 4, 5 and Kindergarten
K-18 (Boys) Ages 15 and Under (As of Aug. 1)

Lamont Shirk and Ward Foley

COACHES MEETINGS:
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008 —
6:00 p.m. - T-Ball • 7:15 p.m. - Boys Division I
SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2008 —
1:00 p.m. - Boys Division II • 2:15 p.m. - Boys Division III
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 —
1:00 p.m. - Girls Division I • 2:15 p.m. Girls Division II

Youth Track & Field Fun Day - May 10
Entry Forms Due April 5, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH SIXTH GRADE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
Norton Recreation Commission
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