

Blue Jay decides on Garden City Community College

By DICK BOYD

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Zach Bainter, a 2009 graduate of Norton Community High School, has signed a letter of intent to run track and cross country at Garden City Community College.

An exceptional athlete, Zach was a 2009 state champion in both wrestling and track while competing for the Norton Blue Jays.

In the 2009 track season, he was a state champion in both the 3200 meter run and 1600 meter run and runner-up by .08 of a second in the 800 meter run in the recent Kansas State Track & Field Championships in Wichita.

A week earlier, he won gold medals in all three events in the Regional Meet in Cimarron.

Zach won golds in both the 800 meters and 1600 meters in the Mid-Continent League Meet this year and was second in the 3200 meters. He also placed 14th in the K.U. Relays in the 1600 meters.

His winning time of 9:48.13 in the 3200 meter run in this year's state meet was also a new Norton school record!

His freshman season in track at Norton, he was a member of the 4 x 800 meter relay team which placed eighth in the state meet after finishing third in the regional. He placed fifth in the 800, 1600 and 3200 in the league meet that year.

As a sophomore, Zach was a member of the Blue Jays' school record-setting 4 x 800 meter relay team. The foursome of Blake VanEaton, Logan Keiswetter, Jared Engelbert and Bainter won the state championship with a record-setting time of 8:07.57 after

placing runner-up in the regional and winning at the league meet.

Zach also won the 1600 meter run in the league meet that year, placed fourth in the event in the regional meet and 11th in the state meet.

In his junior season, Zach won gold medals in both the 800 and 1600 meters in the league meet, placed second in both events in the regional meet and was sixth in the 800 meters and fourth in the 1600 meters in the state meet.

"I am very happy for Zach and the opportunity that his hard work and continued commitment to athletics, and to track and field specifically, have created for him," said head Norton track and field coach Jason Jones.

"He is a talented athlete who has experienced a tremendous amount of success at the high school level and has become a wonderful leader for us. He has always worked exceptionally hard at practice, day in and day out. He has set a great example of how to achieve success.

"Zach has always been willing to sacrifice of himself in order to help his team and teammates succeed. These continuous sacrifices, along with his constant desire to work to improve, have not only led to his success in high school but have now given him the chance to continue to compete in a sport he loves as he works to further his education.

"Zach will do very well at the next level and will become an integral part of the Garden City Community College Cross Country/Track and Field Team.

"I know he will both take full

advantage of and enjoy this experience!"

Zach has also had outstanding success in cross country running for Norton.

He was the Mid-Continent League champion all four years. He was regional champion his senior year, second as a junior, seventh as a sophomore and fourth as a freshman.

In the state cross country meet, he placed tenth as a freshman, ninth as a sophomore, fourth as a junior and third as a senior this season.

Zach has also been chosen to compete in the 2009 Kansas Shrine Bowl 5K Run as a Kansas Shrine Bowl All-Star Cross Country Runner prior to the Shrine Bowl All-Star Football Game on July 25 in Wichita.

"Zach Bainter is a tremendous worker; you never have to push him," said Norton Community High School cross country coach Tom Hehn.

"He was our boys captain. You'd tell him what to do and he did it. He set a great example for everybody else. He'll do even better in college because they run longer distances. He just doesn't get tired and has such a wonderful recovery.

"He is a joy to be around because he is so willing to do things. He has such a positive attitude; he just goes after it!"

Dan Delgado, the head track and cross country coach at Garden City Community College, is also high on his new recruit. "I like the fact that Zach has continued to improve his times," said coach Delgado, who will begin his fifth

season at Garden City.

"We also like the fact that Zach is a tough country boy from a small community. We like to get our hands on these types of young men because they are great to coach. You can get them to run for you and it's a good opportunity for them to develop beyond their wildest dreams.

"We have high expectations for Zach with our hard core coaching. He's been an outstanding wrestler as well and knows what it's like to be physical practicing day in

and day out. Some people don't understand this but Zach does.

"Our goal is to have a top 10 team nationally year in and year out and Zach should help us do that."

The Garden City men's cross country team is already one of the tops, having placed third last season in the National Junior College Athletic Association Meet.

Zach Bainter also had an exceptional wrestling career at Norton, having medaled in the state tournament all four years. Compiling

a 16-4 record in state tournament wrestling, he placed second as a freshman, fourth as a sophomore, third as a junior and won the championship his senior year!

He also competed in the annual Kansas Wrestling Senior Classic dual in Topeka which features small school wrestlers versus larger school wrestlers.

Zach is the son of Vicki and David Bainter. His grandparents are Rose and Bill Bainter and Frieda and Bernie Goetze and Victor Ritter.

Zach Bainter signs with Garden City Community College



Zach Bainter, an exceptional track and wrestling competitor who graduated this year from Norton Community High School, signed a letter of intent to run track and cross country for Garden City Community College. Pictured with him are his parents, David, and Vicki and head Norton track and field coach Jason Jones, back left, and head Norton cross country coach Tom Hehn, back right.

~ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations *Bridges Group, Inc.*
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Logan standout named to West team

By DICK BOYD

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Levi Kiser, an outstanding athlete who is a 2009 graduate of Logan High School, will be a member of the West squad in the 24th annual Kansas Division II Eight Man All Star Football Game which will be played at 10 a.m. this Saturday at Trojan Field, North Hersey Avenue, Beloit.



Levi Kiser

The Division I All Star Football Game will follow at 1 p.m.

Kiser compiled over 5,000 yards rushing and scored 77 touchdowns during his career as a Trojan football player. He was also a team captain.

Kiser was a Cheyenne Conference honorable mention defensive back his sophomore season, was first team all-conference running

back and defensive back and received all-area recognition as a junior.

His senior year, he was first team all-conference as a punter in addition to receiving first team running back and defensive back, was named to the all area elite and was a Shrine Bowl nominee.

He was also a four-year letterman for Logan in basketball and track.

He is also an Eagle Scout, member of the Sons of the American Legion and CYO president.

His activities and honors in high school included National Honor Society, Scholastic Medallion, KAYS, student council, high school play, Kansas Assessment Exemplary Performance in reading and math, honor roll four years and Mr. LHS.

He plans to play football in college.

Levi is the son of Jean and Randy Kiser.

Tickets are general admission at both gates and one ticket is good for both games.

The Kansas Eight-Man Football Association was organized in 1986 so that more 8-man players could receive recognition for their football prowess.

The games have been held every summer in Beloit. Assisting the association with sponsorship of the games are the Beloit Rotary Club and Beloit Knights of Columbus.

In addition to giving recognition to outstanding senior football players and coaches, the association votes yearly on recommendations to the Kansas State High School Activities Association and promotes the existence of 8-man football clinics.

Tennis camp next week

Norton Community High School's head girls tennis coach Jim Green will conduct a Tennis Camp next week for girls who will be freshmen through seniors this fall and are interested in playing for the high school team.

Practices will be from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, June 15 through June 19 at the Swimming Pool Park Tennis Courts.

Girls attending are asked to bring their racket and come dressed ready to play.

Those with questions, can call coach Green at 877-5501.

Grassland Reserve Program cutoff date for applications set for June 24

Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Kansas, said the Grassland Reserve Program applications, submitted by June 24, will be evaluated and ranked for funding for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 program.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture provides technical assistance for Grassland Reserve Program.

The program was reauthorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). In FY 2009, the program is funded at just over \$48 million nationwide. Kansas received an allocation of \$1.1 million.

"Kansas has the finest, most productive native grassland in the world," said Banks, "and GRP offers a way for ranchers and farmers — the backbone of our economy — to ensure this unique natural resource remains a healthy and viable part of Kansas for years to come."

The program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property through permanent easements and rental contracts (10-year, 15-year, or 20-year). For the FY 2009 program, priority will be given to easements.

The program emphasizes the

preservation of native and natural grasslands and shrublands, support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and the protection of grassland that is under multiple threats of conversion to other land uses.

Enrollment options for this land are limited to permanent easements and 20-year rental contracts.

"I would encourage producers interested in preserving their grasslands to stop by a USDA Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or Farm Service Agency staffs to learn more about the program," Banks said.

Hats off to our library, for 100 years of service; but you couldn't tell it by looking!

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