

# Blue Jays end with a winning season

By DICK BOYD

Six returning lettermen for head coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team helped the Blue Jays compile a winning 2009-10 season.

Returning starters were 5'10" senior guard J.D. Gall, 6'1" senior forward Ashton Draper and 5'10" senior guard Landon Hamel. Other returning lettermen were 5'7" senior guard Marcus Herman, 6'1" sophomore post Jordan Wahlmeier and 5'8" sophomore guard Tye Nickell.

Dakota Dreher, a 5'10" junior, was also a returning letterman but was recovering from an injury and did not play this season.

Hamel was leading scorer and steals leader from last year but went down with an ankle injury in the third game and saw limited action the season.

The Blue Jays opened the season with an impressive 61-31 win over Atwood in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Saturday, Dec. 5. Gall scored 13 points and Hamel and Wahlmeier each contributed 11 points. Norton had 28 offensive assists and caused 30 Atwood turnovers.

On Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 10-11-12, Norton traveled to Goodland for the annual Topside Tip-Off Tournament.

The Blue Jays took on eventual tournament champion Ottawa on Thursday and lost 81-38. At the end of the season, Ottawa placed runner-up in the Class 4A State Basketball Tournament.

After losing 67-61 to a solid Sharon Springs quintet in the consolation semi-finals on Friday, Norton played their best game of the tournament in defeating Weskan 56-48 to place seventh.

Terrell Lane, 5'11" junior guard, was leading scorer for the Blue Jays in the tournament and was named to the All-Tournament Team. He hit 14 points against Ottawa, 19 in the Sharon Springs contest and 18 in the win over Weskan. Wahlmeier tallied 20 points against Weskan.

Hamel received his ankle injury late in the Sharon Springs game.

On Thursday, Dec. 17, Norton hosted Stockton in their first Mid-Continent League game of the season, had trouble dealing with the Tigers' height and lost 60-45. Lane scored 18 points and Gall hit 11.

Twenty-four hours later, the Blue Jays were in Phillipsburg for another Mid-Continent League contest and it was another hard-fought game between the long-time rivals. At the end of regulation, the score was tied 48-48 and Norton outscored the Panthers 7-6 in the extra period to return with a 55-54 victory! Lane led Norton in scoring with 19 points.

The Blue Jays got the new year off to a good start by defeating Oberlin 62-43 in Oberlin on Monday, Jan. 4. After a slow first half, Norton ran away with the game after intermission. Wahlmeier scored 19 points on 64 percent field goal shooting.

The Blue Jays got another big Mid-Continent League win on Friday, Jan. 8 when they hosted Osborne and outscored the Bulldogs 64-29. Draper tallied 16 points on 60 percent shooting from the field. As a team, Norton hit 50 percent. "We hit shots early and got more confidence as we went," said coach Reusink after the big win which extended Norton's record to 5-3.

On Friday, Jan. 15, Norton earned their fourth straight win when they hosted Trego Community and outscored the visiting Golden Eagles 42-33. The Blue Jays hit 57 percent of their two-point field goal attempts. Wahlmeier led with 12 points.

The annual Mid-Continent League Tournament began on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Norton was seeded No.5 so had to travel to No.4 seeded Stockton. This time the Blue Jays were not intimidated by the taller Tigers and fought them hard before losing 65-61 to drop into the consolation bracket. Lane hit 50 percent from the field and ended with 26 points. Gall hit 17 and Wahlmeier contributed 11.

On Thursday, Jan. 21, Norton played No.8 seeded Phillipsburg in the consolation semi-finals in WaKeeney. The Panthers were still unhappy with their earlier overtime loss to Norton on their home court and got revenge with a 54-39 win. After a close first half, Phillipsburg pulled away in the second half. Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 12 points.

Norton played Trego on Saturday morning in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays and placed seventh in the tournament with a solid 57-44 win over the Golden Eagles. Wahlmeier led Norton in scoring with 17 points as he hit a perfect seven of seven field goal attempts. Lane added 15 and Gall hit 11 points to run the Blue Jay record to 7-5.

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, Norton traveled to Goodland and left the nets smoking as they hit 64 percent from the field to outscore the Cowboys 60-41. Lane tallied 17 points and Wahlmeier and Draper each added 10 points.

The Blue Jays hosted Smith Center in Mid-Continent League action in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Tuesday, Feb. 2. It was another hard fought contest between the two teams. At the end, Norton got at 41-39 win on a buzzer beating basket by Lane! Gall finished with 12 points, Lane

added 11 and Wahlmeier scored 10 as the Blue Jays extended their record to 9-5.

Norton traveled to Hill City to play an excellent Ringneck quintet in Mid-Continent League action on Friday, Feb.5. Hill City took the early lead and Norton rallied before losing 59-51. Lane hit 18 points and Gall scored 16 as he was a perfect five of five from three-point land. Hill City went on to compete at the end of the season in the Class 2A State Tournament in Manhattan where they lost their first game.

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, Norton hosted Oberlin. The Blue Jays trailed at the half but rallied with aggressive defense to win 48-37. Wahlmeier led the way in scoring with 18 points. Draper and Lane had 10 each. "It was a tale of two halves," said coach Reusink.

A week later on Tuesday, Feb. 16, the Blue Jays hosted Hoxie and had another solid victory as they outscored the Indians 65-43 and extended their record to 11-6. Draper and Lane each hit 16 points.

Norton returned to Mid-Continent League play on Friday, Feb. 18 when they traveled to Ellis. The Blue Jays rallied in the second half for a brief lead before losing 55-43. Wahlmeier hit 16 points and Draper added 14.

In a rare Monday game, Norton traveled to Plainville on Feb. 22 to complete Mid-Continent League action. The Blue Jays outrebounded the Cardinals but couldn't keep up in scoring and lost 68-54. Lane led scoring with 22 points and Wahlmeier hit 12.

Norton closed out the regular season on Tuesday, Feb. 12 by hosting Colby on "Senior Night". Coach Reusink gave the Blue Jays' aggressive man-to-man defense credit for a 46-39 victory. Lane led Norton scorers with 23 points. Norton senior players honored during special ceremonies were Marcus Herman, J.D. Gall and Ashton Draper.

The 12-8 Norton quintet was seeded No.3 in the Beloit Sub-State Tournament and hosted No.6 seeded Smith Center on Monday, March 1. It was another close game between the two rivals. Neither team hit well from the field but the Redmen hit more free throws to win 44-36. Lane scored 21 points to lead the Blue Jays.

"Our three seniors did a lot of good things for us this season," said coach Reusink.

"We have some good players coming back next year but we'll have to get better defensively. If the returning players work hard, we should have a good season."

David Stover was the Norton boys' assistant coach again this season.



Norton and Smith Center players went down on the hardwoods during a battle for the basketball during their Sub-State Tournament game in Norton on Monday, March 1. Pictured for the Blue Jays are, from left, freshman guard Jacob Brooks, sophomore post Jordan Wahlmeier and junior guard Terrell Lane.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Student managers were Kylie Nuzum, Brae Bigge, Treven Rossi and David Cressler.

The Blue Jays compiled a 12-9 season record and placed fifth in the Mid-Continent League.

### Season statistics

As a team, the Norton boys averaged 51.7 points per game this season, compared to opponents' 49.2 points. The Blue Jays hit 39.8 percent of their field goal attempts and opponents swished about the same at 39.5 percent. From the free throw line, Norton connected on 49.8 percent while opponents hit 55.3 percent.

The Blue Jays had 188 steals on defense for an average of nine per contest. The Norton defense caused 306 opponent turnovers for 14.5 per game.

Norton had 239 offensive as-

sists which is 11.5 per game.

The Blue Jays grabbed a total of 614 rebounds during the season for an average of 29.2 per contest.

Terrell Lane was leading scorer for Norton and averaged 14.9 points per game. He was most accurate from the free throw line, hitting 74 percent of his attempts from the charity stripe. Terrell was also leading rebounder with 201 total, led the team in steals with 44 and in assists with 65.

Second leading scorer was Jordan Wahlmeier who averaged 11 points per game and was most accurate field goal shooter at 53.7 percent. He led the team in blocked shots with 39 rejections.

Jordan was also second high in rebounds with 118 total, second

high in steals with 31 and fourth high in assists with 26.

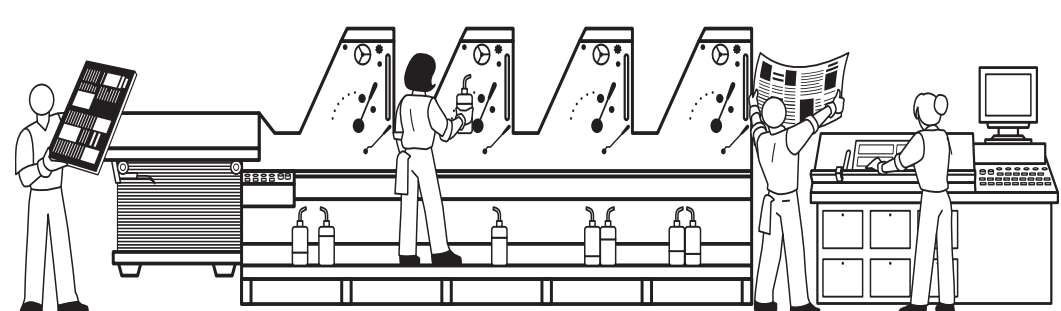
J.D. Gall was third high scorer for Norton with a game average of 8.4 points. He was third high in free throw accuracy at 55.1 percent. J.D. was second high in assists with 37 and third high in steals with 30.

Ashton Draper was fourth high scorer with an average of 6.8 points per game and was fourth high in free throw accuracy at 51.7 percent and third best in rebounds with 69.

Jacob Brooks was second best in field goal accuracy at 46.4 percent and fourth best rebounding with 54 total.

Dillon McConney led the team in three-point shooting with an average of 46.7 percent.

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## Wrestling banquet scheduled

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
Wrestlers, coaches, parents and fans are invited to attend the 2010 Norton Community High School Wrestling Banquet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30 in the Norton junior high gymnasium.

The Norton Blue Jay 2009-10 Wrestling Team, which won the championship of the Class 3-2-

1A State Tournament, will be honored during the banquet.

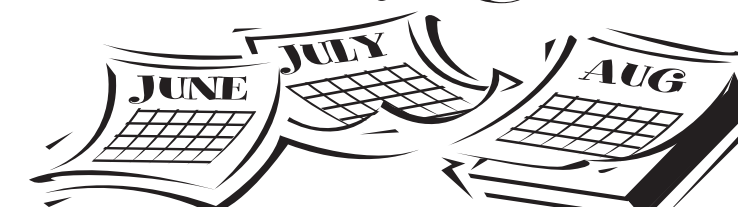
Those attending are asked to bring your own table service, a main dish and two of the following: salad, vegetable or dessert. Drinks will be provided.

Following the dinner, the coaching staff will honor the wrestling team and present several team awards.

"We invite anyone who wants to help honor the accomplishments of this fine team and the 2010 senior class," said head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

"There is no way for us to send personal invitations through the mail to everyone who supported us throughout the season so consider this an invitation for all to attend."

## Community Calendar



Please submit your events for the Community Calendar which is printed in the Monday EXTRA. Events may be e-mailed to: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com or mailed to 215 South Kansas Avenue

THE NORTON TELEGRAM 215 S. Kansas Ave. Norton, Kan. 67654 785-877-3361

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