



Norton High School wrestlers' season starts this week

By **DICK BOYD**

nortonteleg.com

Coach Bill Johnson's defending Class 3-2-1A state champion Norton Community High School wrestling team begins 2010-11 competition this week with high expectations of another possible state title.

Ranking matches for public viewing will be at 6 p.m. this evening in the annual Blue & Yellow Classic in the Norton Junior High Gym.

Actual varsity competition this Saturday will be split between the Hoxie Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m., and the St. Francis Tournament, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

"We are very excited about this season," said coach Johnson. "We have a large and experienced senior class and a good group of young boys who will get some mat time throughout the year.

"We won the state title by 95 points last season and return a good number of those points.

"This could be a great year for Norton wrestling but, as always in sports, last year does not count for this year. We will have to go out and earn everything that we get. The other teams will not just hand us the 2011 state title. We will have to work hard and be ready for the best efforts from all our competitors."

Norton returns 11 starters and four additional lettermen from last season.

After winning the state championship three years in a row, Norton missed the championship by one and one-half points to place third in 2006-07, then finished fourth in the state in 2007-08 and third in the state tournament in 2008-09 before last season's dominating performance which guaranteed the Blue Jays the state championship after the first day of wrestling in Hays.

Norton had an 11-3 overall record last year and was the Mid-Continent League champion with a perfect 7-0 record. The Blue Jays also won the Regional Tournament prior to the state championship.

Coach Johnson is starting his 22nd year as head wrestling coach. His career record at Norton is 186-47.

His assistant coaches again this year are Doug Ray, Shane Miller and Tony Fiscus.

Top wrestlers

Norton returns seven wrestlers with state experience and six who have won state medals.

Troy Bainter, 125 pound senior, compiled a 35-6 record last season en route to a state runner-up finish. He won the state championship his sophomore year and placed third in the state as a freshman.

Senior Kaid McKenna, 189 pounds, had a 36-9 record last season when he placed fourth in the state tournament. He finished

fifth in the state tournament his sophomore season.

Billy Broeckelman, 130 pound senior, also placed fourth in the state tournament last year and had a 25-8 record. He was a state qualifier as a sophomore and placed second in the state tournament as a freshman.

Landon "Tug" Keiswetter is a 152 pound senior who compiled a 37-6 record last season en route to a state championship. He was a state qualifier as a sophomore and finished fifth in the state his freshman season.

Senior Brett Terrell, 135 pounds, was a state tournament qualifier as a sophomore and just missed qualifying for state last season. His season record was 17-11.

Spencer Shirk, 160 pound senior, was a state runner-up last season and finished with a 36-9 record.

Sophomore John Risewick, 103, got his high school wrestling career off to a great start last season with a state championship and 29-10 record.

Other returning lettermen and their record last season are: senior Rylee Stanley, 152, 21-9; junior R.J. Ellis, 112, 19-16; junior Justin Waggoner, 125, 13-8; sophomore Carson McKenna, 119, 19-13; sophomore Cody Ellis, 130, 15-9; sophomore Jared Bohl, 140, 9-12; sophomore Eli Bozarth, 145, 24-8.

Coach's comments

"Five of our six state medalists are seniors," said coach Johnson. "This gives us a great deal of experience and leadership. I look for us to pick up where we left off last year.

"Although our strengths will be in the returning state medalists and state qualifiers, the problem will be getting them in different weight classes. For the past few years about five of our best wrestlers have weighed within 10 pounds of each other and we have not been able to get them all on the varsity team.

"This season we must have all of them in the varsity lineup even if they are light for the weight class.

"Two varsity starters in 2010 just missed qualifying for the state tournament in the very tough Norton Regional Tournament. They are R.J. Ellis, 112 pound junior and Brett Terrell, 135 pound senior. Both lost in the consolation semi-finals. Two other upper classmen who could make some noise are Justin Waggoner, 125 pound junior and Rylee Stanley, 152 pound senior.

"Several other former junior varsity members and freshmen will give our Blue Jays added depth and a few of these newcomers will be competing for varsity positions. But, as always, these newcomers must prove themselves at the varsity level."

Coach has the credentials

A graduate of Flint Hills High School, Rosalia, coach Johnson wrestled for Fort Hays State University. In addition to winning the national championship, he was national runner-up twice and placed fourth once.

He was chosen the "Outstanding Senior Male Athlete" at Fort Hays State in 1989. He also placed tenth in the wrestling Olympic trials at 114.5 pounds in 1988.

Coach Johnson was inducted in the fall of 1999 into the Tiger Sports Hall of Fame at Fort Hays State University. He has also been inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

In 2005, he was named the Head Coach of the Year in Kansas by the National High School Wrestling Coaches Association.

He was also one of 18 coaches and boosters of high school wrestling named "2005 Man-of-the-Year" by Wrestling USA Magazine.

2010-11 Blue Jay Wrestling Schedule

Tues., Nov. 30 - Blue & Yellow Classic, Jr. High Gym, 6 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 4 - St. Francis Tournament in St. Francis, 9:30 a.m.
 Sat., Dec. 4 - Hoxie Invitational in Hoxie, 9 a.m.
 Fri., Dec. 10 - Southern Valley Invitational in Oxford, 3:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 11 - Clay Center Invitational (V) in Clay Center, 9 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 17 - Phillipsburg/Smith Center Dual in Phillipsburg, 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 18 - Mid-Continent League Dual Tourney in Ellis, 9 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 7 - Mill Valley Dual in Norton, 6 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 8 - J.R. Durham Invitational in Norton, 9:30 a.m.

Fri., Sat., Jan. 14-15 - Newton Tournament of Champions, 11 a.m., 9 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 14 - Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational in Elm Creek, Neb., 2:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 20 - Colby Dual (Senior Night) Wilmeth Kirk Gym in Norton, 6 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 25 - Kearney Dual in Kearney, 6 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 29 - Junior Varsity in Arapahoe Tournament, 10 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 29 - Mid-Continent League Tournament in Osborne, 10 a.m.

Fri., Feb. 4 - Smith Center Dual in Smith Center, 6 p.m.

Sat., Feb. 5 - Panther Classic (V and JV) in Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.

Sat., Feb. 12 - Colby JV Tournament in Colby, 9 a.m.

Fri., Sat., Feb. 18-19 - Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament, TBA, 1 p.m.

Fri., Sat., Feb. 25-26 - Class 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays, 9 a.m.

Junior High Blue Jay football season ends with a win over Smith Center

The final game of the Norton Junior Jays football season took place on October 14 against Smith Center at home. This ended the team's season with an 18-12 win in overtime.

In the first quarter, both Smith Center and Norton scored 6 points.

In the second quarter, Smith Center was the only team to score, ending the first half at 12-6. No points were scored in the third quarter but, in the final quarter, Norton came back scoring 6 to tie the game 12-12 and put it into overtime.

In overtime play, the Jays were able to score one more time to win 18-12, ending their season 6-1 for

the year. Head Coach Shane Miller said, "This was not one of our better performances but I am proud of the fact that the players 'hung' in there to pull out the overtime victory.

"Things were not 'clicking' for us like they have in the past games and the players were not handling adversity like they should have.

"We did a nice job on the first score when Kendall Miller hit Conor Cox for a 28 yard touchdown reception.

"However, Smith Center matched that with a 64 yard touchdown pass of their own. They obviously get everyone thinking run and will complete a

pass in a critical situation. This is what happened with us.

"The difference in the game was that we beat Smith Center at their own game.

"They usually control the time of possession and take lots of time off the clock in long sustained drives.

However, we were able to do this in the fourth quarter, running 13 plays to their 5.

"We were fortunate to punch in a 7 yard run by Gavin Lively with under 2 minutes to go. In overtime, we wanted to have the choice first of putting our defense on the field.

"The defense had stepped it up in the second half and we figured

if we stopped them this would be huge momentum for us. We did that and it took only one offensive play to score. Christian Boser ran a 10 yard sweep for the win."

The leading Blue Jay rusher was Christian Boser with 18 carries for 93 yards, followed by Jared Tallent with 8 carries for 38 yards and Gavin Lively with 6 carries for 30 yards.

Quarterback Kendall Miller passed the ball 8 times, completing 2 to Conor Cox for 41 yards. The leading tackler was Miller with 8, followed by Wyatt Harting, 6; Breven Sondergaard and Lively, 5 each; Riley Hager, 4; Quinton Porter, 3; Cox, Tallent and Boser, 2 each and Dalton

Vanover, 1. This ended the Norton Junior High football season with an outstanding 6-1 record.

Season Wrap Up

Head Coach Shane Miller said, "I can't say enough as to how proud I am of this year's 8th grade junior high football team.

"The athletic gains this group made from last year and our consistent play throughout the year allowed us to perform at a high level.

"Other than a couple of instances, we played with more emotion and intensity than our opponents.

"Their unselfish approach was

an important factor to their success and 6-1 record. This is one group who I can safely say played together as a TEAM. I wish them luck and future success in high school.

"The 7th graders finished with a 2-4 record but I strongly feel that we can better that.

"If they continue with the right approach and work ethics, we can expect good things next season."

"I really believe in their abilities and am certain they will come back next year and work even harder.

"This was one of the largest groups in recent years as we had 28 participate."

BOWLING

Inter City League Week of November 11 Team Standings:

Heartland Partners, won 60 lost 39; Brooks Brothers Harvesting, won 57 lost 42; Jet SS, won 55 lost 44; Hawks Depot, won 50 lost 49; Select Seeds, won 41 lost 58; Bailey Electric, won 34 lost 65.

High Handicap Game Team: Jet SS 837; Brooks Brothers Harvesting 822.

High Handicap Series Team: Brooks Brothers Harvesting 2429; Heartland Partners, 2364.

High Score Game: Rusty Miller 199, Bruce Keenportz 197, Dennis Balderston 189, Stan Miller 178.

High Handicap Game: Dennis Balderston 251, Bruce Keenportz 247, Rusty Miller 237, Andy Enfield 227, Bubba Brooks 227.

High Score Series: Rusty Miller 501, Bruce Keenportz 494, Stan Miller 467, Bubba Brooks 462.

High Handicap Series: Bubba Brooks 645, Bruce Keenportz 644, Dennis Balderston 625, Rusty Miller 615.

Week of November 18 Team Standings

Heartland Partners, won 67 lost 41; Brooks Brothers Harvesting, won 59 lost 49; Jet SS, won 58 lost 50; Hawks Depot, won 58 lost 50; Select Seed, won 42 lost 66; Bailey Electric, won 40 lost 68.

High Handicap Game Team: Bailey Electric 849; Hawks Depot 834.

High Handicap Series Team: Bailey Electric 2450; Hawks Depot 2410.

High Score Game: Chris Davis 188, Bruce Keenportz 184, Stan Miller 180, Rusty Miller 178.

High Handicap Game: Chris Davis 242, Jane Engelhardt 234, Bruce Keenportz 232, Luke Bailey 230.

High Score Series: Rusty Miller 500, Chris Davis 479, Denny Lechlitter 476, Roger Cochran 473.

Ladies Inter City League Week of November 1 Team Standings:

Logan Gals, won 26 lost 10; BEB and Associates, won 22 lost 14; Nelson Brothers, won 22 lost 14; Geezeretts, won 19 lost 17; Animal Health, won 12 lost 24.

Individual Game High Scratch: Sharron Smith 177; Sharron Smith 164; Jackie Wright, 161.

With Handicap: Thelma Bushnell, 225; Lyn Linde 223; Jackie Wright 220.

Individual Series High Scratch: Sharron Smith 471; Jackie Wright 428; Thelma Busnell 406.

With Handicap: Thelma Bushnell 640; Jackie Wright 605; Donna VanKooten 588.

Team Game High Scratch: BEB and Associates 457; BEB and Associates 417; Nelson Brothers 392.

With Handicap: Nelson Brothers 625; BEB and Associates 614; Logan Gals 589.

Team Series: BEB and Associates 1255; Nelson Brothers 1020; Logan Gals 992.

With Handicap: Logan Gals 1751; BEB and Associates 1726; Nelson Brothers 1719.

Week of November 8 Team Standings:

Logan Gals, won 29 lost 11; Nelson Brothers, won 26 lost 14; BEB and Associates, won 23 lost 17; Geezeretts, won 23 lost 17; Animal Health won 12 lost 28.

Individual Game High Scratch: Lynn Nelson, 178; Lyn Linde 161; Donna VanKooten, 155.

With Handicap, Lynn Nelson 251; Lyn Linde 234; Charlene Hildebrand 231.

Individual Series High Scratch: Lynn Nelson 438; Jackie Wright 389; Carol Ross, 403.

With Handicap: Lynn Nelson, 657; Carol Ross 619; Charlene Hildebrand 616.

Team Game High Scratch: Nel-

son Brothers 430; Animal Health 389; Nelson Brothers 385.

With Handicap: Nelson Brothers, 657; Animal Health 613; Nelson Brothers 612.

Team Series High Scratch: Nelson Brothers, 1154; BEB and Associates, 1098; Animal Health 1055.

With Handicap: Nelson Brothers 1835; Geezeretts, 1742; Animal Health, 1727.

Week of November 12 Team Standings

Logan Gals, won 33 lost 11; Nelson brothers, won 30 lost 14; BEB and Associates, won 25 lost 19; Geezeretts, won 25 lost 19; Animal Health, won 12 lost 32.

Individual Game High Scratch: Evah Dougherty 175; Carol Ross, 171; Barb Burk 159; With Handicap: Evah Dougherty 262; Carol Ross 241; Barb Burk 220.

Individual Series: Barb Burk 444; Evah Dougherty 426; Carol Ross 398. With Handicap: Evah

Dougherty 687; Barb Burk 627; Carol Ross 608.

Team Game High Scratch: BEB and Associates 379; BEB and Associates 367; Nelson Brothers 367; Logan Gals 361. With Handicap: Logan Gals 608; Nelson Brothers 590; Geezeretts 586.

Team Series High Scratch: BEB and Associates 1091; Nelson Brothers 1037; Logan Gals 986.

With Handicap: Logan Gals 1727; Nelson Brothers 1706; Geezeretts 1667.

Tuesday Housewife Week of November 9 Team Standings

Jamboree Foods, won 30 lost 14; Amateurs, won 22.5 lost 21.5; Lenora Nutrition Center, won 21.5 lost 22.5; BEB and Associates, won 14 lost 30.

High Handicap Game Team: BEB and Associates, 643.

High Handicap Series Team: BEB and Associates 1745.



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Week of November 16 Team Standings

Jamboree Foods, won 31 lost 17; Amateurs, won 26.5 lost 21.5; Lenora Nutrition Center, won 24.5 lost 23.5; BEB and Associates, won 14 lost 34.

High Handicap Game Team: Lenora Nutrition Center 613

High Handicap Series Team: Lenora Nutrition Center 1800

High Score Game: Cheri Brooks, 196; Sharron Smith 167.

High Handicap Game: Deb Keiswetter, 233; Cheri Brooks, 226.

High Score Series: Cheri Brooks 519; Sharron Smith 459.

High Handicap Series: Deb Keiswetter 657; Sharron Smith 615

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