

Experience is a key for Norton golf team

By DICK BOYD

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With nine returning letterwinners and a large sophomore class with experience last year as freshmen, Norton head golf coach David Stover is expecting a 2011 team with lots of competition for varsity spots.

In fact, the 16 sophomores on the team have five letterwinners among them. They are Chris Fisher, Treven Rossi, John Risewick, Eli Bozarth and Andrew Ellis.

Other returning letterwinners are: Cole Archer, Ashley Millan, Nikki McVey, seniors and Taylor Meder, junior.

Other team members are: Josh Asbury, Katie Gall, Shaylyn Boteler, seniors; Jordan Hartwell, Ryan Bainter, Javen Colip, Jade Braun, Andrew Ulmer, Dustan Daniels, Jared Bohl, Cassius Dole, Vaughn Newman, Emily Schulze, Jamie Harshbarger, sophomores; Marc Miller, Garret Otter, freshmen.

Season opener

Norton golfers will open the 2011 season in the annual Redmen Invitational on Tuesday in Smith Center.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Smith Center, will be teams from Beloit, Osborne, Phil-

lipsburg, Lakeside, Rock Hills (Mankato), Trego Community, Belleville and Stockton.

Tee off time will be 3 p.m.

Norton Invitational

Norton will also host the annual Norton Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday, April 8 on the Prairie Dog Recreation Association golf course south of Norton.

The Norton tournament will begin at 9 a.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton, will be Atwood, Colby, Goodland, Hoxie, Oakley, Phillipsburg, Quinter and Smith Center.

Team medals will be awarded to the members of the top three teams and to the top ten individuals. Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams.

Norton will also host the Norton Junior Varsity Golf Tournament on Tuesday, May 3. Tee off will be at 3 p.m.

Last season

Norton placed third last season in the Mid-Continent League Golf Tournament held in Norton. All members of the Blue Jays' foursome that day return. They were Andrew Ellis, Cole Archer, Ashley Millan and John Risewick. Eli Bozarth was also playing that day

for Norton.

Norton finished seventh in the Regional Tournament held in Smith Center. Archer and Ellis were on the Blue Jay foursome which competed. Risewick and Millan also played in the tournament and were fifth and sixth players.

Also in the regional tournament, senior Marcus Herman qualified for and competed in the Class 3A State Tournament, which was held in Hays.

Coach's background

Coach Stover is a graduate of St. John's of Beloit High School and Fort Hays State University. He is completing his 22nd year of teaching. After teaching six years at Macksville, he is in his 16th year of teaching and coaching in Norton.

He has been the Norton Community High School head golf coach during his entire tenure at Norton and has also been boys assistant basketball coach all 16

years.

Coach Stover has also been an assistant Norton high school football coach the past five years. Prior to that he was Norton junior high assistant football coach for five years and Norton junior high head football coach for five years.

Clayton Cox is the assistant golf coach again this season.

"The key to our season will be the development of our underclassmen," said coach Stover.

"Quite a few of our golfers got a taste of varsity action last season and had some success.

"Depth should be a strength of this team as we have many players competing for varsity spots. This is a team that should show improvement as the season progresses.

"Once again, the Mid-Continent League should be very competitive with Phillipsburg leading the way but many teams will be in contention for the league title.



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NCHS golf schedule

- Tues., April 5 - Redmen Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
- Fri., April 8 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 9 a.m.
- Mon., April 11 - Ellis Invitational, Ellis, 3 p.m.
- Tues., April 12 - Goodland Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
- Fri., April 15 - Hill City JV Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
- Tues., April 19 - Goodland JV Invitational, Goodland, 2 p.m.
- Tues., April 26 - Smith Center JV Invitational, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., April 28 - Trego Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
- Mon., May 2 - TMP Invitational, Hays (Smoky Hill), 9 a.m.
- Tues., May 3 - Norton JV Invitational, Norton, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., May 5 - Colby Invitational, Colby, 3 p.m.
- Thurs., May 5 - Trego JV Invitational, WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
- Fri., May 6 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 3 p.m.
- Mon., May 9 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 1 p.m.
- Thurs., May 12 - Mid-Continent League Tourney, Osborne, 3 p.m.
- Mon., May 16 - Regional Golf, Goodland, 9 a.m.
- Mon., May 23 - State Golf Tourney, Salina (Salina Municipal), 9 a.m.

Seniors competed in Wrestling Classic

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Norton Community High School senior state champion wrestlers Troy Bainter, Landon "Tug" Keiswetter and Spencer Shirk competed in the annual Kansas Wrestling Senior Classic 2011 dual on Friday, March 25 in the Expo Centre in Topeka.

The Senior Classic is sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association and the USA Wrestling-Kansas.

The event was billed as Class 3-2-1A and 4A senior wrestlers versus Class 5A and 6A wrestlers or Small Schools versus Large Schools. This did not turn out to be accurate since, of the 13 matches wrestled, the small schools had to wrestle each other in four of the matches. No team score was kept as a result of these matches.

Troy Bainter was a state champion this year at 130 pounds with a record of 35-2. He wrestled Daniel DeShazer, Wichita Heights, and lost a close 3-2 decision. It was not the first meeting for the two wrestlers. Troy wrestled DeShazer when he was undefeated and had already pinned three wrestlers in the Newton Tournament of Champions this past season. Troy handed DeShazer his first defeat of the season, also by a 3-2 score.

"Troy wrestled another close match with Oklahoma University recruit Daniel DeShazer," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson, who was also one of the coaches for the Small Schools.

Landon "Tug" Keiswetter was a state champion at 160 pounds and was 36-2 for the season. He had to move up to 171 pounds and wrestled Class 4A state champion Taylor Baird of Pratt and lost a close 7-5 decision.

"Tug was thrown for five points

and came back to lose by only two points," said coach Johnson.

Spencer Shirk compiled a 33-3 record this past season at 171 pounds. He wrestled Tyler Baughman of Lansing and pinned Baughman for one of only two falls in the dual.

"Spencer rarely uses any type of throws but caught his opponent in a lateral drop and secured the pin," said coach Johnson.

"I was proud that Norton had three wrestlers selected to compete in the Senior Classic. This was the most wrestlers from one high school.

"The wrestlers are in a tough position because they have not been training like they do during the season.

"I was a little disappointed in the set-up of the dual. It is promoted as the big schools versus the small schools but no team score was kept since small school wrestlers had to wrestle each other in four of the matches. So, it really was not the best of the small schools versus the best of the large schools.

"Our wrestlers represented Norton Wrestling very well and competed to the best of their abilities."

Results of some of the other matches were: 135/40 - Kale Newell, Smith Center, lost a 4-3 decision to Courtney Strauss, Abilene; 152 - Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg, lost a 1-0 decision to Chase Sanchez, Emporia; 189 - Zach Anderson, Clay Center, decisioned Hunter Jameson, Wichita Heights, 4-3; 285 - Dillon Wichmans, Hoxie, pinned Mathew Holt, Abilene.

The matches were three two-minute periods with national Federation folkstyle rules applicable.

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