

Nineteen lettermen on track team

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School's fifth year head coach Jason Jones has welcomed a total of 60 athletes for this spring's Blue Jay girls and boys track teams.

There are a total of 23 girls and 37 boys on the squads.

The girls team returns eight letter winners from last year and the boys team returns 11 lettermen.

Twenty-two of the 60 track and field athletes are freshmen.

Norton will open the track season in the Kiwanis Junior Varsity Track Meet in Smith Center on Monday. Field events will begin at 4:30 p.m.

The 3200 meter run will also begin at 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by the other running events at 5 p.m. There will be no preliminaries.

Norton Invitational Meet

Varsity competition for Norton will begin next Friday with the annual Norton Invitational Track Meet on the Jep Byrum Track at Travis Field.

Field events will begin at 3:30 p.m. and running events at 5:00 p.m. No preliminaries will be held and all events will be run as finals. All athletes may be entered.

In addition to Norton, competing teams will be from Colby, Goodland, Logan, Northern Valley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Smith Center and Victoria.

Plaques will be awarded to the first and second place teams in both girls and boys division. Medals will be awarded for the first three places in each event.

Assisting coach Jones again this season will be coaches Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin.

Student managers are David

Cressler and Allie Fisher.

Head coach's background

Coach Jones is a Logan native. A 1994 Logan High School graduate, he was the Class 1A state pole vault champion.

He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays on a track scholarship and pole vaulted for the Tigers. He was an all-conference performer and graduated in December, 1998.

He was head track coach and assistant football coach at Fowler High School for three years before moving to Norton. He was a teacher and assistant football and track coach in Norton for four years before becoming head track coach.

"We are excited to begin the 2011 track season," said coach Jones. "While we are a very young team, we have 19 returning letter winners. We have a nice group of leaders returning. Our freshmen numbers are higher than we have seen them in a long time, which is great. We look to those athletes to add depth to our team."

"Our athletes are off to a solid start at practice and they continue to ready themselves daily for competition and for success. We will look to the early meets to provide us with competition baselines and those meets will offer our athletes, who have been working hard, a chance to compete and have some fun doing it."

"We cannot wait to start competing and invite all sports fans and community members to join us at our home track meet on April 8. We look forward to seeing everyone at the track supporting our athletes while they compete at home."

GIRLS

The eight returning letter win-

ners for the Norton girls team are: Dustyna Sprigg, senior; Erin Terrell, junior; Katherine Boteler, Kamilla Jones, Julia Kent, Alec Melvin, Juliana Miller and Teslee Nickell, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Bekah Streck, senior; Astrid Moen, Caren Thomson, juniors; Sofie Hansson, Alexis Lively, Antjelica Pfannenstiel, sophomores; Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Katelyn Engelbert, Riekele Green, Marisa Maddy, Christine Nelson, Johnnye Ruder, Elizabeth Saulsbury, Haley Wallingford, freshmen.

The Lady Jays' season highlights a year ago were their runner-up in the annual Mid-Continent League Championships which were held in Smith Center and their third place finish in the Norton Invitational.

The Norton girls others placings were: fifth, Smith Center JV; fifth, Goodland Freshmen/Sophomore; fourth, Smith Center Redmen Relays; 12th, Trego Freshmen/Sophomore in WaKeeney; sixth, Plainville Invitational; sixth, Phillipsburg Invitational; tenth, Hill City Freshmen/Sophomore; ninth, Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney; fourth, Oberlin Invitational; sixth, Russell Relays; seventh, Hill City Invitational; 13th, 3A Regional Championships in Smith Center.

BOYS

The 11 returning lettermen on the Norton boys team are: Troy Bainter, Ryan Blecha, Billy Broeckelman, Dakota Dreher, Justin Griffith, seniors; Zach Hartwell, Bryan Henry, Tye Nickell, juniors; Jacob Brooks, Carson McKenna, John Renner, sophomores.

Other squad members are: Keg-

an Vanover, senior; Seth Antrim, Damien Davis, Kurt Douglas, Gun Lee, Dillon McConney, Trey Millan, Casey Temmel, Jordan Wahlmeier, juniors; Lane Bigge, Lucas Engel, Dalton Miller, Dylan Sprigg, sophomores; Mark Baxter, Chris Chambers, Travis Cressler, Zach Esslinger, Alec Hager, Austin Hager, Michael Johnson, Trevor Lewis, Cole Renner, Isaac Schaefer, Drew Schrum, Jared Shelton, Cody Temmel, freshmen.

The Norton boys earned three meet championships last season: Norton Invitational, Plainville Invitational and Oberlin Invitational. The Blue Jays were the runner-up in the Mid-Continent League Championships in Smith Center and in the Phillipsburg Invitational.

Others placings for the Norton boys were: fourth, Smith Center JV; seventh, Goodland Freshmen/Sophomore; third, Smith Center Redmen Relays; fourth, Trego Freshmen/Sophomore in WaKeeney; fourth, Hill City Freshmen/Sophomore; fourth, Goldsmith Relays in WaKeeney; third, Russell Relays; sixth, Hill City Invitational; seventh, 3A Regional Championships in Smith Center; 13th, 100th State Championships in Wichita.

Bryan Henry, Jacob Brooks and Billy Broeckelman were members of Norton's 4 x 400 meter relay team which was anchored by senior Ashton Draper and placed third in the state meet last year with a 3:30.27 time. Henry also qualified in the regional met for the 400 meter dash and ran a 52.65 to record the 11th best time at the state meet.

NCHS track schedule

Mon., April 4 - Smith Center JV Meet, Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.
Fri., April 8 - Norton Invitational, Norton, 3:30 p.m.
Mon., April 11 - Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, Goodland, 4:45 p.m.
Tues., April 12 - Smith Center Invite, Smith Center, 3 p.m.
Mon., April 18 - Trego Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, WaKeeney, 4 p.m.
Tues., April 19 - Plainville Invitational, Plainville, 3 p.m.
Thurs., April 21 - Phillipsburg Invitational, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
Tues., April 26 - Freshmen/Sophomore Meet, Hill City, 4 p.m.
Fri., April 29 - Goldsmith Relays, WaKeeney, 3:30 p.m.
Tues., May 3 - Oberlin Invitational, Oberlin, 3 p.m.
Fri., May 6 - Russell Relays, Russell, 3 p.m.
Mon., May 9 - Hill City Invitational, Hill City, 4 p.m.
Fri., May 13 - Mid-Continent League Meet, Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
Fri., May 20 - Regional Championships, TBA
Fri., Sat., May 27-28 - State Championships, Wichita

NVJH track schedule

There are 36 students out for the Northern Valley Junior High Track Team this year, 21 boys and 15 girls. The Junior Huskies will be attending 6 meets this spring.

The head coach for the boys team is Jim Cole and the head coach for the girls' team is Kirsten Baird. Lisa Miller is this year's Assistant coach.

NVJH BOYS TRACK TEAM

6th Grade - Johnathon Towery, Carson Wallace and Damian Wellman

7th Grade - Colten Bach, Jesse Courtain, Camden Cox, Cody Land, Eli Lowry, Dalton Smith, Mathew Southerland and Ryan Thraikill.

8th Grade - Gabriel Anderson, Tony Anderson, Ame Baird, Phillip Bryant, Clint Cole, Brant Cox, Macy Kasson, Carson Montgomery, Matt Stutsman and Stewart Whitney.

NVJH GIRLS TRACK TEAM

6th Grade - Kylie Kinderknecht and Brittany Wright.
7th Grade - Eleysa Anderson, Brooke Baird, Sarah Baird, Kirsten Burger, Allison Keith, Talia Lowry, Brianna Martin, Shayna Vincent and Skylar Wright.

8th Grade - Alyssa Bryant, Kortney Cunningham, Makayla Smith and Khrianna VanPatten.

Northern Valley Junior High Track Scheule

Date	Meet	Grades	Location	Time
April 7	Norton Inv.	6-7-8	Norton	10:30
April 15	Husky Inv.	6-7-8	Logan	9:30
April 26	Hill City Inv.	6-7-8	Hill City	10:00
April 29	Quinter Inv.	7-8	Quinter	10:00
May 5	Logan Inv.	6-7-8	Logan	10:00
May 12	GNEC/Pike Trail	6-7-8	Mankato	9:00

Norton senior gridder to play for Hastings

By DICK BOYD

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Kaid McKenna, 5'10", 185 senior linebacker and center for the Norton Community High School football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Hastings College in Hastings, Neb.

Described by Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin as "one of the toughest players I've ever coached," McKenna is a four-year letterman for the Blue Jays who had an outstanding 9-1 season in 2010.

He is also a three-year starter at linebacker and center and was Norton's long snapper for punts, extra points and field goals all four years.

Kaid was the second leading tackler for Norton from his linebacker position, recording 75 tackles, 44 assists for a total of 119 tackles this past season.

McKenna received a tremendous compliment from the Mid-Continent League team head coaches after the season when they unanimously voted him first team on the post-season team on both offense and defense!

His junior year he was first team defense and second team offense in the league and received honorable mention as a center his sophomore year.

McKenna also has received post-season accolades from the large daily newspapers in the

state of Kansas. He was chosen this year to the "Super 11" by the Hays Daily News and received honorable mention in Class 3A from the Wichita Eagle-Beacon and Topeka Capital-Journal.

Following his junior season, McKenna was named first team Class 3A linebacker by the Eagle-Beacon, honorable mention linebacker in Class 3A by the Capital-Journal and honorable mention all classes by the Hays Daily News.

Kaid was also a first team defensive honoree in Class 3A by the Kansas Football Coaches Association this year.

"Kaid will be hard to replace," said coach Melvin. "Not only is he a tough player but he was a leader both offensively and defensively. He was a great competitor and always gave everything he had."

"During this past season, Kaid received a torn muscle in his shoulder but continued to play in every game. It was hurting but he toughed it out through the season. The injury has been repaired with surgery and is 100 percent healed."

"Hastings College has a good football program and good facilities. I'm excited for Kaid that he will be playing linebacker for them."

McKenna was also an excellent wrestler for Norton and would have performed well on the mat his senior season but his shoul-

der injury prevented him from wrestling. He was a manager for the team.

McKenna compiled a 36-9 wrestling record his junior year when he placed fourth in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament. He finished fifth in the state wrestling tournament his sophomore year.

"We stress that our athletes concentrate on their academic standing and Kaid has over a 3.0 grade point average," said coach Melvin.

Tony Harper, first year head football coach at Hastings College, is extremely happy his Broncos have recruited a second player from Norton Community High School. Lineman Brock Lauer is completing his sophomore year. "We saw film on Kaid and Brock vouched for him," said coach Harper, who was the defensive coordinator at Hastings College for five seasons prior to taking over the head coaching position the first of this year.

"Brock Lauer is the type of player every program wants and needs and Kaid comes from the same successful Norton program," said coach Harper. "That boy (McKenna) will hit you! He runs down hill and will pop the pads!"

"We need linebackers like Kaid who will get out and run. We also look for dual athletes like those who have been successful in two

sports, like football and wrestling. In wrestling, you learn how to control the body and leverage your body against offensive players and that really helps linebackers.

"We are looking forward to Kaid playing for us."

Hastings College plays in the Great Plains Athletic Conference. After a 9-3 season which took them to the national playoffs in 2009 they were 5-5 in 2010. "We graduated some talented individuals," said coach Harper of the win-loss difference.

The Broncos play football in the Osborne Family Sports Complex, which is named after graduate and famous University of Nebraska coach Tom Osborne. The 3,000 seat stadium was built 11 years ago. It includes a weight room of over 5,000 square feet and a brand new playing turf will be installed for next season.

Kaid is the son of Jennifer and Brian McKenna.



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TOPICS TO DISCUSS

1. SUPPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES DURING DROUGHT CONDITIONS
2. CATTLE MINERAL PROGRAMS
3. HORN FLY CONTROL



Kaid McKenna signs with Hastings College



Kaid McKenna, outstanding Norton Community High School senior center and linebacker for the Blue Jay football team, has signed a letter of intent to play football this fall for Hastings College, Hastings, Neb. He is pictured here with his father Brian, mother Jennifer and head Norton football coach Lucas Melvin.

~ Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck and Congratulations from... **Bridges Group, Inc. INSURANCE**