# **Booster of the Year** honored for his service

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Clayton Cox of Norton has been named the 21st recipient of the prestigious "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award, presented annually by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

Clayton received the plaque for the honor at halftime of the Norton-Ellis boys basketball game last Thursday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton. He received a loud round of applause as the award was presented to him on behalf of the Blue Jay Booster Club by Norton Activities Director Dustin McEwen.

The award is given annually to a person in our community who supports Norton Community High School programs and activities in a positive way.

"Congratulations to this year's recipient of the Booster of the Year award," said Norton basketball announcer David Will over the public address system.

"Clayton moved back to the Norton Community in 1996. He and his wife, Cathy, have five children, four of whom graduated from Norton Community High School. They also currently have 10 grandchildren.

"When he is not working on the farm, you can usually find him spending time with family or out on the golf course with friends.

"Clayton has spent four years as a junior high football assistant coach, four years as a junior high boys basketball assistant coach, one year as a junior high girls basketball head coach and four years as a high school golf assistant coach.

"Clayton has served as president of the Booster Club and has been a member for many years!

"Clayton can always be counted on to be there if something needs to be done, whether it's leading off a cross country meet (in a golf cart, of course) or being a timer at a track meet.

"He, along with the help of others, has helped provide various things for the school sports programs whenever possible.

"Clayton has always said, 'I believe high school athletics provide one of the greatest life lessons for youth. You have to work hard for success and earn your right to be there.'

"He would like to thank the Norton community and the school and looks forward to attending and supporting many more events."

### **Background of award**

The annual award by the Blue Jay Booster Club is made possible by a memorial in honor of the late Tommy Davison, who was considered to be the ultimate Norton Blue Jay sports

The award is based upon nominations by the booster club members of persons who have gone above and beyond as a fan of Norton sports.

Clayton's name will be engraved along with the names of previous winners on the plaque in the lobby of the NCHS Stull Gym.



Norton's Clayton Cox shows his "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award to his grandchildren and his wife, Cathy. Pictured are, from left, front: Cara, Corwyn, Chloe; back: Clayton, Cambrie, Cathy, Collin. The children's parents are Cayla and Joe Cox. Clayton received the prestigious award during halftime of he Norton-Ellis boys basketball game in the NCHS Stull Gym on Thursday in Norton.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

## Junior varsity wrestlers put on good show at Bill Voss

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers completed an outstanding season with some great performances in the Bill Voss Novice Tournament in Colby on Saturday, Feb. 9.

Eleven Norton wrestlers earned individual medals with four of them being gold.

Champions were Kyle Bell, 113; Riley Hager, 120; Derek Rowh, 132 and Mike Kasson,

Toby Nickell, 138 and Andre Valencia, 220, each placed runner-up.

Skylar Johnson, 106 and Chandler Sumner, 195, each finished third.

Fourth place finishes went to Garret Otter, 120; Chris Chastain, 170 and Michael Johnson, 285.

Weston Erbert also competed at 126 pounds.

"For the most part, this was a good tournament showing and a nice way to end the season," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller.

"I felt we were a little sluggish at times and not as sharp but I think we can contribute it to this being our third weekend in a row of competition and more intense work outs in practice this past week. Our guys have been training right along with the varsity in preparation for the regional tournament and maybe were a little fatigued early; however we seemed to get better as the day progressed."

Norton had a total win-loss record of 26-14.

Named "Junior Varsity Wrestlers of the Week" by the Norton coaches were Kyle Bell and Mike Kasson.

"Kyle won his first tournament championship. He won by a decision over his Garden City opponent in the finals. The Garden City wrestler had seen varsity action for the Buffaloes throughout the year. Kyle is a very coachable young man and really wants to do well. He just continues to get better. He had been very close in other tournaments this season.

jured for most of the season and was able to come back to participate in our last tournament. I thought conditioning might be a big factor for Mike but he wrestled extremely well. I was impressed with his three wins. This was a quality bracket and Mike pretty well dominated it."

Andre Valencia also won the fastest fall award by an upper weight. Andre pinned his opponent from Colby in :17 seconds. "Andre is our foreign exchange student from Mexico who decided to try wrestling. I think Andre would tell you he didn't realize how hard we would have to work at this sport but he will benefit from his experience. It is nice to have him be able to take the lessons he has gained here and his trophy back to his home country.

"I have been pleased with the progress of this group. I expect them to be vying for varsity spots next season. Several have the potential to do very well and contribute a great deal to the tradition of Norton wrestling. I am extremely excited for the future with our young wrestlers."

### **Individual matches**

106 - Skylar Johnson pinned Dakota Slack, Phillipsburg, in 1:24; was pinned in :40 by Tanner Ellias, Colby, in :40, pinned "Mike Kasson has been in- Reed Rome, Hugoton, in 2:49 and pinned Nate Laporte, Hays, in 5:03 to place third.

113 - Kyle Bell pinned Rance Rumbaugh, Hays, in: 27; pinned Peter Keller, Garden City, in 3:30 and won a 10-5 decision over Cris Vivador, Garden City, to win the championship.

120 - Riley Hager won a 9-4 decision over Joe Erskin, Holcomb; won an 8-6 decision over Garren Beckman, Hill City and won a 9-4 decision over Tristan Cooper, Goodland, to win the pinned Kiowa Higdon, Hays, in Lucas Coulter, Colby, in :17; championship.

120 - Garret Otter won a 10-1 major decision over Jacob Thorell, Hays; was pinned in 5:08 by Tristan Cooper, Goodland; won an 8-1 decision over Tucker Martin, Hugoton and lost a 7-3 decision to Garren City; pinned Q. Mead, Garden Beckman, Hill City, to place fourth.

126 - Weston Erbert was pinned in 5:00 by Hunter Kerbow, Hugoton and was pinned in 3:39 by Andrew Voss, Colby.

132 - Derek Rowh pinned Stephen Windholz, Hays, in :58; pinned Peter Nyugen, Scott City, in 1:00 and won a 6-1 decision over Skyler Underhill, Phillipsburg, to win the championship.

138 - Toby Nickell won a 4-1 decision over Tathan Burkhart, Hays, lost an ultimate tiebreaker 4-3 to Bryce Amberger, Colby, to place second.

145- Mike Kasson pinned Bryson Wesley, Oberlin, in 1:55; won a 6-1 decision over Garrett Rose, Colby and pinned Justin Pacheco, St. Francis, in 1:21 to win the championship.

170 - Chris Chastain was pinned in :44 by Matt Marez, Garden City; lost a tech fall 17-0 to Andrew Makings, Phillipsburg; lost a 7-5 decision to Randal Long, Garden City;

2:29 and pinned D.J. Gassman, Goodland, in 1:37 to place

195 - Chandler Sumner was

pinned in :48 by Braydon Delzeit, Hays; was pinned in :54 by Angel Gonzalez, Garden

City, in 3:30; pinned Brady

Slinger, Colby, in 4:37 to place 220 - Andre Valencia pinned

won a 9-4 decision over Colyn Gugelman, Colby; was pinned in 3:41 by Luis Castaneda, Garden City, to place second.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned by Leo Jirak, Oakley, in 3:59; pinned Ben Gladding, Oberlin, in 2:22; pinned Connor Boxler, Phillipsburg, in 2:36 and was pinned in 5:11 by Leo Jirak, Oakley, to place fourth.

### Sudoku Solution #2818-M

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<b>5</b> © 2009 Hom	3	6	1	4	8	2	7	9

## Sub-State basketball to be held in Norton

### By Dick Boyd nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Norton will host the Class 3A Sub-State Basketball Tournament, which will be held next week.

Although Norton is the host team, first round games will be played at the higher seeded school.

Teams in the tournament, in addition to Norton, will be Russell, Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, Hoisington, Phillipsburg, Ellsworth, Beloit and Minneapolis.

First round girls games will be on Monday.

Norton (11-9) is seeded No.3 and will host Minneapolis (9-11) in a 7 p.m. contest on Monday in the NCHS Stull Gym.

In other first round games on Monday, No.1 seed Russell (15-5) will host No.8 Hays-TMP (6-13); No.4 Hoisington (10-10) will host No.5 Phillipsburg (9-10) and No.2 Ellsworth (12-8) will host No.7 Beloit (8-12). All of the games will begin at 7 p.m.

It will be a single elimination tournament.

Winners of Monday's games will play in the semi-finals on Thursday in Norton. The Russell-TMP and Hoisington-Phillipsburg winners will play along with the Ellsworth-Beloit and Norton-Minneapolis winners.

Winners of these contests will play at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gym for the championship and a trip to the Class 3A State Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.

### **BOYS**

First round games will be on Tuesday.

The No.6 seeded Norton boys (7-13) will travel to play No.3 seeded Hoisington (16-4) in a 7

p.m. contest. In other first round games on Tuesday, No.1 seed Phillipsburg (17-1) will host No.8 Russell (1-19); No.4 Hays TMP (8-11) will host No.5 Minneapolis (8-12) and No.2 Beloit (18-2) will host No.7 Ellsworth (3-17). All of the games will begin at

Good luck to the

Norton teams

as you play at Sub-State!

Winners of the Phillipsburg-Russell and Havs-TMP-Minneapolis games and winners of the Beloit-Ellsworth and Norton-Hoisington contests will play in the semi-finals on Friday in the NCHS Stull Gym

Winners of these contests will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gym for the championship and a trip to

the Class 3A State Tournament the next week in Hutchinson.

Admission Admission for first round games will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for kindergarten through 12th

will be admitted free. Admission for semi-final and final games will be \$6 for adults and \$5 for K-12.

grade. Pre-kindergarten children

### Weather Report

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