

Norton wrestling to begin

By DICK BOYD
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The Class 3-2-1A defending state champion Norton Community High School wrestling team will open the 2013-14 season this Friday when they host Phillipsburg in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton. Varsity and junior varsity matches will be wrestled, beginning at 6 p.m.

This Saturday, tournament action will begin when the Norton varsity competes in the annual Hoxie Invitational, beginning at 9 a.m. and the junior varsity wrestles in the annual St. Francis Invitational, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

were in a re-building mode in 2011-12 when they finished an uncharacteristic 16th in the state tourney in Hays.

Norton returned to championship form last season, compiling an 8-2 overall record, winning the Mid-Continent League, the toughest Regional Tournament in the state and the State Tournament title in a dominating fashion!

Coach Bill Johnson is starting his 25th year as the head wrestling coach at Norton. His career record at Norton is 212-56 which is winning 79 percent of all matches.

in 2012-13.

Top wrestlers

The returning five state medalists will lead the team this year. Seniors Alec Hager, Branson Addington and Ethan Ross all won state medals last season. Hager brought home his second straight state medal after spending his freshman year wrestling behind four time state placer and 2010 and 2013 state champion John Risewick. Two first year varsity sophomores Caysean Campbell and Jared Tallent brought home their first state medals.

Also returning is 2012 state qualifier Cole Renner, who sat out a portion of the 2013 season with a knee injury.

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

Student managers are Macayla Kent, Lindsay Addington and Austin Hager.

Returning lettermen

Norton has ten returning lettermen. They are sophomore Gavin Lively, 145, 25-11 record in 2012-13; junior Caysean Campbell, 106, 29-13 record in 2012-13 and state runner-up; junior Jared Tallent, 138, 33-16 record in 2012-13 and sixth in state; junior Kendall Miller, 160, 19-11 record in 2012-13; senior Ethan Ross, 113, 32-9 record in 2012-13, and fifth in state; senior Branson Addington, 120, 29-19 record in 2012-13 and fourth in state; senior Alec Hager, 126, 30-8 record in 2012-13 and state runner-up, fourth place in state in 2011-12; senior Cole Renner, 170, 9-9 record in 2012-13 (injured); senior Kolton Harting, 182, 17-17 record in 2012-13; senior Michael Johnson, 220, 7-11 record

Top newcomers

We can look for breakout seasons for three wrestlers who spent time in the varsity lineup last season: senior Kolton Harting, junior Kendall Miller and sophomore Gavin Lively. They could bring home their first state medals.

The Blue Jays also have a stable of young wrestlers who spent time on the junior varsity and could help in the varsity lineup this season. Some of them could contest for state medals but must prove themselves.

“Our strength is ten returning varsity starters. Most of these young men spent all last season in the varsity lineup gaining valuable experience.

“Over 30 athletes have shown up to start the season. These numbers will give us much depth and competition for the 14 varsity spots. Before Christmas break, our young men will be trying to find their spot on the team. As always, we may not get everyone at their state weights until the second semester. It is a long season and our wrestlers do a good job of planning accordingly.

“Our weakness continues to be in our lack of numbers in the upper weights.”

Norton High School Wrestling Schedule 2013-14

Mon., Dec. 2	- Blue and Yellow Classic Junior High Gym 5:30 p.m.
Fri., Dec. 6	- Phillipsburg Dual, Varsity, Jr. Varsity, Norton 6 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 7	- Hoxie Invitational-Varsity Hoxie 9 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 7	- St. Francis Invitational - Junior Varsity St. Francis 9:30 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 13	- Southern Valley Invitational-Junior Varsity Oxford, Neb. 1 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 14	- Clay Center Invitational - Varsity Clay Center 9 a.m.
Fri., Dec. 20	- Mid-Continent League Round Robin, Varsity Norton 3 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 21	- Goodland Holiday Classic - Varsity Goodland 10 a.m.
Sat., Dec. 21	- Cambridge Invitational - JV Cambridge, Neb. 10 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 10	- Ulysses Dual - Varsity, Junior Varsity, Norton, 6 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 11	- J.R. Durham Invitational - Varsity, Jr. Varsity Norton 9:30 a.m.
Fri., Jan. 17	- Elm Creek Invitational - Jr. Varsity Elm Creek, Neb. 2:30 p.m.
Jan. 17-18	- Newton Tourney of Champions - Varsity Newton 9 a.m.
Thurs., Jan. 23	- Colby Dual - Varsity, Jr. Varsity Colby 6 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 1	- Western Tourney of Champions - Varsity Ellis 9:30 a.m.
Sat., Feb. 1	- Arapahoe Invitational - Jr. Varsity Arapahoe, Neb. 10 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 7	- Smith Center Dual (Senior Night) Norton 6 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 8	- Panther Classic - Varsity, Jr. Varsity Phillipsburg 9 a.m.
Fri., Feb. 14	- Goodland Dual - Varsity, Jr. Varsity Goodland 6:30 p.m.
Sat., Feb. 15	- Bill Voss Novice Tourney - Jr. Varsity Colby 9 a.m.
Feb. 21-22	- 3-2-1A Regional Tourney - Varsity TBD 1 p.m.
Feb. 28-March 1	- 3-2-1A State Tournament - Varsity Hays 9 a.m.

Squad members

Norton wrestling squad members are: Alec Hager, Branson Addington, Cole Renner, Ethan Ross, Garret Otter, Kolton Harting, Michael Johnson, Toby Nickell, seniors; Caysean Campbell, Christian Chastain, Dalton Vanover, Derek Rowh, Jared Tallent, Kendall Miller, Lance Armbrister, juniors; Alex Hjort, Gavin Lively, Jesse Courtain, Jordan Dole, Kyle Bell, Mike Kasson, Riley Hager, Skylar Johnson, Weston Erbert, sophomores; Chis Davis, Jacob Green, Kade Unterseher, Layton Miller, Maverick Engel, Trenton Wright, freshmen.

Coach's credentials

A graduate of Flinthills 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 the 18 coaches and boosters of high school wrestling named "2005 Man-of-the-Year" by Wrestling USA Magazine.

Centralia takes first in the state football finals

By DICK BOYD
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Centralia was too much for La Crosse in the Class 2-1A state football championship game and Silver Lake dominated No.1 state ranked Beloit in the Class 3A state title contest, both played on Saturday.

Centralia, who lost an 11 point lead to Meade in last year's state championship game, rolled through their regular season, then delivered a near-perfect

playoff run.

On Saturday, the Panthers re-deemed last season's finish and completed a historically great season with a 60-0 victory over La Crosse at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays.

Since 2-1A was formed in 1985, it marked the first shutout in a state championship game. Centralia held a 549-108 yardage edge, led 7-0 after the first quarter, 29-0 at halftime and 49-0 after three quarters. Cen-

tralia and Meade have alternated the last five 2-1A crowns.

This year's Centralia team outscored opponents 660-67. Senior running back Sam Steinlage finished the game Saturday with 14 carries for 254 yards and four touchdowns.

La Crosse surpassed expectations and finished 12-1 with the second state berth in school annals. The first came in a 20-14 overtime loss to Centralia two years ago.

Beloit, who had dominated teams all season, came into the Class 3A state football championship game on Saturday in Hutchinson against a Silver Lake team with one loss but a team competing in their fourth straight state final.

Silver Lake set the record for most points ever scored in a Kansas state championship game on any level en route to an 82-38 victory.

Beloit got off to a good start

when Payton Vetter returned the opening kickoff 85 yards to score but Silver Lake answered with a 60-yard scoring drive and scored again after an intercepted pass to take a 13-6 lead. Both teams scored again in the first quarter, which ended with Silver Lake on top 19-14.

The Eagles outscored the Trojans 22-8 in the second period to lead 41-22 at halftime. Beloit scored 16 points in the third quarter but Silver Lake tallied

28 more to lead 69-38. Beloit was scoreless in the fourth period while the Eagles tacked on 13 more points.

Silver Lake ended with 234 yards rushing and 317 passing for 551 total yards of offense. Beloit gained 184 yards on the ground and 170 through the air for 354 total yardage.

Quarterback Dailin Kruger was a big force offensively for Silver Lake. He passed for five touchdowns and ran for three more.

Huskies bring home a victory

By MIKE STEPHENS
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The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team hosted the Western Plains Bobcats on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in Almena, and came away with a 56-20 victory. The Huskies remain undefeated, improving their record to 4-0.

"The Huskies had a balanced offensive attack, with all five starters scoring eight points or more," said head coach Jim

Cole.

A-team Boys (4-0)

Northern Valley - 56
Western Plains - 30
Huskies scoring:
Caden Kinderknecht - 14
Caden Bach - 12
Riley Sides - 9
Nick Stutsman - 9
Briely Yocum - 8
Ross Cole - 2
Jesus Saenz - 2
The Huskies B-team also improved their record to 4-0, beat-

ing the Bobcats 16-2. Seven Huskies players scored baskets to contribute to the win.

B-team Boys (4-0)

Northern Valley - 16
Western Plains - 2
Huskies scoring:
Jesus Saenz - 4
Kale Cox - 2
Brady Rogers - 2
Aidan Baird - 2
Chris Lowry - 2
Carson Buffington - 2
Cooper Mussman - 2

Husky ladies improve season record

By MIKE STEPHENS
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The Northern Valley Junior High girls basketball team beat the Western Plains Bobcats handily, 52-10, on Tuesday, Nov. 26 in Almena, and improved their record to 3-1 on the season.

The key to the Lady Huskies victory was solid shooting and playing very good defense to build a 32-2 halftime lead, ac-

ording to head coach Jim Cole.

A-team Girls (3-1)

Northern Valley - 52
Western Plains - 10
Huskies scoring:
Paige Baird - 16
Chaylee Lowry - 12
HalLee Linner - 6
Brianna Johns - 6
Brianna Sammons - 6
Jasmine Covington - 4
Katie Johnson - 2
The B-team girls beat the

Lady Bobcats 16-4, to improve their record to 3-1, as well, going into the Thanksgiving break.

B-team Girls (3-1)

Northern Valley - 16
Western Plains - 4
Huskies scoring:
Brianna Sammons - 6
Makensy Schroeder - 2
Shayna Speer - 2
Jaden Smith - 2
Kailey Hammond - 2
Jasmine Covington - 2

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WANTED News Editor/Reporter

If you feel you have the tools necessary to write about a variety of topics, and are handy with a camera, then give me a call!

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