

At the Game

50th anniversary of tournament set

By Betty Jean Winston
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The wrestling schedule for this season will kick off for St. Francis on Saturday when they host the Gabel/Jenkins Invitational. The St. Francis Invitational is celebrating its 50th year and has been a tradition for area teams to attend to begin their new season.

Having a home opener is great for both the wrestlers and the fans. It gives the younger wrestlers the security of a home-fan base and the Indian boosters the opportunity to cheer on the Indians and to view area competition early in the season.

This year the always tough tournament will have nine squads competing for the championship including Rawlins County/Atwood, Burlington, Colo.; Colby, Goodland, Norton, Sterling, Colo.; St. Francis, Wichita County/Leoti and Wray, Colo.

Colby repeated as the team champion for the third year in a row last year with Burlington coming in second. St. Francis finished fifth and returning wrestler, Guthmiller, won the 189-pound bracket.

Last year Saintry placed fifth and besides Adam Guthmiller had two other champions, Cody Sherlock, who is not out this year, and Terrance Lamb, who graduated. Also placing in the top four were Garrett Brunk, Foster Grant, Freddy Pacheco and Darris Keller. Grant is not a squad member this year and Brunk, Pacheco and Keller, graduated.

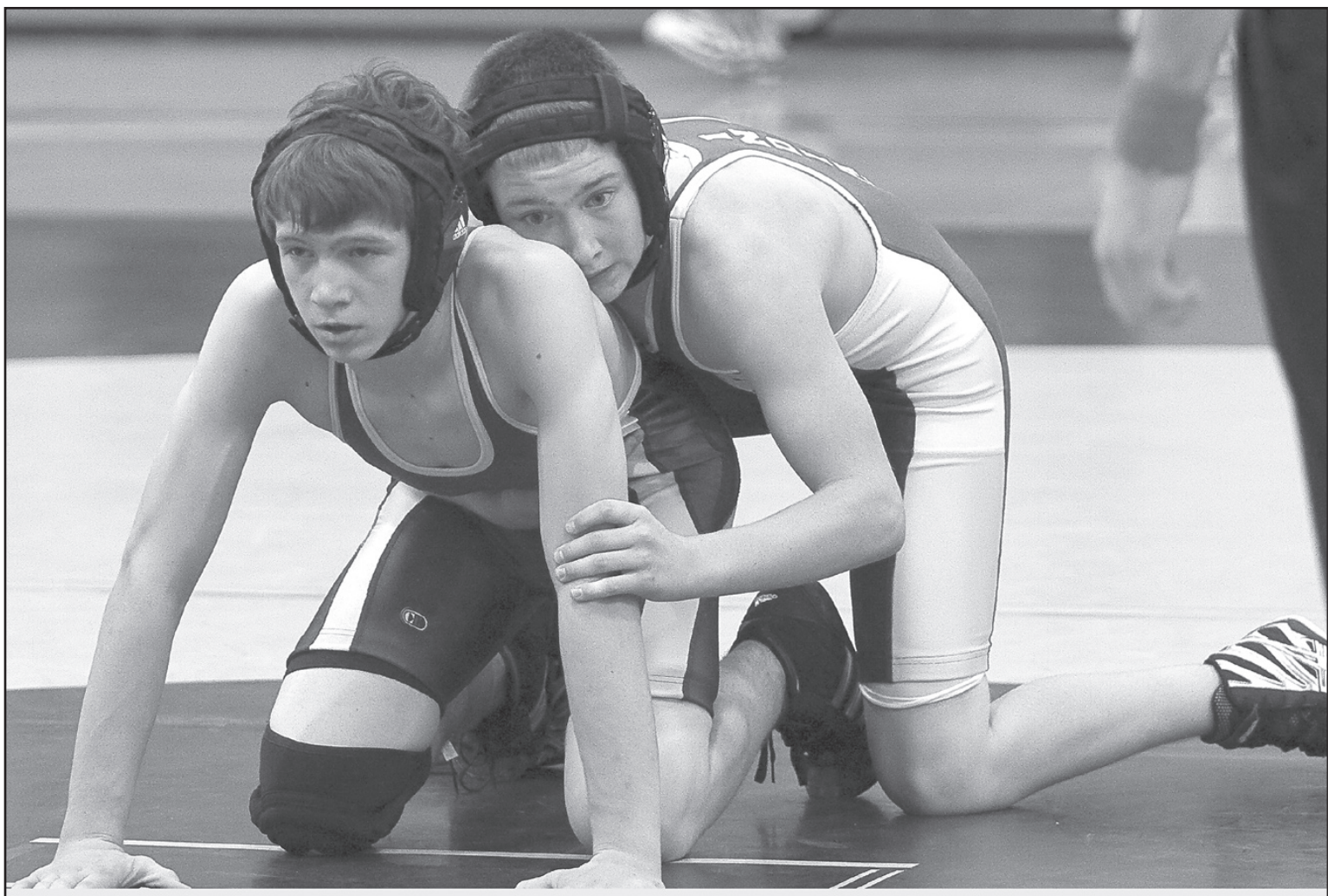
"This is a very tough tournament," said Nate Smith, new St. Francis coach. "Norton will be competing for the state title this year while Burlington and Wray are strong contender in Colorado and Colby and Goodland are power teams. The other teams also have some quality wrestlers. Burlington and Wray competed in the Colorado football playoffs so have only had a week of practice."

The time schedule for the tournament has the first session beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the second session slated for 1 p.m. The finals will take place beginning 15 minutes after the second session. There will be two mats for the consolation and finals. The approximate time is set at 5:30 p.m. but there have been occasions when they have started earlier so plan your attendance accordingly.

First and second place trophies will be given with medals to the first three placers and the consolation champion. Medals will be presented following the championship match in each weight division. Coaches will select by ballot the "Outstanding Wrestler" at the end of the tournament.

2010-2011

This year the high school athletic department gave the fans a treat when they decided to have a winter sports open house with the wrestlers opening the evening. There were seven matches held



OPEN HOUSE — Gaten Cooper (front) and Lane Hoffman were displaying some of their techniques on Friday evening at the winter sports open house.
Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

for those attending to enjoy. Two returning letter winners, Guthmiller and Zach Gienger, served as managers for the younger wrestlers who competed.

Coach Smith, who is also the head football and track coach, will be leading the Indians this year. His prior experience was at Smith Center. Kyle Buffington is returning as assistant coach.

Squad members assembled on Monday, Nov. 15, for their first practice.

"The wrestlers want to work hard," said Coach Smith. "There is some good leadership."

Two team captains have been named for the year and Guthmiller and Gienger were chosen. There will also be two captains chosen

weekly. Those named for the first week of competition are Mickey Leibbrandt, returning letter winner, and Matt White, freshman, who will attend the junior varsity tournament in Goodland on Saturday.

Besides senior Guthmiller the team has five other returning letter winners all sophomores. Named to receive letters following the 09-10 season were Thomas Douthit, Gienger, Casey Keller, M. Leibbrandt and Dylan Wolaver.

"We lost some guys through graduation who were experienced and scored a lot of points for the team," Coach Smith said.

"The good news, besides the guys wanting to work hard, is that St. Francis has a good junior high

wrestling program and Coach Frewen (Mike Frewen, former coach) did a good job of teaching techniques."

St. Francis had kids who attended the summer weightlifting program.

Some kids do everything and spend time together, the coach said. The school leaders are out for all sports so they come to the opening practice in good shape.

Coach Buffington also took a team of wrestlers to the University of Nebraska-Kearney team camp this summer.

"We do have a young squad and they will continue to grow," Coach Smith said. "We have more numbers this year and some kids will move around weight wise.

Wrestling is also an individual sport so kids set their own goals and that means the team score takes care of itself."

Roster

Seniors: Tye Gilliland, Adam Guthmiller.

Juniors: David Leibbrandt. Sophomores: Thomas Douthit, Zach Gienger, Blaine Guggenmos, Casey Keller, Mickey Leibbrandt, Zach Bishop, Austin Manners, Tony Meyer, Dylan Wolaver, Kaleb Zwick, Tyler Raby.

Freshmen: Lane Hoffman, Gaten Cooper, Derek Queen, Matt White, Austin White, Logan Lampe.

Managers/mat maids: Taylor Archibald, Caitlin Northrup.

Bowling News

Wednesday Night Men 10-20

Team standing: 2001 Electronics, Wright and Wrong, Haigler 2, Haigler 1, Krien Steel, Idalia JV, Bonanza Ford, Cheyenne Bowl.

High game (scratch): Haigler 2 705, 2001 Electronics 651, Wright and Wrong 641; (handicap) Haigler 2 923, Haigler 1 838, Wright and Wrong 831.

High series (scratch): Wright and Wrong 1883, 2001 Electronics 1882, Haigler 2 1871; (handicap): Haigler 2 2525, Wright and Wrong 2453, 2001 Electronics 2398.

High game men (scratch): Bob Lippert 200, Ted Harford 198, Jim Wheaton 193; (handicap): Dave Wright 246, Harford 246, Darrell Webster 241.

High series men (scratch): Lippert 550, Wright 515; Blecha (no score). (handicap): Wright 692, Tyler Chamberlain 644, Blecha 643.

Ladies Night Out 10-14

Team standing: Wray Meat Packing, Wright Carpet, Bankwest, Strikers, Bier's Maids, Yehas, Dundy Ag.

High game (scratch): Bier's Maids 574, Wray Meat Packing 563, Wray Meat Packing 534; (handicap) Bier's Maids 796, Wright Carpet 772, Yehas 760.

High series (scratch): Bier's Maids 1608, Wray Meat Packing 1596, Strikers 1504; (handicap): Bier's Maids 2274, Yehas 2221, Wright Carpet 2209.

High game women (scratch): Renea Mathies 176, Ashley Lang 172, Terry Yost 166; (handicap) Lang 262, Kim Ritter 223, Joyce Williams 218.

High series women (scratch): Jeanne Dunn 455, Mathies 441, Yost 437; (handicap) Lang 665, Ritter 579, Nancy Vernon 579.

Ladies Night Out 10-21

Team standing: Wright Carpet, Wray Meat Packing, Bankwest, Strikers, Bier's Maids, Dundy Ag, Yehas.

High game (scratch): Wray Meat Packing 636 Wray Meat Packing 606; Wright Carpet 594; (handicap) Wright Carpet 833, Wray Meat Packing 823, Wright Carpet 809.

High series (scratch): Wray Meat Packing 1733, Wright Carpet 1713, Strikers 1625; (handicap): Wright Carpet 2430, Dundy Ag 2347, Strikers 2312.

High game women (scratch): Kathy Blecha 192, Boots Peterson 191, Rhonda Olson 179; (handicap) Peterson 241, Jenny Wright 234, Wright 232.

High series women (scratch): Blecha 509, Tammy Drommond 504, Wright 500; (handicap) Wright 695, Drommond 654, Kim Ritter 634.

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Monday Night Mixed 11-1

Team standing: ABC-Z, Western State Bank, Neitzel Insurance, Earl's Mowing.

High game (scratch): ABC-Z 617, Western State Bank 545, Neitzel Insurance 541; (handicap) Western State Bank 834, ABC-Z 828, Neitzel Insurance 805.

High series (scratch): ABC-Z 1779, Neitzel Insurance 1473, Western State Bank 1389; (handicap): ABC-Z 2412, Neitzel Insurance 2265, Western State Bank 2256.

High game men (scratch): Brad Merklin 189, Ed Zuege 181, Bill Wilger 172; (handicap): Steve Morris 249, Merklin 247, Wilger 230.

High series men (scratch): E. Zuege 534, Arrie Cox 450, Wilger 447; (handicap): Wilger 621, E. Zuege 618, S. Morris 617.

High game women (scratch): Amelia Zuege 185, Dorothy Hankins 162, Pat Rose 139; (handicap) A. Zuege 241, Hankins 225, Rachel Schmidt 206.

High series women (scratch): A. Zuege 487, Rose 375, Janice Krien 345; (handicap) A. Zuege 655, Schmidt 588, Rose 543.

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