

# At the Game

## Preparations for season opener nearly finalized

By Betty Jean Winston

With seven returning wrestlers who have State experience including three State placers, fans are excited about the prospects of the Indian wrestling season. Add to that 11 additional returning letter winners and it is obvious that the team will have depth at a number of weight classes. Rounding out the squad are one senior and one junior who did not wrestle last year and eight freshmen, several of whom bring good junior high records with them.

Dylan Loyd placed second at State at 112 pounds last year while Derek Ross was third at 160 and Trevor Richard, fifth at 103.

Also attending State were Trey Hilt, Gabe Gienger, Gabe Walz and Gabe Smull.

"Senior Trey Hilt was an overtime away from placing at 152 pounds," Coach Larry Gabel said. "Junior Gabe Walz was very close to placing, sophomore Gabe Smull has worked very hard at improving this technique this last spring and summer and junior Gabe Gienger has moved up to 145 pounds to compete this year."

The returning senior letter winners besides Hilt are Kyle Buffington, Luke Keller, Nick Keller, Troy Zwegardt and Grant Keller. Juniors, on the roster besides Ross, Gienger and Walz, include Devin Rohweder, Josh Walters, Seth Swihart and Mario Tafoya (provisional) and additional sophomores besides Loyd, Richard and Smull are Matt Brown and Tal Earl (provisional). This rounds out the returning letter winners.

"St. Francis has a young but enthusiastic group of grapplers," Coach Gabel said. "The tradition in St. Francis is second to none in Kansas."

Last year the Indians won seven non-league duals, three league duals and placed fourth at the St. Francis Invitational, third at the Brush Invitational, first at the Wray Invitational, first at the Sterling Dual Tournament, sixth at the Prairie Classic, first at the Cheyenne Wells Dual Tournament, third at the Northwest Kansas League Tournament, second at regionals and ninth at state.

Returning are several wrestlers who finished last season in the top five in a number of team statistics.

Ross led the team in wins with 34 and also had the most falls with 19, and the most total points scored

with 174.

Also in the top five in total points scored were Smull with 150, Richard with 140 and Loyd with 139.

Smull (30), Loyd (28) and Walz (27) were in the top five in wins and in falls Smull had 18 and Richard and Loyd, 14 each.

Hilt, Buffington, Brown and Zwegardt were also among the top five in areas such as takedowns, escapes, reversals, near falls, fewest losses, major decisions or technical falls.

Earning championships at one or more tournaments last year were Richard, Loyd, Smull, Hilt, Ross, Buffington and Walz.

"When it comes to weights, our wrestlers are bunching up in the upper weights and not all good kids will be able to be on varsity," Coach Gabel said. "We are a little thin in the lower weights

"The skill level looks good and they (wrestlers) are very positive and willing to do what it takes. I feel we have good leadership in the seniors."

The season begins with the strong St. Francis Invitational on Saturday (see related story on page one). This year because the Indian football squad was involved in post-season play, the practice sessions for the wrestlers were limited. Although this may affect the first outings, the squad is expected to jell quickly.

Colby repeated as winner of the Invitational last year with Goodland and Scott City, all 4A schools, placing second and third. St. Francis, a 2A school, was the fourth place finisher.

December is always a very busy month for the mat men. Before Christmas they not only compete in the St. Francis Invitational but have league duals with Colby and Oberlin, non-league duals with Brush and Manitou Springs and tournaments at Brush and Wray.

Coach Gabel and assistant coach Steve Jenkins have provided consistency to the successful Indian wrestling program by being at the helm for a number of years. In recent years they have been helped by Daryl Loyd. Leading the junior high wrestlers this year will be coaches Jenkins and Mike Frewen. In the past, Coach Frewen was a coach at Osborne.

"Goals for the year include having fun, improving each day and doing the best we can," Coach Gabel said. "Hopefully we have the



MATT BROWN (right) practices a hold on Devin Rohweder (left) during a recent wrestling practice. Mat men are working on new skills and sharpening old ones.

Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

motivation to do this.

"Besides the returning State qualifiers and letter winners, we have some very talented yet unproven freshmen. Two or three of these underclassmen could make their respective weight classes very interesting during this upcoming season."

The complete roster and schedule for the season follows:

### Roster

Seniors: Hilt, Buffington, L. Keller, N. Keller, Zwegardt, G. Keller, Teegen Callicrate

Juniors: Ross, G. Gienger, Walz, Tafoya, Rohweder, Walters, Swihart,

Cody Barnhart

Sophomores: Richard, Loyd, Brown, Smull, Earl

Freshmen: Brady Frewen, Jordan Gienger, Joe Miller, Darren Laffond, Russell Rogers, Zack Mills, Andy Waite, Brennon Wilger

### Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 6: St. Francis Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11: Colby, there, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 13: Brush, there; Manitou Springs, at Brush

Saturday, Dec. 14: Brush Invitational, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 19: Oberlin, here, 6:30

p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20: Wray Invitational, there, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 9: Hoxie, there, 6:30

Friday, Jan. 16: Oakley, here, 6:30

p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18: Sterling Dual Tournament, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 24: Prairie Classic, Hays, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25: Prairie Classic, Hays

Saturday, Jan. 31: Northwest Kansas League Tournament, Oberlin, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 6: Goodland, there, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7: Cheyenne Wells Dual Tournament, 11 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 13: Atwood, here, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 20: Saturday, Feb. 21: Regional Wrestling

Friday, Feb. 27: Saturday, Feb. 28: State Wrestling

### C-team/9-10/novice

Saturday, Dec. 6: C-team tournament, Goodland, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7: 9-10 tournament, Goodland, 9 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Bill Voss Novice Tournament, Colby, 8:30 a.m.

## Hoxie outscores young Indian teams

By Betty Jean Winston

Hoxie defeated St. Francis 35 to 26 in seventh grade boys basketball action and Hoxie was also victorious over the eighth grade team, 55-25.

### Eighth grade

Hoxie ran away from St. Francis in the second quarter and held on to take the win 55-25. Saintry now holds a 1-4 record.

Ted Crabtree scored 12 points to led the St. Francis Indian team. "Hoxie is a good team and we

knew that going in," Coach Jeff Beims said. "We thought we could hang with them though by rebounding and limiting their scoring opportunities.

"Unfortunately we were unable to keep them off the boards due to a large extent to foul trouble.

"Our big guys spent most of the evening sitting beside me, and it's hard to get rebounds from the bench. We hung with them through most of the first half, but we let it get away from us in the

third quarter."

SF 08 08 02 07 25  
H 09 20 10 16 55

Scoring: Crabtree 12, David Guthmiller 4, Keaton Frewen 4, Corbin Sherlock 2, R.L. Walz 2, Gavin Smull 1.

### Seventh grade

After a strong second quarter the Indians led Hoxie 16-15 at half time but Hoxie prevailed in the second half to take the win.

Sam Sowers with 10 points and Trent Kinen with eight led the In-

dian scoring.

"We played pretty well," Coach Kent Kechter said. "We just missed several close shots in the second half.

"Our execution, skills and understanding is getting much better."

SF 05 11 06 04 26  
H 10 05 08 12 35

Scoring: Sowers 10, Kinen 8, Trevor Hilt 4, Jesse Pacheco 2, Ethan Zwegardt 2.

## — Bowling News —

### Wednesday Night Mens 11/19

Team standings: Cox Construction 31-17, First National Bank 30-18, Haigler 29-19, Grace Flying Service 26-22, Krien Steel Buildings 26-22, Post Plumbing 25-23

High game (scratch): Wayne Mahon 204, Shaun Henry 196, Kale Zimbelman 190

High series (scratch): Mahon 558, Bill Cox 552, Henry 546

### Monday Night Mixed 11/24

Team standings: Cheyenne Bowl 32-16, Frewen Insurance 26-22, Captain Hooks Fine Dining 25-23, Krien Pharmacy 22-26, Zimbelman Tubing 20-28, Johnson Body Shop 19-29

High game (handicap): Bob Hankins 250, Sally Baird 231, Melissa Zwegardt 229, Kale Zimbelman 228, Tami Merchant 228, Josh Moberly 224

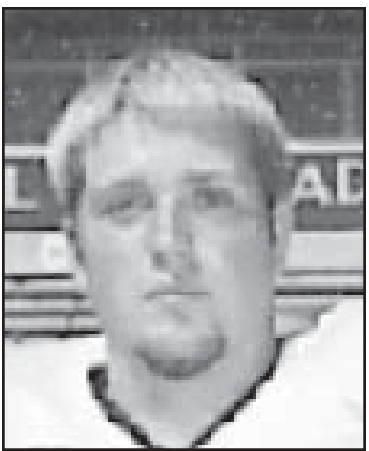
High series (handicap): Hankins 636, Moberly 625, Merchant 614, Zwegardt 614, Tammy Zimbelman 601, K. Zimbelman 583

### Wednesday Night Mens 11/26

Team Standings: Cox Construction 35-17, 1st National Bank 32-20, Haigler 31-21, Krien Steel Buildings 29-23, Grace Flying Service 27-25, Post Plumbing 25-

High game (scratch): Rod Heaton 207, Ed Schauer 195, Bill Smith 192

High series (scratch): Heaton 563, Wade Krien 513, Smith 509



Zwegardt

## — College Sports —

### Football

#### Southwest Missouri State

Jon Zwegardt, former St. Francis Indian football player, who has spent the 2002 and 2003 seasons playing for Southwest Missouri State, was one of four players from this team to be named honorable mention in the Gateway Football Conference end-of-the-season voting by league coaches. Zwegardt plays on the offensive line. One of the Bears was also named on the second team. The Bears finished the season with a 4-7 record and ended up 1-6 in the very strong Gateway Football Conference.

### Basketball

#### Fort Hays State University

##### Micahel Wolters

Fort Hays State University scored a 92-73 win over Mid America Nazarene Tuesday, Nov. 25, which gave the Tigers a 2-0 season record (they also won two exhibition games).

Wolters of St. Francis scored eight points for the winners going 2-for-2 from three points range while also hitting a two-pointer.



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310 W. Washington, St. Francis, Kan. 67756 785-332-3162