

# At the Game

## Indians ready to begin season

By Betty Jean Winston

Things are exciting on the wrestling front! St. Francis will have a squad that features eight mat men who have State experience. Some of them like Derek Ross, Dylan Loyd, Trevor Richard, Jordan Gienger and Seth Swihart traveled to State in 2003 while Gabe Gienger, Gabe Smull and Gabe Walz were there in 2002.

Leading the way as returning '03 State placers are Richard who placed second at 103, Ross and Loyd, who each placed third, at 171 and 125 respectively.

Information on the St. Francis Invitational on Saturday can be found on page one of *The Herald*.

The squad is composed of 21 mat men, who are busy increasing their skills. Each wrestler recognizes this is a season-long process.

"Just because you were in shape for football, does not mean you are in shape for wrestling," Coach Larry Gabel said.

Although wrestlers can have a strong team spirit, each wrestler is out on the mat by himself and he will need the individual skills necessary to compete well. This is what the opening practices are helping to develop.

"Sometimes I don't think people realize how hard they (athletes) work. Even though it is work, we try and make it fun, therefore they don't always realize how hard it is," Coach Gabel said.

Besides the wrestlers who attended State, Sainty has additional returning letter winners including Devin Rohweder, Josh Walters, Matt Brown, Tal Earl, Brady Frewen, Russell Rogers and Brennan Wilger.

"The attitude is really good, very positive," Coach Gabel said. "We realize we have an opportunity in front of us. If we work hard our dream can come true."

Coach Gabel said that the first practice of the season was one of the best practices he has ever had.

"The skill and intensity level looked really good. Of course they need to work on getting in good

wrestling shape."

The weight room over the summer was used by the wrestlers and a number of them attended tournaments or camps during the off-season. Coach Gabel said it will be evident which wrestlers took advantage of these opportunities.

"We don't have depth in each weight," Coach Gabel said. "And a number of the wrestlers are fairly young."

Coach Gabel said the main goals for the year were to do the best that they can and have fun.

The Northwest Kansas League will be strong again this year.

"Oakley is solid, Hoxie has some outstanding individuals, Goodland and Colby are strong again."

And St. Francis will be doing their best.

"We're going to be tough," Coach Gabel said. "We look good on paper; we'll see how we perform."

Last year for the first time, St. Francis competed in the Southwest Invitational at Indianola and they will be returning this year.

"It was good to see some different wrestlers, have some wrestlers we don't know," Coach Gabel said.

Tournament-wise St. Francis was hot last December winning all three tournaments they participated in. Additionally they were in the top five at every tournament including being third at League, third at Regionals and fifth at State.

Looking at the strengths of some of the returning wrestlers, a number of them were in the top five in a variety of categories at the end of last season including:

Wins: Ross, Loyd, Richard, Swihart, J. Gienger

Total points: Ross, Loyd, Richard, J. Gienger

Takedowns: Loyd, Richard, Ross, J. Gienger, Gabe Smull

Falls: Ross, Richard, Loyd, J. Gienger, Walz

Reversals: J. Gienger, G. Gienger, Loyd, Richard, Ross

Begin the wrestling season by attending the St. Francis Invitational on Saturday and use the printed schedule to keep up with the team



COACH LARRY GABEL demonstrates a wrestling move with the help of Jordan Gienger. Practices have been busy as the team anticipates the tournament on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

during the season.

### Roster

Seniors: G. Gienger, Rohweder, Ross, Swihart, Walters, Walz Juniors: Brown, Earl, Loyd, Richard, Gabe Smull,

Sophomores: Frewen, J. Gienger, Darren Laffond, Zach Mills, Rogers, Wilger

Freshmen: Carpenter, David Guthmiller, Justin Sherlock, Gavin Smull

### Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 4: St. Francis Invitational, 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, Dec. 9: Colby, here, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10: Brush, there; Manitou Springs, at Brush

Saturday, Dec. 11: Brush Invitational, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 17: Oberlin, there, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18: Wray Invitational, there, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 7: Hoxie, here, 6:30

Friday, Jan. 14: Oakley, there, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15: Sterling Dual Tournament, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 21: Prairie Classic, Hays, 3 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 22: Prairie Classic, Hays

Saturday, Jan. 29: Northwest Kansas League Tournament, Atwood, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 4: Goodland, here, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 5: Southwest Invitational Tournament, Indianola, 11 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 11: Atwood, there, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 18: Saturday, Feb. 19: Regional Wrestling

Friday, Feb. 25: Saturday, Feb. 26: State Wrestling

C-team/9-10/novice Saturday, Dec. 4: C-team

Saturday, Feb. 14: Bill Voss Novice Tournament, Colby, 9 a.m.

## Team collects victory Nov. 22

By Betty Jean Winston

The seventh grade scored another win in junior high boys basketball action on Monday night, Nov. 22, on the home court. The final score of the game was St. Francis 33, Hoxie 25.

The eighth grade fell to Hoxie 44-30 with five players scoring for the Indians.

### Eighth grade

Hoxie scored in double figures in three of the four quarters Monday night to earn the win. St. Francis had its best quarter in the second period when they made 10 points.

"This loss is hard to swallow, not simply because we got beat, but more because of the way we got beat," Coach Jeff Beims said. "We struggled to find a rhythm, we couldn't hit snow had we fallen off a polar bear, and we turned the ball over every chance we got."

"Those things will happen at times. What concerns me is that we seemed to give up when it became obvious that things weren't going our way. Those that know me know that I hate to lose, but I can live with it if we go down fighting. I'm not convinced our team did that against Hoxie."

SF 06 10 07 07 30  
H 13 09 10 12 44

Scoring: Sam Sowers 9, Brennan Van Allen 9, Jesse Pacheco 6, Trent Kinen 4, Ethan Zwegardt 2.

### Seventh grade

Matt Raile and Trent Raile with 15 and 14 points respectively led the way for the Indians to outscore Hoxie 33-25. The best quarter for St. Francis was the second when



ALEX LONG sets up the offense and the seventh grade team scores a win over Hoxie in basketball action in St. Francis.

Staff photo by Betty Jean Winston

they put in 10 points compared to three for Hoxie.

SF 06 10 09 08 33  
H 06 03 08 08 25

"We played pretty well throughout the game," Coach Kent Kechter said. "Hoxie gave us all we wanted. We were pretty evenly matched, and were fortunate to come out on top."

Scoring: M. Raile 15, T. Raile 14, Drew Zwegardt 2, Alex Long 2.

## HERALD HAPPENINGS



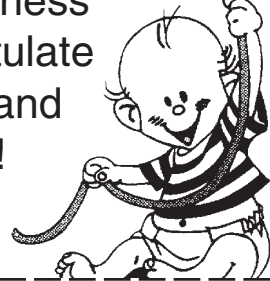
## Christmas Supplement

This supplement will be filled with Christmas Cheer: Letters to Santa, Recipes and Memories. The advertising is reserved for well wishes!

## FIRST BABY

With the oncome of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

Coming in January a bundle of business ready to congratulate the new baby and the parents!



## Winter Sports Tab

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders! To be inserted in your paper in January.

For more details, contact Casey McCormick at the Saint Francis Herald at 785-332-3162

Bird City Times

The Saint Francis Herald .. 785-332-3162

