

Norton graduate honored

Football star to be inducted into Hall of Fame

By DICK BOYD

Dustin McEwen, who was an outstanding all-around athlete for Norton Community High School and star football player for Fort Hays State University, will be enshrined into the Tiger Sports Hall of Fame on Saturday, Sept. 18.

In addition to McEwen, the 2004 class includes Petrece Faulkner, Lowell Smith and Fred Andregg.

The four will be inducted at a morning reception in the Memorial Union on the college campus. The inductees will also be honored at half-time of the Fort Hays-Chadron State College football game that begins at 2 p.m.

They will also be recognized at the Fort Hays-Regis University volleyball contest at 7 p.m.

Those wishing to attend the reception may purchase tickets at the college athletic office. They are \$10 and need to be purchased prior to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 13.

Dustin McEwen

Mr. McEwen, 1995 graduate, made the Fort Hays record books for his outstanding passing between 1991 and 1994.

He passed for 5,718 yards and 42 touchdowns in three seasons as the starting Tiger quarterback. He is second on the passing list in career yards, touchdowns, attempts and completions to 1996 Hall of Fame inductee Robert Long.

McEwen led the Tigers to a 19-14-1 record in three seasons, including the schools first-ever National College Athletic Association II football playoff game in 1993.

He was a two-time All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference award winner. He also rushed for 18 touchdowns as a Tiger.

McEwen is second on the all-time list in total touchdowns to former quarterback Bob Johnson with a total of 60.

McEwen competed in football, basketball and track for Norton Community High School and played baseball for the Blue Jays in the summer. Although he was outstanding in all four sports, even competing in the state track meet, football was his specialty.

Norton was 27-5 in the three years the Blue Jays were quarterbacked by McEwen.

In addition to playing quarterback, he started some games as a freshman on defense and played linebacker and defensive end and defensive back during his four-year career.

He was also the Norton punter, although he was only required to punt 12 times his senior season.

When he completed his senior season, McEwen had become Norton's all-time passing leader, moving past John Tacha.

While playing for the Blue Jays, he completed 158 of 316 passes for 2,648 yards, or an average of 16.75 yards per completion with a 50 percent completion rate.

Heran the ball 171 times for 750 yards, averaged 4.3 yards per carry and ran and passed for 37 touchdowns.

He totaled 3,569 all-purpose yards for a 10.4 yard average every time he touched the football.

McEwen led the Blue Jays to the state football championship finals this junior year.

He broke his left hand in a 27-24 loss to Colby in district play his senior season and missed Norton's final two games, a 41-6 win over

Goodland and 33-0 shutout of Thomas Moore Prep of Hays.

The 6-foot, 1-inch, 190 pound McEwen was a top-11 choice his senior year by the *Salina Journal* and *Hays Daily News* in addition to being a first team Mid-Continent League selection.

He was also chosen by sports media personnel of Kansas to play in the annual Kansas East-West Shrine Bowl in Manhattan.

Selected along with McEwen were Norton's Mark Wahlmeier, a 6-foot, 4-inch, 205 pounder who played defensive end and Keith Sides, a 5-foot, 9-inch, 150 pound wide receiver from Northern Valley's state championship team.

Wahlmeier became McEwen's Fort Hays teammate and Sides played basketball at Cloud County Community College in Concordia.

All three started for the West in the Shrine Bowl contest and saw extended action in the West's 44-29 win. McEwen, who was also one of the West team captains, directed five scoring drives.

After graduation with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, he taught upper level math at Hillsboro High School.

He was assistant football coach in 1995 but became the head coach in 1996.

His first season as head coach, the team went 1-8. In the seven years following, his boys were 52-

29 and have been in the state playoffs every year since 1998. He was also assistant basketball coach from 1995-1999, assistant baseball coach from 1999-2003 and head baseball coach in 2004.

In 2000, he returned to the Shrine Bowl as an assistant coach and was chosen by that year's coaches to be the head coach of the Shrine Bowl in 2001.

His wife Sunshine is a Tabor College graduate and has taught third and fourth grade classes in Hillsboro.

The McEwens will change schools this fall when he will become assistant football coach and math teacher at Cheney High School, another 3A school, and she will teach second grade.

Superintendent at Cheney is Brad Nuenswander, a former assistant football coach under Norton Head Football Coach Neil Melillo and a teacher when McEwen was playing for the Blue Jays.

The McEwens have two children, son Koby, 5 and daughter, Jaida, 2.

Mr. McEwen is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane McEwen of Norton.

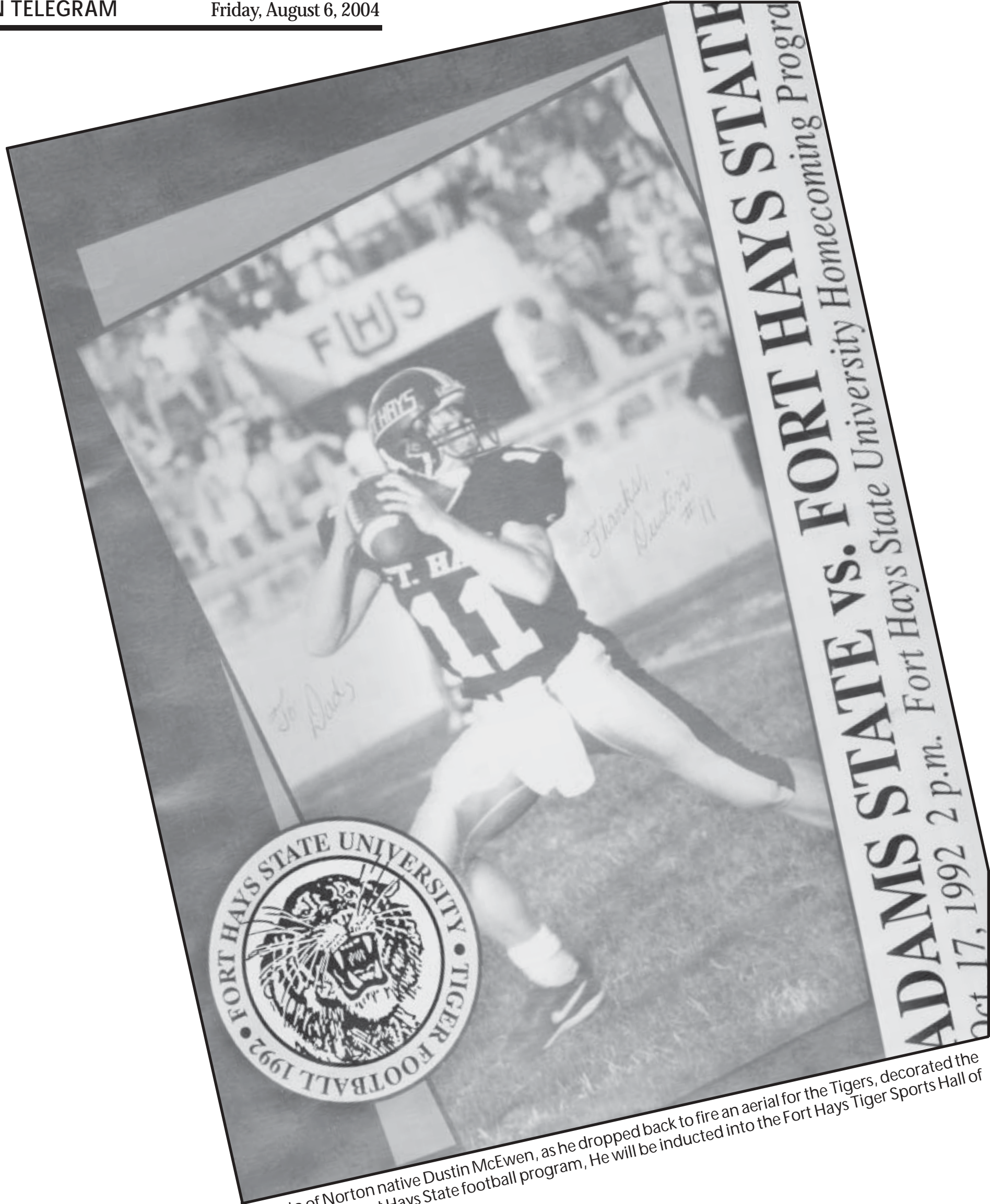
The other three inductees this year are:

Petrece Faulkner (1990-'93) was starting offensive guard for the 1991 NAIA National Championship Fort Hays basketball

squad. Lowell Smith (1962-'65) was part of two NAIA Championship

and two runner-up squads while running track for coach Alex Francis.

Fred Andregg (1965-'68) was one of the first great basketball players at Fort Hays.



A photo of Norton native Dustin McEwen, as he dropped back to fire an aerial for the Tigers, decorated the front page of a Fort Hays State football program. He will be inducted into the Fort Hays Tiger Sports Hall of Fame on September 18.

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1999 Dodge Durango	1989 Pontiac Bonneville
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1998 Jeep Gr Cherokee	1985 Chevy Suburban
1998 Pontiac Grand Am GT	1982 Plymouth
1998 GMC Safari Conversion	1998 Playcraft Pontoon Boat
1998 Chevy K1500 Pickup	2003 4 Wheeler
1997 GMC Suburban	2002 MZ Mosquito 125 Scooter
1996 Olds Cutlass	2002 MZ 125 SX Motorcycle
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