

Norton wrestlers to compete in regionals

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School wrestling team will compete in the Class 3-2-1-A Regional Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday in Goodland.

Norton, defending state champion and ranked No. 1 all season, will be the favorite in what is considered to be the toughest regional out of the four in the state.

In addition to Norton, teams will be competing from No. 2 state ranked Hoxie, No. 7 state ranked Scott City and No. 8 state ranked Goodland.

Other teams competing are: Atwood, Bird City-Cheylin, Cimarron, Elkhart, Ellis, Thomas More Prep-Hays, Hill City, Holcomb, Lakin, Leoti, Meade, Montezuma, Oakley, Oberlin, Plainville, Quinter, St. Francis, Stockton,

Sublette, Trego Community.

A total of 34 of the 84 state ranked individual wrestlers are expected to compete in this regional for berths in next week's state tournament.

"This is an extremely tough tournament with state ranked wrestlers in every weight class but one," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"There are as many as four state-ranked wrestlers in some weight classes. Early in the season, state rankings were not as accurate but by now wrestlers have proven the accuracy of their standings.

"We have no unbeaten wrestlers but we think this is good because we have wrestled an extremely tough schedule. Our goal every year is that everything prior to regional and state wrestling is

practice. No matter what our individual records, every one of our wrestlers has a shot at qualifying for state."

The top four finishers in each weight class in each of the four regionals qualifies for next weekend's State Tournament in Hays.

"We expect to be in 100 percent condition for this weekend's competition," said coach Johnson. "We've battled some sickness but hope to have everybody ready to go."

Norton has six state ranked wrestlers. They are: John Rise-wick, No. 2, 112; Troy Bainter, No. 1, 130; Brett Terrell, No. 2, 135; Billy Broeckelman, No. 3, 140; Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, No. 1, 160; Spencer Shirk, No. 2, 171.

The Blue Jays' potential wrestling lineup for the tournament

with records is: freshman Branson Addington, 103, 9-11; sophomore John Rise-wick, 112, 24-5; junior R.J. Ellis, 119, 11-9; junior Justin Waggoner, 125, 17-9; senior Troy Bainter, 130, 28-2; senior Brett Terrell, 135, 18-2; senior Billy Broeckelman, 140, 24-6; sophomore Eli Bozarth, 145, 22-12; sophomore Jared Bohl, 152, 11-18; senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160, 29-2; senior Spencer Shirk, 171, 25-3; senior Josh Asbury, 285, 13-14.

Other state-ranked wrestlers are: Lane Hoffman, fr., St. Francis, No. 4; Dakota Kohler, so., Phillipsburg, No. 5; Kegan Amos, so., Holcomb, No. 6, 103; Clay Mulligan, jr., Scott City, No. 1; Dayton Dreher, fr., Oberlin, No. 5, 112; Dylan Schumacher, jr., TMP-Marian, No. 1; Alex Kough, fr., Scott City, No. 5; Aus-

tin Avelar, so., Goodland, No. 6, 119; Calvin Ochs, jr., Hoxie, No. 3; Cole Werner, sr., Plainville, No. 4; Trevor Kennedy, so., Lakin, No. 5, 125; Seth Miller, sr., Goodland, No. 3; 130; Dalton Davis, sr., Lakin, No. 1; Austin Lopez, jr., Ellis, No. 4; Donovan Schamberger, sr., Hoxie, No. 6, 135; Kale Newell, sr., Smith Center, No. 2; Riley Hunsicker, jr., Ellis, No. 4; Steven Yergbey, so., Hoxie, No. 6, 140; Nathan Deeds, sr., Goodland, No. 4; Dalton Snyder, jr., Hoxie, No. 5, 145; Thomas Rachow, sr., Phillipsburg, No. 2; Eric Albers, jr., Oakley, No. 3; Dylan Bainter, sr., Hoxie, No. 4, 152; Kayler Rietcheck, sr., Goodland, No. 6, 160; Zach Eaton, sr., Smith Center, No. 1, 171; Luke Hayes, jr., Scott City, No. 1; Adam Guthmiller, sr., St. Francis, No. 6, 215; Dillon Salmans, sr., Hoxie,

No. 1, 285.

Tourney schedule

The tournament will begin on Friday with the first round at 2 p.m., followed by the championship quarterfinals at 5 p.m., consolation first round at 6:30 p.m. and championship semifinals at 7:30 p.m.

Wrestling will continue Saturday at 11 a.m. with the consolation cross bracketing, followed by the consolation quarterfinals at 1 p.m., consolation semifinals at 3 p.m., consolation finals on two mats at 5 p.m. and championship finals on one mat at 6:30 p.m.

Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight.

Admission is \$4 for K-12, \$6 for adults, Friday; \$6 for K-12, \$8 for adults, Saturday.

Blue Jay boys basketball team outscores Atwood

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team broke open a close game in the second quarter to defeat Atwood 68-43 on Friday night in Atwood.

Following a 14-all first quarter, Norton outscored Atwood 24-8 in the second period to take a 38-22 halftime advantage. A 17-11 third quarter in favor of the Blue Jays boosted the lead to 55-33 and Norton added three more points to the final margin of victory with a 13-10 fourth quarter.

"We got off to a slow start on the defensive end but were able to apply some effective full court pressure which got us going in the second quarter," said coach Reusink.

"I did think we played better defensively and rebounded better in the second half and, on the

offensive end, we got on a roll, which was good to see."

Sophomore guard Jacob Brooks hit a reverse layup for Norton's first points in the game and just kept hitting shots the rest of the way. Brooks scored 7 of his game-high 23 points in the first quarter on three baskets and a free throw.

Junior forward Jordan Wahlmeier also had a good scoring game as he threw in 19 points for the Blue Jays. He hit one basket in the first quarter, along with junior guard Dillon McConney and senior post Luke Ninemire.

Four different players tallied for Norton in their 24 point second quarter. Senior guard Terrell Lane scored his first points of the contest as he hit three two-point baskets and one from beyond the arc. Brooks still had his shooting eye as he hit two more two-point baskets and buried a three-point-

er. Wahlmeier swished two baskets and a free throw and junior guard Tye Nickell hit a basket and charity toss.

In the third quarter, Brooks connected on two more baskets and a free throw, Wahlmeier hit two more baskets, Lane buried a trey; Nickell hit 3 charities.

Wahlmeier was high scorer for Norton in the final stanza with three baskets and a free throw. Brooks and Nickell each added another basket and Lane was accurate on two charities.

Brooks hit his only shot from long range, was 8 of 14 from two-point range for 57 percent and ended with 9 of 15 for an excellent 60 percent average! He also hit 4 of 6 charities for 67 percent.

Wahlmeier hit 8 of 17 shots for 47 percent and was 3 of 7 from the charity stripe for 43 percent.

Lane scored 14 points on 2 of 4 from long range, 3 of 6 two-point

shots and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent. He was perfect on two free throws.

Leading scorer for Atwood was Argabright with 22 points.

As a team, Norton swished 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 23 of 50 two-point attempts for 46 percent and 26 of 57 overall for 46 percent. Atwood missed all 12 trey tries and hit 18 of 38 two-point attempts for 48 percent. Overall, the Buffaloes were 18 of 50 for 36 percent.

Norton had 13 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 28 total and the Buffaloes grabbed 14 offensive and 12 defensive caroms for 26 total.

Wahlmeier led Norton in rebounds with 7, followed by Lane, 6; Brooks, 5; Ninemire, 3; Zach Hartwell, 2; John Renner, Cole Archer, Nickell, Trey Millan, Andrew Ellis, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 7 blocked

shots. Wahlmeier rejected 4 and Archer, Nickell, and Lane had 1 rejection each.

Norton had 9 steals and Atwood had 5. Lane was the leader with 4, followed by Brooks, 2; Wahlmeier, Dillon McConney, Nickell, 1 each.

The Blue Jays recorded 10 offensive assists compared to 7 for the Buffaloes. Lane led with 3, followed by Wahlmeier, McConney, 2 each; Archer, Nickell, Brooks, 1 each.

Norton had just 6 turnovers while forcing Atwood into 18 turnovers.

The victory increased Norton's season record to 9-8.

Junior varsity

In the junior varsity boys game, Norton was a 56-43 winner.

The Blue Jays held quarter leads of 17-10, 25-20 and 39-28.

Leading scorers for Norton were Zach Hartwell and Lane

Bigge with 11 points each, followed by Carson McKenna, 9; Trey Millan, 8; Andrew Ellis, 8; John Renner, 6; Tanner Furbush, 3.

J. Peterson led Atwood with 17 points.

Next action

Norton will travel to Hoxie this evening for boys and girls games, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Boys

Jordan Wahlmeier 8 0 3-7 19; Dillon McConney 10 0-0 2; Luke Ninemire 1 0 0-0 2; Tye Nickell 2 0 4-8 8; Terrell Lane 3 2 2-2 14; Jacob Brooks 8 1 4-6 23; Carson McKenna 0 0-0 20; Game Totals 23 3 13-25 68.

Atwood Boys

Zeigler 1 0 0-0 2; Portschy 1 0 1-2 3; Bergling 2 0 0-0 4; Argabright 9 0 4-8 22; Sholout 1 0 0-2 2; Clark 2 0 2-4; Kogl 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 18 0 7-14 43.

Norton Lady Jays basketball team loses to Atwood

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team was unable to stop Atwood's 6'2" junior post Hillary Chvatal from scoring and the result was a 46-38 loss to the Lady Buffaloes on Friday night in Atwood.

Chvatal poured in 32 points as she dominated the area around the basket.

Norton's sophomore point guard Tawnie Griffey answered

with 27 points for the Lady Jays but other Norton players had trouble finding the basket.

Chvatal scored 12 of Atwood's 14 points in the first quarter. Griffey hit 7 of Norton's 9 points on a trey and two two-point baskets. Senior guard Dustyna Sprigg hit Norton's other first quarter basket.

After a 10-all second quarter in which Chvatal hit 8 points and Griffey hit 8 and Sprigg 2, Atwood led by just 24-19 at halftime.

The third quarter was defensive oriented with Atwood outscoring Norton 8-5. Chvatal scored 6 of the Lady Buffaloes' points and a shot from beyond the arc by Griffey and two-point basket by junior post Caren Thomson provided the Lady Jays' few points. Norton still trailed by just 32-24.

The fourth quarter was the best for Norton in the scoring department with 14 final points but the Lady Jays allowed the Lady Buffaloes the same number.

Griffey hit two two-point baskets and 5 of 6 free throws, senior guard Kaylen Rossi swished a three-point basket and sophomore forward Kamilla Jones hit a basket for Norton in the final stanza.

"I was disappointed with our effort tonight," said Coach Jilka. "We played very timid the first half and just let them do whatever they wanted."

"Offensively, we had people who stood around and didn't try to take the ball to the basket."

"Defensively, the first half was lack of aggressiveness. The second half, we played better and we were much more aggressive but we needed to play like that all night."

"We have to have all five players play very hard and we didn't have that tonight."

"It doesn't get any easier going to Hoxie on Tuesday. We will have to be ready for this good team."

Griffey hit 2 of 7 three-point tries for 29 percent, 8 of 18 two-point attempts for 44 percent and 10 of 25 overall for 40 percent. She was 5 of 6 from the charity stripe for an excellent 83 percent.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 3 of 13 from long range for 23 percent, 12 of 35 two-point tries

for 34 percent and 15 of 48 overall for 31 percent.

Atwood took no trey attempts and hit 19 of 39 two-point tries for 49 percent accuracy.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 5 of 11 for 45 percent and Atwood connected on 8 of 12 for 67 percent.

Norton had 3 offensive and 7 defensive rebounds for 10 total. Atwood grabbed 9 offensive and 19 defensive caroms for 28 total.

Leading rebounder for the Lady Jays was Katelyn Engelbert with 3, followed by Sprigg, 2; Rossi, 2; Griffey, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

The Lady Jays led in the steals category where they stole the ball 10 times compared to 2 by the Lady Buffaloes. Engelbert led in thefts with 3, followed by Rossi, Sprigg, 2 each; Griffey, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

Norton had just 5 offensive assists while Atwood had 12. Griffey and Rossi each had 2 assists and Thomson had 1.

The Lady Jays had 9 turnovers and the Lady Buffaloes lost the ball 20 times.

The loss dropped Norton to 9-7 overall for the season.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity girls were defeated 26-19.

Norton trailed by quarters 6-2, 13-7 and 18-11.

Leading scorer for the Lady Jays was Johnny Ruder with 6 points, followed by Darcy Bainter, 5; Alec Melvin, 4; Abby Bainter, 2; Antjelica Pfannenstiel, 2.

Reuber led Atwood with 8. "We took a step backward tonight," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Unfortunately, we did not see the cliff behind us because we fell off it."

"We just could not handle the ball at all."

"We will regroup and get going again Monday."

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will travel to Hoxie this evening for games beginning at 6:30 p.m.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 8 2 5-6 27; Katelyn Engelbert 0 0 0-4 0; Kaylen Rossi 0 1 0-0 3; Dustyna Sprigg 2 0 0-1 4; Kamilla Jones 1 0 0-0 2; Caren Thomson 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 12 3 5-11 38.

Atwood Girls

Keshia Green 1 0 0-1 2; Abbey Wolters 0 0 2-2 2; Trinity Reuber 0 0 2-2 2; Nicole Connall 3 0 0-0 6; Audrey Basgall 1 0 0-0 2; Hillary Chvatal 14 0 4-7 32; Game Totals 19 0 8-12 46.

Freshman plays sled hockey

By DICK BOYD

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Nortonites are very familiar with wrestling and basketball at Norton Community High School but most are not aware that an NCHS freshman is a member of a sled hockey team.

Chris Richard, 15, has been a member of the Kearney, Neb.

Sled Hockey Team since September, 2010.

Practices are held each Saturday morning in Kearney. Each team member is equipped with a sled that they sit in and short hockey sticks that have metal grippers on the one end to propel the player across the ice. The other end of these sticks is what they use to

control the puck.

The Kearney team will compete in an exhibition game with the Tri-City Storm on Sunday, February 20 at 11 a.m. at the Viaero Event Center in Kearney.

The Kearney team consists of disabled persons as well as able bodied people so there are enough players on the ice to scrimmage during their practices.

Chris is handicapped by a spinal cord injury.

The team started about five years ago in Kearney. They plan to conduct a clinic each year to get more people interested in playing.

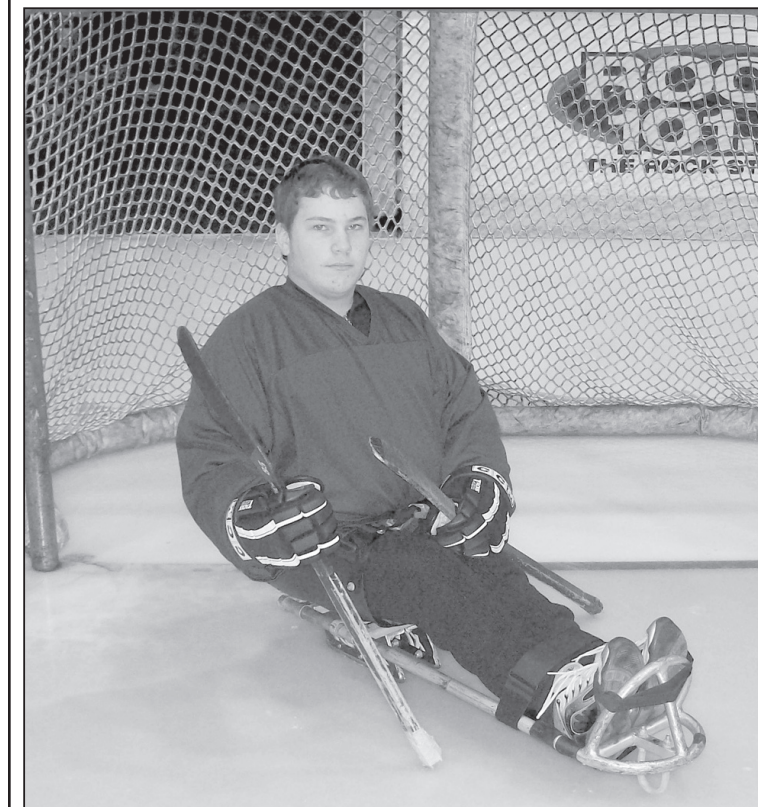
The team is sponsored by the Great Plains Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Fund raisers are held throughout the year to help pay for equipment upkeep and time on the ice at the arena in Kearney.

Sled Hockey started in the late 1960s in Europe. Men who were injured during war wanted a winter sport to participate in so they took skate blades off hockey skates and mounted them on sleds. They then used brooms or sticks to make their own hockey sticks. Sled hockey began to become popular in the United States in the 80s.

Want to know more about Chris Richard and his unique team? Join them this Sunday at 11 a.m. at the Viaero Event Center in Kearney.

Chris is the son of Kathy and Floyd Richard of Norton.



Although handicapped by a spinal cord injury, Chris Richard, a freshman at Norton Community High School, is able to compete with the Kearney, Neb. Sled Hockey Team. Chris and his team will be playing an exhibition game at 11 a.m. this Sunday at the Viaero Event Center in Kearney. - Courtesy photo

Norton - Logan - Northern Valley

High School Sports This Week

WRESTLING:		
Norton in Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament in Goodland . . .	2 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday	
BASKETBALL:		
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Hoxie in Hoxie	6:30 p.m. Today	
Norton vs. Ellis "Senior Night"	C-team Boys followed by Boys JV in Wilmeth Kirk beginning at 4 p.m. and Girls JV, Girls Varsity, Boys Varsity in Stull Gym beginning at 4:45 p.m.	in Norton on Friday
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Colby in Colby	4:30 p.m. Tuesday	
Northern Valley Girls and Boys vs. Hill City in Hill City	4 p.m. Today	
Northern Valley Girls and Boys vs. Palco in Almena	4 p.m. Friday	
Northern Valley Girls vs Phillipsburg JV Girls and Northern Valley Boys vs Southwest Neb. Boys in Almena	5 p.m. Saturday	
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Oberlin in Logan	4 p.m. Today	
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Hoxie in Hoxie	4:45 p.m. Friday	