

The Saint Francis Herald

At the Game

Final season overview of Saintry wrestlers

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The wrestling season ended with two St. Francis wrestlers, Lane Hoffman and Adam Guthmiller, qualifying for state and Guthmiller coming home with a second-place medal at 215 pounds. Hoffman, at 103 pounds, did not place but won two matches following his opening loss so helped earn points for the Indians. Saintry finished state tied for 20th with 71 points.

With the Indians having a young squad this season, only Guthmiller will be leaving the team through graduation. He not only had a successful won-loss season but also helped the team and the junior high team with leadership.

The Indians finished 0-4 in Northwest Kansas League dual competition. They fell to Oakley, Rawlins County, Hoxie and Decatur Community. Quinter does not have a wrestling program. They were also defeated in a dual by Goodland as they met Oakley and Goodland in a tri-angular.

Wrestlers earning championships in tournaments this year included Hoffman at the St. Francis Invitational, Guthmiller at the Wray Invitational Tournament, Guthmiller at the Phillipsburg Panther Classic, Hoffman and Guthmiller at the Northwest Kansas League Tournament and the same two at the 3-2-1A Goodland regionals.

St. Francis placed fifth at the St. Francis Invitational, which always opens the season for area wrestlers, second at the Dundy County Invitational, where they competed with a team of five, fifth at the Wray Invitational with only four Indians attending, ninth at the Panther Classic and fourth at the league tournament. At the Goodland regionals they placed 14th.

St. Francis also attended two dual tournaments. At the Colby dual tournament they lost to Hutchinson, Scott City, Hays, Hoxie and Goodland during pool play, then lost to Chaparral and defeated Liberal in the final placement matches.

At the Sterling dual tournament they defeated Flemming and Akron and lost to Sterling, Merino and North Platte.

The squad participated in a new event this year, the Stockton/Hill City Round Robin Tournament with Hill City, Trego and Stockton on Jan. 6 in Stockton. This was the first event following the spring break.

Nathan Smith, Indian head coach, had the following comments on each wrestler on his team. He also provided the wrestler's season record and letterman status.

Gaten Cooper (0-3 varsity) (3-4

junior varsity), provisional letterman.

"Gaten's season was cut short by a back injury around Christmas break. He stepped in and wrestled well in the varsity dual against Colby."

Thomas Douthit (1-2 varsity), letterman.

"Thomas wrestled the start of the season with a broken wrist and didn't know it. He knew there was pain but he's a tough kid and tried to push through. He's just now getting healed up and we expect big things from him next year."

Zach Gienger (6-6 varsity) (3-0 junior varsity), letterman.

"Zach is another one that came into the season broken. He also broke a wrist during football and missed some time early. Came back and wrestled before he was supposed to and picked up some nice wins at the Wray Tournament. He was able to come back the week before regionals and was one match away from qualifying for state. He's wrestling Kansas Kids to make up for some of the matches he missed this year and I think that will pay off for him next year."

Blaine Guggenmos (1-7 varsity) (2-5 junior varsity), letterman.

"Blaine was a first-year wrestler that really developed throughout the season. Blaine has a natural mat sense and does a lot of good things without knowing what he's doing. If he continues to work throughout the off-season Blaine could be a good one."

Adam Guthmiller (36-3), letterman; team captain.

"What a season. Anytime a wrestler goes over 30 wins it's pretty special. Adam is now our record holder for most pins in a season with 31 (Billy Gabel had 30). Adam found a belief in his ability this year that he was the better wrestler on the mat every time he went out there. Adam will be missed in our program next year. He works so well with the younger wrestler, relying techniques he's picked up over the year. As great of a wrestler as he is, he's an even better young man."

Lane Hoffman (30-7 varsity), letterman.

"Lane had a great freshman season. The extra time he puts into being successful is paying off. I thought he came a long way as a wrestler this year, developing skills that helped him reach the state tournament. Lane is wrestling Kansas Kids to continue to develop skills that will take him to that next level."

Casey Keller (17-16), letterman.

"Casey battled sickness all season long but came one match away



CASEY KELLER has a pinning hold on his opponent. Casey finished the season with a 17-16 season and earned a wrestling letter for the year.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

from making it to state. Casey is another one that took a big step this year. He did a better job of keeping himself in matches which allowed him to win some matches in the third period. Casey is wrestling Kansas Kids to built on his successful high school season."

Logan Lampe (10-19 varsity) (8-4 junior varsity), letterman.

"Logan wrestled at a heavier weight all season. He was a 125 pounder wrestling 130 and competed well in a tough weight. When Logan got the chance to wrestle kids his size he typically dominated them. He is slick on his feet, very explosive with his double leg and also has a nice fireman carry. Logan is another one of the kids that has made a commitment to get better and is wrestling Kansas Kids."

David Leibbrandt (4-15 varsity) (4-5 junior varsity), letterman.

"It was good to see David back on the mats this year. For missing a year I thought David did well. He is a naturally strong kid and scrambles well. David is a great workout partner because he is always going to go as hard as he can. David is another one that wrestled up a weight class because of the quality of kids we had right around 125. If we can get David some mat time between now and next season I think he could surprise a lot of people."

Michael Leibbrandt (18-16 varsity), letterman.

"Micky went on a run around the Christmas break where he was untouchable. He might have had one of the tougher weight classes in our area. He was one match away from going to state and had to wrestle the returning state runner-up to get in. But that's the thing I love about Micky it doesn't matter who on the mat against him he's going to go out and wrestle his never-stop style that wears kids out. He is another naturally strong wrestler like his brother and is one that we have to find a way to get to that next level success."

Austin Manners (12-3) provisional letterman.

"Austin was our wrestler from Cheylin. He was in a tough situation not going to school in St. Francis because his school day went long so he'd only get 1 hour of practice a night. He was unable to finish the season but would have been in the mix to qualify for the state tournament. I look for Austin to be a leader for us next year and in the off-season."

Derek Queen (6-21 varsity) (3-6 junior varsity), letterman.

"Derek is kid who started out behind everyone else because he missed his seventh grade year of wrestling with a broken leg but he is closing the gap quickly. He has a love for the sport and wants to be good. A freshman wrestling at 145 against 17 and 18 year old men is a tall order but Derek went

out and battled every match. His commitment to be better has him wrestling Kansas Kids right now and I can already see a difference in his skill set."

Tyler Raby (3-11 varsity) (3-3 junior varsity), letterman.

"Tyler is another one of our guys that started the season late because of injury. He came back after Christmas break and filled a hole in our line-up at 140 pounds. It had been a few years since Tyler had wrestled and it showed early but he was wrestling really well the last two weeks. Tyler will be so much better next year after knocking the rust off his skills this year and I expect great things out of him next year."

Austin White (9-11) (4-2 junior varsity), provisional letterman.

"Austin is a young wrestler with a lot of talent. He was one of the quality kids we had in that 125 range and went down to 119. He worked through some freshman mistakes and beat some good kids. I wish Austin would have been able to finish the season with us. Austin is in that freshman class of wrestlers that just likes to compete and it doesn't matter who they go against. That class of kids with Austin's leadership and skills will be very successful."

Matt White (1-5 varsity) (2-5 junior varsity), letterman.

"Matt White was another one of our first-year wrestlers. Matt got better everyday in practice wres-

ting Casey, Lane, Austin, Blaine and Mickey. He was a little 103 pounder giving up weight to most of the kids he wrestled this year. Matt is wrestling Kansas Kids now trying to get as many matches as he can before next season."

Dylan Wolaver (20-19 varsity), letterman.

"Dylan had a shoulder problem most of the season as anyone who watched any of his matches after the break could tell. He continued to show up and compete and got himself to that 20 win mark. Without the injury I think Dylan is a state qualifier but we came up a few matches short this year. Dylan has put in some time the last few years and is doing so this off-season wrestling Kansas Kids."

Future for Indian wrestling

"The future of St. Francis Wrestling is looking up," Coach Smith said. "We have a strong nucleus of young wrestler committed to becoming better and have seen how to be successful by watching Adam's career."

"They see all of the state champions pictures in the weight room and the team trophies outside the gym and want to add to the tradition and legacy of the program."

"We have a great wrestling community that is willing to help these young men reach their goals and that is not the norm around the country as wrestling seem to be a dying sport which is a shame."

Indians finish season

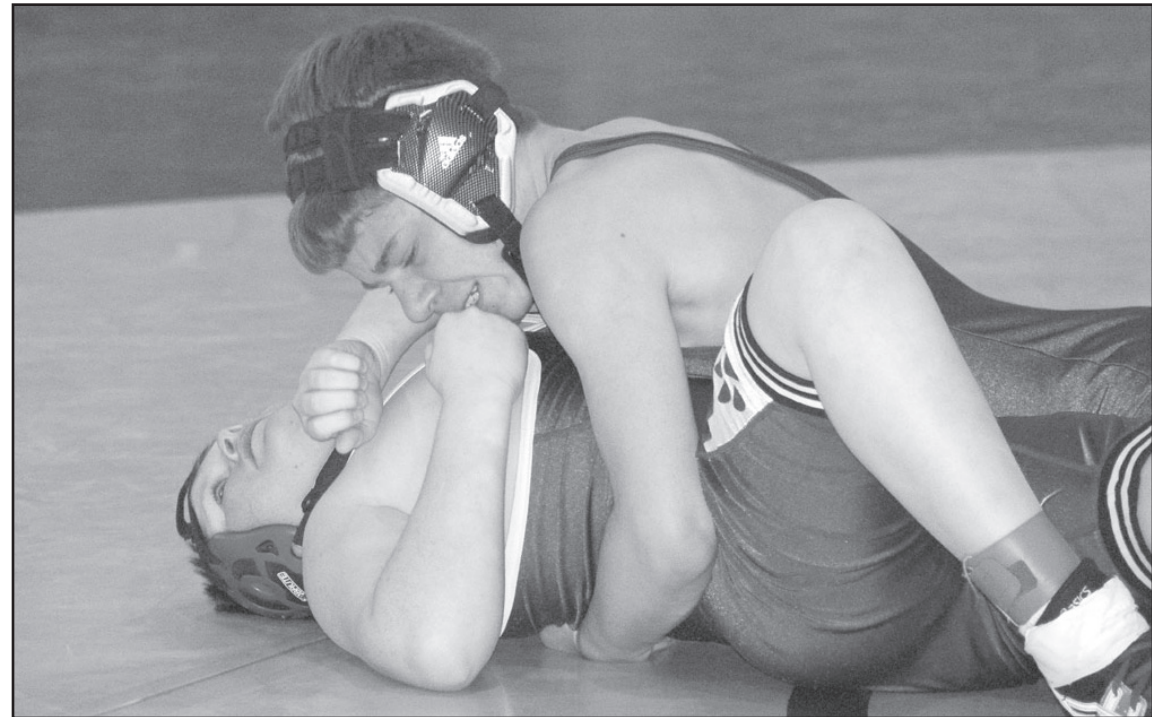
The junior high wrestling team finished their season at the Northwest Kansas League Tournament in February.

The junior high wrestling coaches have announced the following lettermen for the 2011 season: Phillip White, Clay Cassaw, Riley Shay, Jesse Jenkins, Travis Rogers, Garrett Brunk, Lane Hobrock, Justin Pacheco, Austin Patton, Tanner Gilliland, Blake Meyer, Cade Bracelin, Jude Faulkender, Jon Hoard and Shakotah Blanka.

Steve Jenkins, head coach, gave the following overall view of the season.

With the close of the junior high wrestling season and their third place finish at the league tournament held in Oberlin on Feb. 22, the coaches have been evaluating the season and the accomplishments of the team both individually and collectively.

This year's team set no individual records though there were some that were threatened. As a team, however, this group's winning percentage is consistent with



LANE HOBROCK has his man in a pin hold.

Herald photo by Susan Hobrock

other teams in recent history. The coaching staff often uses 50 percent as a benchmark for team success and this year's team was knocking on that door.

Shakotah Blanka will have his name added to the record book as a junior high league champion but there were six other junior high wrestlers that made the finals of the tournament but did not win championships.

"I'm very proud of what these kids accomplished this year," said Adam Guthmiller, student coach. "Many have become stu-

dents of the sport and that means good things are on the horizon for them."

"If they pay the price in the off-season 'the tradition of tough St. Francis wrestling will continue,'" Coach Jenkins said.

Individual stats for the team shows Bracelin with the most wins 10, followed by Hobrock, Pacheco and Blanka with nine apiece.

Takedown were led by Jesse Jenkins (exhibition matches) with 14, Pacheco with 13 and Cassaw and Hobrock with 11 each.

Hobrock with 22 near falls was at least six ahead of his nearest teammates, Pacheco, Bracelin and Blanka with 16 each.

Six reversals were collected by Hobrock and Jenkins led in escapes with 11.

Falls for the season totaled 54 with Blanka having 9, Pacheco 8 and Bracelin 7.

Eighth graders on the team, who have finished their junior high career, include Riley Shay, Tanner Gilliland, Cade Bracelin, Jon Hoard and Shakotah Blanka.

Senior invited to Friendship Bowl

St. Francis high school senior football player, Adam Guthmiller, has been selected to play in the High School Friendship Senior Bowl. The game will be played on Saturday, June 4, at 6 p.m. at Hummer Sports park in Topeka.

Guthmiller was nominated by his high school coach who was impressed with his football skills.

He will be asked to report to camp on Wednesday, June 1, in Topeka.



Guthmiller

Young wrestlers compete in Hays

There were four St. Francis Kids Wrestlers that competed at the Western Kansas Classic in Hays on Saturday. There were around 1,000 wrestlers competing. This tournament is a very competitive and tough tournament.

10 and under: Luke Lampe came home with the championship. He was at 110 pounds.

12 and under: Clay Cassaw, 100 pounds, participated.

14 and under: Derek Queen, 155 pounds, placed fourth.

In the High School division: Logan Lampe, 130 lbs placed fourth.

"All the boys wrestled very well," Kevin Lampe, coach said. "Cassaw wrestled real good but had a tough bracket."

This Saturday is sub-districts at Phillipsburg and the St. Francis Kansas Kids will have 13 wrestlers competing.