

# Topside Tip-Off tourney awaits Blue Jays

**By DICK BOYD**  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
The Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams will open the 2007-08 season on Thursday when they play in the opening round of the 19th annual Topside Tip-Off Basketball Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland. Also competing in the tournament will be teams from Goodland, Colby, Weskan, Ottawa, Skyline, Sharon Springs and McCook, Neb. Trophies will be awarded to the

first, second, third and fifth place teams. Members of the top three teams will receive individual medals. An all-tournament team will be selected. The tournament will feature a three-point contest and free throw competition. A spirit award will also be given.

**BOYS**

The Norton boys will play Skyline at 5 p.m. on Thursday in the fieldhouse. In other first round games, Ottawa will play Colby at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym adjoining the fieldhouse, McCook will play Sharon Springs at 7 p.m.

in the junior high gym and Goodland will play Weskan at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

Winners of the Norton-Skyline and Ottawa-Colby contests will play in the championship semi-finals at 5 p.m. Friday in the fieldhouse. In the other semi-finals contest, the winners of the McCook-Sharon Springs and the Goodland-Weskan games will play at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

On the consolation side, losers from the Norton-Skyline and Ottawa-Colby games will play at 5 p.m. on Friday in the junior high

gym and losers of the McCook-Sharon Springs and Goodland-Weskan games will play at 9 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse and the third place game will be at 4 p.m. in the fieldhouse. On the consolation side, the seventh place game will be at 2 p.m. in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be played at 4 p.m. in the junior high gym.

**GIRLS**

The Norton girls will play Goodland at 7 p.m. on Thursday in the

fieldhouse and the Skyline girls will play Sharon Springs at 9 p.m. in the junior high gym. In the top of the bracket, McCook will play Weskan at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse and Colby will play Ottawa at 5 p.m. in the junior high gym.

On Friday, winners of the McCook-Weskan and Colby-Ottawa games will play in the championship semi-finals at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse and the winners of the Norton-Goodland and Skyline-Sharon Springs games will play at 7 p.m. in the championship semi-finals in the fieldhouse.

Losers from the McCook-Weskan and Colby-Ottawa contests will play on the consolation side at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym and losers of the Norton-Goodland and Skyline-Sharon Springs contests will play at 7 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse. The third place game will be at 2 p.m. in the fieldhouse. The seventh place contest will be at 12 noon in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be at 12 noon in the fieldhouse.

# Six returning lettermen on Blue Jay boys' roster

**By DICK BOYD**  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
Coach Doug Reusink has two returning starters out of six returning lettermen on this season's Norton Community High School boys basketball team.

Last year's squad compiled a final 14-7 record, tied for second in the Mid-Continent League and placed second in the league tournament. The Jays' season ended with a 58-52 loss to Phillipsburg in the semi-finals of the sub-state

tournament.

Returning starters are Logan Kats, 5-foot-8-inch senior and Wes Georgeson, 6'3" senior.

Kats averaged 9.9 points and 5 assists per game and was chosen to the second team on the Mid-Con-

tinent League All-League team chosen by vote of team coaches. Georgeson averaged 9.4 points per contest and 4.4 rebounds.

Other returning lettermen are: Zach Dole, 5'10" senior; Jared Cox, 6' senior; Preston Herman,

6'3" senior and Zac Dreher, 6'2" junior. Herman averaged 3.2 points and 1.9 rebounds per game and Cox averaged 1.7 points and 1.6 rebounds last season.

Other members of the squad are: Landon Hamel, 5'8"; J.D. Gall, 5'9"; Marcus Herman, 5'7"; Ashton Draper, 5'11"; D.J. Ebner, 6'3", sophomores; Luke Ninemire, 5'9"; Cole Archer, 5'5"; Terrell Lane, 5'10"; Dakota Dreher, 5'9"; John Koch, 5'7", freshmen.

**Coach's comments**

"In the early season, we will have to rely on the experience of Kats, Georgeson, Cox and Herman and, hopefully, we can develop some depth as the season progresses," said coach Reusink.

"I see Smith Center as the best team in the league going into the season.

"I think the rest of the league is pretty balanced with anyone capable of winning on any given night."

Coach Reusink's assistant coaches again this season are David Stover and Todd Fulton. Student managers are Ashley Maybon and Hannah Fulton.

**Veteran head coach**

Under the leadership of coach Reusink, the Blue Jay boys are always competitive. The 2002-'03 team won the Class 3A state basketball championship with a 22-5 record and the 2003-'04 squad was also outstanding, compiling an 18-4 record. The 2004-'05 quintet was 15-7.

The Norton boys' 2005-'06 record was 12-8 and they finished second in the Mid-Continent League tournament.

Coach Reusink's overall record in Norton is 206 wins and 141 losses. He is beginning his 29th year of coaching high school boys teams and has compiled an overall record of 420 wins and 187 losses for an outstanding 69.2 percent victory record. This averages 15 wins and 6.7 losses per year.

# Coach Jilka set for 26th season

**By DICK BOYD**  
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com  
Coach Kevin Jilka is beginning his 26th season as the head girls basketball coach at Norton Community High School with five returning starters from last season's second place team in the Mid-Continent League.

The Lady Jays were 13-7 last season and also placed third in the league tournament. Their season ended with a 46-42 loss to Oberlin in the first round of the Class 3A sub-state tournament.

Returning starters for Norton are Laura Lee Baird, 5-foot-8-inch junior; Kara Jo Jones, 5'9" junior; Hayli Bozarth, 5'10" junior; Taylor Rossi, 5'3" junior and Megan Kats, 5'4" senior.

Other returning letter winners are: Courtney Cox, 5'7" senior; Katharine Roy, 5'7" junior; Ashley Stewart, 5'3" sophomore and Amanda Ray, 5'10" sophomore.

Chantille Campbell, a 5'7" senior, has returned to the squad after a year's absence.

Baird is the only returning all-league player. She was chosen to the first team of the Mid-Continent League All League Team last

season and received honorable mention on the all-league team by vote of the team coaches her freshman season.

Other team members are: Kendra Engelbert, 5'7"; Hannah Waggoner, 5'; Shelby Jones, 5'4"; Lacy Keilig, 5'11"; Bethany Roy, 5'6"; Raven Brown, 5'4"; Kaitlyn Wolf, 5'11", sophomores; Kaylen Rossi, 5'2"; Dustnya Sprigg, 5'7"; Meaghan Peterson, 5'3"; Lindsey Tacha, 5'4"; Sophie Mills, 5'5", freshmen.

Assistant coaches again this season will be George Rossi and Joan Bolt. Student manager is Bloss Jacobus.

**Coach's comments**

"Our practices have gone very well so far," said coach Jilka. "We aren't going to change a whole lot.

"Our depth is a lot better so we feel we can pressure a lot more on the defensive end.

"Offensively, we have to find girls other than Hayli and Laura Lee to score. We have girls capable of that but that takes a certain mentality that we are trying to achieve.

"The Mid-Continent League

race will be very tough. Osborne and Ellis are probably the favorites but Phillipsburg and Smith Center could step up and surprise people along with Trego and ourselves.

"In order for us to compete with the elite teams, we are going to have to play solid defense and rebound well and that has been our area of emphasis so far early in the year."

**Long time tenure**

In his 25 seasons as head coach of the Lady Blue Jays, coach Jilka's teams have won 429 games and lost 137 for a 76 percent winning average. Jilka's Lady Jays have averaged 17 wins and just 5.5 losses per season.

The 2000-'01 team compiled an 18-7 record en route to a fourth place finish in the Class 3A state tournament.

Coach Jilka's 2001-'02 Lady Jays finished 13-9 and placed fourth in the league. Norton compiled a 12-9 record in 2003-'04 when they tied for second in the league and their season ended with a 56-49 overtime loss to Beloit in the sub-state tournament.

The season ended for the 2004-'05 quintet with a loss to eventual

champion Holcomb in the sub-state tournament. The Lady Jays were 17-5 that year and were undefeated league champions and also league tournament champions.

The 2005-'06 Norton girls compiled an 18-2 record, were undefeated in the Mid-Continent League and runner-up in the league tournament. Their season came to a sudden close with a 44-33 loss to Riley County in the sub-state tournament.

## Basketball schedule

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Dec. 6-8 -- Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland  
Saturday, Dec. 15 -- Norton, Oakley, Quinter, Trego Junior Varsity Tournament, Here, 9 a.m.  
Friday, Dec. 14 -- V, JV, C Phillipsburg, There, 4 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 15 -- V, JV Stockton, Here, 5 p.m.  
Fri., Sat., Mon., Dec. 28, 29, 31 -- C Boys Hill City Tournament, There, 10 a.m.  
Friday, Jan. 4 -- V, JV Osborne, Here, 5 p.m.  
Saturday, Jan. 5 -- C Girls Tournament in Phillipsburg, 10 a.m.  
Monday, Jan. 7 -- V, JV Decatur Community, There, 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, Jan. 11 -- V, JV, C Trego

Community, Here, 4 p.m.  
Monday, Jan. 14 -- MCL Tournament Quarterfinals TBA  
Tuesday, Jan. 15 -- MCL Tournament Quarterfinals TBA  
Friday, Jan. 18 -- MCL Tournament Semifinals in Hays, TBA  
Saturday, Jan. 19 -- MCL Tournament Finals in Hays, TBA  
Tuesday, Jan. 22 -- V, JV, C Goodland, There, 4:45 p.m.  
Tuesday, Jan. 29 -- V, JV, C Smith Center, Here, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 1 -- V, JV, C Hill City, There, 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 5 -- V, JV, C Decatur Community, Here, 4 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 8 -- V, JV Atwood, There, 6:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 12 -- V, JV Hoxie,

Here, 5 p.m.  
Friday, Feb. 15 -- V, JV Ellis There, 5 p.m.  
Monday, Feb. 18 -- V, JV Plainville There, 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 19 -- V, JV, C Colby (Senior Night), Here, 4 p.m.  
Monday, Feb. 25 -- Sub-State Quarterfinal - Boys, Here, 7 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 26 -- Sub-State Quarterfinal - Girls, Here, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, Feb. 28 -- Sub-State Semifinals - Boys TBA  
Friday, Feb. 29 -- Sub-State Semifinals - Girls TBA  
Saturday, March 1 - Sub-State Finals TBA  
March 5-8 -- Class 3A State Tournament, Hutchinson TBA

# Junior High Huskies 1-1 in tourney

The Northern Valley Junior High boys' basketball team opened their season at the Brewster pre-season tourney on Nov. 17. "It was a great tournament to begin the season with," said coach Jim Cole.

He said the A-team boys lost 46-32 their first game to a very good Cheylin team, saying, "We started off slow and got behind early, but played well in the second half outscoring Cheylin 20-18."

"With a game under their belt, the Huskies played great in the second game beating Brewster 52-8. We played much better on offense and were more aggressive on defense."

He said the Northern Valley B-team boys went 2-0 in the tourney, beating Golden Plains in the first game 51-4 and won over Grinnell/Wheatland 41-9 in the second game.

"The B-team boys played great defense the whole day," the coach said. "They had a lot of steals which led to fastbreak

baskets. Tyson Callaway led the B-team, scoring 38 points in the two games."

A-team overview  
Vs. Cheylin  
By quarters  
NV — 2, 10, 6, 14 = 32  
Cheylin — 14, 14, 4, 14 = 46  
NV scoring: Austin Herman 8; Zane Miller 6; Phillip Compton 6; Calen Bach 4; Nate Land 4; Dillon Hogan 4.  
Vs. Kensington  
By quarters  
NV — 13, 15, 12, 12 = 52  
Kensington — 0, 2, 2, 4 = 8  
NV scoring: Gunnar Hays 15; Austin Herman 12; Phillip Compton 7; Calen Bach 6; Zane Miller 4; Nate Land 4; Dillon Hogan 4.

B-team overview  
Vs. Golden Plains  
By quarters  
NV — 13, 12, 12, 14 = 51  
G. Plains — 2, 0, 0, 2 = 4  
NV scoring: Tyson Callaway 20; Jordan Baird 13; Daniel Field 12; Ian Vincent 4; Dallas Stil-

lion 2  
Vs. Grinnell/Wheatland  
Scoring  
NV — Tyson Callaway 18; Daniel Field 13; Jordan Baird 5; Ian Vincent 3; Dallas Stillion 2.

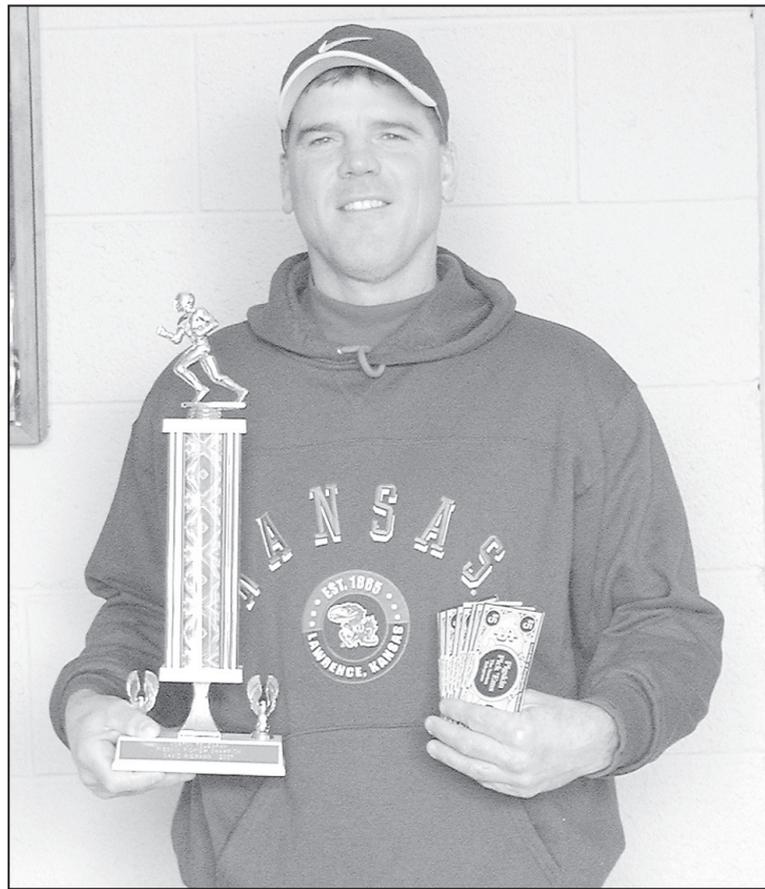
## Football Awards banquet on tap here Sunday

The annual Norton Community High School Football Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club, will be held on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

A carry-in meal will precede the presentations by head coach Lucas Melvin.

All fans are invited and are asked to bring a meat dish, a vegetable or salad, a dessert and their own table service. Drinks will be provided.

# CONGRATULATIONS to David Riemann, Norton 2007 Pigskin Pick-Em Champion!



## Winner of \$50 in Scrip and Trophy

Thanks to all the football fans who entered the 12-week contest and to the sponsoring businesses:

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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

215 South Kansas Avenue  
Norton, KS 67654  
Phone: 785-877-3361  
Fax: 785-877-3732  
E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com