# Wrestling roster includes 11 lettermen

**By DICK BOYD** nortontelegram@nwkansas.com Eleven of the 27 wrestlers who are members of the 2008-009 Norton Community High School wrestling team are returning lettermen, according to head coach Bill Johnson, who is beginning his

20th year as the Blue Jay mentor. "We look for several wrestlers who were on the junior varsity to step up to the varsity level and compete for their first state medal," said coach Johnson. "Sophomores Brett Terrell, 112; Spencer Shirk, 130 and Kaid McKenna, 140, wrestled behind a state placer last season and could wrestle their way into the varsity lineup this season.

"The obvious top wrestlers are the six returning state placers and three returning state qualifiers. This group is led by senior Zach Bainter, who is looking to win his fourth state medal.

"The problem will be getting our state placers and qualifiers all in different weight classes. We look to have good depth from 103 to 171 but will be thin in the upper weights again this season."

After winning the state championship for three years in a row, Norton missed the championship by one and one-half points to place dual championship by defeating third in 2006-007, then finished fourth in the state last season.

The Blue Jays had a 9-1 dual record last season, losing only to a strong, talented Kearney, Neb.

In the season opener, Norton won their fifth straight Hoxie Invitational championship, beating second place Oakley by 82 points. Next, Norton placed second in the tough Clay Center Invitational, just nine points behind the host

The Blue Jays opened the dual season by beating Phillipsburg 46-24 on December 14. Norton did not compete in the Goodland dual tournament the next day due to inclement weather.

Norton started the new year by winning their fifth J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament championship in Norton. Included in the field of teams were defending co-state champions Smith Center man Troy Bainter, third, 103; and Beloit and perennial power Scott City.

Norton had to face Smith Center fifth, 140 and freshman Landon in a dual the next Thursday in Wa- Keiswetter, sixth, 119. Compet-Keeney where the Golden Eagles ing in the state tournament but were also an opponent. The Blue not placing were Perez, senior Jays edged the Redmen 30-28 and Jeff Soderlund, 152; junior Matt rolled over Trego 61-18.

Next, the Blue Jays left for Newton for the prestigious Tournament of Champions. The Blue jays won the championship in 2005 and 2006 but did not compete last year.

In fact, Norton is the smallest Jordan Bebb, senior, 171, 21-19, school to ever win this tournament. Norton wrestled well and placed ninth, just two points out of seventh.

Then, it was on to a dual in Hays with Kearney and Hays on January 22. Norton shutout Hays 82-0 but in 07; Troy Bainter, sophomore, lost 49-10 to Kearney.

On January 26, the Blue Jays Broeckelman, sophomore, 112, hosted the Mid-Continent League 27-7, second in state; Brett Terrell, Tournament and powered to their sophomore, 8-1; Landon Keiswetninth straight championship. Nor- ter, sophomore, 119, 21-19, sixth ton scored 204 points and second in state. place Smith Center tallied 190.

After easily beating Plainville gan Kelly, 160, senior; Connor

## Open at Hoxie Saturday

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com The Norton Community High School wrestling team will open the season Saturday in the annual Hoxie Invitational Wrestling Tournament.

Competing, in addition to teams from Norton and Hoxie, will be squads from Cimarron, Holcomb, Lakin, Oakley, Oberlin, Plainville and Trego Community.

The tournament will begin at 9 a.m. and will be in the Hoxie High School gymnasium. The first round matches will be followed by the semi-finals and first and second place consolation matches in session No. 2 and the third and fourth place will run continuously with mini-

was held the next two days in

WaKeeney and the Blue Jays won their fourth straight regional

Norton qualified 11 of their 14

wrestlers for the state tournament.

Blue Jay senior Alex Thomas

would have been No.12 had he not

received a season-ending knee in-

jury and ending his season 27-2. Norton junior Jordan Bebb

placed fourth in the regional at 171

pounds and qualified for the state

tournament but did not compete

due to injury. Blue Jay regional

champions last year were: fresh-

man Billy Broeckelman, 112;

sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter,

125; sophomore Zane Perez, 130

were Broeckelman, second; fresh-

Kaenon Keiswetter, third; Zach

Bainter, third; senior Todd Bolt,

Stanley, 160 and junior Brock

Returning lettermen with their

records and weights last season

are: Zach Bainter, senior, 135,

34-9, third in state; Matt Stanley, senior, 160, 24-14, state qualifier;

state qualifier; Brock Lauer, se-

nior, 189, 16-16, state qualifier;

Robert Derauf, junior, 215, 23-11; Kaenon Keiswetter, junior, 125,

27-8, third in state; Zane Perez, junior, 130, 24-24, sixth in state

103, 25-8, third in state; Billy

Other squad members are: Lo-

Lauer, 189.

State tournament medalists

and junior Zach Bainter, 135.

championship.

mum breaks, probably 15-20 minutes between sessions. The breaks will depend upon the needs of the officials.

Trophies will be awarded to the top two teams and medals for first through fourth place wrestlers in each weight class.

Junior varsity in Alma

The Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete in the Alma Junior Varsity Tournament on Saturday in Alma, Neb.

Competing in addition to Norton's junior varsity and the Alma varsity will be varsity teams from Eustis-Farnam, Kearney Catholic, Loomis, Oberlin, Overton, Pleasanton, Wauneta-Palisade and Wilcox-Hildreth.

Plaques will be awarded to the and championship matches in top two teams. Four individual session No.3. The tournament medals will be awarded in each weight class.

Pfannenstiel, 130; Casey Robison, and Ellis in league duals on Feb-171, Tyler Cook, 189, juniors; ruary 1, Norton scored 173 team points to win the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg for the fifth year in a row. Norton won their 13th consecutive Mid-Continent League Hill City and Osborne in duals on February 7. The Regional Tournament

Taylor Gordon, 103; Colby Poage, 103; Rylee Stanley, 140; Spencer Shirk, 140; Kaid McKenna, 145; Jeremy Sproul, 171: Tyler Cook, 189, sophomores; Andy Nickell, 103; R.J. Ellis, 103; Justin Waggoner, 130; Seth Antrim, 135; Trey Millan, 135; Cayleb Campbell, 152, freshmen.



Billy Broeckelman worked for a takedown in his 119 pound wrestling ranking match with Brady Riggins during Norton's Blue and Yellow Classic on Tuesday evening in the junior high gym.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

### SECOND ANNUAL

~2008 Christmas~ COOKIE

A fund raiser for God's Pantry

Brought to you by *The Norton Telegram* 

with co-sponsorship from

Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, End Zone and the Norton Theatre

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

at The Norton Telegram Office 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton

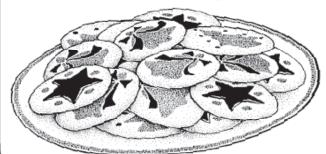
Entries must be received by 9:00 a.m. on December 12 Voting will be from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### \$5.00 for each entry; 25 cents for each vote

WITH UNLIMITED ENTRIES AND UNLIMITED VOTING ALLOWED

Anyone can enter, anyone can vote

Cookies must be homemade and have at least 2 dozen per entry





## **PRIZES**

There are two categories — ages 13 and older, and ages 12 and younger. The cookie makers in each category with the most votes will win a prize. There are also prizes for second and third place as well.

Prizes for both age categories have been donated by End Zone, Stitch Up A Storm, Destination Kitchen, the Norton Theatre and The Norton Telegram.

We will also be collecting canned and non-perishable food for God's Pantry

#### Norton Blue Jay wrestling schedule

Sat., Dec. 6 - Hoxie Invitational in Hoxie, 9 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 6 - Junior Varsity in Alma Tournament, 10 a.m. Fri., Dec. 12 - Southern Valley Invitational in Oxford, 3:30

Sat., Dec. 13 - Clay Center Invitational at Clay Center, 9 a.m. Fri., Dec. 19 - Phillipsburg/Stockton Dual in Phillipsburg, 5

Sat., Dec. 20 - Holiday Classic in Goodland, 9 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 9 - Mill Valley Dual in Norton, 6 p.m. Sat., Jan. 10 - J.R. Durham Invitational in Norton, 9:30 a.m. Thurs., Jan. 15 - Smith Center/Trego Dual in Norton, 6 p.m. Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17 - Newton Tournament of Champions in

Newton, 11 a.m. and 9 a.m. Fri., Jan. 16 - Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational in Elm

Creek, Neb., 2:30 p.m. Tues., Jan. 27 - Ogallala/Kearney Dual in Kearney, 5 p.m. Sat., Jan. 31 - Junior Varsity in Arapahoe Tournament, 10 a.m. Sat., Jan. 31 - Mid-Continent League Tournament in Osborne,

Fri., Feb. 6 - Plainville/Ellis Dual in Plainville, 5 p.m. Sat., Feb. 7 - Panther Classic (V and JV) in Phillipsburg, 9

Thurs., Feb. 12 - Hill City/Osborne Dual in Hill City, 5 p.m. Sat., Feb. 14 - Colby Junior Varsity Tournament in Colby, 9

Fri.- Sat., Feb. 20-21 -Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament, in

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 27-28 Class 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays, 9 a.m.

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