



**SPORTS
TICKER**



MIAA

play

THE TIGERS
HOSTED MISSOURI
WESTERN ON
SATURDAY AT
GMC.

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Chiefs

Sunday

KANSAS CITY PLAYS
HOST TO BUFFALO
TODAY AT
ARROWHEAD
STADIUM.

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No. 1 in

action

THE JAYHAWKS
TOOK ON LA SALLE
ON SATURDAY.

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Tough

task

KYLE ORTON AND
THE BRONCOS
LOOK TO TAKE
DOWN THE COLTS.

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All-Area

team

CHECK OUT THE
REST OF THE
HDN'S 2009
ALL-AREA TEAM.

PAGE B2

26TH ANNUAL HDN ALL-AREA FOOTBALL TEAM

ALL FOR ONE



RAYMOND HILLEGAS • HAYS DAILY NEWS

Quinter coaches Brian Roesch, left, Greg Woolf, center, and Jeff Ruckman guided the Bulldogs to the Eight-Man, Division I State Championship. Roesch, who filled in as interim head coach this season, was named the HDN Coach of the Year for 2009.

Roesch changes roles

By CONOR NICHOLL
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Shortly after the Quinter prep football team faced Palco in Week 2, head coach Greg Woolf and assistants Brian Roesch and Jeff Ruckman had a meeting Woolf had been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma cancer and realized he would start treatment soon.

"I read up online about what I was going to have to start going through," Woolf said. "There is no way I could have continued to try to get everything ready."

Woolf decided to turn the team over to Roesch and Ruckman for the rest of the season. Ruckman remained in his role as defensive coordinator, while Roesch became interim head coach and offensive coordinator. Woolf, who missed parts of several weeks, became an inspirational leader.

"There was a lot of uncertainty at that point of when he was going to be there or how much he was going to be there," Roesch said. "It worked out that he was there a lot, more than what we expected him to be there, which was good for us, good for the players. Obviously, he was not able to go full speed like he had done before. We were willing to take the reins and go with it."

The Bulldogs lost 26-24 to Sharon Springs in Week 3 before they rolled off 10 straight victories, including wins against No. 2 Clifton-Clyde at sub-state and No. 1 Baileyville-B&B.

Quinter defeated B&B, 28-26, to win the Eight-Man, Division I championship and end the Falcons' 25-game winning streak. Against both Clifton-Clyde and B&B, Quinter delivered stops on fourth-and-goal from the 1-yard line and clinched the wins on last-minute defensive plays for the Bulldogs' first football title since 1992.

SEE ROESCH, B3

Wissman did it all for Cougars

By CONOR NICHOLL
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All season, the adjectives and superlatives poured in for Otis-Bison senior quarterback/defensive back Kevin Wissman. Victoria coach Doug Oberle labeled Wissman "the best player we have seen."

Cunningham coach Lance McGuire said Wissman "ran 360s around some of our freshmen" and "really had some of us spinning around." Sharon Springs designed a defense specifically to contain Wissman, but the Cougars still tallied 60 points. Afterwards, Wildcat coach Kevin Ayers called Wissman "a special, special player."

Otis-Bison coach Travis Starr

provided one other title:

"They look to him like a real sergeant," Starr said of his players. "He means a lot to them. They rally around him."

Wissman's leadership, especially in summer workouts and 7-on-7 drills, and all-around play fueled the biggest one-season turnaround in Kansas high school football. The Cougars, hampered by a hurt Wissman in 2008, finished 2-7. This year, they delivered a 10-1 record and a No. 5 final ranking in Eight-Man, Division II in the statewide media poll. The Cougars won their first playoff game and delivered their best season since going 10-1 in 2003. Wissman earned Hays Daily News Offensive Player of the

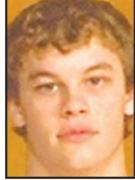
Year honors on the 26th annual Super 11 team.

"He got the guys together in the summer," Starr said. "He was our coach when we couldn't be there. He did the things that he needed to do as far as being a senior leader — and that he thought he had to do. He did a good job. It wouldn't have worked if the kids didn't believe in him like they do."

Wissman, 6-foot-1 and 190 pounds, delivered impressive numbers, including 120 rushes for 1,097 yards and 27 rushing touchdowns.

Helped by the summer workouts, Wissman, who completed 45 percent of his passes as a junior, was 27-of-48 passing for 457 yards with nine touchdowns.

SEE
WISSMAN, B3



Wissman

A formidable force for Quinter

By CONOR NICHOLL
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The night before the Eight-Man, Division I state championship game, the Quinter prep football team stayed in McPherson. The team went out for dinner, watched a movie and returned to the hotel. Shortly before lights out, the players came together. Several of the seniors spoke and senior nose guard/center Zach Nemechek spoke twice, saying, "I have never played on a team like this."

"It was quiet and it was heartfelt," Nemechek said. "We knew that it was business and we knew what we were there for. We were playing with a heavy heart."

The next morning, Nemechek helped lead Quinter to a 28-26 victory over Baileyville-B&B in the Eight-Man, Division I state championship game. In addition, Nemechek had a sack and two tackles

for loss and helped Quinter's defense stop B&B on a fourth-down play from the Bulldog 1-yard line shortly before the first half ended. Afterward, Nemechek led Quinter over to the Bulldog cheering section and thanked the fans. Quinter earned its first state championship since 1992 and earned the crown for head coach Greg Woolf, who contracted stomach cancer during Week 2.

"He was definitely a leader," interim head coach Brian Roesch said of Nemechek. "That whole senior class was

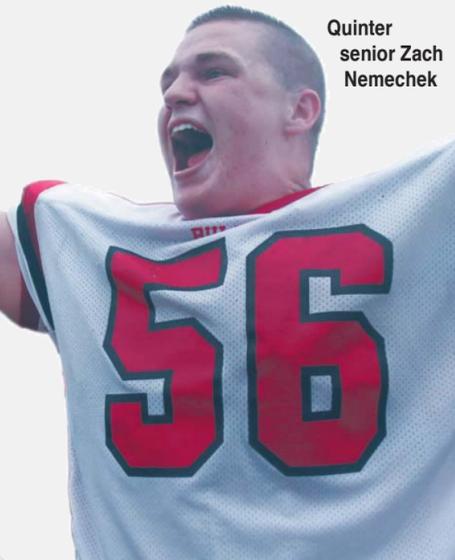
leaders."

Nemechek's all-around play and leadership earned him Defensive Player of the Year honors on the 26th annual Hays Daily News Super 11 team.

SEE NEMECHK, B3



Player	Ht., Wt.	Class	Position	School
Matt Erbert	6-4, 285	Sr.	OL/DL	Ellis
Landon Hamel	5-11, 170	Sr.	WR/DB	Norton
Jordan Hargitt	5-10, 190	Sr.	RB/LB	Quinter
Ethan Jirak	5-11, 221	Sr.	OL/DL	Oakley
Marcus Moeder	5-10, 160	Jr.	RB/DB	La Crosse
Zach Nemechek	6-4, 240	Sr.	C/DL	Quinter
Travis Pfannenstiel	5-10, 185	Sr.	FB/LB	Hays High
Trent Raile	6-1, 195	Sr.	HB/DB	St. Francis
Cade Rietzke	6-1, 170	Sr.	QB/DB	Th. Ridge
Colt Rogers	5-5, 150	Sr.	HB/DB	Smith Ctr.
Kevin Wissman	6-1, 190	Sr.	QB/DB	Otis-Bison



Quinter senior Zach Nemechek