



### 2016-17 Larned High wrestlers

## Young Indian grapplers take to mats this season

**BY MIKE GILMORE**  
 Larned coach Matt Sleder's wrestling roster for the upcoming winter season is a young one.

One senior, 132-pounder Marcus Nolde, returns to a squad filled with juniors and freshmen for the Indian grapplers. Nolde won one match as a junior at last season's Cimarron Class 3-2-1A regional to end the season at 17-22.

Also returning, however, is sophomore 120-pounder Kristopher Nolde, who last year soloed for the Indians at the Class 3-2-1A State

Wrestling Tournament in Hays, where he fell by 3-2 decision to Scott City freshman Theron Tucker in consolation, ending his freshman season at 25-10. The younger Nolde was the Indians' first state representative in two years.

Finishing strong in the Cimarron Regional were junior 126-pounder Hunter Fitzpatrick; sophomore Drew Cobb at 132 and sophomore Wes Koch at 145, who, along with junior 220-pounder Jeremiah Slattery are back for more in 2016-17.

The Indians have eight freshmen on the

roster to begin the season.



Kristopher Nolde



Hoisington junior Christopher Ball posted a perfect season last year. He's already wrestled in two state championships in his first two varsity seasons.

(photo by Mike Courson)

## Thoughts

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she's saved her best for her senior season.

Spearville has been a top team at the tournament but finally loses a core group of girls that has been successful on both the volleyball and basketball courts.

Finally, there are the wrestlers. Since last season, I think I fell a little more in love with grappling, so I look forward to seeing some familiar faces.

With just three full teams in our coverage area, pickings can be a little slim. But not really when you've got a team like Hoisington. Each year, I think Norton will take a bow from its No. 1 spot, but the Bluejays prove me wrong every year. A top-three team finish is always plausible for Hoisington, and a couple individual titles are also a very good possibility.

Lyons will have a small team this year, but those are some good kids with state experience. Expect Mark Schottler to again get the most of his small team this winter.

In all, it's looking to be another very successful winter. Anything to pass the time until the spring weather comes back!

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