

Newspaper Sports Writing

2011 KSPA Regional Competition

Description

You are a member of Ad Astra High School's newspaper staff. Your editor has assigned you to write a 250-word story using the information provided.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School
Location: Aspera, Kansas
Mascot: Box Turtles
Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)
School Colors: Green & Gold
Yearbook: The Honeybee
Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is an **on-site** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner of your entry.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

Assignment

You are to write a 250-word story previewing the boys' tennis team's season. Background information and quotes have been provided for you below.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pen or pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, electric typewriters and personal computers during the contest is prohibited.

Background

- Ad Astra's boys' tennis team finished the 2010 season second at the Class 5A state tournament, held at Emporia High School.
- The Box Turtles won their regional, held at John Brown High School in Aspera.
- The Turtles also won two local tournaments during the year, including the Box Turtle Invitational, held at the Aspera Tennis Center in town, where both John Brown and Ad Astra practice and play home meets.
- The Turtles defeated John Brown HS in the only dual meet of the season, the annual match for the Aspera Golden Racket Trophy. The Turtles won all three singles matches and both doubles matches to sweep the JBHS Crusaders 5-0.
- At state, No. 1 singles player Bjorn Berg finished first, winning the championship match against Conner James from McPherson South HS, 3-6, 6-4, 6-7 (18-16 in the tiebreaker).
- Berg was a junior in 2010, and returns to the team this year.
- No. 2 singles player Ashton Arthur, did not place at state, though he did qualify. He was a senior in 2010.
- The other top singles player from last year was freshman Fred Rogers. Rogers split time with Arthur, sometimes playing singles in the No. 2 slot, sometimes playing doubles with his partner, Roderick Andrews.
- Rogers will be a sophomore this year, and Andrews will be a junior.
- The other doubles team from last year — Andrew Posch and R.J. Dake — has graduated.
- Young tennis players who have come out for the team for the first time are: sophomore twin brothers Sam and Victor Williams; another set of twins, Robert and Michael Bryan, freshmen who have been playing doubles together since they were six years old; and junior Billy J. King, a transfer who played at John Brown HS last year as that school's No. 1 singles player.

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- King and Berg played each other three times last year, and Berg won every match in straight sets. King managed to win just one game in those three matches.
- Ad Astra's coach is Rafael Nadal, a former professional tennis player who now teaches World Religions at AAHS. He's originally from Portugal, but moved to Kansas to play tennis at Baker University in Baldwin City.
- Berg is the No. 1-ranked player of boys under 18 in the U.S.
- In September 2010, Berg won the U.S. Open Junior Tennis Championships in 2010, defeating Hungarian Marton Fucxouics in straight sets in the championship match.
- His older brother Brent Berg also played for Ad Astra and now is on a tennis scholarship at the University of Nebraska. Brent hasn't defeated Bjorn in a tennis match since Brent was 7 and Bjorn was 5.
- This year's KSHSAA regional is set for May 6, but the site hasn't been determined. The state tournament is set for May 13 at McPherson HS.
- AAHS begins practice on Feb. 28. The first tournament is March 19 at the Eisenhower Memorial Invitational in Abilene. The annual grudge match with JBHS is on April 23.

Quotes

- Bjorn Berg: "My private coach and other top players around the country tell me I shouldn't be playing for my high school team. But I love being a Box Turtle and I love the pride associated with wearing the Green and Gold. My brother was a Box Turtle, my dad was a Box Turtle, my mom was a Box Turtle and I want my kids to be Box Turtles some day."
- Berg: "It may sound funny to you, but winning a state title for dear old Ad Astra will be just as exciting as winning an individual title, and it will be just as important to me as winning the U.S. Open."
- Nadal: "If the team plays with focus and determination, I think this is the year we win the state championship. Obviously, we expect Bjorn to be the best player in the state, and with Billy King joining the team, we have depth in both singles and doubles."
- Nadal: "I love the idea of twins playing doubles. It's like they know exactly what the other player is thinking all the time. They have great communication on the court, and that's the key to a great doubles team."
- Billy J. King: "I guess I probably would have been the number one player at John Brown again, but what fun is being the only good player on a crummy team. I want to get a college scholarship to play tennis, but I can't afford private lessons, so playing somebody like Bjorn every day in practice can only help my game get better. Plus, Coach Nadal is the best coach in the state, so that's going to help, too."
- Bill J. King: "I want to win a state championship, both as a team and as an individual. I'll never win a state individual championship at No. 1 if I have to go against Bjorn. But I can win one at No. 2."