

# Norton wins annual wrestling tourney

By DICK BOYD

Despite five lineup changes due to injuries, Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team won the championship of the J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament held on Saturday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The No. 2 state ranked (Class 3-2-1A) Blue Jays rolled up 175 points to easily outdistance No. 1 state ranked (Class 3-2-1A) and defending state champion Hoxie, who ended with 150 points. Hoxie had won the Durham Tournament the last seven years. Norton edged Hoxie at the start of the season for the championship of the Hoxie Invitational and the Blue Jays are currently undefeated in tournaments and duals for the season.

Third place team was Cozad, Neb., with 133.5 points. They are ranked No. 4 in the state of Nebraska in Class B.

Scott City, the No. 5 state ranked team in Class 4A, finished in fourth place with 108 points. Smith Center and Atwood are tied for No. 9 in the state in Class 3-2-1A. Smith Center placed fifth with 98.5 points and Atwood was sixth with 67.5 points.

Beloit is ranked No. 8 in the state in Class 3-2-1A and the Trojans placed seventh with 49 points. They were followed by Russell, 46; Leoti, 15; Quinter, 0.

Eleven of the 13 wrestlers Norton entered in the tournament placed. The Blue Jays had four champions, three runnersup, two third place finishers and two fourth place medal winners.

Winning gold medals for Norton were freshman Nathan Broeckelman, 112; senior James Annon, 130; senior Bo Pfannenstiel, 171 and junior Michael Sprigg, 275.

By vote of all the team coaches, Annon was named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament.

Earning silver medals were sophomore Jon Harding, 119; senior Curtis Black, 125 and sophomore Lance Roe, 135.

Bronze medal winners were senior Jordon Haussermann, 152 and senior C.J. Thiele, 160.

Fourth place medals were won by freshman Kent Mann, 103 and senior Scott Goldsby, 140.

"Everybody came out and wrestled outstanding," said a happy Coach Johnson. "We had five changes in our lineup and were open at one weight. These wrestlers continue to amaze me. It's wonderful the way they have battled through the injury adversity that hit us over Christmas break.

"Each new wrestler on the mat for us saw it as their opportunity to step up to the plate and hit a home run for their team."

Coach Johnson named

Broeckelman, Jon Harding and Black "Wrestlers of the Week".

Broeckelman filled in at 112 pounds for Norton's defending state champion Clay Madden, who is injured. Broeckelman was seeded No. 5 in the class. In the first round, he won a technical fall over No. 4 seed Kale Mann, Russell, in 2:14. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 1 seed Kaid Calhoon, Beloit, in 3:35. In the championship finals, Broeckelman won a 2-1 decision over No. 2 seed Lakin Dreiling, Scott City. Broeckelman's record is now 11-6.

Justin York, Smith Center, the No. 6 seed, placed third by pinning Calhoon in 5:40.

At 130 pounds, Norton senior James Annon was seeded No. 1. He is also a defending state champion and is ranked No. 1 in the state. In the first round, he won a 15-4 major decision over Bowe Neuenschwander, Hoxie. His semi-finals victory was a technical fall in 3:40 over No. 4 seed Alex Ryan, Russell. In the championship finals, he won a 15-5 major decision over No. 2 seeded and No. 4 state ranked Joel Pflaster, Cozad. Annon has a perfect 15-0 record.

No. 3 seed Jason Baker, Leoti, won third with a 7-0 decision over Ryan.

Senior Bo Pfannenstiel is ranked No. 4 at 171 pounds and was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he pinned Caleb Simon, Quinter, in 3:55. In the semi-finals, he won a 3-1 decision over No. 5 seed Jeff Samson, Atwood. In the championship finals, he decided No. 6 seed Tyler Britt, Cozad, by an 8-4 score. Pfannenstiel is now 8-1 for the season.

No. 4 seed Bobby Homeier, Russell, won third with a 7-1 decision over No. 3 seed and No. 5 state ranked, Ryan Shipley, Hoxie.

At 275 pounds, junior Michael Sprigg was seeded No. 1 and is ranked No. 2 in the state. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Adam Rorabaugh, Smith Center, in 1:28. Sprigg won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Wyatt Green, Scott City, in 1:35. Sprigg's record is now 10-2.

Rorabaugh won third with a 9-5 decision over No. 2 seed Heath Klein, Atwood. Klein is ranked

No. 4 in the state and had lost only once prior to this tournament.

Sophomore Jon Harding was seeded No. 2 at 119 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 3 seed David William, Russell, in 1:32. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Cale Farber, Hoxie, and lost a narrow 5-4 decision. Harding is now 7-2 for the season.

At 125 pounds, senior Curtis Black was seeded No. 6. In the first round, he won an 11-0 major decision over No. 3 Travis Warner, Smith Center. In the semi-finals, Black won a 4-2 decision over No. 2 seed Kyle Banzhaf, Cozad. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Tyler Baker, Hoxie, and was pinned in 2:18. Black is now 7-6 for the season.

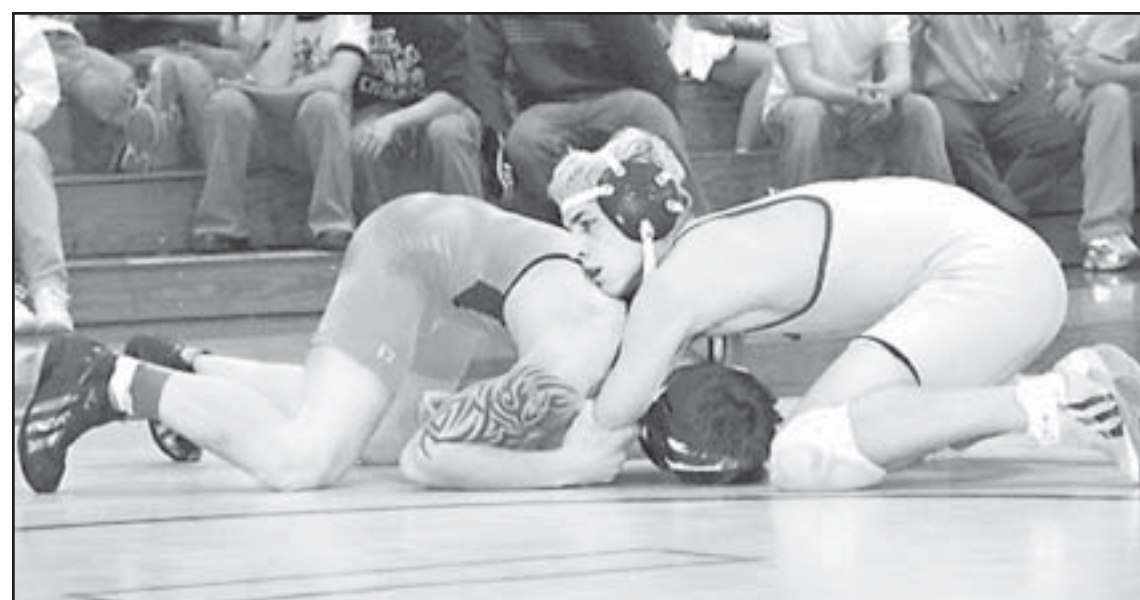
Bradley Esterl, Beloit, the No. 4 seed, won an 8-4 decision over Banzhaf for third place.

Norton sophomore Lance Roe is ranked No. 4 in the state at 135 pounds and was seeded No. 3. Tracy Jordan, Beloit, is ranked No. 2 in the state and was seeded No. 1. Andrew Chrisinger, Cozad, is ranked No. 3 in Nebraska and was seeded No. 2. In the first round, Roe won a 15-3 major decision over Ryan Driscoll, Russell. In the semi-finals, Roe won a 13-4 major decision over No. 7 seed Zach Allen, Smith Center, who won in the first round by forfeit over Chrisinger. In the championship finals, Roe wrestled Jordan and lost 2-1 in an overtime tiebreaker. Roe is now 13-3 for the season.

Jeremiah Moss, Hoxie, who was the No. 4 seed, won third with a 5-1 decision over Allen.

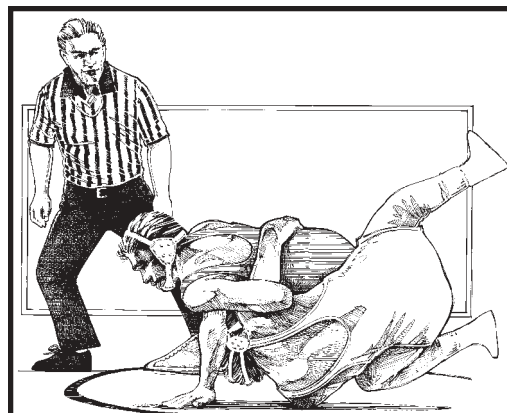
At 152 pounds, Norton senior Jordon Haussermann was seeded No. 4. He is ranked No. 6 in the state. In the first round, he won a 9-2 decision over No. 5 seed Justin Strickland, Cozad. In the semi-finals, he wrestled No. 1 seeded and No. 1 state ranked Matt Schippers, Hoxie, and lost a 12-0 major decision. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 3 seed James Wright, Beloit, in 1:26. He won the consolation championship with a 3-2 decision over Strickland in a re-match from the first round. Haussermann is now 13-5 for the season.

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Norton's James Annon (left) goes head to head with Cozad's Joel Pflaster in the 130 pound weight class. Annon won the match with a 15-5 major decision to take the championship in that division. He was also chosen by vote of team coaches as the winner of the "Outstanding Wrestler" award at conclusion of the J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament in Norton. In the 125 pound weight class, Norton's Curtis Black (top right) fought hard against Tyler Baker, Hoxie, but in the end, was pinned and lost the match. It was a tough match as Norton's Lance Roe (bottom right) and Beloit's Tracy Jordan faced off in the championship round of the 135 weight class. In the end, Jordan defeated Roe 2-1 in an overtime tie-breaker. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Go, Norton Blue Jays!



**Wrestling**  
**Thurs., Jan. 15**  
 Norton vs. Trego and Smith Center  
 Beginning at 6 p.m. in WaKeeney

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**Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17**  
 Tourney of Champions  
 Newton High School, Newton

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**Saturday, January 17**  
 Beginning 2:30 p.m. in Elm Creek Neb.  
 Junior Varsity Tournament



**Basketball**  
**Fri., Jan. 16**  
 Beginning at 4 p.m. with Freshman Games  
**Norton Blue Jays**  
 versus  
**Trego Golden Eagles**  
 NCHS Memorial Gym, Norton

**January 17-24**  
**MCL Tournament**  
 in Hays

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