

Norton to host annual wrestling tournament

By DICK BOYD

The annual J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament will be held on Saturday in the Norton Community High School Memorial Gym.

Teams from Norton, Atwood, Beloit, Leoti, Shawnee-Mill Valley, Hays-TMP, Hoxie, Quinter, Russell, Scott City, Smith Center and Cozad, Neb. will begin competition at 10 a.m. on three mats.

The second session will begin at approximately 3:30 p.m. with third and fourth place matches on two mats, followed by honoring of former state medal winners and championship finals on one mat.

It is the 40th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the eighth annual Durham tournament. It was renamed seven years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton, the former longtime wrestling coach at Norton.

Jake's many honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

At around 4:45 p.m., Norton's former state wrestling medal winners from 1945, 1965, 1975, 1985 and 1995 will be honored. The 1965 team won the state championship. The 1945 and 1975 teams placed fifth in the state tourney.

The pep band will play the national anthem and the cheerleaders and dance team will perform.

The championship finals will follow on one mat around 5 p.m.

All times are estimated and may vary according to the progress of the tournament.

Plaques will be awarded to the top three teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight class. An "Outstanding Wrestler" will be chosen by vote of the coaches.

Norton is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A and Hoxie is ranked No. 2. Norton is the defending state champion and Hoxie was last season's state runnerup. Smith Center is ranked No. 6 in Class 3-2-1A and Scott City is ranked No. 10 in Class 4A.

"The number of competing teams has been increased by two to 12 and that should make the tournament more competitive," said Norton Coach Bill Johnson. "We've added Mill Valley and TMP and both have returning state medalists, as do most of the other teams in the tournament. Mill Valley is a Class 5A school and Cozad is the equivalent of a 5A school in Kansas.

"Scott City wrestled poorly against us and we wrestled extremely well during our dual in Goodland. They have eight returning state qualifiers and are a force to be reckoned with. Cozad has a winning program in Nebraska. I expect Norton, Scott City and Cozad to contend for the tournament championship. Many of the other teams, such as Hoxie, have good individual wrestlers who will break up the team points quite a bit."

During the Christmas holiday, the Norton wrestlers had several two-a-day practices and Coach Johnson hopes they helped his team get in better physical condition.

Twenty-seven wrestlers ranked in the state of Kansas are members of teams competing in the tournament.

Norton is the defending tournament champion. When the Blue Jays won the title last year, they broke a seven-year winning streak for Hoxie.

Seven Norton wrestlers are state ranked: Logan Keiswetter, sophomore, No. 3 at 103; Clay Madden, junior, No. 1 at 112; Nathan Broeckelman, sophomore, No. 2 at 119; Jon Harding, junior, No. 6 at 130; Jeremy Harding, junior, No. 5 at 135; Lance Roe, junior, No. 2 at 152; Michael Sprigg, senior, No. 1 at 275.

Sprigg is a three-time state medalist. He was fourth in 2002, second in 2003 and was the champion in 2004. Madden is a two-time state champion. Broeckelman was state runner-up in 2004. Roe was fifth

in the state in 2003 and fourth in 2004. Junior Luke Pfannenstiel placed fifth in 2003 and was injured in 2004. Sophomore Kent Mann placed fifth in the state meet a year ago.

Five Scott City wrestlers are state ranked in Class 4A. They are: Lakin Dreiling, sophomore, No. 3 at 125; Logan Dreiling, junior, No. 1 at 130; Todd Kendrick, senior, No. 5 at 152; Lucas Fox, senior, No. 6 at 189; Guy Miller, senior, No. 2 at 275.

Lakin Dreiling placed third in the state meet a year ago and Logan Dreiling finished in fifth place.

Smith Center has four state ranked wrestlers. They are: Justin York, sophomore, No. 3 at 125; Travis Warner, junior, No. 3 at 135; Austin Kingsbury, senior, No. 2 at 171; Adam Rorabaugh, senior, No. 6 at 215.

Kingsbury placed second in the state meet in 2004. York and Warner each placed sixth.

Hoxie's state ranked wrestlers are: Tyler Baker, junior, No. 2 at 125; Cale Farber, senior, No. 2 at 135; Michael Schamberger, junior, No. 1 at 145.

Farber won the championship last season. Baker and Schamberger both placed fourth in the state.

State ranked wrestlers from Beloit are: Tracy Jordan, senior, No. 4 at 140; Nick Newell, senior, No. 4 at 160 and James Wright, senior, No. 5 at 171.

Jordan and Wright each placed fifth in the state meet a year ago.

TMP's state ranked wrestlers are: Tait Weatherbee, junior, No. 1 at 130 and Tyler Wiesner, senior, No. 2 at 189.

Weatherbee placed second in the state tourney in 2004 and Wiesner finished in third place.

State ranked wrestlers from Shawnee-Mill Valley are: Justin Broadbent, junior, No. 2 at 112 and E.J. Johanson, senior, No. 2 at 152.

Broadbent placed second in the Class 5A state tournament last season and Johanson finished in fifth place.

Matt Migchelbrink of Atwood is a sophomore and is ranked No. 6 in the state at 119. He placed third in the state tourney a year ago.

Six Cozad wrestlers who competed in the Class B Nebraska State Wrestling Tournament last season will wrestle in the Norton tournament on Saturday. They are: Micah Chrisinger, senior, 112, second in state last two years; Joel Pflaster, senior, 125, did not place in 2004 but was fourth in 2003; Kyle Banzhaf, senior, 135, did not place in 2004 but was sixth in 2003; Justin Lemmer, senior, 140, third in 2004, sixth in 2003; Tyler Sturgeon, junior, 145, did not place in 2003; Cale Osborn, senior, 189, did not place in either 2004 or 2003.

Norton lineup
Wrestling on Saturday for the

Norton Blue Jays and their season records so far will be: Logan Keiswetter, soph., 8-2, 103; Clay Madden, jun., 10-1, 112; Nathan Broeckelman, soph., 11-1, 119; Kent Mann, soph., 4-3, 125; Jon Harding, jun., 7-4, 130; Jeremy Harding, jun., 11-2, 135; Luke Pfannenstiel, jun., 10-0, 140; Blake VanEaton, soph., 8-5, 145; Lance Roe, jun., 12-0, 152; Brian Sproul, fresh., 4-7, 160; David Stanley, jun., 7-7, 171; Paul Juenemann, sr., 3-5, 189; Blake Hillebrand, sr., 4-6, 215; Michael Sprigg, sr., 11-0, 275.

To honor former wrestlers
Norton Community High School has a long and rich wrestling tradition. Since beginning wrestling in 1931, NCHS has crowned seven state championship teams, 76 individual champions and a total of 228 individual state medalists.

Being honored from the 1945 team, which placed fifth in the state tournament, will be Duane Mulder, second, 133; John Sides, second, 138, deceased; Dean Shaw, second, 165; Vernon Archer, second, 175.

Receiving recognition from the 1965 state championship team will be Charles Kaus, first, 138; Myron Lowry, second, 95; Gary Ulmer, second, 103; Jim Rowh, third, 120; Tom Tweed, fourth, 145 and other team members Mike Ankenman, Darryl Leidig, Gary Lawlis, Ron Tacha, Larry Sumner, Mike Bennett, Tom Abbey and Bill Hackney.

Honored from the 1975 team, which placed fifth in the state tournament, will be Dave Newell, first and Grand State champion, 98; Kevin Washburn, second and second in Grand State, 138; Frank Horning, third, 119; Duane Eichman, third, 167.

Being honored from the 1985 team will be Jim Voss, second, 155; J.D. Hand, third, 138.

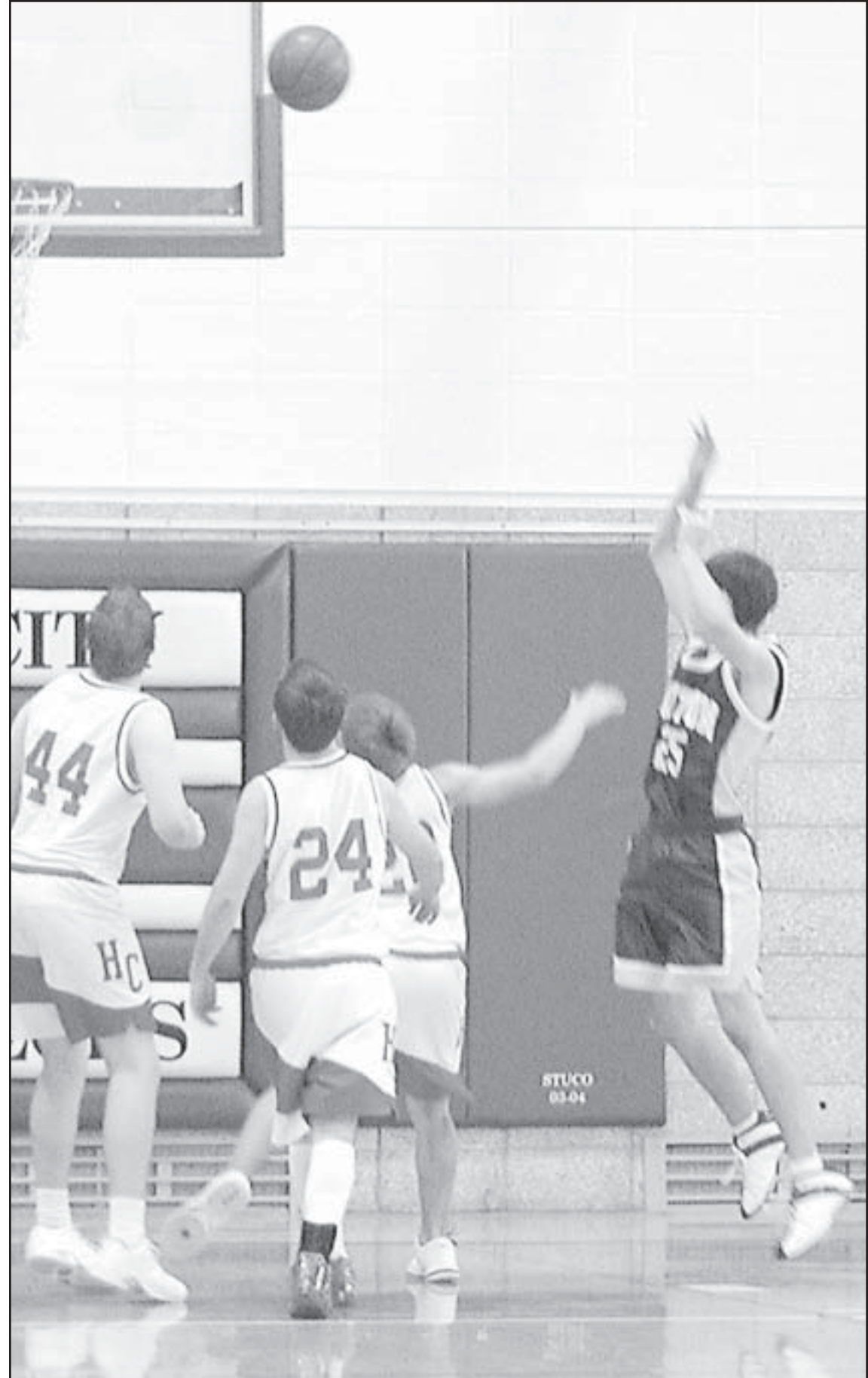
Jeff Boyle, who was the champion at 185 pounds, will be honored from the 1995 team.

Norton's honored state medal winners and families will first meet at 4 p.m. in Room 143 at Norton Community High School for fellowship and light refreshments.

Around 4:45 p.m., the former state medalists from Norton will be introduced to the crowd at the tournament. Each will receive a certificate of wrestling excellence in honor of the anniversary of their state medal.

A reception will be held after the finals in the school cafeteria until 10 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and meet the former wrestlers and their families.

Admission to the entire tournament is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission to Session No. 2, which begins around 3:30 p.m., is \$3 for adults through kindergarten. Pre-school children are admitted free.



Norton's Jared Cox put up a shot in the first quarter of the game against Hill City last Thursday in the Joe Green Invitational. Cox was the leading scorer with 18 points.

— Telegram photo by Susie Marble

Norton C-team squad wins consolation championship

By DICK BOYD

Coach Todd Fulton's Norton Community High School boys C-team basketball squad won the consolation championship of the Joe Green Invitational Basketball Tournament last Thursday in Hill City with a 45-40 victory over the young Ringnecks.

Norton led Hill City 11-7 after one quarter but the Blue Jays scored only 7 points in the second quarter while the Ringnecks were netting 17 to take a 24-18 halftime advantage. Both teams tallied 11 in the third quarter and Hill City maintained its six-point lead at 35-29 with one stanza remaining.

The young Blue Jays rallied for the win as they outscored Hill City 16-5 in the fourth quarter for a five-point victory.

"It was a big win for this group," said Coach Fulton. "They fought

back after being down by six points after three quarters and outscored Hill City 16-5 in the fourth.

"We played a better defensive game than we have this season."

Jared Cox scored 18 and Wes Georgeson tallied 16 to lead the Blue Jays in scoring. Preston Herman had 6 and Logan Kats, 5.

Top scorers for Hill City were D. Gerstner, 17, and J. Benoit, 12.

"We are still learning the game but showed marked improvement in this contest," said Coach Fulton. "I was proud of our effort in winning third place."

Cox and Georgeson were both named to the All-Tournament Team.

AYSO Soccer Registration

Friday, Jan. 7 - 5-8 p.m.
Sat., Jan. 8 - 2-6 p.m.

309 E. Main, Norton
(Former Prairie Land Building-Just North of St. Francis Parish Hall)



Lewis Keiswetter and his son Logan, foreground, practice a move during the first annual Norton Community High School Father/Son wrestling practice last Thursday in the wrestling room at East Campus. In the background, Clay Madden and his father Barry work for an advantage.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

For a Resident of Ward II to Fill an Unexpired Term of a Council Member on the Norton City Council

Position is open immediately, with the term expiring in April of 2006. This position requires approximately 15 hours per month in the evenings for City Council and Committee Meetings. Requirements are: • Resident of Ward II • Registered Voter of Ward II • 18 Years of Age or Older

If interested in serving as a Council Member of Ward II, please submit your name, address and phone number at the Norton City Office.