

Norton wrestlers are champions at Newton

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers sent a message from Northwest Kansas to the rest of the state by leading from start to finish in winning the championship of the 42nd annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions last Friday and Saturday.

Norton was the smallest school competing out of 24. No team with lower enrollment than a Class 5A school has ever won the tournament until this year.

Norton scored 170.5 points to win the championship. Bishop Carroll of Wichita was runnerup with 166.5 and Clay Center placed third with 163. They were followed by: Arkansas City, 152.5; Wichita-Haysville Campus, 150.5; Perry, Okla., 147.5; Hutchinson, 126.5; Manhattan, 125.5; Emporia, 120; Maize, 119; Derby, 116.5; Wichita South, 112; Winfield, 108.5; Wichita Northwest, 106.5; Salina South, 103.5; Valley Center, 71; McPherson, 70; Leavenworth, 59; Andover, 52; Newton, 39.5; Dodge City, 38; Wichita East, 20.5; Wichita Heights, 20; El Dorado, 12.5.

Norton is ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A and is the defending state champion. Clay Center is No. 2 in the state in Class 4A. Manhattan is ranked No. 3 in Class 6A and is the defending 6A state champion.

Perry is the defending Class 2A state champion in Oklahoma.

Also ranked in 6A are Emporia, No. 4; Maize, No. 5; Wichita South, No. 6; Derby, No. 7 and Wichita Northwest, No. 9.

This was the third year that Norton has competed in this tournament.

The first year Norton placed five wrestlers and scored 121 points to finish sixth.

Last year, the Blue Jays placed eight wrestlers and scored 125 points to finish fourth.

This year eight of the 13 Norton boys placed in the top eight in their class.

Norton had three wrestlers in championship matches but senior Michael Sprigg was the only winner.

Clay Madden and Lance Roe came in second. Nathan Broeckelman placed third.

Norton's other placers were: Jon Harding, sixth, 130; Logan Keiswetter, seventh, 103; Blake VanEaton, eighth, 145; Davvid Stanley, eighth, 171.

Also competing for Norton were: Kent Mann, 125; Jeremy Harding, 135; Luke Pfannenstiel, 140; Paul Juenemann, 189 and Blake Hillebrand, 215. Norton was open at 160 pounds.

"I'm very proud of the way our boys wrestled in this tournament," said Coach Johnson. "We had a very good start and led the team score from beginning to end. We lost only three matches in the first two rounds of competition.

"Each and every wrestler contributed to this good weekend. All competed hard and displayed good sportsmanship in times of both celebration and frustration. Each wrestler knows of things on which they need to improve and, at this tournament, the wrestlers' weaknesses are exposed very quickly.

"Jon Harding, Blake VanEaton and Davvid Stanley were not seeded and all placed in the top eight. I was especially proud of Davvid. He came in with a losing record and won three matches to place eighth."

Coach Johnson named Davvid Stanley "Wrestler of the Week." "Our wrestlers were able to step up and battle through two grueling days of wrestling," said Coach Johnson.

"There are more matches than in a state tournament where you have 16 wrestlers in each weight class. This tournament is tougher to win than our state tournament. We go to this tournament to prepare for the state tournament. We want all of our wrestlers to be tested before the state tournament and they were tested in this tournament. In order to be the best wrestlers, you have to wrestle the best.

"When you do well in this tournament, your name goes down in history with the great individuals in the sport of wrestling.

"Many, many thanks to all our fans, many of whom made the 500-mile trip to Newton to support us.



Norton's No. 1 state ranked in Class 3-2-1A and unbeaten Michael Sprigg pins No. 3 state ranked Ty Brunswig, Trego, during Norton's dual win on January 13 in Norton. In most recent action, Sprigg decisioned No. 1 state ranked in Class 6A Tyler Jessen, Wichita Northwest, 7-5

Many of our fans don't even have children in school but still drive to support us."

Coach Johnson was named "Outstanding Coach of the Tournament."

Norton had a win-loss record of 33-24 in the tournament and a pin ratio of 19-13. The Blue Jays tied with Haysville-Campus for the most number of pins in the tournament. Clay Center was third best with 17 pins. Arkansas City and Wichita South each had 16 pins.

Sprigg was seeded No. 1 at 275 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Kyle Morrow, Arkansas City, in 1:21. In the quarter-finals, he made even shorter work of Austin Aybsha, Andover, pinning him in 30 seconds. In the semi-finals, Sprigg made Casey Anderson, Haysville-Campus, No. 6 ranked in 5A, count the lights in 42 seconds.

The team scores of Norton and Bishop Carroll were tied at 166.5 with just Sprigg's match remaining. His opponent was Tyler Jessen, Wichita Northwest, who was undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 6A. Sprigg trailed 3-2 after the first period but tied the score with a second period escape. Sprigg's takedown and two escapes by Jessen in the third period tied the score at 5-all and sent the match into overtime. In the extra period, Sprigg took Jessen down to earn the 7-5 victory and the team championship for Norton!

Sprigg extended his record to 18-0.

Xavier Louis, Wichita South, who is ranked No. 2 in the state in 6A, placed third by pinning Anderson.

Madden was seeded No. 2 at 112 pounds. In his first match, he pinned Taylor James, Clay Center, in 20 seconds. Next, he won a 6-2 decision over Jordan Keller, Bishop Carroll. In the semi-finals, Madden pinned Josh Wetta, Wichita Northwest, in 31 seconds. In the championship finals, Madden wrestled Seth Metzler, Newton, No. 1 ranked in 5A, unbeaten and defending state champion.

Metzler led 4-1 after one period and 11-4 after two periods and won a 14-3 decision.

Madden's record is now 16-2.

Trison Graham, Arkansas City, placed third with a 14-2 decision over Wetta.

Roe, who is ranked No. 3 in the state at 152 pounds and placed fourth in the state last year, was seeded No. 2. In his first match, he won a 14-3 decision over Kyle Hale, Emporia. Next, he pinned Jeff Graber, McPherson, in 1:52.

After winning a 1-0 decision over Shane Manis, Valley Center, he won a 9-6 decision over No. 4 ranked in 5A Nick McGrew, Arkansas City, to reach the championship finals.

Roe wrestled Dave Anderson, Haysville-Campus, who is ranked No. 3 in 5A and is a defending state champion. Roe got out of position and Anderson pinned him in 2:26. It was Roe's first loss of the season. Anderson has lost twice.

Roe's season record is now 19-1.

Third place went to David Loos, Bishop Carroll.

Broeckelman, who is ranked No. 3 in the state in Class 3-2-1A and was second in the state last season, was seeded No. 2 at 119 pounds. In his first match, he pinned Joe Duling, Bishop Carroll, in 3:34. Next, he won an 18-3 technical fall over Trey Greenleaf, Derby. In his next match, he won a 6-4 decision over Matt Stormont, Hutchinson. Next he was pinned in 4:35 by Daniel Munoz, Wichita South, who is ranked No. 3 in 6A. In the consolation semi-finals, Broeckelman won a 13-4 decision over Duling in their second meeting of the tournament. Broeckelman placed third by decisioning Brad Hasselbring, Winfield, 4-2.

Broeckelman is now 18-3.

Isaac Wall, Andover, who is ranked No. 1 in 4A and is the defending champion, won the championship with a 12-5 decision over Munoz.

Jon Harding pinned Bishop Price, Wichita South, in 5:38. Price is ranked No. 5 in Class 6A. In his next match, he was pinned in 1:57 by unbeaten Tyler Adcock, Wichita Northwest, No. 4 ranked in Class 6A. Next, he won a 9-6 decision over Josh Guthrie, Dodge City, then pinned Adam Schwandt, Perry, in 2:29. In his next match, he was pinned in 2:44 by Thomas Pipes, Winfield. In his final match, he lost a 3-2 decision to Nick Nothern, Salina South, ranked No. 6 in 5A, to place sixth.

Jon Harding's record is now 13-8.

Josh Baldrige, Haysville-

in overtime to hand Jessen his first defeat of the season and ensure Norton's team championship in the prestigious Newton Tournament of Champions held Friday and Saturday in Newton.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Campus, won the championship by pinning Brian Ast, Emporia. Baldrige is ranked No. 1 in the state in 5A, is unbeaten and is a defending state champion. Third place went to Pipes with a 7-2 decision over Adcock.

Keiswetter is ranked No. 3 in the state at 103 pounds. In his first match, he pinned Austen Thornton, Manhattan, in 1:02. Next, he lost a 6-0 decision to No. 3 ranked in 5A John Keller, Bishop Carroll. In his next match he pinned Aaron Hoag, Arkansas City, in 57 seconds. He lost his next match by a 2-0 score to Chad Harding, Winfield. He won his final match with a pin in 2:30 of Nathan Horn, Emporia, to place seventh.

Keiswetter's record is now 13-5.

Aaron Ely, Leavenworth, who is ranked No. 2 in 6A, won the championship by shutting out Danny Altman, Derby, 7-0. Third place went to No. 5 ranked in 6A Micah Ankenman, Hutchinson, who decisioned Keller 11-2.

VanEaton shut out Aaron Mejia, Emporia, 4-0 in the first round of the 145 pound weight class. In his second match, he was pinned in 3:57 by David Muir, Perry. Next, he wrestled Kyle Brown, Wichita South, and pinned him in 4:38. VanEaton was pinned in 2:56 of his match with Jayme Hoover, Salina South and was pinned in 5:32 of his match with No. 3 state ranked in 6A Mike Miller, Manhattan, to place eighth.

VanEaton's record is now 12-9.

Defending state champion Danny Grater, Clay Center, who is undefeated and ranked No. 1 in 4A, won the championship with a

5-2 decision over defending state champion Joseph Cornejo, Haysville-Campus. Third place went to Nathan Thibault, Maize, with an 11-1 decision over Romero Cotton, Hutchinson.

In his first match at 171 pounds, Norton's Stanley pinned No. 5 state ranked in 6A Matt Scott, Manhattan, in 1:59. In his next match, he pinned Cole Wilson, Dodge City, in 5:32. His first loss was by a fall in 3:07 to Dusty Ward, Perry. Stanley won his next match by outscoring Tucker Tromp, Haysville-Campus, 12-1 for a major decision. Next, he lost a 3-1 decision to Beau Williams, Valley Center, and was pinned in 4:21 of his last match by No. 6 ranked in 6A Josh Jackson, Maize, to place eighth.

Stanley's record is now 11-12.

Nate Boyer, Clay Center, No. 2 state ranked in 4A, won the championship with a 16-5 decision over Mark Scram, Arkansas City. Ward won third place with an 11-0 shut-out of Pat Moore, Winfield.

At 125 pounds, Norton's Mann pinned Kyle Yoder, Andover, in 3:28 of their first round. Next, Mann lost a 9-3 decision to No. 5 ranked in 4A Wes Barrett, El Dorado. In his next match, he pinned Tucker Adams, Manhattan, in 3:28. He lost his final match by a 4-1 score to David Criswell, Valley Center.

Mann's record is now 7-7.

Unbeaten Conner Crumbliss, Arkansas City, won the championship with a 6-4 overtime win over Tim Elliott, Wichita South. Third place went to Liam Kastor, Bishop Carroll, who decisioned Ry Fleming, Perry, 8-6.

Jeremy Harding won his first

135 pound match by pinning Jordon Edison, Wichita Northwest, in 1:24. He lost his next match by a 4-2 score to undefeated Aaron Bingham, Manhattan. In his next match, he lost a 5-3 decision to No. 1 ranked in 6A Zach Hentzen, Maize, who placed second in the state last season.

Mitch Arnold, Bishop Carroll, won the championship with a 6-5 decision over Gary Swan, Perry. Winning third place was Dakota Tennant, Arkansas City, with a 9-0 win over Kyle Moravec, Wichita Heights.

At 140 pounds, Pfannenstiel won by a fall in 37 seconds over Alex Patrick, Wichita South, in his first round match. Next he won a 16-1 technical fall over No. 5 state ranked in 6A Will Gray, Wichita Heights. He lost his next match by a 6-3 score to No. 2 ranked in 6A Phil Craig, Hutchinson. He lost his final match by a 2-1 score to Brendan Lund, Clay Center.

Pfannenstiel now has a record of 15-3.

Craig won the championship with an 11-3 decision over Levi Sides, McPherson. Third place went to Jarred Patterson, Maize, who pinned Brett Hoshaw, Manhattan, No. 3 ranked at 135.

Juenemann wrestled for Norton at 189 pounds. He lost his first match by a fall in 3:01 to No. 4 ranked in 5A Nathan Brenner, Bishop Carroll. He was pinned in 2:43 of his second match with Kyle Nitcher, Valley Center.

Juenemann is now 5-9 for the season.

Unbeaten Sean Pietrzyk, Salina South, won the championship with a 7-4 decision over No. 2 ranked in 6A Lee Larson, Manhattan. Jarrett Edison, Wichita Northwest, placed third by pinning Brenner.

At 215 pounds, Hillebrand was pinned in 58 seconds of his first match by No. 1 ranked in 6A Jacob McFarland, Derby. In his second match, he won a 16-0 technical fall over Jaron Sanders, Wichita Northwest. In his last match, he was pinned in 1:16 by Anthony Garcia, Dodge City.

Hillebrand's season record is now 7-10.

Unbeaten, defending state champion Jacob Marrs, Clay Center, won the championship by pinning Sam Archer, McPherson. Third place winner was defending state champion Ryan Sponcel, Bishop Carroll, who shutout Jacob McFarland, Derby, by 5-0.

Norton was open at 160 pounds. Zach Sikes, Perry, pinned Dan Dikin, Emporia, to win the championship. James Randolph, Winfield, won third with an 8-2 decision over Kirk Fairley, Derby.

Next action

Next competition for the Norton Blue Jay wrestling team will be Tuesday when they travel to Hays to wrestle Hays High and Kearney, Neb. in the Hays High School gym. The Hays-Kearney dual will begin at 4 p.m., followed by the Norton-Kearney dual at 5:30 p.m. and the Norton-Hays dual at 7 p.m.

Eighth grade girls are league champs

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Paxton and Baird each took 2 from the Panthers.

"Our rebounding hurt us early as we allowed the Panthers to have too many. But, late in the contest, we dominated the boards and this was a huge factor in our victory. Leaders were Kara Jo Jones with 8, Kayla Foley with 4 and Ashley Colip, Bozarth and Rossi with 3 each.

"Assists were dished out by Baird with 4 and Rossi with 3."

Scoring for the Lady Blue Jays were Jones, 11 points; Paxton, 10; Colip, 5; Baird, 4; Rossi and Bozarth, 3 apiece.

WaKeeney

"There were so many keys to this game, but, as has been the theme to this year's team, defense played a very major role in their winning this league tournament and finishing the season undefeated with a record of 13-0," said Coach Zimmerman.

"Their defense is started by all the team members understanding that we play a 'help' style defense, which means we help guard every opponent on the floor even if they are not our main responsibility.

This has been the key all season as an opponent may get by one of us, but it's hard to get by four more before you can shoot the ball. This is what this team does the best. Help each other.

"Our deflects show the hustle this team puts out each and every contest as we had a team total of 21. That means 21 times we got a hand or finger on the ball while it was intended for an opponent. More times than not, this leads to a turnover by our opponents. Baird scampered to get 6 deflects, while Jones and Bozarth both hustled after 4, and Paxton got her hands on 3.

"Deflects lead to turnovers and steals are a huge portion of our defensive scheme. The team amassed 21 steals with Jones stepping in front of 6 passes to deny the Hornets an offensive opportunity on that possession. Colip was instrumental in taking 5 steals, while Baird took 4 and Rossi pilfered 3.

"The last step of any good defense is the rebounding. In this championship game it turned out to be the Bozarth/Jones tandem starring in the role with great support from Paxton. In the first half,

Bozarth grabbed just about every wayward shot and dominated the boards. In the second half, it was Jones who took over and ripped the ball off the boards as both of these young ladies pulled down 8, while Paxton chipped in with 5 of her own. These three girls were a key ingredient to our season as they led the team in rebounds, which also started our 'fast break' in which we scored numerous points to either add to a lead or come back from being behind to take the lead.

"Another word to describe this team is unselfish. Assists are a good indicator of this as this team does not care who scores the baskets as long as someone does. And, this team looks very hard for their open teammate who has the easiest shot. Our leader for this game was Rossi, who found 6 teammates open for score. Besides finding open teammates, Rossi's most important duty on the court is to get us into the proper offense and she did an excellent job of this all season. Our second leading assist maker was Baird, who also had the knack of finding the open shooter as she found 4 teammates

open.

"This team has been one of the best teams that I have coached in my career. Not just looking at their record, but at the practice habits, their togetherness both on and off the court are a key. Their work habits on the floor carry over into their classroom work habits.

"These girls have been a pleasure to coach and I know they will be successful in their high school careers. I know they will work very hard to improve during their off-season to be ready for the rigors of high school basketball."

Scoring for Norton were Baird, 14 points; Bozarth, 9; Paxton and Jones, 8 apiece; and Colip, 2.

"This team thanks our parents, who have shown tremendous support throughout the season, and our fans," said the coach. "We hope you've enjoyed watching us play as we surely enjoyed playing. And, we thank the 'boys' who followed us throughout the tournament as we appreciated your cheering for us in the final two games of the league tournament. It meant a great deal to have the support of our 'big brothers'. Thank you all for a great season."