

Norton wrestlers win league tournament

By DICK BOYD

Placing 13 wrestlers, Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team steamrolled to their sixth straight Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament championship on Saturday in WaKeeney.

The Blue Jays rolled up 226.5 points to easily outdistance second place Phillipsburg, who was 80 points back with a team score of 146.5.

Third place went to Smith Center, last year's runnerup, with 133.5 points.

Plainville was fourth with 96, followed by Trego, 76; Stockton, 52; Ellis, 45.5; Osborne, 33.5; Hill City, 13. Victoria does not compete in wrestling.

Winning championships were junior Clay Madden, 112; sophomore Kent Mann, 125; junior Jon Harding, 130; junior Jeremy Harding, 135; junior Luke Pfannenstiel, 140; junior Lance Roe, 152; senior Michael Sprigg, 275.

Three Blue Jays repeated as league champions. Mann was the 103 pound champion last season, Roe won at 135 pounds and Sprigg was the 275 pound gold medal winner.

Runnerup places Saturday for Norton went to sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 103 and sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, 119.

Earning bronze medals were sophomore Blake VanEaton, 145; junior Davvid Stanley, 171 and senior Blake Hillebrand, 215.

Fourth place finisher was senior Corey Look, 160.

Senior Paul Juenemann competed at 189 pounds.

Norton wrestlers won 28 matches and lost just 9 in the tournament. Norton wrestlers won by pins 16 times compared to being pinned only 4 times.

The Blue Jays had 20 near falls for three points and their opponents had just one.

"It's tough coming into a tournament like this when everyone knows you're supposed to win," said Coach Johnson. "Overall, we wrestled extremely well.

"Matches we lost were close ones. Anybody who beat us had to earn it.

"Stanley barely missed making the finals and VanEaton came within an eyelash of making the finals.

"Mann wrestled very well. Although he was seeded No. 1, he lost earlier in the year to No. 3 seed Justin York, Smith Center, whom he wrestled for the championship."

On the strength of Mann's gold medal performance and his wins Tuesday over Hays and Kearney, Neb. wrestlers, Coach Johnson named Mann the "Wrestler of the Week".

Individual matches

At 103 pounds, Keiswetter was seeded No. 2. He is also ranked No. 3 in the state. He drew a bye in the first round, then pinned No. 3 seed Chris Orr, Hill City, in 2:29 of their semi-finals match. For the championship, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 4 state ranked Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg.

The first period was scoreless. Keiswetter took a 2-0 lead in the second period but Ceman tied it at 2-2 in the third period, sending the match into overtime where Keiswetter lost 4-2. Keiswetter is now 17-6 for the season.

Orr placed third with a bye.

Madden is ranked No. 1 in the state at 112 pounds and was seeded No. 1. The two-time defending state champion drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Chris Schneider, Phillipsburg, in 1:27. In the championship finals, he wasted no time in making No. 2 seed Scott Jewell, Trego, count the lights. Madden pinned Jewell in 29 seconds!

With the championship, Madden extended his season record to 20-3.

No. 3 seed Kevin Urban, Ellis, placed third with a 17-0 technical fall over Schneider.

At 119 pounds, Broeckelman is ranked No. 3 in the state and was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Zach Cady, Osborne, in 1:53. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, in 3:37. In the championship finals, Broeckelman trailed the entire match against No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked, Paul Owings, Plainville. Broeckelman trailed 4-1 after one period and 8-

2 after two periods and lost by an 11-4 decision.

Broeckelman's record is now 21-5 for the season.

No. 4 seed Heath Maley, Trego, placed third with a 6-1 decision over No. 5 seed Trey Kellner, Stockton.

Mann was seeded No. 1 at 125 pounds. In the first round, he won a 14-0 major decision over Alex Sturgeon, Osborne. In the semi-finals, Mann won a 4-3 decision over No. 4 seed Joe Olson, Trego, who is ranked No. 6 in the state. In the championship finals, Mann wrestled No. 3 seed Justin York, Smith Center, whom he had lost to earlier this season. Mann led 2-1 after one period but trailed 3-2 after two periods. In the third period, Mann tied the score at 3-3 all at the buzzer to send the match into overtime. Mann earned two points in the overtime to win 5-3.

Mann's record is now 13-8.

Olson placed third with a 5-1 decision over No. 2 seed Jason Calhoon, Phillipsburg.

At 130 pounds, Jon Harding was seeded No. 1. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned No. 4 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City, in 2:47. In the championship match, he wrestled No. 2 seed Brandon Kaup, Phillipsburg. He completely dominated Kaup. After leading 9-1 at the end of the first period, he won a 16-1 technical fall. Jon is now 19-7 for the season.

Tad Miller, Stockton, placed third by pinning No. 3 seed Brian Keller, Ellis, in 1:39.

No. 4 state ranked Jeremy Harding was seeded No. 1 at 135 pounds. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned No. 5 seed Chris Keas, Plainville, in 43 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Travis Warner, Smith Center. Jeremy led 2-0 after one period and 8-0 after two periods and won a 10-1 major decision to earn the gold medal. Jeremy is now 21-5 for the season.

No. 3 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 12-6 decision over Martin Muir, Osborne.

Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 1 at 140 pounds and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Jake Weigel, Plainville, in 1:48. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Adam Montgomery, Smith Center. After a scoreless first period, Pfannenstiel took charge and built a 7-1 lead in the second stanza. He added three more points in the third period to win a 10-1 major decision. Pfannenstiel's record is now 21-3.

No. 2 seed Clay King, Ellis, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Weigel.

At 145 pounds, VanEaton was seeded No. 2. He drew a first round bye, then lost a 4-3 decision to No. 3 seed Brandon Brown, Plainville. In the consolation bracket, he won a 10-2 major decision over No. 5 seed Nathan Palmer, Stockton, to reach the consolation championship where he faced No. 4 seed Cole King, Ellis. After a scoreless first period, VanEaton scored three points in the second period to take a 3-0 lead. Neither wrestler scored in the final period and the score remained 3-0. VanEaton is now 15-10.

No. 1 seed Brad Rachow, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a 7-5 decision over Brown.

Roe is ranked No. 3 in the state at 152 pounds and was seeded No. 1. He received a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Ricky Hilgers, Trego, in 5:47 of their semi-finals match. In the championship match, Roe faced No. 2 seed Tom Kriley, Smith Center. Roe held a 4-1 lead after one period but Kriley narrowed the lead to 4-2 in the second period. Roe outscored him 3-1 in the final stanza to win 7-3 and earn the gold medal. Roe is now 25-1.

Catlin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, the No. 3 seed, won third with an 11-1 major decision over Jacob Keas, Plainville.

At 160 pounds, Look was seeded No. 4. In the first round, he shutout No. 5 seed Taylor Dirks, Trego, 6-0. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 3:39 by No. 1 seed Jake Nichols, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, he shutout Grant Kollman, Stockton, 4-0, to reach the consolation finals. He met No. 2 seed Brian Hadley,

Phillipsburg, for third. After falling behind 2-0 in the first period, he was pinned in 2:17. Look's record is now 9-6.

Nichols won the championship with a 12-1 major decision over No. 3 seed Conner McMullen, Plainville.

Stanley was seeded No. 3 at 171 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Tobi Dirks, Trego, in 51 seconds. In the semi-finals, he lost an 8-7 decision to No. 2 seed Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Mark Axelson, Plainville, in 2:18. In the consolation championship match, he pinned No. 4 seed Justin LaBarge, Ellis, in 1:16. Stanley is now 16-14.

No. 1 seed Austin Kingsbury, who is ranked No. 2 in the state, won the championship by pinning Jarvis in 3:28.

At 189 pounds, Juenemann was seeded No. 7. In the first round, he lost a 6-1 decision to No. 2 seed Justin Hall, Stockton. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 4:33 by No. 6 seed David Hadley, Phillipsburg. Juenemann is now 6-14.

No. 1 seed Dustin Spears, Osborne, won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Tyler Brungardt, Plainville, in 1:39. Third place went to No. 4 seed Michael Malay, Trego, with a 7-1 decision over No. 5 seed Kirk Palmer, Smith Center.

Hillebrand was seeded No. 3 at 215 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Joe Bretton, Phillipsburg, in 2:52. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 32 seconds by No. 2 seed and No. 5 state ranked Adam Rorabaugh, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Justin Metcalf, Hill City, in 2:07. In the consolation championship match, he pinned No. 4 seed Kyle Spena, Trego, in 3:28 to earn the bronze medal. Hillebrand is now 12-13.

No. 1 seed Chris Pulec, Stockton, won the championship by pinning Rorabaugh in 1:06.

At 275 pounds, No. 1 state ranked and No. 1 seeded Sprigg received a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Scott Eller, Phillipsburg, in 30 seconds. He won the championship when No. 2 seed and No. 3 state ranked Ty Brunswig, Trego, injury defaulted. Sprigg is now 23-0 for the season.

Eller placed third by pinning No. 3 seed Andy Brown, Plainville, in 1:48.

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis on Friday to wrestle duals against Plainville and Ellis, beginning at 5 p.m. The Norton-Ellis dual will be first, followed by Norton-Plainville and Ellis-Plainville.

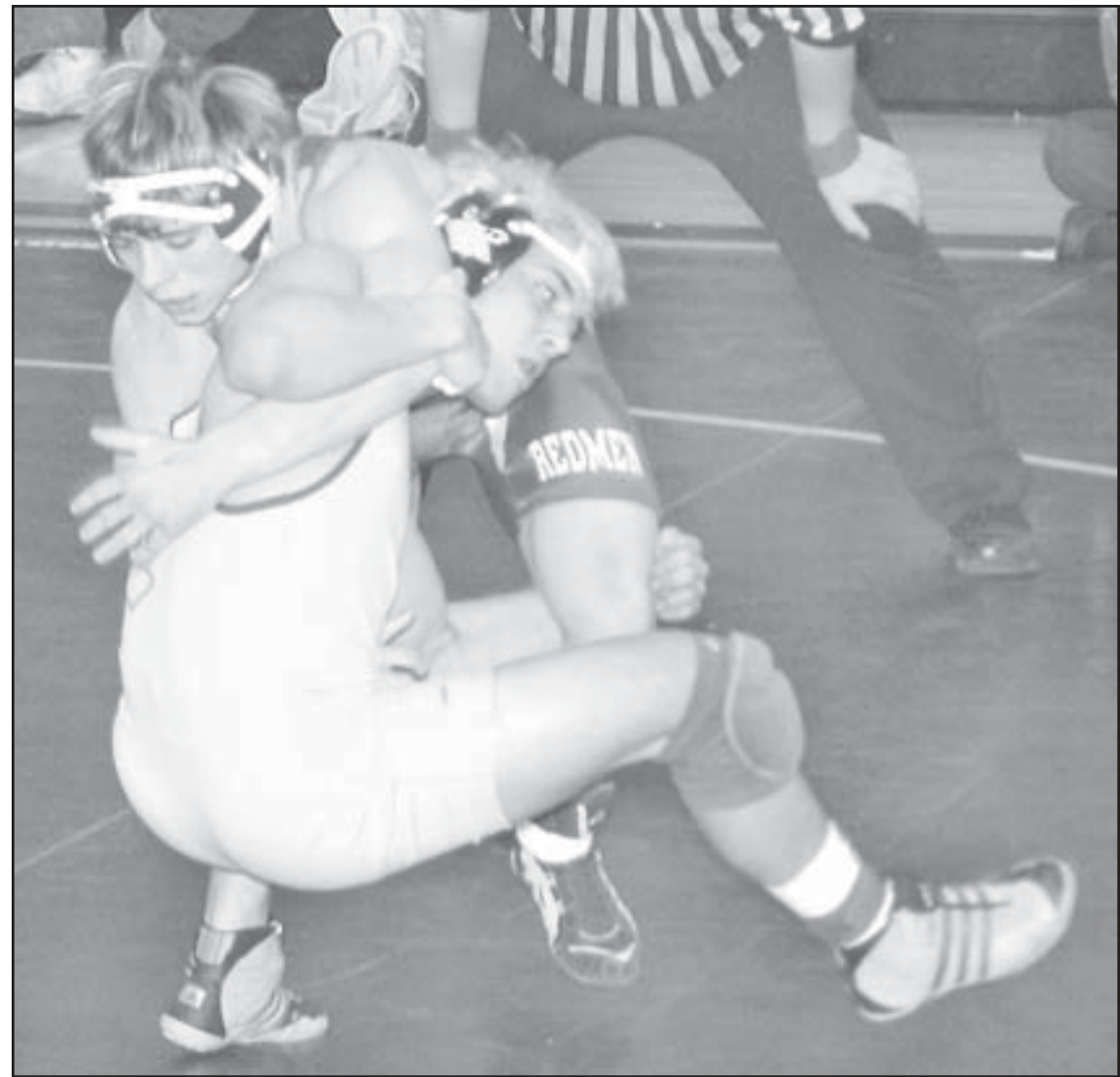
On Saturday, Norton will compete in the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Competing teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Beloit, Colby, Concordia, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoxie, Lincoln, Minneapolis and Stockton.

Varsity wrestlers will compete in the Chuck Newlin Gym.

A junior varsity tournament will be held in the auxiliary gym.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students (K-12). Admission is good for all day.



Norton junior Lance Roe earns two points on a firemen's carry move during his 7-3 decision over Smith Center senior Tom Kriley to win the 152 pound championship at the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in WaKeeney.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior Jeremy Harding sets up a guillotine move during his 10-1 major decision over Smith Center junior Travis Warner to win the 135 pound championship at the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in WaKeeney. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Logan Keiswetter, Norton sophomore at 103 pounds, attempts a switch during his championship match with Phillipsburg sophomore Zach Ceman at the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in WaKeeney. The match went into overtime but Keiswetter lost 4-2 to the No. 1 seed Ceman.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd