

# Norton Blue Jay wrestlers win Panther Classic

By DICK BOYD

Despite having three varsity wrestlers on the sidelines, Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team successfully defended last year's championship of the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

The Blue Jays, ranked No. 1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A, scored 147 points to win the title. Beloit placed runnerup with 133 points and Phillipsburg was third with 123.5. Fourth place went to Concordia, ranked No. 8 in Class 4A, with 89.5 points.

No. 2 state ranked Hoxie and Lincoln tied for fifth with 86 points. Colby, who is ranked No. 7 in Class 4A, placed seventh with 76.5 points and was followed by Minneapolis, 59; Stockton, 58; Hill City, 38; Ellis, 31; Ellsworth, 26.

Norton had six wrestlers in the championship finals and two wrestling for the consolation championship. Four Blue Jays won championships and one won a consolation title.

Champions for Norton were sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 103; junior Clay Madden, 112; junior Lance Roe, 152 and senior Michael Sprigg, 275.

Placing second in their weight classes were junior Jon Harding, 130 and junior Davvid Stanley, 171.

Sophomore Kent Mann, 125, won a consolation championship. Sophomore Blake VanEaton placed fourth at 145 pounds.

Freshman Travis Ray wrestled in place of Norton's No. 3 state ranked sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, who had a minor injury, and came within one match of placing at 119 pounds.

Senior Paul Juenemann won his first 189 pound match with a pin but suffered a minor injury and was unable to wrestle the rest of the day.

Also competing for Norton were seniors Corey Look, 160 and Blake Hillebrand, 215.

Unable to compete due to minor injuries were junior Jeremy Harding, who is ranked No. 4 in the state, and junior Luke Pfannenstiel, 140.

Norton compiled a 21-11 win-loss record and a 10-6 pin ratio.

"It was unfortunate that we did not have a full team," said Coach Johnson. "We were missing three very good wrestlers, two of whom are returning state medalists.

"I'm proud of every one of our wrestlers. All performed better than they have this season.

"I'm especially proud of Keiswetter and Stanley. Both had huge tournaments that will help them for regional seedings."

Coach Johnson named Keiswetter "Wrestler of the Week".

### Individual results

Keiswetter is ranked No. 3 in the state and was seeded No. 4 at 103 pounds. In the first round, he

pinned No. 5 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, in 1:10. In the semi-finals, Keiswetter defeated No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked in Class 4A Daniel Tibbles, Colby, 1-0 in overtime.

In the championship finals, Keiswetter wrestled No. 3 seed Jake Hoesli, Concordia. Keiswetter took a 5-2 lead in the first period. Neither wrestler scored in the second period. Although Keiswetter scored just one point in the third period, Hoesli could only manage two points and Keiswetter won the championship with a 6-4 decision.

Keiswetter is now 22-6 for the season.

Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, who is No. 4 state ranked and was seeded No. 2, placed third with a 13-2 major decision over Tanner Popp, Hoxie.

No. 1 state ranked Clay Madden was seeded No. 1 at 112. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned No. 4 seed Brent Luedke, Colby, in 18 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed and No. 6 ranked in Class 4A Dustin Dooley, Concordia. Madden dominated Dooley. He led 3-0 after the first period and 9-0 after two periods and won an 11-3 major decision to win the gold medal for the second straight season in the Panther Classic 112 pound class.

Madden is now 24-3 for the season.

Luedke won third place with a 7-1 decision over No. 2 seed Tommy Knapp, Lincoln.

No. 3 state ranked and No. 1 seed Lance Roe won a 20-5 technical fall over John Smith, Hill City, in the first round at 152 pounds. In the semi-finals, he won an 18-1 technical fall over No. 4 seed Ryan Sorell, Concordia. Roe wrestled No. 2 seed Catlin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, in the championship finals. Roe led by just 2-0 after the first period and Zahorsky escaped in the second period to make it a 2-1 match with one period left. Roe dominated the third stanza, however, outscoring Zahorsky 5-1 to win a 7-3 decision and the gold medal.

Roe's record is now 29-1. No. 5 seed Matt Hymen, Beloit, won third by decisioning No. 3 seed Ben Jurek, Colby, 6-3.

Two unbeaten records were on the line when Norton's Michael Sprigg and Lincoln's Jake Boor walked on the mat for the 275 pound championship match. Sprigg is ranked No. 1 in the state and Boor is ranked No. 2. They were seeded No. 1 and No. 2, respectively.

Sprigg led 2-1 after the first period and 6-2 after two periods. Boor scored three points in the final period to make it close but Sprigg remained unbeaten with a 6-5 decision.

Sprigg drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Scott Eller, Phillipsburg, in 20 seconds of their semi-final match. Sprigg is now

27-0 for the season.

Eller won third place by pinning No. 3 seed Cory Kiser, Minneapolis.

Jon Harding was seeded No. 2 at 130 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Jeremy Chase, Hill City, in 41 seconds. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed and No. 4 state ranked Brandon Kaup, Phillipsburg, in 5:15. In the championship finals, Harding wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Simon Orozco, Ellsworth, and was pinned in 3:39 to place second.

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

Harding's record is now 23-8. Kaup placed third with a 12-1 major decision over Chase.

At 171 pounds, Davvid Stanley was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Jeremy Nelson, Stockton, in 1:58. In the semi-finals, he won a 6-4 decision over No. 3 seed Matt McGinty, Hoxie. In the championship finals he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 5 state ranked James Wright, Beloit, and was pinned in 1:04 to place second.

Stanley's record is now 20-15.

Kent Mann was seeded No. 3 at 125 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Jake Strickland, Concordia, in 3:14. In his semi-final match, he lost a 12-0 major decision to No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked Brad Esterl, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, Mann pinned No. 5 seed Jason Calhoon, Phillipsburg, in 2:28 to reach the consolation championship match. He won a 3-0 decision over No. 4 seed Travis Powell, Colby, to earn the bronze medal.

Mann is now 18-9 for the season.

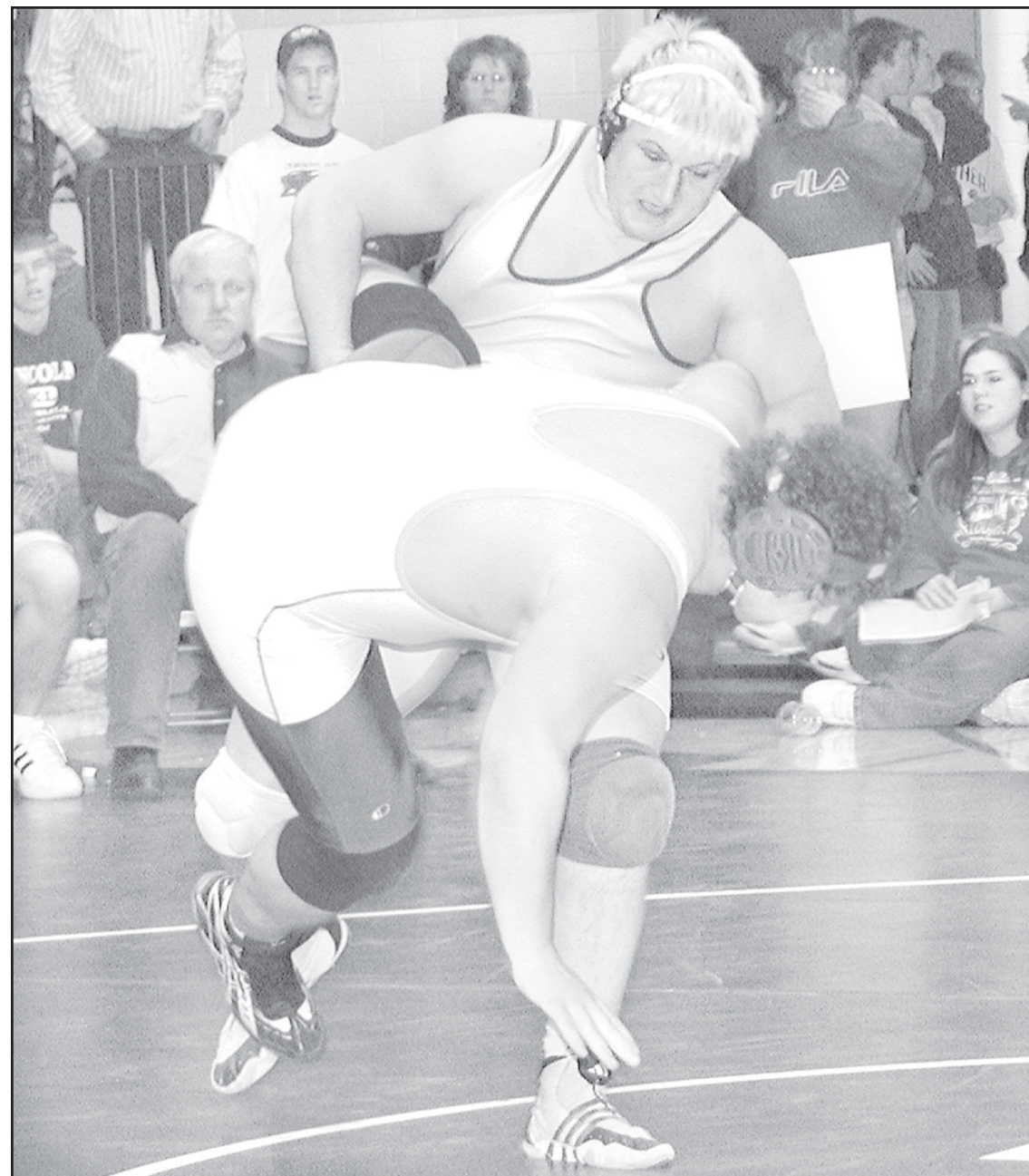
No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Tyler Baker, Hoxie, won the championship with a 5-2 decision over Esterl.

At 145 pounds, Blake VanEaton found himself among four state ranked wrestlers and he was seeded No. 6. In the first round, he wrestled No. 3 seed Brad Rachow, Phillipsburg, and lost a 9-3 decision. In the consolation bracket, VanEaton won a 9-2 decision over Jake Livesay, Lincoln, then won a 1-0 decision over No. 4 seed and No. 5 ranked in Class 4A Taylor Finley, Colby. In the consolation finals, he wrestled Rachow again and lost a 5-3 decision to place fourth.

VanEaton is now 19-12 for the season.

The championship was won by No. 2 seed and No. 1 state ranked Michael Schamberger, Hoxie, with a 1-0 decision over No. 1 seed and No. 3 in Class 4A Wes Fleming, Concordia.

Travis Ray was seeded No. 4 at 119 pounds. In the first round, he pinned No. 5 seed Trey Kellner, Stockton, in 5:33. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 1:23 by No. 1 seed Hunter Olsen, Colby. In the consolation bracket, he lost a



Norton's unbeaten and No. 1 state ranked Michael Sprigg scores a two-point takedown during his 6-5 decision over previously undefeated and No. 2 state ranked Jake Boor, Lincoln, to win the 275 pound championship at the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg on Saturday.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

10-3 decision to Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, to finish just one match out of the consolation finals.

Ray is now 11-3 for the season. Brachtenbach won third place with a 4-1 decision over No. 2 seed Cody Eaton, Minneapolis. Olsen won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Kaid Calhoon, Beloit.

Korey Look wrestled No. 3 seed Chuck Knapp, Lincoln, in the first round at 160 pounds and was pinned in 4:30. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 14-4 major decision to Jeremy Thoman, Concordia.

Look is now 10-9 for the season.

Knapp won third with an 8-6 decision over Thoman. No. 1 seed and No. 3 state ranked Nick Newell, Beloit, won the championship with a 7-3 decision over No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked Jeff Doering, Minneapolis.

Paul Juenemann got off to a good start at 189 pounds but, unfortunately, could not continue due to injury. In the first round, he pinned No. 3 seed Alex Coffman,

Minneapolis, in 1:35.

Juenemann is now 8-15 for the season.

No. 1 seed and No. 3 state ranked Erik Larsen, Lincoln, won the championship by edging No. 2 seed Justin Hall, Stockton, 4-3. Third place went to David Hadley, Phillipsburg, with a 9-7 decision over No. 5 seed Marcus Nutting, Hill City.

At 215 pounds, Blake Hillebrand wrestled No. 3 seed Tim Erwin, Hoxie, in the first round and was pinned in 2:45. In the consolation bracket, he wrestled No. 5 seed and No. 3 ranked in Class 4A Josh Brown, Concordia, and was pinned in 2:28.

Hillebrand is now 14-15 for the season.

No. 1 seed Chris Pulec, Stockton, won the championship with a 7-1 decision over No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked Derek Vonada, Lincoln. No. 4 seed Randy Torres, Minneapolis, won third with a 6-1 decision over Brown.

The 135 pound championship

was won by No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Cale Farber, Hoxie, who won a 3-0 decision over No. 3 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg. Blake Mayes, Beloit, the No. 4 seed, won third place by pinning No. 2 seed Jared Spear, Lincoln.

At 145 pounds, No. 1 seed and No. 4 state ranked Tracy Jordan, Beloit, won the championship with an 11-3 major decision over No. 2 seed Joey Kinder, Concordia. No. 3 seed Clay King, Ellis, won third by pinning No. 5 seed Jase Merry, Minneapolis.

### Next action

Norton will travel to Hill City on Thursday to wrestle Osborne and Hill City. Action will begin with the Osborne-Hill City dual at 5:15 p.m., followed by the Norton-Osborne dual around 5:45 p.m. and the Norton-Hill City dual around 6:15 p.m.

The Norton junior varsity will compete on Saturday in the "Bill Voss" Novice Wrestling Tournament at the high school in Colby, beginning at 9 a.m.

# Wrestlers defeat Plainville, shutout Ellis on Friday

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers remained unbeaten this season in duals on Friday night with a 62-15 win over Plainville and 70-0 shutout of Ellis in competition at Plainville High School.

Plainville defeated Ellis 51-21 in the other dual.

### Norton over Plainville

Norton won eight of the 11 matches wrestled against Plainville.

At 125 pounds, Kent Mann won by a fall in 5:11 over Aaron Dinkel. Jon Harding won his 130 pound match with Heath Rath by pinning Rath in just 15 seconds.

Jeremy Harding pinned Chris Keas in 2:54 of their 135 pound match.

At 140 pounds, Luke Pfannenstiel won a 6-1 decision over Jake Weigel.

Lance Roe won a 24-7 technical fall over Luke Brin at 152 pounds.

In the 171 pound match, Davvid Stanley pinned Mark Axelson in 1:08.

At 215 pounds, Blake Hillebrand pinned Alan Crawford in 43 seconds.

Michael Sprigg pinned Andy Brown in just 28 seconds of their 275 pound match.

Logan Keiswetter, 103; Clay Madden, 112 and Blake VanEaton, 145, won by forfeit.

At 119 pounds, Travis Ray was pinned in 3:00 by Paul Owings.

Korey Look was pinned in 5:12 of the 160 pound match by Connor McMullen.

Norton's other loss was at 189 pounds where Paul Juenemann lost an 8-2 decision to Tyler Brungardt.

### Norton over Ellis

The Blue Jays won all 13 matches wrestled against Ellis.

At 112 pounds, Madden won a 9-2 decision over Kevin Urban.

Ray pinned Dusty Unrein in 4:55 of their 119 pound match.

In the 125 pound match, Mann pinned Scott Gugler in 3:59.

At 130 pounds, Jon Harding shut out Brian Keller 9-0 for a major decision.

Jeremy Harding pinned Zach Gerhing in 4:40 of their 135 pound match.

Pfannenstiel won a 5-4 decision over Clay King at 140 pounds.

At 145 pounds, VanEaton decisioned Cole King 3-1.

Brian Sproul won an 8-5 decision over Justin Gnad at 152 pounds.

In the 160 pound match, Look pinned Glenn Lacy in 5:24.

At 171 pounds, Stanley pinned Justin LaBarge in 1:54.

Juenemann pinned Corey Amrein in 2:51 of their 189 pound match.

At 215 pounds, Hillebrand pinned Josh Tricks in just 26 seconds.

Sprigg pinned Michael Hiss in just 18 seconds of their 275 pound match.

Keiswetter won by forfeit at 103 pounds.

### Junior varsity vs. Ellis

125 — Jared Bebb pinned Rowdy Wichman in 5:22.

215 — Shane Stanley pinned Chris Hazen in 1:24.

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