

Blue Jay wrestlers are Regional champions!

By DICK BOYD

Leading from start to finish, Coach Bill Johnson's No. 1 state ranked Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team powered to the championship of the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament held Friday and Saturday at Trego Community High School in WaKeeney.

The Blue Jays amassed 208 points to outdistance second place and No. 5 state ranked Oakley, who totaled 180 points.

Placing third with 163.5 points was No. 3 state ranked St. Francis. No. 4 state ranked Hoxie placed fourth with 115.5 points. Oberlin followed in fifth with 113 and No. 8 state ranked Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays was sixth with 92.

Trego placed seventh with 71.50, Plainville was eighth with 67, No. 9 state ranked Cimarron was ninth with 45.5 and Hill City finished in tenth with 45 points.

Ellis and Atwood tied for 11th with 37, followed by Leoti, 27.5; Lakin, 26; Sublette, 20; Deerfield, 16; Quinter, 9; Montezuma, 5; Kinsley, 0.

This regional tournament was unquestionably the toughest of the four in the state with six of the top 10 ranked teams in the state competing and 35 percent of the individually state ranked wrestlers competing.

Nine qualified for state

Nine of the 14 Blue Jay wrestlers who competed placed in the top four of their weight class and qualified for the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Oakley also qualified nine and eight St. Francis and eight Oberlin wrestlers also earned a trip to the state tournament.

Norton had six wrestlers in Saturday evening's finals and five won championships. Winning championships were sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 103; junior Clay Madden, 112; junior Luke Pfannenstiel, 140; junior Lance Roe, 152 and senior Michael Sprigg, 275.

Junior Jon Harding placed second at 130 pounds.

Two of three Blue Jay wrestlers competing for the consolation championship were winners. Winning bronze medals were sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, 119 and sophomore Blake VanEaton, 145. Finishing in fourth place was junior Jeremy Harding, 135.

Madden is a two-time defending state champion and is ranked No. 1 in the state. Sprigg is defending state champion and also ranked No. 1.

Keiswetter, Broeckelman and Roe are all ranked No. 3 in the state in their weight division. Roe is a two-time state placer and Broeckelman placed second last year.

Jeremy Harding is ranked No. 4 and Jon Harding is ranked No. 6.

Pfannenstiel is not ranked but placed in the state tournament his freshman season. He was injured last season.

Also competing for Norton but not qualifying for the state tournament were sophomore Kent Mann, 125, who placed last season at 103; senior Korey Look, 160; junior Davvid Stanley, 171; sophomore Shane Stanley, 189 and senior Blake Hillebrand, 215.

"Going in, I thought we needed to qualify a minimum of seven wrestlers for the state tournament so nine is a good number," said Coach Johnson. "If all nine score points and place we will be okay. Several of the area teams have about as many wrestlers going as we do and several from back east have many more qualifiers.

"We had a good tournament and wrestled well overall. We finished strong with a 7-2 record in our last nine matches.

"In this regional, there are always wrestlers who stay at home who would have qualified in any other regional. I feel badly for our wrestlers who didn't make it. Several would have scored at the state tournament."

Madden was named winner of the Regional Wrestler of the Year award, a new award from the Kan-



Luke Pfannenstiel (above) drove a chicken wing after scoring two points for a take-down during his victory over Kelly Younkin, Oakley, to win the 140 pound championship on Saturday. Lance Roe (below) earns three

points for a near-fall during his 14-6 major decision over Oberlin's Scott Miller to win the gold medal in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament on Saturday in WaKeeney.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

sas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Madden was also named Norton's "Wrestler of the Week".

"In earning his championship, Clay pinned Trevor Richard, St. Francis, who was second in the state last year at 103," said Coach Johnson.

Pete Koster, Oakley head coach, was named Regional Coach of the Year.

Norton compiled a 36-14 win-loss record in the tournament and had an outstanding 21-5 pin ratio.

Individual results

Logan Keiswetter was seeded No. 1 at 103. In the first round, he pinned Aaron Helm, Oberlin, in 1:06. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Tanner Popp, Hoxie, in 58 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Bobby McDonald, TMP. Keiswetter led 8-3 after one period and pinned McDonald in 3:12.

Keiswetter is now 27-6. No. 2 seed Steve Samuelson, Oakley, won third with a 9-4 decision over Chris Orr, Hill City.

Clay Madden was seeded No. 2 and Richard, who is ranked No. 3 in the state, received the No. 1 seeding at 112. In the first round, Madden pinned Nathan Porter, Leoti, in 3:03. In the semi-finals, Madden pinned Scott Jewell, Trego, in 54 seconds. Madden and Richard squared off for the title and Madden pinned him in 1:32 to win the gold medal.

Madden is now 29-3. Gage Reichert, Oberlin, placed third with a 5-0 shutout of Mark Samuelson, Oakley.

At 140 pounds, Luke Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 1. In his first match, he pinned Chris Barnhurst, Sublette, in 1:19. Next, he won a 13-3 major decision over Robert Binning, Atwood. In the semi-finals, he won a 15-0 technical fall over No. 5 seed Jake Weigel, Plainville. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley. Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Pfannenstiel led 2-1 after two periods and finished with a 4-2 decision to win the championship.

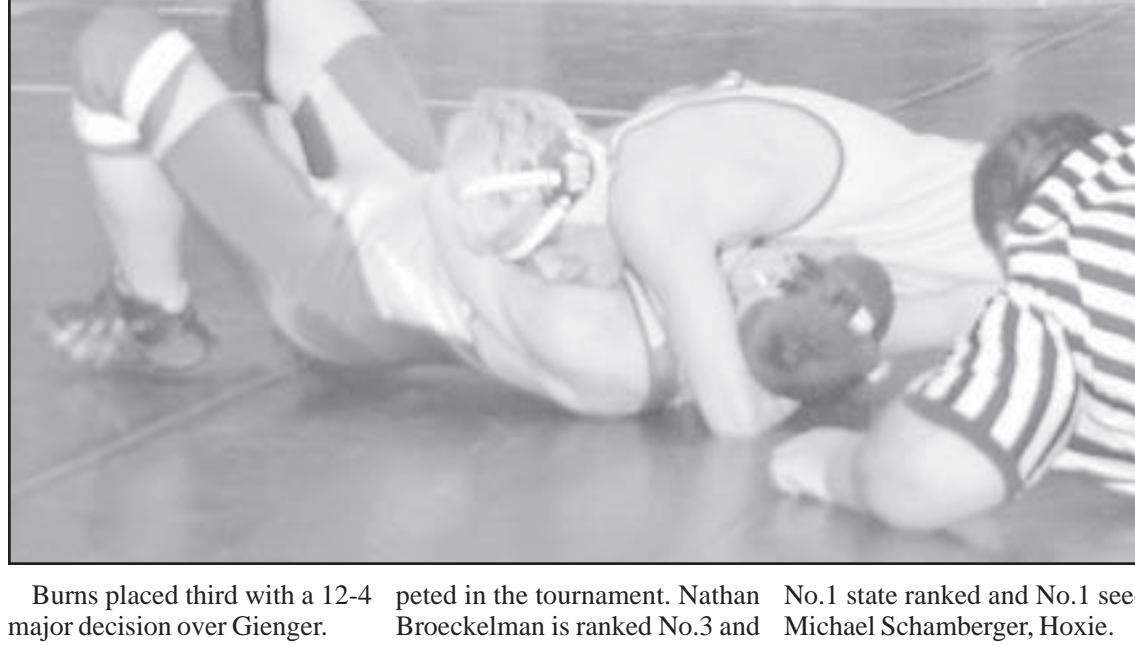
Pfannenstiel is now 27-3. No. 2 seed Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, placed third with an 8-4 decision over Weigel.

Lance Roe was seeded No. 1 at 152 pounds. In his first match, he won a 19-2 technical fall over Luke Brin, Plainville. Next, he won a 14-5 major decision over John Smith, Hill City. In the semi-finals, he won a 14-6 major decision over No. 4 seed Gabe Gienger, St. Francis.

In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed and No. 4 state ranked Scott Miller, Oberlin. Miller had pinned No. 2 state ranked Spencer Burns, Cimarron, in the semi-finals. It was the first defeat for Burns, who entered the match 33-0.

Roe led 9-4 after the first period of his title match with Miller. Neither wrestler scored in the second period but Roe outscored Miller 5-2 in the third period to win a 14-6 decision and the gold medal.

Roe's record is now 33-1.



Burns placed third with a 12-4 major decision over Gienger.

At 275 pounds, Michael Sprigg was seeded No. 1. In his first match, he pinned Zach Holzmeister, Oakley, in 21 seconds.

Next, he pinned Andy Brown, Plainville, in 58 seconds. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 5 seed and No. 3 state ranked Nick Appel, Lakin, in 5:48. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Ty Brunswig, Trego, who had decided No. 2 seed and No. 6 state ranked, Gabe Walz, St. Francis, 5-1 in the semi-finals.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Sprigg took a 3-0 lead in the second period and won a 5-1 decision to earn the championship.

Sprigg extended his unbeaten record to 33-0.

Walz placed third with a 4-0 decision over Appel.

Jon Harding was seeded No. 2 at 130 pounds. In his first match, he pinned Andrew Vrbas, Atwood, in 37 seconds. Next, he pinned Brian Keller, Ellis, in 1:29. In the semi-finals, he won a 12-3 major decision over No. 3 seed Drake Moore, Oakley. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 state ranked and No. 1 seed Tait Weatherbee, TMP, who placed second in the state tournament last season.

Harding trailed 2-0 after one period and 6-1 after two periods but finished strong and outscored Weatherbee 3-0 in the third period to make the final score 6-4 in Weatherbee's favor.

Harding's record is now 27-10.

The top three ranked wrestlers in the state at 119 pounds com-

peted in the tournament. Nathan Broeckelman is ranked No. 3 and was seeded No. 3. Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood, is ranked No. 1 and was seeded No. 1 and Paul Owings, Plainville, is ranked No. 2 and was seeded No. 2.

In the first round, Broeckelman pinned Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, in 1:46. In the semi-finals, he lost a 6-2 decision to Owings. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Breck Simonsson, Oberlin, in 2:30. In the consolation championship match, he wrestled No. 4 seed Travis Budke, TMP. Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Broeckelman took a 2-0 lead in the second period and added two more points in the final stanza to win 4-0 and earn the bronze medal.

Broeckelman is now 26-7.

Owings decided Migchelbrink 5-2 to win the championship.

At 145 pounds, Blake VanEaton was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he won an 11-2 major decision over Matt Martinez, Deerfield. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 3:48 by No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley, who placed fourth in the state tournament last season.

In the consolation bracket, VanEaton won a 5-1 decision over No. 4 seed Justin Howard, Atwood. In the consolation finals, he wrestled No. 5 seed Denton Bailey, Oberlin. Neither wrestler scored in the first period. VanEaton took a 3-0 lead in the second period and won a 3-1 decision to earn the bronze medal.

VanEaton is now 24-14.

Kuhlman won the championship with an 8-4 decision over

No. 1 state ranked and No. 1 seed Michael Schamberger, Hoxie.

Jeremy Harding was seeded No. 3 at 135 pounds and was in a bracket with three other state ranked wrestlers. In the first round, he pinned Devin Rohweder, St. Francis, in 1:39. In the semi-finals, he lost a 7-4 decision to No. 2 state ranked and No. 2 seed Cale Farber, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Stuart Rempe, Plainville, in 2:58.

In the consolation championship, he wrestled No. 5 state ranked and No. 4 seed Jon Richards, Oberlin. It was a good match but Richards won 5-3 to place third and drop Harding to fourth place.

Jeremy Harding is now 25-7.

Levi Younkin, Oakley, is ranked No. 1 in the state. In the championship finals, he extended his unbeaten record to 27-0 with a 3-2 decision over Farber. Younkin and Farber were both state champions last season.

At 125 pounds, Kent Mann was seeded No. 4. In the first round, he lost a 3-2 overtime decision to No. 5 seed Joe Olson, Trego. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Chad Zerr, Oakley, in 3:08. Next, he won a 6-0 decision over Aaron Dinkel, Plainville. In the semi-finals, he lost a 6-4 overtime decision to No. 3 seed David Barth, Oberlin, to end his season.

Mann had a 22-11 record.

Olson placed third with a 5-2 decision over Barth. Tyler Baker, Hoxie, beat Dylan Loyd, St. Francis, 9-2.

Korey Look competed at 160 pounds. In his first match, he was pinned in 1:19 by Dillon Bell, Hill

City. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 3-1 decision to Cole Halbleib, Oakley, to end his season with a 12-12 record.

No. 1 state ranked Courtney Nightengale, Cimarron, won the championship with an 8-4 decision over David Obermeyer, Hoxie.

Third place went to Daniel Guebara, Deerfield, with a 5-2 decision over Terry Urban, Oberlin.

Davvid Stanley won his first 171 pound match by pinning Mark Axelson, Plainville, in 1:38. In the next round, he wrestled No. 2 seed and No. 6 state ranked Jeff Dennis, Oakley, and was pinned in 37 seconds. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Aaron Maddox, Cimarron, in 59 seconds. In his next match, he won an 8-6 decision over No. 3 seed Caleb Simon, Quinter. In the semi-finals, he lost a 13-2 major decision to No. 5 seed Gannon Reichert, Oberlin, to end his season with a 25-17 record.

Reichert placed third with a 9-8 decision over Justin LaBarge, Ellis. Derek Ross, St. Francis, pinned Dennis in 1:09 to win the championship.

At 189 pounds, Shane Stanley was pinned in 1:49 of his first match by Marcus Nutting, Hill City. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Chris Hazen, Ellis, in 47 seconds. In his next match, he lost a 14-11 decision to Tyrel Plankenhorn, Sublette, to end his season with a 6-7 record.

Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley, upset No. 2 state ranked Tyler Wiesner, Thomas More, 5-1 to win the championship. Wiesner was third in the state tournament last season. Tyler Brungardt, Plainville, placed third with a 7-2 decision over Michael Malay, Trego.

Blake Hillebrand was seeded No. 5 at 215 pounds. In the first round, he was pinned in 5:51 by No. 4 seed Jake Padgett, Oberlin. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Alan Crawford, Plainville, in 56 seconds. In his next match, he lost a 7-4 decision to Jacob Kessler, Lakin, and his season ended with a 16-17 record.

No. 2 seed Tim Erwin, Hoxie, placed third with an 8-1 decision over Padgett. Aaron Racette, Oakley, No. 1 seed and No. 4 state ranked, won the championship with a 13-2 major decision over No. 3 seed Brennon Wilger, St. Francis.

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First Round Opponents

103 - Sophomore Logan Keiswetter, 27-6, vs. freshman Cody Merriman, Onaga, 16-6.

112 - Junior Clay Madden, 29-3, vs. sophomore Marcus Daerr, Garden Plain, 19-17.

119 - Sophomore Nathan Broeckelman, 26-7, vs. freshman Cody Eaton, Bennington, 21-10.

130 - Junior Jon Harding, 27-10, vs. junior Randy Miller, Onaga, 20-10.

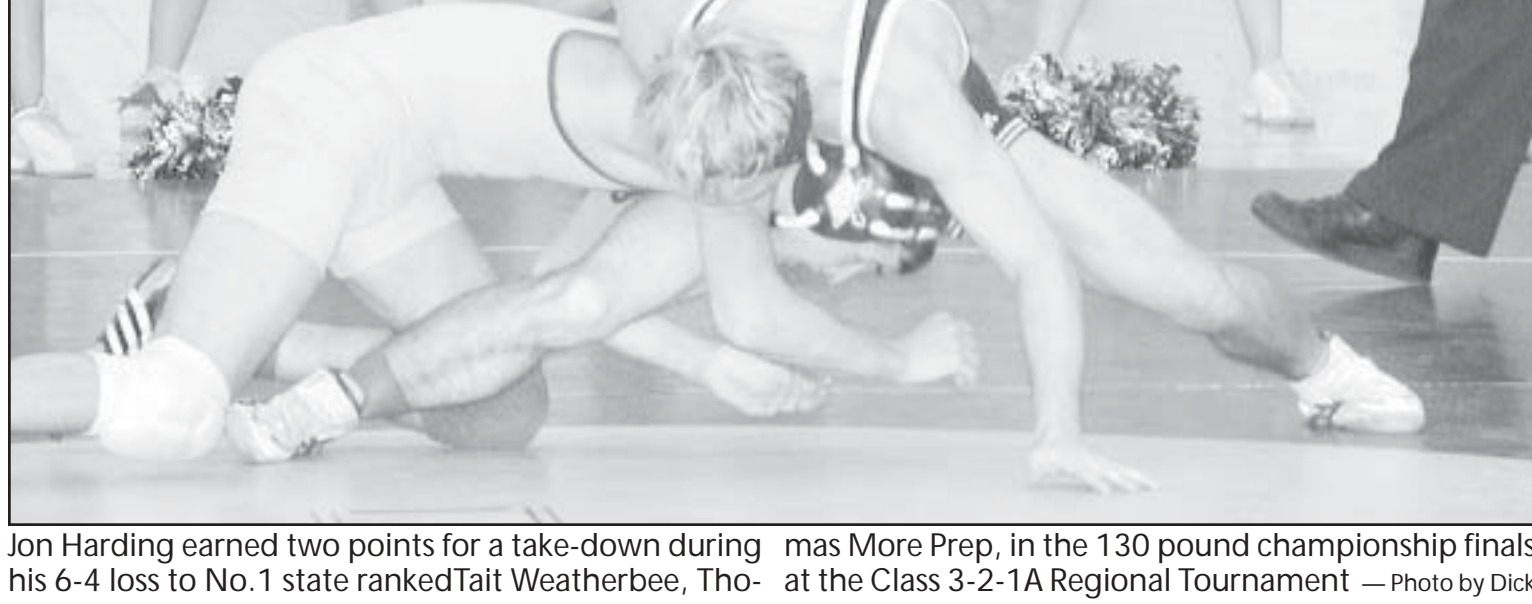
135 - Junior Jeremy Harding, 25-7, vs. sophomore Jason Corwin, Silver Lake, 27-10.

140 - Junior Luke Pfannenstiel, 27-3, vs. senior Coy Cox, Southeast of Saline, 27-4.

145 - Sophomore Blake VanEaton, 24-14, vs. senior Nolan Strawder, Burlington, 33-4.

152 - Junior Lance Roe, 33-1, vs. sophomore Dustin Williams, Lyons, 10-11.

275 - Senior Michael Sprigg, 33-0, vs. junior Dave DeMars, St. Mary's, 31-7.



Jon Harding earned two points for a take-down during his 6-4 loss to No. 1 state ranked Tait Weatherbee, Thomas More Prep, in the 130 pound championship finals at the Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament — Photo by Dick