

# Norton man will wrestle at West Point

By DICK BOYD

Michael Sprigg, 2005 Norton Community High School honor graduate and outstanding athlete for the Blue Jays, has received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. and will wrestle for the army varsity team.

This season, en route to his second 275-pound state wrestling championship and fourth state medal, Sprigg compiled a perfect 37-0 record, the best in the history of Norton Community High School.

He received the Blue Jays' "Most Outstanding Wrestler" Award at the end of this season and was named to the first team on the *Salina Journal* All-Area Wrestling Team.

Sprigg completed his prep wrestling career the first of April by placing fourth at 275 pounds and earning all-American honors in the Senior National Wrestling Championships in Cleveland, Ohio.

His victories in the national championships included one over Dalin Norton, Utah, the No. 1 ranked heavyweight in the nation.

Sprigg was the varsity team point leader with 196. He scored 647 points in four years to break the previous record of 634 points set by Jeff Boyle, in 1994-'97.

Sprigg also had the most falls with 25. Boyle still holds the season record with 28, which he did twice, but Sprigg took over the career record with 82. Boyle had 77.

Sprigg compiled a 129-18 record in four years of wrestling for the Blue Jays.

Sprigg was also named this season to the first team of the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association

Academic All-State Team. His grade point average was 3.9.

During the wrestling banquet, Sprigg received the "Most Exciting Match of the Year" Award for the second straight year.

He earned the award for his 7-5 decision in overtime over Class 6A state champion Tyler Jessen during Norton's team championship performance in the Newton Tournament of Champions.

Sprigg is one of 15 incoming wrestling recruits by Army from 10 states.

"We recruit the best students and athletes from all over the nation," said Army Head Wrestling Coach Chuck Barbee.

"Michael has demonstrated that he is an outstanding wrestler and student.

"We were ecstatic that we were able to recruit him. He has beaten good wrestlers, not only from Kansas, but from all over the nation.

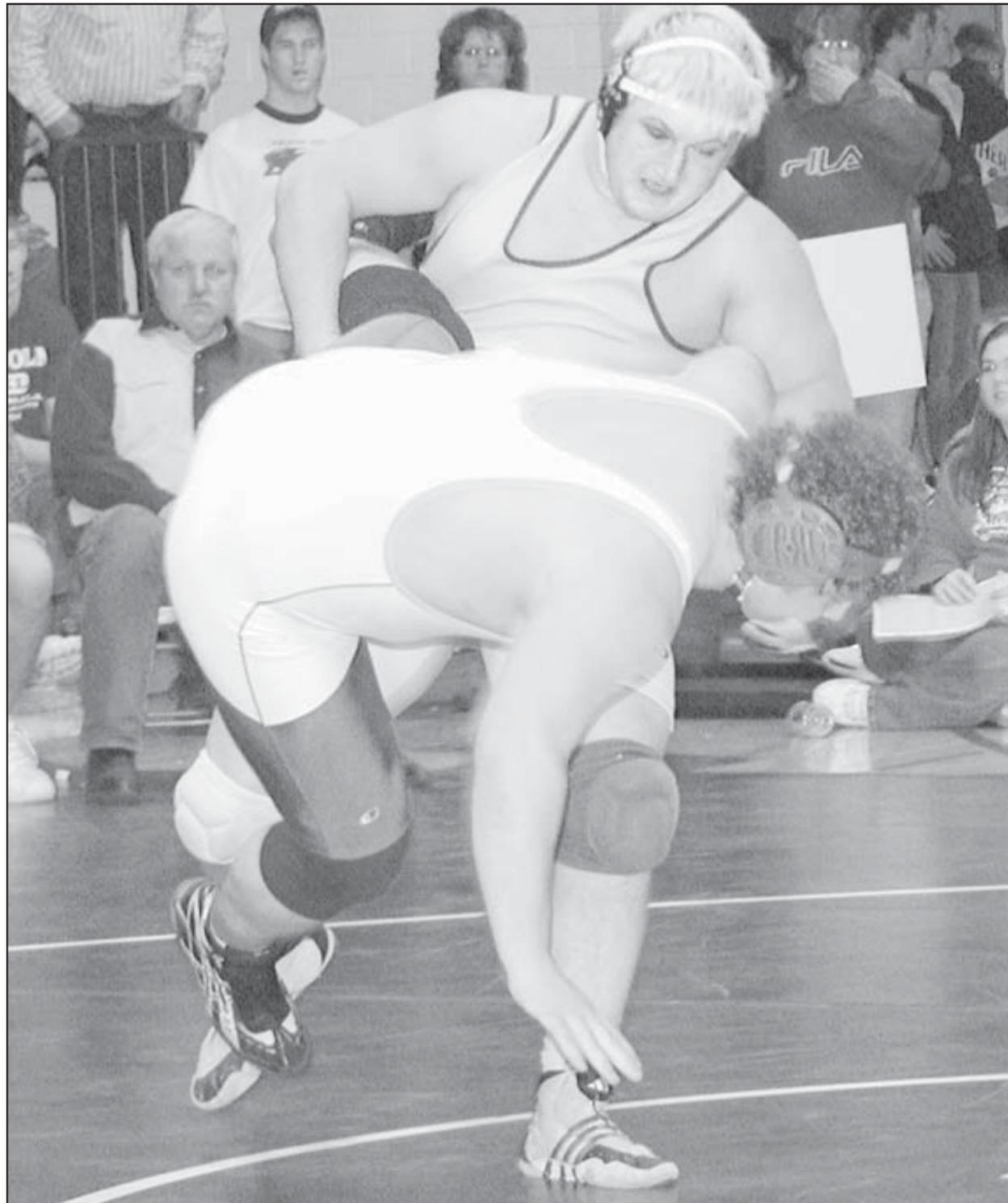
"We like his attitude and work ethic and are really impressed with his potential.

"The fact that Michael was accepted at Army is a testament to all he has done academically and athletically."

Coach Barbee has been the head wrestling coach at Army for five years. He is a former three-time All-American wrestler for Oklahoma State.

Army was ranked in the top 25 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I wrestling teams in the 2004-'05 season. Army had a 12-5 dual record and most of the team is returning for the 2005-'06 campaign.

"Being accepted at Army just from an academic standpoint is a very great honor in itself but also being recruited for a varsity team



Norton's Michael Sprigg scored a two-point takedown during his 6-5 decision over Jake Boor, Lincoln, to win the 275-pound championship at the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg on Feb. 5.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

is another even more prestigious honor," said Bill Johnson, Norton Community High School head wrestling coach.

"He can receive an education,

serve his country and wrestle all at the same time.

"They recruited Michael on his credentials before the national championships but after Coach

Barbee watched him compete there, he was really, really high on Michael."

Sprigg is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Sprigg, Norton.

His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Dean Sprigg, Norton, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Medberry, Farmington, New Mexico.



Northern Valley football players Thomas Ostmeyer (left) and Jesse Hilburn (right) and Husky Head Coach Chuck Fessenden have been selected for the 20th annual 8-Man All Star Football Game on Saturday in Beloit. Ostmeyer and Hilburn will play for the West squad in the Division II game and Fessenden will be an assistant coach for the West team.

## Players, coach make all stars

By DICK BOYD

Northern Valley football players Thomas Ostmeyer and Jesse Hilburn and Head Coach Chuck Fessenden, Alma, have been selected for the 20th Annual 8-Man All Star Football Game Saturday at Trojan Field on North Hersey Street in Beloit.

Ostmeyer and Hilburn will play for the West squad in the Division II game, which will begin at 10 a.m., and Fessenden will be an assistant coach for the West squad.

All-star players from Division I will play at 2 p.m.

The top senior 8-man players from the two divisions in Kansas are chosen by the Kansas 8-Man Football Association to play in the all-star games.

Ostmeyer is a two-time first team All-Cheyenne Conference selection at defensive back and was an honorable mention choice this sophomore year. He was also named first team offensive end his senior year.

This year, he received post-season honors on defense from the *Topeka Capital-Journal* and was

a third team 8-man selection by the *Hays Daily News*.

Ostmeyer was also a member of the National Honor Society and compiled a 4.0 grade point average. He received a I rating with a snare drum solo in the state music contest all four years of high school.

He plans to attend Kansas State University in Manhattan and major in engineering. His hobbies include playing the guitar and drums for the local band "FNA".

He is the son of Mim and Kevin Tubbs, Alma.

Hilburn is a two-time honorable mention All-Cheyenne Conference selection at running back and was named All-Cheyenne Conference at end following his sophomore season.

Hilburn was a second team all-conference choice this season in basketball.

He was also a state qualifier in the 300-meter intermediate hurdles and conference champion in the 110-meter high hurdles his sophomore year, state qualifier in the 300-meter hurdles and high

jump his junior year and state qualifier in the high jump this season.

An honor student in high school, he plans to attend Kansas State University and major in accounting.

Hilburn coached a sixth-grade basketball team and was involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters. His hobbies include hunting, working, motorcycles and hanging out with friends.

He is the son of Julie and Jace Hilburn, Alma.

Coach Fessenden is a veteran coach with one of the best winning percentages in Kansas football history.

Players began practice on Sunday and will practice twice a day. They will be housed at the North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit and will be treated to a barbecue on Friday night.

Tickets are general admission at both gates and one ticket is good for both games. Price is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children K-8th grade. Gates will open at 9 a.m.

## Woman honored by nurses foundation

Joyce Vernon, staff nurse at Odyssey Health Care and Hospice, Colorado Springs, was honored May 7 by the Colorado Nurses Foundation when she was presented the Nightingale Award for Excellence in Human Caring.

She was one of 15 registered nurses throughout Colorado who had been named as finalists.

She is a graduate of the Presbyterian School of Nursing in Denver and is in her 35th year of nursing.

She began her nursing career at Penrose Hospital, where she worked for 25 years.

"My patients come first," she said. "I give them every bit of my ability every single time I see

them."

The 67-year-old nurse calls hospice nursing "probably the ultimate for any nurse, particularly toward the end of her career, because people appreciate the care so much."

Ms. Vernon is the daughter of Ruth Rusink, the Andbe Home, and the late Laurence Rusink.

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