

Norton wrestlers win season opener at Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School wrestling team won its third straight Hoxie Invitational Tournament Saturday.

The two-time defending Class 3-2-1A state champion Blue Jays ran away with the title. They compiled 211.5 points, four more than last year, to easily outdistance second place Oberlin, who scored 164.5 points. Oakley was third with 134.5; Hoxie, fourth, 130.5; Plainville, fifth, 75 points; Lakin, 69; Trego Community, 58; Dodge City, 54; and Holcomb, 7.

Ten of the 14 Norton wrestlers placed and seven won championships.

Norton champions were freshman Zach Bainter, 112; senior Clay Madden, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125; junior Kent Mann, 130; senior Jeremy Harding, 145; senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152; and senior Lance Roe, 160.

Placing second were senior Jon Harding, 135, and junior Blake VanEaton, 140.

Sophomore Zach Mannel, 275, took fourth.

Senior William Wilhite, 171; senior Davvid Stanley, 189; and junior Shane Stanley, 215, came within one match of qualifying for the consolation finals. Freshman David Counter, 103, lost both of his matches.

Norton compiled an outstanding 29-12 match won-loss record and had an 18-8 pin ratio.

Coach Bill Johnson named Jeremy Harding and Zach Bainter as "Wrestlers of the Week". Harding pinned all three of his opponents and Bainter two.

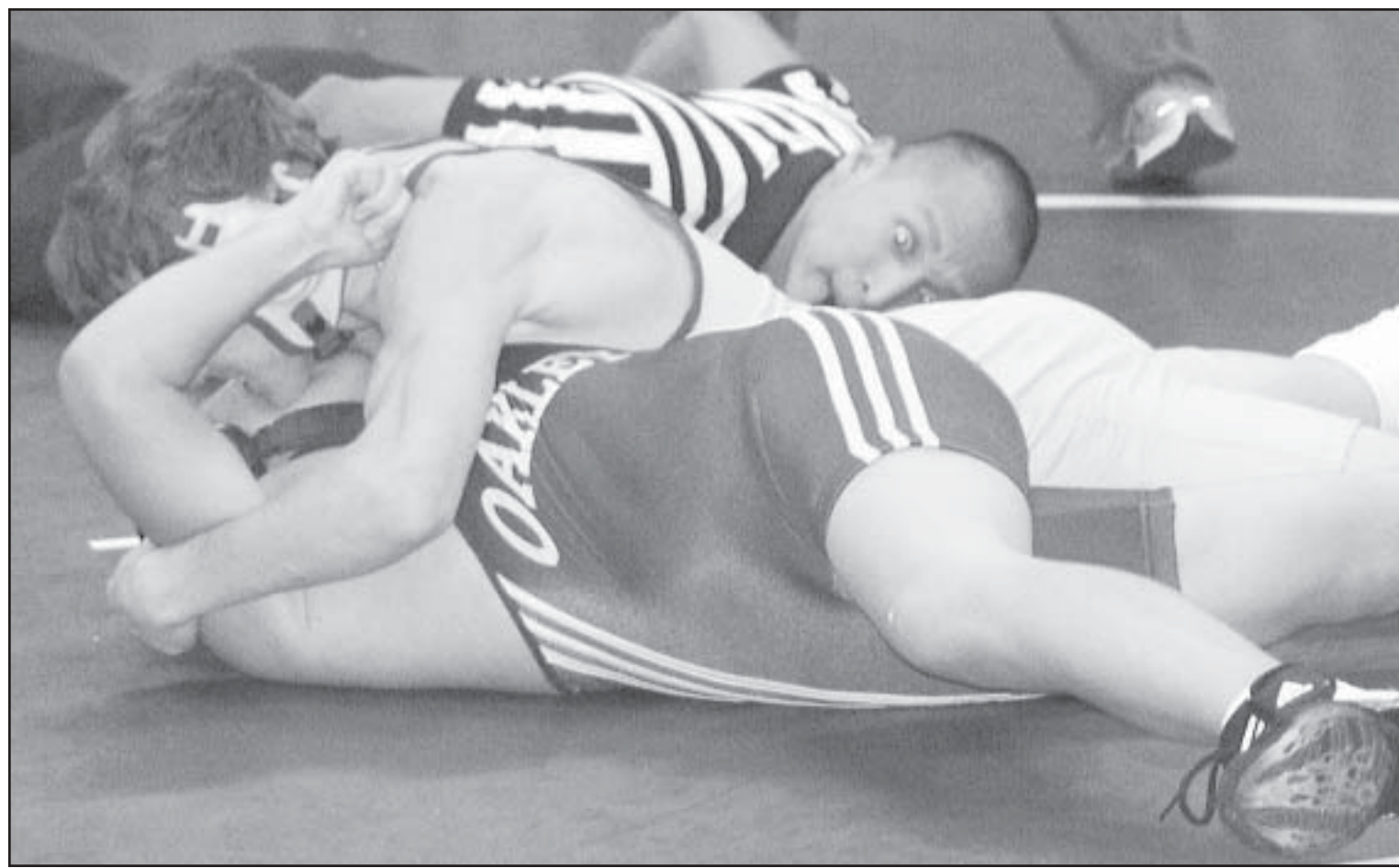
"Jeremy Harding wrestled very well and really dominated No. 2 seed Younkin in the championship finals," said Coach Johnson. "It's unusual for a freshman to be in the finals so we didn't know how Zach Bainter would respond. He did very well. Freshmen aren't seeded; he drew the No. 6 seed and defeated the No. 3, No. 2 and No. 1 seeds to win the championship. "We got the season off to a good start. We lost some matches we shouldn't have, won some close matches and won some by big scores that we didn't expect. When you have nine wrestlers in the finals, it makes you tough to beat. We won seven of the nine, which is half the weight classes.

"Lance Roe had an especially tough weight class, probably the toughest in the tournament.

"We have a lot to be thankful for with so many returning wrestlers but we still have a lot to work on in practice."

Counter drew the No. 8 seed so had to wrestle the No. 1 seed Tanner Popp, Hoxie, in the first round and was pinned in the first period. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in the third period by No. 5 seed Chad Jamison, Trego.

No. 6 seed Dan Weigel,



Norton freshman Zach Bainter (above) takes Steve Samuelson, Oakley, to the mat for three points during Bainter's 9-0 major decision over Samuelson to win the 112 pound championship in Hoxie on Saturday. Bainter was seeded No. 6 in his first high school competition and Samuelson was the No. 1 seed. Blue Jay senior Jeremy

Harding (below) was seeded No. 1 at 145 pounds in the Hoxie Invitational and proved it by pinning his way to the championship. Above, he earns three points for a takedown during his championship win over No. 2 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley. Harding pinned Younkin in the third period.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Plainville, won the championship with a 9-3 decision over Popp. No. 2 seed Aaron Helm, Oberlin, placed third with a 4-0 decision over No. 3 seed Regina Ward, Lakin.

- Bainter drew a No. 6 seed. In the first round, he pinned No. 3 seed Shawn Holeman, Dodge City, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 2 seed Scott Jewel, Trego, in the first period. In winning the championship, he scored a 9-0 major decision over No. 1 seed Steve Samuelson, Oakley.

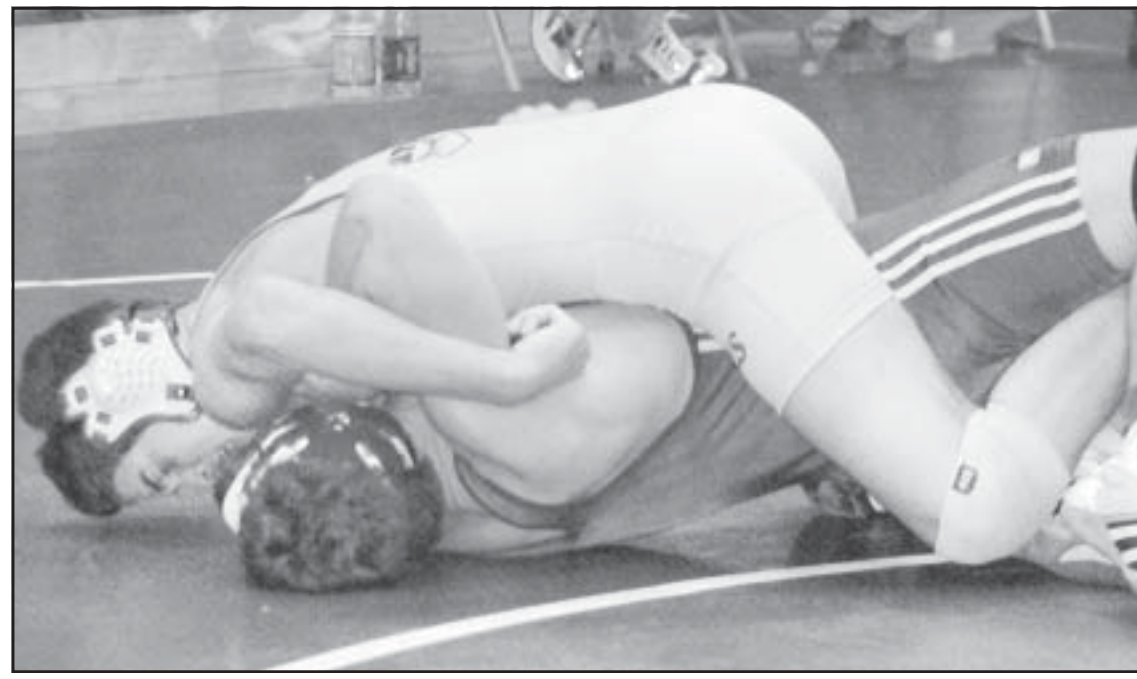
Richard Morgan, Plainville, was the No. 8 seed but pinned No. 7 seed Andrew Richards, Oberlin, with four seconds left in the second period to place third.

- Madden was seeded No. 1 and overwhelmed his three opponents. He pinned Kevin Moss, Hoxie, in the first period; won a 14-4 major decision over No. 5 seed Jesse Barber, Dodge City, and won a 13-2 major decision over No. 2 seed Gage Reichert, Oberlin, to win the championship.

Barber won third place by pinning No. 3 seed Louis Cunningham, Lakin.

- Broeckelman was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he pinned Addison Winger, Dodge City, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Alex Anderson, Lakin, in the first period. To win the championship, he decided No. 2 seed Joe Olson, Trego, 8-2.

No. 3 seed Mark Samuelson, Oakley, won third place with a 6-



1 decision over Anderson.

- Mann was seeded No. 1 and received a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 4 seed Tim Wideman, Lakin, in the first period. In the championship match, he pinned No. 2 seed Caleb Baalman, Oakley, in the second period.

No. 7 seed James Richmeier, Trego, won third place by shutting out No. 6 seed Josh Darnell, Plainville, 6-0.

- Jon Harding was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Aaron Dinkel, Plainville, in the second period. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Breck Simonsson, Oberlin, in the second period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Tyler Baker, Hoxie, and was pinned in the sec-

ond period.

Simonsson placed third by pinning No. 6 seed John Lynch, Lakin, in the second period. Simonsson also pinned Lynch in the opening round.

- VanEaton was seeded No. 1. In the opening round, he pinned Tony Barlettand, Holcomb, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he won a 10-4 decision over No. 4 seed Daniel Rosale, Lakin. In the championship finals, he was pinned in the third period by No. 2 seed Jonathan Richards, Oberlin.

Rosales won third place with a 3-2 decision over No. 3 seed Drake Moore, Oakley.

Richards was voted "The Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament by the team coaches.

- Jeremy Harding was unbeat-

able as he pinned his way to the championship. He pinned Lucas Hachmeister, Plainville, in the second period; No. 4 seed Quinn Aumiller, Hoxie, in the third period; and No. 2 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley, in the third period.

In the consolation championship match, Aumiller pinned No. 3 seed Sam Schmitt, Lakin, in the first period.

- Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he pinned Orlanda Villa, Lakin, in the second period. Next, he won a 16-1 technical fall over No. 4 seed Luke Brin, Plainville. In the championship, he won an 18-3 technical fall over No. 6 seed Garrit Peters, Oberlin, who had beaten the No. 2 and No. 3 seeds.

No. 2 seed Travis Harper, Dodge City, won third with a 5-4 overtime decision over Brin.

- Roe was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he won an 18-3 technical fall over Brandon Kaufman, Dodge City. In the semi-finals, he won a 14-4 major decision over No. 4 seed Connor McMullen, Plainville. In the championship, he decided No. 2 seed Michael Schamberger, Hoxie, 6-4.

No. 3 seed Scott Miller, Oberlin, placed third with a 2-0 decision over McMullen.

- Wilhite was seeded No. 4. In the first round, he won a 12-4 major decision over No. 5 seed David Bonner, Dodge City. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in the first period by No. 1 seed David Obermeyer, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned by No. 2 seed Cole Halbleib, Oakley, in the second period.

Halbleib won third by pinning No. 7 seed Micah Dunn, Lakin, in the second period. Obermeyer won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Drew Martin, Oberlin, in the first period.

- D. Stanley was seeded No. 6. In the first round, he pinned No. 3 seed Michael Malay, Trego, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he lost a 5-3 decision to No. 2 seed Tyler Brungardt, Plainville. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 7-6 decision to No. 5 seed Terry Urban, Oberlin.

Urban won third with a 3-1 decision over No. 4 seed Matt McGinty, Hoxie. No. 1 seed Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley, won the championship with an 8-2 decision over Brungardt.

- S. Stanley was the No. 8 seed. In the first round, he was pinned by No. 1 seed Tim Erwin, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Alan Crawford, Plainville, in the second period. Next, he lost a 17-1 technical fall to No. 2 seed Aaron Racette, Oakley.

Racette won third place with a 13-7 decision over No. 4 seed Regan Badsky, Oberlin. Erwin won the championship with a 2-1 decision over No. 3 seed Anthony Garcia, Dodge City.

- Mannel was seeded No. 5. In the first round, he pinned No. 4 seed Logan Mosburg, Lakin, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in the second period by No. 1 seed Brock Euhus, Oberlin. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 2 seed Matt Fernandez, Dodge City, in the first period. In the consolation championship, he lost a 3-0 decision to No. 7 seed Zach Holzmeister, Oakley, to place fourth.

Euhus won the championship with a 6-2 decision over No. 3 seed Luke Fabrizius, Trego.

The next action for the Norton varsity will be Saturday in the Clay Center Invitational Wrestling Tournament, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Norton junior varsity wrestlers take second place at Alma tournament

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestling team opened the season Saturday with a second-place finish in the varsity Onnie A. Ault Memorial Wrestling Invitational at Alma, Neb.

Kearney-Catholic won the championship with 113 points, followed by Norton, 92; Eustis-Farnam, 80; Loomis, 80; Wauneta-Palisade, 64; Unattached, 43.5; Overton, 40.5; Alma, 38; S.E.M., 31; Wilcox-Hildreth, 29.

The Blue Jays had three open weights and more than one wrestler in some. Points were counted for only one wrestler from each school for each weight.

Junior Jared Bebb, 125, and sophomore Jeff Soderlund, 145, were champions. Sophomore Aaron Husted, 135, placed second. Norton sophomore Travis Ray, 130; sophomore Todd Bolt, 140; and freshman Brock Lauer, 152, took third. Freshman Donny Hildebrand, 119, and senior Tyler Burns, 171, took fourth.

Freshman Phillip Becker, 103 and junior Jordan Durham, 160, also competed.

Junior Michael Ward, 130, and freshmen Jordan Bebb, 135, Kerby Brandyberry, 125, Brad Nuzum, 145, and Coady

McMullen, 152, competed for the unattached team. Bebb placed third.

"We wrestled pretty well but had too many open weights to bring the team title home again this year," said Norton Assistant Coach Deyton Hager, who accompanied the team to Alma.

Coach Hager named Jared Bebb "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

"Jared Bebb wrestled extremely well at 125 pounds in pinning his way to the championship," said Coach Hager.

- Becker was seeded No. 3. He was pinned by No. 2 seed Brandon Pacheco, Kearney-Catholic and by No. 5 seed CinJin Faber, Kearney-Catholic unattached.

Pacheco defeated No. 1 seed Josh Morten, Loomis, for the championship and No. 4 seed Harley Bennett, Overton, defeated Faber to place third.

- Hildebrand was seeded No. 4. He was pinned by No. 1 seed Brandon Rimpley, Overton, and by No. 8 seed Kurtis Burden, S.E.M.

No. 2 seed Eric Kohl, Eustis-Farnam, defeated Rimpley to win the championship.

- Jared Bebb was seeded No. 1 and pinned all three opponents — Victor Ventura, Overton; No. 4 seed Caleb Roberts, Alma, and No. 3 seed Scott Smedra, Kearney-

Catholic to place first.

No. 2 seed Blake Sanders, Eustis-Farnam, defeated Roberts to place third.

- Ray was seeded No. 4. He lost, 6-4, to No. 1 seed Jesse West, Wauneta-Palisade, and beat No. 2 seed Will Craig, Eustis-Farnam, 5-3 to place third.

No. 3 seed Ben Kahle, Kearney-Catholic, defeated West to win the championship.

- Ward was seeded No. 8. He was pinned by West and lost, 8-1, to Craig.

- Husted was seeded No. 2. He pinned Austin Brown, Unattached, and No. 3 seed Luke Egle, Wauneta-Palisade, then lost, 4-1, to No. 1 seed Tyler Pieper, Eustis-Farnam to place second.

- Jordan Bebb, was seeded No. 8 and was pinned by Pieper. He pinned Egle and beat Brown, 17-9, to place third.

- Bolt was seeded No. 1. He lost, 8-4, to No. 4 seed Michael Klinginsmith, Kearney-Catholic. Then he pinned No. 6 seed Logan Kelly, Unattached and No. 3 seed Eric Fleming, Alma, to place third.

Klinginsmith defeated No. 2 seed Owen Madden, Wauneta-Palisade, to win the championship.

- Soderlund was seeded No. 1 and pinned his way to the championship. He pinned Steven Area,

Unattached, No. 5 seed Stephan Johnston, Kearney-Catholic and No. 2 seed Kane Keller, Eustis-Farnam to win first.

Johnston won third place by defeating No. 6 seed Caleb Jensen, Overton.

- Nuzum was seeded No. 7. He was pinned by Keller and No. 3 seed Mark Florom, Alma.

- Lauer was seeded No. 6. He lost, 9-5, to No. 3 seed Matt Mullen, Kearney-Catholic, then he pinned No. 7 seed Zackery Stoelting, Unattached Alma, and No. 4 seed Jared Smith, Alma. He

wrestled Mullen again and won, 10-4, to place third.

No. 1 seed Peter Barger, Wauneta-Palisade, defeated No. 2 seed Rick Englund, Wilcox-Hildreth, to win the championship.

- McMullen was seeded No. 8. He was pinned by Barger, then he pinned No. 5 seed Chris Refoir, Loomis, and was pinned by Mullen.

Durham was seeded No. 4. He was pinned by No. 5 seed Bryson Rahmann, Wilcox-Hildreth. He pinned No. 8 seed Ethan Barns,

Unattached S.E.M. and was pinned by No. 2 seed Kyle Saylor, Kearney-Catholic.

- Burns was seeded No. 5. He was pinned by No. 4 seed Tyler Hanks, Overton. He pinned No. 8 seed Ben Collins, Unattached Loomis and No. 6 seed Jesse Spangler, Alma. Then he was pinned by No. 7 seed Brandon Waltemath, Unattached Loomis.

The Norton junior varsity will compete Friday in the Southern Valley Varsity Tournament at Oxford, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:
 Norton Junior Varsity in Southern Valley Invite (in Oxford) 3:30 p.m., Friday
 Norton Varsity in Clay Center Invitational (in Clay Center) 9:30 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
 Norton in Topside Tipoff Tournament (in Goodland) 3 p.m., Thursday
 Norton in Topside Tipoff Tournament (in Goodland) TBA, Friday
 Norton in Topside Tipoff Tournament (in Goodland) TBA, Saturday
 Northern Valley vs. Hill City (in Alma) 4 p.m., Friday
 Northern Valley vs. Smith Center (in Alma) 4 p.m., Tuesday
 Logan vs. Stockton in Round Robin (in Plainville) 4 p.m., Today
 Logan vs. Plainville in Round Robin (in Plainville) 7 p.m., Friday
 Logan vs. Phillipsburg in Round Robin (in Plainville) 3 p.m., Saturday