

Norton wrestlers win Regional Championship!

By DICK BOYD

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 Decatur Community High School in Oberlin.

The Blue Jays rolled up 193 points to outdistance second place and No.2 state ranked St. Francis, who totaled 172 points.

Phillipsburg, who is unranked in the state, placed a strong third with 159.5. Fourth place went to No.4 state ranked Oberlin with 149 points. Hoxie, who is ranked No.5 in the state, placed fifth with 114.5. Plainville was sixth with 81.5 and No.7 state ranked Oakley was seventh with 80.5.

Trego Community-WaKeeney placed eighth with 73.5, followed by Hill City, 69; Cimarron, 64; Atwood, 48; Stockton, 48; Leoti, 46; Lakin, 25.5; Holcomb, 18; Sublette, 7.5; Montezuma-South Gray, 2.5; Palco, 0; Deerfield, 0; Quinter, 0.

This regional tournament was unquestionably the toughest of the four in the state with five of the top 10 ranked teams in the state competing and 43 percent of the individually state ranked wrestlers eligible to compete.

Nine qualified for state

Nine of the 11 Blue Jay wrestlers who competed placed in the top three 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.

St. Francis and Oberlin qualified eight wrestlers for state competition and seven Phillipsburg wrestlers also earned a trip to the state tournament. Hoxie qualified five for the "big show". The top four wrestlers in each weight class qualified for the state tournament.

Norton is the two-time defending state tournament champion.

Norton had eight wrestlers in Saturday evening's finals and three won championships. Champions were senior Clay Madden, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125 and senior Lance Roe, 160.

Placing second for Norton were freshman Zach Bainter, 112; junior Kent Mann, 130; junior Blake VanEaton, 140; senior Jeremy Harding, 145 and senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152.

Senior Jon Harding won third place at 135 pounds.

Also competing for the Blue Jays were senior Davvid Stanley, 171 and junior Shane Stanley, 215.

Norton was open at 103, 189 and 275.

Madden, Broeckelman and Roe are all ranked No.1 in the state. Madden is a three-time defending state champion. Broeckelman is a two-time state medalist and runnerup in 2004 and Roe is a three-time state medalist and champion in 2005.

Pfannenstiel is ranked No.3 and is a two-time state medalist. Twin brothers Jon and Jeremy Harding are one-time state medalists. Jon is ranked No.5 and Jeremy is No.6. Mann is ranked No.4 and is a 2004 state medalist. VanEaton is a 2005 state medalist and is ranked No.3.

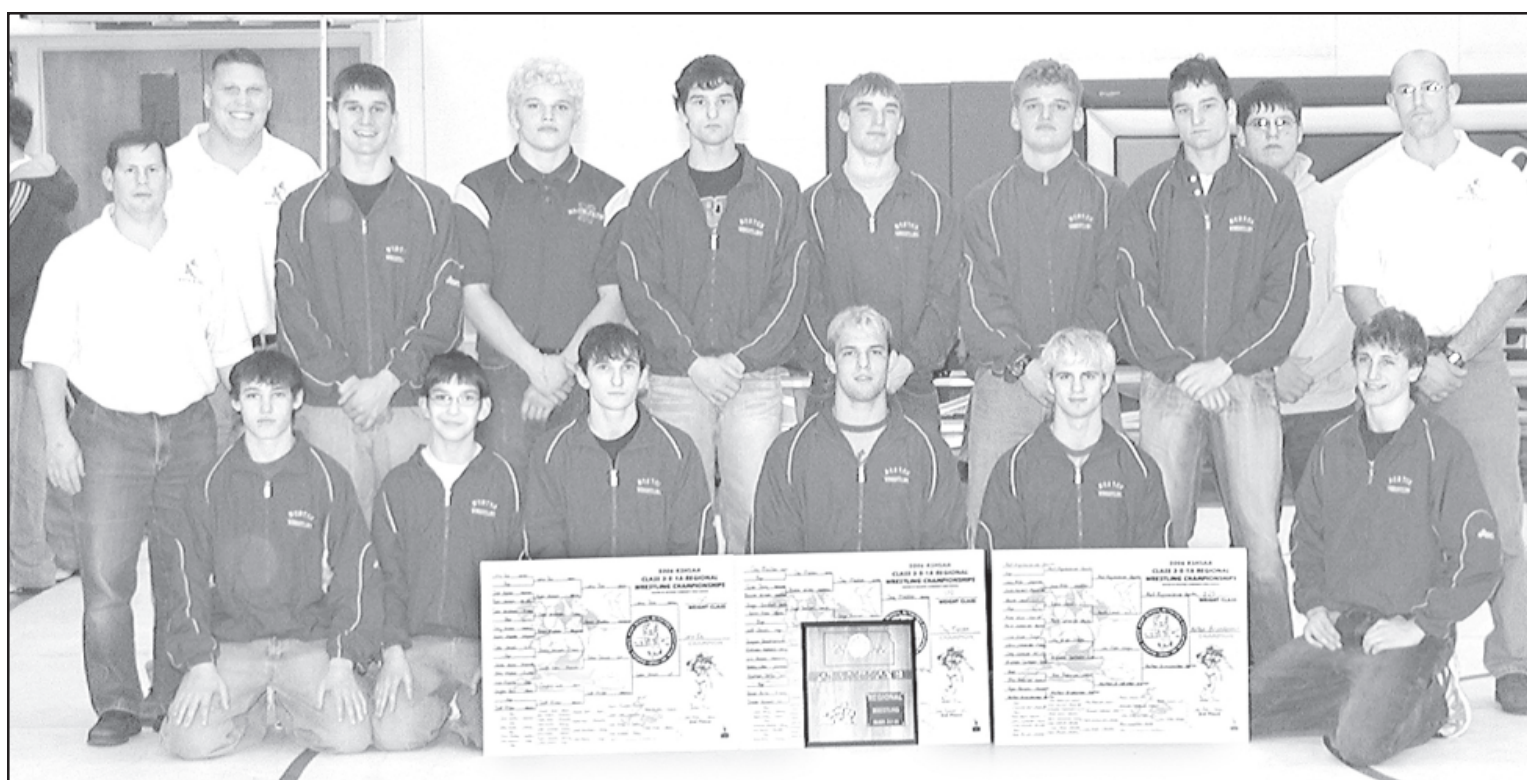
Bainter is ranked No.3 in the state. "We wrestled extremely well to have eight wrestlers in the championship finals," said Coach Johnson. "With nine qualifiers for the state tournament, we should be set up pretty well."

"Our three champions, Clay, Nathan and Lance, wrestled very well. Some of our other performances weren't quite as good as I would have liked but the important thing is the number who qualified for state."

"Our first round pairings in the state tournament are tougher than in the past. It's the luck of the draw. We won't worry about what place we have in the bracket, however, we will take one match at a time."

Coach Johnson named Clay Madden, Nathan Broeckelman and Lance Roe "Wrestlers of the Week" for their championship placing.

Roe and Tyler Baker of Hoxie were named co-winners of the Regional Wrestler of the Year award, a new award started last year by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.



CLASS 3-2-1A REGIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONS — The Norton Community High School wrestling team is pictured Saturday evening after winning the championship of the regional tournament in Oberlin. Pictured are, from left, front row: Zach Bainter, David Counter, Clay Madden, Lance Roe,

Nathan Broeckelman, Kent Mann; back row: Head Coach Bill Johnson, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Luke Pfannenstiel, Davvid Stanley, Jon Harding, Blake VanEaton, Shane Stanley, Jeremy Harding, Zach Mannel, Assistant Coach Deyton Hager.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Joe Buresh, Phillipsburg head coach, was named Regional Coach of the Year.

The two award winners were chosen by vote of the team coaches.

Norton compiled an impressive 27-10 won-loss record in the tournament and had a super 16-1 pin ratio.

Individual results

No.1 state ranked Clay Madden was seeded No.1 at 119 in the tournament. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned No.8 seed Blaise Wilson, Stockton, in 28 seconds. In the semi-finals, he won an 11-2 major decision over No.5 seed Gage Reichert, Oberlin. Madden wrestled No.3 seed and No.5 state ranked Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, in the championship finals. Madden pinned Brachtenbach in 3:12 to win the gold medal.

Madden is now 35-1 for the season.

No.2 state ranked and No.2 seeded Trevor Richard, St. Francis, placed third with a 14-2 major decision over Reichert.

Nathan Broeckelman is ranked No.1 in the state but was seeded No.2 at 125. In the first round, he pinned Ryan Morales, Holcomb, in 1:25. Next, he pinned Alex Anderson, Lakin, in 55 seconds. In the semi-finals, he decided No.3 seed and No.5 state ranked Joe Olson, Trego, 8-6. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed and No.2 state ranked Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood.

The first period ended in a scoreless tie. Broeckelman took a 2-0 lead in the second period and Migchelbrink scored one point in the third period to make the final score 2-1 in favor of Broeckelman.

Broeckelman's record is now 36-2.

Olson placed third with a 5-1 decision over No.5 seed Gavin Smull, St. Francis.

At 160, Norton's Lance Roe is ranked No.1 in the state and was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then scored a 23-8 technical fall over Ryan Jackson, Hill City. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.4 seed Aaron Maddox, Cimarron, in 1:09. In the championship match, he wrestled No.3 seed Gabe Smull, St. Francis, and gave a great demonstration of takedown technique in winning an impressive 17-6 major decision to earn the gold medal.

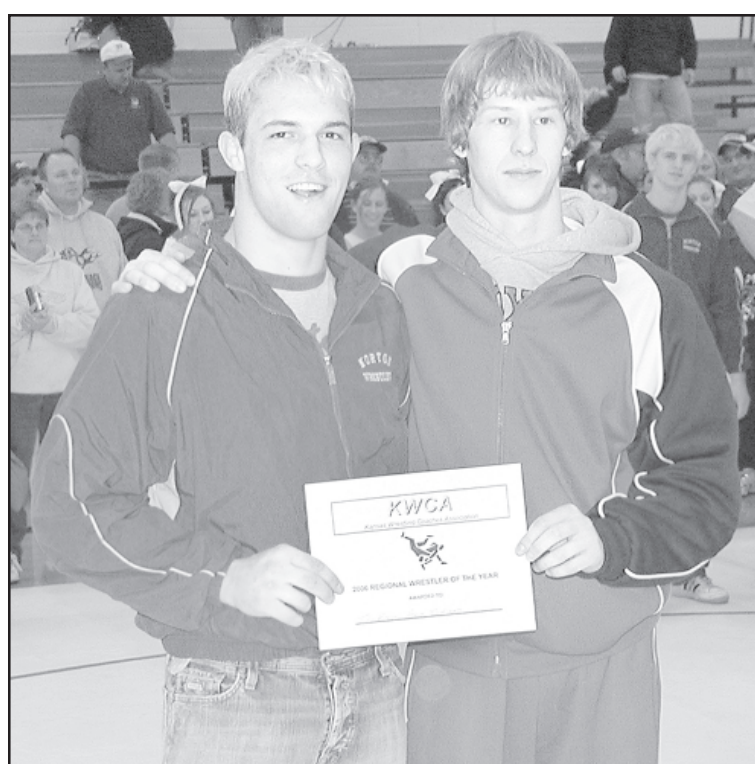
Roe extended his season record to 33-1.

No.2 seed and No.5 state ranked Scott Miller, Oberlin, won third with a fall over Maddox.

Norton's Zach Bainter is ranked No.3 in the state at 112 and was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned Josh Carpenter, St. Francis, in 2:26. In the semi-finals, Bainter pinned No.4 seed Tyler Johnston, Stockton, in 3:55. He wrestled No.6 state ranked and No.2 seeded Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, in the championship finals. The first period was scoreless but Zahorsky outpointed Bainter 3-2 in the second period. Neither wrestler scored in the third period and Zahorsky was the champion.

Bainter's season record is now 22-2.

Cole Orr, Hill City, placed third by



Norton's Lance Roe (160), left, and Hoxie's Tyler Baker (130) were co-winners of the Regional Wrestler of the Year award. The award is sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association. The selection was made Saturday evening by vote of team coaches. Both wrestlers won regional championships and both are ranked No.1 in the state in their weight classes.

pinning Johnston.

The Blue Jays' Kent Mann is ranked No.4 in the state at 130 and was seeded No.2. He drew a first round bye, then won an 8-1 decision over Caleb Baalman, Oakley. In the semi-finals, he decided No.3 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City, 7-2. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 state ranked, No.1 seeded and unbeaten Tyler Baker, Hoxie, who had pinned his way to the finals. Mann wrestled hard but was unable to score any points against Baker. Neither wrestler scored in the first period, then Baker took a 2-0 lead in the second period. Baker added three more points to his total in the third period to win 5-0.

Mann's season record is now 25-7. Baker extended his unbeaten record to 41-0.

Third place went to No.4 seed Everett Urban, Oberlin, with a 4-3 decision over Chase.

Norton's Blake VanEaton is ranked No.3 in the state at 140 and was seeded No.2. In the first round, he pinned Jimmy Harvey, Quinter, in 2:27. Next, he pinned Trey Kellner, Stockton, in 31 seconds. In the semi-finals, VanEaton won a 12-0 major decision over No.6 seed Stuart Rempe, Plainville. VanEaton wrestled No.2 state ranked and No.1

seed Jonathan Richards, Oberlin, in the championship finals. After a 0-0 first quarter, Richards took a 5-1 lead in the second period and extended it to 7-1 in the third period to win the championship.

VanEaton's season record is now 30-8.

No.4 state ranked and No.3 seeded Justin Sherlock, St. Francis, pinned No.5 seed Tony Ceman, Phillipsburg, to place third.

At 145, Norton's Jeremy Harding is ranked No.6 in the state and was seeded No.3. In the first round, he pinned Steven Medina, Holcomb, in 45 seconds. Next, he pinned No.6 seeded Ben Brown, Leoti, in 1:41. In the semi-finals, Harding continued to pin his way to the finals by making No.5 state ranked and No.2 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley, count the lights in 5:04. In the championship match, Harding wrestled No.4 state ranked and No.1 seed Jordan Gienger, St. Francis. Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Gienger took a 1-0 lead in the second period. Both wrestlers scored a point in the third period as Gienger took a 2-1 win for the gold medal.

Jeremy Harding's season record is now 24-4.

Younkin won a 12-2 major decision over No.4 seed Robert Binning,

Atwood, to place third.

No.3 state ranked Luke Pfannenstiel was seeded No.2 for Norton at 152. He drew a first round bye, then pinned Cody Dix, Stockton, in 1:31. In the semi-finals, he won a 4-3 decision over No.3 seed Denton Bailey, Oberlin. In the championship finals, Pfannenstiel wrestled No.1 state ranked and No.1 seed Michael Schamberger, Hoxie. There was no score at the end of the first period. Schamberger took a 1-0 lead in the second period but Pfannenstiel tied the score at 1-all in the third period, sending the match into overtime. Neither wrestler scored in the first overtime period. Schamberger scored first in the match so had his choice of position for the second overtime period. He chose bottom and was able to escape and win a 2-1 decision.

Pfannenstiel's record is now 29-6. Schamberger extended his season record to 22-1.

Third place went to Bailey with an 8-2 decision over No.6 seed Ryan Swatzell, Phillipsburg.

At 135, Norton's Jon Harding is ranked No.5 in the state and was seeded No.3. He drew a first round bye, then won a 17-1 technical fall over No.6 seed Breck Simonsson, Oberlin. In the semi-finals, Harding lost a 9-0 major decision to No.2 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg. In the consolation semi-finals, he pinned Aaron Dinkel, Plainville, in 1:33. In the consolation championship match, Harding wrestled No.4 seed Daniel Harman, Cimarron. He took a 2-0 first period lead, was on top by just 6-5 after two periods and came on strong in the third period to win 11-5 and place third.

Harding extended his season record to 28-12.

Bloom won the championship by pinning No.1 state ranked and No.1 seed Dylan Loyd, St. Francis. Loyd is now 31-2 for the season.

Norton senior Davvid Stanley came into the tournament ranked No.3 in the state and was seeded No.2 at 171. In the first round, he pinned Micah Dunn, Lakin, in 1:40. Next, he wrestled No.6 state ranked and No.7 seed Connor McMullen, Plainville, and lost a 7-4 decision. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 6-3 decision to Lee Hadley, Phillipsburg, and ended his season with a 22-15 record.

No.4 seed Russell Rogers, St. Francis, won the championship with a 5-2 decision over McMullen.

Third place went to No.3 seed David Obermeyer, Hoxie, with a 3-1 decision over No.2 state ranked and No.1 seed Terry Urban, Oberlin.

At 215, Norton junior Shane Stanley was seeded No.6. He drew a first round bye, then was pinned in one minute by No.3 seed Jordan Bliemeister, Cimarron. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Shawn Warren, St. Francis, in 42 seconds. In the consolation quarter-finals, he lost a 4-3 decision to No.7 seed David Hadley, Phillipsburg, and ended his season with an 18-16 record.

No.2 state ranked and No.1 seed Aaron Racette, Oakley, won the championship with a 6-0 decision over No.3 state ranked and No.2 seed Tim Erwin, Hoxie. Racette extended his season record to 21-1. Erwin is now 38-2. Third place went to Bliemeister with a fall over No.5 state ranked and No.4 seed Ed Vargas, Leoti.

At 103 pounds, No.2 state ranked, No.1 seed and unbeaten Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a 4-0 decision over No.5 state ranked and No.2 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville. Ceman extended his unbeaten record to 32-0.

Third place went to No.5 seed Tanner Popp, Hoxie, with a 2-1 decision over No.3 seed Aaron Helm, Oberlin.

At 189, No.1 state ranked and No.1 seeded Michael Malay, Trego, won the championship with an 8-5 decision over No.3 seed Braxton Berning, Leoti. Third place went to No.4 state ranked and No.5 seeded Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg, with a fall over No.4 seed Tyler Brungardt, Plainville. Jarvis decided Brungardt 8-4 in the quarter-finals before losing to Malay in the semi-finals.

At 275, No.2 state ranked and No.1 seed Brennon Wilger, St. Francis, won the championship with a 6-5 decision over No.2 seed Brock Euhus, Oberlin. No.6 state ranked and No.4 seed Jace Smith, Phillipsburg, won third place by pinning No.3 seed Shelby Wright, Atwood.

State Tournament

The Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament will be held Friday and Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum at Fort Hays State University in Hays.

The first round will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by the second-round championship quarter-finals at 1:45 p.m.

The second session will begin at 4:30 p.m. with first round consolation on two mats and will be followed by the championship semi-finals on two mats.

The third session will be held Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. with the consolation cross bracketing. Consolation quarter-finals will begin at 12 noon, followed by consolation semi-finals at 1:30 p.m. Fifth place matches will be wrestled on one mat at 2:30 p.m. and will be followed by the consolation finals on one mat.

The championship session will begin at 6:15 p.m. with the Parade of Champions. The championship finals will be wrestled on one mat, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

An all day admission ticket for Friday or Saturday will cost \$10 for adults and \$6 for students kindergarten through 12th grade. Evening session only tickets on Friday or Saturday will cost \$6 for adults and \$5 for students.

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First round opponents

112 - Freshman Zach Bainter, 22-2, vs. freshman Zach Fergus, Wichita Independent, 17-12.

119 - Senior Clay Madden, 35-1, vs. freshman Kyle Morey, Sabetha, 12-12.

119 - Junior Nathan Broeckelman, 36-2, vs. junior Ross Eidman, Chase County, 21-17.

130 - Junior Kent Mann, 25-7, vs. senior Dallas Eshleman, Stafford, 21-4.

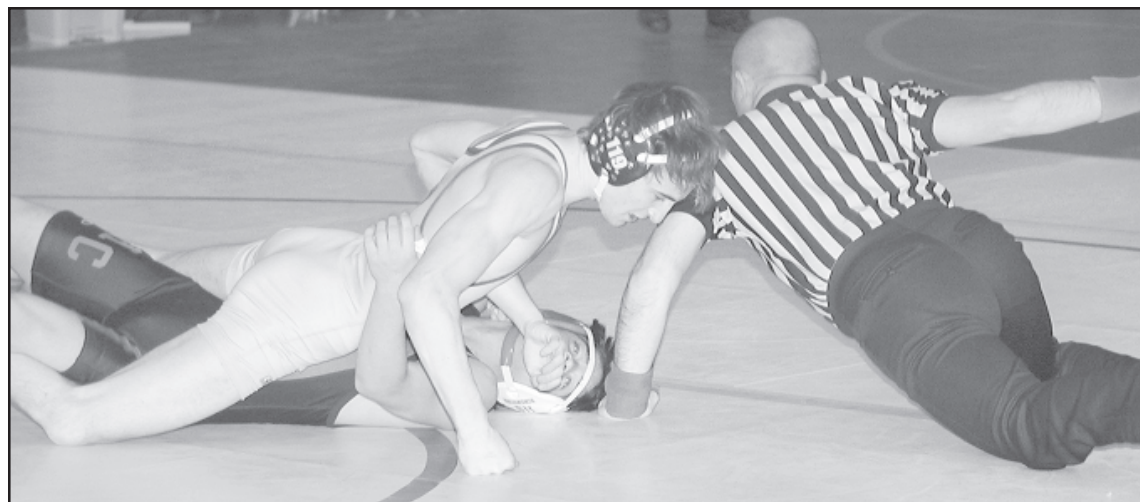
135 - Senior Jon Harding, 28-12, vs. junior Justin York, Smith Center 29-6.

140 - Junior Blake VanEaton, 30-8, vs. senior Jacob Deiler, Silver Lake, 32-8.

145 - Senior Jeremy Harding, 24-4, vs. sophomore Frankie Moran, Horton, 7-1.

152 - Senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 29-6, vs. junior Nash Volker, Stafford, 21-8.

160 - Senior Lance Roe, 33-1, vs. freshman Trent Stevenson, Ellsworth, 14-18.



Norton's three-time defending state champion Clay Madden (119), who was seeded No.1 and is ranked No.1 in the state, pinned No.3 seeded and No.5 state ranked Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, in 3:12 of their regional championship match on Saturday evening in Oberlin.