

Norton tops on Hoxie mats

By DICK BOYD

Only 10 members of the Norton Community High School wrestling team competed in the annual Hoxie Invitational Tournament on Saturday in the Hoxie High School gymnasium but the Blue Jays still dominated the tournament, winning the championship for the fourth year in a row.

The three-time defending Class 3-2-1A state champions from Norton scored 204 points to easily outdistance second place Oakley, who totaled 148.5 points. Third place went to Plainville with 113, followed by Oberlin, 105; Hoxie, 68; Trego Community, 65; Lakin, 47; Holcomb, 30.

Coach Bill Johnson's Blue Jays compiled an impressive won-loss record of 25-2 and had an exceptional 17-0 pin ratio. Eight of the 10 won individual championships, one placed second and one finished in third place.

Norton champions were: freshman Connor Pffannenstiel, 103; freshman Kaenon Keiswetter, 112; freshman Zane Perez, 119; sophomore Zach Bainter, 125; senior Nathan Broeckelman, 130; senior Kent Mann, 135; senior Blake VanEaton, 152; junior Alex Thomas, 285.

Junior Aaron Husted placed second at 140 and junior Jeff Soderlund finished in third place at 145.

Coach Johnson named Kaenon Keiswetter "Wrestler of the Week".

"Freshmen are not seeded in this tournament," said coach Johnson. "But, Kaenon easily won his first two matches, then shutout the No. 1 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville, who placed third in the state last season at 103.

"I didn't know how we would do in this tournament with four open spots and a lot of newcomers in our lineup. But, we won some key matches in the semi-finals to give us a commanding lead going into the finals.

"To break 200 points with just

10 wrestlers is pretty good. I thought our physical conditioning was poor but I discovered that the rest of the schools were in the same boat. We did win several matches at the end that we were tied or behind in."

Kaenon Keiswetter, Nathan Broeckelman and Oakley junior Kelly Younkin, who won the 160 pound championship, tied for the "Outstanding Wrestler" honor for the tournament by vote of the team coaches.

Individual results

Connor Pffannenstiel was not seeded at 103 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then decisively pinned Oberlin freshman Gatlin Reichert 4-2. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 1 seed freshman Devon Schneider, Plainville, with 1:16 left in the third period.

Samantha Gonzales, freshman from Lakin, placed third by pinning Reichert with 49 seconds left in the second period.

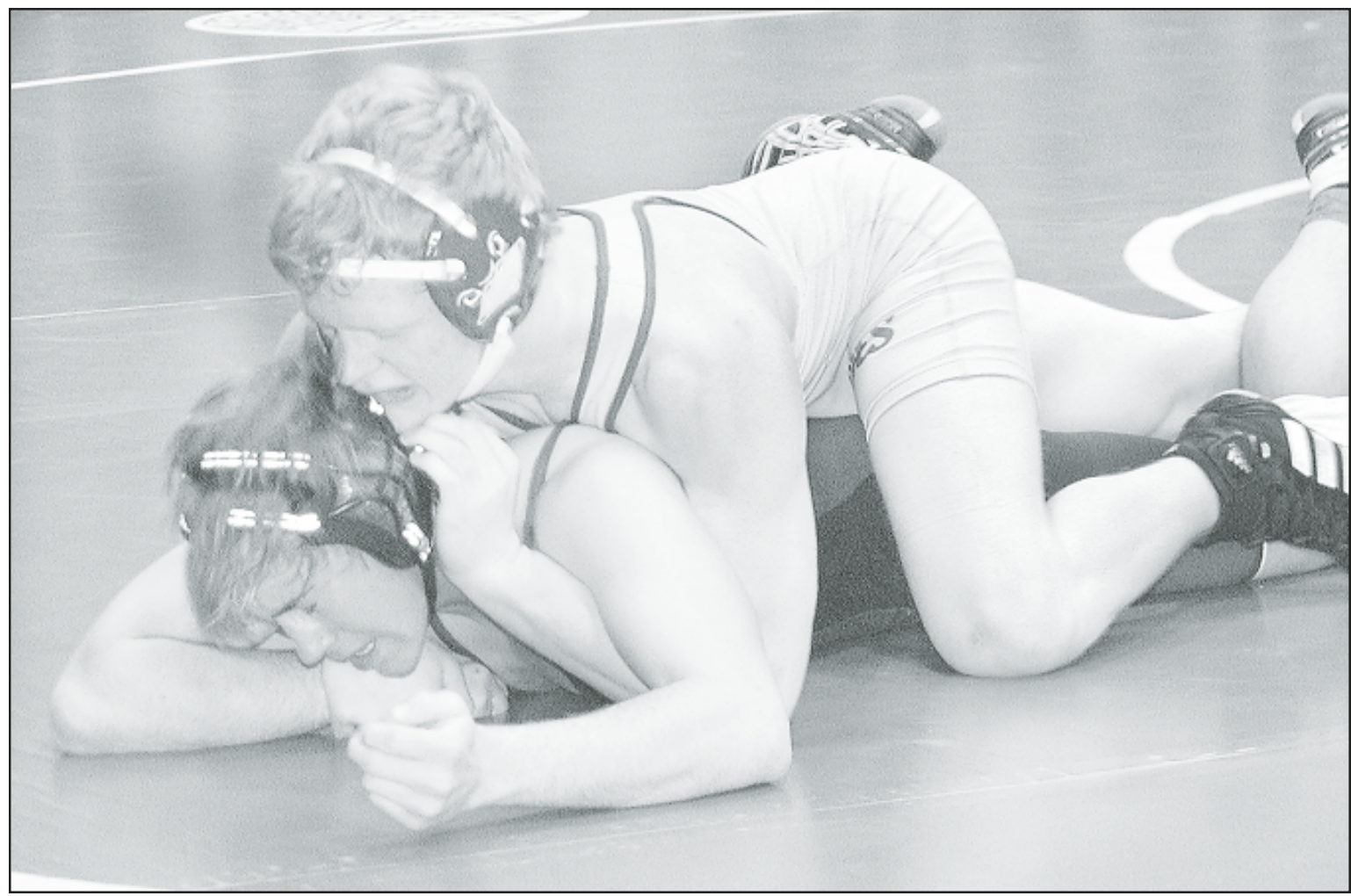
At 112 pounds, Kaenon Keiswetter pinned No. 3 seed sophomore Matt Amos, Holcomb, with 1:24 left in the third period, then won a 13-3 major decision over No. 2 seed senior Aaron Helm, Oberlin. He won the championship by shutting out No. 1 seed sophomore Dan Weigel, Plainville, 2-0.

Freshman Jace Campbell, Oakley, placed third with a 17-2 technical fall over Amos.

Zane Perez pinned No. 2 seed junior Kevin Moss, Hoxie, with 12 seconds left in the third period at 119 pounds, then edged No. 3 seed sophomore Andrew Richards, Oberlin, 6-5. In the championship finals, he shutout sophomore Travis Bird, Plainville, 3-0.

Third place went to Richards with a 6-4 decision over Moss.

In the 125 pound division, Zach Bainter was seeded No. 1 and pinned his way to the championship. First, he made freshman Kalen Anderson, Lakin, count the lights with 1:13 left in the first period. Next, he put freshman Wiley



Norton junior Jeff Soderlund controlled Aaron Dinkel, Plainville, shutting him out 2-0 to capture the 145 pound consolation championship in the Hoxie Invitational. Soderlund pinned Dinkel in the

first round but it's always tougher the second time to wrestle someone you've beaten.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Farr, Oberlin, down for the count with 1:10 left in the first period. He completed his first period falls by pinning No. 7 seed junior Michael Halbleib, Oakley, with 1:22 remaining to win the gold medal.

Sophomore D.J. Brown, Plainville, won third with a fall over senior Ryan Kaiser, Trego, with 17 seconds left in the third period.

At 119 pounds, Nathan Broeckelman's mat skills kept him from getting much of a workout for the day. Seeded No. 1, he drew a first round bye, then pinned his only two opponents in short order.

In the semi-finals, he wrestled No. 4 seed sophomore Josh Darnell, Plainville, and pinned him with 1:08 left in the first period, then put No. 2 seed junior Steve Samuelson, Oakley, down for the count with 49 seconds left in the first period.

Darnell won third place by shutting out No. 6 seed sophomore Alex Anderson, Lakin, 2-0

Kent Mann made it six straight championships for Norton by pinning his way to the 135 pound title. Mann was seeded No. 1 and pinned

junior Derek Brumitt, Plainville, with 1:13 left in the first period of their first round match. Next, he earned a fall over freshman Hunter Nedland, Oberlin, with 1:30 left in the first period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed senior Caleb Baalman, Oakley, and made him count the lights with 29 seconds left in the first period.

Junior Heath Maley, Trego, the No. 3 seed, placed third by pinning sophomore Ryan Morales, Holcomb, for the second time in the tournament.

At 140 pounds, Aaron Husted was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he won a 15-1 major decision over No. 6 seed sophomore Jarrett Stanton, Holcomb. Next, he pinned No. 2 seed sophomore John Lynch, Lakin, with 52 seconds left in the third period. In the championship match, he wrestled No. 1 seed junior Gage Reichert, Oberlin, and lost a 4-0 decision to place second.

Third place went to Lynch with a fall over No. 4 seed sophomore James Richmeier, Trego, with 27 seconds left in the second period. Jeff Soderlund was seeded No. 5

at 145 pounds. In the first round, he pinned No. 4 seed junior Aaron Dinkel, Plainville, with 1:41 left in the second period. In the semi-finals, he lost a 3-0 decision to No. 1 seed senior Drake Moore, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 7 seed junior Sam Bailey, Trego, with 1:18 left in the second period. In the consolation finals, he faced Dinkel again. This time, he had a tougher time with Dinkel but shut him out 2-0 to place third.

Moore won the championship with a 6-4 decision over No. 3 seed senior Breck Simonsson, Oberlin.

Blake VanEaton was seeded No. 1 at 152 pounds. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned freshman Nathan Gonzalez, Holcomb, with 1:24 left in the first period. In the championship finals, he shutout No. 2 seed junior Quinn Aumiller, Hoxie, 5-0

Gonzales won third place by pinning No. 3 seed senior Kane Ware, Oberlin.

There were only three 285 pound wrestlers. Alex Thomas pinned junior William Hendrickson, Trego, in his first

match, then pinned junior Zach Holzmeister, Oakley, with 53 seconds left in the second period to win the gold medal. Hendrickson was awarded third place.

At 160 pounds, No. 1 seed junior Kelly Younkin, Oakley, pinned No. 3 seed junior Clayton Rall, Hoxie, with 1:11 left in the first period to win the title. Third place went to No. 2 seed sophomore Jon James, Trego, with a 7-4 decision over junior Nathan Simonsson, Oberlin.

Senior Luke Brin, Plainville, was the 171 pound champion. He pinned No. 3 seed junior Jared Marcuson, Oberlin, with 9 seconds left in the first period in the finals.

Freshman Ethan Jirak, Oakley, placed third with a 7-5 decision over senior No. 2 seed Zach Meyer, Hoxie. Jirak also beat Meyer 4-3 in the first round.

At 189 pounds, No. 1 seed senior Michael Malay, Trego, won the championship by injury default over No. 2 seed senior Terry Urban, Oberlin. Freshman Steve Cox, Oakley, was awarded third place.

Junior Aaron Racette, Oakley, won the 215 pound championship by injury default over No. 2 seed sophomore Cody Pope, Hoxie. No. 4 seed Alan Crawford, Plainville, placed third by pinning No. 8 seed senior Steven Lee, Lakin.

Next action

The Norton varsity wrestlers' next competition will be Saturday in the Clay Center Invitational Wrestling Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m.

Jayvee wrestlers capture third at Alma tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestling team opened the season Saturday with a third place finish, just four points out of first, in the varsity Onnie A. Ault Memorial Wrestling Invitational at Alma, Neb.

Alma won the championship with 99 points, followed by Kearney Catholic, 97; Norton, 95; Loomis, 86; Eustis-Farnam, 63.5; Wauneta-Palisade, 58.5; Pleasanton, 27; Wilcox-Hildreth, 22; Overton, 9.

The Blue Jays were open at seven weights but had more than one wrestler in some weights. Points were counted for only one wrestler from each school for each weight. The others wrestled unattached but no team total score was kept for these wrestlers.

Norton had two champions, three second place finishers and two fourth placers. They also had two third place wrestlers who did not score since they were the second Blue Jay wrestler in a weight class.

Senior Michael Ward at 135 pounds and junior Todd Bolt at 140 pounds won gold medals. Placing second were freshman Andrew Soderlund, 112; sophomore Jordan Bebb, 145 and sophomore Matt Stanley, 160.

Third place finishers were sophomore Phillip Becker, 112 and senior Austin Brown, 140. Finishing fourth were freshman Tyler Cook, 152 and freshman Robert Derauf, 189. Becker and Brown were non-scorers.

"We wrestled well for our first matches of the season," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller, who accompanied the team

to Alma.

"We made typical early season mistakes but they are correctable. We got better each round. We seemed to be in better condition than wrestlers on the other teams and several of our wrestlers won matches in the third period."

Michael Ward was named "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

"This was Michael's first tournament championship," said coach Miller. "In his championship match, he was behind 4-1 but battled back to win 15-4."

At 112 pounds, Andrew Soderlund drew a first round bye. He wrestled Matthew Klinginsmith, Kearney Catholic, in the championship finals and was pinned in 1:12.

Phillip Becker wrestled unattached. He was pinned in 1:07 of his first round match with Klinginsmith and was awarded third place.

Michael Ward was seeded No. 2 at 135 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 3 seed Victor Ventura, Overton, in 3:15. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Jacob McCann, Kearney Catholic, and rallied to win the championship with a 15-4 decision.

Ventura placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Wesley Benton, Alma, in 2:35.

At 140 pounds, Todd Bolt was seeded No. 2. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 2 seed Eric Kohl, Eustis-Farnam, in 1:30 to win the gold medal.

Austin Brown wrestled unattached against Kohl in the first round and lost a 15-0 technical fall. Third place was awarded to Brown.

Jordan Bebb was seeded No. 2 at 145 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won a major decision over No. 3 seed Nathan Smith, Alma. In the championship finals, he lost a 9-4 decision to No. 1 seed Tyler Pieper, Eustis-Farnam.

Brock Blankenship, Kearney Catholic, placed third by pinning Greg Winz, Wilcox-Hildreth, in 4:57.

At 160 pounds, Matt Stanley was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Jared Smith, Alma, in 52 seconds. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 6 seed Mark Florom, Alma, in 3:24.

In the championship finals, he was pinned in 1:58 by No. 1 seed Jacob Smith, Wauneta-Palisade.

Third place went to Florom with a fall in 2:22 over Smith.

Norton freshman Casey Robison wrestled unattached at 160 pounds. He was pinned in 2:32 in his first round match with Smith and pinned in 4:31 in his consolation bracket match with Florom.

At 152 pounds, Tyler Cook was seeded No. 7. He was pinned in 4:51 of his first round match with No. 2 seed Kane Keller, Eustis-Farnam.

In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 6 seed Paul Martin, Overton, in 1:31, then won a 15-13 decision over No. 4 seed Ryan Eckhout, Pleasanton. In the consolation championship match, he lost a 5-0 decision to Keller in their second meeting of the tournament.

No. 1 seed Michael Klinginsmith, Kearney Catholic, won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Owen Madden, Wauneta-Palisade in 4:52.

Robert Derauf was seeded No. 4 at 189 pounds. In his first round

match, he was pinned in 3:13 by No. 5 seed Adam Simpson, Wauneta-Palisade. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 6 seed Greg Schepler, Wilcox-Hildreth, in 2:29. In the consolation championship match, he was pinned in 4:13 by No. 1 seed Kyle Freeland, Loomis.

No. 2 seed Jesse Spangler, Alma, won the championship with a fall in 2:49 over Simpson.

Next action

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

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