

Jays win fifth straight Durham tourney

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling squad was simply tremendous in defending their home mats on Saturday to win their fifth straight J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament championship by a large margin over some of the best teams in the state!

It was a total team effort with lots of wins on the back side to ensure a championship prior to even the wrestling of third and fourth place matches. In the end, the Blue Jays won seven of their last ten matches.

Included in the field of teams were defending co-state champions Smith Center and Beloit and Scott City, which is a perennial power.

The Blue Jays amassed a phenomenal 185 points to easily outdistance Smith Center, who finished with 145.5 points to place runner-up. Scott City was third with 134, just edging Beloit, who finished fourth with 133.

Fifth place went to Oakley, who also had some outstanding wrestlers, and scored 87.5 points. Next came Atwood with 81, followed by Hoxie, 75; Mill Valley, 67; Cozad, Neb., 44.5; Norton second team, 37; Leoti, 17; Quinter, 0. Norton medaled 10 wrestlers which included three champions, one runner-up, four thirds and two fourth place finishers.

Norton compiled a 32-17 win-loss record and had an impressive 24-5 pin ratio.

Winning gold medals for the Blue Jays were freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112; junior Zach Bainter, 135 and senior Alex Thomas, 285.

Freshman Troy Bainter placed second at 103.

Placing third were sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter, 125; senior Todd Bolt, 140; senior Aaron Husted, 152 and junior Brock Lauer, 189.

Finishing fourth in their weight divisions were freshman Landon Keiswetter, 119 and sophomore Zane Perez, 130.

"I was pleased with how well we wrestled," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

Trojan boys' rally falls short

A fourth-quarter rally didn't seal the deal for the Logan Trojan basketball boys, but they came close in a 51-47 setback to Golden Plains at home on Jan. 4.

Going into the final quarter, the Trojans were behind 41-29. They ripped the nets for 18 points in the closure while holding Golden Plains to 10.

Logan scored its points on 17 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 7 charity shots. The visitors scored on 16 2-pointers, 4 3-pointers and 7 free throws.

Zach Long led the way for the Trojans with 21 points. Also scoring in double figures was Ethan Gottschalk with 12. Others scoring were Jordan Girard with 2; Tyson Pabst 4; Levi Kiser 7; Charley Harman 1.

For Golden Plains, Dan Rogers popped in 18 points and Tate Bruggeman 14. Devin Spresser added 2; Jordan Spresser 2; Andrew Broeckelman 9; Corey Shaw 6.

Logan ladies post 33-21 win

The Logan Trojan basketball girls bounced Golden Plains at home on Jan. 4, 33-21.

The visitors led at the end of the opening frame 5-4, but the Trojans took a 12-7 lead into the locker-room at intermission. At the end of the third frame, the Trojans were still up front 21-17. And in the final quarter the Trojans turned on the afterburners and scored 12 points while holding Golden Plains to 4 for the final margin.

Kemper led the Trojan charge with 12 points. Others scoring were Clements 2; Hartman 5; Van Loenen 4; J. Archer 2; Zillinger 4; and Sammons 4. Golden Plains was led by B. Ritter with 8 points.

The Trojans scored on 13 2 pointers, 1 3-pointer and 4 free throws.

"We have a good balanced team with a couple of standouts.

"Our back side wrestling really helped us.

"I was impressed with this performance because we beat a quality field. The top four teams in this tournament will be the top four in this year's state tournament.

"I hope we aren't satisfied because it's still a long season. We will wrestle Smith Center in a dual on Thursday and will see many good teams this weekend in the Newton Tournament of Champions.

"Our junior varsity wrestlers turned some heads and got some good experience."

Coach Johnson named Brock Lauer "Varsity Wrestler of the Week" and freshman Brett Terrell "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

Terrell placed second at 112 pounds. Two other Norton junior varsity wrestlers also medaled. Freshman Colby Poage was fourth at 103 and sophomore Tyler Cook finished fourth at 189.

Individual matches

Billy Broeckelman was seeded No. 4 at 112 pounds and pinned his way to the championship finals. He pinned No. 5 seed Andrew Peterson, Oakley, in 42 seconds, then pinned No. 1 seed Garth Griffith, Atwood, in 3:45. In the championship finals, he met junior varsity teammate Brett Terrell, who had been seeded No. 6.

Terrell led 2-0 after one period. Broeckelman took a 4-3 lead in the second period and won 8-6.

Terrell won his opening match 10-9 over No. 3 seed Trevor Boyer, Mill Valley and pinned No. 2 seed Garrett Kuhlman, Smith Center, in 1:48 to reach the championship finals.

Broeckelman extended his season record to 9-1 and Terrell is now 7-2.

Boyer won third place by pin-

ning Peterson in 2:59.

Zach Bainter was seeded No. 1 and pinned his way to the championship. He pinned Weston Fletcher, Beloit, in 3:01 and pinned No. 4 seed Kevin Moss, Hoxie, in 5:37 to reach the finals.

He wrestled No. 2 seed Brett Delich, Mill Valley, for the gold medal. After one period, the score was tied 4-4 but Bainter pinned him in 3:49.

Bainter is now 11-1 for the season. Delich's record dropped to 20-2.

Moss won third place with a 6-2 decision over No. 3 seed Sam McDaniel, Scott City.

Alex Thomas extended his perfect season record to 11-0 by pinning his way to the 285 pound championship. He pinned Zach Riggs, Oakley, in 2:52, then pinned No. 5 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, in 2:44. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Shelby Wright, Atwood. The first period ended in a scoreless tie but Thomas pinned Wright in 2:27.

Salmans won third place by pinning No. 2 seed Tyler Jamis, Beloit, in 2:45.

Troy Bainter was seeded No. 2 at 103. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned Norton junior varsity teammate Colby Poage, who was seeded No. 3, in 58 seconds.

In the championship finals, he faced No. 1 seed Francisco Antillon, Scott City. The match was a scoreless standoff for three periods, sending it into overtime where Antillon prevailed 2-0.

Poage won a 12-11 decision over No. 6 seed Tracy Hudson, Smith Center, in the first round. After losing to Bainter, he dropped into the consolation bracket where he wrestled Hudson again. This time he was pinned in 2:46 by Hudson to place fourth.

Bainter is now 5-3 for the season and Poage is 2-5. Antillon is 16-1.

Husky girls, boys lose to Lakeside

The game between the Northern Valley ladies' basketball team vs. Lakeside started out on the right note, and looked like perhaps a win was on the agenda.

But in the end, the Huskies lost 63-44.

"Visions of Lady Husky Basketball future. I hope this is what we saw in the first 6 1/2 minutes of our game against state-ranked Lakeside as we jumped out to a quick 12-4 lead and doing a good job in every phase of the game," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"Then the Knights started to show just why they are undefeated and state-ranked as they picked up their intensity, started making shots and in the second and third quarters out played us to a 15-40 margin to seal the final score of 44-63," he said.

"We must learn to play an entire game, not just part. We must learn to make the 'crib' shots that are given to us, we must learn to handle the other team's aggressiveness as the trend is to 'let them

play.' When we learn to do these things, plus others, then what the fans saw in the first quarter of our first home game of the season will be something they will see for an entire game and season," he said.

Scoring were: Megan Cole 2; Alison Cole 21; Christina Anderson 5; Jessica Largent 7; Kenzie Chandler 2; Staci Dole 2; Joni Hilburn 5.

Jayvee

"The junior varsity continues

Husky Boys

The Northern Valley Husky basketball boys dropped a 54-30 decision to Lakeside at Almena on Jan. 4. The visitors jumped into a 15-8 first quarter score, 29-16 at the half and 42-24 going into the final period.

The Huskies hit on 132-pointers and 4 of 16 from the line for their 30 points. Lakeside connected on 15 2 pointers, 6 3 pointers and 6 charity tosses.

Drew Britt led the Husky charge

At 125, Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No. 4. He pinned Anthony Vrbas, Atwood, in 3:26, then was pinned in 1:50 by No. 1 seed Colt Rogers, Smith Center.

In the consolation bracket, he pinned Trevor Popp, Hoxie, in 3:54, then decided No. 3 seed Dillon Stucky, Scott City, 6-3 to place third.

Rogers won a 20-5 technical fall over No. 2 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, to win the championship and extend his perfect record to 8-0. Rogers was also named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament by vote of the team coaches.

Keiswetter is now 6-1 for the season.

Todd Bolt was seeded No. 2 at 140. In the first round, he pinned James Mullen, Mill Valley, in 1:59, then he wrestled No. 3 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit, and lost a 10-5 decision. In the consolation bracket, he won a 2-1 decision over Norton junior varsity teammate Kaid McKenna. In the third place match, he faced No. 4 seed Morgan Numrich, Scott City, and pinned him in 3:33.

Spangler won the championship with an 8-5 decision over No. 1 seed Trevor Rempe, Smith Center.

Kaid McKenna lost a 15-2 major decision to Rempe in the first round, then decided No. 5 seed Brad Halbleib, Oakley, 5-4 to reach the match with Bolt.

Bolt is now 9-1 and Spangler is 11-1, his only loss coming to Bolt in the Clay Center Invitational. McKenna is now 7-3 for the season.

Aaron Husted was seeded No. 3 at 152. In the first round, he pinned Kyler Berning, Leoti, in 54 seconds, then was pinned in 2:39 by No. 2 seed Blake Mayes, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 4 seed Cody Stewart, Oakley, in 2:15, then won a 7-6 decision

over No. 5 seed Dakota Favinger, Cozad, to place third. Mayes won the championship by pinning No. 1 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, in 4:34. Senior Austin Brown wrestled for the Norton second team at 152. He lost his first match by an 11-1 major decision to Favinger. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Kyler Berning, Leoti, in 1:50, then pinned Zack Ruda, Atwood, in 1:30. He lost a 10-5 decision to Favinger in their second meeting of the day. Husted is now 7-5 for the season and Brown is 4-5. Brock Lauer was seeded No. 5 at 189. In the first round, he lost a 10-6 decision to No. 4 seed Chad Mauzey, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, he won a 5-1 decision over Rylee Ward, Scott City, then pinned No. 3 seed Braden Hager, Beloit, in 2:64 to reach the consolation championship where he faced junior varsity teammate Tyler Cook. Lauer pinned Cook in 1:38.

No. 1 seed John Binning Atwood, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Grady Godsey, Smith Center, in 3:39.

Cook lost his first round match when he was pinned in 1:19 by Hager. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Cody Best, Hoxie, in 1:50, then pinned Mauzey in 30 seconds to reach the match with Lauer.

Lauer and Cook are now both 6-4 for the season.

Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 4 at 119. After drawing a first round bye, he lost a 10-2 major decision to No. 1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Chris Heim, Hoxie, in 1:47, then lost the third place match 8-4 to No. 3 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center.

Campbell won the championship with a 2-0 decision over No. 2 seed Tyrel George, Scott City.

Keiswetter is now 5-6 for the season.

Zane Perez was seeded No. 2 at 130. He won a 7-1 decision over Derrick Kvasnicka, Cozad, in the first round but lost a 5-4 decision to No. 3 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood, in the semi-finals. In the consolation bracket, he won a 9-1 major decision over No. 4 seed Michael Hableib, Oakley. In the consolation championship, he lost a 4-2 decision to No. 1 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit.

Wolters won the championship with an 8-1 decision over No. 5 seed Jesus Contreras, Scott City.

Norton junior varsity wrestler freshman Spencer Shirk also competed at 130. He pinned Matt Korte, Mill Valley, in 1:51, then was pinned in 26 seconds by Wolters. In the consolation bracket, he won an 11-8 decision over Ethan Estes, Smith Center, then decided Kvasnicka 10-4 before losing 11-4 to Hewitt.

Perez is now 6-6 for the season and Shirk is 6-4.

Travis Ray saw his first competition of the season and wrestled for the Blue Jays at 145. He pinned Collin Wittig, Leoti, in 1:08, then

was pinned in 1:30 by No. 4 seed Colin Loomis, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, Ray pinned Cas Shultz, Quinter, in 28 seconds, then pinned Kyle Brunson, Mill Valley, in 1:19 before losing by a fall in 1:33 to No. 2 seed Dakota Hayes, Scott City.

No. 3 seed Tanner Sturgeon, Cozad, won the championship with a 6-2 decision over Loomis. Hayes placed third by pinning No. 1 seed Marshall McCall, Smith Center.

Norton junior Logan Kelly also competed at 145. He pinned Shultz in 30 seconds but was pinned in 1:34 by Sturgeon. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Wittig in 29 seconds, then was pinned in 1:12 by Clayton Schamberger, Hoxie.

Ray is now 3-2 for the season and Kelly is 4-3. Sturgeon extended his record to 19-1.

Junior Matt Stanley wrestled for Norton at 160. He lost a 7-4 decision to Clayton Rall, Hoxie, then lost a 5-0 decision to Lance Finley, Atwood.

Junior Brad Nuzum wrestled for Norton's second team at 160. He was pinned in 1:06 by Finley and was pinned in 4:31 by Rall.

No. 1 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley, won the championship with a 5-4 decision over No. 3 seed Chastain Hoeme, Scott City.

No. 2 seed Cody Hanel, Beloit, won third with a 6-0 decision over No. 5 seed Cory Devine, Cozad.

Stanley is now 5-5 for the season and Nuzum is 2-5. Younkin extended his perfect record to 15-0.

Junior Jordan Bebb wrestled for the Blue Jays at 171. He pinned Dal Schultz, Quinter, in his first match, then was pinned in 3:07 by No. 1 seed J.R. Logan, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Norton junior varsity teammate sophomore Casey Robison in 30 seconds, then won a 7-4 decision over No. 5 seed Jesse Mudd, Smith Center, before losing a 10-4 decision to No. 3 seed Logan Numrich, Scott City.

Logan won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Quinn Amiller, Hoxie, in 3:43. No. 4 seed Ben Brown, Leoti, won third place with a 7-5 decision over Numrich.

Robison lost his first match when he was pinned in 3:38 by Ethan Kirak, Oakley, before losing to Bebb in the consolation bracket.

Bebb is now 8-6 for the season and Robison is 3-4.

Sophomore Robert Derauf wrestled for Norton at 215 and was seeded No. 4.

In the first round, he lost an 11-5 decision to No. 5 seed Calvin Ervin, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Leo Beck, Mill Valley, in 1:24 before losing a 6-5 decision to Cody Pope, Hoxie.

No. 1 seed Aaron Racette, Oakley, won the championship with a 9-2 decision over No. 2 seed Kirk Palmer, Smith Center.

Third place went to No. 3 seed Sawyer Krone, Beloit, with a 5-2 decision over Pope.

Derauf's record is now 7-5.



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