



Norton freshman 103-pounder Troy Bainter decided Chris Cemen of Phillipsburg 11-4 to win the championship in the MCL Tournament on Saturday in Norton. Bainter is ranked #3 in the state and Cemen is ranked #5.

-Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson



Blue Jay junior Zach Bainter, ranked #2 in the state, and Phillipsburg junior Dustin Zahorsky, ranked #1 in the state, met on the mat for the championship of the 135-lb. weight division in the MCL Tournament. Bainter won the gold medal with a 3-2 decision.

-Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson

Blue Jay wrestlers win ninth straight league crown

By DICK BOYD
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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team's winning streak in the Mid-Continent League Tournament continued Saturday with the Blue Jays powering to their ninth straight championship!

Leading from start to finish, Norton amassed 204 points to outdistance defending Class 3-2-1A co-state champion Smith Center, who finished second with 190.

Third place went to Phillipsburg with 136, followed by Osborne, 73; Ellis, 64; Plainville, 56; Stockton, 53; Hill City, 29; Trego Community, 19.

All 14 Norton wrestlers medaled as the Blue Jays crowned four champions, had four runner-ups, two third placers and four fourth place finishers.

Winning gold medals for the Blue Jays were freshman Troy Bainter, 103; junior Zach Bainter, 135; junior Matt Stanley, 160 and senior Alex Thomas, 285.

Runner-up places on Saturday went to freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112; sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter, 125; senior Todd Bolt, 140 and senior Jeff Soderlund, 152.

Placing third were sophomore Zane Perez, 130 and senior Aaron Husted, 145.

Fourth place winners were freshman Landon Keiswetter, 119; junior Jordan Bebb, 171; junior Brock Lauer, 189 and sopho-

more Robert Derauf, 215. Norton compiled a won-loss record of 30-14 and had a pin ratio of 15-4.

"We knew coming in that it would be tough to beat Smith Center but we had a total team effort and placed every one of our wrestlers in the top four of their weight classes," said coach Johnson. "That in itself is a good reason we outdistanced everyone else."

"Those last 14 matches were all pretty tough. We had a fairly balanced attack with eight in the championship finals and six going for third."

"It was nice not having anyone in the back side after the first round. Our coaches never left the mats. It was kind of like a Norton dual versus the rest of the league."

"We avenged some losses from earlier in the season and that was good to see. Zach Bainter got a big win over Dustin Zahorsky of Phillipsburg, who had beaten him before. Zane Perez defeated Plainville's D.J. Brown, who had pinned him at Hoxie. Jordan Bebb beat Jesse Mudd of Smith Center for the second time but Mudd had beaten him once."

"Matt Stanley had a close match last time before beating Matt Atwood of Smith Center but he pinned him this time."

Coach Johnson named Zach Bainter and Matt Stanley "Wrestlers of the Week."

Individual matches
*103 -- Troy Bainter was seeded

No. 1 and is ranked No. 3 in the state. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Tracy Hudson, Smith Center, in 5:02. In the championship finals, he won an 11-4 decision over No. 3 seed and No. 5 state ranked Chris Cemen, Phillipsburg.

Bainter is now 14-5 for the season.

No. 2 seed Cole Werner, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 4-3 decision over Hudson.

*112 -- Billy Broeckelman was seeded No. 2 and is ranked No. 5 in the state. In the first round, he pinned Ethan LaBarge, Ellis, in 40 seconds. In the championship semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Devon Schneider, Plainville, in 3:05. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Carlos Galloway, Stockton, and was pinned in 3:21. Galloway is ranked No. 1 in the state and was the state runner-up last season.

Broeckelman is now 15-5 for the season and Galloway is 14-6.

Schneider placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Garrett Kuhlmann, Smith Center, in 1:41.

*119 -- Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 5. He pinned No. 4 seed Cordrey Spires, Stockton, in 5:18 of their first round match. Next, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked, Dan Weigel, Plainville, and lost a 6-5 decision. In the consolation bracket, he pinned John Boyington, Phillipsburg, in 55 seconds. In the consolation championship, he lost a 2-1 deci-

sion to No. 3 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center.

Landon Keiswetter is now 10-13 for the season.

Weigel won the championship with an 8-2 decision over No. 2 seed and No. 5 state ranked Aaron Geist, Osborne.

*125 -- Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No. 4 and pinned Brady Page, Stockton, in 1:24 of their first round match. In the championship semi-finals, he decided No. 3 seed Cole Orr, Hill City, 8-7. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed, No. 1 state ranked and defending state champion Colt Rogers, Smith Center and was pinned in 1:31.

Rogers is now 20-0 and Kaenon Keiswetter is 14-5.

Third place went to Orr with a 2-1 decision over No. 4 seed Carson McMullen, Plainville.

*130 -- Zane Perez was seeded No. 5 and avenged an earlier defeat by winning an 11-7 decision over No. 4 seed D.J. Brown, Plainville. Next, he lost a 9-1 major decision to No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Danny Floyd, Osborne. In the consolation bracket, he decided Tyler Johnston, Stockton, 5-3. In the consolation championship, he won a 7-2 decision over No. 2 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City, to place third.

Perez is now 15-10 for the season.

Floyd won the championship with an 8-4 decision over No. 3 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg. Floyd extended his unbeaten record to 18-0.

*135 -- Zach Bainter was seeded No. 2 and is ranked No. 2 in the state. In the first round, he pinned Jon Osburn, Smith Center, in 2:38. In the championship semi-finals, he won a 6-1 decision over No. 3 seed Trevor Oliver, Osborne. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, who placed second in the state last year. Bainter defeated Zahorsky 3-2 to win the gold medal.

Bainter is now 20-2 for the season and Zahorsky is 20-3.

Oliver won third place by pinning Osburn in 1:41. Oliver is now 19-2 for the season.

*140 -- Todd Bolt was seeded No. 2 and is ranked No. 3 in the state. He drew a first round bye, then won a 16-4 major decision over No. 3 seed Jason Knoll, Osborne. In the championship finals, he lost a 5-1 decision to No. 1 seeded Trevor Rempe, Smith

Center, who is ranked No. 2 in the state and placed third in the state last season.

Bolt's season record is now 12-5 and Rempe is 18-3.

Third place went to No. 4 seed Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg, with a 10-6 decision over Knoll.

*145 -- Aaron Husted was seeded No. 4 and pinned No. 5 seed Blaise Wilson, Stockton, in 3:27 of their first round match. In the championship semi-finals, Husted lost a 9-3 decision to No. 1 seed Marshall McCall, Smith Center, who placed fifth in the state last year. In the consolation bracket, Husted pinned Cody Johnson, Hill City, in 2:24. In the consolation championship, he decided No. 3 seed Martin Hojda, Osborne, 8-6 to place third.

Husted is now 9-6 for the season.

McCall won the championship with a 5-1 decision over No. 2 seed Chase King, Ellis.

*152 -- Jeff Soderlund was seeded No. 6 and is ranked No. 6 in the state. He pinned Brice Grabast, Osborne, in 54 seconds, then won a 15-4 major decision over Nathan Palmer, Stockton, who was seeded No. 3 and is ranked No. 5 in the state. In the championship finals, Jeff lost a 6-5 decision to No. 1 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, who is ranked No. 2 in the state and placed third last season.

Soderlund is now 11-5 for the season and Rempe is 20-2.

Third place winner was Palmer with a 6-4 decision over No. 4 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis.

*160 -- Matt Stanley was seeded No. 1 and pinned Cole Smith, Plainville, in 39 seconds, then won a 14-1 major decision over No. 4 seed Zack Gehring, Ellis. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 2 seed Matt Atwood, Smith Center, in 3:59 to win the gold medal.

Stanley is now 12-9 for the season.

Gehring won third by pinning No. 3 seed Derek Rowland, Phillipsburg, in 2:59.

*171 -- Jordan Bebb was seeded No. 5 and decided Jesse Mudd, Smith Center, 8-5 in the first round. Next, he was pinned in 53 seconds by No. 1 seed Ryan Swartzell, Phillipsburg, who is also ranked No. 1 in the state. In the consolation bracket, he won an 8-2 decision over Jon James, Trego, then lost a 9-4 decision to No. 3 seed Justin Gnad, Ellis, in the consolation championship

match. Bebb is now 12-12 for the season.

Swartzell won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Tad Miller, Stockton, who is ranked No. 2 in the state. Swartzell is now 20-1 and Miller is 22-3 for the season.

*189 -- Brock Lauer was seeded No. 4. He pinned No. 5 seed Matt Dahlhauser, Osborne, in 4:54 of their first round match. Next, he was pinned in 5:40 by No. 1 seed Grady Godsey, Smith Center, who is ranked No. 5 in the state and placed second last year. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then lost a 13-2 major decision to No. 3 seed John Tricks, Ellis, in the consolation championship match.

Lauer is now 11-9 for the season.

Godsey won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Keath Thomas, Phillipsburg, in 5:17. Godsey is now 13-3 for the season.

*215 -- Robert Derauf was seeded No. 4 and won a 5-1 decision over No. 5 seed Alan Crawford, Plainville, in the first round. Next, he wrestled Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, No. 1 seed, No. 2 ranked in the state and second place last year. He lost by a technical fall in 5:27 and dropped into the consolation bracket. He pinned Jacob Begler, Ellis, in 2:10, then lost an 8-3 decision to No. 3 seed Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg, in the consolation championship match.

Derauf is now 13-7 for the season.

Palmer won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Taylor Dirks, Trego, in 5:30. Palmer is now 14-2 for the season.

*285 -- Alex Thomas was seeded No. 1. He is ranked No. 2 in the state and placed third last season. He pinned Cody Tucker, Smith Center, in 1:27, drew a bye, then shutout Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, 4-0 to win the championship.

Thomas is now 20-1 for the season.

Next action
Norton will wrestle Plainville and Ellis in Ellis on Friday, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Norton varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete on Saturday in the annual Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Participating teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Abilene, Beloit, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lakin, Lincoln, Minneapolis, St. Francis, Stockton and Trego Community.

Former Blue Jay greats honored

By DICK BOYD
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Former Norton Blue Jay state wrestling medal winners from 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988 and 1998 were honored during ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 5 in Norton.

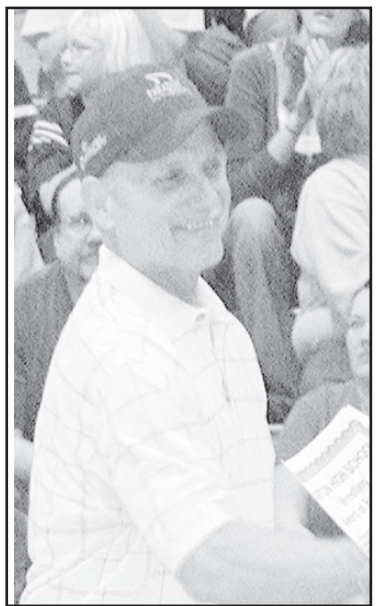
Each honored wrestler received congratulations and a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" from former longtime Norton coach J.R. "Jake" Durham as well as a congratulatory handshake from Norton Athletic Director Larry Mills.

The 1948 team placed third in the state and had six placers. None of them were able to attend. The six medalists were: Bill Lathrop, 95, first; Lawrence; Darrel Waufle, 103, second; Manhattan; Don Stevey, 165, second; Omaha; James Mulder, 112, fourth; Fremont, Neb.; Kenneth Sanderson, 145, fourth; deceased; Dwight Johnson, 154, fourth; Littleton, Colo. Coach Paul Casper is deceased.

The four state placers from the 1958 team were also unable to attend. They were: Jim Kent, 123, second; Alvin Bird, 141, third; Winfield; Neil Severns, 157, third; Norton; Larry Taylor, 98, fourth; Perryton, Tex.

The 1968 Norton wrestling team won the state championship, had seven medalists and was coached by Jake Durham. Accepting their certificates of excellence were Roger Fisher, 95, first; Jamestown, N.D., Stan Ward, 112, first; Edmond, Okla. and Garrett Gwaltney, 180, second; Lansing.

Tom Ankenman, Hutchinson,



Roger Fisher, Jamestown, N.D., the 95-lb. champion in the state wrestling tournament as a Blue Jay 40 years ago, received a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" from his former Norton head coach J.R. "Jake" Durham at the recent Durham Invitational.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

was the 103 pound champion and Coach Durham accepted his certificate. Wayne Thiele was third at 133 pounds and his brother Lynn Thiele accepted his award.

Other medal winners from 1968 who were not able to attend were: Paul Riemann, Valley Center, 120, second and Quentin Horning, Peck, 138, first.

Coach Durham was honored for coaching the 1968 championship team. It was the fourth of six state champion teams coached by Jake.

There were two state medal-

ists from the 1978 team. Kyle Hahn, Ness City, was second at 105 pounds and Mike Jimenez, Fresno, Calif., was third at 155 pounds. Neither was able to attend but nephews Tyler and Seth Hahn accepted Kyle's certificate.

Kendall Hahn, Omaha, was the only state medalist from the 1988 team. He was not present but his sons, Tyler and Seth, accepted his award.

The 1998 team placed second in the state tournament and was coached by Bill Johnson. There were five state medalists and four were present. They were: Kyle Wright, Norton, 152, second; Curtis Brown, 171, first; Tulsa; Shaun Smiley, Kansas City, Mo., 215, second and Rusty Miller, Norcat, 275, first.

Team medalist not able to be present was Brent Brandyberry, Chicago, 103, first.

This was the 43rd annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 11th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed 10 years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton.

Jake's honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

Coach Johnson began to recognize the "Norton Wrestling Tradition" during his first year here in 1992. Over the past 16 years, 290 state medalists have been honored.

Making the introductions to the crowd over the public address system was Eric Farber, the current "Voice of the Blue Jays".

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:
Norton vs. Plainville, Ellis 5 p.m. Friday in Ellis
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity in Panther Classic 9:30 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Smith Center V, JV 5 p.m. Today in Norton
Norton vs. Hill City V, JV, C 4 p.m. Friday in Hill City
Norton vs. Oberlin V, JV, C 4 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb. 4 p.m. Today in Alma
Northern Valley vs. Eastern Heights 4 p.m. Friday in Agra
Northern Valley vs. Arapahoe, Neb. 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Arapahoe
Logan vs. Stockton 4 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan vs. Palco 4 p.m. Friday in Palco
Logan vs. Jewell 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan