

Norton Wrestlers Win Regional Championship!

By DICK BOYD

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For the fourth year in a row, coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team overwhelmed the opposition to win the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday in WaKeeney.

Wrestling in the toughest regional tournament in the state, the No. 1 state ranked Blue Jays took an early lead and rolled up 226.5 points during the two days.

No. 8 state ranked Scott City, placed second again this year but trailed by 66.5 points with 160. Earning third place with 133 points was No. 5 state ranked Oakley.

St. Francis was fourth with 127, followed by Oberlin, 99.5; Lakin, 81; Atwood, 78; Hoxie, 70; Cimarron, 61; Ellis, 52.5; Hill City, 49; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 46; Trego, 38; Leoti, 36; Holcomb, 30; Sublette, 14.5; Larned, 2; Elkhart, 1; Montezuma-South Gray, 1; Grainfield-Wheatland, 0; Quinter, 0.

Atwood and Hoxie went into the tournament tied for No. 10 state ranked.

Atwood qualified three for the state tourney and Hoxie two. Scott City qualified seven wrestlers, Oakley and St. Francis six each and Oberlin four. Lakin, Cimarron and Ellis each qualified three.

Eleven qualified for state. Eleven of the 14 Norton wrestlers who competed placed in the top four in their weight class and qualified for the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament this Friday and Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Norton senior 285 pound wrestler Alex Thomas was seeded No. 1 and pinned his first two opponents before suffering a season-ending knee injury in the championship semi-finals. Alex, who ended the season 28-1, undoubtedly would have been the 12th state qualifier for the Blue Jays.

Winning regional championships for Norton were freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112; sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter, 125; sophomore Zane Perez, 130 and junior Zach Bainter, 135.

Placing second for the Blue Jays were freshman Troy Bainter, 103; senior Todd Bolt, 140 and senior Jeff Soderlund, 152.

Finishing in third place was freshman Landon Keiswetter, 119.

Fourth placers were junior Matt Stanley, 160; junior Jordan Bebb, 171 and junior Brock Lauer, 189.

Also wrestling for Norton were senior Aaron Husted, 145 and sophomore Robert Derauf, 215, both of whom came within one match of qualifying for the state tournament.

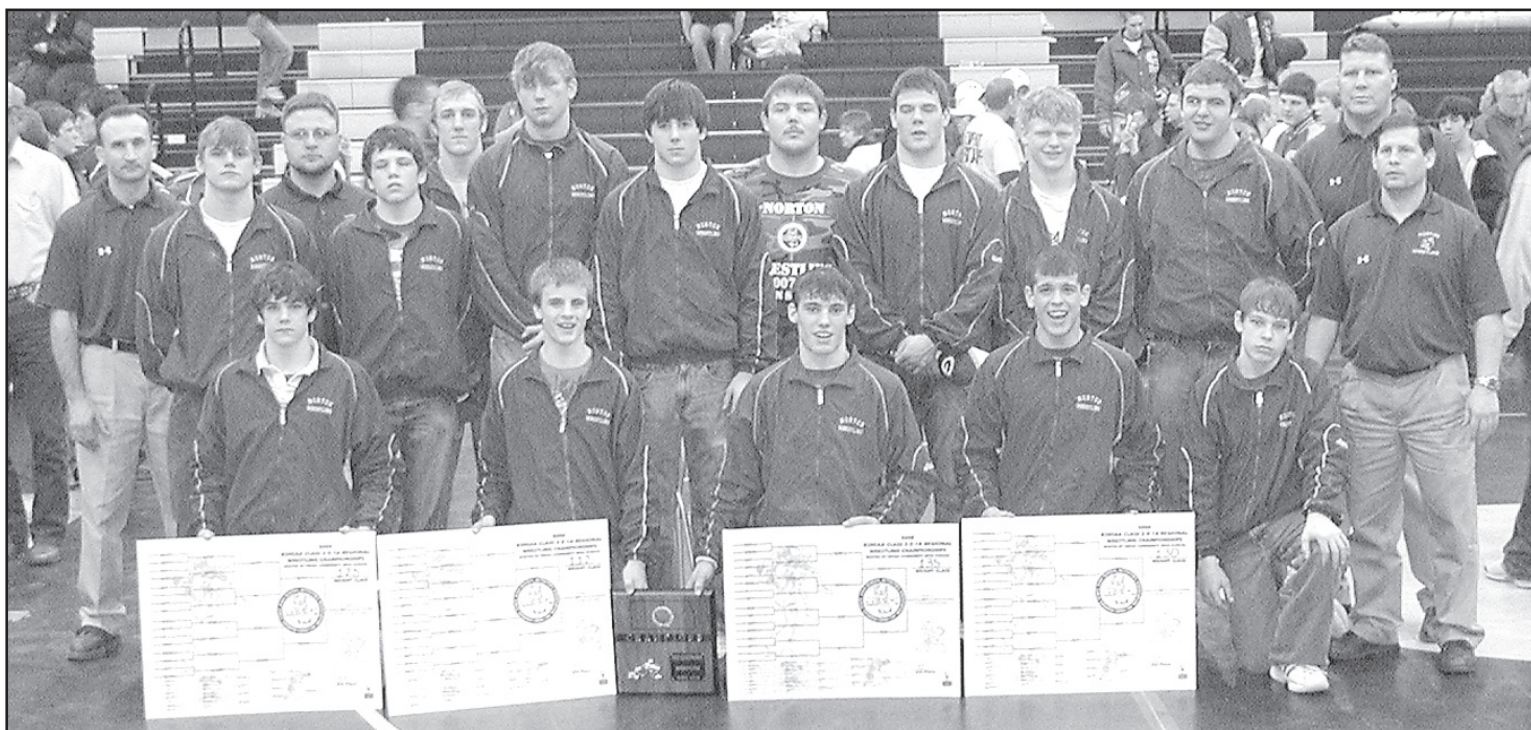
"We wrestled outstanding," said Norton coach Johnson. "In all of my years of coaching wrestling, I've never had a team come this close to qualifying all 14 wrestlers for the state tournament."

"Unfortunately, we lost Alex Thomas to an injury but the other two who didn't make it, Aaron Husted and Robert Derauf, were just an eyelash away."

"We wrestled very, very well. We won a lot of matches that nobody gave us a chance to win. It is a very satisfying victory."

Coach Johnson named the entire Norton team "Wrestlers of the Week".

Senior Travis Budke, Thomas More Prep, who came into the tournament ranked No. 2 in the state,



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 the Trego Community High School Gym in WaKeeney. Pictured are, from left, front row: Kaenon Keiswetter, Billy Broeckelman, Zach Bainter, Zane Perez, Troy Bainter; back row: Assistant Coach Shane Miller, Matt Stanley, Assistant Coach Chance McKinney, Landon Keiswetter, Aaron Husted, Jordan Bebb, Todd Bolt, Alex Thomas, Brock Lauer, Jeff Soderlund, Robert Derauf, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Head Coach Bill Johnson.

decided on Oakley senior Kelly Younkin, who was ranked No. 1, by a 3-2 score in the championship finals Saturday evening and was named "Regional Wrestler of the Year" by the team coaches.

Mike Frewen, St. Francis head wrestling coach, was voted "Regional Coach of the Year" by the team coaches.

Norton compiled an outstanding 38-15 won-loss record in the tournament and had a stellar 23-3 pin ratio.

Zach Bainter is ranked No. 1 in the state at 135 pounds and extended his season record to 26-2. He placed second in the state his freshman season and fourth last year. He was named "Outstanding Sophomore Wrestler" on the Norton team last season.

Jeff Soderlund is ranked No. 5 in the state at 152 pounds. He is now 21-7 for the season. Jeff finished fourth at 145 pounds in the state tournament last season and received the team's "Most Improved Wrestler of the Year" award after moving up from the junior varsity the year before.

Zane Perez extended his season record to 24-12 at 130 pounds. He is unranked this season but placed sixth at 119 pounds in the state tourney last season. Zane was the Blue Jays' "Outstanding Freshman Wrestler" last season.

Kaenon Keiswetter is ranked No. 6 in the state at 125 pounds. A state tourney qualifier last year, he is now 23-6 for the season.

Todd Bolt is ranked No. 3 in the state at 140 pounds and is now 20-7 for the season.

Troy Bainter is ranked No. 3 at 103 and is 21-7 and Billy Broeckelman is ranked No. 6 at 112 and is 24-6 for the season.

Individual results
*103 -- No. 3 state ranked and No. 2 seed Troy Bainter pinned Dustin Vap, Atwood, in 33 seconds and pinned No. 3 seed Samantha Gonzales, Lakin, in 27 seconds to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No. 1 state ranked and No. 1 seed Francisco Antillon, Scott City, for the gold medal. Bainter trailed 2-0 after one period and 2-0

after two periods and lost a 3-0 decision.

Bainter is now 21-7 and Antillon is 30-4.

Gonzales placed third with a 24-6 technical fall over Jacob Helm, Oberlin.

*112 -- Billy Broeckelman is ranked No. 5 in the state and was seeded No. 3. He pinned K.C. Kough, Scott City, in 3:27 and pinned No. 5 state ranked and No. 3 seed Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, in 3:48. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 4 state ranked and No. 1 seeded Dalton Davis, Lakin. The score was tied 2-1 after one period but Billy took a 6-3 lead after two periods and went on to win 10-4 and earn the gold medal.

Broeckelman is 24-6 for the season and Davis is now 32-2.

Sherlock won third place with a 9-0 major decision over No. 4 seed Andrew Peterson, Oakley.

*119 -- Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 3. He won a 15-0 technical fall over Mario Mancillas, Leoti and lost a 10-4 decision to No. 2 seed Tyrel George, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, Keiswetter pinned No. 4 seed Skyler Pentheny, Lakin, in 3:43, then pinned No. 5 seed Darris Keller, St. Francis, in 4:11 to place third.

Keiswetter is now 18-16. No. 3 state ranked and No. 1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley, won the championship with an 8-1 decision over George.

Campbell extended his season record to 27-4.

*125 -- Kaenon Keiswetter is No. 6 state ranked and was seeded No. 2. He pinned Anthony Vrbas, Atwood, in 3:35, then won a 9-2 decision over No. 3 seed and No. 4 state ranked, Dillon Stucky, Scott City. In the championship finals, he faced No. 1 seed Steve Samuelson, Oakley. In a very close match, Keiswetter got an escape for one point in the second period to win 1-0 and earn the gold medal.

Keiswetter is now 23-6 for the season and Samuelson is 15-4.

Stucky won third place with a 4-2 decision over No. 4 seed Cole Orr, Hill City.

*130 -- Zane Perez was seeded

No. 4. He won a 10-6 decision over No. 5 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City, then decided No. 3 state ranked and No. 1 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood, 5-2. In the championship finals, Zane wrestled No. 2 seed Bobby Litton, Cimarron, who had a 32-1 record. Zane took a 5-2 lead in the first period, was on top 5-4 after two periods and won a 7-4 decision to hand Litton his second loss of the season and win the championship!

Perez is now 24-12 for the season.

Chase won third place by default over Wolters, who is now 20-5.

*135 -- Zach Bainter is ranked No. 1 in the state and was seeded No. 1. He pinned Remington Dyas, Leoti, in 2:40, then pinned Alex Bebb, Atwood, in 54 seconds before winning a 10-8 decision over No. 5 seed Daniel Jordan, Oberlin. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 4 state ranked and No. 3 seed Gavin Smull, St. Francis. Zach led 2-0 after one period and 2-0 after two periods and went on to win

4-0. Bainter is now 26-2.

Third place winner was No. 2 seed John Lynch, Lakin, with a 5-0 decision over Kevin Urban, Ellis. Lynch is now 30-4.

*140 -- Todd Bolt is ranked No. 3 in the state and was seeded No. 1. He pinned Collin Wittig, Leoti, in 3:02, then won a 5-4 decision over No. 4 seed Heath Maley, Trego. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 4 state ranked and No. 2 seed Everett Urban. The match was scoreless after one period but Urban took a 3-0 lead in the second period and expanded it to 7-2 for the win.

Bolt is now 20-7 and Urban is 25-8.

No. 3 seed Morgan Numrich, Scott City, won third place with a 4-2 decision over Maley, who is now 12-7.

*145 -- Aaron Husted pinned Travis Elkins, Elkhart, in 1:08, then won a 3-1 decision over No. 2 seed Chase King, Ellis. In the championship semi-finals, he lost an 11-4 decision to No. 3 seed Jesse Pacheco, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he wrestled No. 4 seed Dakota Hayes, Scott City, and had a big lead over Hayes until getting out of position and being pinned in 4:35 to end his season with a 14-11 record.

No. 3 seed Jarrett Stanton, Holcomb, placed third with a 4-3 decision over Hayes.

Pacheco won the championship with a 6-3 decision over No. 6 state ranked and No. 1 seeded Gage Reichert, Oberlin. Reichert is now 22-5.

*152 -- Jeff Soderlund is ranked No. 5 in the state and was seeded No. 1. He pinned Cody Stewart, Oakley, in 1:37 and pinned No. 4 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, in 1:45. In the championship finals, he

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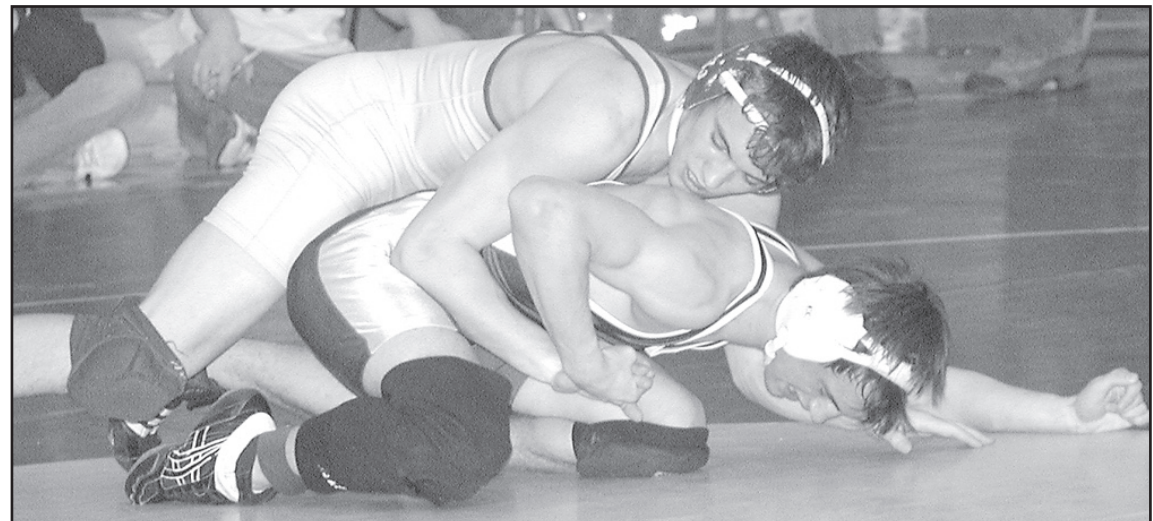
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Good Luck to all the wrestlers at state!

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Norton's No. 1 state ranked and No. 1 seed Zach Bainter decided No. 4 state ranked and No. 3 seed Gavin Smull, St. Francis, 4-0 to win the 135 pound regional championship. Bainter is now 26-2 for the season.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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