

Jays 4th at state

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team scored twice as many points on Saturday as the leaders in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays but was too far behind to earn the championship and placed fourth.

Smith Center, who tied Beloit for the state championship last year when Norton placed third just 1.5 points behind, won the title outright this year, although by just one point!

The Redmen finished with 127.5 points and the Panthers totaled 126.5. Beloit was third with 121.5 and Norton scored 101.5 to finish in fourth.

When Friday's competition was completed, Smith Center led with 103 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 101.5; Beloit, 97.5; Scott City, 64 and Norton 54.5.

With only one wrestler going for a championship, the Blue Jays wrestled hard through the back door (consolation bracket) all day Saturday to earn 47 points, compared to 24.5 by Smith Center, 25 by Phillipsburg, 24 by Beloit and 21 by Scott City.

Despite almost doubling their first day total, the Blue Jays were too far behind to make a run for the championship and were just able to pass Scott City and move up one team place.

Scott City finished with 85 points, followed by Oakley with 69 in sixth, Rossville with 56 in seventh, Hoisington with 48.5 in eighth, St. Francis with 46.5 in ninth and Silver Lake in tenth with 46. Osborne finished eleventh with 45, Atwood was twelfth with 42, Plainville was sixteenth with 34.5, Stockton placed eighteenth with 31.

Other area teams' finishes were Hill City, 25th, 21; Hoxie, 42nd, 12.5; Oberlin, 44th, 11.5; Ellis, tie for 50th, 4; Trego, tie for 50th, 4.

In winning last week's regional tournament for the fourth straight year, Norton qualified 11 wrestlers for the state tournament.

Freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112, wrestled for the state championship against Dalton Davis, Lakin, in a rematch from the regional when Broeckelman won a 10-4 decision. This time Davis edged Broeckelman 6-5 to win the gold medal.

Freshman Troy Bainter, 103, placed third by pinning Jesse Brown, Rosalia Flinthills, in 28

seconds.

Sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter, 125, also placed third when he decisioned Cody Merriman, Onaga, 11-6.

Also earning a bronze medal was Norton junior Zach Bainter, 135, when he won a 3-1 decision over Tommy Knapp, Lincoln, to place third. Bainter also placed second in the state his freshman season and fourth last year.

Senior Todd Bolt placed fifth at 140 pounds when he won a 5-3 decision over Jake Hattabaugh, Sedgwick.

Norton's sixth medalist was freshman Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 119, who placed sixth.

Also competing for Norton in the state tournament but not placing were sophomore Zane Perez, 130; senior Jeff Soderlund, 152; junior Matt Stanley, 160 and junior Brock Lauer, 189.

Junior Jordan Bebb, who placed fourth in the regional at 171 pounds to qualify for the state tournament, injured his back in his final regional match and was unable to compete. His season record was 21-17.

Senior Alex Thomas, 285, who placed third in the state tournament last season, suffered a season-ending knee injury after pinning two opponents in the regional and ended the season with a 28-1 record.

A total of 224 wrestlers who qualified in the previous week's four regional tournaments competed and a total of 77 different schools were represented.

Norton compiled a respectable 26-17 won-loss record and 10-4 pin ratio.

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

The officials at the tournament named Joe Buresh, head Phillipsburg wrestling coach, as their "Coach of the Year".

Coach's comments

"This state tournament was a tale of the worst of times and tale of the best of times," said Norton coach Johnson. "On Friday, everything went wrong that could go wrong."

"Saturday was just the opposite. I was proud of the way our wrestlers rebounded. No team here except us doubled their Friday points on Saturday."

"We were humbled a lot on Friday but turned it over to the next generation."

"Out of our six state placers, five will be back next year. We had

some tough matches on Saturday and won most of them."

"This was a wild state tournament. The number of upsets from the quarter-finals on was unparalleled by any state tournament with which I've been associated. Right now, there is a lot of parity in Class 3-2-1A."

"On any given week, anyone can come up big. We won our regional by a lot last week but didn't wrestle as well this week. Week in and week out, you have to wrestle well."

"I will say about our team that we went down fighting!"

Coach Johnson thanked the parents and fans for all their support during the season.

Norton's assistant coaches again this season were Doug Ray, Chance McKinney and Shane Miller.

Student managers were Emily Juenemann, Alyssa Thomson and Shelby Schaefer.

Individual results

*103 -- Troy Bainter pinned Nat Hudson, Caney Valley, in 1:25, then decisioned Michael Provencher, Rossville, 4-3. In the championship semi-finals, he lost a 6-3 decision to Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Cole Werner, Plainville, in 2:01, then pinned Jesse Brown, Rosalia Flinthills, in 28 seconds to place third.

Bainter ended the season with a 25-8 record.

Francisco Antillon, won a 5-0 decision over Ceman to earn the gold medal. Antillon finished with a 34-4 record and Ceman was 25-7.

Fifth place went to Provencher with a 9-6 decision over Cole Werner, Plainville.

*112 -- Billy Broeckelman pinned Anthony Heneley, Herington, in 1:19, then won a 16-1 technical fall over Kyle Hubbard, Bluestem. In the championship semi-finals, he decisioned Zach Hoehn, Wellsville, 15-11 to reach the championship finals versus Dalton Davis, Lakin, whom he had beaten in the regional. This time Davis took a 4-1 lead after one period, was ahead 4-3 after two periods and won a 6-5 decision.

Broeckelman finished the season 27-7. Davis ended the season 36-2.

Third place went to Hoehn with a 4-1 decision over Cody Sherlock, St. Francis.

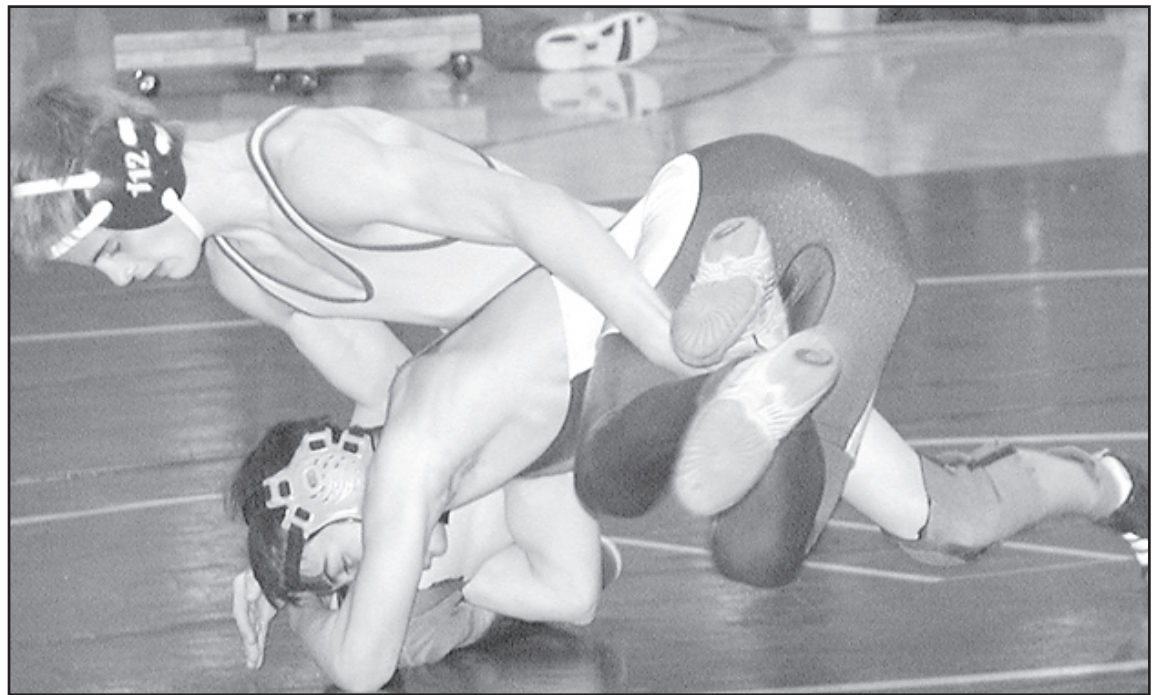
Winning fifth was Carlos Galaway, Stockton, with a 14-5 major decision over Matt Unruh, Rock Creek.

*119 -- Landon Keiswetter won a 9-7 decision over Aaron Geist, Osborne, but lost by a 16-0 technical fall to Collin Hase, Silver Lake. In the consolation bracket, he won a 2-0 decision over Sheldon Graves, Rossville, then decisioned Tyrel George, Scott City, 3-2. He lost a 10-4 decision to George in the regional. In the consolation semi-finals, he wrestled regional champion Jace Campbell, Oakley, and lost a 7-0 decision. In the fifth place match, he lost a 10-3 decision to Devin Frye, Eureka.

Keiswetter ended the season with a 21-19 record.

Hase won the championship by pinning Dan Weigel, Plainville, in 4:56. Hase finished the season with a 39-3 record and Weigel finished 33-3.

Campbell placed third with an 8-0 decision over Geist and com-



Norton freshman 112-lb. wrestler Billy Broeckelman was in control of Dalton Davis of Lakin when this photo was taken during their state championship match in Hays Saturday. Broeckelman handed Davis only his second loss of the season in the regional tourney finals the week before, but Davis avenged the loss by edging Broeckelman 6-5 to win the state gold medal.

pleted a 31-5 record.

*125 -- Kaenon Keiswetter won a 9-1 major decision over Dusty Greer, Minneapolis, then pinned Brett LaMar, Silver Lake, in 2:55. Next, he wrestled unbeaten sophomore Colt Rogers, Smith Center, and lost a 17-8 major decision. In the consolation bracket, he won a 15-4 major decision over Brendan Harshman, Chase County, to reach the consolation championship. He won an 11-6 decision over Dody Merriman, Onaga, to place third.

Keiswetter finished the season with a 27-7 record.

Rogers won the championship with an 18-2 technical fall over Brad Augustine, Beloit. Rogers won his second state championship and finished with a perfect 33-0 record.

Harshman won fifth by default over Steve Samuelson, Oakley.

*130 -- Zane Perez lost a 7-4 decision to Levi Schneider, Ellsworth, then lost an 18-3 technical fall to Cameron Motter, Remington.

Perez ended the season with a 24-14 record.

Danny Floyd, Osborne, won the championship with a 5-2 decision over Cody Bontz, Wichita Independent. Floyd ended the season with a perfect 29-0 record and Bontz ended 33-4.

Jeremy Chase, Hill City, placed third with an 8-7 decision over Cade Hewitt, Beloit.

Kyle Wichman, Silver Lake, won fifth with a 9-5 decision over Schneider.

*135 -- Zach Bainter won a 10-1 major decision over Nick Hockett, Cherryvale but lost a 2-1 decision to Aaron Weatherhead, Belleville, to drop into the consolation bracket. Next, he shutout John Lynch, Lakin, 3-0, pinned Nicholas Mueller, Hillsboro, in 2:15 and shutout Gavin Smull, St. Francis, 5-0, to reach the consolation championship. Bainter decisioned Tommy Knapp, Lincoln, 3-1, to place third.

Bainter finished the season with an outstanding 31-3 record.

Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, won a 12-4 decision over Weatherhead to win the championship. Zahorsky finished the season 34-3 and Weatherhead ended 35-5.

Fifth place went to Smull with a 10-7 decision over Dillon Wildin, Marion.

*140 -- Todd Bolt pinned Ethan McCoy, Eureka, in 5:59, then lost a hard-fought overtime decision to Cas Spangler, Beloit, by a 12-8 score. In the consolation bracket, Bolt decisioned Heath Maley, Trego, 6-3, pinned Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg, in 2:43 but lost a 14-5 major decision to

Jesse Gantz, Stafford. He won fifth place with a 5-3 decision over Jake Hattabaugh, Sedgwick.

Bolt finished the season with a 24-9 record.

Spangler won the championship with a 7-1 decision over Trevor Rempe, Smith Center. Spangler finished the season 39-1 and Rempe completed a 27-5 season.

Gantz placed third with a 6-1 decision over Morgan Numrich, Scott City. Gantz ended the season 27-4.

*145 -- Darrell Melcher, Herington, won the championship with a 10-3 decision over Jordan Noll, Effingham. Melcher ended the season 35-1 and Noll ended 32-4.

Third place went to Marshall McCall, Smith Center, with a fall in 3:56 over Jesse Pacheco, St. Francis. McCall ended the season 31-5.

Fifth place went to Derek Soucie, Wichita Independent, with an 8-1 decision over Martin Hojda, Osborne.

*152 -- Jeff Soderlund pinned his first round opponent, Marius Frenzel, Pleasant Ridge, in 41 seconds. He wrestled eventual champion Blake Mayes, Beloit, next and lost an 8-2 decision. In the consolation bracket, Soderlund decisioned Clint Taylor, Thomas More Prep of Hays, 7-4. In the consolation quarter-finals, he was pinned in 2:09 by Colton Gentry, Rossville, to end his season with a 23-9 record.

Mayes won the championship with a 10-5 decision over Travis Rempe, Smith Center. Mayes finished the season 39-4 and Rempe was 31-4.

Jordan Meyer, Sabetha, placed third with a 9-6 decision over Corey Engstrom, Hoisington. Meyer started the tournament unbeaten for the season but lost a 9-4 decision to Engstrom in the second round on Friday. Meyer finished the season 38-1. Engstrom completed a 34-6 season.

Alberto Contreras, Minneapolis, placed fifth with a 6-4 decision over Gentry.

*160 -- Matt Stanley was in a weight class that included four wrestlers with three or fewer losses. Stanley had to wrestle two of them and performed as well as anyone against them. In the first round, Stanley faced Jake Price, Caney Valley, who came in with a 33-3 record. Stanley lost to Price by a 6-4 decision.

Stanley dropped into the consolation bracket where he decisioned Chris Niehues, Onaga, 11-5. That win moved him into a match with Kelly Younkin, Oakley, who brought a 29-2 record into the tournament but lost a 5-3 overtime decision to Cody Hanel, Beloit, in the second round on Friday. Stanley wrestled well but lost a 9-6 decision to Younkin to end his season at 24-14.

Younkin advanced on and decisioned Travis Budke, Thomas More Prep-Hays, 2-1 to reach the consolation championship.

Budke decisioned Younkin 3-2 to win the regional championship the previous week. Younkin then decisioned Chaston Hoeme, Scott City, 9-5, to place third.

Budke decisioned Nick Whetzell, Pittsburg Colgan, 6-1 to win fifth place.

Hanel won the championship with a 5-4 decision over Price. Hanel finished the season 35-6, Younkin was 34-3, Budke was 33-4 and Price was 36-4.

*171 -- With Jordan Bebb's injury default, Norton was open at 171. Ryan Swartzell, Phillipsburg, extended his final season record to 34-1 by pinning Logan Numrich, Scott City, in the championship finals.

Ben Brown, Leoti, placed third by pinning Tad Miller, Stockton, in 4:34. Miller finished the season 31-7 and Brown was 29-6.

Fifth place went to Brett Dunlap, Doniphan West, with a 3-0 decision over Frankie Martin, Hillsboro. Dunlap finished the season 24-6.

*189 -- Brock Lauer competed as he had all season against much heavier foes, did not back down and wrestled hard against the tough competition. In his first round match, he wrestled defending state champion and unbeaten Ryan Patterson, Garden Plain, and was pinned in 2:30. In the consolation bracket, Lauer wrestled Keath Thomas, Phillipsburg, and lost a hard-fought 8-3 decision to end his season with a 16-16 record.

Patterson finished the season with a perfect 32-0 record by decisioning Matt Engstrom, Hoisington, 5-1. Engstrom completed the season with a 40-2 record.

Grady Godsey, Smith Center, placed third with a 9-0 major decision over John Binning, Atwood, whom he had decisioned 5-3 in the second round. Godsey ended the season 27-5 and Binning ended with a 28-4 record.

Sawyer Krone, Beloit, placed fifth with a 6-4 overtime decision over David Guthmiller, St. Francis.

*215 -- Steven Kyler, Ellsworth, won the championship with a 4-3 decision over Kirk Palmer, Smith Center. Kyler ended the season 34-3 and Palmer was 26-3.

Aaron Racette, Oakley, placed third by pinning Auston Sommer, Mission Valley, in 20 seconds. Racette finished the season 33-2.

Fifth place went to Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg, with a fall in 28 seconds over Gus Allen, West Elk.

*285 -- Defending state champion Duane Zlatnik, Rossville, won the championship by pinning Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, in 41 seconds. Zlatnik finished the season 44-1. Rice finished 26-8.

Shelby Wright, Atwood, placed third by pinning Ross Addison, Cimarron, in 2:29. Wright finished the season 26-7 and Addison was 35-4.

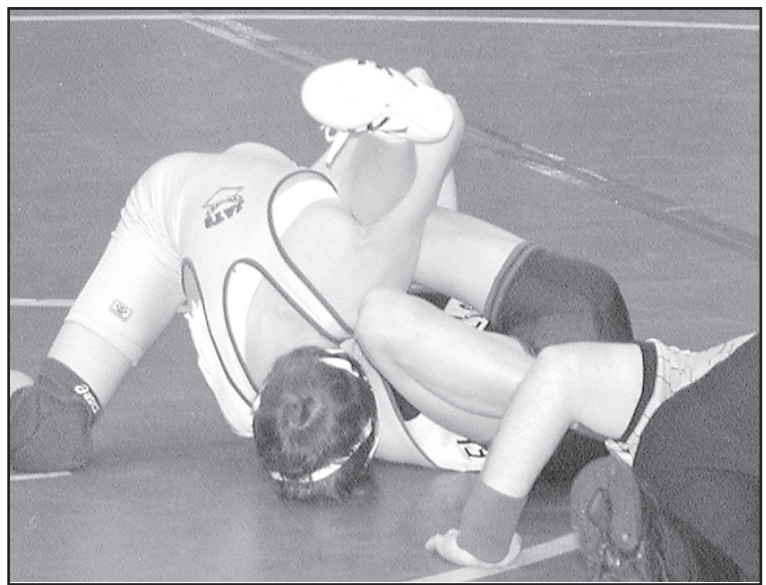
Fifth place went to Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, who pinned Dakota Denny, Caney Valley, in 3:17.

The Jaycees are no longer sponsoring the state shoot so the NRA has stepped in to sponsor.

As in the past, Norton will take three teams to compete in the state shoot where the top three qualify for international competition.

If Norton places in the Regional on March 1, the Blue Jay marksmen will travel to Great Bend where they will compete in the State 4-H BB Gun Shoot on April 12.

The Norton team will travel



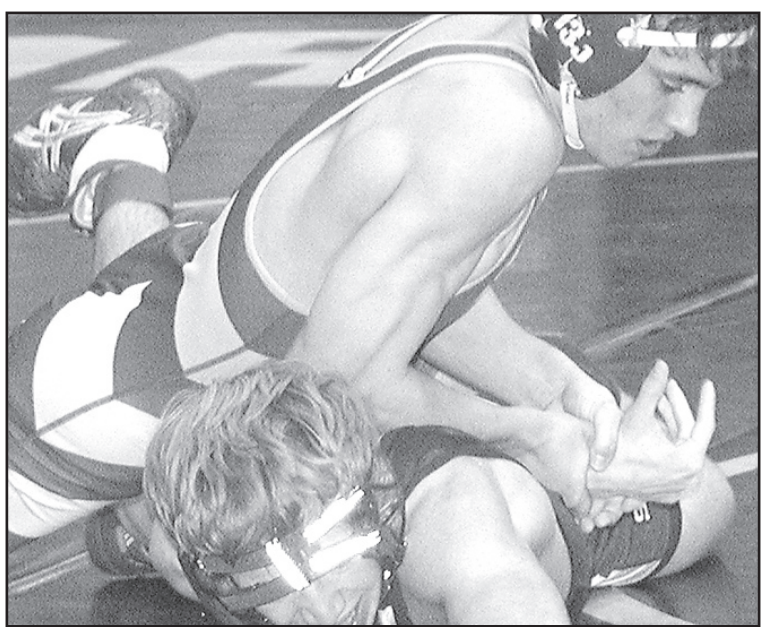
Norton 103-lb. freshman Troy Bainter pinned Jesse Brown of Rosalia Flinthills, in just 28 seconds of their consolation championship match in the state tournament in Hays on Saturday to place third. Bainter won four matches, three by pins, and lost just once in the tourney.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson watched with approval as Blue Jay 125-lb. sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter dominated Brendan Harshman of Chase County, to win a 15-4 major decision in the consolation semifinals of the state tournament in Hays. Keiswetter went on to win the consolation championship.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Blue Jay junior Zach Bainter put a whole lot of hurt on his 135-lb. opponent, Nicholas Mueller of Hillsboro, before pinning him in 2:15 of their consolation quarter-finals match in state at Hays. Bainter won five matches and lost just one to place third and finish the season with an excellent 31-3 record.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd