

Blue Jay wrestlers win Hoxie invite again

By DICK BOYD

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The 2008-'09 season opened on a winning note for coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team with their sixth championship in a row at the Hoxie Invitational on Saturday.

The Blue Jays totaled 210.5 points to easily outdistance second place Oberlin, who scored 140 points. Plainville placed third with 105, followed by Lakin, 78; Hoxie, 77; Oakley, 70; Holcomb, 57; Cimarron, 39; Trego Community, 28.

Coach Johnson's wrestlers compiled an impressive won-loss record of 29-12 and had an exceptional 17-4 pin ratio.

Every Norton wrestler placed in the tournament. Four Blue Jays won individual championships, four placed second, four third and two finished fourth.

Repeat champions were Troy Bainter, 112, sophomore and Zach Bainter, 135, senior. Other Norton champions were: Spencer Shirk, 140, sophomore and Jordan Bebb, 215, senior.

Andy Nickell, 103, freshman; Billy Broeckelman, 119, sophomore; Zane Perez, 152, junior and Brock Lauer, 189, senior, each placed second.

Winning bronze medals for Norton were Brett Terrell, 125, sophomore; Connor Pfannenstiel, 130, junior; Kaid McKenna, 145, sophomore and Matt Stanley, 160, senior.

Placing fourth were Logan Kelly, 171, senior and Robert Derauf, 285, junior.

Coach Johnson named Spencer Shirk "Wrestler of the Week". In winning the 140 pound championship, Spencer shutout No. 1 seed Plainville senior Travis Bird 5-0.

By vote of the team coaches, Zach Bainter and Plainville senior Dan Weigel were named "Co-Outstanding Wrestlers" of the tournament. Weigel, a repeat 119 pound champion, received the "Outstanding Wrestler" award himself last year.

Bainter was impressive in winning his first match by a fall, shutting out his second opponent and winning by a 19-2 technical fall in his championship match.

"As indicated by the way we finished, we are a very balanced team," said coach Johnson. "I was pleased with the way we wrestled. Even in matches we lost, we battled hard. We made a lot of mistakes, which is understandable this early in the season.

"We are not in very good shape but that's intentional. We don't focus too much on conditioning early in the season. Nobody is in tip-top shape this early.

"This was only a start to the season. It may or may not indicate how we'll do throughout the season. It seemed like we were in most of the exciting matches in the tournament.

"This year is the changing of the guard for Norton. We are a very young team but are holding our own right now. I don't want to take anything away from our seniors. All five of them were in the lineup and they did well, too. Of course, we expect our seniors to wrestle well."

Coach Johnson's assistant coaches this season are Doug Ray, Shane Miller and Tony Fiscus.

Coach Johnson's career coach-

ing record is 171-57 and his Norton record is 165-39, an 81 percent winning record.

A graduate of Flinthills High School, Rosalia, Johnson was a national champion once, national runner-up twice and fourth place nationally once while wrestling for Fort Hays State University. He was chosen "Outstanding Senior Male Athlete" at Fort Hays in 1989.

He is a member of the Tiger Sports Hall of Fame and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame.

In 2005, Johnson was named the Head Coach of the Year in Kansas by the National High School Wrestling Coaches Association.

Individual results

The 103 pound weight class had only two official wrestlers, Norton's Andy Nickell and Hoxie's Drew Jones, both freshmen. Jones won the championship with a 12-1 major decision.

Troy Bainter was seeded No. 1 at 112. He pinned his way to the championship. In the first round, he made Holcomb junior William Rappcount the lights with 1:12 left in the first period. Next, he pinned No. 4 seed Oberlin sophomore Jacob Helm with 1:06 remaining in the first period. To earn the championship, he put No. 2 seed Cole Werner, Plainville sophomore, down for the count with 20 seconds left in the first period.

No. 3 seed Lakin junior Samantha Gonzales, Lakin, placed third by pinning Helm with 31 seconds left in the second period.

At 119, Billy Broeckelman was seeded No. 2. He pinned sophomore Chris Heim, Hoxie, with one minute left in the first period of their first round match. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed senior Troy Krehbeil, Holcomb, with 1:08 left in the first period. He wrestled No. 1 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville, a very good championship match before losing 3-2.

Krehbeil placed third with a 6-1 decision over No. 4 seed Brent Juenemann, Oberlin freshman.

Brett Terrell was seeded No. 5 at 125. He pinned No. 4 seed Matt Ames, Holcomb senior, with 14 seconds left in the third period of their first round match. Next, he wrestled No. 1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley, and lost a 15-3 major decision. In the consolation bracket, Terrell decisioned No. 7 seed Nolan Peters, Oberlin sophomore, 5-2, then wrestled Ames for the second time in the tournament and decisioned him 6-5 to place third.

Campbell won the championship with a 14-2 major decision over No. 3 seed Skyler Pentheny, Lakin sophomore.

At 130, Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 3. In his first match, he pinned Coulter Croft, Cimarron freshman, with 10 seconds left in the third period. In the semi-finals, Connor lost a 4-1 decision to No. 2 seed Devon Schneider, Plainville junior. In the consolation bracket, he won a 9-1 major decision over No. 1 seed Andrew Peterson, Oakley junior. In the consolation championship match, he shutout Croft 2-0 in their second meeting of the day to earn third place.

Schneider won the championship by pinning Trevor Popp, Hoxie senior, with 1:32 left in the second period.

Zach Bainter was seeded No. 1 at 135. He pinned Britton Sealock,

Hoxie freshman, with 32 seconds left in the first period of their first match. Next, he shutout No. 5 seed Eric Albers, Oakley freshman, 3-0. In the championship match, Zach completely dominated No. 2 seed Andrew Richards, Oberlin senior, in winning a 19-2 technical fall.

Albers won third place by pinning No. 4 seed Ryan Morales, Holcomb senior, with 22 seconds left in the match.

At 140, Spencer Shirk was seeded No. 2. He pinned Isaac Gonzalez, Holcomb junior, with 58 seconds left in the first period of their first round match. Spencer shutout No. 3 seed Cayle Taylor, Hoxie sophomore, 8-0, in their semi-finals match. In the championship match, Spencer wrestled No. 1 seed Travis Bird, Plainville senior, and shut him out 5-0 to win the gold medal.

Taylor won third with a 9-1 major decision over Gonzalez.

Kaid McKenna was seeded No. 5 at 145. He pinned No. 4 seed Chris Lacy, Cimarron sophomore, with 1:08 left in their first round match. Next, he lost a 4-2 decision to No. 1 seed John Lynch, Lakin, senior. In the consolation bracket, Kaid won an 8-0 major decision over No. 6 Dylan Bainter, Hoxie sophomore. In the consolation championship match, McKenna decisioned No. 2 seed Jarrett Stanton, Holcomb senior, 8-2 to win third.

Lynch continued on to the championship match where he won an 8-1 decision over No. 3 seed D.J. Brown, Plainville senior.

Zane Perez was seeded No. 2 at 152. He pinned No. 3 seed Charles Shaughnessy, Cimarron sophomore, with 28 seconds left in the first period of their first round match. Next, Zane won a 10-0 major decision over No. 3 seed Josh Darnell, Plainville senior. In the championship finals, Zane wrestled No. 1 seed Everett Urban, Oberlin senior. It was a tight match but Urban edged Zane 1-0 to win the title.

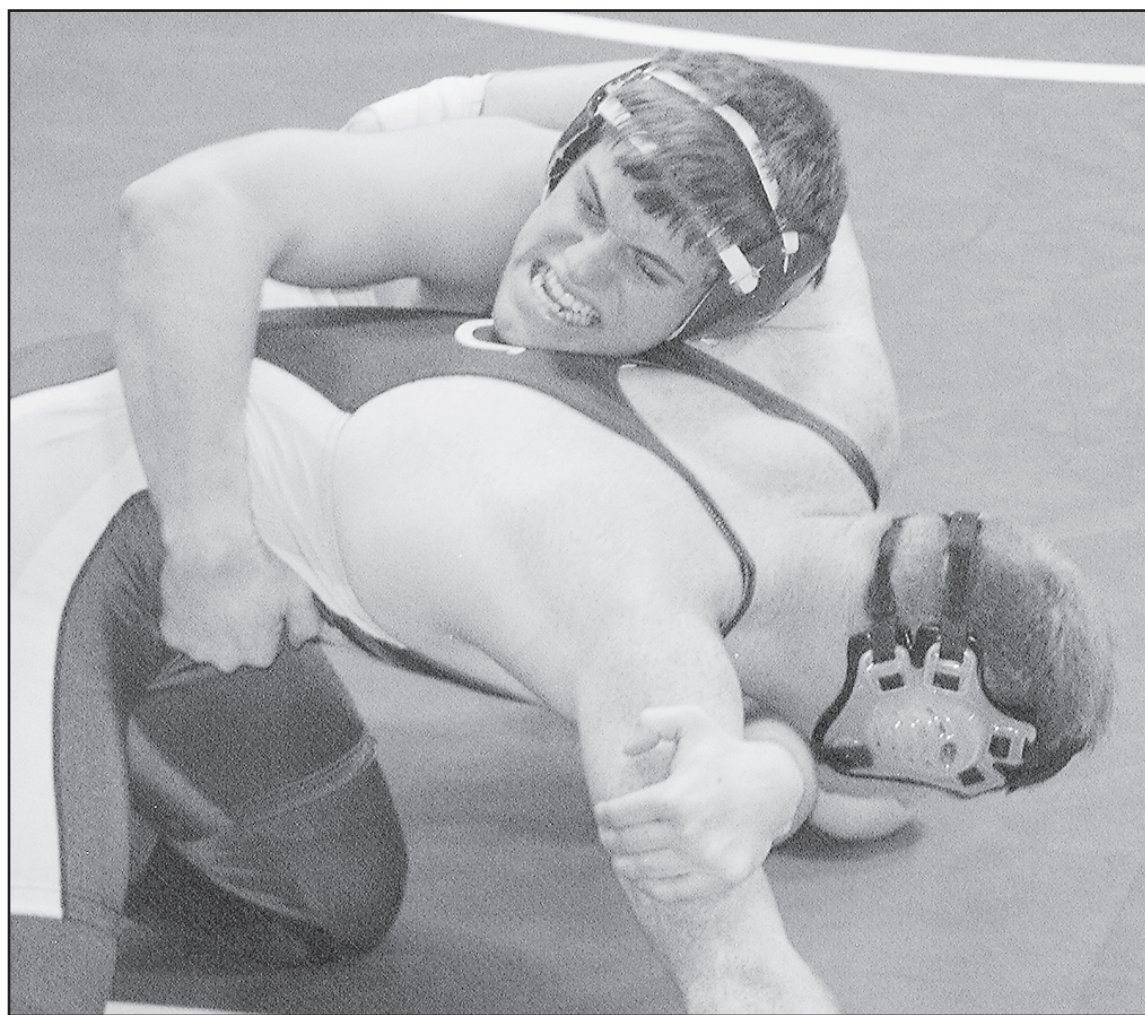
Darnell won third by shutting out No. 5 seed Brad Halbleib, Oakley senior, 4-0.

At 160, Matt Stanley was seeded No. 1. In his first round match, he pinned Cody Stewart, Oakley junior, with 4 seconds remaining in the second period. In the semi-finals, Matt was pinned with 35 seconds left in the first period by No. 4 seed Daniel Jordan, Oberlin junior. In the consolation bracket, Matt pinned No. 7 seed Jeff Shaw, Hoxie freshman, with 43 seconds left in the first period. In the consolation championship match, Matt completely dominated No. 2 seed Blake Garcia, Lakin senior, to win a 13-4 major decision and place third.

Jordan pinned his way to the championship by putting John Shaughnessy, Cimarron junior, down for the count with 1:44 left in the first period.

Logan Kelly was seeded No. 4 at 171. In his first match, he was pinned with 1:26 left in the third period by Jon James, Trego senior. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 3 seed Andy Huffman, Oakley freshman, with 1:05 left in the second period. In the consolation championship match, he wrestled No. 1 seed Burke Garcia, Lakin senior, and was pinned with 17 seconds left in the first period to place fourth.

No. 2 seed Nathan Simonsson,



After losing a match and dropping into the consolation bracket, Blue Jay senior Matt Stanley was determined to lose no more during the Hoxie Invitational on Saturday. After pinning an opponent quickly, he completely dominated Blake Garcia, Lakin, to win a 13-4 major decision and place third at 160 pounds.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton 140 pound sophomore Spencer Shirk shutout No. 1 seed Plainville senior Travis Bird 5-0 to win the championship of that weight class in the Hoxie Invitational on Saturday. Shirk was chosen Norton's "Wrestler of the Week" for his performance in the tournament.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Oberlin senior, won the championship with a 16-0 technical fall over James.

Brock Lauer was seeded No. 1 at 189. He drew a first round bye, then won a 7-2 decision over No. 4 seed Danny Baker, Hoxie sophomore. In the championship finals, Brock lost a 13-7 decision to No. 2 seed Ethan Jirak, Oakley junior.

Jaxen Alstrom, Oberlin junior, was seeded No. 6. He shutout Baker 5-0 to win third.

Jordan Bebb had the distinction of recording one of the fastest pins in the tournament. Jordan was seeded No. 1 at 215. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned No. 4 seed Leaton McClellan, Holcomb junior, with 49 seconds left in the first period. If you blinked a couple of times during his championship match with No. 6 seed Jacob Larue, Oberlin sophomore, you probably missed his pinning move

which made Larue count the lights with just 21 seconds gone in the first period!

McClelland won third place with a 9-7 decision over No. 2 seed Logan Mosburg, Lakin senior.

At 285, Robert Derauf was seeded No. 3. He drew a first round bye, then was pinned with 1:10 left in the second period by No. 2 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie sophomore. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then wrestled No. 4 seed Tyler James, Trego sophomore, for the consolation championship. Robert suffered an injury during the match and had to default, finishing fourth.

Salmans continued on to win the championship by pinning No. 1 seed Ross Addison, Cimarron senior, with 1:53 left in the second period.

Next action

The Norton varsity wrestlers' next competition will be Saturday in the 47th annual Clay Center Invitational Wrestling Tournament, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Clay Center, will be teams from Andale, Beloit, Ellsworth, Junction City, Rock Creek, Salina Central, Salina South and Topeka-Seaman.

The Blue Jay junior varsity wrestlers are scheduled to compete Friday in the Southern Valley Varsity Invitational at Oxford, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Schools competing, in addition to Norton junior varsity and Southern Valley varsity, will be Southern Valley's junior varsity plus varsity teams from Alma, Arapahoe, Axteell, Elwood, Franklin, Loomis/Bertrand, Red Cloud/Blue Hill, Sandy Creek/Lawrence-Nelson and Wilcox/Hildreth.

Big win for Husky junior high boys

The Northern Valley junior high boys A-team demolished Healy 50-9 in the Healy Basketball Tournament on Dec. 6. Their record improved to 4-1.

Scoring for the Huskies were: Clint Cole - 12
Jordan Baird - 9
Matt Stutsman - 7
Phillip Compton - 6
Tyson Callaway - 6
Alex Tharman - 4
Ian Vincent - 2
Jon Compton - 2
Hunter Chandler - 2
They lost their second game

of the tourney, 47-21 to Sacred Heart of Ness City. Their record is now 4-2.

Scoring were
Phillip Compton - 9
Tyson Callaway - 5
Jordan Baird - 4
Alex Tharman 2
Ian Vincent - 1

Coach Jim Cole's Comments: Northern Valley Jr. High competed in the Healy Basketball Tournament on Saturday, Dec. 6 and brought home a second place plaque. The Huskies won their first game 50-9 over Healy. The

second team played the majority of the game and played very well. In the second game Northern Valley lost 47-21 to Sacred Heart of Ness City. Sacred Heart is a very talented team and their press caused us to make too many turnovers.

"When we were able to break their press and run our offense we did well. Healy ran a very good tournament and it was good to play some schools we don't play very often. We get back into league play this Thursday against Thunder Ridge."

Take the family out to the game

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton Junior Varsity in Southern Valley Invitational (in Oxford) 3:30 p.m. Friday
Norton Varsity in Clay Center Invitational (in Clay Center) 9:30 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Boys vs. Ottawa in Topside Tip-Off Tournament (in Goodland) 3 p.m. Thursday
Norton Girls vs. McCook in Topside Tip-Off Tournament (in Goodland) 5 p.m. Thursday
Norton Girls and Boys in Topside Tip-Off Tournament TBA Friday, Saturday
Northern Valley Girls and Boys in Purple and Gold Tournament (in Wakeeney) TBA December 8-15
Logan Girls and Boys in Round Robin Tournament (in Logan) TBA Dec. 9, 12, 13
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Lucas/Luray (in Logan) 4 p.m. Tuesday