

Durham tourney title again won by Jays

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team, wrestling with two open weights, turned in another outstanding performance on Saturday to win their sixth straight J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament championship in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The victory was far from easy. The Blue Jays trailed powers Scott City and Smith Center in the early going before the Beavers emerged as the team to beat. Norton's wrestlers rose to the occasion in defending their home mats, winning all four of their consolation championship matches compared to only one of five by Scott City.

The consolation championship results edged Norton ahead of Scott City 144-142. Smith Center was third with 127 and a strong Beloit team fourth with 103.5.

Norton qualified five wrestlers for the championship finals and Scott City had four going for gold medals. Norton won three championships and Scott City won just one as the "Fighting Blue Jays" came through to win the team title!

Scott City got the championship finals off to a good start when Clay Mulligan won a 9-0 major decision to win the 103 pound gold medal and move the Beavers past the Blue Jays with five more team points. That made the team score Scott City, 147, Norton 144.

Scott City lost their next two championship matches, however, while Norton won two and lost two. At 119 pounds, Norton's Billy Broeckelman decided Garrett Kuhlmann of Smith Center 12-5. Broeckelman's four points edged Norton back into the lead at 148-147.

The team championship came down to the 215 pound weight where Norton's Jordan Bebb wrestled Scott City's Calvin Erven with Norton leading the team race 152-147. A win by Bebb would add to Norton's lead and ensure the team championship. A regular decision win by Erven would have still left Norton with a one-point championship but a major decision by Erven would have tied the score.

Not to worry. Jordan met the challenge and came through with a 7-5 decision to win not only the gold medal for himself but guarantee the team championship for the Blue Jays!

Final team scores were: Norton, 156; Scott City, 147; Smith Center, 142; Beloit, 121.5; Mill Valley, 92; Atwood, 56.5; Hoxie, 56; Oakley, 44.5; Cozad, Neb., 33; Leoti, 24; Norton junior varsity, 2.

Norton compiled a 25-12 win-loss record and impressive 12-6 pin ratio.

Winning gold medals for the Blue Jays were sophomore Billy Broeckelman, 119; sophomore Spencer Shirk, 140 and senior Jordan Bebb, 215.

Winning silver medals for second place were junior Connor Pfannenstiel, 130 and sophomore Landon Keiswetter, 135.

Placing third for Norton were: sophomore Troy Bainter, 112; sophomore Brett Terrell, 125; junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145 and junior Zane Perez, 152.

Norton freshman Cayleb Campbell placed fourth at 160.

Also wrestling for Norton but not placing in the top four were senior Brock Lauer, 171 and junior Casey Robison, 189.

Norton was open at 103 and 285.

"I was very proud of the way we came out and competed," said Norton coach Johnson. "Everyone wrestled extremely well."

"Even in matches that we lost, we competed well. We had some

tough opponents but we wrestled like gladiators without fear of losing. Our young men know there is no guarantee that you will win a match but you put out as much effort as you can.

"Our youngsters have an exciting wrestling style and I admire them for always competing well."

Coach Johnson named the entire Norton team "Wrestlers of the Week" for their championship performance.

"I selected the entire team because so many had great matches," said coach Johnson. "Jordan's performance at 215 was our last of the tournament and he performed when the pressure was on but we had many others who got us to that point."

"We're tremendously proud of every one of our wrestlers and the effort each put in to allow us to win the championship!"

Trevor Boyer, 112, Mill Valley junior, was voted by team coaches as the "Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament".

Individual matches

103 - Norton was open at this weight. No.1 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City, won the championship with a 9-0 major decision over No.2 seed Drew Jones, Hoxie.

No.5 seed Ryan Hodges, Mill Valley, won third by pinning No.3 seed Dustin Vap, Atwood, in 2:43.

112 - Troy Bainter was seeded No.3. He pinned Braden Sahfeld, Beloit, in 1:41, then was pinned in 5:34 by No.2 seed Trevor Boyer, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, Troy pinned No.5 seed Clay Pickel, Smith Center, in :48. In the consolation championship match, he wrestled Sahfeld again and pinned him in 3:12 this time around to place third.

Troy is now 15-2 for the season.

No.2 seed Trevor Boyer, Mill Valley, decided No.1 seed Francisco Antillon, Scott City, 6-5 to win the championship. Boyer is now 21-4 and Antillon is 14-5.

Colby Poage competed for Norton as a member of the junior varsity. He drew a bye, then was pinned by Boyer in 1:53. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 13-1 major decision to Sahfeld. He is now 0-2.

119 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.5 seed Ryan Howes, Mill Valley, in 1:31. In the championship finals, he won a 12-5 decision over Garrett Kuhlmann, Smith Center. Billy led 6-4 after one period and 8-5 after two. Billy is now 12-3 for the season.

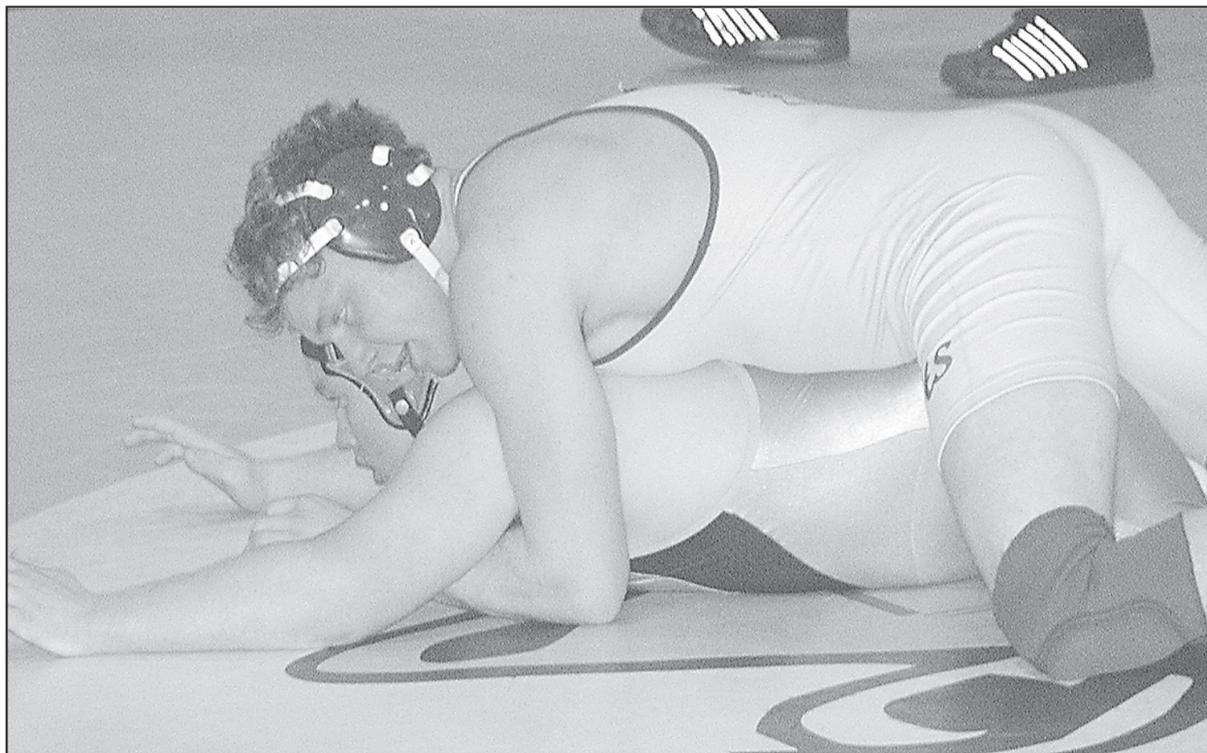
No.2 seed Garth Griffith, Atwood, won a 4-1 decision over No.3 seed Miles Pearson, Scott City, to place third.

125 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.3. He pinned Branden Sisson, Mill Valley, in 2:25, then was pinned in 5:12 by No.2 seed Jesus Contreras, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Joe Salinas, Leoti, in :21, then pinned Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie, in 3:49 to place third. Brett is now 11-6 for the season.

Freshman Justin Waggoner also competed at 125 for the Norton junior varsity. He was seeded No.4 and won a 2-0 decision over No.5 seed Tracy Hudson, Smith Center, in his first match. Next, he lost a 16-0 technical fall to No.1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 1:36 by Schamberger. Waggoner is now 1-4.

Campbell won the championship with a 3-0 shutout of Contreras. Campbell is a perfect 17-0 so far this season. Waggoner is now 1-4 for the season.

130 - Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No.2. He won an 8-3 decision over Colton Spresser, Hoxie,



Norton's 215 pound senior Jordan Bebb met the challenge Saturday night in the J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament when he shutout Scott's Calvin Erven for two periods and emerged from an exciting third period with a 7-5 win to

ensure that the Blue Jays won their sixth straight Durham tourney championship!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

in the first round, then decided No.3 seed Andrew Peterson, Oakley, 6-1 in the semi-finals. He wrestled No.1 seed Colt Rogers, Smith Center, in the championship match. He trailed 6-2 after one period and was pinned in 3:41. Connor is now 9-7 for the season and Rogers is 17-3.

No.4 seed Cody Green, Atwood, placed third by pinning Peterson in 1:43.

135 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.2. He drew a first round bye, then decided No.3 seed Eric Albers, Oakley, 3-1. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit. The two wrestlers were evenly matched with no points scored by either in the first two periods. Hewitt edged Landon 4-3 to win the gold medal. Landon is now 10-4 for the season and Hewitt is 12-1.

No.4 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center, placed third with a 4-3 decision over No.5 seed Sam McDaniel, Scott City.

140 - Spencer Shirk was seeded No.3. He won a 10-2 major decision over Andrew VanHolland, Mill Valley, in the first round, then decided No.2 seed Dakota Hayes, Scott City, 11-6 in the semi-finals. He wrestled No.1 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood, in the championship finals. Spencer led 4-2 after the first period and 4-2 after the scoreless second period and finished with a 6-4 decision to hand Wolters his first loss of the season and win the gold medal. Spencer is now 13-3 for the season and Wolters is 15-1.

Hayes won third place by pinning VanHolland in :49.

145 - Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.4. He pinned No.5 seed Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, in 5:59 of their first round match. In the semi-finals, he wrestled unbeaten and No.1 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit. Kaenon gave Spangler all he wanted and was barely edged 14-13. In the consolation bracket, Kaenon pinned Kyler Mastel, Leoti, in 1:24, then won a 6-5 decision over No.3 seed Morgan Numrich, Smith Center, to place third. Kaenon is now 3-1 for the season.

Spangler won the championship with a 5-3 decision over No.2 seed Trevor Rempe, Smith Center. Spangler is now 13-0 for the season and Rempe is 17-3.

152 - Zane Perez was seeded No.4. He decided No.5 seed Brad Halbleib, Oakley, 1-0, then

was pinned in 4:24 by No.1 seed Marshall McCall, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, Zane pinned Jacob Rios, Scott City, in 1:39, then won third place by injury default over No.3 seed Cory Devine, Cozad. Zane is now 12-4 for the season.

McCall won the championship with a 5-2 decision over No.2 seed Colin Loomis, Beloit. McCall is now 18-2 and Loomis is 11-2.

160 - Cayleb Campbell was seeded No.3. He lost a 15-6 major decision to Braden Mayes, Beloit, in his first match. In the consolation bracket, he won a 12-6 decision over Logan Kelly of the Norton junior varsity, then pinned No.4 seed Zack Ruda, Atwood, in 2:49. In the consolation championship match, he wrestled Mayes again and was pinned in 4:36 to place fourth. Cayleb is now 5-2 for the season.

Logan Kelly drew a bye, then was pinned in 1:10 by No.2 seed Andrew Rogers, Mill Valley, before wrestling Cayleb. Logan is now 2-6.

No.1 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, won the championship with a 13-3 major decision over Rogers. Rempe is now 18-2, Rogers is 15-7 and Mayes is 3-1.

171 - Brock Lauer was seeded No.6. He lost a first round 7-3 decision to No.3 seed Josh VanHolland, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, Brock pinned Tyler Martin, Atwood, in 2:38, then lost a 6-1 decision to No.4 seed Matt Atwood, Smith Center. Brock is now 6-8.

VanHolland won the championship with a 9-2 decision over No.1 seeded Chaston Hoeme, Scott City. No.2 seed Ben Brown, Leoti, won third place with a 10-5 decision over Atwood. VanHolland is now 19-3, Hoeme is 9-3 and Brown is 12-4.

189 - Casey Robison was seeded No.6. He was pinned in 3:54 by No.3 seed Ethan Jirak, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he lost an 8-7 decision to Mark Green,

Atwood. Casey is now 5-6.

No.2 seed Tanner Sturgeon, Cozad, won the championship by pinning No.1 seed Sawyer Krone, Beloit, in 3:38. No.5 seed Kris Lehmann, Smith Center, won third place with a 10-5 decision over No.4 seed Luke Hayes, Scott City. Sturgeon is now 20-1 and Krone is 7-1.

215 - Jordan Bebb was seeded No.2 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he won a 7-1 decision over No.3 seed Leo Beck, Mill Valley. In the championship finals, Jordan met the challenge

by No.5 seed Calvin Erven, Scott City, who had pinned No.1 seed Braden Hager, Beloit, in the semi-finals. Jordan decided Erven 7-5 to win the championship and extend his season record to 10-3. Erven is 10-7 and Hager is 10-3.

Hager won third place by pinning Beck in :57.

285 - A round robin was held in this weight class. Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, won the championship, followed by Tyler Jamis, Beloit; Steve Cox, Oakley; Juan Gardea, Scott City.

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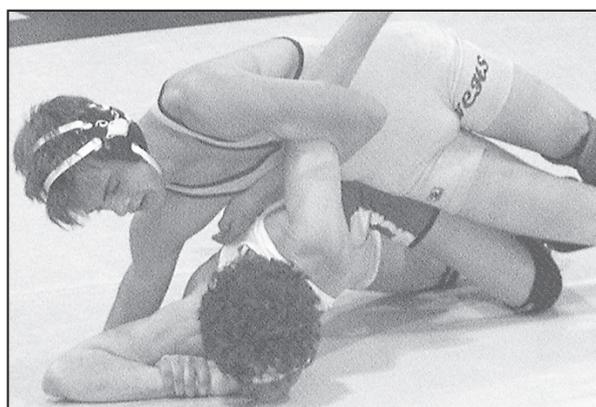
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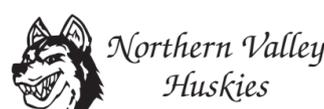
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Blue Jay sophomore Billy Broeckelman dominated Smith Center's Garrett Kuhlmann to win a 12-5 decision and the individual championship at 119 pounds in the J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament on Saturday in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton. Broeckelman's win put Norton ahead of Scott City 148-147 in the team race and the Blue Jays went on to win their sixth straight Durham tourney title! - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Trego Community High School, Smith Center, Wilmetth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.....6 p.m. Thursday
Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions in Newton.... 11:15 a.m., Fri.; 9 a.m. Sat.
Norton Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational in Elm Creek, Neb..... 2:30 p.m. Friday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity, C-team vs. Trego Community in WaKeeney ... 4 p.m. Fri.
Norton Boys Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament.....TBA Mon.
Norton Girls Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament..... TBA Tues.
Northern Valley Girls vs. Thunder Ridge in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco..... 4 p.m. Today
Northern Valley Boys vs. Palco in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco..... 7:45 p.m. Today
Logan Girls vs. Ness City in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco.....4 p.m. Thursday
Logan Boys vs. Ness City in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco.....5:15 p.m. Thursday
Consolation and Championship Girls and Boys Games in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco Beginning 11 a.m. Saturday