

# Sixth straight Panther title for Blue Jays

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team had to battle hard to hold off a determined Abilene squad to win their sixth straight Panther Classic Tournament in Phillipsburg's Chuck Newlin Gym on Saturday.

When the championship and consolation finals began, Norton held a 105.5 to 104.5 team lead over the Cowboys and both teams had eight wrestlers in the finals. When the dust settled and the final results were tallied, Norton had lost only two matches in the finals and Abilene had lost three, and the Blue Jays were champions once again!

Norton finished with 147.5 points, followed by Abilene, 135.5; Beloit, 102; St. Francis, 94.5; Hoisington, 84.5; Minneapolis, 74; Ellsworth, 46; Ellis, 46; Lakin, 42; Phillipsburg, 30; Stockton, 29; Hoxie, 25.5; Hill City, 12; Lincoln, 10; Sylvan Unified, 3.

Norton had three champions, two runner-ups and three third place finishes. The Blue Jays had just three wrestlers who didn't place and one who had to injury default after winning his first match. Norton was open at 171 and 285.

Winning championships for Norton were sophomore Billy Broeckelman, 119; junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 135 and senior Zach Bainter, 140.

Earning runner-up medals were sophomore Landon Keiswetter, 130 and junior Zane Perez, 152.

Placing third in their weight classes were sophomore Brett Terrell, 125; sophomore Kaid McKenna, 145 and sophomore Jeremy Sproul, 189.

Also competing for Norton were freshman R.J. Ellis, 103; sophomore Colby Poage, 112 and senior Matt Stanley, 160.

Senior Jordan Bebb, 215, pinned his first opponent but suffered an injury and was unable to continue to wrestle in the tournament.

Norton compiled an outstanding 23-11 won-loss record and excellent 16-3 pin ratio.

"I'm really happy with our wrestlers' performance," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson. "Most of our wrestlers did well and placed high."

"We wrestled hard and improved our seedings for the regional tournament. We won some close matches in the finals. We won six out of eight and two could have gone either way."

"Broeckelman avenged his loss in the state tournament last season and Sproul's pin was huge."

"We've been losing a lot of close matches but now we're turning around and winning those close

ones. We're right where we want to be."

Coach Johnson pointed out that his team, which has been riddled by injuries all season, is getting healthier and some of the missing have returned to the lineup. He said only Troy Bainter and Brock Lauer were missing due to injury and that Jordan Bebb only got to wrestle one match before having to injury default.

A highlight for Norton during the evening was Billy Broeckelman's championship match with Dalton Davis, Lakin. Billy lost the 112 pound championship to Davis last season by a 6-5 decision after beating Davis for the regional title.

The two had another very competitive match on Saturday evening. After a scoreless first period, Billy took a 4-2 lead in the second period and allowed Davis only a one-point escape in the third period to win 4-3!

In recognition of Billy Broeckelman's outstanding tournament performance, he was named "Norton Varsity Wrestler of the Week" by coach Johnson.

Cas Spangler, Beloit senior at 145 pounds, was named the "Chuck Lovenstein Outstanding Wrestler" for the tournament by vote of the team coaches.

### Individual results

\*103 - R.J. Ellis was pinned in 2:27 by No.3 seed Jeremy Hrabec, Stockton. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 5-0 decision to No.4 seed Skylar Constable, Minneapolis.

No.1 seed Luke Cole, Abilene, extended his season record to 33-1 by pinning Constable in the semifinals and pinning Hrabec in :12 for the championship.

No.2 seed Drew Jones, Hoxie, placed third with a 7-3 decision over Constable.

Ellis is now 6-16 for the season.

\*112 - Colby Poage was pinned in 3:08 by No.4 seed Rex Trahan. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 6-2 decision to No.3 seed Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit.

No.1 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, won the championship with a 10-6 decision over No.2 seed Freddy Pacheco, St. Francis.

Sahlfeld placed third with a 6-2 decision over Trahan.

Poage is now 3-8 for the season.

\*119 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.2. He pinned Jared Owen, Hoisington, in 2:29, then won a technical fall over No.3 seed Carlos Galloway, Stockton, to reach the championship finals versus No.1 seed and unbeaten Dalton Davis, Lakin. Billy decided Davis 4-3 to win the gold medal.

Third place went to No.4 seed Austin Lopez, Ellsworth, with a

9-2 decision over Galloway.

Broeckelman is now 23-7 for the season and Davis is 16-1.

\*125 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.2. He pinned Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie, in the first period but lost an 11-7 decision to No.3 seed John Corman, Minneapolis. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg, in 3:22. In the consolation championship, he pinned No.4 seed Skyler Pentheny, Lakin, in 2:51 to place third.

No.1 seed Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, won the championship with a 5-1 decision over Corman.

Terrell is now 23-10 for the season.

\*130 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.1. He pinned Brad Artz, Phillipsburg, in the third period, pinned No.5 seed Terrence Lamb, St. Francis, in 2:07 to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No.2 seed Levi Schneider, Ellsworth, for the gold medal and lost a 5-3 decision to place second.

Lamb placed third with a 7-5 decision over No.4 seed Cole Orr, Hill City.

Landon is now 23-8 for the season.

\*135 - Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.2. He pinned Brady Page, Stockton, in 1:10, then pinned No.3 seed Darris Keller, St. Francis, in :52. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit, who had only two losses this season. Kaenon led 2-0 after one period and 4-2 after two periods but finished strong to win a 7-2 decision!

Keller won third by pinning No.4 seed Kevin Street, Lincoln, in 2:31.

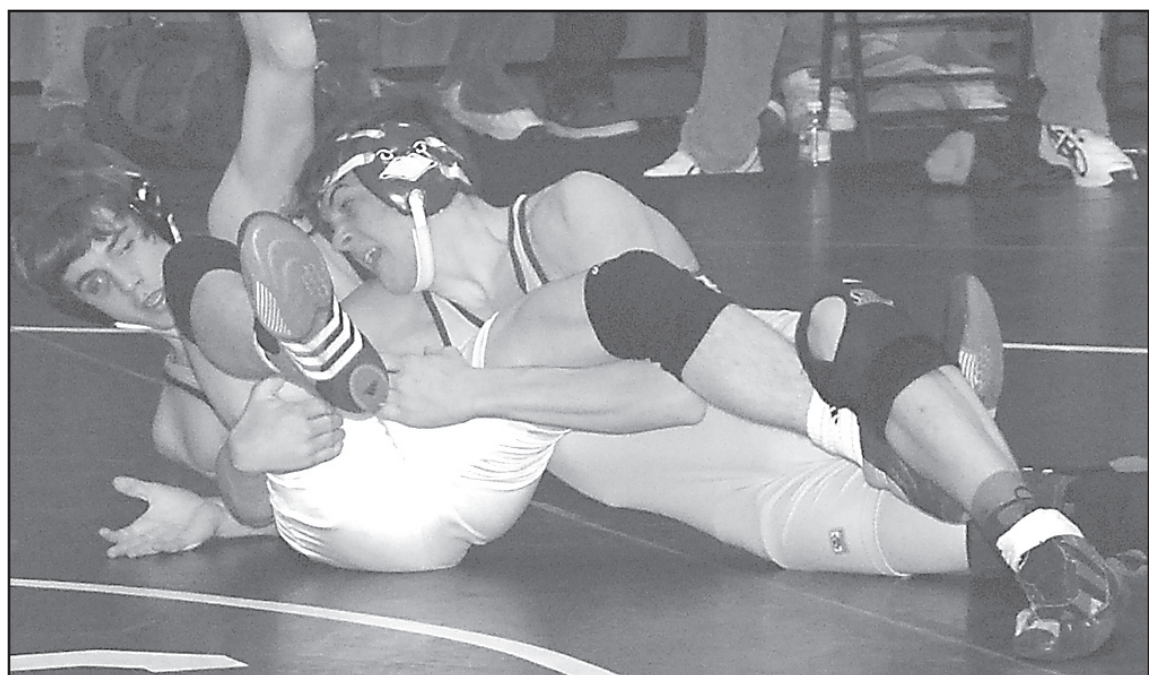
Kaenon is now 8-2 for the season and Hewitt is 28-3.

\*140 - Zach Bainter was seeded No.1. He pinned Kyle Zachgo, Lincoln, in 1:30, won an 8-4 decision over No.5 seed Adam Klien, Minneapolis, and faced No.2 seed John Lynch, Lakin, in the championship finals. After a scoreless first period, the second period ended 2-0 all but Zach also finished strong to earn a 7-3 decision and the gold medal.

No.3 seed Kane Kelly, Abilene, placed third with a 5-2 decision over Klien.

Bainter is now 7-1 for the season, Lynch is 30-3 and Kelly is 28-3.

\*152 - Kaid McKenna was seeded No.3. He pinned Alex Henry, Stockton, in :27, then lost a 4-2 decision to No.2 seed Quinton Wuthnow, Abilene. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.5 seed Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, in 4:06, then faced No.4 seed Jesse Pacheco, St. Francis, for the consolation championship. Kaid led 2-0 after one period and 5-0 after two but Pacheco made him



Blue Jay junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 135, took Beloit's Cade Hewitt down onto the mat during Kaenon's 7-2 championship decision in the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg. Kaenon handed Hewitt only his third loss of the season.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

work for the win. Kaid just edged Pacheco 6-5 to win third place.

No.1 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit, won the championship with a 12-6 decision over Wuthnow.

McKenna is now 15-5 for the season. Spangler is 29-1 and Wuthnow is 32-5.

\*152 - Zane Perez was seeded No.2. He pinned Dylan Obermuller, Lincoln, in 2:30, won a 4-3 decision over No.3 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, to reach the championship match versus No.4 seed Colten Picking, Abilene. Zane trailed 2-1 after one period and 4-2 after two. He was only able to get an escape in the third period, making the final 4-3 in favor of Picking.

No.1 seed Colin Loomis, Beloit, placed third with a 7-1 decision over Kinderknecht.

Perez is now 21-10 for the season. Picking is 10-3 and Loomis is 28-4.

\*160 - Matt Stanley lost his first match by a 5-3 score to No.3 seed Chase King, Ellis. In the consolation bracket, he won a 5-3 overtime decision over Jake Cole, Phillipsburg. Next, he lost a 3-2

decision to No.4 seed Tate Omli, Minneapolis.

Omli placed third with a 3-1 decision over King. No.2 seed Ryan Wuthnow, Abilene, won the championship by shutting out No.1 seed Corey Engstrom, Hoisington.

Stanley is now 17-10 for the season. Wuthnow is 33-3 and Engstrom is 29-2.

\*171 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Jordon Ward, Abilene, won the championship with a 3-1 decision over No.2 seed Brett Melton, Beloit. No.3 seed Taylor Bullard, Hoisington, won third with a fall in 2:41 over No.4 seed Scott Ford, St. Francis.

\*189 - Jeremy Sproul was seeded No.4. He pinned No.5 seed Adam Guthmiller, St. Francis, in :06, then was pinned in :13 by No.1 seed Sawyer Krone, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, Jeremy wrestled Guthmiller for third place and pinned him this time in 2:21.

No.2 seed Carl Hickel, Hoisington, won the championship with a 12-4 major decision over Krone. Sproul is now 7-6 for the season.

Hickel is 26-2.

\*215 - Jordan Bebb pinned No.3 seed Jared Mitchell, Hoisington, in 5:06 but received an injury and had to injury default to No.2 seed Taylor Wuthnow, Abilene, and drop out of the tournament.

No.1 seed Steve Kyler, Ellsworth, won the championship with a 5-1 decision over Wuthnow. No.4 seed Andy Griffith, Minneapolis, placed third by pinning Mitchell in 2:01.

Bebb is now 18-5 for the season. Kyler remained unbeaten with a 29-0 record, Wuthnow is now 31-4 and Griffith is 19-7.

\*285 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a 2-1 decision over No.2 seed Luke Keener, Hoisington. No.3 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Tyler Gjerstad, Abilene.

Rice is now 25-1, Keener is 24-2 and Salmans is 34-2.

### Next action

Norton will wrestle Hill City and Osborne in Mid-Continent League duals on Thursday in Hill City, beginning at 5 p.m.

## Huskies lose in Nebraska, then turn around and win in Kansas

The Northern Valley varsity girls' basketball team took to the road to test the Alma (Neb.) Cardinals on Friday and tasted a 54-44 defeat.

"The girls played OK," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"We, or more truthfully I (having never coached a game in Nebraska), did not realize the difference of play and that is what hurt us. It was not the roughness of play as they say it was more the style of ball and we just did not adjust and were called for quite a few fouls which sent them to the free throw line where they connected on 10 more shots than we did and thus the final score of 44-54 in their favor," he said.

"We hustled well as we had 27 deflections with Christina Anderson and Alison Cole having 9 each with Megan Cole tipping 6. Steals were taken by Kenzie Chandler and M Cole with 3 each while Brittney Braun, Staci Dole and A Cole each took 2.

"Rebounding honors went to A Cole with 11 while Anderson was right behind with 10 with M Cole adding 8," the coach said.

Assists were dished out by Dole with 6 and Anderson with 4.

"We learned a new style of basketball in Nebraska — one which we may at some point add to our own play book," coach Zimmer-

man said.

Scoring for the Huskies were: Karen Wenzl 0; Megan Cole 4; Alison Cole 10; Kenzie Chandler 8; Staci Dole 6; Melissa Hawks 0; Christina Anderson 12; Brittney Braun 4; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 0.

### Win over Thunder Ridge

"Remember the old saying of 'third time's a charm?' Well the Thunder Ridge Longhorns took that saying to heart in our third match up of the season, this one was the conference game so it had a special importance to it, and just would not go away.

"Our biggest quarter lead was in the first as we outscored them 14-6 but it was close the rest of the way with the Lady Huskies coming out on top, 70-54," the coach said.

"We shot well from the field (49 percent) except from behind the 3-point line (0/6) which was just the opposite of Thunder Ridge as they shot 30 percent in front and 56 percent behind the line," he said.

"What told the tale of this game was, again, our defensive pressure as the Longhorns accumulated 45 turnovers — most coming as a result of our pressure as we had 30 deflections and 25 steals," said coach Zimmerman.

"Remarkable hustle in this game by our whole team as we are getting close to the end of the

regular season — 4 games remaining — and post season play is where we need to be able to play an intense four quarters.

"This game certainly got us prepared for that," he added.

Deflections were tipped by Staci Dole with 9 followed by Alison Cole and Brittney Braun with 6.

Steals were taken by Dole with 10 ("yes, the young lady was everywhere and the Longhorns are probably glad they don't have to see her again this season") with A. Cole with 5 and Anderson with 4.

Rebounds were taken off the boards by A. Cole with 11 while Dole had 5 as Braun, Megan Cole and Anderson had 4 each.

"We had 17 team assists in this game as Anderson found 7 while Dole found 4 and M. Cole 3.

"A close game, one where we had to play hard all game — which we need to be able to do from here on out," coach Zimmerman said.

The junior varsity got back on their roller coaster as they played well in this game and handled their pressure better than the first time. Although they lost, they played much better.

Scoring for the varsity: Wenzl 2; M. Cole 13; A. Cole 21; Chandler 0; Dole 12; Hawks 0; Anderson 12; Braun 4; Field 0; Stillion 6.

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