



**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 Ellis High School gym in Ellis. Pictured are, from left, front row: Landon Keiswetter, Billy Broeckelman, Troy Bainter, Kaenon Keiswetter, Zach Bainter, R.J. Ellis; back row: Assistant Coach Shane Miller, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Matt Stanley, Brock Lauer, Jordan Bebb, Kaid McKenna, Brett Terrell, Zane Perez, Jeremy Sproul, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Head Coach Bill Johnson.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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# Blue Jay wrestlers win regional again

By **DICK BOYD**  
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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team won the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament championship for the fifth straight year during competition on Friday and Saturday in Ellis High School.

The Blue Jay wrestlers turned in some outstanding individual performances during the two days but it was an all-around team effort that won the title. Out of 13 Norton wrestlers competing, 11 of them qualified in the top four of their weight class for this Friday and Saturday's State Tournament in Hays.

One Norton wrestler came within one match of qualifying and a second was two matches away.

Norton had three championships, five second place finishers, one third and two fourth placers.

The No.1 state ranked Blue Jays ran away with the team championship as they compiled an impressive 204.5 points. No.3 state ranked Goodland placed second with 148 points, followed by Hoisington, 112.5; St. Francis, 110; Oakley, 89.5; Ellis, 75; Hoxie, 71; Cimarron, 65; Lakin, 64; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 59.5; Oberlin, 56; Atwood, 55; Holcomb, 43.5; Trego Community, 27; Leoti, 25; Hill City, 23; Elkhart, 13; Montezuma-South Gray, 10; Larned, 4; Sublette, 0; Rolla, 0.

Winning regional championships for Norton were sophomore Troy Bainter, 112; junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 135 and senior Zach Bainter, 140.

Placing second for the Blue Jays were sophomore Billy Broeckelman, 119; sophomore Brett Terrell, 125; sophomore Landon Keiswetter, 130; sophomore Kaid McKenna, 145 and senior Jordan Bebb, 215.

Junior Zane Perez finished third at 152; senior Matt Stanley placed fourth at 160 and senior Brock Lauer finished fourth at 171.

Also wrestling for Norton were freshman R.J. Ellis, 103, who came within one match of qualifying for the state tournament and sophomore Jeremy Sproul, 189, who came within two matches of qualifying.

"I was very pleased with our performance," said coach Johnson. "We wrestled well and defeated some wrestlers pretty easily who had given us close matches earlier in the season. Good physical condition helped us win several matches.

"Hopefully, qualifying 11 wrestlers sets us up for a nice showdown this weekend. I like our chances since we qualified so many young men but the state tournament will be won by how you wrestle not how you placed in the regional tournament. Regional placing doesn't mean anything. You have to prove yourself on the mat this weekend."

Coach Johnson named the entire Norton team "Wrestlers of the Week" for the outstanding teamwork they

displayed in achieving the championship.

Coach Johnson was also honored. He was named the "Regional Tournament Coach of the Year" by vote of the team coaches.

Oakley junior Jace Campbell, who came into the tournament ranked No.2 in the state at 125 pounds, was named "Regional Wrestler of the Year" by vote of the team coaches.

Both awards are sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Campbell was seeded No.1 and defeated Norton's Brett Terrell for the championship on Saturday evening to extend his season record to 30-1.

Norton compiled an outstanding 32-14 won-loss record in the tournament and had a stellar 17-4 pin ratio.

Zach Bainter is ranked No.4 in the state at 140 pounds and is seeking his fourth state medal. He placed third in the state tournament last season.

Troy Bainter is ranked No.1 in the state at 112 and placed third in the state last season at 103.

Billy Broeckelman is ranked No.2 in the state at 119 and placed second last year.

Kaenon Keiswetter is ranked No.2 in the state at 135 and placed third in the state last year.

Landon Keiswetter placed sixth in the state last season and is ranked No.5 at 130.

Competing in the state tournament last season but not placing were Zane Perez, Matt Stanley and Brock Lauer. Jordan Bebb qualified for the state tournament last year but did not compete due to injury.

Kaid McKenna and Brett Terrell both wrestled behind state tournament placers last season.

After winning the state championship for three years in a row, Norton missed the championship by 1.5 points to place third behind Smith Center and Beloit in 2006-007, then finished fourth in the state last season when Smith Center won the championship outright.

Smith Center won the championship of the Beloit regional over the weekend by compiling 173.5 points. Beloit was second with 161.5. Plainville third with 119 and Phillipsburg fourth with 108.

Smith Center qualified seven wrestlers for the state tournament and Beloit qualified eight. Plainville qualified seven wrestlers and Phillipsburg three.

Thomas More Prep of Hays qualified three wrestlers for the state tournament. Eric Johnson, former outstanding wrestler for Norton and son of current coach Bill Johnson and wife Joy, is the first year coach of the Monarchs.

**Individual results**  
\*103 - R.J. Ellis lost his first match by a fall in :42 to No.2 seed and No.2 state ranked Austin Avelar, Goodland, then lost an 8-0 major decision to No.4 seed Dustin Vap, Atwood.

No.1 seed and No.1 state ranked Dylan Schumacher, TMP-Hays, won the championship by pinning Avelar in 5:12. No.3 seed Drew Jones, Hoxie, who is ranked No.6 in the state, placed third with a 10-8 decision over Vap.

Schumacher extended his perfect season record to 25-0. Avelar is 31-8. Ellis ended the season with a 10-18 record.

\*112 - No.1 seeded and No.1 state ranked Troy Bainter drew a first round bye, then pinned Kollyn Schippers, Hoxie, in :36. Next, he pinned No.4 seed Freddie Pacheco, St. Francis, in 1:05 to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No.2 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, for the championship. Troy held a 4-0 lead after one period and was ahead 6-0 after two and shutout Hunsicker 6-0 to win the championship.

No.3 seed Grant Holub, TMP-Hays, placed third by pinning Pacheco in 2:30.

Troy extended his season record to 23-5. Hunsicker is now 23-7.

\*119 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.1 and is ranked No.2 in the state. He drew a first round bye, pinned Chris Heim, Hoxie, in 2:25 and pinned No.5 seed Seth Miller, Goodland, in 2:22 to reach the championship finals where he faced No.2 seed and No.3 state ranked Dalton Davis, Lakin.

Billy defeated Davis in the regional last season but lost the state championship match to Davis last year. In this year's Panther Classic, Billy defeated Davis again. This time, Davis came out on top again. The match was scoreless until the third period when Davis earned one point with an escape to win the championship with a 1-0 score.

Austin Lopez, Ellis, placed third with a 9-3 decision over No.4 seed Garth Griffith, Atwood.

Billy is now 29-9 for the season and Davis is 20-1.

\*125 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.3. He drew a first round bye, then won a 9-7 decision over Skyler Pen-theny, Lakin. Next, he won a 9-1 major decision over No.2 seed and No.4 state ranked, Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, to reach the championship finals where he faced No.1 seed and No.2 state ranked Jace Campbell, Oakley. Brett trailed 2-1 after one period and 7-1 after two periods and was pinned in 5:38.

Sherlock placed third with a 3-2 decision over No.4 seed Matt Amos, Holcomb.

Terrell is now 30-11 for the season. Campbell extended his record to 30-1. Sherlock is now 31-8 and Amos is 20-6.

\*130 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.1 and is ranked No.5 in the state. He drew a first round bye, then pinned Ethan LaBarge, Ellis, in 1:51. Next, he won a 3-2 decision over No.4 seed Cole Orr, Hill City. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Terrence Lamb, St. Francis. Keiswetter trailed 7-2 after one period and by

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## Good Luck Blue Jays!!

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