

# Wrestlers place 3rd in state tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School wrestling team qualified 11 wrestlers for the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday in Hays by winning the Ellis regional the week before and hoped their numbers would help them bring home another state championship, but the Blue Jays had to take a back seat to Smith Center, who won their third straight title, and Beloit, who placed second.

The Redmen led at the end of the first day's competition, Beloit was second, Norton third and Goodland in fourth and that order did not change on Saturday despite the fact that Norton still had ten wrestlers competing on Saturday.

Smith Center qualified seven wrestlers by winning the Beloit regional and the Trojans qualified eight. After the first day, Smith Center still had six competing and Beloit had all eight.

Smith Center won the title with 134.5 points. Beloit was second with 109 and Norton third with 103. Goodland placed fourth with 102. Of the four teams, Goodland added the most points on Saturday as they gained 45 points. Norton compiled 37 more points on Saturday but Smith Center added 34 and Beloit 33 to their totals.

Smith Center ended with six medalists, Beloit and Norton with five each and Goodland with six.

Fifth place in team points went to Plainville with 68 points, followed by Osborne, 58; Hoisington, 57; Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays, 56.5; Wellsville, 47 and Phillipsburg, 39.5 to round out the top ten.

The first year head coach of Thomas More Prep is Eric Johnson, son of Norton head coach Bill Johnson and wife, Joy.

Five of the top ten teams were from the Mid-Continent League and league member Ellis was 13th with 37 points. St. Francis placed 14th with 36.5 points, Oakley was 16th with 35; Hoxie was 25th with 25; Oberlin tied for 27th with 22; Atwood tied for 37th with 16 and Hill City was 40th with 13.

There were ten Mid-Continent League wrestlers in the finals and eight of them won championships.

Norton had two champions, one fourth, one fifth and one sixth place finisher.

Brothers Zach and Troy Bainter

were the gold medal winners for the Blue Jays. Zach is a senior 140 pounder and Troy is a sophomore 112 pounder.

After Zach won the championship with an impressive 12-4 major decision over John Lynch, Lakin, Norton moved past Beloit into second place as a team. The Trojans had two wrestlers left, however. Cas Spangler won the 145 pound championship for Beloit to tie Norton for second place, then Sawyer Krone won the 189 pound title to give the Trojans sole possession of the runner-up trophy.

The Bainters wrestled so well that there was no question that they would be chosen by Norton head coach Bill Johnson as Norton's "Wrestlers of the Week".

Norton junior Zane Perez placed fourth at 152 pounds. Blue Jay sophomore Kaid McKenna finished fifth at 145 pounds and Norton senior Matt Stanley placed sixth at 160 pounds.

Also competing for Norton in the state tournament but not placing were: sophomore Billy Broeckelman, 119; sophomore Brett Terrell, 125; sophomore Landon Keiswetter, 130; junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 135; senior Brock Lauer, 171; senior Jordan Bebb, 215.

Zach Bainter was a three-time state medalist who had not won a championship until this year. He placed second in the state his freshman year, fourth as a sophomore and third last season.

Brother Troy Bainter was third in the state tournament last season.

Zane Perez was a state qualifier last season and placed sixth in the state tournament as a freshman.

Matt Stanley was a state qualifier last season.

Kaid McKenna was a first year varsity wrestler who moved up from the junior varsity.

A total of 224 wrestlers who qualified in the previous week's four regional tournaments competed and a total of 78 different schools were represented.

Norton compiled a 27-19 win-loss record and 10-5 pin ratio.

Prior to the championship finals on Saturday, three awards were presented.

The Kansas Wrestling Officials Association named Ryan Becker, head Osborne wrestling coach, as their "Coach of the Year". The award is based on sportsmanship.

The Kansas State High School Activities Association presented Steve Woody of Atwood a certificate honoring him for 30 years of officiating wrestling. Woody is also a former high school wrestling coach.

The Activities Association also presented a plaque to this writer in honor of being named the 2009 Oscar Stauffer "Sportswriter of the Year".

#### Coach's comments

"It was a very disappointing weekend teamwise," said coach Johnson. "With eleven qualifiers, we expected to come in and compete better as a team. Friday was very disappointing and Saturday was as well."

"The way we wrestled, taking home the third place trophy is almost a miracle."

"I won't lower my standards to mediocrity. We wrestled average both days."

"Individually, I'm really happy for all of our medalists. The two Bainter brothers winning state championships was a dream come true for that family. And, Matt Stanley winning his first state medal was special."

"Zach's major decision was huge for our team score. He showed his senior leadership. Not only did he win for himself but got a couple of extra takedowns to win by a major decision. If not for him, we'd be sharing the third place trophy."

"Troy Bainter had an injury that he was told would take six months to heal so, for him to come in here and do what he did, was impressive."

"Kaid McKenna also battled through injuries to get here. Zach Bainter was also injured for part of the season along with Landon Keiswetter, Kaenon Keiswetter, Jordan Bebb and Brock Lauer."

"I'm proud of the way our team battled back through the injuries and we were able to wrestle as a team at the regional and state tournaments. We don't want to make excuses about the injuries because we were at full strength heading into the state tournament with the exception of Landon, who was still hampered with a knee injury."

"It was a good thing that we were able to bring home another trophy although it was a bitter-sweet experience."

Coach Johnson thanked the parents and fans for all their support during the tournament as well as during the entire season.

Norton's assistant coaches this season were Doug Ray, Shane Miller and Tony Fiscus.

Student manager was Gaia Cazzaniga.

#### Individual results

\*103 - Norton was open at this weight. Dylan Schumacher, Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays, extended his unbeaten record to 29-0 by pinning his way to the championship. He pinned Skyler Goepfert, Marysville, in 1:25 in the championship finals.

Austin Avelar, Goodland, placed third with a fall in 4:18 over Andrew Mieher, Herington. Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg, placed fifth with an 11-5 decision over Cole Leis, Garden Plain.

Goepfert finished his season with a 37-4 record.

\*112 - Troy Bainter won a 17-2 technical fall over Diego Gallaway, Stockton; decisioned Steven Howard, Eureka, 8-7 and pinned Anthony Henely, Herington, in 1:57 to reach the championship finals. He wrestled Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, for the gold medal. He led 2-1 after one period, 4-1 after two periods and won a 6-1 decision to earn the championship!

Jeremiah Breen, Wellsville, placed third by pinning Cole Werner, Plainville, in 4:33. Henely placed fifth by pinning Clint Solis, Bluestem, in 1:42.

Troy finished the season with a 27-5 record.

\*119 - Billy Broeckelman led Weston Penn, Minneapolis, 10-1 in his first round match but got out of position and was pinned in 2:30 to drop into the consolation bracket where he pinned Hunter Wehner, Rossville, in :56. In his next match, however, he lost a 5-0 decision to Brett LaMar, Silver Lake, to end his season.

Dan Weigel, Plainville, won the championship with a 6-4 decision over Zach Hoehn, Wellsville. Ky Biddle, Burden-Central, placed third by pinning Riley Soward,



Norton junior Zane Perez literally made Ben Green, Chase County High School, count the lights when he dropped him on his shoulders for a pin during the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays on Saturday. Zane continued on to place fourth at 152 pounds and earn his second state tournament medal.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Halstead, in 2:00. Fifth place went to last year's 112 pound champion Dalton Davis, Lakin, with an 8-2 decision over Collin Dixon, Stafford.

Davis defeated Broeckelman last year for the 112 pound title.

Broeckelman finished the season 30-11. Weigel was 39-1, Hoehn 38-3, Biddle 31-4 and Davis 24-3.

\*125 - Brett Terrell won a 6-4 decision over Kevin Taylor, Silver Lake, lost a 5-2 decision to Devin Frye, Eureka, dropped into the consolation bracket where he won a 7-2 decision over Kregg Clark, Lyons. Next, he wrestled Carson McMullen, Plainville, and lost a 2-0 decision to end his season.

Frye won the championship with a 10-6 decision over Jace Campbell, Oakley. Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, placed third with a 4-0 decision over McMullen and John Corman, Minneapolis, placed fifth with a 5-2 decision over Aaron Patton, Wellsville.

Terrell finished the season with a 32-13 record. Frye was 26-3, Campbell 33-2 and Patton 27-4.

\*130 - Landon Keiswetter pinned Jordan Miller, Atchison County, in 3:09, then lost a hard-fought match to eventual champion Colt Rogers, Smith Center, by a score of 8-4. In the consolation bracket, he won a 7-5 overtime decision over Levi Schneider, Ellsworth, then lost a close 2-1 decision to Aaron Geist, Osborne, to end his season.

Rogers won the championship with a 4-3 decision over Cody Wildin, Marion. Geist placed third with an 8-0 major decision over Cole Orr, Hill City. Nicholas Mueller, Hillsboro, finished in fifth with an 11-4 decision over Tyler McMichael, Burden-Central.

Landon Keiswetter finished the season 29-11. Rogers was 38-3, Wildin 32-4 and Geist 35-5.

\*135 - Kaenon Keiswetter pinned Alan Gilbert, Immaculata, in 1:48 but lost a 6-4 decision to eventual runner-up Cade Hewitt, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he won a 9-8 decision over Nick Hockett, Cherryvale, but lost a 14-11 decision to Devin Bingham, Burlingame, to end his season.

Danny Floyd, Osborne, completed a perfect 37-0 season with a 6-3 decision over Hewitt to win the gold medal. Ricky Creek, Marysville, placed third with a 3-0 decision over Nathan Deeds, Goodland. Fifth place went to Sheldon Graves, Rossville, with an 8-2 decision over Bingham.

Kaenon Keiswetter finished the season 19-5. Hewitt compiled a 36-5 record this season.

\*140 - Zach Bainter earned a 15-0 technical fall over Josh Hager, Council Grove, then won an 11-3 major decision over Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg. In the championship semifinals, he met a familiar foe, Dustin Zahorsky, Silver Lake, who won the 135 pound state championship last year as a Phillipsburg junior. Zach was well focused and equal to the task as he won a 9-7 decision to advance

to the championship finals versus John Lynch, Lakin. Zach trailed 2-1 after one period but shutout Lynch 3-0 in the second period to take a 4-2 lead, then outscored Lynch 8-2 in the final stanza to win a 12-4 major decision!

Trevor Oliver, Osborne, placed third with a 3-2 overtime win over Zahorsky. Kevin Wolters, Atwood, finished in fifth by pinning Adam Klein, Minneapolis.

Zach Bainter ended the season with an outstanding 21-1 record. Lynch finished 41-5, Oliver was 35-1 and Zahorsky was 34-3.

\*145 - Kaid McKenna won a 4-2 decision over Tylor Neil, Marion, then lost a 12-6 decision to Kyle Wichman, Silver Lake. In the consolation bracket, he decisioned Jarrett Stanton, Holcomb, 8-4, then pinned Kenny Cummings, West Elk, in 4:42. In the consolation semifinals, he wrestled Jesse Pacheco, St. Francis, and lost a 6-4 decision to put him in the fifth place match where he won a 2-1 decision over D.J. Brown, Plainville.

Cas Spangler, Beloit, won the championship with an 11-7 decision over Trevor Rempe, Smith Center. Pacheco won third with a 13-11 decision over Wichman.

Kaid finished the season with a 27-9 record. Spangler was 38-2 and Rempe was 38-5.

\*152 - Zane Perez was pinned in 3:35 by Colin Loomis, Beloit, in his first match. In the consolation bracket, Zane pinned Ben Green, Chase County, in 1:57; won a 4-3 decision over Tyler Jones, Hillsboro; won an 8-0 major decision over Josh Darnell, Plainville, then won a 2-1 overtime decision over Jordan Kopfman, Burlington, to reach the consolation championship match versus Keegan Smith, Goodland. Zane had a very good match with Smith which was finally won by Smith with a 1-0 score, placing Zane in fourth.

Marshall McCall, Smith Center, won the championship with a 2-1 decision over Everett Urban, Oberlin. Loomis placed fifth with an 11-9 decision over Kopfman.

Perez ended the season with a 34-13 record. McCall finished 42-2, Urban 34-8 and Smith 38-5.

\*160 - Matt Stanley lost an 18-6 major decision to Nick Thibault, Halstead. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Zach Spring, Rossville, in :54, then shutout Braden Mayes, Beloit, 5-0. In his consolation quarterfinals match, he won a 4-2 decision over Adam Pineau, Pleasant Ridge. Next, he was pinned in 2:36 by Jason Prater, Southeast of Saline, to drop into the fifth place match where he wrestled Thibault again. This time Matt wrestled Thibault much closer but lost a 7-5 decision to place sixth.

Travis Rempe, Smith Center, won the championship with an 8-3 decision over Corey Engstrom, Hoisington. Prater placed third with a 3-2 decision over Chase King, Ellis.

Stanley finished the season 26-16. Rempe was 42-3, Engstrom

37-4 and Thibault 35-5.

\*171 - Brock Lauer lost a 6-0 decision to Trent Stevenson, Ellsworth, to drop him into the consolation bracket. He then wrestled Robert Lane, Cherryvale, and lost a close 4-3 decision to end his season.

Ryan Taylor, Goodland, won the championship with a 9-5 decision over Clint Taylor, Thomas More Prep Marian of Hays. Ben Brown, Leoti, placed third by pinning Matt Atwood, Smith Center, in 2:53. Brett Melton, Beloit, finished in fifth place with a 6-3 decision over Jason Zoglman, Garden Plain.

Lauer finished the season with a 14-17 record. Ryan Taylor had a 37-5 season and Ben Brown was 33-6.

\*189 - Norton was open at this weight. Sawyer Krone, Beloit, won the championship by pinning Carl Hickel, Hoisington, in 5:00. Fernando Martinez, Goodland, placed third with a 4-2 decision over Kris Lehmann, Smith Center. Ethan Jirak, Oakley, finished in fifth with a 5-0 decision over Brett Dunlap, Doniphan West.

Hickel finished the season with a 34-4 record and Martinez was 30-3.

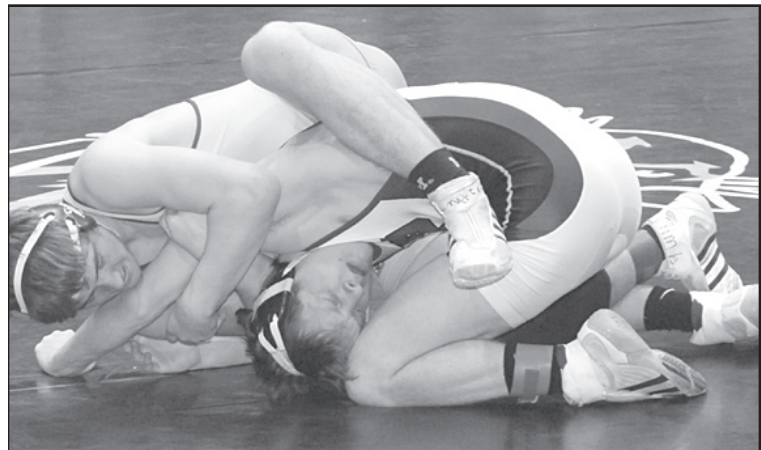
\*215 - Jordan Bebb was pinned in 3:23 by Braden Hager, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Trenton Harshman, Chase County, but lost his next match by a fall in 2:26 to Gus Allen, West Elk, to end his season.

Steve Kyler, Ellsworth, won the championship by pinning Austin Sommer, Mission Valley. Brian Heintzelman, Pleasant Ridge, placed third by pinning Allen in 2:30. Fifth place winner was Tanner Oharah, Goodland, with a fall in :49 over Alan Johnson, Jayhawk Linn.

Bebb finished the season with a 25-8 record. Kyle finished with a perfect 38-0 record, Sommer was 35-1 and Allen was 24-5.

\*285 - Norton was open at this weight. Jared Rice, Phillipsburg, won the championship by pinning Cody Huffman, Douglass, in 5:48. Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, placed third with a 5-2 decision over Jeff ODaniel, St. Paul. Luke Keener, Hoisington, placed fifth by pinning Dakota Zeit, Doniphan West, in 1:33.

Rice finished the season with a 32-1 record, Huffman was 34-4, Salmans 42-3, Keener 32-5 and ODaniel 30-6.



Blue Jay sophomore Kaid McKenna had Plainville's D.J. Brown in an uncomfortable position when this photo was taken during their 145 pound fifth place match in the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays on Saturday. McKenna, a first year varsity wrestler, decisioned Brown 2-1 to earn the fifth place medal.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton senior Matt Stanley's facial expression said it all as he controlled Adam Pineau, Pleasant Ridge, in their 160 pound match in the Class 3-2-1A State Tournament in Hays. Stanley won a 4-2 decision and continued on to place sixth and win his first state tournament medal.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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