

Jays place second, third in tournaments

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson split varsity teams in 2009-10 season opens on Saturday and the Blue Jays placed second in the Hoxie Invitational and third in the St. Francis Invitational.

Norton had won the Hoxie Invitational championship for the past six years but coach Johnson decided to get more exposure for his wrestlers and sent some of them to St. Francis.

Hoxie won the championship of their tournament with 197 points, followed by Norton, 110; Oakley, 101; Lakin, 92; Cimarron, 80.5; Holcomb, 79; Plainville, 79; Trego, 39; Team X, 19.

Colby won the championship of the St. Francis tournament with 155 points, followed by Burlington, Colo., 133; Norton, 115.5; Goodland, 108.5; St. Francis, 95.5; Atwood, 81; Wray, Colo., 52; Sterling, Colo., 45; Leoti, 20.

"We had only five practices prior to Saturday because our football team played deep into the playoffs so we had to re-evaluate our priorities for the first tournaments of the year," said coach Johnson.

"We decided to de-emphasize the scoring of team points and simply get all our wrestlers mat time.

"It worked out almost better than I expected. I was pleased that we had very respectable team scores in both tournaments. It wasn't our ultimate goal but nice to finish high in both tournaments.

"Overall, it was a good first outing. Obviously, we are not in physical shape and that cost us several matches at both locations. We feel that the competition is the important thing and that anything prior to post-season is just practice."

Hoxie Invitational

Ten Norton wrestlers competed at Hoxie and eight of them won medals. Juniors Spencer Shirk, 160, and Kaid McKenna, 171, won championships. Shirk was the Hoxie champion last year at 140 pounds.

Sophomore Justin Waggoner, 125, and senior Tyler Cook, 285, each placed runner-up.

Junior Rylee Stanley, 145, placed third. Fourth place finishes were won by freshman Eli Bozarth, 135; sophomore R.J. Ellis, 112 and freshman Jared Bohl, 140. Junior Taylor Gordon, 103, and freshman Cody Ellis, 130, did not place.

Norton compiled a 14-13 won-loss record and an 11-9 pin ratio.

"For having a limited number of practices, our Blue Jay squad did quite well," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. "I was impressed with our more experienced wrestlers but also feel that our younger wrestlers repesoded well with many of them placing.

"In our limited practices, we had focused more on conditioning than technique. Fortunately, the tournament field consisted of many underclassmen and that was a good situation for us to begin the season.

"State medalist Kaid McKenna totally dominated his bracket with three pins. For his efforts, we named him 'Wrestler of the Week' for the Hoxie Tournament.

"Spencer Shirk also had a good tournament and was able to hold on for a 6-5 decision over Cody Stewart, a good Oakley wrestler, to win the championship in one of the better final matches of the tournament.

"Justin Waggoner and Tyler Cook gave us good effort. Tyler gave up a considerable amount of weight to fill a spot at heavy-weight when he faced state medalist Dillon Salmans of Hoxie. He did okay considering and will continue to get better as his technique for wrestling the 'big boys' improves."

Individual results

103 -- Norton's Taylor Gordon was seeded No. 1. He lost a 10-7 decision to Keegan Amos, Holcomb. In the consolation bracket, he lost an 11-2 major decision to Taylor Conrady, Lakin.

No. 4 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie,

won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Trevor Axelson, Plainville, with 46 seconds left in the first period.

Amos placed third with a 6-4 decision over Conrady.

112 -- The Blue Jays' R.J. Ellis was seeded No. 4. He lost an 8-6 decision to No. 5 seed Mat Heim, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Jesus Macias, Holcomb, with 1:07 remaining in the third period. In the third place match, he wrestled Heim again. He trailed 2-1 after one period and 7-2 after two periods and lost a 9-3 decision.

No. 1 seed Samantha Gonzales, Lakin, won the championship with a fall over No. 3 seed Tistan Houser, Plainville, with 40 seconds left in the first period.

119 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Cole Werner, Plainville, won the championship with a 13-7 major decision over No. 3 seed Colton Spresser, Hoxie.

No. 2 seed Trevor Kennedy, Lakin, won third place with a fall over No. 4 seed J. Estrada, Holcomb, with 1:28 left in the second period.

1125 -- Norton's Justin Waggoner was seeded No. 5. He won a 6-5 decision over No. 4 seed Levi Hefner, Oakley, then pinned No. 1 seed Brady Bainter, Team X, with 9 seconds left in the first period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Jose Munoz, Holcomb. Waggoner trailed 10-5 after one period and was pinned with 44 seconds left in the second period.

Chris Heim, Hoxie, placed third with a fall over Hefner with 21 seconds left in the second period.

130 -- The Blue Jays' Cody Ellis was seeded No. 6. He was pinned with 54 seconds left in the first period by Andrew Peterson, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned with 17 seconds left in the first period by No. 4 seed Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie.

Peterson placed third by pinning Schamberger with 1:06 left in the second period. No. 1 seed Dalton Davis, Lakin, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Devon Schneider, Plainville, with 38 seconds remaining in the third period.

135 -- Norton's Eli Bozarth was seeded No. 8. He won an 8-2 decision over No. 1 seed Skyler Penhenty, Lakin, but was pinned with 54 seconds left in the third period by No. 5 seed Steven Yergey, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 7 seed Michael Goff, Trego, with 11 seconds left in the second period.

He wrestled Penhenty again for third place. The first period ended with no score and the second period ended in a 4-4 tie. Bozarth was pinned with 1:27 left in the third period.

Yergey won the championship with a 6-4 decision over No. 6 seed Britton Sealock, Team X.

140 -- Norton's Jared Bohl was seeded No. 4. After a first round bye, he wrestled No. 1 seed Coulter Croft, Cimarron, and was pinned with 22 seconds left in the first period. In the consolation bracket, he drew another bye and wrestled No. 2 seed Andy Main, Plainville, for third. He was pinned with 35 seconds left in the first period.

No. 2 seed Cale Taylor, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning Croft with 18 seconds left in the first period.

145 -- The Blue Jays' Rylee Stanley was No. 4 seed. He pinned No. 5 seed P.J. Carter, Hoxie, with 54 seconds left in the third period. Next, he was pinned with 36 seconds left in the first period by No. 1 seed Eric Albers, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then wrestled Carter in a rematch for third place and pinned him this time with 27 seconds left in the first period.

Albers won the championship by shutting out No. 3 seed Brady Barnett, Cimarron, 5-0.

152 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Nathan Cox, Oakley, with 30 seconds remaining in the first period. No. 8 seed

Cameron Staples, Trego, placed third with a 9-2 decision over No. 4 seed Charles Shaughnessy, Cimarron.

160 -- Norton's Spencer Shirk was seeded No. 2. He pinned Jeff Shaw, Team X, with 48 seconds left in the first period. Next, he pinned No. 3 seed Levi Koehn, Holcomb, with 36 seconds left in the second period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 4 seed Cody Stewart, Oakley. Shirk led 3-2 after one period but Stewart tied it at 5-all by the end of the second period. Shirk earned 1 point in the third period while shutting Stewart out to win 6-5.

No. 1 seed John Shaughnessy, Cimarron, placed third with an 11-1 major decision over Koehn.

171 -- The Blue Jays' Kaid McKenna was seeded No. 1. He pinned Cole Smith, Plainville, with 1:36 left in the second period, then pinned No. 4 seed David Ghumm, Trego, with 44 seconds left in the first period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 7 seed Dylan Hawkins, Holcomb, and pinned him with 33 seconds left in the first period to win the gold and complete pinning his way through the bracket.

No. 3 seed Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, placed third by pinning No. 6 seed Alex Sazenz, Lakin, with 1:21 left in the third period.

189 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Ethan James, Trego, won the championship by pinning No. 3 seed Kane Washington, Hoxie, with 33 seconds left in the second period. No. 8 seed Dayton Crist, Holcomb, won third by pinning No. 6 seed Aulton Burnett, Lakin, with 1 second left in the second period.

215 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 2 seed Ethan Jirak, Oakley, won the championship by pinning No. 1 seed Tyler White, Cimarron, with 1:21 left in the third period.

No. 3 seed Danny Baker, Hoxie, placed third with a 3-2 decision over No. 4 seed Leaton McClelland, Holcomb.

285 -- The Blue Jays' Tyler Cook was seeded No. 2. He drew a bye, then pinned No. 3 seed Tyler Jantzen, Oakley. He wrestled No. 1 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, for the championship and was pinned with 25 seconds left in the first period.

No. 4 seed Zach Fields, Cimarron, placed third by pinning Jantzen with 1:53 left in the second period.

St. Francis Invitational

In placing third as a team, Norton compiled an 18-7 won-loss record and had an 8-2 pin ratio. Norton senior Kaenon Keiswetter won the 145 pound weight class and was named "Wrestler of the Week" for Norton at the St. Francis tournament.

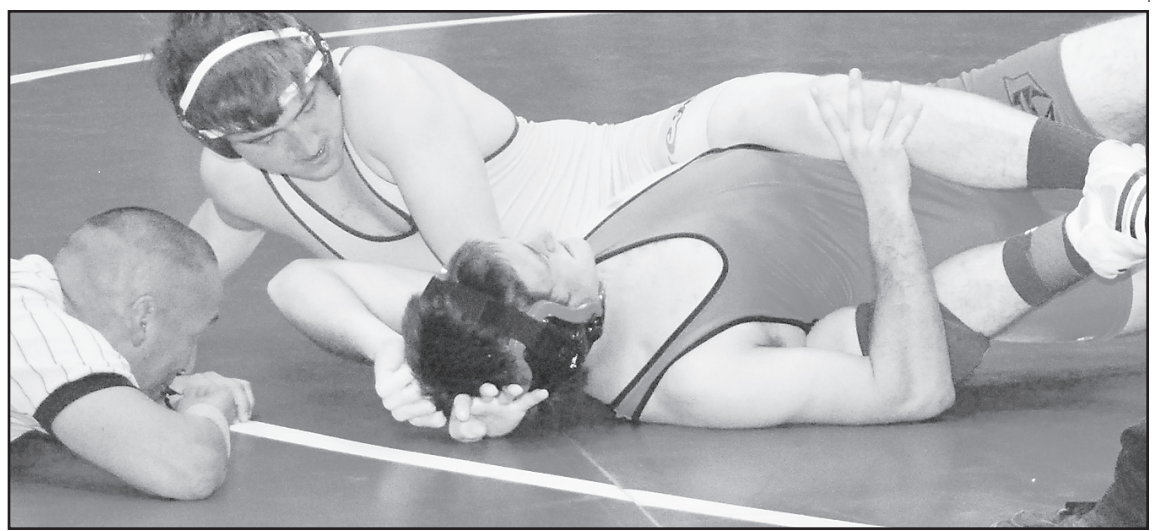
Also winning championships were junior Landon Keiswetter, 152, and senior Zane Perez, 171. A runner-up finish for Norton was won by junior Troy Bainter at 125. Placing third were freshman John Risewick, 103, and senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140. Senior Casey Robison finished fourth at 189. Norton sophomore Trey Millan wrestled at 135.

103 -- John Risewick was seeded No. 3. He drew a bye, then lost an 8-2 decision to No. 2 seed Dustin Reed, Colby. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 8 seed Austin Titus, Wray, in 1:56. He won third place by pinning No. 4 seed Miguel Torres, Burlington, in 4:19.

Dustin Reed, Colby, won the championship with a 5-3 overtime decision over No. 1 seed Austin Avelar, Goodland.

19 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Konnor Kriss, Colby, won the championship with a 6-3 decision over No. 2 seed Garth Griffin, Atwood. No. 5 seed Ramon Tarin, Wray, placed third with a fall over No. 3 seed Freddy Pacheco, St. Francis, in 4:10.

125 -- Norton's Troy Bainter was seeded No. 1. He pinned Bryer Porter, Leoti, in the first period, then won an 8-1 decision over No. 4 seed Dryden Baumfalk, Colby. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Bon Kinder, Burlington, and lost a 7-2 decision.



Norton junior Kaid McKenna made Dylan Hawkins, Holcomb, count the lights in their 171 pound championship match on Saturday in Hoxie. Kaid pinned Hawkins with 33 seconds left in the first period. After pinning his way through the tournament, Kaid was named "Wrestler of the Week" for the Blue Jays.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

No. 3 seed Seth Miller, Goodland, placed third with a 7-3 decision over Baumfalk.

130 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Colin Eberhart, Burlington, won the championship with a 9-7 decision over No. 2 seed Michael Tubbs, Colby. Third place went to No. 4 seed Joe Salinas, Leoti, with a 15-8 decision over No. 3 seed Devin Simon, Atwood.

135 -- Trey Millan of Norton was seeded No. 5. He lost by a fall in 1:19 to No. 4 seed Omar Martinez, Wray. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 10-0 major decision to No. 2 seed Dalton Snyder, Colby.

No. 3 seed Terrence Lamb, St. Francis, won the championship with an 8-6 decision over No. 1 seed Zach Hornung, Burlington. Third place winner was Snyder with an 8-4 decision over No. 6 seed Mario Mancillas, Leoti.

140 -- The Blue Jays' Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 3. He pinned Zach Dizmang, Sterling, in 2:52, then lost a 5-0 decision to No. 2 seed Nathan Deeds, Goodland. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Shane Whitmore, Burlington, in 1:51. Pfannenstiel placed third with a 12-0 major decision over No. 4 seed Cody Green, Atwood.

No. 1 seed Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, won the championship with a 5-4 decision over Deeds.

145 -- Norton's Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No. 2. He won a 15-0 technical fall over Daniel West, Leoti, then decided No. 6 seed Bob Schroeder, Colby, 4-1. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood, and shut him out 4-0 to win the gold medal.

medal.

Third place went to No. 3 seed Luke Englehaupt, St. Francis, with a pin of No. 5 seed Darris Keller, St. Francis, in 1:23.

152 -- Norton's Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 1. He pinned Chris Sturgeon, Sterling, then pinned No. 5 seed Carlos Lovato, Burlington in 39 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Ethan Stickel, Colby, and shut him out 4-0 to win the gold medal.

No. 3 seed Lorenzo Delgado, Goodland, placed third with a 15-0 technical fall over No. 6 seed Cole Cridler, Wray.

160 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Braydon Zink, Sterling, won the championship with a 12-5 decision over No. 2 seed Torey Taylor, Colby. Third place winner was No. 3 seed Grady Brunk, St. Francis, with a 7-5 decision over No. 6 seed Austin Blasi, Burlington.

171 -- The Blue Jays' Zane Perez was seeded No. 1. He pinned Troy Quenzer, Colby, in 1:55, then won a 12-0 major decision over No. 4 seed Dylan Veal, Sterling. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Paul Starr, Goodland, and won a 10-2 major decision to win the title.

Third place went to No. 6 seed Gabe Lerma, Burlington, with a fall over Veal in 1:50.

189 -- Norton's Casey Robison was seeded No. 3. He won a 7-0 decision over Levi Campfield, Wray, then was pinned in 5:39 by No. 2 seed Adam Guthmiller, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Josh Middleton, Colby, in 2:43. In the third place match he lost a 6-0 decision to No. 4 seed Riley

Oharah, Goodland.

Guthmiller won the championship with a 9-2 decision over No. 1 seed Lance Finley, Atwood.

215 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 2 seed Zach Jackson, Wray, won the championship with a 3-1 decision over No. 1 seed Mike Satterly, Burlington. Third place went to No. 4 seed George Smollock, Colby, with a 10-4 decision over No. 3 seed Tyler Fisher, Goodland.

285 -- Norton was open at this weight. No. 1 seed Isaiah Churchwell, Burlington, won the championship with a 4-2 decision over No. 2 seed Jay Cotter, Goodland. Winning third place was No. 3 seed Dalton Garcia, Colby, with a fall over No. 4 seed Dayne Fanders, Atwood, in :37.

Next action

The Norton varsity wrestlers' next competition will be Saturday in the 48th annual Clay Center Invitational Wrestling Tournament, beginning at 9 a.m.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Clay Center, will be teams from Andale, Beloit, Ellsworth, Holton, Junction City, Lawrence Free, Rock Creek, 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, Axtell, Elwood, Franklin, Loomis/Bertrand, Red Cloud/Blue Hill, Centura and Wilcox/Hildreth.

Annual tournament scheduled

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The Norton Community High School girls and boys basketball teams will compete in the annual Topside Tip-Off Basketball Tournament in Max Jones Fieldhouse at 12th and Arcade in Goodland this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Goodland, will be teams from Ottawa; Sharon Springs; Weskan; McCook, Neb.; Burlington and Wray, Colo.

Trophies will be awarded to the first, second, third and fifth place teams. Members of the top three teams will receive individual medals. An all-tournament girls and boys team will be selected.

The tournament will feature a three-point contest. Aspirit award will also be given.

BOYS

The Norton boys will play Ottawa at 3 p.m. on Thursday in the junior high gym. In the other first round games, Sharon Springs will play Burlington at 5 p.m. in the fieldhouse. McCook will play Wray at 7 p.m. in the junior high gym and Goodland will play Wes-

kan at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

The winners of the Norton-Ottawa and Sharon Springs-Burlington games will play in the championship semi-finals at 5 p.m. Friday in the fieldhouse.

In the other semi-finals contest, the winners of the McCook-Wray and Goodland-Weskan games will play at 9 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

On the consolation side, losers of the Norton-Ottawa and Sharon Springs-Burlington games will play at 5 p.m. Friday in the junior high gym and losers of the McCook-Wray and Goodland-Weskan contests will play at 9 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse and the third place game will be at 4 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

On the consolation side, the seventh place game will be at 2 p.m. in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be played at 4 p.m. in the junior high gym.

GIRLS

The Norton girls will play Goodland at 7 p.m. Thursday in the fieldhouse and Sharon Springs

will play Wray at 9 p.m. in the junior high gym. In the other first round games, Weskan will play Burlington at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse and Ottawa will play McCook at 5 p.m. in the junior high gym.

On Friday, winners of the Norton-Goodland and Sharon Springs-Wray contests will play in the championship semi-finals at 7 p.m. in the fieldhouse and the winners of the Weskan-Burlington and Ottawa-McCook games will play in the championship semi-finals at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

Losers of the Norton-Goodland and Sharon Springs-Wray games will play at 7 p.m. in the junior high gym and losers of the Weskan-Burlington and Ottawa-McCook games will play at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in the fieldhouse.

The third place game will be at 2 p.m. in the fieldhouse. The seventh place contest will be at 12 noon in the junior high gym and the fifth place game will be at 12 noon in the fieldhouse.

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 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Boys vs. Ottawa in Topside Tip-Off Tournament in Goodland ..3 p.m. Thursday
Norton Girls vs. Goodland in Topside Tip-Off Tournament
in Goodland 9 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 7-12
Logan Girls and Boys in Round Robin Tournament in Plainville..... TBA Dec. 8, 11, 12
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Lucas-Luray in Logan 4 p.m. Tuesday