

Jays are Durham Tourney champs

By DICK BOYD

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 Winning 12 of their first 14 matches, coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers jumped out to a big lead and extended it to win their seventh straight J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament championship on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Norton was so dominant that the Blue Jays' closest competitor, Scott City, placed second with 61 fewer points.

Prior to the tournament, coach Johnson had expected Scott City would be the team to beat and that Smith Center would have something to say about the championship.

Norton rolled up 246.5 points to win the team title, followed by Scott City, 185.5; Shawnee-Mill Valley, 147; Hoxie, 124.5; Oakley, 120; Cozad, 97; Smith Center, 97; McCook, 69; Atwood, 60; Beloit, 54.5; Leoti, 22.5; Norton JV, 18.

Norton may have surprised even themselves as 13 of 14 Blue Jay wrestlers placed in the top four of their respective weights! Norton had four champions, two runners-up, four third place finishers and three fourth place wrestlers.

"I was really pleased with our overall performance," said coach Johnson.

"We've been working hard over the Christmas break in hopes of peaking and starting the new year on a high note and our wrestlers did not disappoint!"

"We will still have to improve our conditioning but the majority of our wrestlers are in better shape than they were."

"Our hustle was better today; we were outmoving our opponents. I'm just so happy with how well everyone wrestled."

Norton had an impressive 36-14 won-loss record and an equally impressive 20-4 pin ratio.

Winning championships for Norton were junior Troy Bainter, 125; junior Landon Keiswetter, 152; junior Spencer Shirk, 160 and senior Zane Perez, 171.

Runner-up placers were junior Billy Broeckelman, 130 and senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140.

Winning consolation championships were freshman John Risewick, 103; junior Brett Terrell, 135; senior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145 and junior Kaid McKenna, 189.

Placing fourth were freshman Carson McKenna, 119; senior Casey Robison, 215 and senior Tyler Cook, 285.

Junior Rylee Stanley placed fifth at 152 and freshman Justin Waggoner placed sixth at 125 although no points were awarded for fifth and sixth place finishers.

Colt Rogers, Smith Center's 130 pound three-time state champion, was voted by team coaches as the "Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament."

Rogers pinned his way to the championship match where Norton's Billy Broeckelman gave him a scare before Rogers emerged with an 8-7 decision.

"Billy's performance against a three-time state champion stands

out but we had many other wrestlers who performed extremely well so our coaching staff decided to vote our entire Norton team as 'Wrestlers of the Week,'" said coach Johnson.

"Colt Rogers has never lost a match to a Kansas wrestler in his high school career so that tells how well Billy wrestled."

Two former Norton wrestlers were present as assistant coaches. Zane Engelbert is assistant wrestling coach at McCook High School in addition to being head junior high wrestling coach and kids wrestling coach.

Kale Mann is assistant wrestling coach and assistant football coach at Mill Valley High School.

Individual matches

103 - Norton freshman John Risewick was seeded No.3. He pinned Mack Reagan, Smith Center, in 1:29, then lost a 10-5 decision to No.2 seed Ryan Hodges, Mill Valley in the semi-finals. Next, he wrestled John Solko, Atwood, and won a 17-0 technical fall to reach the third place match where he won an 11-0 major decision over No.4 seed Clayton Korus, Mill Valley.

No.1 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City, won the championship with a 2-1 decision over Hodges.

Mulligan is now 17-0 and Hodges is 18-4. Norton's Risewick is 10-7.

112 - Norton sophomore R.J. Ellis was pinned in the first round by No.1 seed Trevor Boyer, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 3-0 decision to No.4 seed Dustin Vap, Atwood.

Boyer won the championship with a 12-3 major decision over No.3 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie. No.7 seed Alex Kough, Scott City, won third place by pinning No.2 seed Logan Hunke, Cozad, in 4:05. Hunke defeated Kough 5-4 in the first round.

Boyer is now 21-1 and Ellis is 5-10.

119 - Norton freshman Carson McKenna was seeded No.4. He won a 9-2 decision over Christian Service, Mill Valley, then was pinned in 1:55 by No.1 seed Nate Morgan, McCook. In the consolation bracket, he won a 4-1 decision over No.7 seed Weston Bainter, Hoxie.

In the third place match, he lost a 14-7 decision to No.6 seed Denton Tankersley, Leoti.

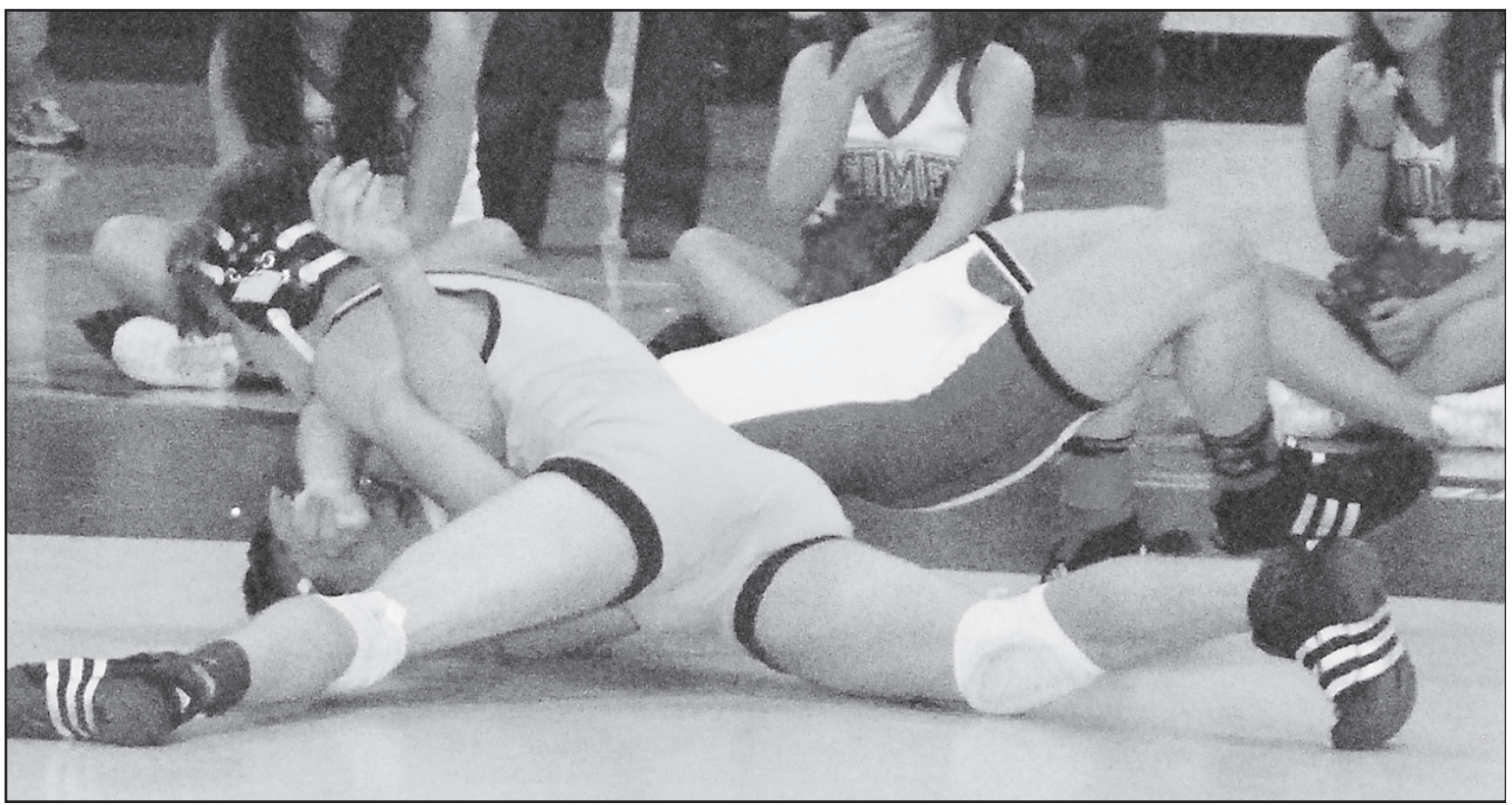
Morgan won the championship with a 1-0 overtime decision over No.2 seed Francisco Antillon, Scott City.

Morgan is now 15-0 and Antillon is 17-3. McKenna is 5-5.

125 - Norton junior Troy Bainter was seeded No.1. He pinned his way to the championship match. First, he pinned Chris Heim, Hoxie, in 1:25; next he pinned Bryer Porter, Leoti, in :46. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.4 seed Caleb Lucero, Cozad, in 3:42. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Andrew Peterson, Oakley. Bainter led 2-1 after one period and 5-2 after the second period and won the championship with a 5-2 decision.

Freshman Justin Waggoner also competed at this weight for the Norton JV.

He pinned Garrett Kuhlmann, Smith Center, in 3:28, then lost a



The roar of the Norton crowd hit a J.R. Durham Tournament high on Saturday evening when Blue Jay junior Billy Broeckelman took No.1 seed and three-time defending state champion Colt Rogers, Smith Center, down on the mat in the second period of the 130 pound championship match. Billy

got two points for a takedown and two points for a near-fall but Rogers rallied in the third period to win 8-7 and extend his unbeaten record to 19-0.

period point to win 3-1.

No.4 seed Dylann Nuzum, Beloit, placed third when Devin Ellison, Mill Valley, defaulted. Stucky is now 14-1, Pfannenstiel is 12-6, Nuzum is 12-3 and Ellison is 4-2.

145 - Blue Jay senior Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.2. He pinned Norton junior varsity freshman Eli Bozarth, then lost an 11-4 decision to No.3 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood. In the consolation bracket, he won a 15-0 technical fall over No.4 seed Connor Hewitt, Beloit, then wrestled No.5 seed Eric Albers, Oakley, and decided him 3-1 to place third.

No.1 seed Dakota Hayes, Scott City, won the championship by pinning Wolters in 4:46. Hayes remained unbeaten at 19-0. Wolters is 15-3 and Keiswetter is 15-2.

Bozarth dropped into the consolation bracket where he lost an 11-2 major decision to Clayton Schamberger, Hoxie. Bozarth is now 10-7.

152 - Norton junior Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.2. He pinned James Remley, Atwood, in :37, pinned Louis Frazier, Smith Center, in 1:15 and pinned No.3 seed Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, in 3:32 en route to the championship match where he wrestled No.1 seed Morgan Numrich, Scott City. The first period was scoreless, then Landon took a 2-0 lead in the second period and won 4-0.

Bainter placed third with an 11-2 major decision over No.4 seed Andrew VanHolland, Mill Valley. Keiswetter is now 16-3 and Numrich is 13-4.

135 - Blue Jay junior Brett Terrell was seeded No.5. He pinned No.4 seed Mario Mancillas, Leoti, in 1:24, then lost a 15-4 major decision to No.1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.7 seed Steven Yergey, Hoxie, in :42. In the third place match, he pinned No.6 seed Kyle Carlson, Cozad, in :40.

No.2 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center, edged Campbell 2-1 for the championship. Newell is now 17-2, Campbell is 4-1 and Terrell is 3-1.

140 - Norton senior Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No.6. He pinned Coulter Boyd, Oakley, in 1:06; pinned No.3 seed Cody Green, Atwood, in 1:28 and won a 3-1 overtime decision over No.7 seed Keldon Osterman, McCook, to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No.1 seed Dillon Stucky, Scott City. After a scoreless first period, Stucky took a 2-1 lead and added another third

got two points for a takedown and two points for a near-fall but Rogers rallied in the third period to win 8-7 and extend his unbeaten record to 19-0.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Busy week for wrestlers

By DICK BOYD

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 This will be a busy week for the Norton Community High School wrestling team.

On Thursday, Norton will wrestle Mid-Continent League duals with Smith Center and Trego Community in WaKeeney, beginning at 5 p.m.

The first dual will feature Smith Center vs. Trego, followed by Norton vs. Smith Center and Norton vs. Trego.

Tournament of Champions

On Friday and Saturday, Norton will compete in the prestigious 47th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton.

Teams in addition to Norton and Newton competing will be Ark City, Bishop Carroll, Campus,

Clay Center, Colby, Derby, Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City; Gardner-Edgerton, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Liberal, Maize, Maize South, Manhattan, McPherson, Mill Valley, Salina South, Shawnee Mission West, Wichita Heights and Wichita Northwest.

Norton is the smallest enrollment school to ever win the Newton tournament championship. The Blue Jays won the team title in 2005 and 2006 and did not compete in 2007 due to inclement weather. In 2008 and 2009, Norton finished ninth as a team.

Wrestling will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students K-12 per session. A two-day adult ticket is \$12 and

two-day children's ticket is \$8.

Junior varsity to Elm Creek

On Friday, the Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete in the annual Elm Creek Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Elm Creek, Neb.

Wrestling will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Entered, in addition to Elm Creek varsity and Norton junior varsity, will be varsity teams from Alma, Overton, Pleasanton and Arapahoe, and junior varsity teams from Gibbon, Southern Valley, Holdrege, Burwell-Sargent, Cozad and Lexington.

Two team trophies will be presented along with four individual medals in each weight division.

Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

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