

Tournament honors past state medalists

By DICK BOYD

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Former Norton Community High School state wrestling medal winners from 1940, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 were honored during ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Each honored wrestler received a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" and congratulatory handshake from Norton Community High School Activities Director Jeff Wallingford.

Current Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson began to recognize the "Norton Wrestling Tradition" during his first year in Norton in 1992.

Norton has won nine state wrestling championships and has had 273 individual state medal winners and 86 individual state champions.

The 1940 team placed tenth in the state tournament. Honored were Raymond Wyatt, 105, fourth and Melvin Porter, 135, fourth, but neither was able to be present.

The 1960 Blue Jay squad was coached by Jake Durham and placed ninth in the state tournament. Honored were Larry

Bird, 127, second and Jim Kent, second, but they were not able to attend.

Coach Jake Durham's 1970 Norton wrestling team won the state championship with four state champions and nine state placers. Present to receive their certificates of excellence were Tom Ankenman, 115, champion; Barry Madden, 123, champion and Jerry Miller, 145, third. Coach Durham also received a certificate as the coach of the team.

Not present but honored were team members Roger Fisher, 98, champion; Ralph Hackney, 175, champion; Charles Hackney, 185, third; Mark Ward, 107, third; John Pilkington, 155, third; Jerry Roeder, 127, fourth.

The 1980 Norton wrestling team placed second in the Class 4A state tournament and was also coached by Jake Durham. Honored team member Kurt Hahn, 112, won his first of two state championships. His award was accepted by his father, Dick Hahn.

Kyle Hahn won his second consecutive championship at 119 pounds. Accepting his award for him was Fig Millan, his backup whom Kyle credited with helping him win this state championship.

A third Hahn brother, Kent, was

also a member of the team and he placed second at 98 pounds, losing in overtime by a referee's decision. Kent went on to win a state title the next two years.

The other member of the team who was present was James Durham, 155, fourth.

Team member not present was Chris Vick, 138, second.

The 1990 Norton wrestling team placed eighth in the Class 4A state tournament and was coached by Marty McCurdy.

Kendall Hahn was a champion at 130 pounds. He defeated Jonathan Dong, Concordia, who was trying to win his fourth state title. Kendall's mother, Kaylene, accepted his award for him.

Matt Jensen wrestled at 112 pounds and placed third. He was unable to be present.

Norton's 2000 team placed fourth in the 3-2-1A state tournament and was coached by Bill Johnson.

J.B. Harding won his second straight championship, moving up to 112 pounds. Accepting his certificate was his son, Kaden Harding.

Eric Johnson placed second at 119 pounds in his freshman season. He could not be present since he is the assistant wrestling coach at Neosho Community College. Accepting his certificate



Visiting about the old times prior to the "wrestling excellence" ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium on Saturday were coach Jake Durham and three members of his 1970 Norton state championship team. Pictured are, from left, coach Durham; Tom Ankenman, 115 pound champion; Barry Madden, 123 pound champion and Jerry Miller, third at 145 pounds.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

was his youngest brother, Ryan Johnson.

Team members also honored were Will Bolt, 140, fifth; Justin Brown, 125, sixth and Kyle Wright, 171, sixth.

Not able to be present was team member Brad Boyle, 189, sixth.

This was the 45th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 13th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed 12 years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton.

Jake's honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

Post-tournament reception

Following Norton's seventh straight Durham Tournament team championship on Saturday, honorees, Norton wrestlers and fans were invited to a reception for the state medalists in the high school cafeteria.

In addition to enjoying refreshments, those present received valuable words of wisdom from past state medalists as well as coach Durham.

"My impression is that you've improved a lot and you are working hard," said coach Durham.

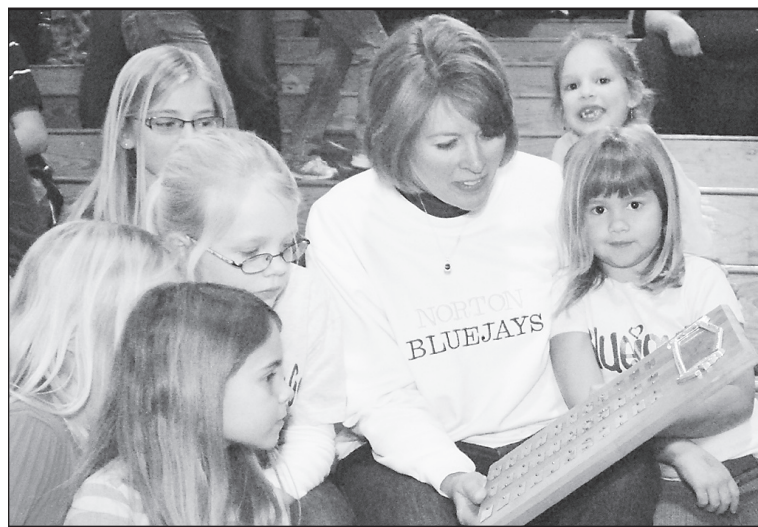
"Challenge yourselves to do more than everybody else is doing and enjoy it."

"Work hard and you'll be a 'Band of Brothers'."

The "Band of Brothers" theme has been chosen by the Norton Wrestling Team for the 2009-10 season.

"I'm really impressed with this year's team," said Barry Madden. "You've shown a lot of improvement and are not quitting. You have represented yourselves well."

"Enjoy your wrestling career because it goes faster than you realize," said Will Bolt.



On Friday night, when Jamie Dreher sat down in the bleachers of the NCHS Stull Gymnasium to look at the award she had just received as the Blue Jay Booster of the Year, she was immediately surrounded by a number of curious, young boosters. Pictured with Jamie are, clockwise from the front, Courtney Jones, Tessa Hauser, Allison Engelbert, Hadley Hauser, Hannah Bailey and Alyson Vahling.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Dreher Booster of Year

By DICK BOYD

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Jamie Dreher has been named the 18th recipient of the prestigious "Blue Jay Booster of the Year" award, presented annually by the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club.

Jamie received the plaque for the honor between the Norton-Osborne boys basketball game last Friday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

She received a loud round of applause as the award was presented to her on behalf of the Blue Jay Booster Club by Norton Activities Director Jeff Wallingford.

"This award is given annually to a person in our community who supports the Norton Community High School programs and activities in a positive way," said current "Voice of the Blue Jays" announcer Eric Farber over the public address system.

"This year's recipient, Jamie Dreher, is the mother of two boys who are or have been involved in many aspects of NCHS. But, Jamie has gone far beyond what most moms do for their level of involvement.

"A few years ago, the Booster

Club was needing to elect a president. Jamie did not want the title of president but she did volunteer to organize the meetings for that year, to help keep our organization up and running.

"It is safe to say that, thanks to Jamie, our organization is still running without a president but on her volunteerism! She is always there to organize, plan, work, cook, make phone calls, etc. to do what is needed for our youth.

"Our organization is proud to have Jamie receive this Blue Jay Booster of the Year award and we all say, 'thanks for all you do!'"

Background of award

The annual award by the Blue Jay Booster Club is made possible by a memorial in honor of the late Tommy Davison, who was considered to be the ultimate Norton Blue Jay sports booster.

The award is based upon nominations by the booster club members of persons who have gone above and beyond as a fan of Norton sports.

Jamie's name will be engraved along with the names of previous winners on the plaque in the high school gym.

Other players chosen from this area were: Ethan Jirak, lineman, Oaklev; Zach Nemechek, line-

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The Norton Community High School girls C-team basketball team competed in the Phillipsburg C-team Tournament on Saturday.

The young Lady Jays lost two close games. They were outscored 29-24 by Phillipsburg and 36-31 by Hill City in overtime.

Smith Center defeated both Hill City and Phillipsburg to win the championship. Phillipsburg finished second and Hill City third.

Phillipsburg

In the game with Phillipsburg, the young Lady Jays led 6-5 after one quarter and trailed 9-8 after

one half.

They were outscored 14-8 in the third period, extending the Lady Panther lead to 23-16. Norton scored 8 more points in the final quarter compared to 6 for Phillipsburg.

Leading scorers for Norton were Alec Melvin and Brianna Karnopp, each with 7 points, followed by Teslee Nickell, 6; Sierra Black, Kamilla Jones, 2 each.

Boyington led Phillipsburg with 16 points.

"We played them for the second time this season and the game was much the same as the first time only we came up short," said Norton assistant girls basketball coach Joan Bolt.

MCL basketball tournament next week

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team is seeded No. 7 and the boys quintet is seeded No. 5 in the annual Mid-Continent League Basketball Tournament which will be played Saturday through Saturday, January 16-23.

In order to accommodate the nine league teams in the eight-team bracket, a feather bracket game will be held in girls and boys divisions on Saturday.

Ellis High School is the host school this year.

Girls

The No. 1 seed in the girls division is Smith Center (7-0). On Monday, they will play the winner of the No. 8 Plainville (3-5) vs. No. 9 Stockton (3-5) feather bracket game, which will be Saturday at 6 p.m. in Plainville.

Other first round games on Monday will be No. 4 Phillipsburg (6-3) vs. No. 5 Ellis (5-3) and No. 2 Osborne (8-1) vs. No. 7 Norton (4-4). No. 3 Hill City (4-1) vs. No. 6 Trego (5-4) will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

All first round games will be at the school with the higher

seeding. Time for Smith Center's game has not been set. The Phillipsburg-Ellis and Osborne-Norton games will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday.

The first round winners of the Smith Center-Plainville/Stockton and Phillipsburg-Ellis games will play in the championship semi-finals at 3 p.m. on Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Winners of the Osborne-Norton and Hill City-Trego games will play in the championship semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gross Coliseum.

Losers of the Smith Center-Plainville/Stockton and Phillipsburg-Ellis contests will play in the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the location of the higher seed.

Losers of the Osborne-Norton and Hill City-Trego games will play in the consolation semi-finals at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the location of the higher seed.

Championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum. Championship semi-finals losers will play at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for third place.

The winners of the consolation

semi-finals will play at 12 noon on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for fifth. The losers of the consolation semi-finals will play at 9 a.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum for seventh.

Boys

Ellis (7-1) is the No. 1 seed in the boys division. The Railroaders will play the winner of Saturday's feather bracket game between No. 8 Phillipsburg (2-7) and No. 9 Osborne (1-8) at 7 p.m. Tuesday in Ellis.

The feather bracket game will be played at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Plainville.

In the other first round games on Tuesday, No. 4 seed Stockton (5-3) will play No. 5 Norton (5-3), No. 2 Hill City (4-1) will play No. 7 Trego (4-5) and No. 3 Plainville (6-2) will play No. 6 Smith Center (4-3).

The Ellis-Phillipsburg/Osborne and Stockton-Norton games will be at 7 p.m., the Hill City-Trego contest will be at 7:30 p.m. and the Plainville-Smith Center starting time has not been announced. The games will be at the school with the highest seeding.

Winners of the Ellis-Phillipsburg/Osborne and Stockton-

Collins led Hill City in scoring with 11 points.

"Our girls played a pretty good second half, coming from a six point deficit to score a three-point basket at the buzzer and put us in overtime," said coach Bolt.

"Unfortunately, we were in foul trouble with three of our eight girls fouling out."

"That left some of our players to adjust to positions they do not normally play. I was pleased with our effort and willingness to continue to work hard."

"The tournament was a good experience for our girls and I did see improvement throughout the day along with some things we know we need to work on."

Shrine bowl players named, six chosen from Norton's 2009 opponents

By DICK BOYD

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Six players from Norton's 2009 opponents have been selected by the Kansas news media and team coaches as participants on the West squad in the 2010 Kansas Shrine Bowl all-star football game scheduled to be played July 31, 2010 in Pittsburgh.

Chosen to the West team were:

Colt Rogers, running back, defensive back, Smith Center; Trent Raile, running back, defensive back, St. Francis; Brett LeMaster, wide receiver, defensive back, Wichita Collegiate; Jordan Funk, lineman, Scott City; Matt Erbert, lineman, Ellis and Jay Cotter, lineman, Goodland.

Other players chosen from this area were: Ethan Jirak, lineman, Oaklev; Zach Nemechek, line-

man, Quinter and Travis Pfannenstiel, fullback, linebacker, Hays High.

Also chosen to the West squad were: Lucas Allen, Salina Central; Mitch Bean, Garden City; Blake Bell, Bishop Carroll; Jake Craig, Lyons; Jason Elzinga, Junction City; B.J. Finney, Andale; Caleb Gifford, Hugoton; Landon Head, Dodge City; Jacob Ingham, Ouivira Heights; Meshach Ken-

nedey, Derby; Seth Klausmeyer, Garden Plain; John McClure, Wichita Heights; Jorden Oden, Buhler; Jacob Owen, Hoisington; Trevin Pfannenstiel, Meade; Joel Piper, McPherson; Joseph Randle, Wichita Southeast; Tyler Richards, Rose Hill; Demarcus Robinson, Wichita Northwest; Dominic Sarinas, Wichita North; Jason Seibel, Salina South; Curry Sexton, Abilene; Josh Smith.

Hutchinson; Tate Snyder, Manhattan; Chad Wollenberg, Heston.

Head coach of the West team will be Randall Zimmerman, Junction City. His assistant coaches will be Bill Messamore, Wichita Collegiate; Randall Rath, Oakley; Rick Wheeler, Wichita Heights; Same Sellers, Salina South and Clint Merritt, Hugo-

Benefits Shriners Hospitals

The Kansas Shrine Bowl, played annually, benefits Shriners Hospitals for Children. Kansas children are treated in Shriners Hospitals for Children absolutely free, regardless of their race, religion, nationality or relationship to a Shriner.