

# Blue Jays champions of MCL wrestling tournament

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team saw their string of nine straight victories in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament end last season when they were edged by one-half point by Smith Center but this year they may have started another string by running away with the championship!

Any doubts about this year's champion team were erased early and the Blue Jays built up a final total of 229.5 points. Second place Phillipsburg was 54.5 points behind with 175 points. Third place went to Smith Center with 105, followed by Ellis, 97; Osborne, 53; Stockton, 41; Plainville, 36; Hill City, 35; Trego Community, 23.

All 14 of Norton's wrestlers placed in the tournament. The Blue Jays had five champions, five runners-up, two third place finishers and two fourth place finishers.

Champions were freshman John Risewick, 103; junior Billy Broeckelman, 130; senior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145; junior Spencer Shirk, 160 and senior Casey Robison, 215.

Finishing runner-up were junior Troy Bainter, 125; junior Brett Terrell, 135; senior Zane Perez, 171; junior Kaid McKenna, 189 and senior Tyler Cook, 285.

Third place finishers for the Blue Jays were senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140 and junior Landon Keiswetter, 152.

Placing fourth for Norton were sophomore R.J. Ellis, 112 and freshman Carson McKenna, 119.

Norton compiled a won-loss record of 28-11 and had a pin ratio of 18-5.

"We came away with five champions, which I was happy to see, but I have a bitter taste in my mouth because our team can wrestle a lot better," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

"We let several matches slip away. Every close call went against us. We put ourselves in a position in the last seconds of matches that cost us several championships and several other matches throughout the day. We didn't compete all the way through matches. It's our fault for letting ourselves get in those positions.

"I'm not at all happy with our wrestling in this tournament because I know we can do better. We can learn from our mistakes today."

Coach Johnson named Kaenon Keiswetter as varsity "Wrestler of the Week" for his performance in the tournament. To win the championship at 145 pounds, he decided No.1 seed Trevor Oliver, Osborne, 8-3 to hand Oliver his first loss of the season. Oliver placed third in the state tournament at 140 pounds last season when he compiled a 35-1 record.

"I was really pleased with the way Kaenon wrestled," said coach Johnson. "In the finals, he beat Oliver very handily. Kaenon won a tough bracket."

### Individual matches

•103 - John Risewick was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed Gage Pfeifer, Hill City, in the first period. In the championship match, he wrestled No.2 seed Dakota Kohler, Phillipsburg, and pinned him in the second period to win the gold medal.

No.3 seed Mack Reagan, Smith Center, placed third with a decision over Pfeifer.

Risewick is now 17-9 for the season; Kohler is 14-8.

•112 - R.J. Ellis was seeded No.5 and pinned Michael Ruhge, Smith Center, in their first round match. Next, he wrestled No.1 seed Gage Younger, Ellis, and was pinned in the first period. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.3 seed Tristan Houser, Plainville, in the second period. In the third place match, R.J. was pinned in the third

period to place fourth.

Younger won the championship with a fall in the third period over No.2 seed Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg.

Ellis is now 11-12 for the season. Younger is 24-5.

•119 - Carson McKenna was seeded No.5 and pinned Brandon Hall, Ellis, in their first round match. Next, he was pinned in the first period by No.1 seed Cole Werner, Plainville. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.6 seed Jacob Cronin, Smith Center, in the second period. In the third place match, he was pinned in the second period by No.2 seed Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg, to place fourth. Ceman was fifth in the state tournament last year at 103 pounds.

Werner won the championship by pinning No.3 seed Carlos Gallaway, Stockton, in the first period. Werner was fourth in the state tournament last year at 112 pounds.

McKenna is now 9-9 for the season. Werner is 20-5, Gallaway is 16-6 and Ceman is 15-8.

•125 - Troy Bainter was seeded No.1. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned No.5 seed Diego Gallaway, Stockton, in the first period. In the championship match, he wrestled No.2 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, and was edged 3-2 to place runner-up.

No.2 seed Ross Coomes, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 6-5 decision over Gallaway.

Bainter is now 23-5 for the season and Hunsicker is 12-2.

•130 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed Brad Blew, Phillipsburg, in the first period of their championship semi-finals match. He won the championship by pinning No.3 seed Ethan LaBarge, Ellis, in the first period.

No.2 seed Ethan Ghumm, Trego, placed third with an 8-0 major decision over Blew.

Broeckelman is now 12-5 for the season. LaBarge is 14-11.

•135 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.2. He pinned Gus Nickelson, Hill City, in their first round match, then won a 4-2 decision over No.3 seed Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg. In the championship finals, Brett defaulted to No.1 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center, to place runner-up.

No.4 seed Austin Lopez, Ellis, placed third with a 7-4 decision over Schneider.

Terrell is now 8-5 for the season. Newell is 14-4 and Lopez is 22-6.

•140 - Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No.3. He pinned Chris Lee, Ellis, in their first round match, then lost a 2-1 decision to No.2 seed Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket,



Norton senior Kaenon Keiswetter is controlling Trevor Oliver, Osborne, as he sits out during their 145 pound championship match in the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg. Keiswetter won the championship when he decided Oliver 8-3 to hand him his first loss of the season

- Courtesy photo by Vicki Bainter

he pinned No.5 seed Haden Finley, Trego, in the second period, then decided No.4 seed Shawn Stansbury, Smith Center, 6-1 to place third.

No.1 seed Danny Floyd, Osborne, extended his unbeaten string to 24-0 when he won a 7-2 decision over Coomes for the championship. Floyd won the state championship last year at 135 pounds with a perfect 37-0 record.

Pfannenstiel is now 20-10 for the season. Coomes is 21-6.

•145 - Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.2 and drew a first round bye. In the championship semi-finals, he pinned No.3 seed Sheldyne Brown, Phillipsburg, in the first period. In the championship finals, he won an impressive 8-3 decision over previously unbeaten and No.1 seed Trevor Oliver, Osborne, to win the gold medal.

Third place went to Brown with a 4-0 decision over No.4 seed Kyle Atwood, Smith Center.

Keiswetter is now 24-4 for the season. Oliver is 21-1 and Brown is 15-11.

•152 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.2 and drew a first round bye. He lost an 8-6 decision in overtime to No.3 seed Zach Eaton, Smith Center, in the championship semi-finals. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.5 seed Alex Henry, Stockton, in the second period. For the consolation championship, he wrestled No.4 seed Jason Knoll, Osborne, and dominated him in winning a 14-2 major decision to place third.

No.1 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg, won the championship by edging Eaton 3-2.

Keiswetter is now 23-5 for the season. Rachow is 21-6, Eaton is 5-3 and Knoll is 21-8.

•160 - Spencer Shirk was

seeded No.1 and drew a first round bye. He pinned No.4 seed Nathan Hanna, Hill City, in the first period. In the championship match, he wrestled No.3 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, and won a 9-0 major decision to earn the gold medal.

For third place, No.2 seed Brandon Morgan, Phillipsburg, won a 7-3 decision over Hanna.

Shirk is now 24-1 for the season. Kinderknecht is 2-1 and Morgan is 19-7.

•171 - Zane Perez was seeded No.2. He won a 15-1 technical fall over Todd Smith, Ellis, in the first round. Next, he won a 6-1 decision over No.3 seed Jake Cole, Phillipsburg, to reach the championship finals. He battled No.1 seed Matt Atwood, Smith Center, for the title, was edged 3-1, and placed runner-up.

Atwood placed fourth in the state tournament last season while wrestling at the same weight.

Cole placed third by pinning No.4 seed Clinton Johnson, Hill City, in the second period.

Perez is now 19-2 for the season. Atwood is 27-3 and Cole is 21-8.

•189 - Kaid McKenna was seeded No.1 and pinned Gabe Duncan, Stockton, in their first round match. Next, he won a 7-3 decision over No.4 seed Ethan James, Trego. In the championship match, McKenna lost a close 4-3 decision to No.2 seed Zach Jacobs, Phillipsburg, to place runner-up.

Third place went to James with an 8-1 decision over No.5 seed Brock Baxter, Smith Center.

McKenna is now 13-6 for the season. Jacobs is 22-7 and James is 13-6.

•215 - Casey Robison was seeded No.2. He pinned Marlin Pulec, Stockton, in their first round match. Next, he won a

4-2 decision over No.3 seed Joel Carlin, Osborne.

In the championship match, Casey wrestled No.1 seed Nick Beard, Phillipsburg, and won the gold medal when Beard was disqualified during the match.

No.4 seed Kelly Wig, Smith Center, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Carlin in overtime.

Robison is now 15-10 for the season. Beard is 18-12, Wig is 8-7 and Carlin is 16-11.

•285 - Tyler Cook was seeded No.2. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.3 seed Bradey Chard, Plainville, in the first period.

In the championship match, he wrestled undefeated and No.1 seeded Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, and was pinned in the third period to finish runner-up. Rice is the defending 285 pound state champion and finished last season with a 32-1 record.

No.6 seed Garrett Rupp, Ellis, placed third with a 6-3 decision over Chard.

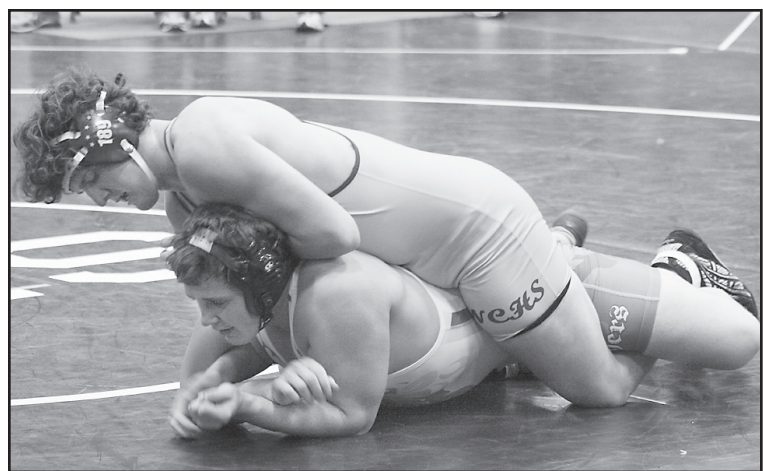
Cook is now 15-11 for the season. Rice is 23-0 and Rupp is 2-1.

### Next action

The Norton varsity and junior varsity will wrestle Ellis and Plainville in Ellis on Friday, beginning at 5 p.m. Matches will be in this order: Ellis vs. Norton, Norton vs. Plainville, Ellis vs. Plainville.

On Saturday, the Blue Jay varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete in the annual Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Participating teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Abilene, Beloit, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lakin, Lincoln, Minneapolis, St. Francis, Stockton and Sylvan Unified.



Norton senior 215 pound wrestler Casey Robison is riding the legs of Nick Beard, Phillipsburg, and working for a power half nelson during the championship match which was won by Robison on Saturday in the Mid-Continent League Tournament in Phillipsburg.

- Courtesy photo by Vicki Bainter

# Lady Huskies prevailed against Thunder Ridge 30-29

By CHUCK ZIMMERMAN  
*Special to The Telegram*

Just to let all those who were concerned about all the sirens, from ambulances, coming into Alma on Saturday night; everybody was ok.

The reason for the need to check the cardiac arrest symptoms of the fans in the Husky gym as the Lady Huskies fell behind the Thunder Ridge Longhorns and were behind by 11 points with

5 minutes left in the game before they put on a tremendous defensive surge to hold the Longhorns to only two points in the fourth quarter while finally getting on track offensively to score 13 to take a one point lead with only seconds left.

Then we fought hard to keep control of the ball but misplayed a pass that was gathered up by a Longhorn which gave them a last second 3 point attempt that

was just off target. So, the Lady Huskies did prevail by the score of 30-29.

The ambulances were told to turn around as, at least on the Husky side of the gym, the fans checked their pulses and found their hearts were still beating (J) and all was good.

This game turned out to be a defensive gem as both teams played well enough to limit the other to less than 39 percent

shooting from the field, thus the low score.

For us, our deflects leaders were Staci Dole, Alison Cole (3 blocks) and Megan Cole (three in the fourth quarter) with 5 each.

Steals were taken by Christina Anderson with 3 (two in the pivotal fourth quarter). Katie Stillion and Megan Cole each took 2 from the Longhorns.

With not as many shots being taken Alison Cole grabbed 9

rebounds with Megan Cole taking 4 off the boards followed by Anderson with 3.

Alison Cole found 3 teammates open for scores while Anderson found 2.

A true test for a team—can you still win while not playing your best? Can you still win when being behind late in the game? Do you have the heart to dig deep and prevail? These questions were answered on this night of play and

hopefully we will be able to call upon those lessons learned if we get into that situation again.

Our Junior Varsity played a full game, first of the season, and played hard and learned quite a bit, but were defeated 43-21. Those who scored for the Lady Huskies were: Erika Chandler, 2; Natasha Yost, 2; Katie Stillion, 8; Shiela Stillion, 4; and McKinsey Evans, 5.

# Huskies lose 70-57 in Colby

By DANA PAXTON  
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The Northern Valley Huskies basketball team lost 70-57 to Heartland Christian Academy in Colby on Tuesday night.

The first quarter of the game was fairly close. Zach Vincent scored three two pointers and Tyler Montgomery, Jeremy Brown, Austin Herman and Michael Callaway each scored two for the Huskies.

By the end of the quarter Heartland Christian had a 17-14 lead.

In the second quarter, Dusty Eagleburger led the Husky scoring with a pair of three point shots and

a couple of two pointers. Vincent backed Eagleburger up by adding four more to the tally and Herman added yet another two. At the half, the Huskies trailed 36-30.

The third quarter was led by Herman with eight points.

Montgomery hit two more baskets and Eagleburger made one of two free throws and a two pointer. Fifteen total points for the quarter was just not enough to take the lead over Heartland.

The score at the end of the quarter was 55-45.

In the final stanza, the Huskies gave a great effort to take control with Eagleburger hitting

both of his free throws and a two pointer.

Herman sank two more for four more points and then Montgomery and Gunnar Hays also each made a two point shot.

The leading scorer for the Huskies was Dusty Eagleburger with 17 points.

Austin Herman and Zach Vincent each scored 16; Michael Callaway, 2; Gunnar Hays, 2; and Jeremy Brown, 2.

This week's games include a home contest against Alma, Neb. tonight and on Thursday the Huskies will take on Thunder Ridge at Kensington.

## High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

### WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Ellis, Plainville ..... 5 p.m. Friday in Ellis  
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity in Panther Classic ..... 9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg

### BASKETBALL:

Norton vs. Smith Center V, JV ..... 5 p.m. Today in Norton  
Norton vs. Hill City V, JV ..... 4 p.m. Friday in Hill City  
Norton vs. Oberlin V, JV ..... 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton  
Northern Valley vs. Alma ..... 4 p.m. Today in Alma  
Northern Valley vs. Thunder Ridge ..... 4 p.m. Friday in Kensington  
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg ..... 4 p.m. Tuesday in Phillipsburg  
Logan vs. Stockton ..... 4 p.m. Today in Logan  
Logan vs. Palco ..... 4 p.m. Friday in Logan