

Jays win Panther Classic

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team fought off challenges from Abilene and Hoxie to win their seventh straight Panther Classic Tournament in Phillipsburg's Chuck Newlin Gym on Saturday.

When the championship and consolation finals began Norton had 125.5 points, Hoxie was second with 119 and Abilene third with 117.

Hoxie had four wrestlers going for championships and three for third place. Abilene had five wrestlers in championship matches and two going for third. The Blue Jays had six competing for championships and three for third place.

Despite both Hoxie and Abilene having seven wrestlers in the championship and consolation championships, Abilene moved ahead of Hoxie to finish close behind the Blue Jays, who crowned four champions, the same as Abilene, had two runners-up, one third place and two fourth places.

Norton had three open weights out of 14 and nine of their 11 wrestlers placed in the top four!

Norton's final point total was 148.5, followed by Abilene, 145; Hoxie, 128; Phillipsburg, 116; Minneapolis, 88; Hoisington, 73.50; Ellis, 59; Beloit, 56; St. Francis, 36; Ellsworth, 31; Stockton, 25; Lincoln, 23; Hill City, 16.50; Lakin, 8.

Winning championships for the Blue Jays were freshman John Risewick, 103; junior Troy Bainter, 125; junior Billy Broeckelman, 130; and senior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145.

Earning runner-up medals were junior Landon Keiswetter, 152 and senior Zane Perez, 171.

Placing third in his weight class was junior Brett Terrell, 135.

Fourth place finishers were senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140 and junior Kaid McKenna, 189.

Also competing for Norton were seniors Casey Robison, 215 and Tyler Cook, 285.

Norton compiled an outstanding 23-11 won-loss record and excellent 7-2 pin ratio.

"We wrestled fairly well," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "It was nice to have nine of our 11 wrestlers place and to have four champions.

"We avenged four individual losses which set us up better for regional seeding. Landon beat Phillipsburg's Rachow, whom he'd lost to earlier in overtime; Kaid defeated the Panthers' Jacobs after having lost to him; Brett beat Lopez of Ellis after losing to him the night before in our dual and Troy avenged a loss to Hunsicker of Ellis by beating him by one point in our dual and by 8-0 today.

"We had some tough matches in the finals. Some could have finished higher but that's always

true. We're battling much tougher than we were earlier in the year.

"We had a lot of sickness this past week and that weakened some of our wrestlers. Kaid was unable to wrestle in the consolation championship match due to sickness."

Troy Bainter was seeded No.2 at 125 and powered his way to the championship match where he decided the No.1 seed John Corman, Minneapolis, for the title. Norton coaches selected Troy as "Wrestler of the Week".

One of the most exciting matches for Norton wrestlers came in the championship finals at 152 pounds. The Blue Jays' Landon Keiswetter, who was seeded No.3 and decided Phillipsburg's No.2 seed Rachow in the semi-finals, took No.1 seed and unbeaten Colton Picking, Abilene, into overtime before losing and settling for runner-up.

Jered Rice of Phillipsburg was named the "Chuck Lovenstein Outstanding Wrestler" for the tournament by vote of the team coaches.

Individual results

• 103 - John Risewick was seeded No.1. He received a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed Taylor Conrady, Lakin, in the second period. In the championship finals, he faced No.2 seed Dakota Kohler, Phillipsburg. Risewick led 2-0 after one period, 4-0 after two periods and won the gold medal with an 8-2 decision.

No.3 seed Brandon Rein, Abilene, placed third by pinning Conrady in the second period.

Risewick is now 18-10 for the season, Kohler is 15-10 and Rein is 5-3.

• 112 - Norton was open at this weight. No.2 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, won the championship with a 6-5 decision over No.1 seed Calvin Younger, Ellis. No.4 seed Zach Sanders, Hoisington, placed third with a 15-6 major decision over No.3 seed Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit.

Ochs is now 23-7 for the season and Younger is 25-6.

• 119 - Norton was open at this weight. No.1 seed Anthony Henely, Abilene, won the championship with a 1-0 decision over No.3 seed Carlos Galloway, Stockton. No.2 seed Weston Penn, Minneapolis, placed third with a 5-3 decision over No.4 seed Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg.

Henely is now 25-6 for the season, Galloway is 18-7 and Penn is 21-5.

• 125 - Troy Bainter was seeded No.2. He pinned Brett Bowman, Phillipsburg, in the first period of their first round match. Next, he won an 8-0 major decision over No.3 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, to avenge an earlier defeat. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed John Corman, Minneapolis. After a scoreless first period, Troy took a 5-1 lead in the second period. In the hard-fought third period, Corman picked up two points late to cut the final mar-

gin of victory by Troy to 5-4.

Hunsicker placed third with a 7-0 decision over No.4 seed Diego Galloway, Stockton.

Troy is now 15-5 for the season, Corman is 22-4 and Hunsicker is 15-3.

• 130 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.1. After drawing a first round bye, he pinned his way to the championship. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.4 seed Jake Kubick, Ellsworth, in the second period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie. After taking a 5-0 lead, Billy pinned Schamberger in the first period.

Third place went to No.3 seed Kevin Street, Lakin, with a 4-2 decision over Kubick.

Billy is now 15-5 for the season, Schamberger is 27-8 and Street is 23-12.

• 135 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.6. He pinned Kevin Cavalli, Lakin, in the second period but lost his next match by a 6-3 decision to No.3 seeded Dillon Hackett, Minneapolis. In the consolation bracket, Brett came on strong. First, he won a 5-3 decision over No.5 seed Austin Lopez, Ellis, to avenge a loss in the dual the night before, then wrestled Steven Yervey, Hoxie, for third place. Brett lost a close match to Yervey but it was determined that it was Yervey's sixth match of the tournament, which is not allowed by the rules, so he had to default to Brett.

No.1 seed Courtney Strauss, Abilene, won the championship with a 4-2 decision over No.2 seed Terrence Lamb, St. Francis.

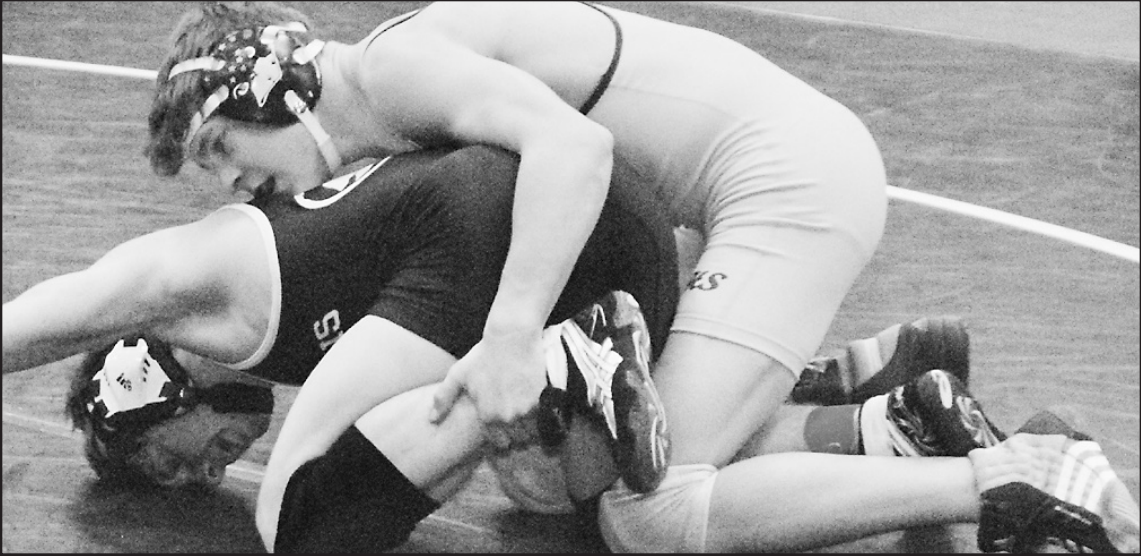
Brett is now 12-6 for the season, Strauss is 33-1 and Lamb is 22-6.

• 140 - Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No.4. He won a 2-1 decision over No.5 seed Dalton Bell, Hoisington, before losing a close 5-4 decision to No.1 seed Dyllan Nuzum, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he decided No.6 seed Britton Sealock, Hoxie, 5-1 to reach the consolation championship match. He wrestled No.3 seed Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg. After a scoreless first period, Connor led 1-0 after two periods but Coomes came from behind in the third period to win 3-1.

No.2 seed Levi Schnieder, Ellsworth, won the championship with a third period fall over Nuzum.

Connor is now 23-12 for the season, Schnieder is 21-3, Nuzum is 23-7 and Coomes is 24-7.

• 145 - Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.1. In his first match, he pinned Luke Owen, Hill City, in the second period. Next, he pinned No.5 seed Sheldyne Brown, Phillipsburg, in the third period. In the championship match, Kaenon wrestled No.3 seed Zane Sanders, Hoisington. Kaenon had an impressive 8-2 lead after one period and was ahead 10-4 after two. He finished with a 12-4 decision for the gold medal.



Norton's 125 pound wrestler Troy Bainter is shown controlling No.1 seed John Corman, Minneapolis, during their championship match at the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg. Troy took a 5-1 lead, then held off a late surge by Corman to defeat him 5-4 and win the gold medal.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Brown placed third with a 9-4 decision over Clayton Schamberger, Hoxie.

Kaenon is now 27-4 for the season, Sanders is 24-5 and Brown is 18-12.

• 152 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.3. He won a 21-4 technical fall over Clay Cosand, Beloit, in the first round. Next, he avenged an earlier loss to No.2 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg, with a 3-2 decision to reach the championship match versus No.1 seed and unbeaten Colton Picking, Abilene. After a scoreless first period, Picking led 1-0 following the second period. Landon tied the score at 1-1 to send the match into overtime where Picking prevailed to win a 6-2 decision.

No.5 seed Adam Klein, Minneapolis, placed third with a 5-2 decision over Rachow.

Landon is now 25-6 for the season. With his overtime win over Landon, Picking extended his unbeaten string to 31-0. Klein is 21-6 and Rachow is 23-8.

• 160 - Norton was open at this weight. No.2 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, helped the Blue Jays' team battle with Abilene by decisioning No.1 seed Jordan Ward of Abilene 6-5 for the gold medal. No.4 seed Brandon Morgan, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 5-3 decision over No.3 seed Braden Mayes, Beloit.

Kinderknecht is now 5-1 for the season, Ward is 29-6, Morgan is

22-8 and Mayes is 20-10.

• 171 - Zane Perez was seeded No.2. He won an 11-0 major decision over Kalen Anderson, Lakin, then decided No.3 seed Nicholas Torres, Minneapolis, 4-2 to reach the championship match versus No.1 seed and undefeated Corey Engstrom, Hoisington. Zane trailed 4-0 after one period and by the same score after two periods but Engstrom extended his lead to 7-1 in the third period.

No.5 seed Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, placed third with a second period fall over No.6 seed Clinton Johnson, Hill City.

Zane is now 22-3 for the season, Engstrom is 14-0, Salmans is 22-17 and Johnson is 15-12.

• 189 - Kaid McKenna was seeded No.5. He won a 2-1 decision over No.4 seed Zach Jacobs, Phillipsburg, to avenge an earlier loss. Next, he wrestled No.1 seed and unbeaten Tate Omli, Minneapolis, and lost a 6-3 decision. In the consolation bracket, he won a 1-0 decision over No.6 seed William Poland, Ellis, to reach the consolation championship where he was scheduled to face Jacobs again. Kaid defaulted due to sickness.

Omli won the championship with a third period fall over No.2 seed Taylor Bullard, Hoisington.

Kaid and Jacobs are both now 25-8 for the season. Omli extended his unbeaten string to 24-0; Bullard is 27-5.

• 215 - Casey Robison was seeded No.4. He lost his first match by a 10-2 major decision to No.5 seed Austin Crossen, Minneapolis. In the consolation bracket, he lost a decision to Jacob English, Beloit.

No.1 seed and unbeaten Taylor Wurthnow, Abilene, won the championship with a second period fall over No.2 seed Danny Baker, Hoxie. Third place went to Crossen with a 6-1 decision over English.

Casey is now 15-13 for the season. Wurthnow extended his unbeaten string to 36-0. Baker is 23-11 and Crossen is 18-9.

• 285 - Tyler Cook was seeded No.6. In his first match, he was pinned in the first period by No.3 seed Matt Holt, Abilene. In the consolation bracket, he won a 3-1 decision over Jacob Owen, Hoisington. Next, he faced No.4 seed Seth Suelter, Lakin, and was pinned in the third period.

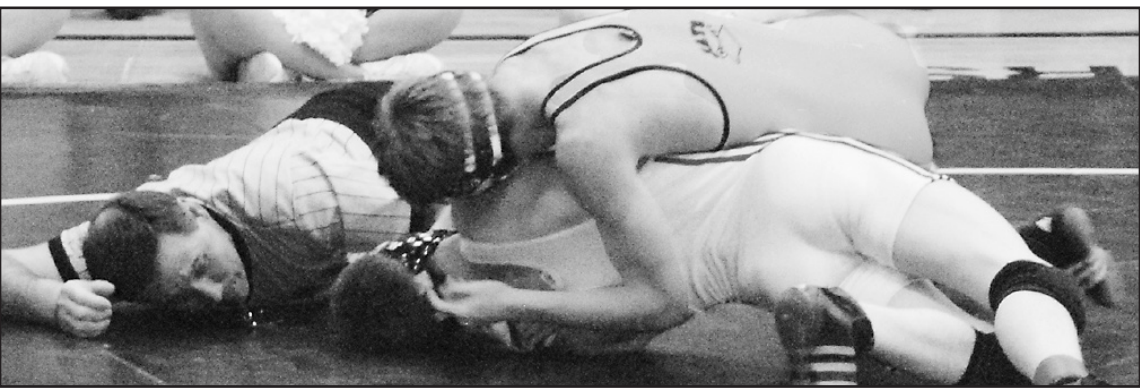
No.1 seed and unbeaten Jered Rice, Phillipsburg, won the championship with an 8-3 decision over No.2 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie.

Holt placed third with a second period fall over Suelter.

Tyler is now 16-14 for the season. Rice extended his unbeaten record to 26-0, Salmans is now 30-2 and Holt is 26-8.

Next action

Norton will wrestle Osborne and Hill City in Mid-Continent League duals on Thursday in Osborne, beginning at 5 p.m.



Blue Jay Billy Broeckelman was pinning Hoxie's Donovan Schamberger in the first period of their 130 pound championship match when this photo was taken during the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:
Norton vs. Osborne and Hill City in Osborne 5 p.m. Thursday
Norton JV in Bill Voss Novice Tournament in Colby 9 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Oberlin VJV in Norton 5 p.m. Today
Norton vs. Hoxie VJV in Norton 5 p.m. Tuesday
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Phillipsburg in Phillipsburg 4 p.m. Today
Northern Valley vs. Ellis in Ellis 5 p.m. Friday
Northern Valley vs. Hill City in Almena 4 p.m. Tuesday
Logan vs. Western Plains in Logan 4 p.m. Friday
Logan vs. Trego Community in Logan 4 p.m. Tuesday

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