



CLASS 3-2-1A REGIONAL WRESTLING CHAMPIONS -- The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured Saturday evening after winning the championship of the Regional Tournament in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton. Pictured are, from left, front row: Manager Vanessa Danesan, Kaid McKenna, Landon 'Tug' Keiswetter, John Risewick, Troy Bainter, Spencer Shirk; back row: Manager Cayleb Campbell, Kaenon Keiswetter,

Head Coach Bill Johnson, R.J. Ellis, Zane Perez, Tyler Cook, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Billy Broeckelman, Brett Terrell, Connor Pfannenstiel, Carson McKenna, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Manager Juliana Miller, Manager Alexis Lively, Assistant Coach Shane Miller.

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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Blue Jay wrestlers win regional again

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team extended their Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Championships to six in a row with a dominating 2010 win during competition Friday and Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The win was even more special since 7 of the 10 state-ranked teams and over 50 percent of the state ranked wrestlers in Class 3-2-1A were competing.

The Blue Jays turned in some outstanding individual performances during the two days but the victory was definitely a team win, with 10 of the 13 Norton wrestlers among the four qualifiers from each weight class for the State Tournament this Friday and Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Norton had five individual champions, three runners-up and two fourth place finishers.

The No. 1 state ranked Blue Jay wrestlers ran away with the championship, compiling 218 points.

Runner-up team was No. 3 state ranked Phillipsburg with 132 points and No. 4 state ranked Hoxie placed third with 111. No. 6 state ranked Oakley placed fourth just one point behind Hoxie with 110.

Defending state champion Smith Center, who is ranked No. 7 in the state, was fifth with 108.50. Atwood placed sixth with 99 and No. 9 state-ranked Thomas More Prep of Hays, was seventh with 81. Goodland, who is ranked No. 5 in the state, placed eighth with 78.5 points.

Beloit placed ninth with 77.50 and Plainville tenth with 68.50. They were followed by Osborne, 63; Oberlin, 61.50; Ellis, 52; St. Francis, 51.50; Belleville, 22; Hill City, 17; Stockton, 14; Trego Community, 9.5; Mankato, 2.5; Pike Valley, 0; Cheylin, 0.

Winning regional championships for Norton were freshman John Risewick, 103; junior Troy Bainter, 125; junior Landon Keiswetter, 152; junior Spencer Shirk, 160 and junior Kaid McKenna, 189.

Runners-up were junior Billy Broeckelman, 130; senior Kaenon Keiswetter, 145 and senior Zane Perez, 171.

Placing fourth were senior Connor Pfannenstiel, 140 and senior Tyler Cook, 215.

Also competing for Norton were sophomore R.J. Ellis, 112; freshman Carson McKenna, 119 and junior Brett Terrell, 135, who was one match short of qualifying for the state tournament.

Norton was open at 285. Norton compiled an outstanding 40-13 won-loss record in the tournament and had a stellar 18-3 pin ratio!

Phillipsburg qualified six wrestlers for the state tournament with three runners-up, one third and two fourth place finishers.

Hoxie has five state qualifiers with one champion, two runners-up and

two third place finishes. Oakley also qualified five with two champions, one runner-up and two fourth places.

Smith Center qualified four wrestlers with two champions, one runner-up and one fourth place finisher.

Coach's comments

"Qualifying 10 of our wrestlers for the state tournament is testament to the tough competition we see throughout the year," said coach Johnson.

"Plus, our wrestlers' mentality is that they will wrestle their best no matter how tough the opponent.

"Every wrestler on our team gave their all in the tournament and wrestled the best they have all year.

"This season, we've nicknamed ourselves the 'Band of Brothers' and our fans are 'The Brotherhood'. Our crowd was tremendous. They cheered so hard for us and that created a great atmosphere. A number of team coaches commented positively to me about the atmosphere.

"We wrestled great for two days and finished strong with five champions. We avenged a lot of losses from early in the season.

"I was so impressed with all of our wrestlers that I named the entire team 'Wrestlers of the Week'.

"I was especially impressed with our senior wrestler Kaenon Keiswetter. He dislocated a knee cap at the Osborne-Hill City dual recently and the determination he showed this weekend bordered on phenomenal! He wrestled extremely well and won a major decision over Kevin Wolters, Atwood, who had beaten him previously.

"We're so happy to have ten wrestlers who will compete in the state tournament but we will have to work hard this week to get ready and wrestle our best every single match at state to do well.

"We will have to prove ourselves on the mat this weekend."

Hoxie wrestling coach Mike Porsch was named "Regional Tournament Coach of the Year" by vote of the team coaches.

Three-time defending state champion Colt Rogers, Smith Center, who is unbeaten and ranked No. 1 in the state at 130 pounds, was named "Regional Tournament Wrestler of the Year" by vote of the team coaches.

Both awards are sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Troy Bainter was the 112 pound state champion last year and placed third in the state his freshman season. He is ranked No. 3 in the state this season.

Landon Keiswetter was a state qualifier last year and placed fifth in the state in 2008. He is ranked No. 4 in the state.

Kaid McKenna placed fifth in the state tournament last year.

Billy Broeckelman was a state qualifier last year and placed second in the state as a freshman. He is ranked No. 5 in the state.

Kaenon Keiswetter was a state qualifier in 2007 and 2009 and placed

third in the state his sophomore year. He is ranked No. 1 in the state.

Zane Perez placed fourth in the state last year, was a state qualifier as a sophomore and placed sixth in the state his freshman season. He is ranked No. 3 in the state this season.

Connor Pfannenstiel was a state qualifier in 2007.

Spencer Shirk was injured after Christmas last season so didn't complete the 2009 season.

Individual results

•103 - John Risewick, who is ranked No. 2 in the state, was seeded No. 1 and pinned his way to his first regional championship. He pinned Matthew Heim, Oberlin, in :51, then pinned Casey Keller, St. Francis, in 3:08 and pinned No. 5 seed Dakota Kohler, Phillipsburg, in 2:30 to reach the championship match with No. 3 seed Trevor Axelson, Plainville.

John wasted no time making Axelson count the lights as he pinned him in 1:09!

No. 3 seed Jonathan Walker, Thomas More Prep, placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Brady Lowell, Belleville, in 2:00.

Risewick is now 26-10 for the season, Axelson is 18-8 and Walker is 21-8.

•112 - R.J. Ellis lost his first match by a 12-7 decision to No. 5 seed Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Kyle Helberg, Hill City, in :40 but lost a hard-fought 6-5 decision to No. 6 seed Dustin Vap, Atwood, to end his season with a 13-16 record.

No. 1 ranked and returning 103 pound state champion Dylan Schumacher, TMP, won the championship with a 15-1 major decision over No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked, Calvin Ochs, Hoxie. Third place went to Sahlfeld with an 11-6 decision over Vap.

Schumacher is now 33-1 for the season and Ochs is 26-9.

•119 - Carson McKenna won an 11-2 major decision over Mat Heim, Hoxie, in the first round but then had to wrestle No. 1 seed Cole Werner, Plainville, who is ranked No. 2 in the state and placed fourth in the state last season at 112. Werner pinned McKenna in 5:04 to drop him into the consolation bracket where he wrestled No. 2 seed and No. 3 state ranked Carlos Galloway, Stockton. McKenna gave him a fight but Galloway won 10-7 to end McKenna's season at 13-13.

Werner won the championship with an 11-2 major decision over No. 3 seed Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg. Third place went to No. 4 seed Garth Griffith, Atwood, when Galloway defaulted.

Werner is now 24-6 and Ceman, who is ranked No. 5 in the state and was fifth in the state last year at 103, is 23-11. Griffith, who is ranked No. 6 in the state, is 30-5 and Galloway is 22-9.

•125 - Troy Bainter was seeded No. 1. He pinned Devin Simon, Atwood, in :48, then won an 8-4 decision over No. 5 seed Brent Juemann, Oberlin. In the championship finals, he

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We're Behind You All the Way! **Good Luck Blue Jays!!**

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