

Norton Durham champion for eighth straight time

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team won their eighth straight J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament championship on Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

Norton took an early team lead and led all the way although Hoxie and Mill Valley gave the Blue Jays a run for their money in the finals.

The tournament ended with Norton scoring 165 points, followed by Hoxie with 154 and Mill Valley with 151. Hoxie passed Mill Valley with a win in the 285 pound match.

Finishing in fourth place was the always competitive Scott City wrestling team, who scored 122 points to edge Smith Center, who ended with 121 points.

Placing sixth was Cozad with 104, followed by McCook, 102; Beloit, 92; Leoti, 55; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 43; Oakley, 38; Atwood, 35.

Norton had two champions, five others in the finals who placed runner-up, one third place finisher, one fourth placer and three sixth place finishers. The Blue Jays were open at 119 and 215 and had a junior varsity wrestler at 135.

Repeating as tournament champions were senior Troy Bainter, 130 and senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160

Wrestling in the finals but coming out second were: freshman Branson Addington, 103; sophomore John Risewick, 112; senior Billy Broeckelman, 140; senior Spencer Shirk, 171 and junior Caleb Campbell, 189.

Sophomore Eli Bozarth finished third at 145 and freshman junior varsity wrestler Alec Hager placed fourth at 112.

Placing sixth in their weight classes were: freshman junior varsity wrestler Ethan Ross, 103; sophomore junior varsity wrestler Cody Ellis, 140 and senior Josh Asbury, 285.

Coach's comments

"Overall, I'm pleased that we had seven wrestlers in the championship finals but disappointed that only two won championships and also that we only had two in the consolation championships. Several of our wrestlers in the championships were either ahead or tied and let a victory get away from them.

"Now is a good time for this to happen. Everything before regional and state tournaments is practice. We can lose some now but have the mentality that things will pick up down the road.

"We can wrestle much better. "Some of our wrestlers took a step forward. Branson Addington and Caleb Campbell both made it to the championship finals."

The Norton coaches selected Branson Addington and Eli Bozarth as their "Co-Wrestlers of the Week" for the Blue Jays.

"This was their coming out day. They did well," said coach Johnson.

Named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament was Clay Mulligan, Scott City's 112 pound wrestler, who trailed Norton's John Risewick in the championship finals but rallied to pin Risewick.

Former Norton wrestler Zane

Engelbert was present as an assistant wrestling coach at McCook High School. He is also the head junior high wrestling coach at McCook.

Individual matches

103 - Norton freshman Branson Addington was seeded No.5. He shutout Landon Scott, Mill Valley, 6-0 and edged No.1 seed Clint Rogers, Smith Center, 6-4 to reach the championship finals versus No.2 seed John Solko, Atwood. The score was tied 2-all after one period but Addington was pinned in 3:40 to place runner-up.

Rogers placed third with a fall over No.3 seed Bryce Fairleigh, Scott City, in 2:25. Scott finished fifth with a fall in 4:47 over Norton freshman junior varsity wrestler Ethan Ross. Ross also wrestled Solko in the first round and was pinned in 2:34, then was pinned in 1:15 by Rogers.

112 - Blue Jay sophomore John Risewick was seeded No.1. He pinned Cory Howard, Oakley, in 1:26 and won a 17-1 technical fall over No.5 seed junior varsity freshman teammate Alec Hager. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City, and was leading until he got out of position and was pinned in 3:58 to place runner-up.

Hager pinned Ethan Wessling, Beloit, in 3:02 in the first round before wrestling Risewick. In the consolation bracket, Hager pinned Mack Reagan, Smith Center, in 4:17 before losing a 5-2 decision to No.3 seed Jesus Gauna, McCook, in the consolation championship to finish fourth.

Wessling placed fifth with a 4-3 decision over Reagan.

119 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Dylan Schumacher, TMP, won the championship with a 7-2 decision over No.2 seed Alex Kough, Scott City.

Third place went to No.5 seed Tyler Dickman, Mill Valley, with a fall in 2:26 over Clayton Korus, McCook. No.4 seed Clay Tregio, Cozad, won fifth by pinning No.3 seed Braden Sahlfeld, Beloit, in 3:42.

125 - Norton junior Justin Waggoner was seeded No.4. He was pinned in 2:40 by No.5 seed Ryan Hodges, Mill Valley. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 4:01 by Bowe Behymer, Beloit.

No.1 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning No.3 seed Denton Tankersley, Leoti, in 3:56.

Third place went to Hodges with a pin in 4:19 of No.2 seed Caleb Lucero, Cozad. Fifth place winner was Behymer by default over Jake Fahrenbruch, McCook.

130 - Blue Jay senior Troy Bainter was seeded No.1 and pinned his way to the championship match. He made Joe Salinas, Leoti, count the lights in 1:25, then downed No.5 seed Zach Fischer, Smith Center, with a fall in 1:00. In the title match, Bainter faced Jake Ellis, Mill Valley. Bainter led 8-5 after one period, 9-5 after two and won 13-7.

Winning third place was No.3 seed Britton Sealock, Hoxie, with a fall in 4:42 over Fischer. Fifth place went to Kyle Groshong, McCook, with a fall in 3:17 over Salinas.

135 - Norton freshman Austin

Hager moved up from the junior varsity to wrestle 135 for the Blue Jays. He wrestled No.1 seed Donovan Schamberger, Hoxie, in the first round and was pinned in 1:51. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 4:56 by No.5 seed Mario Manciallas, Leoti.

Schamberger pinned his way to the championship. He pinned No.2 seed Logan Hunke, Cozad, in 2:46 to win the gold.

No.3 seed Grant Holub, TMP, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Levi Hefner, Oakley. Manciallas placed fifth with a 14-10 decision over No.4 seed Clay Pickel, Smith Center.

140 - Blue Jay senior Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.2. He won a 15-0 technical fall over Bryer Porter, Leoti and a 13-4 major decision over No.3 seed Kyle Carlson, Cozad, to reach the finals. He met No.1 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center, for the title. It was a very close match. Broeckelman trailed 3-2 after one period and 3-2 after the scoreless second period. Newell added two more points in the final period to win 5-2.

No.3 seed Kyle Carlson, Cozad, won third with a 3-2 decision over No.4 seed Keldon Osterman, McCook. Fifth place went to Warren Kropp, Scott City, with a 16-0 technical fall over Norton sophomore junior varsity wrestler Cody Ellis.

Ellis lost a 12-3 major decision to Carlson in the first round, then decided Porter 8-4 and was pinned in 2:30 by Osterman prior to wrestling Kropp.

145 - Norton sophomore Eli Bozarth pinned Caleb France, Leoti, in 2:32 in a feather bracket match. Next, he wrestled No.1 seed Skyler Kalinski, McCook, and lost a 13-0 major decision. In the consolation bracket, Bozarth won a 7-1 decision over No.5 seed Cole Meier, Beloit, then decided No.2 seed Cody Green, Atwood, 8-4 to reach the consolation championship. He shutout Devin Ellison, Mill Valley, 3-0 to place third.

Kalinski won the championship with a 7-4 decision over No.3 seed Dalton Snyder, Hoxie and No.4 seed Colton Derr, Cozad, placed fifth with a fall in 4:59 over Green.

152 - Norton sophomore Jared Bohl wrestled a feather bracket match vs. Jacob Rios, Smith Center, and was pinned in 5:25. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 4:06 by Alex Boryca, Cozad.

No.2 seed Dylan Bainter, Hoxie, won the title with a 3-2 decision over No.1 seed Eric Albers, Oakley. Third place went to No.4 seed Rusty Sullivent, McCook, with a decision over Rios. Winning fifth place was No.5 seed Connor Hewitt, Beloit, with a 5-3 decision over No.3 seed Collin Wittig, Leoti.

160 - Norton senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter dominated his weight class. Seeded No.1, he pinned Manuel Carrillo, Scott City, in 38 seconds, then won a 12-2 major decision over No.4 seed Kyler Atwood, Smith Center. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Braden Mayes, Beloit. Keiswetter led 4-1 after one period and 7-1 after two before winning an 11-2 major decision.



Blue Jay sophomore Eli Bozarth turns Mill Valley's Devin Ellison during his 3-0 shutout of Ellison in the consolation championship at 145 pounds in the Durham Tournament in Norton on Saturday. Bozarth was named Norton's "Co-Wrestler of the Week" for his outstanding wrestling in the tournament.



Norton freshman Branson Addington tries to break down John Solko, Atwood, in the 103 pound championship finals of the Durham Tournament in Norton on Saturday. Addington defeated the No.1 seed Rogers of Smith Center to reach the finals versus No.2 seed Solko. He placed runner-up and was named Norton's "Co-Wrestler of the Week" for his performance.

Third place winner was No.3 seed Andrew VanHolland, Mill Valley, with a 7-0 shutout of Atwood. Winning fifth place was No.5 seed Nate Cox, Oakley, with a fall in 1:35 over Kyler Berning, Leoti.

171 - Blue Jay senior Spencer Shirk was seeded No.2 although he had only one loss this season. The one loss was to Smith Center's Zach Eaton so Eaton was naturally seeded No.1. Both young men pinned their way to the championship match. Shirk made Christian Weston, Scott City, count the lights in 53 seconds, then pinned No.3 seed Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, in 1:33. The championship meeting between Shirk and Eaton proved to be as good as expected. The first period was scoreless and the second period ended with Shirk leading 3-2. Eaton tied it at 3-all in the third period and edged Shirk 5-3 by scoring two points at the buzzer!

Salmans won third place with

a fall in 3:39 over No.5 seed Paul Gentry, Beloit. Fifth place went to Derrick Paxton, Mill Valley, with a 12-0 major decision over Chris Dinges, Cozad.

189 - Blue Jay junior Cayleb Campbell was seeded No.3. He pinned Kelton Bangerter, Leoti, in 24 seconds, then pinned No.2 seed Mark Cordel, Beloit, in 3:49. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed Josh McDowell, Smith Center. He trailed 3-2 after one period and 5-2 after two periods and lost by the same score after a scoreless third period.

Third place winner was No.5 seed Trey Johnson, Mill Valley, with an 8-5 decision over Cordel. Fifth place went to No.4 seed Scott Heiman, TMP, with a fall in 2:20 over Bangerter.

215 - The Blue Jays were open. No.2 seed Luke Hayes, Scott City, won the championship with a fall in 2:20 over No.1 seed Leo Beck, Mill Valley.

Third place winner was No.3

seed Jacob English, Beloit, with a fall in 2:24 over No.4 seed Daniel Chacon, Cozad. Fifth place went to Justin Beamer, Leoti, with a 9-2 decision over Trevor Gleason, McCook.

285 - Norton senior Josh Asbury wrestled No.3 seed Pedro Garcia, Cozad, in the first round and was pinned in 2:10. In the consolation bracket, he wrestled No.5 seed Michael McEachern, Scott City, and was pinned in 3:27. Next, he wrestled No.4 seed Ross Stewart, McCook, and was pinned in 36 seconds to place sixth.

In a repeat of last year's tournament, No.1 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, wrestled No.2 seed Zach Callahan, Mill Valley. Salmans prevailed again, this time winning a hard-fought 1-0 decision to push his Indians past Mill Valley for second place in the team standings.

Garcia won third place with a 1-0 decision over No.5 seed Michael McEachern, Scott City.

Newton wrestling tourney this week

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School wrestlers will face their biggest challenge of the season this Friday and Saturday when they compete in the prestigious 48th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton.

The same 25 teams as last year will be competing with the addition of Tulsa Union, Okla., a nationally ranked team. The other teams, in addition to Norton and Newton, are: 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 and in 2010 placed fifth out of 25 teams competing!

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. Atwo-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.

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:
Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions in Newton. 11 a.m. Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Plainville 5 p.m. in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym
and 5:30 p.m. in NCHS Stull Gym Today
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Trego Community in WaKeeney 5 p.m. Friday
Mid-Continent League Tournament Feather Bracket Games TBA Saturday
Norton Boys Varsity in First Round Mid-Continent League Tournament TBA Monday
Norton Girls Varsity in First Round Mid-Continent League Tournament TBA Tuesday
Northern Valley Girls and Boys in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco. Jan. 10-15 TBA
Logan Girls and Boys in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Palco. January 10-15 TBA
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Palco in Logan 4 p.m. Tuesday