



Blue Jays repeat MCL tourney championship

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team successfully defended last season's Mid-Continent League Tournament championship on Saturday in Plainville.

The Blue Jays were open at three weights but still outdistanced the other squads by scoring 190.5 points.

Phillipsburg was runner-up with 162.5, followed by Smith Center, 143.5; Plainville, 131; Ellis, 78; Trego, 71; Hill City, 19; Stockton, 14; Osborne, 14.

All 11 of Norton's wrestlers placed in the tournament, seven were champions, one was runner-up, two placed third and one finished in fourth.

Champions were sophomore John Risewick, 112; senior Troy Bainter, 130; senior Brett Terrell, 135; senior Billy Broeckelman, 140; sophomore Eli Bozarth, 145; senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160 and senior Spencer Shirk, 171.

Finishing runner-up was junior Justin Waggoner, 125.

Placing third in their weight class were freshman Branson Addington, 103; and senior Josh Asbury, 285.

Placing fourth for Norton was sophomore Jared Bohl, 152.

Norton compiled a won-loss record of 21-5 and had a pin ratio of 12-2.

"Prior to the Newton Tournament of Champions, I was disappointed in how we finished matches but we really came on in this tournament and were outstanding," said coach Johnson.

"We lost only three matches prior to the championship and consolation championship finals and won 9 of 11 matches in the finals.

Billy Broeckelman was pinned earlier this season by Riley Hunsicker of Ellis so Hunsicker was seeded No.1 and Broeckelman No.2 in the tournament. Both had first round byes and both won by falls in the semi-finals. Broeckelman avenged the earlier loss, winning the championship with a dominating 12-3 major decision!

For his performance, Broeckelman was named "Wrestler of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

"The finals matches were not easy," said coach Johnson. "We demonstrated that we were able to peak for tough matches in this tournament and that we can do the

same at regional and state."

Coach Johnson singled out Justin Waggoner for his performance in the 125 pound championship match against No.1 seed Cole Werner, Plainville. Werner, who is now 29-1 for the season, won a 12-3 major decision but coach Johnson felt that Waggoner wrestled him very tough.

Individual matches

103 - Branson Addington was seeded No.3. He drew a first round bye, then lost an 8-3 decision to No.2 seed Dakota Kohler, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.4 seed Dylan Dohe, Plainville, in 3:28 to place third.

Kohler was the championship by pinning No.1 seed Clint Rogers, Smith Center, in 5:40.

Addington is now 7-10 for the season. Kohler is 23-3.

112 - John Risewick was seeded No.1. He decided Trevor Axelson, Plainville, 8-4, then pinned Gage Pfeifer, Hill City, in :32 to win the gold medal.

Third place went to Mack Reagan, Smith Center, who defeated Brandon Schoenthaler, Trego.

Risewick is now 22-5 for the season.

119 - Norton was open. No.2 seed Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a 5-4 decision over No.1 seed Diego Gallaway, Stockton. No.3 seed Eli Sherwood, Trego, placed third with an 8-3 decision over No.4 seed Brennan Foster, Plainville.

125 - Justin Waggoner was seeded No.2. He won a 14-7 decision over No.3 seed Zach Mader, Trego, then wrestled No.1 seed Cole Werner, Plainville, for the championship. Werner won a 12-3 major decision.

Third place went to No.4 seed Brandon Hall, Ellis, with a 9-3 decision over No.5 seed Mason Bannister, Phillipsburg. Waggoner is now 14-7 for the season.

130 - No.1 seed Troy Bainter pinned No.4 seed Zach Fischer, Smith Center, in :40, then pinned No.2 seed Gage Younger, Ellis, in 1:30 to win the gold medal.

Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 13-2 major decision over Fischer.

Bainter is now 24-2 for the season.

Younger is 11-4 and Dusin is 17-5.

135 - Brett Terrell was seeded No.1. He won a 16-0 technical fall over No.4 seed Colton Wise, Plainville, then decided No.2 seed Austin Lopez, Ellis, 5-1 to



Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson congratulated his wrestlers in the Plainville Gym after the Blue Jays won the team championship of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

win the championship.

No.3 seed Clay Pickel, Smith Center, placed third with a 10-1 major decision over Wise.

Terrell is now 16-0 for the season.

Lopez is 19-3.

140 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No.2. He pinned No.3 seed Hunter Kohler, Phillipsburg, in 1:07, then won a 12-3 major decision over No.1 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, to win the championship.

Kohler placed third by pinning No.4 seed Tyler Hunsucker, Plainville, in :50.

Broeckelman is now 21-5 and Hunsucker is 21-2.

145 - Eli Bozarth was seeded No.2. He pinned No.3 seed Grant Lambert, Smith Center, then pinned No.1 seed Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg, in 5:27 to win first.

Landon Younger, Ellis, won third place when Lambert forfeited.

Bozarth is now 18-11 and Schneider is 19-6.

152 - Jared Bohl was seeded No.3. He won a 7-1 decision over Wyatt Oliver, Smith Center,

was pinned in 2:35 by No.2 seed Harrison Gilliland, Plainville, and dropped into the consolation bracket. He pinned No.4 seed Austin Seltman, Hill City, in 2:40 and placed fourth after losing a close 5-4 decision to Oliver in their second meeting of the day.

No.1 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a 6-2 decision over Gilliland.

Bohl is now 11-15 for the season.

Rachow is 28-1 and Gilliland is 17-6.

160 - Landon "Tug" Keiswetter was seeded No.1. He pinned his way to the championship! In his first round match, he pinned Dalton Wedemyer, Trego, in :39, then pinned No.5 seed John Boyington, Phillipsburg, in 1:27.

In the championship match, he pinned No.3 seed Kyler Atwood, Smith Center, in 2:52.

No.2 seed Nathan Hanna, Hill City, placed third with a 6-3 decision over Boyington.

Keiswetter is now 26-2 and Hanna is 13-4.

171 - Spencer Shirk was seeded

No.2. He won an 8-2 decision over No.3 seed Sheldyne Brown, Phillipsburg, then won the championship on an injury default by No.1 seed Zach Eaton, Smith Center.

Brown placed third by pinning No.5 seed Cameron Staples, Trego, in 4:48.

Shirk is now 20-3 and Eaton is 25-1.

189 - Norton was open. No.2 seed Josh McDowell, Smith Center, won the championship with a 17-2 technical fall over No.1 seed Andy Malin, Plainville. Third place went to No.5 seed Jacey Minkler, Phillipsburg, by pinning No.4 seed Jamie Ikenberry, Trego, in 1:33.

McDowell is now 18-6.

215 - Norton was open. No.4 seed David Ghum, Trego, won the championship by pinning No.3 seed Louis Frazier, Smith Center, in 3:15. No.2 seed T.J. Addelman, Plainville, placed third by pinning Brice Grabast, Osborne, in 2:36.

285 - Josh Asbury was seeded No.3. He was pinned in 3:48 by No.2 seed Chris Hoferica, Phil-

lipsburg and dropped into the consolation bracket. He pinned No.5 seed Shane Himmough, Stockton, in 2:13, then won a 5-4 decision over No.4 seed Dustin Zahn, Trego, to place third.

Hoferica won the championship with a 3-2 decision over No.1 seed Bradey Chard, Plainville.

Asbury is now 12-11 and Hoferica is 9-3.

Next action

Norton will travel to Smith Center on Friday for a dual with the Redmen.

Wrestling will begin at 6 p.m. It will be the final dual of the season for the Blue Jays.

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

Competing, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be teams from Abilene, Beloit, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lakin, Lincoln, Minneapolis, Oakley, St. Francis, Stockton and Thomas More Prep of Hays.



Norton sophomore Eli Bozarth was seeded No.2 at 145 pounds in the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Plainville but he put No.1 seed Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg, down for the count in 5:27 of their championship match! - 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. Smith Center.....6 p.m. Friday in Smith Center
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity in Panther Classic.....9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Smith Center.....5 p.m. Today in Smith Center
Norton vs. Hill City.....4 p.m. Friday in Norton
Norton vs. Oberlin.....5 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin
Logan vs. Stockton.....5 p.m. Today in Stockton
Logan vs. Palco.....4 p.m. Friday in Palco
Logan vs. Heartland Christian.....5 p.m. Tuesday in Colby
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb.....4 p.m. Today in Alma
Northern Valley vs. Thunder Ridge.....4 p.m. Friday in Almena
Northern Valley vs. Franklin, Neb.....4 p.m. Tuesday in Franklin