



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 Goodland. Pictured are, from left, front row: Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, Billy Broeckelman, Spencer Shirk, Troy Bainter, Brett Terrell; second row: Head Coach Bill Johnson, Branson Addington, John Risewick, Josh Asbury, Jared Bohl, Eli Bozarth, Justin Waggoner, Manager Juliana Miller; back row: R.J. Ellis, Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Assistant Coach Shane Miller. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

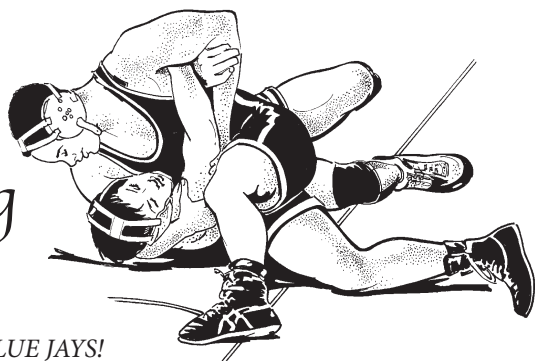
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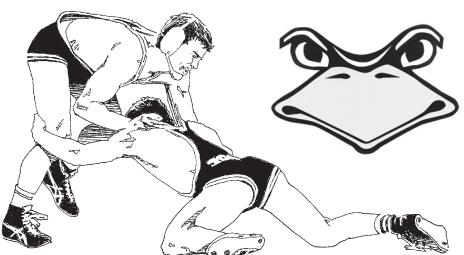
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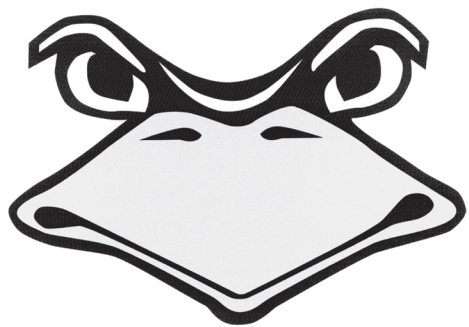
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Blue Jay wrestlers win regional again

By **DICK BOYD**
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team held off a challenge by an excellent Hoxie squad to win their seventh straight Class 3-2-1

A Regional Wrestling Tournament Championship on Saturday in Goodland.

The grueling tournament was considered to be the toughest of the four held on Friday and Saturday around the state.

Forty percent of the state ranked wrestlers and four of the top 10 teams in the state competed. Norton has been ranked No.1 all season. Hoxie came in ranked No.2, Scott City No.7 and Goodland No. 8.

At the beginning of the championship finals, Hoxie held a slim 163.5 to 162.5 team lead over Norton. Both teams had six wrestlers in the finals, two from each were head-to-head.

When it was all over, Norton had five champions and Hoxie had three and Norton won both of the head-to-heads.

The Blue Jays compiled 187 points to defeat Hoxie by 11.5 points. The Indians totaled 175.5 and Scott City finished third with 134 points, just edging Goodland, who had 133.

Fifth place went to Plainville with 95 and Oberlin was in sixth with 93.5. St. Francis and Cimarron tied for seventh and eighth with 71 each, Ellis was ninth with 61 and Lakin scored 54 to place tenth.

They were followed by Oakley, 52; Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays, 49; Leoti, 47; Elkhart, 40.5; Hill City, 31; Atwood, 30.5; Montezuma, 18; Holcomb, 17.5; Trego Community, 15.5; Meade, 12; Stockton, 11.5; Sublette, 6.5; Quinter, 5; Bird City, 0.

Norton had five champions, one runner-up and one fourth place finisher, qualifying all seven for this weekend's Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Norton's champions were senior Troy Bainter, 130; senior Brett Terrell, 135; senior Billy Broeckelman, 140; senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160 and senior Spencer Shirk, 171.

Finishing runner-up was sophomore John Risewick, 112, who lost in overtime, and placing fourth was freshman Branson Addington, 103.

Bainter, Keiswetter and Shirk were repeat regional champions and Broeckelman was a regional runner-up last year.

Also competing for Norton were: junior R.J. Ellis, 119; junior Justin Waggoner, 125; sophomore Eli Bozarth, 145; sophomore Jared Bohl, 152; senior Josh Asbury, 285.

Ellis, Waggoner, Bozarth and Asbury came within one match of qualifying for the state tournament.

Norton was open at 189 and 215.

Norton compiled an outstanding 34-13 won-loss record in the tournament and had a stellar 21-3 pin ratio.

Hoxie qualified eight wrestlers for the state tournament with three

champions, three runners-up, one third and one fourth. Scott City has six state qualifiers with one champion, three runners-up, one third and one fourth. Goodland placed five in the state tournament with one champion, one runner-up and three third place finishers. Plainville qualified six with one runner-up, one third and four fourth places. Oberlin qualified five with two third placers and three fourth place finishers.

Coach's comments

"We coaches felt ahead of time that we could qualify six wrestlers for the state tournament and we'd have to wrestle very well to get more," said coach Johnson.

"With the quality of wrestlers in the various brackets, we knew if we got any more it would be pretty tough. We got one more and that's a positive.

"We don't use sickness as an excuse but we tried to wrestle through sickness on Friday and didn't always wrestle up to our capabilities. I told our wrestlers after Friday that, if we were going to win the tournament, it would be on the back side.

"It was up to those consolation side wrestlers and I was very proud of them and how they wrestled on Saturday. We lost no matches in the first round on Saturday and went 5-0 in the next round and most of the wins were bonus points victories.

"The next round was the state qualifying round. We were not favored in hardly any of these matches and in some we were a huge underdog. We won only one of the five but I was still very pleased with our boys' efforts.

"The back side wrestlers won it for us, without any doubt.

"Other teams have qualified more for the state tournament but we have quality wrestlers. We only took seven wrestlers to the Newton Tournament of Champions and placed fourth. Of our seven qualifiers, six have a good chance to be in the finals of their weight class.

"We wrestle tough competition throughout the year and that makes us better wrestlers."

Special honors

The Norton coaches chose Brett Terrell as the Norton "Wrestler of the Week".

Brett defeated Dalton Davis, Lakin, to win the 135 pound championship. Davis came into the tournament ranked No.1 in the state with only one loss.

"Davis is a one time state champion, two time state finalist and three time state medalist so you can see Brett defeated a very good wrestler," said coach Johnson.

Norton's Billy Broeckelman, who pinned his way to the 140 pound championship match and won it with a major decision, was chosen "Regional Tournament Wrestler of the Year" by vote of the team coaches. Billy did not give up a single point during the tournament.

Hoxie wrestling coach Mike Porsche was named "Regional Tournament Coach of the Year" by vote of

the team coaches.

Both awards are sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Individual results

103 - Branson Addington was seeded No.6 and lost a 9-1 major decision to No.3 seed Keegan Amos, Holcomb. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Austin Davis, Sublette, in 1:46 and decided No.4 seed Bryce Fairleigh, Scott City, to reach the consolation championship match. He wrestled No.2 seed John Solko, Atwood, and lost a 9-4 decision to place fourth.

Lane Hoffman, St. Francis, the No.1 seed, won the championship by default over Amos.

Addington is now 11-13 for the season.

112 - John Risewick was seeded No.2. He pinned Cory Howard, Oakley, in :50, pinned Andy Davis, Sublette, in 1:21 and won a 6-2 decision over No.3 seed Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, to reach the championship match versus No.1 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City. It was a very even match and remained scoreless until the third period when both young men scored 2 points to send it into overtime where Mulligan won 4-2.

Dreher placed third with an 8-4 decision over Trevor Axelson, Plainville.

Risewick is now 27-6 for the season. Mulligan is 28-2.

119 - R.J. Ellis won a 6-2 decision over Eli Sherwood, Trego; lost a 16-0 technical fall to No.1 seed Dylan Schumacher, TMP. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Colton Acton, Cimarron, in :58, won a 3-0 decision over Devin Simon, Atwood. He wrestled No.3 seed Austin Avelar, Goodland, and lost a 2-0 decision to finish one match short of qualifying for the state tournament.

Avelar won a 13-3 major decision over Drew Jones, Hoxie, to place third. Schumacher won the championship with a 3-0 decision over No.2 seed Alex Kough, Scott City.

Ellis finished the season 14-11. Schumacher is now 34-2 and Kough is now 21-4.

125 - Justin Waggoner lost a 9-4 decision to Zach Mader, Quinter. In the consolation bracket, he won a 12-2 major decision over Denton Tankersley, Leoti; pinned Lucas Walker, TMP, in 4:52; then fell one match short of qualifying for the state tournament with an 8-0 major decision loss to No.4 seed Brent Juenemann, Oberlin.

Juenemann placed third by pinning No.2 seed Cole Werner, Plainville, in 2:18. No.1 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, won the championship with a 9-2 decision over No.3 seed Trevor Kennedy, Lakin.

Waggoner finished the season 19-11.

Ochs is now 33-4 and Werner is 33-3.

130 - Troy Bainter was seeded No.1. He pinned Chris Anderson, Oberlin, in 1:03; pinned Joe Salinas, Leoti, in 1:15 to reach the finals versus No.2

(Continued on Page B4)