

# Wrestlers tie for fourth in Durham tourney

By Dick Boyd  
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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team tied for fourth in the tough J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament held Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

Hoxie edged Cozad, Neb. for the team championship with a total of 135 points, compared to 134 for the visitors from Nebraska. In third place was Scott City with 104. Norton and Oakley both scored 93 points, followed by Smith Center, 80; Beloit, 67; Silver Lake, 66; McCook, Neb., 54; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 36; Atwood, 20; Leoti, 17; Norton JV, 9.

Norton had four runner-up finishers and three fourth place finishers.

Placing runner-up were sophomore Branson Addington, 106; junior John Risewick, 120; sophomore Alec Hager, 126 and senior Cayleb Campbell, 195.

Finishing fourth in their weight classes were senior Justin Waggoner, 126, Norton JV; junior Cody Ellis, 145 and junior Jared Bohl, 152.

Norton had a 20-16 won-loss record and 10-9 pin ratio.

Wrestling for Norton but not placing were freshman Caysean Campbell, Norton JV, 106; sophomore Ethan Ross, 113; senior R.J. Ellis, 132; sophomore Toby Nickell, Norton JV, 132; sophomore Austin Hager, 138; freshman Kendall Miller, Norton JV, 138; junior Lucas Engel, 170; sophomore Kolton Harting, 182. Norton was open at 160, 220 and 285.

## Coach's comments

"For us to tie for fourth in this competitive tournament is a big improvement from earlier in the year," said coach Johnson. "Our wrestlers are young and inexperienced but are wrestling hard and showing signs of improvement. However, they still have a lot of improvement to make.

"Our inexperience shows in close matches when we get out of position, thrown to our back and pinned. We hang on too long instead of giving up a one-point escape and starting over again. Those kinds of things we have to clean up. We'll spend a lot of time in practice to improve on these situations.

"Highlight of the tournament for us was that we had four of our wrestlers in the championship finals and three in the consolation championship. We had several others really close to placing and receiving medals. They just got out of position and were pinned after leading matches.

"The disappointment is that we didn't win a single match in the finals. One of our focuses this week will be talking about finishing tournaments."

The Norton coaches chose Alec Hager as last week's "Wrestler of the Week" for the Blue Jays. Named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament by vote of team coaches was Caleb Lucero, Cozad's 132 pound wrestler who was seeded No.4 but won the championship of that weight class.

## Individual matches

106 - Branson Addington was seeded No.2. He pinned Chase Ramsey, Scott City, in :54, won a 4-3 decision over Brian Messersmith, Cozad and was pinned in 1:22 by No.1 seed Khamin Crow, Silver Lake, to place runner-up.

Messersmith placed third with a 6-0 decision over Macrae Migchelbrink, Atwood.

Caysean Campbell, Norton JV, was pinned in 5:10 by Messersmith and was pinned in 2:55 by Ramsey.

113 - Ethan Ross was pinned in 4:10 by Haegan Schaefer, Silver Lake; won a 6-4 decision over Cory Howard, Oakley and was pinned in 1:21 by Jake Hoffman, Cozad.

No.4 seed James Jurgens, Scott City, won the championship with a 9-0 major decision over Schaefer. Kasey Taylor, McCook, placed third with a 13-7 decision over No.1 seed Clint Rogers, Smith Center.

120 - John Risewick was seeded No.1. He won a 13-1 major decision over Rhett Mizer, Atwood; pinned Taylor Murphy, Oakley, in :39 and placed runner-up when he lost an 8-4 decision to No.2 seed Alex Kough, Scott City.

Clay Trejo, Cozad, placed third with a 10-0 major decision over Murphy.

126 - Alec Hager was seeded No.3. He pinned Nick Cullers, Cozad, in 1:28; won a 12-5 decision over No.2 seed Britton Sealock, Hoxie and was pinned by No.1 seed Dylan Schmacher, TMP, to place runner-up.

Sealock placed third by pinning Norton JV's senior Justin Waggoner, in 2:28. Waggoner pinned Josh Schroeder, Silver Lake in 2:43, was pinned in :30 by Schumacher and won an 8-7 decision over Cullers to reach the consolation championship.

132 - R.J. Ellis pinned Tyler Watts, Beloit, in 5:37; lost an 11-0 major decision to No.3 seed Jacob Schroeder, Silver Lake; and lost a 1-0 decision to Jake Fahrenbruch, McCook. No.4 seed Caleb Lucero, Cozad, won a 6-4 decision over Drew Jones, Hoxie, the No.2 seed, to win the championship.

No.1 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City, placed third with an 11-1 major decision over Watts.

Norton JV sophomore Toby Nickell was pinned in 5:31 by Mulligan and was pinned in 3:21 by Watts.

138 - Austin Hager pinned Justin Watson, Silver Lake, in 1:27; was pinned in 3:21 by No.2 seed Logan Hunke, Cozad; won a 13-0 major decision over Garrett Stoecklein, TMP, and was pinned in 2:58 by No.3 seed Johnathan Markland, Atwood.

No.1 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning Hunke, in 3:22. Kyle Groshong, McCook, placed third with a 5-4 decision over



Norton sophomore Alec Hager controls No.2 seed Britton Sealock, Hoxie, during his 12-6 decision over Sealock in the 126 pound championship semi-finals of the J.R. Durham Invitational on Saturday in Norton. The win advanced Hager to the championship finals where he lost to unbeaten Dylan Schumacher, Thomas More Prep-Hays. Hager was chosen Norton's "Wrestler of the Week" by the Blue Jay coaches.

-Courtesy photo

Levi Hefner, Oakley.

Norton JV freshman Kendall Miller lost an 18-2 technical fall to Ochs, won a 5-3 decision over Watson but lost a 9-4 decision to Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit.

145 - Cody Ellis won a 4-0 decision over Phillip Carter, Hoxie, lost a 9-0 major decision to No.3 seed Clay Pickel, Smith Center; won a 6-1 decision over Austin Werth, TMP, in two overtimes; won an 8-6 decision over Kolton Paul, Scott City, and lost by an 11-0 major decision to Pickel in their second match of the day to place fourth.

No.2 seed Colton Derr, Cozad, won the championship with a 10-6 decision over No.1 seed Bowe Behymer, Beloit.

152 - Jared Bohl was seeded No.4. He pinned Bernardo Revelo, Cozad, in 2:26; lost a 12-7 decision to No.1 seed Skyler Kalinski, McCook; pinned Ty McCulloch, Scott City, in 2:42 and was pinned in 4:23 by Coulter Boyd, Oakley, to place fourth.

Kalinski won the championship with a 1-0 win over No.2 seed Dalton Snyder, Hoxie.

160 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Eric Albers, Oakley, won the championship by pinning No.2 seed Steven Yergey-Dible, Hoxie, in 3:39. No.3 seed Manuel Turner, Scott City, placed third with a 7-0 decision over Wyatt Oliver, Smith Center.

170 - Lucas Engel pinned Mikal Roelfs, Leoti, in 2:19; lost a 4-0 decision to No.3 seed Alex Boryca, Cozad, won a 7-6 decision over Zach Lightner,

Scott City; lost a 5-2 decision to No.4 seed Louis Frazier, Smith Center.

No.3 seed Alex Boryca, Cozad, won the championship by pinning No.1 seed Jason Berggren, Oakley, in 4:32.

No.2 seed Clay Cosand, Beloit, placed third with a 7-2 decision over Frazier.

182 - Kolton Harting was pinned in 1:06 by No.1 seed Brandon Salmans, Hoxie; pinned Bryce Johnson, Scott City, in 1:27; was pinned in 2:55 by Bruce Mason, Leoti.

Salmans won the championship with a 7-4 decision over No.2 seed Kyler Atwood, Smith Center. No.3 seed Nate Cox placed third with a 6-5 decision over No.4 seed Scott Heiman, TMP.

195 - Cayleb Campbell was seeded No.2. He pinned Lane Hayes, Scott City, in :55; won an 11-2 major decision over No.3 seed Daniel Chacon, Cozad and injury forfeited to No.1 seed Josh McDowell, Smith Center, to place runner-up.

Chacon placed third by pinning Cody Faulkender, Oakley, in 4:17.

220 - Norton was open. Kane Washington, Hoxie, was the champion, followed by Riley Callahan, Silver Lake; Skyler Mason, Leoti and Simon Rangel, Cozad.

285 - Norton was open. Luke Hayes, Scott City, was the champion, followed by Jacob English, Beloit; James Brown, Cozad and Mitch Collicott, McCook.

# Varsity girls basketball team falls to Osborne, 52-41

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team fell behind in the first half and played Osborne even in the second half in a 52-41 loss to the Lady Bulldogs in Mid-Continent League play Friday night in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

The Norton girls trailed 15-10 after a first quarter that saw junior point guard Tawni Griffey hit a three-point and two-point basket, senior post Erin Terrell swish two two-point shots and junior guard Kamilla Jones hit a free throw.

The Lady Jays fell farther behind in the second period when they only hit baskets by Terrell and senior post Caren Thomson and the Lady Bulldogs scored 11 points to take a 26-14 halftime advantage.

Norton's best quarter was the third, when they came within

one point of matching Osborne with 14 points and trailed 41-28. Griffey threw in two shots from beyond the arc and one two-pointer. Sophomore post Bailey Ambrosier hit four free tosses and junior guard Teslee Nickell hit a basket.

The Lady Jays did outscore the Lady Bulldogs in the final stanza but only by 13-11. Sophomore guard Katelyn Engelbert and Terrell each hit two baskets and one free throw. Griffey added a basket and Thomson hit a free throw in the period.

"We were awful defensively tonight," said coach Jilka. "We can't afford to give up 52 points and win games.

"Our post defense was not good and neither was our rotation and helpside. When a team shoots 69 percent and most of those are lay-ups, you don't have much of a chance to win the game.

"Offensively, we continue to

struggle shooting the ball. That is an area we will continue to work on throughout the year. We hustled tonight and got a lot of loose balls but, fundamentally, we have to improve in all areas.

"We are going to need a great effort Monday against Phillipsburg in the league tournament opener if we want to get to Hays."

Leading scorer for Norton was Griffey with 15 points on 3 of 6 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 3 of 10 two-point tries for 30 percent and 6 of 16 overall for 38 percent. Terrell, who has returned after an early-season injury, tallied 11 points on 5 of 13 two-point shots for 38 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Leading scoring for Osborne was St.Clair with 19 points; Miller added 12.

As a team, the Lady Jays hit 3 of 13 from beyond the arc for 23 percent, 12 of 46 two-point at-

tempts for 26 percent and 15 of 59 overall for 25 percent.

Osborne swished 3 of 4 from long range for 75 percent, 19 of 28 two-point tries for 68 percent and 22 of 32 overall for 69 percent.

From the free throw stripe, Norton hit 8 of 12 for 67 percent and Osborne swished 5 of 10 for 50 percent.

Norton had 10 offensive and 7 defensive rebounds for 17 total; Osborne pulled down 4 offensive and 21 defensive caroms for 25 total. Engelbert and Terrell led Norton in rebounds with 4 each, followed by Ambrosier, Nickell, Alec Melvin, Thomson, 2 each. Jones had 1 rebound.

The Lady Jays had 12 steals compared to just 6 by the Lady Bulldogs. Griffey led with 7, followed by Engelbert, Ambrosier, Nickell, Jones, Thomson, 1 each.

Norton had 11 assists and Osborne had 14. Leader for Norton

was Jones with 5, followed by Griffey, 2; Nickell, 2; Engelbert, 1; Melvin, 1.

The Lady Jays had 12 turnovers but the Lady Bulldogs lost the ball 20 times.

## Junior varsity won

The Norton junior varsity girls team defeated Osborne 18-13 in a three-quarter contest.

The Lady Jays led 5-2 after one quarter but the score was tied 11-11 at halftime. Norton outscored Osborne 7-2 in the third and final period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Bailey Ambrosier with 11 points, followed by Johnnye Ruder, 3; Teslee Nickell, 2; Alec Melvin, 2.

"Even though we played a short game, I thought our girls did a great job," said assistant coach George Rossi.

"Our offense is improving and our turnovers were down. Our girls have been working harder every day and let's hope we keep moving in the right direction."

## Next action

The Norton girls will play this week in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament, which will be hosted by Norton.

In first round action on Monday, No.6 seed Norton traveled to No.3 Phillipsburg.

Results were not available at the Telegram's press time. A win would advance Norton to the championship semi-finals on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays versus the winner of Monday's game between No.2 Hill City and No.7 Ellis.

A loss on Monday would drop Norton into the consolation semi-finals on Thursday versus the loser of the Hill City/Ellis contest. The game would be played at the higher seed school at 6 p.m.

## Norton Girls

Tawni Griffey 3 3 0-0 15; Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 1-2 5; Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 4-4 4; Teslee Nickell 1 0 0-0 2; Erin Terrell 5 0 1-2 11; Kamilla Jones 0 0 1-2 1; Caren Thomson 1 0 1-2 3; Game Totals 12 3 8-12 41.

## Osborne Girls

R. St.Clair 7 1 2-4 19; M. Thibault 1 2 0-0 8; T. Noel 2 0 1-2 5; C. Miller 5 0 2-4 12; A. Windle 4 0 0-0 8; Game Totals 19 3 5-10 52.

# Norton boys basketball defeats Osborne

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School varsity boys basketball team began the new year with a 48-22 Mid-Continent League victory over Osborne in the NCHS Stull Gym on Friday night.

Defense was the name of the game for Norton in the first half when the Blue Jays limited the Bulldogs to just one three-point field goal in the first quarter and one free throw in the second period.

Norton led 20-3 after one quarter and 34-4 at intermission.

A 12-10 third period in Norton's favor made the score 46-14.

"I thought we played with a lot of energy and executed well in the first half," said coach Reusink. "Our full court pressure was effective in the first quarter which got us off to a good start.

"In the second half, we got a little sloppy but, overall, I was pleased with how our boys played."

Due to the large margin of victory, a lot of Norton players saw action.

Leading scorers for the Blue Jays were senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier and junior guard Jacob Brooks, each with 15 points. Wahlmeier hit 6 of 13 two-point tries for 46 percent accuracy and 3 of 7 free throws for 43 percent. Brooks swished 1 of

4 from long range for 25 percent and 6 of 9 from two-point land for 67 percent and was 7 of 13 overall for 54 percent. He did not shoot any free throws.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 10 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 19 of 45 two-point attempts for 42 percent and 21 of 55 overall for 38 percent.

Osborne hit 1 of 4 long range shots for 25 percent, 9 of 39 two-point tries for 23 percent and 10 of 43 overall for 23 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton was 4 of 9 for 45 percent and Osborne was 1 of 4 for 25 percent.

Norton pulled down 29 rebounds compared to 22 for Osborne. Leading the way in rebounding was Dillon McConney with 9, followed by Jacob Brooks, 6; Jordan Wahlmeier, 6; Dalton Miller, 4; Carson McKenna, 2; Andrew Ellis, 1; Alec Gilgenbach, 1. Norton blocked 7 Osborne shots. Brooks, Wahlmeier and McConney each rejected 2 shots and Nickell blocked 1.

The Blue Jays had 9 steals compared to 1 for the Bulldogs. McConney led with 3 thefts, followed by Nickell, 2; Brooks, 2; Zach Hartwell, 1; Carson McKenna, 1.

Norton had 11 assists, led by McConney with 4. He was followed by Hartwell, 3; Nickell, 2; Wahlmeier, 1; Ellis, 1.

The Blue Jays had just 4 turnovers while the Bulldogs lost the ball 11 times.

Norton won the boys junior varsity game by a score of 46-15.

The Blue Jays held quarter leads of 9-5, 24-11 and 43-15.

Leading scorer for Norton was Dalton Miller with 12 points, followed by Andrew Ellis, 10; Trever Lewis, 9; Marc Miller, 5; Tanner Furbush, 5; Carson McKenna, 4; Drew Schrum, 1.

## Next action

Norton will play in the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament this week, with Norton as the host team.

No.7 seeded Norton will travel to No. 2 seed Smith Center for a first round game at 7 p.m. this evening. A victory will advance the Blue Jays to a championship semi-finals game in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays at 7:30 p.m. Friday versus the winner of the Hill City/Stockton opening round game.

A loss would drop Norton into a consolation semi-finals game versus the Hill City/Stockton loser at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday at that school.

## Norton Boys

Tye Nickell 3 0 1-2 7; Jacob Brooks 6 1 0-0 15; Zach Hartwell 0 1 0-0 3; Jordan Wahlmeier 6 0 3-7 15; Dillon McConney 2 0 0-0 4; Andrew Ellis 1 0 0-0 2; Carson McKenna 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 19 2 4-9 48.

# Wrestlers defeat Silver Lake

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School wrestling team defeated Silver Lake 36-34 in an exciting dual held Friday night in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

"The Silver Lake coach used an enormous amount of strategy in an effort to win the dual," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson. "He told us in advance that he would strategically change his weight classes in hopes of winning."

The result was a very close dual but the Blue Jays still prevailed.

## Individual results

106 - Branson Addington lost an 8-3 decision to Khamin Crow.

113 - Ethan Ross was pinned in 5:07 by Haegan Schaefer.

120 - John Risewick won by forfeit.

126 - Alec Hager won a 9-2 decision over Dylan Priddy.

132 - Justin Waggoner pinned Joshua Schroeder in 5:50.

138 - Austin Hager lost a 15-9 decision to Jacob Schroeder.

145 - Cody Ellis pinned Justin Watson in 3:33.

152 - Stewart Whitney was pinned in 3:48 by Drew Thompson.

160 - Jared Bohl won by forfeit.

170 - Shane Wilson, Silver Lake, won by forfeit.

182 - Lucas Engel won a 7-5 decision over Daltin Morgan.

195 - Kolton Harting lost a 5-2 decision to Braeden Lockhart.

220 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:27 by Riley Callahan.

285 - Wyatt Harting won by forfeit.

## Exhibition matches

132 - Toby Nickell pinned Joshua Schroeder in 1:00.

138 - Kendall Miller pinned Jacob Schroeder in 1:32.