

Jays lose close match at Plainville

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team traded baskets with No.4 state ranked and unbeaten Plainville for most of their Mid-Continent League game on Tuesday evening in Plainville before the Cardinals pulled away at the end on the strength of free throws to win 55-48.

The Blue Jays were beaten 64-46 by the Cardinals in the championship game of the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday evening but this was an entirely different game and one that, with a break or two here or there, Norton could have won.

Norton held quarter leads of 10-5, 22-19 and 38-36 but was outscored 19-10 in the fourth period. Plainville hit 5 field goals in the final stanza and Norton hit 4 shots from the field. The Cardinals swished 9 of 15 free throws in the fourth quarter to seal the victory.

The lead see-sawed back and forth in the final stanza. Junior guard Jacob Brooks scored on a rebound shot to start the period and put Norton up 40-36. Andrew Casey scored for Plainville and Jameson Klein hit a free throw to cut Norton's lead to 40-39 with 6:00 left.

Kyle Becker scored at the 4:30 mark to put the Cardinals ahead 41-40. Senior guard Dillon McConney swished two free throws with 4:25 left and Norton led 42-41. A basket by Plainville's Hadley Gillum made it 43-42 in favor of the Cardinals but Brooks scored on a driving layup to put the Blue Jays back on top 44-43 with 3:00 left.

Casey scored again for the home team and it was 45-44 in their favor. Becker made a great play for Plainville when he scored on a fast break, was fouled and hit the free throw for a three-point play that put the Cardinals on top for good 48-44 with 2:24 left in the contest.

Nolan Weiser scored for Plainville, extending the lead to 50-44. Shortly after, with 1:32 remaining, McConney and senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier were playing hard on defense when they had a violent collision. Time was called as medical personnel tended to McConney. He was eventually taken on a stretcher to the hospital and reports on

Wednesday indicated that he was recovering.

When play resumed, Plainville's Jameson Klein was at the free throw line. He missed both charities then Brooks drove for 2 more Norton points to cut the Cardinal lead to 50-46 with 1:20 left. Casey hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it 51-46 but Wahlmeier rebounded a missed Norton shot and scored to make it 51-48 with 44.3 seconds left.

With time running out on them, Norton had to foul in hopes of Plainville missing free throws and the Blue Jays regaining possession. Plainville got 6 final free throws and made 4 of them to make the final margin of victory 7 points, their largest lead of the game.

"I was really proud of the way we played," said coach Reusink. "We competed well and had our opportunities to win. We just couldn't quite finish it."

"Turnovers at key times hurt us and they hit their free throws to seal it."

Wahlmeier was leading scorer for Norton with 16 points on 8 of 12 two-point shots for 67 percent accuracy. Brooks followed with 14 points on 7 of 13 two-point attempts for 54 percent.

Becker led scoring for Plainville with 20 points; Casey added 10.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 11 long range shots for 9 percent, 20 of 39 two-point tries for 51 percent and 21 of 50 overall for 42 percent.

Plainville missed all 7 trey tries and hit 17 of 44 two-point attempts for 39 percent. Overall, they were 17 of 51 for 33 percent.

With Norton hitting 3 more field goals, Plainville won the game by parading to the free throw line. The Cardinals hit 21 of 30 charities for 70 percent while the Blue Jays swished 5 of just 12 tries for 42 percent.

Wahlmeier blocked 5 Cardinal shots.

The Blue Jays rebounded the Cardinals 30-26. Norton pulled down 10 offensive and 20 defensive caroms compared to 10 offensive and 16 defensive boards by Plainville.

Wahlmeier led Norton rebounding with 13, followed by Brooks, McConney, 4 each; Hartwell, 3; Miller, 2; Gilgenbach, 2; Nickell, LeClair, 1 each.



Norton's battle for rebounds against the physical Plainville quintet on Tuesday evening was ferocious but the Blue Jays won that battle, although they came up a little short on the scoring end. Above, Norton's Jordan Wahlmeier grabs one of his team-leading 13 caroms. Also shown for Norton is Dalton Miller, No. 22.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton had 5 steals and Plainville had 6. Zach Hartwell led Norton in thefts with 2, followed by Tye Nickell, Wahlmeier, McConney, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 11 offensive assists compared to 5 by the Cardinals. Brooks led with 4 assists, followed by Nickell, 3; Dalton Miller, 2; Wahlmeier, Alec Gilgenbach, 1 each.

Norton had 26 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 18 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton boys junior varsity quintet defeated Plainville 40-36. Norton held quarter leads of 12-6, 26-13 and 30-21.

John Renner led Norton in scoring with 8 points, followed by Drew Schrum, 7; Dalton Miller, 7; Andrew Ellis, 6; Carson McKenna, 6; Tanner Furbush, 4; Ryan Bainter, 2.

Chase Meitler led Plainville with 13 points; Quinn Dewey added 12 points.

Next action

Norton will host Trego Community in Mid-Continent League basketball action this evening. Games will begin at 4:45 p.m. at two locations. The junior varsity boys game will be played in the Wilmett Kirk Memorial Gym. The junior varsity girls game will be played in the NCHS Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.

Norton Boys 48

Jacob Brooks 7 0 0-2 14; Jordan Wahlmeier 8 0 0-1 16; Dillon McConney 2 0 4-6 8; Joe LeClair 1 0 0-0 2; Andrew Ellis 1 0 0-0 2; Dalton Miller 0 1 0-0 3; Alec Gilgenbach 1 0 1-2 3; Game Totals 20 1 5-11 48.

Plainville Boys 55

Hadley Gillum 1 0 4-4 6; Andrew Casey 3 0 4-6 10; Nolan Weiser 3 0 0-3 6; Bryan Brungardt 1 0 2-2 4; Kyle Becker 6 0 8-8 20; Jameson Klein 3 0 3-7 9; Game Totals 17 0 21-30 55.

Norton wrestles well in Newton tourney

By Dick Boyd

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Norton Community High School, the second smallest school competing in last Friday and Saturday's prestigious 49th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton, proved once again that they can hold their own against the larger schools in the state.

Due to injuries, coach Bill Johnson's Blue Jays were only able to enter 9 wrestlers out of the 14 weight classes, which means they only competed in 64 percent of the weights.

Norton placed 17th out of 25 teams competing, which finished them at 68 percent of the teams. Had the Blue Jays entered a full team, mathematically they would have finished among the leaders.

The Newton tournament is considered to be the toughest high school wrestling tournament in the state of Kansas and even included a top Oklahoma team for the second straight year.

That Oklahoma high school, Tulsa Union, repeated as the team champion with 207 points, followed by Arkansas City, 180; Lawrence, 145.5; Newton, 138.5; Manhattan, 129; Andover Central, 113.5; Gardner-Edgerton, 113; Garden City, 112; Colby, 110.5; McPherson, 98; Derby, 95; Wichita Northwest, 88; Wichita Heights, 84; Dodge City, 83.5; Leavenworth, 75.5; Emporia, 72; Norton, 59; Salina South, 54.5; Mill Valley, 52; Hutchinson, 47.5; Bishop Carroll, 47; Fredonia, 41; Liberal, 30; Maize, 29; Maize South, 10.

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 the Blue Jays placed fifth.

In 2011, Norton had a stellar fourth place finish.

Three of the nine Norton wrestlers placed and two were one match away from placing.

Norton junior John Risewick placed fourth at 120 pounds with a 5-2 record. Junior Jared Bohl finished sixth at 152 pounds with a 5-3 mark and sophomore Branson Addington placed seventh at 106 pounds with a 5-2 record.

Sophomore Alec Hager at 138 pounds ended with a 2-2 record and was just one match away from a top eight finish. Senior R.J. Ellis compiled a 3-2 mark at 132 pounds and also was just one match away from a top eight finish.

Receiving the "Outstanding Wrestler of the Week" award from the Norton coaches was Jared Bohl.

Kyle Crutchmer, the 182 pound champion from Tulsa Union, was named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament and Greg Buckbee of Ark City was named "Outstanding Coach" of the tournament.

Former Norton state wrestling champion Nathan Broeckelman was present at the tournament as an assistant coach at Manhattan High School and former Norton state wrestling runner-up Kale Mann was

present as an assistant coach at Mill Valley.

Norton had a 22-19 won-loss record and 4-11 pin ratio.

Coach's comments

"I'm more proud of our finish in the tournament this year than after several years when we brought home trophies," said coach Johnson. "Our wrestlers were at an extreme disadvantage sometimes in strength and experience. I was really pleased with the way we competed."

"We had the toughest possible road to reach our individual placings. We scored most of our points in the consolation bracket where points come in small increments."

"Only two of our wrestlers had previous experience in the Newton tournament. It is very challenging and, if it is too challenging for the majority of the team, it becomes a negative. With this in mind, I was constantly evaluating our boys' effort and performance during the two day competition."

"What this group of young boys showed was amazing! Not only did they perform well but they showed me why coming to this tournament is important. I watched this young group rise to the level of competition time and time again. We brought nine wrestlers and three placed but all competed well!"

"Sophomore Ethan Ross had a tough start at 113 when he lost in the first round to the eventual champion."

"John Risewick started as the No.6 seed and placed fourth. This 120 pound bracket was the toughest of the entire tournament. Included were five individual state champions and many other state medalists. Last year's Newton Tournament outstanding wrestler finished third in this bracket and that is just mind boggling!"

"Alec Hager was just one match away from a top eight finish. He lost in the first round to the eventual champion before rattling off two wins and being eliminated in a close 4-2 match."

"R.J. Ellis was our only senior wrestling at Newton. He was also one match away from a top eight finish."

"Jared Bohl was our surprise of the tournament. After a second round loss to Alex Bontz, who finished second, Jared rattled off four nice wins before losing in the consolation sem-finals. In the fifth place match, Jared held a nice 7-1 lead when his opponent rolled through a power half and caught Jared in a headlock for a pin. He still had an outstanding tournament and we chose him as 'wrestler of the week'."

"Lucas Engel lost his 170 pound first round match by only one point, then lost a hard fought 7-3 decision in the first round consolation."

Next action

Norton traveled to Colby for a dual on Thursday but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Newton tourney results

By DICK BOYD

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These are the individual results of the Norton Community High School wrestlers in the Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions last weekend in Newton.

106 - Sophomore Branson Addington won a 13-0 major decision over Bryce Garcia, Maize South; was pinned in 2:48 by Graham Godfrey, Tulsa Union; won a 10-2 major decision over Marc Guerro, Wichita Northwest; won a 15-0 technical fall over T.J. Burger, Edgerton; won a 6-3 decision over David Mainus, Colby; lost a 9-1 major decision to Tristan Star, Lawrence and won a 4-3 decision over Cody McDonald, Derby, to place seventh.

Logan Terrill, Ark City, won the championship with a 2-1 decision over Sean DeShazer, Wichita Heights. Jase Stone, Manhattan, placed third with a 5-1 decision over Star. Godfrey finished in fifth with a 14-1 major decision over Daniel Wilson, Leavenworth.

113 - Sophomore Ethan Ross was pinned in :28 by eventual champion Zac Gentzler, Andover Central; won a 4-2 decision over Earnest Johns, Newton; lost a 13-1 major decision to Marco Perez, Ark City.

Gentzler won a 5-2 decision over Alex Garcia, Dodge City, to win the title. Tevin Briscoe, Garden City, placed third with a 7-3 decision over Javie Vieyra, Salina South. Fifth place went to Michael Lindlar, Wichita Northwest, with a 7-2 decision over Amond McCray, Wichita Heights. Jeffrey Morrow, Derby, placed seventh with a 4-1 decision over Perez.

120 - Junior John Risewick won a 17-1 technical fall over Eric Santiago, Wichita Carroll; pinned Abraham Moore, Fredonia, in 2:37; was pinned in 4:41 by eventual champion Josh Walker, Tulsa Union; shutout Dalton Dietrich, Ark City, 6-0; pinned Ben Lightfoot, Andover Central, in 4:40; won a 9-3 decision over Quinton Harrison, Newton and was pinned in 4:28 by Tim Prescott, McPherson, last year's outstanding wrestler of the tournament, to place fourth.

Walker won a 4-0 decision over Dustin Reed, Colby, to win the gold medal. Anthony Calderson, Garden City, placed fifth with a 7-1 decision over Harrison. Jared Suppes, Derby, finished seventh with a 3-2 decision over Lightfoot.

126 - Sophomore Alec Hager lost an opening match 17-1 technical fall to eventual champion Colby Watters, Ark City; won an injury default of Trevor Kennedy, Garden City; won a 7-1 decision over Reggie Cooper, Wichita Northwest and lost a 4-2 decision to Joe Unscheid, Andover Central, to finish one match from eighth.

Watters won the championship with a 7-3 decision over T.J. Stokes, Edgerton; Luke Wolfenberger, Tulsa Union, placed third with a 10-4 decision over Dane Edwards, Dodge City. Hunter Harrison, Lawrence, placed fifth with a 4-0 shutout of Tyler Dickman, Mill Valley. Seventh place went to Drew Unruh, Manhattan, with a 4-3 decision over Unscheid.

132 - Senior R.J. Ellis won an 8-6 decision over Dalton Moody, Liberal; was pinned in 2:18 by Shane Goetz, Hutchinson; won by forfeit over Helam Hernandez, Newton; pinned Troy Crane, McPherson; was pinned in :46 by Luke Lee, Andover Central, to finish one match from eighth.

Brian Crutchmer, Tulsa Union, won the title with a 12-4 major decision over Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia. Third place went to Cody Eastman, Ark City, with a pin over A.J. Hurtado, Garden City, in 2:56. Lee placed fifth by pinning Brent Berends, Edgerton, in 3:46.

138 - Sophomore Austin Hager lost a 12-2 major decision to Kane Shireman, Edgerton and was pinned in 2:44 by Kyle Baldwin, Maize.

Baldwin Charbonneau, Emporia, won the title with a 3-2

decision over Konnor Kriss, Colby. Wyatt Villers, Ark City, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Brady Heincker, Derby. Tyson Phillis, Garden City, finished fifth with an 18-8 major decision over Cody Smith, Liberal. Taking seventh with a fall in 5:29 over Tim Wise, Hutchinson, was Garrett McEachern, Newton.

145 - Junior Cody Ellis pinned Todd Graber, McPherson, in 4:40; lost a 9-0 major decision to Antonio Terrell, Wichita Northwest; was pinned in 2:32 by Quade Woofter, Colby.

Dustin Williams, Edgerton, won the championship with a 3-2 decision over Miles Johns, Newton. Ben Becker, Derby, finished third with a 7-1 decision over Woofter. Chris Adler, Garden City, placed fifth over Davis Matthews, Manhattan, on a disqualification. Ty Ash, Tulsa Union, placed seventh with a 7-4 decision over Terrell.

152 - Junior Jared Bohl won an 11-4 decision over Zach Stinnett, Mill Valley; was pinned in :20 by eventual runner-up Alex Bontz, Andover Central; won by disqualification from Tate Heitlinger, Maize; won a 9-1 major decision over Santiago Garcia, Dodge City; won a 4-3 decision over Michael Leeper, Manhattan; pinned Braden Sherman, Fredonia, in 1:31; was pinned in 1:56 by Andrew Denning, Lawrence; was pinned in 2:05 by Trenton Wilson, Liberal, to place sixth.

Kyle Ash, Tulsa Union, won the title with a 3-1 decision over Bontz. Tyler McMichael, Ark City, placed third by pinning Denning in 4:12. Manny Luna, Hutchinson, placed seventh by pinning Sherman in 4:15.

170 - Junior Lucas Engel lost a 4-3 decision to Corey Keller, Dodge City; lost a 7-3 decision to Beau Brown, Colby.

Nick Pursel, Lawrence, won the gold medal with a 12-4 major decision over Brian Wood, Manhattan. Jared Langley, Newton, won a 3-1 decision over Ky Young, Tulsa Union, to place third. Nick Nolting, Bishop Carroll, pinned Travis Steenson, McPherson, in 2:00 to place fifth. Seventh place went to Mike Shirk, Salina South, with a 3-1 decision over Lucas Hockenbury, Ark City.

Other weight class results

160 - Jacob Eggers, Dodge City, 4-1 over Trey Dice, Ark City, first; Cale Wilson, Tulsa Union, 5-1 over Noel Torres, Emporia, third; Andrew Taylor, Colby, 4-3 over Justin Long, Edgerton, fifth; Anthony Gardner, Garden City, pinned Erin Gaitner, Wichita Northwest in 4:53, seventh.

182 - Kyle Crutchmer, Tulsa Union, 3-1 over Reece Wright-Conkin, Lawrence, first; Brady Munsch, Salina South, 5-4 over Hugh McConnell, Newton, third; Trey Campbell, Manhattan, pinned Dalton Clark, McPherson, in :32, fifth; Dylan Cox, Ark City, pinned Juan C. Rodriguez, Garden City, in 2:18, seventh.

195 - Uyleses DeShazer, Wichita Heights, 8-5 over Shawn Marlatt, Derby, first; Alex Stockton, Edgerton, 5-1 over Jacob Roberson, Leavenworth, third; Dillon Archer, Newton, 16-0 technical fall over Ty Suggs, Manhattan, fifth; Preston Solomon, Andover Central, 8-5 over Tanner O'Donnell, Salina South, seventh.

220 - Nathan Butler, Leavenworth, pinned Tyler Keller, Wichita Northwest, in 3:35, first; Brad Wilson, Lawrence, 5-1 over Raymond Gallegos, Newton, third; Deion Parker, Manhattan, 8-5 over Andrew Archer, McPherson, fifth; Clay Gordan, Derby, 8-6 decision over Sterling Dunn, Tulsa Union, seventh.

285 - Zach Lanning, McPherson, 3-1 over Zach Callahan, Mill Valley, first; Tarez Griffin, Wichita Northwest, pinned Garret Lee, Newton, in :19, third; Zell Bieberle, Colby, 2-1 over Jason Carreon, Garden City, fifth; Jesse Colver, Leavenworth, pinned Trae Phillips, Dodge City, in 4:25, seventh.

Did you know?

Here is some human interest trivia from the Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions.

Dillon Archer, Newton junior, placed fifth in the tournament at 195 pounds. He is ranked No.1 in the state in Class 5A. Dillon is the grandson of Eldon Archer, who was a state wrestling champion

for Norton Community High School in 1944.

Andrew Archer, McPherson, placed sixth in the tournament at 220 pounds. He is the son of Amy (Sumner) and Mark Archer, both of whom are NCHS graduates, and nephew of Todd Sumner and wife, Deanna, of Norcatour, both also NCHS graduates.