

Norton wrestlers headed for regional tourney

By Dick Boyd

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 The Norton Community High School wrestling team will compete in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday in Lakin.
 As usual, this regional tournament will be the toughest of the four in the state. Six of the top 10 ranked teams in the state will be among the 24 teams competing. They are: Goodland, No. 1; Scott City, No. 2; Hoxie, No. 3; Oberlin, No. 4; Plainville, No. 7 and Phillipsburg, No. 10.
 Other teams competing, in addition to Norton and Lakin, will be: Atwood, Cimarron, Elkhart, Ellis, Thomas More Prep-Hays, Hill City, Holcomb, Leoti, Meade, Montezuma, Oakley, Quinter, St. Francis, Stockton, Sublette and Trego Community.
 A total of 32 of the 90 state ranked individual wrestlers are expected to

compete in this regional for berths in next week's state tournament in Hays.
 "This year's regional tournament is going to be tough as always," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "I hate to sound like a broken record from year to year but it is going to be very difficult to qualify wrestlers out of this regional tournament for the state tournament."
 "Six of the top 10 teams in the state have been assigned to the Lakin regional. But, that is out of my control and I refuse to waste any of my time complaining about it. What I can control is preparing my team to beat the best in the state. That is our focus. We know it is going to be tough and we are ready for the challenge."
 The top four finishers in each weight class in each of the four regionals qualifies for next weekend's State Tournament in Hays.
 Norton has two state ranked wrestlers: junior John Risewick, No. 2, 120

and sophomore Alec Hager, No. 6, 126.
 The Blue Jays' potential wrestling lineup for the tournament with records is: sophomore Branson Addington, 106, 19-9; sophomore Ethan Ross, 113, 9-16; junior John Risewick, 120, 27-4; sophomore Alec Hager, 126, 14-7; senior R.J. Ellis, 132, 16-14; sophomore Austin Hager, 138, 4-8; junior Cody Ellis, 145, 11-18; junior Jared Bohl, 152, 28-9; sophomore Cole Renner, 160, 2-6; junior Lucas Engel, 170, 3-11; sophomore Kolton Harting, 182, 11-12; 195- Open; 220, Open; 285, Open.
 Other state ranked wrestlers scheduled to compete are: Kyle Witmer, jun., Phillipsburg, No. 6, 106; James Jurgens, fresh., Scott City, No. 2; John Solko, jun., Atwood, No. 4, 113; Alex Kough, jun., Scott City, No. 1; John Risewick, jun., Norton, No. 2; Austin Avelar, sen., Goodland, No. 3, 120; Dylan Schumacher, sen., TMP, No. 1; Dayton Dreher, soph., Oberlin, No. 2; Alec

Hager, soph., Norton, No. 6, 126; Clay Mulligan, sen., Scott City, No. 3; Brett Juenemann, sen., Oberlin, No. 5; Drew Jones, sen., Hoxie, No. 6, 132; Calvin Ochs, jun., Hoxie, No. 1; Michael Dusin, soph., Phillipsburg, No. 3, 138; Kade Brown, jun., Oberlin, No. 2; Gage Younger, jun., Ellis, No. 3, 145; Dalton Snyder, jun., Hoxie, No. 3; John Peden, soph., Goodland, No. 4, 152; Eric Albers, sen., Oakley, No. 1; Matt Schneider, sen., Phillipsburg, No. 2; Riley Hunsicker, sen., Ellis, No. 5, 160; Harrison Gilliland, jun., Plainville, No. 1; Jason Cowan, sen., Goodland, No. 4; Jason Berggren, jun., Oakley, No. 5, 170; Brandon Salmans, jun., Hoxie, No. 3; Nathan Thyfault, sen., Plainville, No. 6, 182; Lane Herl, jun., Goodland, No. 2, 195; Riley Oharah, sen., Goodland, No. 1; Channing Fortin, jun., Oberlin, No. 5; Kane Washington, jun., Hoxie, No. 6, 220; Luke Hayes, sen., Scott City, No. 2; Bradey Chard, jun., Plainville, No. 6, 285.

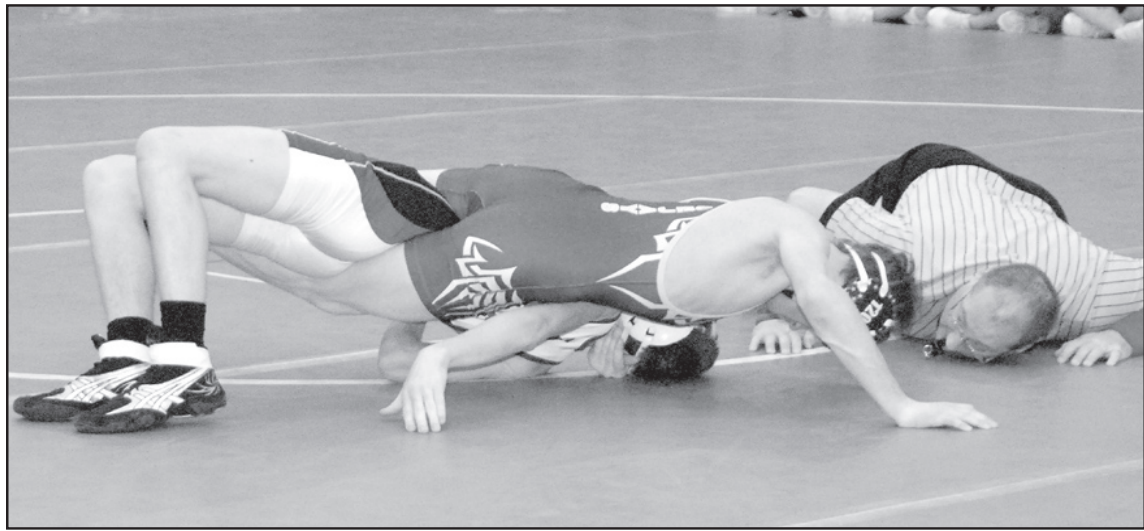
Tourney schedule
 The tournament will begin on Friday with the first round at 2 p.m., followed by the championship quarterfinals, approximately 20 minutes after round 1; consolation first round, approximately 20 minutes after round 2 and championship semifinals, approximately 20 minutes after round 3.
 Wrestling will continue Saturday at 11 a.m. with the consolation cross bracketing, followed by the consolation quarterfinals, approximately 20 minutes later; consolation semifinals, immediately after lunch; consolation finals, approximately 20 minutes after; championship finals, immediately following the consolation finals.
 Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight.
 Admission is \$4 for K-12, \$5 for adults, Friday; \$6 for K-12, \$8 for adults, Saturday.

Wrestling dual season ends with win, loss in Plainville

By Dick Boyd

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 Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team completed the dual season by defeating Smith Center 35-33 but losing a close one to Plainville 37-30 on Friday night in Plainville.
 "I was proud of our boys for finishing the dual meet season with a victory," said coach Johnson. "We had a makeshift lineup which seems to be the norm this season. But, we were able to move some boys around and fill most of the weights. In fact, I thought for a while we were going to sneak a win away from Plainville. But, we came out a little flat in that first dual with Plainville."
 "Overall, we competed well and will be ready for the Regional Tournament this weekend."
 Junior 120 pound wrestler John Risewick dominated both of his opponents and was voted by the Norton coaching staff as the "Varsity Wrestler of the Week".
 "We have overcome a great deal of adversity this season," said coach Johnson. "Such as injury, sickness and suspensions on our way to a final dual meet record of 9 wins and 6 losses. We have been unranked all season event though we have defeated several ranked teams in tournaments and duals.
 "I'm proud of these young men. The ones who have stuck it out for the whole season are now reaping the rewards of all their hard work and dedication. Unfortunately, we were never able to get all of our top wrestlers on the mat at one time.
 "But, I'm really looking forward to next year as we continue to build off this year. We could have a pretty good dual team in 2012-23. We are only losing two seniors and this year of experience will greatly help our young boys to mature into men for next season."
Plainville 37, Norton 30
 106 - Freshman Caysean Campbell was pinned in 1:59 by Trevor Houser.
 113 - Sophomore Branson Addington won by forfeit.
 120 - Junior John Risewick pinned Dylan Dohe in :42.
 126 - Sophomore Alec Hager lost a 4-2 decision to Trevor Axelson.
 132 - Freshman Jared Tallent lost an 8-4 deci-

sion to Adam Gehring.
 138 - Senior R.J. Ellis pinned Cody Weiner in 3:32.
 145 - Sophomore Austin Hager was pinned in 3:39 by Colton Wise.
 152 - Junior Cody Ellis lost a 5-1 decision to Dylan Wiesner.
 160 - Junior Jared Bohl pinned Austin Wahrman in 2:28.
 170 - Both teams were Open.
 182 - Sophomore Kolton Harting lost an 8-0 major decision to Nathan Thyfault.
 195 - Sophomore Michael Johnson won by forfeit.
 220 - Alex Wahrman, Plainville, won by forfeit.
 285 - Bradey Chard, Plainville, won by forfeit.
Norton 35, Smith Center 33
 106 - Caysean Campbell lost an 8-2 decision to Brody Brieling.
 113 - Branson Addington lost a 6-1 decision to Clint Rogers.
 120 - John Risewick won a 17-2 technical fall over Mack Reagan.
 126 - Jared Tallent won by forfeit.
 132 - Alec Hager pinned Steven Kriley in 5:12.
 138 - R.J. Ellis was pinned by Zach Fischer.
 145 - Austin Hager won a 9-3 decision over Josh Cole.
 152 - Cody Ellis lost an 8-4 decision to Clay Pickel.
 160 - Jared Bohl won an 8-5 decision over Wyatt Oliver.
 170 - Louis Frazier, Smith Center, won by forfeit.
 182 - Kolton Harting was pinned in 3:42 by Tyler Atwood.
 195 - Michael Johnson was pinned in :59 by Josh McDowell.
 220 - Senior Cayleb Campbell won by forfeit.
 285 - Freshman Wyatt Harting won by forfeit.
Next action
 With the completion of the dual season, the Norton wrestlers will work hard this week to prepare for the Class 3-2-1A Regional Tournament in Lakin this Friday and Saturday.
 See the related story for the Norton lineup, ranked wrestlers and teams, comments from coach Johnson, etc.



Norton junior John Risewick pins Dylan Dohe of Plainville during their dual in Plainville on Friday night. Risewick also won a 17-2 technical fall over Mack Reagan of Smith Center in his other match of the evening. For his performance, he was named Norton's "Varsity Wrestler of the Week."

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Boys defeat Atwood at home

By Dick Boyd

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 With only senior guard Zach Hartwell hitting three-point baskets, the Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team relied on two-point shots and plenty of free throws to defeat Atwood 65-50 in non-league play on Friday in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.
 Norton got off to a good start with a 20 point first quarter as Hartwell hit a trey, junior guard Jacob Brooks hit his only three-point basket of the night as well as a two-pointer, senior power forward Jordan Wahlmeier connected on two field goals and 4 of 4 from the free throw line and senior guard Tye Nickell swished a basket and two charities. Atwood scored just 10 points on 5 baskets in the quarter.
 The Blue Jays were unable to stretch the lead in the second quarter where they outscored the Buffaloes by only 14-13. Brooks hit three more baskets, Hartwell buried another three-pointer and free throw and Nickell and senior guard Dillon McConney each hit a basket.
 Norton's lowest scoring quarter was the third where they tallied just 11 points but Atwood hit just 12. Hartwell hit his third basket from beyond the arc for a perfect 3 of 3 for the night while Nickell, Brooks, Wahlmeier and junior forward Andrew Ellis each hit a basket.
 Thanks to 14 out of 17 free throws in the final stanza, Norton outscored Atwood 20-15 to extend the final margin of victory to 15 points. Nickell was a perfect 8 of 8 from the charity stripe, Wahlmeier was 4 of 7 and McConney was 2 for 2. Wahlmeier also finished with three more field goals.
 "We did play well although we weren't able to pull away until the fourth quarter," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.
 "We got some good looks offensively in the third quarter and just couldn't buy a basket. We had a size mismatch with them being so much bigger but we did a good job against them most of the time. When we weren't in the right spot defensively, they hurt us.
 "We will have to be ready to play Tuesday when we host a good Hoxie team."
 Norton extended their season record to 11-5 while Atwood fell to 10-6.

The Blue Jays had four players in double scoring figures. Wahlmeier hit 6 of 10 two-point shots for 60 percent and was 8 of 13 from the charity stripe for 62 percent and 20 total points.
 Nickell used his success at the free throw line to end with 16 points. He was 3 of 8 from two-point land for 38 percent but swished 10 of 12 free throws for 83 percent accuracy.
 Brooks scored 13 points on 1 of 5 from long range for 20 percent, 5 of 10 two-point tries for 50 percent and 6 of 15 overall for 40 percent.
 Hartwell hit 10 points on the strength of his 3 of 3 from beyond the arc for 100 percent and 1 of 2 from the charity stripe.
 Leading scorer for the Buffaloes was 6'5" sophomore James Peterson with 15 points.
 As a team, Norton hit 4 of 14 from long range for 29 percent, 16 of 37 two-point shots for 43 percent and 20 of 51 overall for 40 percent.
 Atwood hit 2 of 5 treys for 40 percent, 15 of 44 two-point tries for 34 percent and 17 of 49 overall for 35 percent.
 From the free throw line, Norton was 21 of 32 for 66 percent and Atwood was 14 of 22 for 64 percent.
 Norton outrebounded Atwood 29-26. The Blue Jays pulled down 11 offensive and 18 defensive caroms while the Buffaloes grabbed 9 offensive and 17 defensive boards.
 McConney led Norton in rebounds with 8, followed by Brooks, 7; Wahlmeier, 5; Joe LeClair, 3; Dalton Miller, 3; Nickell, 2; Hartwell, 1.
 Wahlmeier continued to block opponents' shots, rejecting 4.
 Norton led 10-3 in steals. Nickell had 4 thefts, followed by LeClair, 2; Brooks, Hartwell, McConney, Carson McKenna, 1 each.
 The Blue Jays recorded 9 assists compared to 5 for Atwood. Nickell led with 4 assists, followed by Hartwell, Wahlmeier, 2 each; McConney, 1.
 Norton had 13 turnovers and Atwood lost the ball 10 times.
Junior varsity
 Norton edged Atwood 41-38 in the boys junior varsity game where only three quarters were played.
 Norton led 15-11 after one quarter but trailed 29-27 at halftime. The Blue Jays outscored the visitors 14-9 in the third and final quarter.
 Dalton Miller led scoring for

Norton with 12 points, followed by Andrew Ellis, 10; Carson McKenna, 7; Drew Schrum, 6; John Renner, 2; Trevor Lewis, 2; Lane Bigge, 2.
 Dylan Tiemeyer led Atwood with 10 points; Michael Capo and James Peterson each scored 9.
Next action
 Norton will host Hoxie in girls and boys games today in the Wilmett Kirk Memorial Gym at East Campus and NCHS Stull Gym.
 The boys junior varsity game will begin at 4:45 p.m. in the Kirk Gym and the girls junior varsity game will begin at the same time in the Stull Gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.
 On Thursday of this week, Norton girls and boys basketball teams will travel to Hill City to play Mid-Continent League games postponed from Feb. 3 due to inclement weather. The junior varsity girls game will begin at 4:45 p.m. and will be played in the grade school gym. The junior varsity boys game will also begin at 4:45 p.m. and will be held in the high school gym, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys contests.
 On Friday, Norton girls and boys will travel to Ellis to complete Mid-Continent League play for this season. Games will begin at 4:45 p.m.
Norton Boys
 Tye Nickell 3 0 10-12 16; Jacob Brooks 5 1 0-2 13; Zach Hartwell 0 3 1-2 10; Jordan Wahlmeier 6 0 8-13 20; Dillon McConney 1 0 2-2 4; Joe LeClair 0 0 0-1 0; Andrew Ellis 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 16 4 21-32 65.
Atwood Boys
 Dylan Tiemeyer 1 0 0-0 2; Michael Capo 1 0 6-7 8; Joey Leitner 2 1 0-0 7; James Peterson 4 1 4-4 15; Gabe Skolout 1 0 1-5 3; Collin Clark 3 0 1-2 7; Damian Kogl 3 0 2-4 8;
Game Totals
 15 2 14-22 50.

'Faithful Five' struggle on the home court

By Gimmie Jo Jansonius

Following a big junior varsity win over Alma, coach Jansonius' Lady Huskies struggled against the varsity level competition brought on by the Cardinals on Jan. 31.
 The Huskies start three freshmen and two upper classmen with limited varsity level experience.
 The Huskies were held scoreless in the first by the quicker, more experienced Alma team and were unable to recover from

the deficit ending with a 66-15 loss.
 Unforced errors, inexperience, and minimal participation by female students at Northern Valley continue to plague the team, but coach Gimmie Jo Jansonius praised the efforts of those committed to staying the course and finishing the season.
 "Every game we are seeing improvements. They are learning and growing with each and every experience. These girls have great attitudes and work ethic and play with a ton of heart

and never quit, even when they are down," said Jansonius.
 Their heart and effort is drawing attention as the "Faithful Five" received a standing ovation from both Alma and Northern Valley fans at the close of the varsity contest.
 "Our junior varsity quarter before the varsity contest was such an encouragement to our team, fans, school, and administration. When we are matched with like competition, we can and do compete," the coach said.

Lady Huskies take loss at hands of Franklin

By Mike Stephens

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 The Northern Valley Lady Huskies continue to struggle offensively as they took on Franklin (Neb.) Tuesday, Feb. 7. Franklin cruised to an easy victory as they rolled over the Lady Huskies, 54-19.
 The first quarter seemed to set the tone for the rest of the game as the Lady Huskies went scoreless giving Franklin an early commanding lead, 14-0.

Northern Valley got on the scoreboard in the second with six points but Franklin kept the pressure on adding 17 points in the quarter and taking a 31-6 lead into halftime.
 Third quarter, Franklin added to its lead outscoring the Lady Huskies 13-4 in the quarter and led 44-10 going into the final frame.
 Northern Valley had its best offensive quarter in the game in the fourth scoring nine points but it was too little, too late for the "Faithful Five" as Franklin coasted to an easy 35 point victory.

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