




The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured here with coaches and cheerleaders at the completion of the Regional Wrestling Tournament in Lakin on Saturday. Pictured are, from left, front row: Cheerleaders Katherine Boteler, Adrienne Hager, Sierra Black, Rickele Green, Brandy Davis; second row: Manager Stephanie Hager, Austin Hager, John Risewick, Alec Hager, Branson Addington, Ethan Ross, R.J. Ellis, Manager Juliana Miller, Assistant Coach Shane Miller; back row: Head Coach Bill Johnson, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Jared Bohl, Eli Bozarth, Kolton Harting, Cole Renner, Cody Ellis, Lucas Engel, Assistant Coach Doug Ray.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Good Luck to the State Qualifiers
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**BLUE JAY
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Blue Jay wrestlers take fifth in toughest regional

By Dick Boyd
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Coach Bill Johnson's unranked Norton Community High School wrestling team gave a good account of themselves with a fifth place finish in the toughest Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament in the state on Friday and Saturday in Lakin.

With six of the top 10 ranked teams in the state and 31 of the 90 state ranked individual wrestlers competing, coach Johnson knew that his wrestlers would have to turn in their performance of the year to qualify for this week's state tournament in Hays.

The Blue Jays did just that with four of them qualifying for state competition and three just missing a state berth by one match.

Oberlin, who came in ranked No.4 in the state, won the team championship with 134 points and qualified six wrestlers for state.

Just behind Oberlin in the runner-up spot with 133 points was Goodland, the No.1 ranked team in the state.

Scott City came in ranked No.2 and placed third with 130.50 points. In fourth place was No.3 state ranked Hoxie with 121 points.

Unranked Norton scored 114.50 points for fifth, followed by Oakley, 105.50, sixth; Phillipsburg, 84; St. Francis, 81; Plainville, 74.50 and Ellis, 67.50 to round out the top 10 finishers. Phillipsburg came in ranked No.10 and Plainville was ranked No.7 in the state.

Atwood placed 11th with 53 points, Thomas More Prep-Hays was 12th with 52.50 points. Stockton was 18th with 18 points; Hill City placed 22nd with 10 points and Trego Community was 24th with 1 point.

Norton ended Friday's competition tied with Hoxie for fifth place and moved up as high as third in the team standings for several rounds on Saturday.

"It was very evident to everyone that we had come to wrestle," said coach Johnson.

"Early in the day on Saturday, junior Cody Ellis gave our wrestlers the lift they needed. He brought our Norton crowd to its feet when he used a last second move to gain three back points in a wild come-from-behind victory. He was trailing 2-0 with 11 seconds left in the match and was in the top position. On the restart, Cody quickly came out front, grabbed a front headlock and rolled his opponent to his back and held him until time ran out to win 3-2.

"When they went out of bounds, I signaled to Cody to use the desperation move and he executed what we call a twister to perfection. It made the rest of the team believe that they can wrestle with anybody no matter what the score.

"Several of our wrestlers came in with not very good records. One of our wrestlers commented to me halfway through Saturday's wrestling that he thought our tough tournament schedule was paying off for us.

"We didn't care about records, we just came in and wrestled to the best of our ability. Several wrestlers from other schools came in with just one loss and didn't make it to the state tournament.

"I'm so proud of our wrestlers. They came into the tournament and raised their level of intensity to match the competition.

"We've one tournament left and we'll go to Hays and give it our all again."

Since every member of the Norton team wrestled above their seeding, the Norton coaches chose the entire Blue Jay team as "Wrestlers of the Week".

Norton had two regional champions: junior John Risewick, 120 and sophomore Branson Addington, 106, both of whom competed in the state tournament last season.

Also qualifying for the upcoming state tournament were: sophomore Alec Hager, 126 and sophomore Cole Renner, 160. Hager placed third in his weight division and Renner placed fourth. The top four in each of the 14 weight classes qualified for state competition.

Norton entered 11 wrestlers in the tournament. Coming within one match of qualifying for the state tournament were: senior R.J. Ellis, 132; junior Cody Ellis, 145 and

sophomore Kolton Harting, 195.

Also competing for the Blue Jays were: sophomore Ethan Ross, 113; sophomore Austin Hager, 138; junior Jared Bohl, 152; junior Lucas Engel, 170.

Norton was open at 182, 220 and 285.

As a team, Norton compiled a 27-17 won-loss record and 15-8 pin ratio.

Voted the Lakin Regional Tournament "Wrestler of the Year" was senior Dylan Schumacher, Thomas More Prep-Hays, who won the 126 pound weight class and is 25-3 for the year.

Named the Lakin Regional Tournament "Coach of the Year" was Joe Dreher, Oberlin.

Both awards were sponsored by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Individual results

106 - Branson Addington was seeded No.1. He pinned Trevor Houser, Plainville, in 1:40; won a 3-2 decision over No.4 seed Lane Hoffman, St. Francis to reach the finals versus No.3 seed Macrae Migchelbrink, Atwood. The first period was scoreless but Addington took a 5-0 lead in the second period to win a 5-2 decision.

Hoffman placed third with a 7-0 decision over No.5 seed Troy Juenemann, Oberlin. Hoffman also decisioned Juenemann 4-0 in the first round.

Addington's record is now 22-9. Hoffman is 7-4 and Migchelbrink is 26-7.

113 - Ethan Ross lost an opening round match to No.3 seed John Solko, Atwood, when he was pinned in 1:08. In the consolation bracket, Ross won an 18-2 technical fall over Tristen Storer, Hoxie, then was pinned in 2:20 by No.4 seed Andy Davis, Sublette.

No.1 seed Keegan Amos, Holcomb, won the championship with a 7-4 decision over Solko. No.2 seed James Jurgens, Scott City, placed third with a 13-0 major decision over No.5 seed Casey Keller, St. Francis.

Amos is now 15-4 and Solko is 26-5 for the season.

Ross ended the season 10-17.

120 - John Risewick was seeded No.2. He pinned Jared Medin, Holcomb, in :48; pinned Mat Heim, Hoxie, in 1:15; pinned Taylor Murphy, Oakley, in 3:23 to reach the championship match versus No.1 seed Alex Kough, Scott City. Risewick held quarter leads of 2-0 and 3-0 before decisioning Kough 3-2 to win the championship and avenge an earlier season loss.

No.4 seed Austin Avelar, Goodland, placed third with an 11-5 decision over Murphy.

Risewick is now 31-4, Kough is 26-3 and Avelar is 23-6.

126 - Alec Hager was seeded No.4. He pinned Jared Pfeifer, Ellis, in 2:44 and was pinned in 2:38 by No.1 seed Dylan Schumacher, TMP-Hays. In the consolation bracket, Alec pinned Britton Sealock, Hoxie, in 4:06, then shutout No.3 seed Trevor Axelson, Plainville, 7-0 to place third. There was no score in the first period; Alec took a 5-0 lead in the second period.

Schumacher won the championship by pinning No.2 seed Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, in 1:53.

Hager is now 17-8 for the season, Schumacher is 25-3, Dreher is 29-6 and Axelson is 30-7.

132 - R.J. Ellis was seeded No.5. He pinned Brandon Schoenthaler, Trego, in 2:29; lost a 4-0 decision to No.4 seed Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg; pinned Skyler Urban, TMP-Hays, in 2:45; shutout Austin White, St. Francis, 2-0 and lost a 6-1 decision to No.3 seed Drew Jones, Hoxie, to finish one match short of qualifying for state.

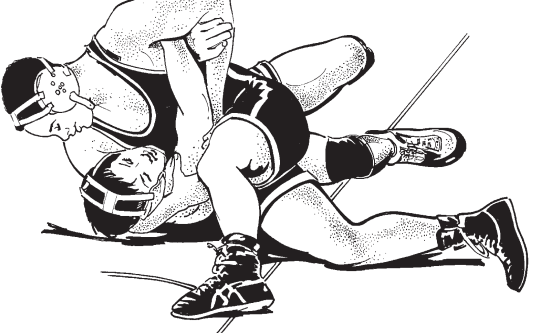
Studley shutout Jones 6-0 to place third and No.1 seed Clay Mulligan, Scott City, pinned No.2 seed Brent Juenemann, Oberlin, in 2:54 to win the championship.

R.J. Ellis finished the season 20-14. Mulligan is now 36-2 and Juenemann is 26-5.

138 - Austin Hager won a 9-7 decision over Chris Anderson, Oberlin; was pinned in 3:38 by No.1 seed Calvin Ochs, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Cody Werner, Plainville, in 2:42, then was pinned in 2:45 by No.5 seed Jose Munoz, Holcomb, in 2:45.

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Best of Luck to Our State Wrestling Qualifiers!!




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