

# Four Blue Jays represent Norton in state tourney

By Dick Boyd

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The four Norton Community High School wrestlers who competed in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Hays on Thursday and Friday were excellent representatives of the Blue Jay wrestling tradition as they scored 39 points to tie Beloit for 16th place.

Rossville was the only team with fewer than four wrestlers to place ahead of Norton. They tied for ninth with just three wrestlers competing.

Only one other team with as few as four wrestlers out of the 14 weight classes placed higher than Norton in the team standings. That was Burlington, who finished in eighth place.

Four of the top five teams were from the Lakin regional, where Norton placed fifth. It is considered to be by far the toughest regional of the four. The only team outside the Lakin regional in the top five was Hoisington who won the Russell regional and qualified nine wrestlers for the state tournament.

Scott City, who placed third in the Lakin regional behind first place Oberlin and runner-up Goodland, qualified six wrestlers from the regional and they earned the state championship with 93.50 points.

Hoisington scored 78 points to edge Hoxie for runner-up. The Indians, who placed fourth in the Lakin regional, had six wrestlers competing at the state tournament and scored 77.50 points.

Fourth place went to Goodland with 63 points. They had five wrestlers competing. Lakin Regional champion Oberlin qualified six wrestlers for the state tournament. They placed fifth with 60.50 points.

Marysville placed sixth with 58.50 points and Smith Center, who finished seventh with 54.50 points, qualified seven wrestlers from the Russell regional, where they finished runner-up.

Burlington's four wrestlers scored 53 points for eighth. Caney Valley brought in seven qualifiers from the Eureka regional, where they placed fourth, and finished in a tie for ninth with Rossville's three wrestlers. Both teams had 48 points.

Douglass won the Eureka regional tournament, qualifying nine wrestlers for the state tournament and they placed 11th with 47 points. Oakley qualified five from the Lakin regional and finished 13th with 42 points. Phillipsburg qualified four from the Lakin regional and placed 19th with 33.50 points. Ellis tied for 20th with two wrestlers scoring 33 points. Plainville had four wrestlers and scored 28.50 points for 26th place. Atwood tied for 38th with 18 points. St. Francis and Stockton tied for 52nd with 3 points each.

Two of Norton's four wrestlers won state medals. Junior John Risewick, 120 pounds, placed third and sophomore Alec Hager, 126, finished in fourth place.

Sophomore Branson Addington, 106, came within one match of placing in the top six and sophomore Cole Renner, 160, came within two matches of placing.

A total of 224 wrestlers who qualified in the previous week's four regional tournaments competed and a total of 93 different schools were represented.

"When you only qualify four wrestlers for the state tournament, it doesn't leave you much room for error," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson, who kept fans notified all season that his team was young and inexperienced in addition to fighting injuries all season long.

"We wrestled hard but what other wrestlers did also affected our placings. Our only real disappointment was not having a finalist. That would have bumped up our points considerably. In the semi-finals, we just didn't wrestle well enough to win. It still boils down to each match lasting six minutes and we just didn't measure up.

"We finished with two strong state medalists. John earned his third state medal in as many

tries. After winning his first two matches, he lost in the semi-finals to the eventual champion. I was proud of him bouncing back the second day to win third place in convincing fashion.

"Branson was one match short of medaling in what I felt was the toughest weight class in the tournament. There were eight really tough wrestlers in that weight. Branson's only losses were to the first and third place finishers.

"Alec spent his freshman year on the junior varsity squad so earned his first state medal this season. After winning his first two matches to guarantee a top six finish, in the semi-finals he got behind 10-0 before locking up a nice cradle and almost pinning his opponent. He ended up losing the match 10-5.

"Cole lost his first round match to my nephew Colten Johnson, who went on to finish third. He won his first round consolation match before being knocked out of the tournament by a fellow Mid-Continent League wrestler from Phillipsburg.

"When I look back on the tournament and go through the individual matches, I realize we really wrestled well.

"I know we only brought home two state medals this season but we'll be back. We are a very young team and a team that fought through a great deal of injuries. I'm confident that we will be much improved next year."

The Norton coaches chose Alec Hager as the "Norton Wrestler of the Week" based on his performance in a tough bracket. "Alec placed third in the regional and fourth in the state and that's good for a sophomore," said coach Johnson.

Norton's four wrestlers had a 10-7 won-loss record and a 4-2 pin ratio.

Norton's assistant coaches again this season were Doug Ray, Shane Miller and Tony Fiscus.

Student managers were Juliana Miller and Stephanie Hager.

Dylan Schumacher, Thomas More Prep of Hays senior, was honored as the Class 3-2-1A Wrestler of the Year by the Kansas High School Coaches Association. Schumacher won the title at 126 pounds and is a four-time state champion.

## Former wrestlers coaching

Two former outstanding Norton Community High School wrestlers, Nathan and Billy Broeckelman, are assistant wrestling coaches for Manhattan High School, the winner of the Class 6A State Wrestling Tournament over the weekend in Arkansas City.

Nathan, a former state champion, is in his fifth year with the Manhattan squad and Billy, a former state medalist, is in his initial year as an assistant coach for the team.

They are the sons of Tami and Jim Broeckelman of Norton.

## Individual matches

106 - Norton's Branson Addington pinned Gunnar Gassmann, Garden Plain, in 1:28; was pinned by Trey Francka, Chase County, in 4:57; shutout Austin Swartz, Council Grove, 5-0 and lost a 4-3 decision to Khamin Crow, Silver Lake, to fall one match short of placing.

Crow placed third with a 4-2 decision over Josh Goepfert, Marysville and Francka won the championship with a 6-0 decision over Ty Nienke, Ellsworth.

Brady Lowell, Belleville, placed fifth with a 5-0 decision over Logan Bowen, Effingham. Addington's season record was 24-11.

Francka finished the season 38-2, Nienke was 31-7, Crow was 35-5, Goepfert was 29-6 and Lowell was 33-5.

113 - Joey Defore, Dexter, won the championship with a 5-4 decision over James Jurgens, Scott City. Third place went to Keegan Amos, Holcomb, with a 2-0 decision over John Solko, Atwood. Clint Rogers, Smith Center, placed fifth with a 6-0 win over Marshall Schottler, Lyons.

Defore finished the season with a perfect 36-0 record, Jurgens was 30-13, Amos was 19-

5, Solko was 30-7 and Schottler was 32-5.

120 - Norton's John Risewick pinned Jim Weller, Southeast of Saline, in 3:04; won a 9-3 decision over Andrew Beck, Central Burden; lost a 4-0 decision to Brandon Ball, Hoisington; pinned Matt Riess, Rock Creek, in :31 and won a 9-1 major decision over Beck in their second meeting of the tournament to place third.

Ball won the championship with a 7-0 decision over Jake Elbrader, Burlington. Alex Kough, Scott City, placed fifth with a 6-1 decision over Riess.

Risewick's season record was 35-5.

Ball finished the season 37-2, Elbrader was 39-5 and Kough was 29-5.

126 - Norton's Alec Hager pinned Sawyer Havenstein, Riley County, in 4:17; won a 1-0 decision over Josh Schroeder, Silver Lake; lost a 10-5 decision to Hunter Speer, Horton; won a 4-2 decision over Daniel Melcher, Herington and lost a 9-4 decision to Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, to place fourth.

Dylan Schumacher, Thomas More Prep-Hays, won his fourth state championship with an 11-4 decision over Speer. Melcher placed fifth by pinning Justin Wagner, Effingham, in 4:05.

Hager's season record was 20-10.

Schumacher finished 29-3, Speer was 39-3, Dreher was 34-7 and Melcher was 29-6.

132 - Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia, won the championship with a 3-1 decision over Clay Mulligan, Scott City. Riley Soward, Halstead, placed third with a 4-2 decision over Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg. Brent Juenemann, Oberlin, finished fifth with a 9-1 major decision over Kasey Biddle, Burden Central.

Humphrey finished the season 44-1, Mulligan was 39-3, Soward was 36-8, Juenemann was 30-7 and Biddle was 31-6.

138 - Calvin Ochs, Hoxie, won the championship with a 14-4 major decision over James Landoll, Marysville. Brody Carroll, Marion, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Mason Hurla, St. Mary's and Sam Wilson, Rock Creek, was fifth with a 10-6 decision over Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg.

Ochs finished the season 30-3, Landoll was 23-3 and Carroll was 43-3.

145 - Tagen Lambotte, Rossville, was the championship with a 3-2 decision over Eddie Creek, Marysville. Chance Demel, Hoisington, placed third with a 7-2 decision over Bowe Behymer, Beloit. Gage Younger, Ellis, finished fifth with a 9-8 decision over Taylor Schuetz, Effingham.

Lambotte finished the season 34-1, Creek was 35-5, Demel was 37-4 and Younger was 30-6.

152 - Ky Biddle, Burden Central, won the championship with a 7-3 decision over Jared Johnson, Pleasant Ridge. Mark Smith, Rossville, placed third by pinning Dalton Snyder, Hoxie, in 1:58. Fifth place went to Kregg Clarke, Lyons, with a 5-3 decision over John Peden, Goodland.

Biddle finished the season with a perfect 40-0 record, Johnson was 38-3, Smith was 44-6, Snyder was 27-6 and Clarke was 37-5.

160 - Norton's Cole Renner was pinned in 3:34 by Colten Johnson, Marion; won a 12-5 decision over Garrett Lott, Minneapolis and lost an 11-1 major decision to Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg.

Eric Albers, Oakley, won the championship with a 5-2 decision over Nick Wuthnow, Sacred Heart. Johnson placed third by pinning Steven Yergey-Dible, Hoxie, in 2:42.

Winning fifth place was Hunter Stalford, Caney Valley, with a 5-2 decision.

Renner, who was injured much of the season, finished with a 7-10 record.

Albers finished the season with a perfect 35-0 record, Wuthnow was 38-2, Stalford was 39-6.

Johnson, a nephew of Joy and Bill Johnson of Norton, finished



Blue Jay sophomore Branson Addington completes a takedown during his 5-0 shutout of Austin Swartz, Council Grove, in the 106 pound weight division of the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament last Thursday and Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



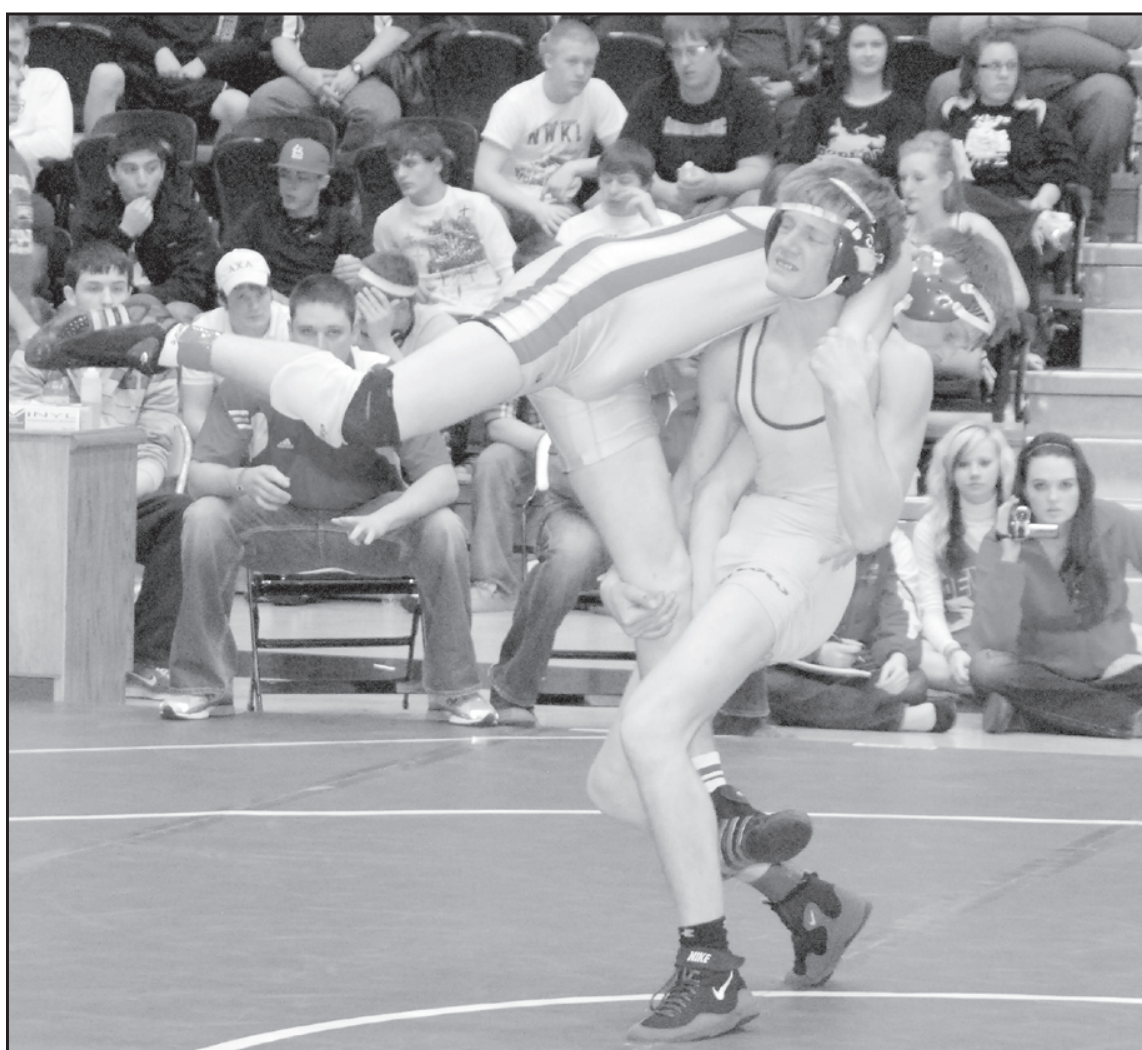
Norton sophomore Cole Renner works for a fall during his dominating 12-5 decision over Garrett Lott, Minneapolis, in the 160 pound weight division of the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Hays.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton junior 120 pound wrestler John Risewick controls Andrew Beck, Central Burden, during his 9-1 major decision to place third in the State Wrestling Tournament in Hays. Risewick also decisioned Beck 9-3 earlier in the tournament.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Blue Jay sophomore Alec Hager surprised his 126 pound opponent Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, when he came to his feet with a fireman's carry during their third place match in the State Wrestling Tournament in Hays. Dreher won the very competitive match by a 9-4 score but Alec earned his first state wrestling medal.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

the season 43-6.

170- Riley Hunsicker, Ellis, won the championship with an 8-4 decision over Jesse LaMay, Wellsville. Derek Bayless, Caney Valley, placed third with a 9-5 decision over Jason Berggren, Oakley. Fifth place winner was Nathan Thyfault, Plainville, with a 7-2 decision over Trevor Sutton, Rock Creek.

Hunsicker ended the season 28-4, LaMay was 40-3, Bayless was 36-9, Berggren was 29-7 and Sutton was 41-9.

182 - Tyler Lowe, Eureka, won the championship with a 6-5 decision over Brock Long, Southeast of Saline. Tyler Atwood, Smith Center, placed third with a 6-5 decision over Eric Hellerud, Hoisington.

Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, finished in fifth place by pinning

Levi Huneke, Sabetha, in :39.

Lowe ended the season 38-1, Long was 31-2, Atwood was 36-9, Hellerud was 18-4 and Salmans was 32-6.

195 - Colt Castlebury, Douglass, was the champion. He won an 8-3 decision over Laine Herl, Goodland. Josh McDowell, Smith Center, finished in third with a 10-2 major decision over Jeff Shaw, Oberlin. Fifth place went to Tyler Edelman, Sabetha, with a 5-2 decision over Augie Schmidt, Bluestem.

Castlebury ended the season 43-1, Herl was 41-2, McDowell was 36-4 and Schmidt was 38-7.

220 - Austin Veach, Doniphan West, won the championship by pinning Riley Oharah, Goodland, in 1:41. Tanner Taylor, Burlington, placed third with a

5-4 decision over Ryker Greenbaum, Douglass. Fifth place went to Michael McEachern, Scott City, with a 7-4 decision over Evan Slater, Marion.

Veach ended the season 23-2, Oharah was 37-2, Taylor was 43-3.

285 - Luke Hayes won the gold medal by pinning Trevin Edelman, Sabetha, in 2:34. Jacob English, Beloit, finished third by pinning Clay Wilcox, Chaparral, in 3:15. Bradey Chard, Plainville, placed fifth by pinning Gus Farthing, Burlington, in:34.

Hayes finished the season with a perfect 36-0 record, Edelman was 33-3, English was 32-2, Wilcox was 42-5 and Chard was 35-6.