

Blue Jays win league wrestling championship

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansans.com

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team began a busy weekend on Friday afternoon by capturing the championship of the Mid-Continent League Round Robin Tournament held in Phillipsburg.

Norton compiled 239.5 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 199; Plainville, 181.5; Smith Center, 162.5; Hill City, 104; Ellis, 79; Trego Community, 59; Stockton, 39; Osborne, 8.

Norton had five champions: junior Ethan Ross, 113; junior Alec Hager, 126; senior John Risewick, 132; freshman Gavin Lively, 145 and senior Lucas Engel, 220.

Finishing runner-up in their weight divisions were: sophomore Jared Tallent, 138; junior Cody Ellis, 152; senior Jared Bohl, 160 and junior Kolton Harting, 182.

Third place finishes went to sophomore Caysean Campbell, 106 and junior Cole Renner, 170.

Junior Branson Addington, 120, won two matches but did not place.

The Blue Jays had a 32-13 won-loss record and a 12-5 pin ratio.

"It's good that the round robin format allowed each wrestler to have three to five matches in one night," said coach Johnson. "We're happy for the championship but our wrestlers need to be more consistent. We'll wrestle super sometimes then not look



NORTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL MID-CONTINENT LEAGUE WRESTLING CHAMPIONS -- Pictured are members and coaches of the Blue Jay wrestling team after winning the league round robin championship at Phillipsburg on Friday. Pictured are, from left, front row: manager Lindsay Addington, Caysean Campbell, Gavin Lively, Alec Hager, John Risewick, Ethan Ross, Lucas Engel, manager Jordyn Gosselin; back row: head coach Bill Johnson, manager Austin Hager, Branson Addington, Cole Renner, Eli Bozarth, Jared Bohl, Jared Tallent, Kolton Harting, Cody Ellis, assistant coach Doug Ray.

- Courtesy photo by Angie Hager

Photo paid for by Farm Bureau Financial Services, Joy Johnson, Agent

like the same wrestler the next match. It's early in the season and we'll improve a lot throughout the season.

"The surprise of the tournament for us was freshman Gavin Lively winning the 145 pound championship. He is filling in for our injured Eli Bozarth."

Individual results

106 - Caysean Campbell was pinned in 4:20 by Cale Rogers, Smith Center; lost an 11-7 decision to Kyle Witmer, Phillipsburg; pinned Shea Ward,

Stockton, in :29; pinned Dustin Parker, Trego, in :42 and won third place with an 11-4 decision over Gunner Kerns, Plainville.

113 - Ethan Ross pinned Ryan Deaver, Trego, in 3:13; pinned Zach Davis, Phillipsburg, in :45 and pinned Jacob Cronin, Smith Center, in :28 to place first.

120 - Branson Addington lost a 2-0 decision to Gage Pfeifer, Hill City; lost a 6-4 decision to Trevor Houser, Plainville; lost a 6-0 decision to Riley Juemann, Phillipsburg; won an

18-1 tech fall over Allen Goff, Trego in 3:14 and won a 6-1 decision over Brody Frieling, Smith Center.

126 - Alec Hager pinned Mason Bannister, Phillipsburg, in 5:20; pinned Kobe Armbruster, Ellis, in 4:59; pinned Garren Beckman, Hill City, in :58 and pinned Trevor Axelson, Plainville, in 3:38 to win the championship.

132 - John Risewick pinned Corbin Schoenthaler, Trego, in 1:57; won a 15-0 tech fall over

Zach Fischer, Smith Center, in 3:45; shutout Caleb Studley, Phillipsburg, 6-0 to place first.

138 - Jared Tallent won a 12-0 major decision over Kyle Helberg, Hill City; pinned Alex Werthmann, Osborne, in 4:52; pinned Tristan Houser, Plainville, in :42; won an 11-4 decision over Steven Kriley, Smith Center and lost a 5-0 decision to Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg, to finish runner-up.

145 - Gavin Lively pinned Brandon Schoenthaler, Trego,

in 5:36; pinned Landon Younger, Ellis, in 1:02 and pinned Gus Nickelson, Hill City, in 2:23 to win the championship.

152 - Cody Ellis won a 5-3 decision over Grant Lambert, Smith Center; pinned Cody Werner, Plainville, in 5:09; lost an 11-2 major decision to Gage Younger, Ellis, to place runner-up.

160 - Jared Bohl was pinned in 2:27 by Dylan Wiesner, Plainville; pinned Wyatt Oliver, Smith Center, in 4:00; lost a 5-3 decision to Austin Seltmann, Hill City and pinned Dylan Haas, Ellis, in 1:29 to place runner-up.

170 - Cole Renner won a 9-0 major decision over Andrew Markings, Phillipsburg; lost a 14-9 decision to Colton Wise, Plainville; was pinned in 5:10 by Clayton Beckman, Hill City; was pinned in 2:59 by Cameron Staples, Trego and pinned Cale McDowell, Smith Center, in :34 to place third.

182 - Kolton Harting was pinned in 1:37 by Kyler Atwood, Smith Center; pinned Jacey Minkler, Phillipsburg, in 2:25 to place runner-up.

220 - Lucas Engel won a 2-0 decision over Skyler Tebo, Ellis; pinned Alex Wahman, Plainville, in 3:12 and won an 8-4 decision over Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg, to win the championship.

Next action

Norton will wrestle a dual with Phillipsburg this evening in Phillipsburg, beginning at 6 p.m.

Varsity and junior varsity matches will be held.

It will be the final wrestling action for Norton in 2012.

Norton Lady Jays defeat Phillipsburg in double overtime

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansans.com

Coach George Rossi's Norton Community High School girls basketball team started slowly but finished fantastically to defeat an outstanding Phillipsburg five 63-54 in two overtimes in the Stull Gym on Friday evening!

It was the second straight Mid-Continent League victory for the Lady Jays, who opened league play Tuesday with a win over Stockton.

Both teams started slowly with each hitting just two baskets in the first quarter. Both of the Lady Panthers' baskets were three-pointers, giving them a 6-4 lead.

The visitors outscored the home team 18-11 in the second period to take a 24-15 lead at intermission. With senior point guard Tawni Griffey perfect on four baskets from beyond the arc and junior Bailey Ambrosier, who scored 18 points in the game, hitting just her third basket of the night, Norton outscored Phillipsburg 14-11 in the third quarter to cut the Lady Panthers' lead to 35-29.

Ambrosier hit a free throw to start the fourth period, then senior Kamilla Jones hit a key basket. Phillipsburg hit two baskets to extend their lead to seven points. Griffey responded with her sixth basket from beyond the arc to cut the Lady Panther advantage to 39-35.

Ambrosier stole the ball, was fouled and calmly hit nothing but net on the resulting charity tosses with 4:44 left in the game. After Phillipsburg hit two free throws, Norton sophomore center Katie Bohl rebounded the ball and scored to make it a two-point game again with 1:40 left. A Lady Panther turnover at 1:27 ended with Ambrosier being fouled and back at the line. With ice water in her veins, she came through again but this time tied the score at 41-41.

A steal by Phillipsburg resulted in another basket and two-point lead for the visitors. With 31 seconds remaining in regulation, Griffey was fouled but missed the charity for the only time in the game. Phillipsburg traveled and Ambrosier scored inside with 23 seconds left to tie the score at 43-43 and

was fouled in the process. This time the pressure was a little too much and she missed the charity toss, throwing the game into overtime.

In the first four-minute extra period, Ambrosier hit two field goals and a free throw but the Lady Panthers led 50-48. After a Lady Panther free throw, Griffey was fouled and hit both charities with 18.6 seconds left but Phillipsburg still led 51-50. A Phillipsburg free throw miss resulted in Norton getting the ball and Ambrosier driving inside, where she was fouled with 2.1 seconds on the clock.

She missed her first charity try but came through with the second try to tie the score at 51-51 and send the game into a second overtime period!

Junior Katelyn Engelbert gave the Norton offense a good start in the second extra period by hitting three free throws and a basket to put the Lady Jays ahead 56-51 with 2:30 left. Phillipsburg followed with a basket and free throw for their only points of the second extra period. Griffey finished with 6 of 6 free throws and Jones hit the final point from the charity stripe for the very emotional 63-54 win!

"This was a signature win over a team we haven't been beating," said coach Rossi.

"We didn't play very well the first half but got it together in the second half. We came out and really worked hard. Many of our girls were tired but fought off their fatigue.

"Free throws were huge. We knew Phillipsburg was a good free throwing team but we were able to beat them at the line.

"Our girls are giving 100 percent and we're going in the right direction."

Tawni Griffey ended the game with 26 points on 6 of 14 shots from the three-point line for 43 percent and 8 of 9 free throws for 89 percent accuracy.

Bailey Ambrosier hit 18 points on 6 of 8 two-point tries for 75 percent and 6 of 11 free throws for 55 percent.

Leading scorer for Phillipsburg was Mindy Gower with 19 points; Shania Wilkison added 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit 6 of 18 from beyond the arc for 33

percent, 12 of 32 two-point attempts for 38 percent and 18 of 50 overall for 36 percent.

The Lady Panthers swished 4 of 13 long range shots for 31 percent, 17 of 45 two-point tries for 38 percent and 21 of 58 overall for 36 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 21 of 30 for an excellent 70 percent. Phillipsburg hit 8 of 12 for 67 percent.

Norton had 9 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 29 total. Phillipsburg pulled down 9 offensive and 24 defensive cars for 33 total.

Engelbert was leading rebounder for Norton with 7, followed by Griffey, 6; Darcy Bainter, 5; Bohl, 5; Ambrosier, 4; Alec Melvin, 2.

The Lady Jays had 15 steals compared to 8 for the Lady Panthers. Steals leader for Norton was Griffey with 5, followed by Engelbert, 4; Ambrosier, 2; Jones, 2; Bohl, 1; Melvin, 1.

Norton had 10 offensive assists. Griffey had 5, followed by Jones, 2; Bohl, Johnnye Ruder, Melvin, 1 each.

Norton had 23 turnovers but Phillipsburg lost the ball 27 times.

Junior varsity

Phillipsburg won the junior varsity game by a score of 34-20.

The Lady Panthers held quarter leads of 5-4, 15-7 and 28-15.

Leading scorer for Norton was Sierra Griffith with 11 points, followed by Hanna Brooks, 4; Peyton Renner, 2; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Cristine Nelson, 1.

Katelyn Swanson led Phillipsburg with 10 points.

"This was not a good showing for us tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We played flat on both offense and defense.

"We will work on handling pressure and, hopefully, our confidence will be back and ready for next week.

"Once we start getting comfortable with the ball and talking on defense, the rest should start falling in place."

Next action

The Norton girls and boys will host Cambridge, Neb. today.

Games will begin at 4 p.m. with the C-team boys at Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym, followed

by junior varsity boys. Beginning at 4 p.m. in Stull Gym will be two quarters of girls C-team followed by junior varsity girls, varsity girls and varsity boys.

Norton girls

Tawni Griffey 0 6 8-9 26;

Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 3-4 7; Darcy Bainter 0 0 1-2 1; Katie Bohl 3 0 0-0 6; Bailey Ambrosier 6 0 6-11 18; Alec Melvin 0 0 2-2 2; Kamilla Jones 1 0 1-2 3; Totals 12 6 21-30 63.

Phillipsburg girls

Katelyn Swanson 3 0 0-0 6; Dakota Wilkison 0 0 1-2 1; Shania Wilkison 5 1 1-3 14; Michaela Gower 3 0 0-0 6; Mindy Gower 4 3 2-3 19; Mattison Dusin 2 0 4-4 8; Totals 17 4 8-12 54.

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