

Blue Jay wrestlers dominate State Tourney

(Continued From Page 1)

that quarter-final round and won most of them.

"It didn't slow down for us on Saturday. I thought we might be a little off on Saturday but we got it going again.

"This Norton team is one of the most improved teams I have ever coached.

"No one expected us to do this well at the beginning of the year. It has been an amazing season, especially considering that we lost two state qualifiers, Eli Bozarth and Cole Renner, to injury. To accomplish a state championship without two of your better wrestlers is even more amazing.

"John Risewick had a tremendous career. This was his second championship and he is a four-time state medalist, never having finished lower than third. Norton has now had 93 individual state champions but the number of two-time state champions is a much lower number.

"I not only want to thank our varsity wrestlers for such a tremendous season but also our junior varsity wrestlers. I've seen a lot of them rise up and help with the overall quality of our program.

"We have great support from our coaches and the Norton community and that is very much appreciated.

"Our wrestlers don't always have the best records because our losses come from wrestling quality foes. We like to wrestle tough teams because that makes us better.

"Whether we win or lose a match, we think our young man's effort is the important thing."

The Norton coaches chose the entire Norton Wrestling Team as "Norton Wrestlers of the Week" in honor of their tremendous performance.

Norton had an excellent 27-15 won-loss record and outstanding 7-1 pin ratio.

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

Student managers were Austin Hager, Jordyn Gosselin, Rickete Green and Lindsay Addington.

Matt Sims, head wrestling coach at Class 4A Colby High School, was chosen as the Officials Sportsmanship Coach of

the Year and Dan Schmidt, Hoisington head wrestling coach, was selected as Class 3-2-1A Officials Sportsmanship Coach of the Year.

Individual matches

106 - Caysean Campbell pinned Justin Skerce, Council Grove, in 1:47; decisioned Ty Nienke, Ellsworth, 9-7; decisioned Chris Deters, Marysville, 9-5 and lost a 5-3 decision to Kyle Witmer, Phillipsburg, to place runner-up.

Caysean finished the season 32-14.

Nenke placed third with a 17-2 technical fall over Deters. Fifth place went to Cale Rogers, Smith Center, with a 10-6 win over Dylan Niswonger, Leoti.

Witmer finished the season 42-6.

113 - Ethan Ross won a 5-1 decision over Beretta Janzen, Marion; lost a 5-2 decision to Josh Goepfert, Marysville; pinned J.T. Ellis, Wellsville, in :53; won an 18-5 major decision over Joey McFee, Atwood; lost a 14-1 major decision to Alex Cavanaugh, Silver Lake and won a 7-5 decision over Troy Juenemann, Oberlin, to place fifth.

Ethan finished the season 36-11.

Trey Francka, Cottonwood Falls, won the championship with a 4-0 decision over Goepfert. Third place went to Brady Lowell, Belleville, with a fall over Cavanaugh in 2:39.

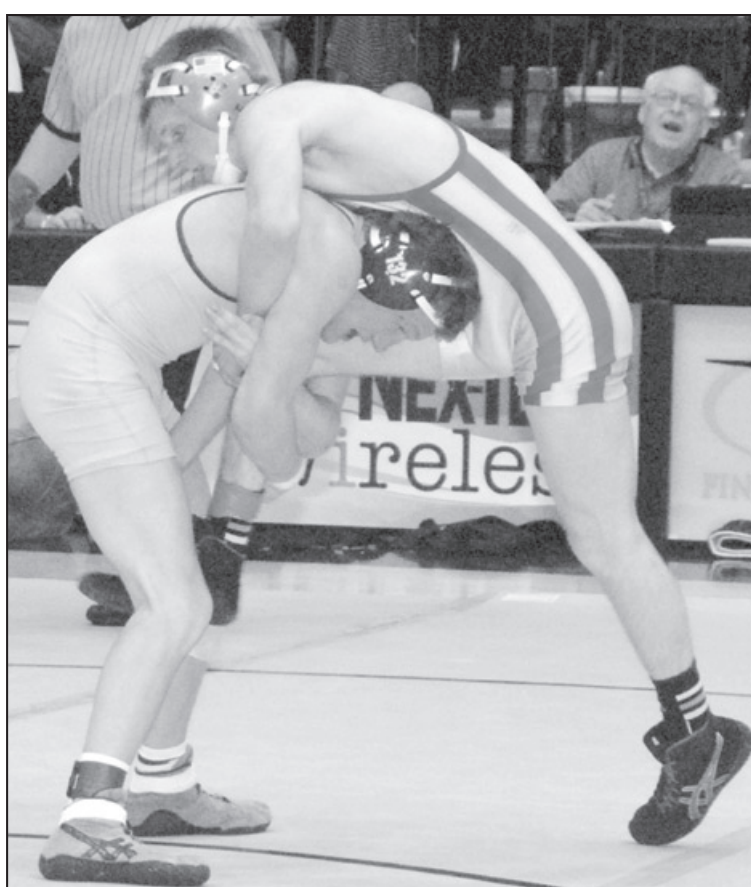
Francka completed a perfect 42-0 season. Lowell finished 42-5.

120 - Branson Addington won an 18-2 technical fall over Taylor Wilmarth, Wellsville; won a 7-5 decision over Jim Weller, Southeast of Saline; was pinned in 3:33 by James Jurgens, Scott City; won a 5-1 decision over Marshall Schottler, Lyons and lost a 5-1 decision to Macrae Migchelbrink, Atwood, to place fourth.

Branson finished the season 32-21.

Jurgens won the championship with an 8-4 decision over Logan Bowen, Atchison County. Fifth place went to Haegan Schaefer, Silver Lake, with a 4-3 decision over Schottler.

Jurgens finished with a 34-5 record. Bowen was 38-9. Migchelbrink finished 41-5.



Norton's John Risewick is working to finish a single leg takedown during his 132 pound championship decision over Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, in the State Tournament in Hays. Risewick won his second state title and has placed all four years in the state tournament.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

126 - Alec Hager pinned T.J. Ragnoni, Bennington, in 2:50; won a 10-8 decision over Casey Garner, Eureka; pinned Clint Rogers, Smith Center, in 5:32 and lost a 10-2 major decision to undefeated Brandon Ball, Hoisington, to place runner-up.

Alec finished the season 33-9. Alex Kough, Scott City, placed third with a 10-1 major decision over Rogers. Willy Dieckmann, Atchison County, placed fifth by pinning Brendan Arnold, Lyons, in 2:03.

Ball completed the season 47-0 and Kough was 34-6.

132 - John Risewick pinned Cody Ray, Eureka, in 2:51; won a 3-2 decision over Adrian Lange, Lyons; won a 9-1 major decision over Cody Calhoun, Atchison-Maur Hill and won an 8-7 decision over Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, to win the championship.

John finished the season 44-3. Daniel Melcher, Herrington, placed third with a 4-3 decision over Colton Stafford, Caney Valley and Andrew Beck, Cen-

tralia, placed fifth with a 5-2 decision over Calhoun.

Dreher finished the season 40-6, Melcher ended 38-7 and Beck was 44-8.

138 - Jared Tallent won an 8-0 major decision over Zach Martin, Ellsworth; lost an 11-5 decision to unbeaten Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia; won a 12-4 major decision over Trevor Melcher, Herrington; won a 3-1 decision over Misael Bandares, Holcomb; lost a 6-5 overtime decision to Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg and lost a 14-9 decision to James Landoll, Marysville, to place sixth.

Jared finished the season 34-19.

Humphrey won the championship with a 5-3 decision over Greg Tooley, St. Marys and Kasey Biddle, Central of Burden, placed third with an 8-1 decision over Dusin.

Humphrey finished the season with a perfect 49-0 record. Biddle was 41-4 and Landoll was 39-8.

145 - Cody Ellis pinned Lane

Moran, Leon-Bluestem, in 1:37; won a 4-2 decision over Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit; lost a 4-1 decision to Nic Johnson, Sedgwick; won a 9-6 decision over Trevor Desair, Plainville and lost a 16-0 technical fall to Chance Demel, Hoisington, to place fourth.

Cody finished the season 28-11.

Tagen Lambotte, Rossville, won the championship with a 20-8 major decision over Johnson. Mo Rojas, Ellsworth, placed fifth with a 6-3 decision over Desair.

Lambotte finished the season 45-1 and Demel was 45-2.

152 - Jared Bohl lost a 3-1 decision to Nick Reesor, Rossville; pinned Reid Hugo, Cherryvale, in 3:47 and lost a 17-4 major decision to Gage Younger, Ellis.

Jared ended the season 21-23.

Alex Thibault, Halstead, won the championship with a 7-3 decision over Regis Weiss, Russell. Younger won third place with a 10-7 decision over Kade Brown, Oberlin. Reesor placed fifth with a 5-4 decision over Zacharie Duwe, Chaparral.

Thibault ended the season 50-1, Younger was 46-4 and Reesor was 42-13.

160 - Norton was open at this weight. Calvin Ochs won the championship by pinning Dylan Wiesner, Plainville, in 1:44.

Bowe Behymer, Beloit, placed third with a 12-1 major decision over Taylor Schuetz, Atchison and Warren Kropp, Scott City, placed fifth with a 4-3 decision over Braden Sherman, Fredonia.

Ochs finished the season with a perfect 47-0 record. Wiesner was 39-8, Behymer was 38-6 and Kropp finished 36-9.

170 - Norton was open at this weight. Nick Wuthnow, Salina Sacred Heart, won the championship with a 7-5 decision over Jared Johnson, Easton-Pleasant Ridge. Derek Bayless, Caney Valley, placed third with a 9-4 decision over Jason Berggren, Oakley. Fifth place went to Cameron Staples, Leoti, with a 10-2 major decision over Aidan Shaughnessy, Cimarron.

Wuthnow finished the season with a perfect 44-0 record. Johnson finished 43-2 and Bayless was 47-7.

182 - Norton was open at this

weight. Gavin Grater, Riley County, won the championship with a 9-4 decision over Clay Cosand, Mankato-Rock Hills; Steven Yergey-Dible, Hoxie, placed third with a 3-1 overtime decision over Kyler Atwood, Smith Center. Fifth went to Levi Huneke, Sabetha, with a 3-1 decision over Zach Gienger, St. Francis.

Grater finished the season 41-4, Cosand was 37-10, Yergey-Dible was 42-9 and Huneke was 38-8.

195 - Norton was open at this weight. Brandon Salmans, Hoxie, won the championship with a 16-4 major decision over Harrison Gilliland, Plainville. Kaleb Gillis, Horton, placed third with a 3-1 decision over Tristan Speer, Highland. Fifth place went to Ryan Anderson, Council Grove, with a 5-3 decision over Easton Sommer, Eskridge.

Salmans finished the season 39-3, Gilliland was 28-3, Gillis was 39-6 and Anderson ended 37-9.

220 - Lucas Engel won a 14-8 decision over Little Bear Johnson, Horton; won a 2-1 decision over Gus Farthing, Burlington; lost a 5-2 decision to Kane Washington, Hoxie; won a two-overtime 3-2 decision over Andrew Ochampaugh, Russell and lost a 4-2 decision to Farthing in their second meeting to place fourth. Channing Fortin, Oberlin, placed fifth with a 3-1 decision over Ochampaugh.

Lucas ended the season with a 27-15 record.

Washington won the championship with a 3-2 decision over Ryker Greenbaum, Douglas.

Washington ended the season with a 28-2 record, Greenbaum was 42-3 and Farthing was 49-6.

285 - Norton was open at this weight class. Clay Wilcox, Atchison Maur-Hill, won the championship with a 2-1 overtime decision over Brady Chard, Plainville. Mychal Kolterman, Onaga, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Michael McEachern, Scott City. Fifth place went to Cody Cooper, Rossville, with a 1-0 decision over Jared Hoffman, Atchison County.

Wilcox ended the season with a 46-2 record, Chard finished 36-3 and Kolterman was 42-7.



Blue Jay senior Alec Hager pins T.J. Ragnoni, Bennington, during their 126 pound match in the State Wrestling Tournament. Alec wrestled his way to a runner-up finish behind undefeated Brandon Ball, Hoisington.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd




Blue Jay sophomore Caysean Campbell works a cross body ride during his 106 pound championship match with Kyle Witmer, Phillipsburg, in the State Tournament in Hays. Caysean had another good match with Witmer but lost a 5-3 decision to place runner-up.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd




The Norton fans had a great turnout in Hays on Friday and Saturday to cheer their Blue Jay wrestlers on to Norton's 12th state championship! Some of the fans who were packed into one section of Gross Memorial Coliseum are shown here clapping in response to another successful Blue Jay performance.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



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