

Norton wrestlers place third at Clay Center

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team finished third in the very tough Clay Center Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

Although the Blue Jays are ranked No.1 in the state in Class 3-2-1A, they were up against some very talented wrestlers of top ranked teams in larger enrollments.

Holton, who is No.1 ranked in Class 4A, won the championship with 141.5 points. Runner-up with 135 points was Garden City, No.1 ranked in Class 6A. Norton scored 124.5 points.

Junction City, No.2 state ranked in Class 6A, finished fourth with 106.5 points, followed by Marysville, 88.5; Beloit, 68.5; Clay Center, 49; Hoxie, 42; Salina South, 37; Rock Creek, 28.5.

Norton entered 10 of the 14 weight classes.

Three Blue Jays won individual championships: Jared Tallent, 145; Cole Renner, 170 and Jacob Green, 220.

Placing runner-up for Norton were Caysean Campbell, 106

and Branson Addington, 113.

Finishing in third place were Toby Nickell, 132 and Alec Hager, 138.

Gavin Lively, 152, placed fifth, Michael Johnson, 285, finished sixth and Kendall Miller, 160, was seventh.

The Blue Jays compiled a 31-12 win-loss record and had an 18-4 pin ratio. Norton was 11-6 on two-point near falls, 20-4 on three-point near falls and 50-19 on two-point takedowns.

Wrestler of the Week

Cole Renner and Jared Tallent were named "Co-Wrestlers of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

"Cole had four pins and one tech fall and was very dominating," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"Jared had four wins, one by a pin and one a major decision. He showed toughness in wrestling through a quality bracket."

Coach's comments

"We knew this tournament would be extremely tough and it was," said coach Johnson.

"A round robin tournament where you have to wrestle all the good wrestlers made it a

learning experience for us. We dropped some matches that we shouldn't have and made some mistakes but I was fairly pleased with the overall team performance. We entered ten wrestlers and five made the finals."

Individual matches

106 - Caysean Campbell pinned Luke Martin, Clay Center, in :19; won a 15-0 tech fall over Bryce Bacon, Hoxie, in 6:00 and lost a 7-2 decision to Gary Joint, Junction City, to place runner-up.

113 - Branson Addington pinned Dominick Buterakos, Holton, in 2:54; pinned Jake Wynn, Clay Center, in 1:40; won a 9-4 decision over Chris Deters, Marysville and lost a 16-0 tech fall in 5:55 to Michael Prieto, Garden City, to place runner-up.

132 - Toby Nickell won a 2-0 decision over Gavin Kroeger, Junction City; lost a 5-0 decision to Jonah Lutz, Holton; pinned Talor Tappendick, Salina South, in 3:41 to place third.

138 - Alec Hager pinned Adam Ebert, Clay Center, in 2:48; pinned Drake Rowh, Hox-

ie, in 4:26; won an 11-3 major decision over Jake Bazan, Junction City; lost a 10-7 decision to Justin Rieschick, Holton and won by forfeit over Tevin Briscoe, Garden City, to place third.

145- Jared Tallent pinned Paul Glover, Rock Creek, in 2:51; won a 6-4 decision over Tanner Niemczk, Beloit; won an 11-3 major decision over Aryus Jones, Junction City; won a 4-3 decision over Chris Adler, Garden City, to place first.

152 - Gavin Lively lost a 6-3 decision to Chase Ridder, Rock Creek; pinned Lucas Lovvorn, Holton, in 3:02; won a 5-2 decision over Jacob Mintzmeyer, Marysville; lost a 4-0 decision to Lucas Lovvorn, Holton; pinned Tyler Watts, Beloit, in 4:48 to place fifth.

160 - Kendall Miller lost a 9-5 decision to Gabe Ware, Clay Center; was pinned in 5:33 by Bowe Behymer, Beloit; lost a 7-4 decision to John McNabb, Salina South; won by forfeit over Garden City; pinned Wyatt Fouts, Rock Creek, in 3:53 to place seventh.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Triston Morgan, Hoxie, in 1:00;

pinned J'quan Robinson, Junction City, in 3:31; won an 18-2 tech fall over Colton Hill, Rock Creek, in 4:29; pinned Matt Marez, Garden City, in 1:31; pinned Kyle Mick, Holton, in 1:57 to place first.

220 - Jacob Green won a 12-1 major decision over Evan Standlea, Clay Center; pinned Bradley Cooper, Holton, in 3:47; pinned John Thurlow, Beloit, in 2:23; won an 8-6 decision over Kayne Hutchinson, Junction City, to place first.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:17 by Mark Schippers, Hoxie; was pinned in 3:13 by Aaron Lozano, Garden City; pinned Scott Kleinert, Marysville, in 2:43; was pinned in :47 by Jeffrey Walters, Junction City, to place sixth.

Next action

Norton wrestlers will be very busy this weekend.

On Friday, they will compete in the Mid-Continent League Round Robin Tournament in the Stull Gym in Norton, beginning at 3 p.m.

Competing, in addition to Norton, will be teams from Oakley, Thomas More Prep of

Hays, Phillipsburg, Hill City, Plainville, Smith Center, Stockton and Ellis.

Wrestlers will compete on three mats.

A plaque will be awarded to the top team and medals will be awarded to the top four wrestlers in each weight class.

On Saturday, the Blue Jay wrestlers will compete in the Goodland Holiday Classic Tournament in the Max Jones Field House, beginning at 10 a.m. CST.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Goodland, will be teams from Colby, Burlington, Hugoton, Leoti, Scott City, Springfield High School, Ulysses and Trego Community.

Teams will wrestle duals in two pools with the finals consisting of duals between the best teams from each pool.

Team plaques will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. A medal will be awarded for the fastest pin of the day.

A medal will also be given to the tournament's most outstanding upper and lower weight wrestlers.

Huskies keep improving record

BY MIKE STEPHENS

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The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team traveled to Agra on Thursday to take on the Thunder Ridge Longhorns. The Huskies won the A-team game 54-20, and the B-team game 29-11. With the wins both the A and B teams are undefeated at 6-0 on the season.

"The Huskies played aggressive on the defensive end and many players scored in the victories," said head coach Jim Cole.

A-team Boys (6-0)
Northern Valley - 54
Thunder Ridge - 20

Huskies scoring:

- Caden Kinderknecht - 14
- Riley Sides - 13
- Caden Bach - 9
- Jesus Saenz - 6
- Briely Yocum - 4
- Cooper Mussman - 4
- Nick Stutsman - 2
- Ross Cole - 2
- B-team Boys (6-0)
- Northern Valley - 29
- Thunder Ridge - 11
- Huskies scoring:
- Cooper Mussman - 6
- Ross Cole - 5
- Aidan Baird - 4
- Jesus Saenz - 4
- Dawson Stevens - 4
- Gunner Yocum - 2

- Chris Lowry - 2
- Kale Cox - 2

The Northern Valley Junior High A-team girls played great defense to beat Thunder Ridge 29-19. The Huskies shot the ball well to build a 24-9 lead after three quarters. The A-team girls improved their record to 5-1 on the season.

The B-team girls played hard, but lost 31-25 to the Longhorns, and the C-team girls lost on a last second shot, 10-9.

- A-team Girls (5-1)
- Northern Valley - 29
- Thunder Ridge - 19
- Huskies scoring:
- Paige Baird - 10

- HalLee Linner - 9
- Chaylee Lowry - 4
- Katie Johnson - 4
- Brianna Johns - 2
- B-team Girls (4-2)
- Northern Valley - 25
- Thunder Ridge - 31
- Huskies scoring:
- Makensy Schroeder - 12
- Brianna Sammons - 6
- Jaden Smith - 4
- Jasmine Covington - 3
- C-team Girls (1-2)
- Northern Valley - 9
- Thunder Ridge - 10
- Huskies scoring:
- Zoe Cox - 6
- Sydney Brands - 2
- Shayna Speer - 1

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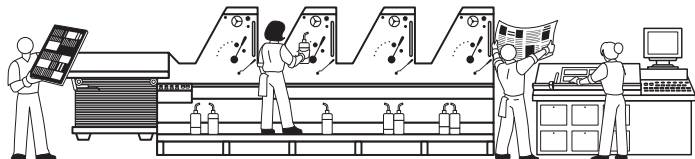
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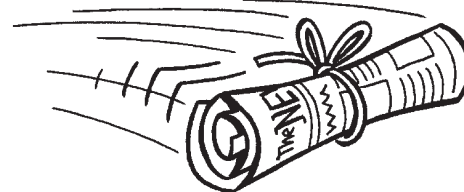
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