

Former Norton state wrestlers honored

By **DICK BOYD**

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Former Norton Community High School state wrestling medal winners from 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984 and 2004 were honored during ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament last Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The honorees were escorted onto the gym floor by the NCHS cheerleaders. Each honored wrestler received a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" and congratulatory handshake from Norton Community High School Activities Director Dustin McEwen.

Current Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson began to recognize the "Norton Wrestling Tradition" during his first year in Norton in 1992.

Norton has won 12 Kansas State Wrestling team championships, has had 298 individual state medal winners and 93 individual state champions.

The 1944 Norton team placed fourth in the state tournament and had five state placers. They were Ralph Mason (deceased), second, 127; Keith Sanderson, first, 103; Eldon Archer, first, 120; Duane Mulder, third, 112; Richard Hemphill (deceased), first, 175. None of them were able to be present.

The 1954 team had one state placer: Ronnie Lemon, fourth,



Pictured on Saturday evening during the J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament at the Stull Gym in Norton are former Norton state wrestling medalists who were honored for their achievements on the mat along with former coach J.R. "Jake" Durham. They are, from left, front row:

145. He was unable to attend. The 1964 team did not have a state placer. The 1974 team placed third in the state, was coached by Jake Durham and had five medal

winners. They were Bill Klein, third, 105; Evan Whitney, first, 138; Rob Madden, fourth, 98; Mark Anderson, second, 185; Dave Ward, first, 112. Whitney, Madden and Ward were present.

Nathan Broeckelman, Scott Goldsby, Lance Roe, Jordan Haussermann, James Annon, Clay Madden; back row: Bo Pffannenstiel, Michael Sprigg, Shane Wyatt, Coach Durham, Dave Ward, Evan Whitney, Rob Madden.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The 1984 team was coached by Jake Durham and had two placers: Shane Wyatt, third, 185 and Chuck Dalton (deceased), first, 138. Wyatt was present and Dalton's uncle Jake Dur-

ham accepted his award. The 1994 team did not have a state placer.

The 2004 state team compiled a perfect 16-0 dual meet record and won the Class 3-2-1A state

championship. This was the first Norton state title since 1973 and the team was coached by Bill Johnson. Assistant coaches were Doug Ray and Deyton Hager. There were nine state placers: Clay Madden, first, 112; Lance Roe, fourth, 135; Scott Goldsby, second, 140; Bo Pffannenstiel, fifth, 171; Michael Sprigg, first, 275; Jordan Haussermann, third, 152; James Annon, first, 130; Nathan Broeckelman, second, 119; Kent Mann, fifth, 103.

Madden, Roe, Goldsby, Haussermann, Pffannenstiel, Sprigg, Annon and Broeckelman were present.

Mann lives in Arizona. Accepting his award was his uncle Jim Voss, also a former Norton state medalist.

Clay Madden is the nephew of Rob Madden, who was honored on the 1974 team.

Broeckelman is the head wrestling coach at Greeley County.

It was noted during the awards presentations that many will remember Michael Sprigg's exciting championship match in 2004. Norton trailed Hoxie by one point for the team title. Sprigg defeated the defending state champion with a takedown in overtime! It was Sprigg's first of two state wrestling titles.

A reception for all the former state medal winners was held following the tournament at Pfonz's Restaurant.

Norton Blue Jays boys team outscored by Plainville

By **DICK BOYD**

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The No.8 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team needed four good quarters to have a chance of upsetting No.1 seed Plainville in the first round of the annual Mid-Continent League Tournament on Tuesday in Plainville but had only three in a 60-43 loss.

The Cardinals led by just 14-12 after one quarter but outscored Norton 13-6 in the second quarter to lead 27-18 at halftime. The host team also scored 20 points in the third period while Norton hit just 13 to extend their lead to 47-31.

Norton kept battling and was only outscored 13-12 in the final quarter but the damage had already been done.

"I thought we played hard

throughout the game and battled to the end," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "I also think we are making small steps at getting better, especially on the offensive end but we still lack the consistency needed to win games."

"The key for us is not to give up and continue to work so we are headed in the right direction."

"We have a real tough stretch against some very good teams ahead of us so it will be important to find some confidence for us to have any chance of winning games."

Although Norton only hit 17 of 54 field goals for 31 percent compared to Plainville's 25 of 59 for 42 percent, four different players hit 45 percent or better.

Quinton Porter was leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 12 points. He hit 1 of 2 three-point

tries for 50 percent, 4 of 9 from two-point range for 44 percent and 5 of 11 overall for 45 percent.

Conor Cox scored 9 points on 3 of 5 from both the field and free throw line for 60 percent accuracy.

Marc Miller tallied 8 points on 2 of 3 from beyond the arc for 67 percent, 1 of 2 two-point tries for 50 percent and 3 of 5 overall for 60 percent shooting.

Breven Sondergaard also scored 8 points and also shot well in doing so. He was 4 of 8 from the field for an even 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Plainville was Gehring with 19 points; Gillum added 16.

The Cardinals hit 3 of 13 three-point tries for 23 percent, 22 of 46 two-point attempts for 48 percent and 25 of 59 overall

for 42 percent. From the free throw line, the Blue Jays swished 6 of 10 for 60 percent compared to 7 of 14 for 50 percent by Plainville.

Norton outrebounded Plainville with 14 offensive and 22 defensive caroms for 36 total. The Cardinals grabbed 10 offensive and 20 defensive rebounds for 30 total.

Nine different Blue Jays had at least one rebound. Conor Cox and Tanner Furbush led with 7 boards each, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 6; Quinton Porter, 5; Kobie Unterseher, 4; Marc Miller, 3; Drew Schrum, 2; Tyus Henson, Trever Lewis, 1 each.

Norton had 5 steals. Sondergaard, Porter, Unterseher, Schrum and Furbush had 1 theft each.

Schrum had 3 of Norton's 6

offensive assists. Henson had 2 and Porter had 1 assist.

Cox blocked 2 shots and Porter rejected 1.

Norton suffered 22 turnovers and Plainville lost the ball 7 times.

Scores of other first round boys games on Tuesday were: No.5 seed Phillipsburg over No.4 seed Stockton 73-58; No.2 seed Smith Center over No.7 Hill City 63-57 and No.3 Oakley over No.6 Ellis 62-55.

Next action
In the consolation bracket on Thursday in Stockton, Norton played Stockton at 7:30 p.m. in the primary gym and Hill City and Ellis met at the same time in the secondary gym.

The winners will play for fifth place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum in Hays. The losers will play at 10:30 a.m. on

Saturday in Gross for seventh place.

On the championship side, Plainville will play Phillipsburg at 4:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross and Smith Center will play Oakley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in Gross. Winners will play at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross to determine the league champion.

Losers will play at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday in Gross for third place.

Norton boys
Breven Sondergaard 4 0 0-0 8, Quinton Porter 4 1 1-2 12, Marc Miller 1 2 0-1 8, Drew Schrum 2 0 2-2 6, Conor Cox 3 0 3-5 9; Totals 14 3 6-10 43

Plainville boys
Frederking 1 1 3-4 8, Gillum 5 2 0-0 16, Meitler 5 0 0-0 10, Newell 3 0 1-2 7, Gehring 8 0 3-6 19; Totals 22 3 7-13 60.

Norton Lady Jays lose to Phillipsburg in Mid-Continent play

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After playing Phillipsburg close in a loss on the Lady Panthers home court to begin Mid-Continent League play in December, the Norton Community High School girls must have hoped for a win when they returned Monday night in the first round of the league tournament.

Unfortunately for the No.5 seeded Lady Jays, it wasn't to be.

Phillipsburg, the No.4 seed, took an early lead and extended it with 50 percent field goal shooting for a 56-26 win.

Norton was in the previous contest all the way and ended with a 46-40 loss but Monday's game was disappointing from start to finish.

The hot-shooting Lady Panthers led 18-9 after a first quarter where Norton hit just three field goals. It got worse in the second quarter where Johnnye Ruder's

three-point basket accounted for Norton's only points and ended with the home team on top 36-12 after repeating their 18 point opening period.

It didn't get any better after halftime. Norton could manage only 9 more points in the third quarter where the Lady Panthers threw in 16 more points to extend their lead to 52-21.

With the continuous clock running in the fourth quarter, it went fast. Norton scored 5 points and Phillipsburg 4 in the final stanza.

"We did not come out ready to play tonight," said Norton head coach George Rossi. "Phillipsburg came out full tilt and we stood back and just let them have their way."

"We did work harder in the second half but we couldn't make any gains."

"We have been making strides in the right direction but took a big step back."

"How we handle this is the big question. We will find out Thursday."

After the loss, Norton traveled to Stockton on Thursday to play No.8 seeded Plainville, who lost 62-35 to No.1 seeded Hill City on Monday evening.

The game began at 6 p.m.

A win by the Lady Jays would move them into the fifth place game at 12 noon on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. A loss would put them in the seventh place contest at 9 a.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum.

As a team on Monday in Phillipsburg, Norton hit just 1 of 10 from beyond the arc for 10 percent, 7 of 23 two-point tries for 30 percent and 8 of 33 overall for 24 percent.

In contrast, Phillipsburg swished 3 of 7 trey tries for 43 percent, 20 of 39 two-point attempts for 51 percent and 23 of 46 overall for 50 percent.

Leading scorer for Norton was Ruder with 7 points on 1 of 7 long range shots and 4 of 5 free throws. Katie Bohl scored 6 points on 2 of 3 field goals and 2 of 5 free throws. Bailey Ambrosier tallied 5 points on 2 of 6 from the field and 1 of 4 free throws.

Ruder scored 16 points in the previous contest between the two longtime rivals.

Top scorers for the Lady Panthers on Monday evening were Gower and Dusin, both with 14 points.

From the free throw stripe, Norton hit 9 of 23 for 39 percent and Phillipsburg swished 7 of 15 for 47 percent.

The rebounding battle was close with the Lady Jays pulling down 12 offensive and 14 defensive caroms for 26 total and the Lady Panthers grabbing 9 offensive and 19 defensive boards for 28 total.

Bailey Ambrosier was lead-

ing rebounder for Norton with 7 total, followed by Caitlyn Cox, Marisa Maddy, Darcy Bainter, Katie Bohl, Casey Ambrosier, 3 each; Katelyn Engelbert, Hanna Brooks, Johnnye Ruder, Miah Melvin, 1 each.

Ruder had Norton's only 2 offensive assists.

Casey Ambrosier had 2 steals and Katie Bohl had 1 theft. The Lady Panthers had 11 steals.

Norton had 23 turnovers compared to just 11 for Phillipsburg.

Other contests
In the other first round games Monday evening, No. 1 Hill City beat No. 8 Plainville 62-35; No.2 seeded Smith Center defeated No.7 Stockton 53-46 and No.3 Ellis outscored No.6 Oakley 49-46.

Stockton and Oakley played Thursday, also in Stockton and also at 6 p.m. in the secondary gym.

On the championship side, Hill City and Phillipsburg will

play at 3 p.m. on Friday in Gross Coliseum in Hays and Smith Center and Ellis will meet at 6 p.m. on Friday in Gross Coliseum.

Girls championship finals will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday in Gross Coliseum and the third place game will begin at 3 p.m. on Saturday in Gross.

Norton girls
Caitlyn Cox 0 0 0-2 0, Katelyn Engelbert 1 0 0-0 2, Darcy Bainter 1 0 0-2 2, Katie Bohl 2 0 2-5 6, Bailey Ambrosier 2 0 1-4 5, Johnnye Ruder 0 1 4-5 7, Miah Melvin 1 0 2-4 4; Totals 7 1 9-22 26.

Phillipsburg girls
K. Swanson 1 1 0-0 5, D. Wilkison 2 1 0-1 7, S. Wilkison 1 1 0-0 5, M. Gower 7 0 0-0 14, K. Keeten 0 0 0-2 0, T. Bartels 2 0 2-4 6, M. Dusin 5 0 4-6 14; Totals 20 3 7-15 56.

Lady Jays C-team had tough time when competing in tournament

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School girls C-team basketball team competed in the Phillipsburg C-team Tournament on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

Each of four teams played two games in the tournament. Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays defeated Norton and Phillipsburg to win the championship.

Smith Center lost to Phillipsburg but defeated Norton to place third.

TMP
The Norton girls lost 55-33 to a talented TMP team in their opening contest.

The Lady Jays trailed by quarters 14-6, 27-17 and 45-24.

Erin Archer was leading scorer for Norton with 11 points, followed by Kylie Perez, 8; Kira Robertson, 4; Lexi Voss,

4; Adrienne Hager, 2; Brittany Wright, 2; Alexis Hartwell, 2.

Deonna Wellbrock led TMP with 18 points; Alison Helget added 12 points.

"We did not come ready to play in this game," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks. "We were very sluggish and failed to communicate. TMP was able to create several steals and pushed the ball up the floor well."

Smith Center

In the 36-33 loss to Smith Center, the young Lady Jays played much better except for the third quarter. Norton held a 10-9 lead after the first quarter and led 20-17 at halftime.

In the third period, Norton hit just two points compared to 12 for the Lady Red and fell behind 29-22. Norton outscored Smith Center 10-7 in the final stanza but it was not enough to

overtake the Lady Red.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lexi Voss with 13 points, followed by Molly Maddy, 10; Erin Archer, 4; Kylie Perez, 4; Kira Robertson, 2.

Strine led Smith Center in scoring with 12 points. Palmer and McDowell each added 8.

"Our girls bounced back and played with more effort by boxing out much better, taking care of the basketball better and be-

ing more patient on offense," said coach Brooks.

"However, we struggled tremendously to knock down high percentage shots and our free throws.

"My goal for our girls is to work harder in practice and be more receptive of coaching advice."