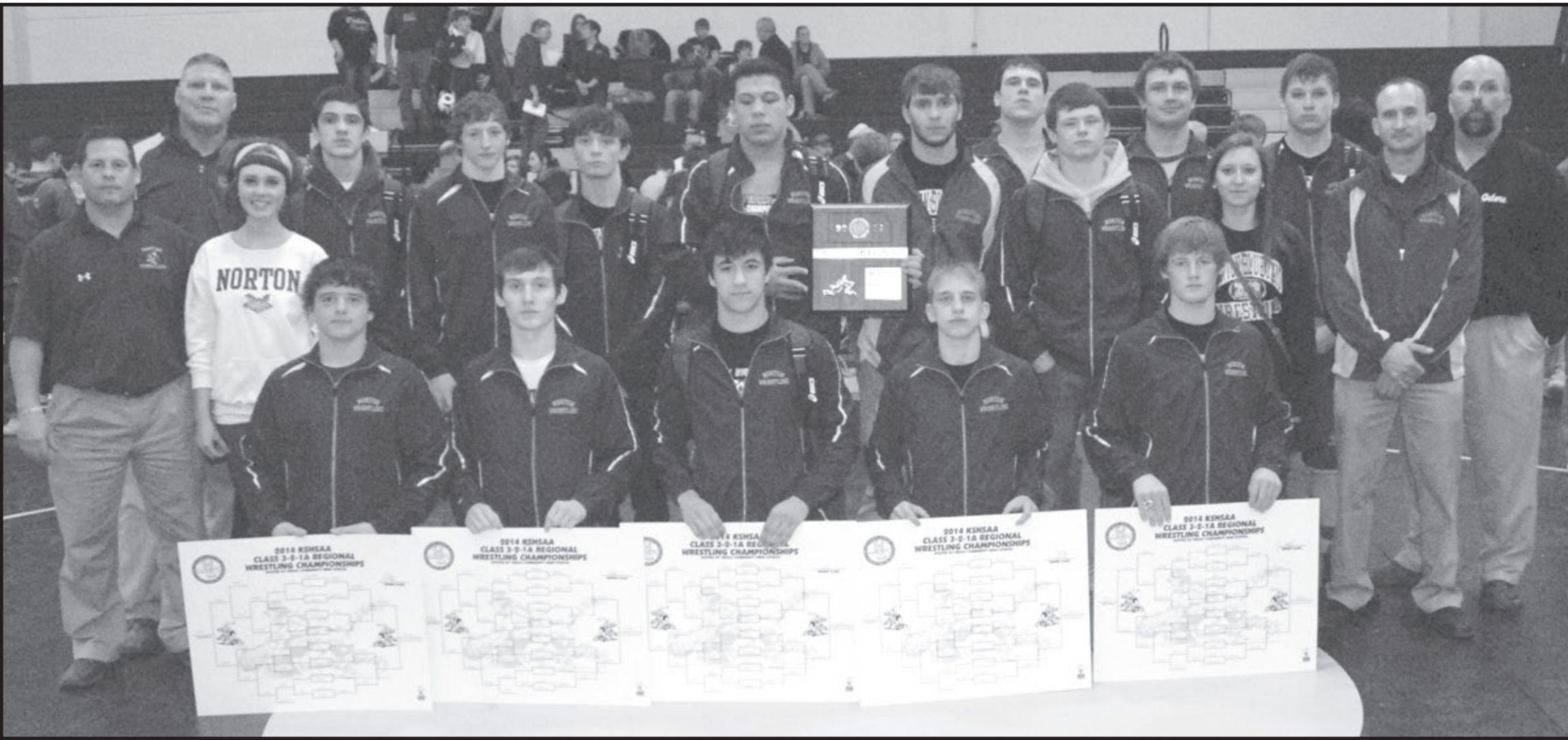


Congratulations

to the Norton Blue Jays



The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured with coaches and managers following their Championship performance in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in WaKeeney. Pictured are, from left, front row: Mike Kasson, Branson Addington, Kendall Miller, Skylar Johnson, Alec Hager; second row: Norton head coach Bill Johnson, manager Jordyn Gosselin, Jordan Dole, manager Austin Hager, Jared Tallent, manager Lindsay Addington, assistant coach Shane Miller; back row: assistant coach Doug Ray, Trenton Wright, Toby Nickell, Kyle Bell, Cole Renner, Kolton Harting, Jacob Green, assistant coach Tony Fiscus.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Wrestlers win Regional Championship

By DICK BOYD
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Despite having several junior varsity wrestlers in the lineup due to injuries, the Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team came out determined, took an early lead and built on it in scoring an amazing 230.5 points to repeat as champions of the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament held Friday and Saturday in WaKeeney.

Last year's regional champion Blue Jay wrestlers also ran away with the championship but scored 188 points for the title.

Runner-up to the No.1 state ranked and defending state champion Norton squad was Phillipsburg with 178 points. The Panthers are ranked No.7 in the state. Third place went to Oberlin with 120.5 points. The Red Devils are the No.8 state ranked team.

Oakley placed fourth with 81 points, just edging No.10 state ranked Smith Center who finished with 80 points.

Ellis was sixth with 79 points, followed by Atwood, 72; Plainville, 68.5; Leoti-Wichita County, 57; Hoxie, 53; St. Francis, 46.5; Cimarron, 39.5; Hill City,

38.5; Hays Thomas More Prep, 32; Sublette, 31; Montezuma-South Gray, 29; Lakin, 27; Holcomb, 25; Tribune-Greeley County, 24; Trego Community, 24; Stockton, 19; Thunder Ridge, 6; Elkhart, 0; Palco, 0.

This regional tournament is always considered to be the toughest of the four in the state.

The top four finishers in each weight class in each of the regionals qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament this Friday and Saturday in Hays.

Norton entered 13 wrestlers and 10 qualified for the state tournament.

The Blue Jays had five champions: sophomore Skylar Johnson, 106; senior Branson Addington, 113; senior Alec Hager, 138; sophomore Mike Kasson, 152 and junior Kendall Miller, 160.

Placing runner-up were senior Toby Nickell, 132; senior Cole Renner, 170 and freshman Jacob Green, 220.

Junior Jared Tallent, 145, won third place as did senior Kolton Harting, 195.

Also competing for Norton were sophomore Kyle Bell, 120; freshman Trenton Wright, 126 and sophomore Jordan Dole, 285. Norton was open at

182.

As a team, Norton compiled a fantastic 36-11 won-loss record and 22-3 pin ratio! Since they performed so well in the tournament, Mike Kasson and Toby Nickell were named "Co-Norton Wrestlers of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

Phillipsburg senior Michael Dusin, 145 pound champion, was voted by team coaches as WaKeeney Regional Tournament "Wrestler of the Year".

Named WaKeeney Regional Tournament "Coach of the Year" was Joe Buresh of Phillipsburg.

"I was very happy with our performance," said coach Johnson. "This is always a stressful week for wrestlers trying to make it to the state tournament. "We beat our adversity and came to wrestle. Our wrestlers over achieved and never gave up. I don't remember us ever scoring this many points at a regional tournament."

Individual results

106 - Skylar Johnson was seeded No.1 and drew a first round bye. He pinned John Kuhn, Trego, in :34; pinned No.5 seeded Junior Torres, Sublette, in :56 and won a 9-1 major decision over No.2 seed Bryce Bacon, Hoxie, to win the championship. Johnson's record is now 23-2 and Bacon is 20-9.

Brayden Winters, Stockton, placed third by pinning Torres in :23.

113 - Branson Addington was seeded No.3. He pinned Daniel Lerew, Oberlin, in 1:02; won a 14-0 major decision over Dylon Niswonger, Wichita County; won an 11-0 major decision over No.2 seed Tucker Rhoades, TMP and won an 18-2 technical fall over No.1 seed Isaac Stone, Greeley County, to win the championship. Addington is now 28-6 for the season and Stone is 23-3.

Rhoades placed third by pinning Dalton Oliver, Smith Center, in 4:25.

120 - Kyle Bell lost his opening match by a major decision score of 11-3 to Devin Owen, Hill City; pinned Rees Lehman, Oakley, in 1:25 and was pinned in 1:51 by Bradon Menzie, Sublette.

No.1 seed Tristan Porsch, Hoxie, won the championship on a 10-5 decision over No.2 seed Dalton Hensley, Ellis. David Hileman, Smith Center, placed third with a 17-1 technical fall over Ricky Hockett, TMP.

Bell ended his season with a 10-15 record.

Porsch extended his unbeaten record so far to 35-0. He is only a freshman. Hensley, also a freshman, is now 27-6.

126 - Trenton Wright had to wrestle No.1 seed Macrae Migchelbrink, Atwood, in the opening round and lost a 10-1 major decision. After drawing a bye in the consolation bracket, Wright pinned Ryan Deaver, Trego, in 2:51 and lost a 12-3 major decision to No.3 seed Cale Rogers, Smith Center.

Migchelbrink won the championship with an 8-5 decision over No.2 seed Riley Juenemann, Phillipsburg. Rogers placed third by pinning Gabe Hamel, Hill City, in 4:15.

Wright finished the season with a 14-21 record.

Migchelbrink is now 32-4 and Juenemann is 30-9.

132 - Toby Nickell entered the tournament unseeded but added three more wins to his record before losing in the championship match. He pinned Cole Sramek, Atwood, in 5:07; won an 8-2 upset decision over No.1 seed Trever Houser, Plainville; pinned Kobe Armbruster, Ellis, in :54 and lost a 10-1 major decision to No.2 seed Clay Cassaw, St. Francis, to place runner-up.

Nickell's record is now 8-9. Cassaw's record is 23-7.

Mason Bannister, Phillipsburg, extended his record to 22-16 by placing third with a :59 fall over Gabe Anderson, Oberlin.

138 - Alec Hager was seeded No.1. He pinned Jonathan Prieto, Holcomb, in 2:27; pinned Drake Rowh, Hoxie, in 1:24; won a 15-5 major decision over Adam Gehring, Plainville and edged No.3 seed Rhett Mizer, Atwood, 5-4 to win the championship.

Taylor Murphy, Oakley, the No.2 seed, placed third by pinning Gehring in 1:35.

Hager is now 38-5 for the season. Mizer is 33-7 and Murphy is 28-8.

145 - Jared Tallent was seeded No.3. He won a 16-1 technical fall over Justin Pacheco, St. Francis; won a 15-0 technical fall over Chase Ryan, Smith Center; lost a 15-8 decision to No.2 seed Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg; won a 9-2 decision over Colter Stoll, Oakley and pinned Brandon Schoenthaler, Trego, in 4:59 to place third.

Dusin won the championship with a 3-2 decision over No.1 seed Dayton Dreher, Oberlin.

Tallent's record is now 36-8 and Dusin

(Continued on Page 8)

Best of Luck to Our State Wrestling Qualifiers!!

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