

# Norton wrestlers take down first at Hoxie

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team took first place in the Hoxie Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday.

The Blue Jays battled throughout the tournament with defending state champion Hoxie, who has returning wrestlers who scored 151 points at the state tournament last season.

Hoxie held a slight 148 1/2-147 lead over Norton for the team title entering the consolation and championship finals matches that were wrestled at the same time. Norton had 12 wrestlers competing for the top four spots in their weight classes and Hoxie had nine but all nine were in the championship finals.

The team lead see-sawed back and forth until the 275 pound matches began with Hoxie leading 180 1/2-176. The Indians did not have a wrestler in the 275 pound finals so the burden of winning for Norton was on the broad back of junior Michael Sprigg. He needed at least a major decision to earn five points and produce a Norton team victory. Sprigg came through with flying colors, pinning his opponent for six points and a Blue Jay victory!

Norton finished with 182 points and Hoxie was runnerup with 180 1/2. Oberlin placed third with 134 1/2, followed by Dodge City, 96 1/2; Oakley, 84; Plainville, 57; Kapaun Mt. Carmel, 51; Trego, 29.

Winning championships, in addition to Sprigg, were Clay Madden, sophomore, 112; James Annon, senior, 130 and Lance Roe, sophomore, 135.

Freshman Logan Keiswetter placed second at 103 pounds.

Earning bronze medals were Nathan Broeckelman, freshman, 119; Scott Goldsby, senior, 145; Jordon Haussermann, senior, 152; C.J. Thiele, senior, 160 and Sean Lauer, senior, 215.

Fourth place finishers were Luke Pfannenstiel, sophomore, 125 and Jeremy Harding, sophomore, 140.

Norton compiled a 31-14 match record and had a 13-6 pin ratio.

In the early individual state rankings, Madden, Annon and Sprigg are each ranked No. 1 in their weight classes. Luke Pfannenstiel is ranked No. 2, Roe is No. 3 and Haussermann is No. 4. Senior Bo Pfannenstiel is ranked No. 3 at 171 pounds but is not wrestling at this time due to a football injury.

Norton has six returning state tournament placers. Annon and Madden won state championships and Sprigg was a state runnerup. Bo and Luke Pfannenstiel and Roe each placed fifth. Haussermann competed in the state tournament last season and Goldsby competed at the state tourney two years ago.

"It was an exciting finish," said Coach Johnson. "I'm proud of our wrestlers the way they handled the pressure in the championship finals and literally slugged it out with Hoxie. We knew that when they won a match, we had to win a match. There were many lead changes but, fortunately, we had a heavyweight and they didn't and we scored the last points. Sprigg had to get at least a major decision and he did better than that. But, every match we won counted toward the championship. It was a team victory. You can even say that such things as major decisions made the difference. Clay Madden won a major decision over Brady Huck of Dodge City, who placed second in the state tournament last year, and James Annon won a major decision with a move right at the end of his championship match. That's two extra points.

"We showed a lot of character and heart during those tense moments leading to the end of the tournament. No matter the outcome, we competed well. It was fun competition. Just coming out and doing your best is more important than winning.

"Our depth helped a lot. We have 14 wrestlers and not a weak one. When we get Bo Pfannenstiel back, we'll be even stronger.

"Although we won, there are still a lot of places where we must improve. I wasn't happy with how we wrestled on the mat, especially from the bottom position. We lost several matches we shouldn't have. We didn't wrestle up to our capabilities.

"We need to be in better physical condition but that will come. I don't want us in tip-top shape at this point in the season. This is only a beginning. It's a long season. I hope to see us improve as a team instead of looking at this win as a season highlight. I hope we can continue to thrive off the competitive juices flowing in the heat of battle.

"We'll meet Hoxie again in two weeks in the Goodland duals so that should be a challenge. They have a strong team and wrestling head-to-head with them in a dual will be tougher than in a tournament."

Since he called the championship at Hoxie a team win, Coach Johnson named the entire team "Wrestlers of the Week".

Michael Sprigg was seeded No. 1 at 275 pounds. He pinned Wade Harp, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the first period of their first round match. In the semi-finals, he pinned Ty Brunswig, Trego, in the second period. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Marty Rodriguez, Dodge City, and pinned him in the first period.

Brunswig pinned No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked A.J. Garcia, Plainville, in the consolation championship.

Clay Madden was seeded No. 1 at 112 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won an 8-0 major decision over David Barth, Oberlin. In the championship finals, he won a 10-1 major decision over Brady Huck, Dodge City, the No. 2 seed.

Barth edged No. 3 seed Mark Samuelson, Oakley, 2-1 for third place.

James Annon was the No. 1 seed at 130 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Chris Hagan, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he pinned Josh Guthrie, Dodge City, in the second period. In the championship finals, he won a 12-1 major decision over No. 2 seed Denton Bailey, Oberlin.

Guthrie decided Hagan 6-4 for third place.

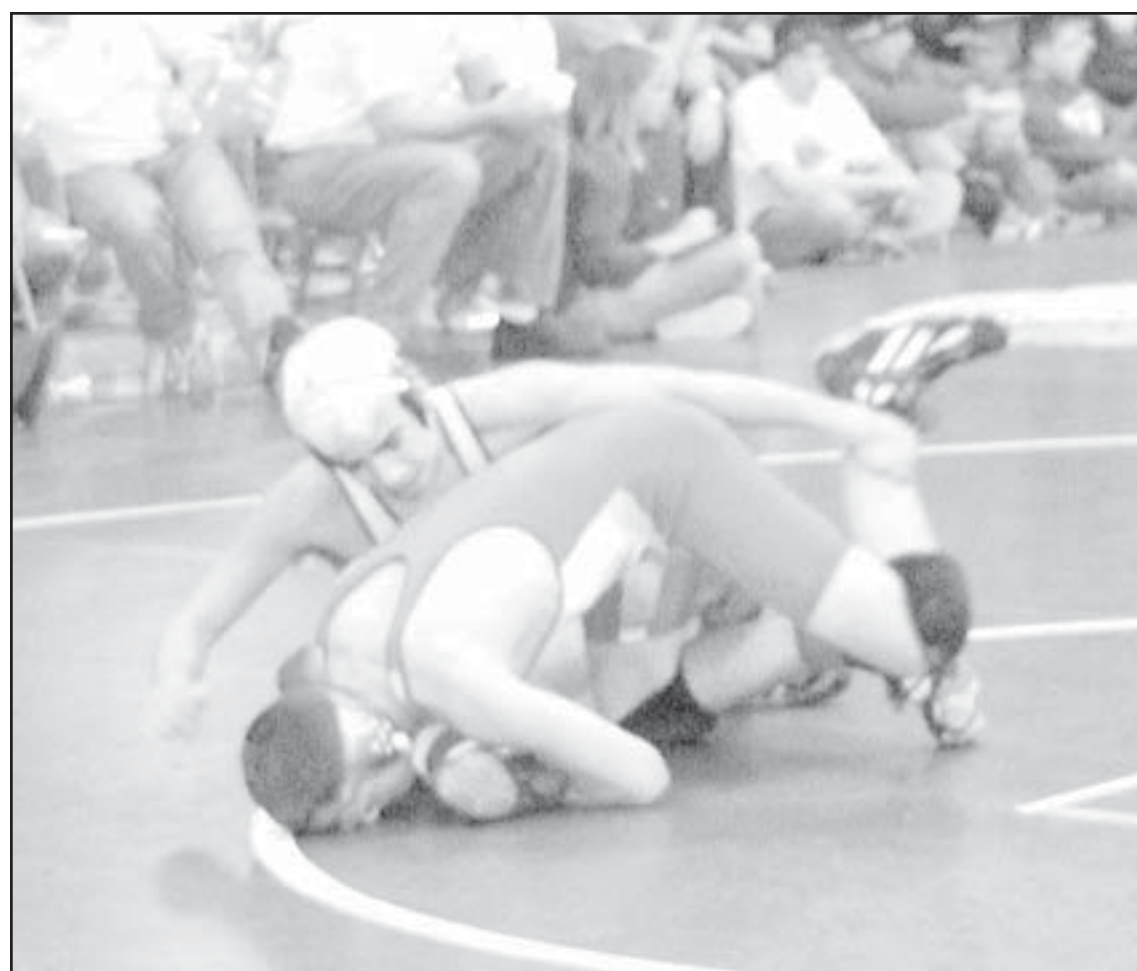
At 135 pounds, Lance Roe was the No. 1 seed. In the first round, he pinned Kegan Macfee, Oberlin, in the second period. He pinned John Wessel, Dodge City, in the second period of their semi-final match. In the championship finals, he decided No. 3 seed Jeremiah Moss, Hoxie, 9-3.

No. 2 seed Austin Jonas, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, won third with a 9-8 decision over Wessel.

Logan Keiswetter was seeded No. 3 at 103 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won a 14-5 major decision over Breck Simonsson, Oberlin. In the championship finals, he lost a 9-4 decision to Patrick Whisennand, Dodge City.

Simonsson won third by pinning John Hagan, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the second period.

Nathan Broeckelman won a 10-5 decision over Jonathan Richards, Oberlin, in the first round at 119 pounds. In the semi-



The Blue Jays' 130 pound defending state champion James Annon got his senior season off to a great start on Saturday with a championship in the Hoxie Invitational Tournament. Annon is shown here in complete control of Denton Bailey, Oberlin, his championship finals opponent. Annon came close to pinning Bailey on his way to a 12-1 major decision. — Telgram photo by Dick Boyd

finals, he lost an 8-0 major decision to No. 2 seed Paul Owings, Plainville, who is ranked No. 2 in the state at 112 pounds. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Matt Montoya, Dodge City, in the second period and won a 9-6 decision over Richards to place third.

No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Cale Farber of Hoxie won the championship by pinning Owings in the first period.

Scott Goldsby was seeded No. 3 at 145 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Kevin Schuster, Trego, in the second period. In the semi-finals, he lost a 7-1 decision to No. 2 seed Matt Coleman, Oberlin. In the consolation bracket, he won a 9-5 decision over Eric Sternberger, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, then decided Adam Meyers, Plainville, 6-3, to place third. Meyers is ranked No. 6 in the state at 140 pounds.

No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Jason Schippers, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning Coleman in the first period. Coleman is ranked No. 5 in the state at 135 pounds.

At 152 pounds, Jordon Haussermann pinned Leo Wetta, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the third period of their first round match. In the semi-finals, Haussermann was pinned in the second period by No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Matt Schippers, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he won a 7-3 decision over Catlin Zahorsky, Plainville, then decided No. 3 seed Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley, 7-2 to place third.

Schippers decided No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked Logan Glaze, Oberlin, 4-0 to win the championship.

C.J. Thiele was seeded No. 3 at 160 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Conner McMullen, Plainville, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he lost a 10-2 major decision to No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked Doug Campbell, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, C.J. won a 9-0 major decision over Travis Harper, Dodge City, then shutout Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley, 4-0 to place third.

Campbell edged No. 1 seed Frank Jonas, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, 1-0 to win the championship.

At 215 pounds, Sean Lauer was seeded No. 1. After receiving a first round bye, he lost a 3-1 deci-

sion to Tim Erwin, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Zac Meitzner, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, in the second period, then decided No. 2 seed Jake Padgett, Oberlin, 2-1 to place third.

Erwin pinned Anthony Garcia, Dodge City, in the third period to win the championship.

At 125 pounds, Luke Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he won a 10-1 major decision over Dustin Warta,

Oberlin. In the semi-finals, he lost a 4-2 decision to No. 2 seeded and No. 1 state ranked Tyler Baker, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Jose Rodriguez, Dodge City, in the second period, then lost 6-5 to Justin Johnson, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, to place fourth.

No. 1 seed Levi Younkin, Oakley, decided Baker, 4-2, to win the championship. Baker was the state champion last year at 119 pounds and Younkin was state champion at 112 pounds.

At 140 pounds, Jeremy Harding was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he pinned Tyson Flax, Trego, in the first period. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in the third period by No. 2 seed Shane Montgomery, Oberlin. In the consolation bracket, he decided Jake Weigel, Plainville, 6-5, then was pinned by Flax in the first period to place fourth.

No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Mat Gilliland, Hoxie, won the championship by pinning Montgomery in the third period.

Senior Josh Green won his first round match at 171 pounds over Scott Burrus, Kapaun Mt. Carmel, by a score of 11-8. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in the second period by No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Ryan Shipley, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in the second period by Tyler Brungardt, Plainville.

No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked Brett Keck, Oberlin, decided Shipley 6-5 for the championship. Jeff Dennis, Oakley, the No. 3 seed, pinned Brungardt in the second period to place third.

At 189 pounds, senior Tom Graham lost a 10-6 decision to Alex Gaede, Hoxie, in the first round. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in the second period by Kyle Spena, Trego.

No. 1 seed Bobby Dennis, Oakley, won the championship with a 7-2 decision over No. 2 seed and No. 3 state ranked Alex Smetana, Plainville. Gannon Reichert, Oberlin, placed third by pinning Cole Wilson, Dodge City, in the second period.

Next varsity action will be Saturday in the Clay Center Invitational, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The junior varsity will compete Friday in the Southern Valley Tournament at Oxford, starting at 9 a.m.

## Fact: It doesn't take a brain surgeon to cure a cold.



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## Logan boys beat Eastern Heights

The Logan Trojans opened their season with a 48-30 win against Eastern Heights.

The Trojans started off behind in the first quarter (11-8), but then took a 22-17 lead by half time.

After that, they stayed in the lead, tallying 35-28 in the third quarter and 48-30 in the fourth.

Tyson Triplett led scoring for Logan with 6 two-pointers and 5 of 6 free throws for 17 points. He was followed by Kyle McClurg, 12 points; Taylor Archer, 10 points; Seth Diggs, 6 points; and

Bryant Reese, 3 points. As a team, the Trojans shot 31 percent of their field goals.

Rebounding honors went to Archer with 13 and Triplett with 11.

As a team, Logan made 8 steals and 8 assists.

On defense, Triplett and Reese both blocked two of the Mustangs' shots.

The Logan Trojans will be in the Phillipsburg Round Robin. They will play Plainville on Dec. 9, Stockton on Dec. 12, and Phillipsburg on Dec. 13.

### Logan 48, Eastern Heights 30

Score by quarters:

Logan 8 14 13

13 — 48

Eastern Heights 11 6

11 2 — 30

### Eastern Heights (30)

Terek Wisinger 3 1 1-5 18,

Wyrill 3 0 0-0 6, Jared Rose 1 0 2-

5 4, Donald Lowe 1 0 0-2 2.

### Logan (48)

Tyson Triplett 6 0 5-6 17, Kyle

McClurg 4 1 1-6 12, Taylor Archer

5 0 0-1 10, Seth Diggs 2 0 2-3 6,

Bryant Reese 0 1 0-0 3.