



At the Game



U.S. 36 towns have winners

By Jim Merriott

When it comes to the state high school wrestling champions, no one needs to look further than U.S. 36, which runs east to west across the northern tier of counties.

Schools along the road produced 31 wrestlers with at least a sixth-place finish out of the 70 possible places, 44 percent of the winning places at the Class 3-2-1A state tournament at Hays on Saturday. Among them were Oberlin's Jon Richards, second at 140 pounds, and Terry Urban, third at 171.

From St. Francis in the west as far east as Sabetha, just a few miles north of 36 on U.S. 75, the "Route of the Windmills" has developed into a vein of wrestling tradition.

That's 324 miles out of the 391 from the Colorado state line to Missouri, just 83 percent of the road, producing all those state champion high school wrestlers, said Fred Holthaus at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The 2006 champions came from St. Francis, Atwood, Oberlin, Norton, Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Belleville and Sabetha.

U.S. 36, part of the original Pony Express route from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., is still producing the gritty, stubborn, never-give-up men that forged these communities years ago.

"The Northwest Kansas League and the Mid-Continent league produce many fine wrestlers," said Adam Kadavy, KFNF radio play-by-play announcer at the state tournament.

State medalists from these towns include:

- 103 pounds, Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, second.
- 112 pounds, Zac Bainter, Norton, second; Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, fourth; Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, fifth.
- 119 pounds, Clay Madden, Norton, first; Trevor Richard, St. Francis, second; Aaron Weatherhead, Belleville, sixth.
- 125 pounds, Nathan Broeckelman, Norton, first; Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood, third; Travis Rempe, Smith Center, fourth.
- 130 pounds, Kent Mann, Norton, third.
- 135 pounds, Dylan Loyd, St. Francis, second; Justin York, Smith Center, third; Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, fourth; Jon Harding, Norton, fifth.
- 140 pounds, Travis Warner, Smith Center, first; Richards, Oberlin, second; Blake Van Eaton, Norton, third; Tony Ceman, Phillipsburg, sixth.
- 145 pounds, Jason Pyle, Smith Center, first; Jeremy Harding, Norton, second; Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, third.
- 152 pounds, Luke Pfannenstiel, Norton, first.
- 152 pounds, Denton Bailey, Oberlin, fourth.
- 160 pounds, Lance Roe, Norton, first.; Gabe Smull, St. Francis, second; Jake Nichols, Smith Center, third.
- 171 pounds, Urban, Oberlin, third.
- 189 pounds, Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg, fourth; Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, fifth.
- Heavyweight, Brennon Wilger, St. Francis, second.

- Bowling News -

Monday Night Mixed 2-20

Team standings: Neitzel Insurance 21-7, Bowled and Beautiful 17-11, Fearless 4 Some 16-12, Frewen Insurance 12-12, Krien Pharmacy 11-13, Captain Hooks Fine Dining 3-25

High game (handicap): Arrie Cox 239, Kale Zimbelman 236, Rich Grace 228, Christi Milne 219, Sara Schield 219, January Fiedler 214

High series (handicap): Zimbelman 629, Grace 618, Milne 610, Schield 595, Janice Krien 589, Cox 585



SENIOR INDIAN WRESTLER Trevor Richard placed second at the State Tournament held in Hays on Friday and Saturday. The St. Francis team placed third with Norton running away with the first place trophy. Photo courtesy of Doug Ross

Indians place third at State tourney

By Betty Jean Winston

The Indians came home from the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament with 108 points and a third-place trophy. Four Indians, Trevor Richard, Dylan Loyd, Gabe Smull and Brennon Wilger, placed second. Jordan Gienger finished third at the tournament held in Hays on Saturday.

"We had four wrestlers in the finals and it has been quite a while since that has happened," Coach Larry Gabel said.

Richard, who wrestled at 119 pounds, was defeated in the championship round by Madden of Norton.

Loyd, who wrestled at 135 pounds, lost to Esterl of Beloit.

Gabe Smull, who wrestled at 160 pounds, was defeated by Roe of Norton.

Wilger, who wrestled at 275 pounds, lost to Zlatnik of Rossville.

"I'm pleased that five of the eight St. Francis wrestlers who qualified for State placed," Coach Gabel said.

Gavin Smull, Justin Sherlock and Roger Russell also qualified for State by placing in the top four at the Regional Tournament held in Oberlin on Feb. 17 and 18. Although these wrestlers did not place in the top six in their weight class they accumulated points for the Indians.

"I am disappointed for the kids who felt they did not quite finish their goals for the year. To come so close and not to win is hard.

"To be a champion, you do not need to have a medal around your neck. These wrestlers are all champions in my eyes due to their work ethic, character and values.

"Hopefully through handling disappointment, something better will come to them."

Norton won the team title with 186.5 points to repeat as State Champions for the third consecutive time, while Smith Center placed second. After the third-place finish which St. Francis claimed, Phillipsburg was fourth and Silver Lake fifth.

Gienger, Wilger, Gavin Smull, Rogers and Sherlock will be returning to the Indian squad next year.

Team standings

(Top 25): Norton 186.5, Smith Center 110, St. Francis 108, Phillipsburg 86.5, Silver Lake 74, Hoxie 72, Beloit 67.5, Eureka 67.5, Garden Plain 67, Oberlin 65, Atchison County 43, Lincoln 32, Rock Creek 32, Sabetha 32, Trego 32, Hill City 31, Hoisington 29, Leoti 29, Lyons 28.5, Rossville 28, Sedgwick 26, Hillsboro 25, Oakley 25, Bluestem 23, Hesston 23. Northwest Kansas League member Rawlins County earned 18 points.

Champions

103: Hase, Silver Lake; 112: Burton, Eureka; 119: Madden, Norton; 125: Broeckelman, Norton; 130: Baker, Hoxie; 135: Esterl, Beloit; 140: Warner, Smith Center; 145: Pyle, Sabetha; 152: Pfannenstiel, Norton; 160: Roe, Norton; 171: Wright, Beloit; 189: Malay, Trego; 215: Foster, Sedgwick; 275: Zlatnik, Rossville.

Team stats

Sainty wrestlers listed first followed by their opponents: takedowns 30-23; escapes 16-16; reversals 13-15; near falls 17-18; wins 19-11; major decisions 1-3; technical falls 0-0; falls 9-3.

Individual stats

119: Richard (3-1, second place) won by a fall over Hawkins, Silver Lake; won by an 8-2 decision over Spangler, Beloit; won by a fall over Brachtenbach, Hill City; lost by a 4-2 decision to Madden, Norton;

125: Gavin Smull (2-2) lost by a fall to Mosley, Wichita Independent; won by a 15-5 decision over Williams, Oskaloosa; won by a 2-0 decision over Ramirez, Wellsville; lost by a fall to Rempe, Smith Center

135: Loyd (3-1, second place) won by a fall over Breen, Minneapolis; won by a fall over Noll, Effingham; won by a 12-6 decision over York, Smith Center; lost by a 5-3 decision to Esterl, Beloit;

140: Sherlock (1-2) lost by a 12-10 decision to Conrad, Alma

Wabaunsee; won by a 6-2 decision over Adams, Beloit; lost by a 15-4 major decision to Daerr, Garden Plain;

145: Gienger (4-1, third place) won by a fall over Moyer, Wellsville; won by a 12-9 decision over Patterson, Garden Plains; lost by a 13-4 major decision to Pyle, Sabetha; won by an 8-1 decision over Hazzard, Lyons; won by an 11-5 decision over Patterson, Garden Plain;

160: Gabe Smull (3-1, second place) won by a fall over Hanel, Beloit; won by a fall over Austin, Remington; won by a 12-7 decision over Ryan, Lincoln; lost by a 17-7 major decision to Roe, Norton;

171: Rogers (0-2) lost by a 7-3 decision to Mosley, Wichita Independent; lost by a 5-4 double overtime decision to Labarge, Ellis;

285: Wilger (3-1, second place) won by a fall over Hiss, Ellis; won by a fall over Frye, Belleville; won by a 1-0 decision over Schneider, Hoisington; lost by a fall to Zlatnik, Rossville.

Champs named in League tourney

By Betty Jean Winston

St. Francis finished the Northwest Kansas League junior high wrestling tournament with two champions (Adam Guthmiller, Darris Keller), one second place finisher (Cody Sherlock), three third place finishers (Grady Brunk, Trent Raile, Robbie Herman); and four fourth place finishers (Trevor Reed, David Stephens, Benjamin Neitzel, Brooks Hobrock). As a team, St. Francis placed sixth with 115 team points.

The final event of the season was held in Goodland on Tuesday. The team members have worked hard throughout the season and learned many new skills. Individual accomplishments, including the number of wins, will be published in a March issue of the Herald.

"This was a very tough tournament and I thought we fought hard," Coach Steve Jenkins said. "The semi's were tough on us but we battled back to place 10 of our 14 kids. And, as it turned out, we were only 15 points out of a team medal."

Team totals

Team statistics with St. Francis listed first followed by their opponents: record: 15-20; pins: 6-16; takedowns: 23-21; near fall-2: 2-4;



JUNIOR HIGH WRESTLER Cody Sherlock placed second in the Northwest Kansas League tournament held in

near fall-3: 13-24; reversals: 6-7, escapes: 4-1.

Individual results

104: Terrence Lamb lost by a 14-0 major decision to Campbell, Oakley, lost a 7-4 decision to Wilson, Colby;

110: Alex Draper lost by a fall to Farr, Oberlin, lost by a fall to Rall, Colby;

116: Ryan Owens lost by a fall to Wolters, Rawlins County, lost by a fall to Roeder, Goodland;

122: Trevor Reed (fourth place) lost by a fall to Parsons, Oakley; won by a 14-5 major decision over Rasmussen, Colby; won by a 2-0 overtime decision over Schamburger, Hoxie;

138: David Stephens (fourth place) lost by a fall to Sickel, Colby; lost by a 5-2 decision to Overmiller, Oberlin;

146: Trent Raile (third place) won by a 7-0 decision over Baker, Hoxie; lost by a fall to Maurath, Oakley; won by an 8-0 major decision over Starr, Goodland; won by a 7-0 decision over Baker, Hoxie;

154: Adam Guthmiller (first place) won by a fall over White, Colby; won by a 2-0 decision over Cook, Rawlins County;

162: Benjamin Neitzel (fourth place) lost by a fall to Nelson, Goodland; won by a fall over Brown, Hoxie; lost by a fall to Fanders, Colby;

170: Brooks Hobrock (fourth

Goodland on Tuesday. The St. Francis team also had two champions.

place) lost by a fall to Holliman, Rawlins County; won by a 2-0 overtime decision over Murray, Colby; lost by a fall to Fromholtz, Colby;

182: Robbie Herman (third place) lost by a fall to Carroll, Rawlins County; won by a fall over Guyer, Goodland; won by a fall over Engell, Oakley;

86: Brandon Keeker lost by a fall to Moeder, Colby; lost by a fall to Peters, Oberlin;

92: Cody Sherlock (second place) won by a fall over Schamburger, Hoxie; lost by an 8-4 decision to Reed, Colby;

98: Darris Keller (first place) won by a 2-0 decision over Reichert, Oberlin; won by a 2-0 decision over

Schroeder, Colby.

Letter winners

The junior high wrestling coaches have announced the following wrestlers to have lettered in wrestling for the 2006 season.

Eighth graders: Terrence Lamb, Grady Brunk, David Stephens, Trent Raile, Benjamin Neitzel, Darris Keller, Drew Zweggard, Matt Raile, Freddie Pacheco, Alex Long

Seventh graders: Alex Draper, Ryan Owens, Trevor Reed, Adam Guthmiller, Brooks Hobrock, Robbie Herman, Brandon Keeker, Cody Sherlock, Tyler Lauer, Brett Lampe, Cody Killingsworth, Tye Gilliland, Garrett Figgins, Ricky Bussell, Michael Adams.