

Wrestlers take fourth at Newton tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team placed a strong fourth in the Newton Invitational Tournament of Champions, one of the toughest high school tournaments in the state of Kansas, on Friday and Saturday in Newton.

It was the second year for the Blue Jays to compete in the most prestigious of all prep wrestling tournaments in Kansas. Last year, Norton placed five wrestlers and scored 121 points finishing sixth.

This time around, Norton placed eight wrestlers and scored 125 points. Last year, the Blue Jays compiled a 33-23 won-lost record and this year they had 35 wins and just 19 losses for a 64.8 percent winning percentage, second best among the 22 teams in the tournament.

Norton had just two fewer wins but a better winning percentage than champion Bishop Carroll of Wichita who scored 194 points. Second overall was Manhattan with 186.5 points. Emporia was third with 135 points.

Clay Center placed fifth with 109.5 points. McPherson was sixth with 100 points, Valley Center placed seventh with 95.5. Winfield was eighth with 90, Andale scored 80.5 to finish in ninth and Salina South was tenth with 76.5 points.

Scores of the other teams competing were: Wichita South, 75; Hutchinson, 73.5; Derby, 72; Wichita Heights, 69; Arkansas City, 58; Leavenworth 54.5; Maize, 52.5; Newton, 46; Wichita Northwest, 40; Dodge City, 39; Andover, 38.5; Wichita East, 4.

Norton junior Michael Sprigg won the championship of the 275 pound weight class. Senior James Annon lost for the first time this season and was the runnerup at 130 pounds.

Sophomore Lance Roe placed third at 135 pounds and senior Bo Pfannenstiel finished fourth at 171 pounds.

Freshman Nathan Broeckelman and senior Curtis Black placed fifth at 112 and 125 pounds, respectively. Senior Josh Green finished sixth at 160 pounds and senior Jordon Haussermann finished in seventh at 152 pounds.

Norton's fourth place finish is even more satisfying when you realize that the Blue Jays were open at 119, 189 and 215 pound weights. Coach Johnson was so proud of his Blue Jays' performance that he named the entire team "Wrestlers of the Week".

"I thought coming into the tournament that finishing in the top ten teams would be an accomplishment with only 11 wrestlers in the lineup," said Coach Johnson. "For some of our wrestlers, it was the first time for them to compete in such a large tournament. You never know how they will react mentally. It is definitely our toughest tournament of the year and is the premier tournament in the state.

"I'm really, really proud of our team the way we were able to step up and battle through two grueling days of wrestling. Several of our wrestlers had seven matches in the two days. There are more matches than in a state tournament where you have 16 wrestlers in each weight class. We go to this tournament to prepare for the state tournament. We want all of our wrestlers to be tested before the state tournament and they were tested in this tournament. In order to be the best wrestler, you have to wrestle the best.

"When you do well in this tournament, your name goes down in history with the great individuals in the sport of wrestling. "Many, many thanks to all our fans, many of whom made the 500 mile trip to Newton to support us. We had a larger crowd than many towns who were closer. Many of our fans don't even have children in school but still drive to support us."

Norton is a Class 3A school and was the smallest school competing in the tournament. Most of the wrestlers were from Class 5A and 6A schools.

Michael Sprigg was seeded No. 1 at 275 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Lucas Mitchell in 40 seconds. In the quarter-finals, he pinned Justin Naccarato, Valley Center, in 50 seconds. Sprigg had

his toughest match in the semi-finals where he needed an escape to win 1-0 over Adrian Mayes, Manhattan, who had also pinned his first two opponents.

In the championship finals on Saturday evening, Sprigg wrestled No. 2 seed Nic Sterneker, McPherson and completely dominated the Class 5A wrestler. He pinned him in just 54 seconds. It was the only pin in the championships Saturday evening. Sprigg is now 14-2 for the season and Sterneker is now 15-2.

Mayes won third place by shutting out Marty Rodriguez, Dodge City, 7-0. P.J. Voegeli, Bishop Carroll, won fifth place by forfeit over Tyler Jessen, Wichita Northwest. Steve Stewart, Andover, won seventh, by a 5-4 score over Luke Costello, Emporia.

At 130 pounds, Norton's defending state champion James Annon was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he won a 19-6 major decision over Kirk Godfrey, then pinned Nathan Thibault, Maize, in 4:54. In the semi-finals, he decisioned Trent Swanson, McPherson, 11-9. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Marcus Herrera, Emporia, who won the Class 6A state championship two years ago and was third last year. Both wrestlers went "all out" and Herrera won 7-4. Annon trailed 2-0 after one period and 6-2 at the end of the second period. Annon is now 18-1 for the season and Herrera is 19-0. In last year's Newton Tournament, Herrera was seeded No. 1 at 125 pounds and Annon was seeded No. 2 and Annon pulled the upset, decisioning Herrera 6-4 in overtime. Annon went on to win the state championship.

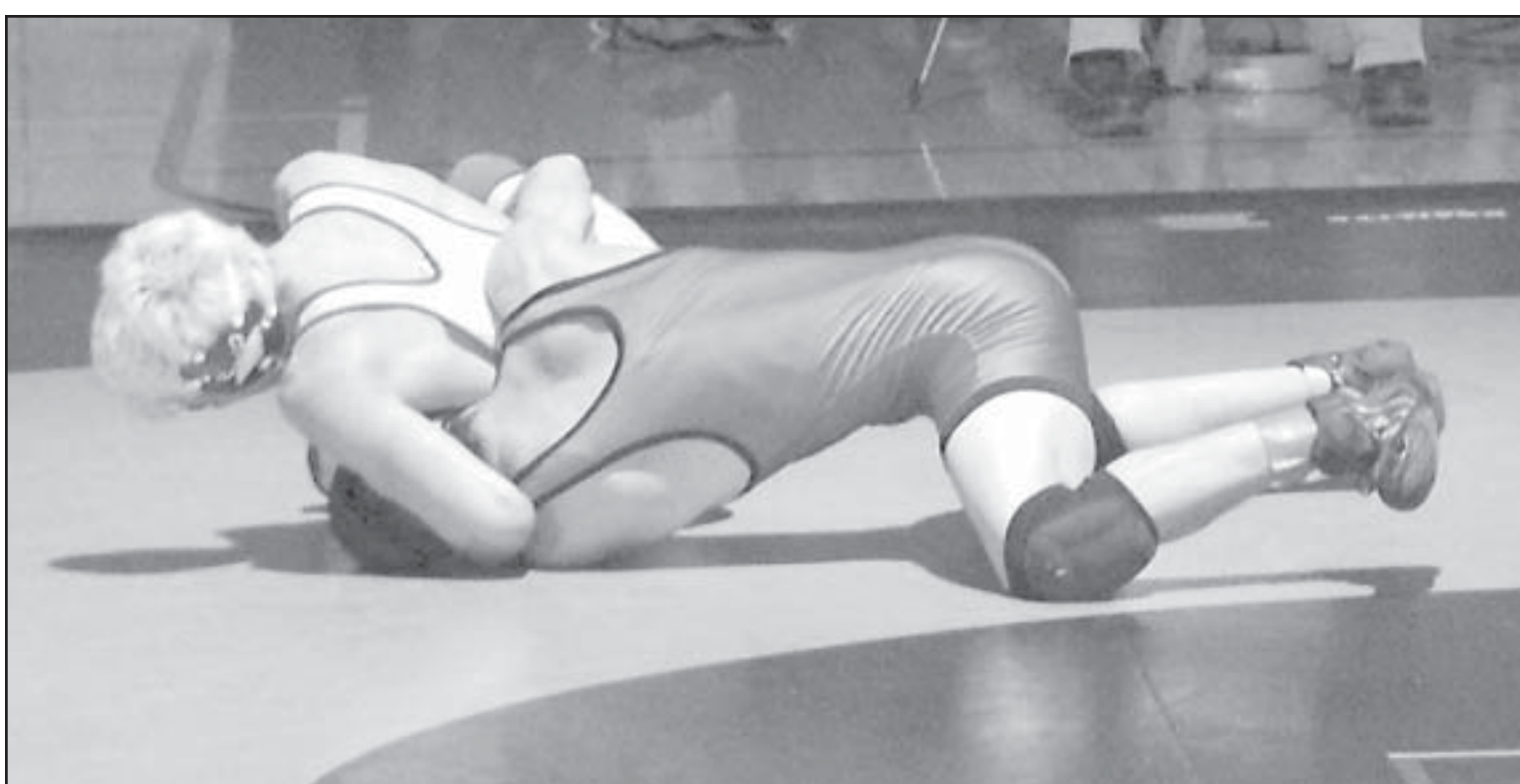
Other results at 130 were: Kyle Oyler, Hutchinson, 3-1 over Jon Robinson, Valley Center, third; Thibault, 3-1 over Swanson, fifth; Jack Eck, Andale, won by forfeit over Kyle Heincker, Derby, seventh. Lance Roe pinned John Tongish, Newton, in just 27 seconds of their first round match at 135 pounds. He won a 13-3 decision over Andy Brand, Andale, but was pinned in 27 seconds by No. 1 seed Jake Ashpole, Valley Center. In the consolation bracket, he won an 11-2 decision over Jared Patterson, Maize. In the consolation championship, he completely dominated Phil Craig, Hutchinson. He held period leads of 5-0 and 8-0 and won 12-0. Roe is now 17-4 for the season.

Other results at 135 were: Ashpole shutout Levi Anstine, 4-0, first; Patterson decisioned Andy Brand, Andale, 8-3, fifth; Kyle Moravec, Wichita Heights, decisioned Patrick Rodgers, Wichita Northwest, 5-1, seventh. At 171 pounds, Bo Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 2. In his first match, he won a 13-4 major decision over Brandon Lester, Salina South, then decisioned Nathan Boyer, Clay Center, 5-3. In the semi-finals, he lost a 3-2 overtime decision to No. 3 seed George Sponsel, Bishop Carroll. In the consolation bracket, he decisioned Jarrett Edison, Wichita Northwest, 2-1 in overtime, then lost the consolation championship match by a 5-1 score in a re-match with Boyer. Pfannenstiel is now 10-3 for the season.

Other results at 171 pounds were: Sponsel decisioned No. 1 seed John Kosko 4-2 for the championship; Jarrett Edison, Wichita Northwest, decisioned Scott Hammarlund, McPherson, 13-4, fifth; Beau Williams, Valley Center, decisioned Josh Jackson, Maize, 3-2, seventh. Nathan Broeckelman shutout Dalton Caldwell, Clay Center, 6-0, in his first 112 pound match, then he won a 13-4 major decision over No. 3 seed Brady Huck, Dodge City. In the semi-finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Jeb Woodford, Manhattan, and lost a 2-0 decision.

In the consolation bracket, he lost a 10-5 decision to Dan Munoz, Wichita South, then decisioned Huck 7-2 in a re-match to place fifth. Broeckelman is now 6-2 at 112 pounds.

Other results at 112 pounds were: Isaac Wall, Andover, decisioned Woodford 7-2 for the championship; Kelly Heincker, Derby, pinned Munoz, third; Joe Duling, Bishop Carroll, pinned David Haist, Ark City, seventh.



Michael Sprigg (below) manhandled Nic Sterneker, McPherson, in the championship finals of the 275-pound class in the Newton Tournament of Champions

on Saturday. Senior James Annon and Emporia's Marcus Herrera (above) put their unbeaten records on the line in the 130-pound championship match. — Photos by Dick Boyd

At 125 pounds, Curtis Black pinned Jayme Hoover, Salina South, in a feather bracket match. In his first round match, he wrestled Cody Garcia, Hutchinson, who entered the tournament with a perfect 17-0 record. Black was pinned in 1:31 by Garcia. In the consolation bracket, he decisioned Brandon Kelly 9-1 and decisioned No. 3 seed Nathan Delforge, Valley Center, 9-5. In the consolation semi-finals, he lost by a fall in 1:41 to Levi Sides, McPherson. He won fifth place by decisioning Brian Ast, Emporia, 8-4. Black is now 12-8 for the season.

Other results at 125 pounds were: Garcia decisioned Jud Schroeder, Andale, 8-1 for the championship; Tom McDonald, won a 4-2 decision over Sides, third; Bishop Price, Wichita South, decisioned Matt Thibault, Maize, 10-2, seventh.

At 160 pounds, Josh Green substituted for C.J. Thiele. In his first round match, Green pinned Jeremy Prewitt. After that, he decisioned Josh Marrs, Clay Center, 4-2. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 2:07 by Josh Roberts. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 6-4 decision to Bobby Spexarth, Andale. In the fifth place match, he lost a 13-1 decision to Steven Simmon, Valley Center. Josh is now 5-8 for the season.

Other results at 160 pounds were: Josh Roberts, Winfield, won a 3-2 decision over No. 1 seed Ryan Johnson, Manhattan, for the championship; Spexarth decisioned No. 2 seed Nathan Brenner, Bishop Carroll, 7-4, third place; Jeremy Prewitt, Derby, decisioned Marrs 15-5, seventh.

Jordon Haussermann wrestled a feather bracket match at 152 pounds. He pinned Travis Harper, Dodge City, in 1:46. In his first round, he lost a 6-5 decision to Richie Rios, Wichita Heights. In the consolation, he pinned Bryson Ramsey, Ark City, in 3:40, then decisioned Seth Giles, Hutchinson, 9-4 and Zack Davis, Newton, 8-3. Next, he lost a 10-5 decision to Sean Curran, Leavenworth. In the seventh place match, he shutout Anthony Fiorillo, Salina South, 3-0. Haussermann is now 18-7 for the season.

Other results at 152 pounds were: Justin Johnson, Manhattan, decisioned Jake Johnston, Bishop Carroll, 11-5, for the championship; Dane Adkins, Emporia, decisioned Rios 5-4, third place; Curran decisioned Patrick Quane, McPherson, 10-6, fifth.

At 103 pounds, freshman Kent Mann lost his feather bracket match to Cody Broyles, Ark City, 6-5. In the consolation bracket, Mann decisioned Nathan Gile, Clay Center, 6-2, then decisioned Jared Birkle, Wichita Heights, 8-5. He lost a 2-1 decision to Aaron Ely, Leavenworth.

Other results at 103 pounds were: Seth Metzler, Newton, decisioned Liam Kastor, Bishop Carroll, 9-3 for the championship; Blake Fisher, Andale, shutout Mike Creekmore, Wichita South, 3-0, third; Ely decisioned Patrick Whissenand, Dodge City, 4-2, fifth; Josh Wetta, Wichita Northwest, pinned Broyles, seventh.

Senior Scott Goldsby wrestled for Norton at 140 pounds. In the first round, he lost a 9-3 decision



to Michael Miller, Manhattan. In the consolation bracket, he decisioned Jonny Hermes, Andale, 15-8 but lost a 6-4 decision to No. 2 seed Matt Gilbert, Clay Center. Goldsby is now 3-4 for the season.

Other results at 140 pounds were: Lukas Zouzias won the championship by default over Tyler Nelson; Michael Miller, Manhattan, decisioned Gilbert, 3-2, third; Zack Hentzen, Maize, decisioned Seth Farley, Hutchinson, 3-2, fifth; David Loos, Bishop Carroll, pinned Dustin Schultz, McPherson, seventh.

At 145 pounds, sophomore Jeremy Harding was pinned by Aaron Mejia, Emporia, in his first round match. In the consolation bracket, he decisioned John Compton, Hutchinson, 4-2, then won by forfeit over Justin Arrington, Wichita South. In his next match, he was pinned in 1:48 by No. 4 seed Casey Lee, Winfield. Harding's record is

now 3-4 for the season.

Other results at 145 pounds were: Danny Grater, Clay Center, decisioned Sequoia Hill, Wichita Heights, 8-2, for the championship; Brett Fiene, Valley Center, decisioned Kris Fitzgerald, Manhattan, 5-2, third; Lee pinned Nathan Stayrook Hobb, Newton, fifth; Daniel Smith, Derby, won a 5-3 decision over Collin Babler, Bishop Carroll, seventh.

Grater was chosen by vote of the team coaches as the "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament.

Results at 119 pounds were: Garrett Harding, Winfield, decisioned Karl Brown, Bishop Carroll, 5-3 for the championship; Conner Crumbliss, Ark City, decisioned Nick Nothern, Salina South, 4-2, third; Aaron Birgham, Manhattan, won by default over John Ludlow, Wichita South, fifth; John Lucynski, Leavenworth, won a 4-3 decision over Steven Kilian, Derby, seventh.

Results at 189 pounds were: Jacob Marrs, Clay Center, decisioned Sean Pietrzyk, Salina South, 6-4 for the championship; Lee Larson, Manhattan, decisioned Jacob McFarland, Derby, 9-6, third; Patt Moore, Winfield, decisioned Tyler Haynes, Emporia, 6-3, fifth; Chad Keeling, Wichita Heights, pinned Brandon Bowers, McPherson, seventh.

Results at 215 pounds were: Chris Jennings, Manhattan, decisioned Ryan Sponsel, Bishop Carroll, 9-3 for the championship; Sam Archer, McPherson, won a 12-1 decision over Kelly Hibarger, Wichita South, third; Alec Heffron, Emporia, pinned Travis Weller, Clay Center, fifth; Carl Wilk, Leavenworth, pinned Josh Cravens, Valley Center, seventh.

Next action
Next competition for the Norton Blue Jay wrestling team will be Friday when they travel to Atwood for a dual which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Bulletin Board

Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

<p>Auto Service Repair</p> <p>Problem Solved!</p> <p>Complete Computer Diagnosis CAREFUL ATTENTION SETS OUR SERVICE SHOP APART FROM OTHERS</p> <p>-Tune-ups -Air Conditioner -Brakes -Exhaust System -Shocks -Radiator Repair</p> <p>WALTER MOTOR COMPANY NORTON—1-800-479-3112 (877-3112)</p>	<p>Auto Glass Repair</p> <p>Good Investment</p> <p>LISTEN UP</p> <p></p> <p>Wouldn't Your Ad Look Great Here—Call 877-3361</p>
<p>Construction</p> <p>OVERLEASE CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>785-877-2115 410 South Street</p> <p>*Remodeling *Additions *Custom Cabinets Call Greg Overlease for all your carpentry needs</p>	<p>Hot Opportunity</p> <p>Wouldn't Your Ad Look Great Here???</p> <p>Call Carol or Barbara</p> <p>877-3361</p>

Give Your Business the Attention it Deserves!!

CALL . . .

Spaces Always Available:

1" per month — \$42.50
2" per month — \$76.50
3" — per month — \$103.50

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

785-877-3361