

# Norton wrestlers are a perfect 10 at state

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between Norton and Hoxie for the championship from the start. At the end of Friday's first round, two championship rounds and a consolation round, Norton held a 142.5 to 120 advantage over the Indians. Smith Center was a distant third with 59 points, followed by Oakley, 58; Oberlin, 56 and St. Francis, 41.

After three consolation rounds on Saturday morning and early afternoon, Hoxie had cut Norton's lead to 157.5 to 151.5. The Blue Jays more than held their own in fifth place and consolation finals. Norton won three matches and lost only one while Hoxie won just one and lost three. With the championship finals upcoming in the evening, Norton had increased their lead to ten points at 163.5 to 153.5. Oberlin had moved up to third with 76 points, followed by St. Francis, 69; Oakley, 67; Silver Lake, 61.5; and Smith Center 59.

Norton had qualified five wrestlers for the championship finals and Hoxie had just four wrestlers going for state titles but two of the championship matches were head-to-head.

Going for championships for Norton were sophomore Clay Madden (112), freshman Nathan Broeckelman (119), senior James Madden (130), senior Scott Goldsby (140) and junior Michael Sprigg (275). Madden and Annon won championships a year ago, Sprigg was a runnerup and Goldsby qualified for state his sophomore year.

Madden was first on the mat for Norton on Saturday night. No. 1 state ranked Madden faced No. 2 state ranked Paul Owings, Plainville, in a re-match of the regional tournament where Madden prevailed 6-2. Madden was the aggressor. He held a 4-1 lead after one period and was ahead 6-2 after two periods. Owings showed his fighting spirit in the third period, however, and Madden survived a wild finish with a two-point reversal to win 9-7 and earn his second straight state championship. Madden's victory extended Norton's lead to 14 points.

The first of two Norton-Hoxie matches was at 119 pounds where No. 6 state ranked Broeckelman wrestled No. 1 state ranked Cale Farber. Broeckelman put up a real battle against the more experienced Farber, who is a junior. Broeckelman trailed 2-0 after one period and 6-2 after two periods but got a two-point reversal in the third period to make the score 6-4. Farber earned two more points with time running out to make the final score 8-4 and cut Norton's lead back to 10 points at 167.5 to 157.5. No. 1 state ranked James Annon pushed Norton's lead back to 14 points with a 9-6 win over Simon Orozco, Ellsworth, to earn his second straight state championship. Annon held a 2-0 lead after one period but Orozco made it interesting as Annon led by just 6-5 at the end of the second period.

Scott Goldsby wrestled three-time state champion Mat Gilliland, Hoxie, in the second and final matchup between Norton and Hoxie in the finals. The No. 1 state ranked Gilliland led 2-0 and 6-0 by periods in winning an 11-2 major decision and adding five more points to the Indians' total. Gilliland's win decreased Norton's advantage to 171.5 to 162.5.

Hoxie's final two wrestlers were twin brothers senior Jason Schippers (145) and Matt Schippers (152), both of whom were No. 1 state ranked. Jason, who was wrestling with a broken ankle, decisioned No. 2 state ranked Matt Coleman, Oberlin, 1-0 to win the championship.

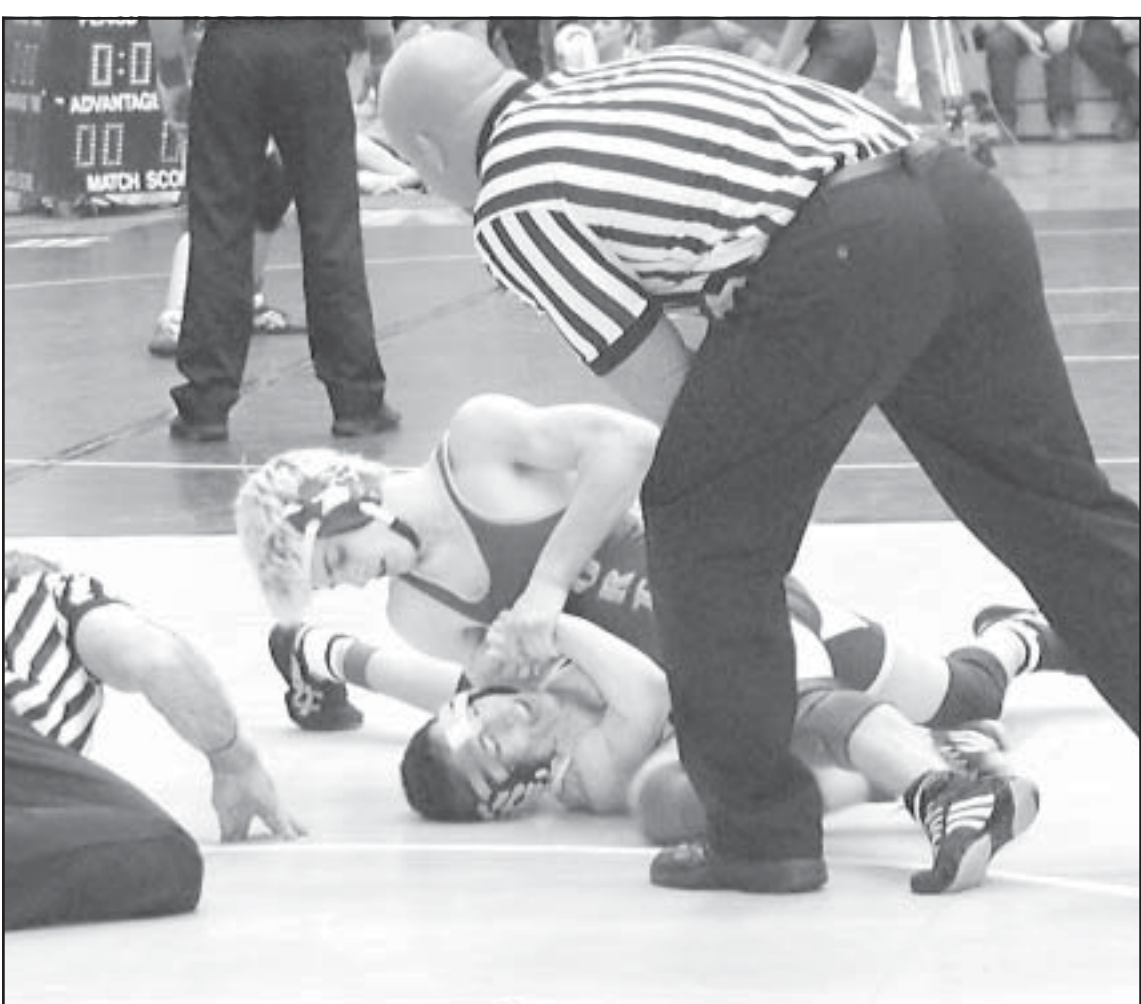
Matt pinned Jeremy Mellies, Silver Lake, just 36 seconds into their 152 pound match to put the Indians in the lead by one point at 172.5 to 171.5.

That put all the pressure for a Norton championship on the broad back of Sprigg and he came through with flying Blue Jay colors. Sprigg, who was No. 2 state ranked, wrestled defending state champion and No. 1 state ranked Ryan Honas, Ellis, for the 275 pound championship and the state wrestling championship. Although Sprigg lost the state title to Honas a year ago, he had beaten the senior Railroader two out of three times this



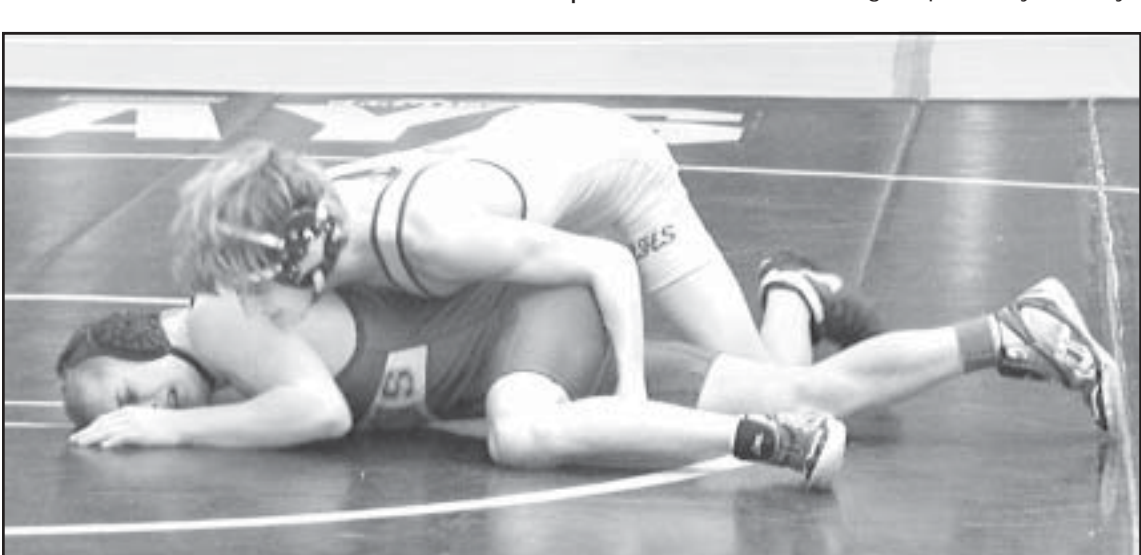
Norton sophomore Lance Roe pinned Randy Catrell, Effingham, in 2:28 of their 135 pound consolation semi-finals match in the State Wrestling Tournament in Hays. The win earned Roe a berth in the consolation finals

where he lost an 11-9 decision to Tyler Bell, Herington. Roe had handed Bell only his second loss of the season with a 6-3 decision in the championship quarter-finals earlier in the tournament



Freshman Nathan Broeckelman pinned Joe Olson, Trego, in the 119 pound championship semi-finals of the State Wrestling Tournament. Broeckelmann wrestled Cale Farber, Hoxie, in the finals and lost 8-4 to place second.

—Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



Blue Jay freshman Kent Mann decisioned Chris Larsen, Lyons, 8-2 to place fifth at 103 pounds in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Hays. Larsen came into the state tournament with only two losses.

season.

The first period ended with neither wrestler scoring. Honas took a 2-1 lead in the second period but Sprigg tied it at 2-all with a third period escape. Both wrestlers were penalized one point for stalling, making the score 3-all and throwing the match into a one minute overtime. With time running out, Sprigg muscled Honas to the mat for a two-point takedown and 5-3 victory!

Needless to say, it was instant pandemonium on Norton's part as the large contingent of Norton fans erupted with a deafening cheer and the Blue Jay wrestlers and coaches hugged each other with championship enthusiasm! The Hoxie fans were silent but they could be proud of their Indian wrestlers who fought hard to the last man.

In addition to championships by Madden, Annon and Sprigg and runnerup finishes by Broeckelman and Goldsby, senior Jordon Haussermann (152) finished his prep career with a third place finish, sophomore Lance Roe placed fourth at 135 pounds and freshman Kent Mann (103) and senior Bo Pfannenstiel (171) placed fifth. Senior Curtis Black (125) came within one match of medaling in the toughest weight

class of the entire tournament.

Oberlin placed third with 76 points, just edging Oakley, who garnered 75 points. St. Francis finished in fifth with 69, followed by Effingham, 61.5; Silver Lake, 61.5; Smith Center, 59; Atwood, 50; Beloit, 45; Hoisington, 45. Plainville placed 21st with 30.5 points and Ellis was right behind them with 29 points. Phillipsburg and Stockton tied for 24th with 24 points each and Trego was 26th with 23. Sixty teams scored points in the tournament.

## Long time coming

Norton's state championship was their first since 1973 when they won the Class 3A state tournament and the first under head coach Bill Johnson during his 13-year tenure. After a number of second place state tournament finishes and a second place finish to Hoxie in last week's regional tourney, Coach Johnson was ecstatic about the championship. "We were tired of placing second," said Coach Johnson. "We told our wrestlers to survive and advance. The important thing was to win matches, even though we didn't wrestle all that well in some matches. Every single one of our ten wrestlers wrestled outstand-

ing.

"Our fourth place regional finishers (Mann, Black and Pfannenstiel) all defeated first place finishers from another regional in the first round to get us off to a good start. Nine of our wrestlers made it into the championship semi-finals.

"From the very first match when Kent Mann won at 103 to the last when Sprigg won at 275, it was exciting. It doesn't get any better than Sprigg getting a takedown in the last match to win the state championship. There was a lot of pressure on Sprigg, knowing he had to win for us to win the championship.

"You have to give Hoxie a lot of credit, too. They won four of four state championship matches.

"Thanks to all our wonderful fans for all your support."

Coach Johnson named all ten Norton wrestlers "Wrestlers of the Week".

Assistant coaches on the state championship Norton team are Doug Ray and Deyton Hager. Student managers are Kelli Johnson, Jessica Sprigg, Kayla Douglas and Alexi Wolf.

During a ceremony prior to the championship finals on Saturday evening, J.R. "Jake" Durham,

former longtime wrestling coach at Norton Community High School, was among those introduced and honored as recent inductees into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla.

## Individual results

At 112 pounds, Madden pinned Lewis Cunningham, Deerfield, in 2:20; pinned Keaton Taylor, Silver Lake, in 5:49 and won a 14-1 major decision over Kyle Cook, Hoisington, to advance to the championship finals where he beat Owings for the championship. Madden finished the season with a 26-1 record.

Cook decisioned Taylor 8-4 for third place and Brett Swoyer, Rock Creek, pinned Justin York, Smith Center, to place fifth.

At 130 pounds, Annon won a 16-7 major decision over Wyatt Bechtel, Eureka; won a 6-1 decision over Coy Cox, Southeast of Saline and pinned Travis Warner, Smith Center, in 1:07 to reach the championship finals where he defeated Orozco for the championship. Annon finished the season with a 35-2 record.

Cody Garvin, Baxter Springs, won third with a 6-4 decision over Michael Schamberger, Hoxie and Cox pinned Warner in 3:48 to place fifth.

At 275 pounds, Sprigg pinned Ryan Cummings, St. Marys, in 1:01; won a 7-1 decision over Kelly Busker, Russell and won a 16-9 decision over Heath Klein, Atwood, en route to the championship match where he defeated Honas. Sprigg compiled a 32-3 record this season.

Chris Eberwin, Wabaunsee, placed third with an 8-1 decision over Jacob Boor, Sylvan. Cody Bletscher, Sabetha, placed fifth by pinning Klein.

At 119 pounds, Broeckelman won a 9-1 major decision over Jake Lamb, Rock Creek; won an 18-2 technical fall in 4:54 over Jonathan Booe, Cherryvale and pinned Joe Olson, Trego, in 3:28 to reach the championship finals where he lost to Farber. Broeckelman's season record was 29-12.

D.J. Smith, Deerfield, won third by pinning Brandon Kaup, Phillipsburg, in 2:50 and Olson placed fifth with a 4-1 decision over Jason Pyle, Sabetha.

At 140 pounds, Goldsby pinned Matt Martinez, Deerfield, in 3:43; pinned Nolan Strawder, Burlington, in 3:00 and decisioned Cody Sprang, Effingham, 3-1 to earn a championship finals berth where he lost to Gilliland. Goldsby finished the season with a 26-15 record.

Dan Pray, Rock Creek, placed third with an 8-6 decision over Matt Wright, Beloit and Sprang decisioned Brad Rachow, Phillipsburg, 7-2 for fifth.

At 152 pounds, Haussermann won a 9-1 major decision over Ricky Hilgers, Trego; won a 16-9 decision over Truemon Barger, Sedgwick; then lost by a fall in 1:55 to Jeremy Mellies, Silver Lake. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Bryant Speer, Effingham, in 2:58 and decisioned No. 2 state ranked Logan Glaze, Oberlin, 3-2 to win third. Haussermann, who also qualified for the state tourney last year, ended the season with a 37-12 record.

Matt Schippers, Hoxie, pinned Mellies in 36 seconds for first and Wright won a 15-2 major decision over Speer for fifth.

At 135 pounds, Roe won a 14-4 major decision over Kyle Herron, Frontenac; won a 6-3 decision over Tyler Bell, Herington and was pinned by Cody Hazard, Lyons in 1:45. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Randy Catrell, Effingham, in 2:28 before losing an 11-9 decision in a re-match with Bell to place fourth. Roe, who placed fifth in the state tourney last year, finished the season with a 34-9 record.

Kenny Tyler, West Elk, won the championship by pinning Hazard in 3:48. No. 2 state ranked Tracy Jordan, Beloit, won fifth with a 7-0 decision over Catrell.

At 103 pounds, Mann won a 5-4 decision over Jacob Deiter, Silver Lake; pinned Jeremy Vancil, West Elk, in 3:39 and lost a 12-2 major decision to No. 2 state ranked Trevor Richard, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 6-2 decision to No. 3 state ranked Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood and decisioned Chris Larsen, Lyons, to place fifth. Mann completed the season with a 23-11 record.

Nash Burtin, Eureka, won the championship by pinning Richard in 5:05. Migchelbrink won third with a 4-1 decision over Pat Mosley, Wichita-Independent.

At 171 pounds, Pfannenstiel won a 2-1 decision over Bobby Homeier, Russell; won a 10-6 decision over Joe Day, Eureka, and lost a 6-2 decision to No. 3 state ranked Brett Keck, Oberlin. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 34 seconds by No. 2 state ranked Derek Ross, St. Francis and placed fifth with a 4-1 decision over Isaac Schneider, Hoisington. Pfannenstiel, who placed fifth in the state tourney last year, ended the season with a 29-9 record.

Chris Pursel, Effingham, won the championship with a 5-4 decision over Keck and Ross won third place with a 9-2 decision over Ryan Shipley, Hoxie.

At 125 pounds, Black won a 6-2 decision over Eric Cress, Goessel and lost a 2-0 decision to John Kroeger, Ellis. In the consolation bracket, he won a 2-0 decision over Randy Miller, Onaga, then lost a 2-0 decision to Matt Warta, Ellsworth. Black finished the season with a 23-18 record.

No. 2 state ranked Levi Younklin, St. Francis, decisioned Tait Weatherbee, Thomas More Prep, 5-4 for the championship. No. 3 state ranked Dylan Loyd, St. Francis, won third place with a 7-3 decision over No. 4 state ranked Tyler Baker, Hoxie and Warta decisioned Kroeger 6-2 for fifth.

At 145 pounds, No. 1 state ranked Jason Schippers, Hoxie, won a 1-0 decision over No. 2 state ranked Matt Coleman, Oberlin, for the championship. Brady LaMar, Silver Lake, won a 4-3 decision over No. 6 state ranked Shawn Kuhlman, Oakley, for third and Chuck Knapp, Lincoln, pinned Buster Adkins, Halstead, in 2:24 to place fifth.

At 160 pounds, Dustin Foster, Sedgwick, decisioned Austin Kingsbury, Smith Center, 6-4 for the championship. No. 1 state ranked Chance Harman, Oberlin, won third with a 3-2 decision over Scott Christian, Hoisington. No. 5 state ranked Doug Campbell, Hoxie, won fifth with a 5-0 decision over Courtney Nightengale, Cimarron.

At 189 pounds, No. 1 state ranked Bob Dennis, Oakley, decisioned No. 2 state ranked Lucas Scott, Smith Center, 8-4 to win a second state championship and finish the season undefeated. Tyler Wiesner, Thomas More Prep, won a 3-2 decision over Blake Alexander, Effingham, to place third and Justin Hall, Stockton, won fifth with an 11-4 decision over Jeren Scheer, Garden Plain.

At 215 pounds, No. 1 state ranked Jeff Horinek, Atwood, won his second straight state championship and completed an undefeated season when he won an 8-4 decision over Allyn Plattner, Sabetha. Ty Brunswick, Trego, won third with a 3-2 decision over Chris Pulec, Stockton and Casey Finlayson, Burlington, won fifth by pinning Steven Foster, Sedgwick, in 2:50.