

# Blue Jays win J.R. Durham Invitational

By DICK BOYD

Medaling 11 of 13 wrestlers entered, Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team overwhelmed the opposition to win the championship of the J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament for the third straight year on Saturday in the NCHS Memorial Gym in Norton.

The two-time defending state champion Blue Jays, who are ranked No. 1 in the state (Class 3-2-1A), rolled up 178 points to easily outdistance second place Scott City, who had an even 100 points.

Cozad, Neb., who is ranked No. 8 in Class B (equivalent of Class 5A in Kansas) in Nebraska; Hoxie, ranked No. 5 in Class 3-2-1A and Smith Center, ranked No. 7 in Class 3-2-1A, tied for third place with 99 points each.

Shawnee-Mill Valley, a Class 5A school, placed sixth just one point back with 98. They were followed by Beloit, 80; Russell, 38; Thomas More Prep of Hays, 31; Leoti, 22; Atwood, 21; Quinter, 1.

Norton had five champions, two second place finishers, one third and three fourth placers.

Winning gold medals for Norton were freshman Zach Bainter, 112; senior Clay Madden, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125; senior Jeremy Harding, 145 and senior Lance Roe, 160.

By vote of all the team coaches, Madden was named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament.

Coach Johnson also named Madden his "Norton Wrestler of the Week".

Earning silver medals were senior Jon Harding, 135 and senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152.

Junior Blake VanEaton was a bronze medal winner at 140.

Placing fourth in their weight divisions were: sophomore David Counter, 103; junior Kent Mann, 130; senior Davvid Stanley, 171. "We wrestled very well coming off the holiday break," said Coach Johnson.

"Our wrestlers worked very, very hard in preparation for this tournament and worked hard in the tournament.

"I thought the other team scores would be much closer to us. It's unusual to have six schools right around 100 points. In some cases, they knocked each other off and helped us.

"But, I'm proud of how well we wrestled and the fact that we had seven wrestling in the championship finals.

"I was especially happy for Zach Bainter who has been hurt and had only wrestled three matches this season. He is still just 70 percent healed but has a lot of ability and desire."

Norton compiled a 25-13 winning record in tourney matches and had a 14-5 pin ratio.

At 112 pounds, Zach Bainter, who is ranked No. 4 in the state, was seeded No. 2. In the first round, he pinned Andrew Crispin, Thomas More Prep, in 1:14. In the semi-finals, he shutout No. 3 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit, 2-0. Hewitt came into the match with an 8-1 record. In the championship finals, Bainter wrestled No. 1 seed Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, who is also a freshman. Both wrestlers were a perfect 5-0 for the season when the

match began. Bainter led 2-0 after the first period and 5-0 after two periods and ended the match with a 5-0 decision and the gold medal.

No. 5 seed Seth Underwood, Russell, placed third with a 3-0 shutout of No. 4 seed Tyrel George, Scott City.

Clay Madden is ranked No. 1 in the state and was seeded No. 1 at 119. In the first round, he pinned Coady Morris, Russell, in 1:20. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 5 seed Nathan Porter, Leoti, in 2:45. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 2 seed Brett Delich, Mill Valley, and pinned him in 1:30. Madden extended his perfect record to 18-0.

Third place went to No. 3 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit, with a 3-7 decision over Porter.

At 125, Nathan Broeckelman was seeded No. 1. Broeckelman is also ranked No. 2 in the state. In the first round, Broeckelman drew a bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 5 seed Tyler Branstiter, Cozad, in 4:33. Branstiter handed No. 4 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, his first loss of the season when he pinned him in 1:50 of their first round match. Augustine came into the tournament with a 4-0 record.

In the championship finals, Broeckelman wrestled No. 2 seed Justin Broadbent, Mill Valley, who is ranked No. 1 in Class 5A at 112. Broeckelman led 6-1 after one period and 8-2 after the second period and decided Broadbent 9-5 to win the gold medal. Broeckelman is now 18-1 for the season.

No. 3 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, placed third with a 7-5 decision over Branstiter.

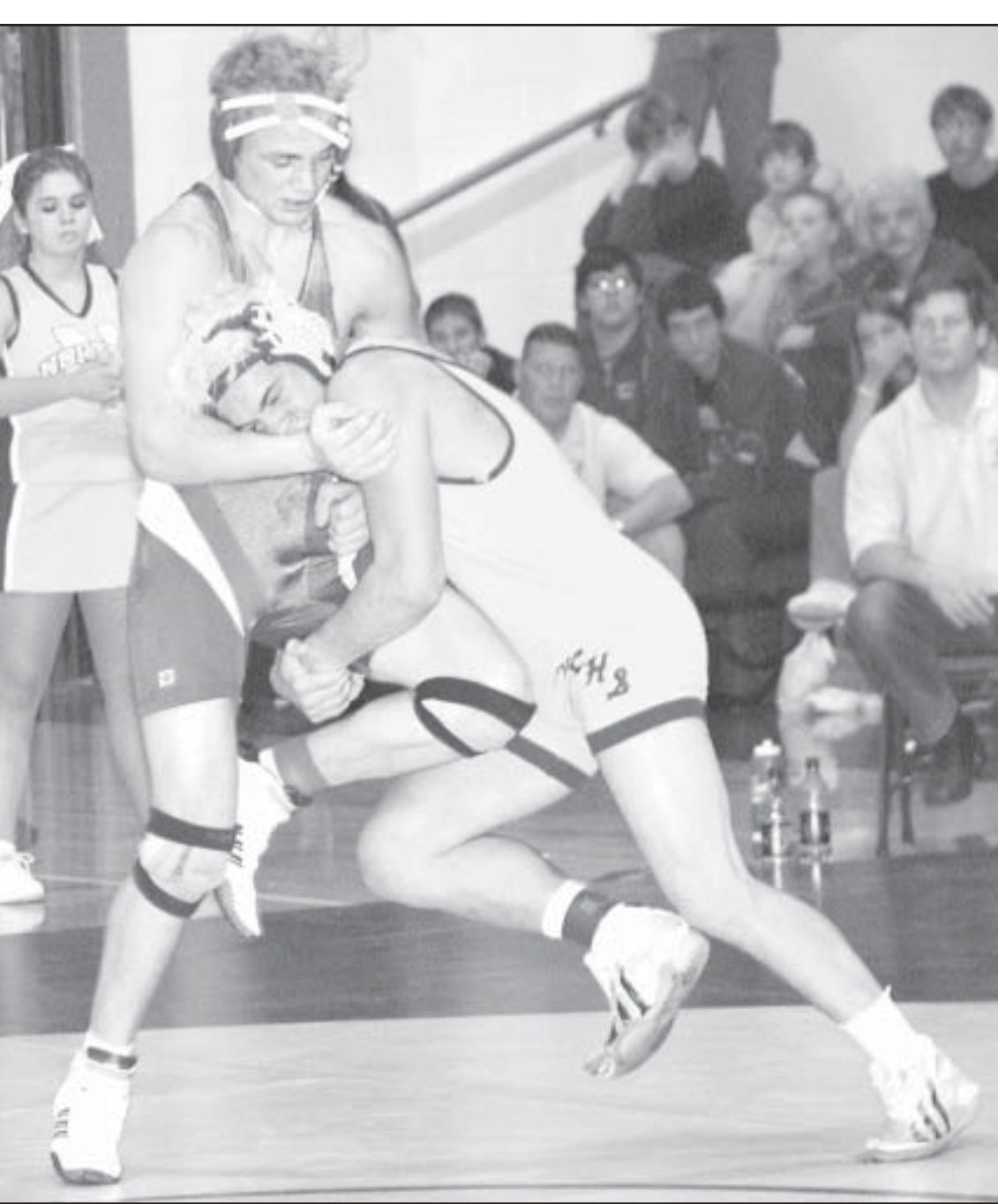
Jeremy Harding, who is ranked No. 6 in the state, was seeded No. 2 at 145 pounds. Harding pinned his way to the championship. He pinned J.R. Logan, Mill Valley, in just 27 seconds of their first round match. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Dalton Kraft, Russell, in 1:28. Kraft is ranked No. 5 in the state in Class 5A.

In the championship finals, Harding wrestled Adam Montgomery, Smith Center, the No. 8 seed who upset No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked Tyler Sturgeon, Cozad, 12-11 in the first round. Harding led Montgomery 5-0 after one period, then pinned Montgomery in 3:29 to win the championship. Harding is now 16-2 for the season.

Kraft placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Blake Mayes, Beloit, in 2:15. Mayes brought a 10-2 record into the match.

Lance Roe brought a 14-1 season record and No. 1 state ranking at 160 pounds into the tournament. Seeded No. 1, Roe pinned Cody Hanel, Beloit, in 3:42 of their first round match. In the semi-finals, Roe pinned No. 4 seed Ben Mettlen, Scott City, in 4:42. Mettlen is ranked No. 4 in the state in Class 4A and brought a 17-2 record into the match.

In the championship finals, Roe wrestled No. 2 seed Jake Nichols, Smith Center, who brought a perfect 12-0 record into the match. After a scoreless first period, Roe took a 4-2 lead in the second period and finished with a 7-3 win for the gold medal. Roe extended his season record to 17-1.



Norton's senior 160 pound wrestler Lance Roe (above) goes for a takedown during his 7-3 decision over Smith Center's Jake Nichols in their championship match in the J.R. Durham Invitational here on Saturday. Roe, who is now 17-1, handed Nichols his first loss of the season. Norton freshman Zach Bainter (below) controls No. 1 seeded Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, during his 5-0 championship victory at 112 pounds.

— Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

Mettlen placed third by pinning No. 3 seed Cody Lang, Russell, in 4:11. Lang brought a 10-1 record into the match.

At 135 pounds, Norton's Jon Harding was seeded No. 2 in a bracket with four state ranked wrestlers. Harding, who is ranked No. 2, pinned Dan Niles, Cozad, in 33 seconds of their first round match. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed and No. 3 state ranked Brad Esterl, Beloit, in 2:27. Esterl brought an 11-1 record into the match. His previous loss was also to Harding in the Clay Center Invitational.

In the championship finals, Harding wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 3 state ranked in 4A Logan Dreiling, Scott City, who brought a 20-1 record into the match. Harding trailed 2-0 after one period and 6-1 after two periods and lost a 13-2 major decision to Dreiling. Harding is now 14-6 for the season.

Esterl won third place by pinning No. 7 seed Dan Niles, Cozad, in 42 seconds. Justin York, Smith Center, who is ranked No. 5 in the state and brought a 9-1 record into the tournament, lost two matches and did not place.

Luke Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 2 and is ranked No. 2 in the state at 152 pounds. In his first round match, he pinned Grady Godsey, Smith Center, in 1:32. In the semi-finals, he won an 11-4 decision over No. 3 seed and No. 4 state ranked Eric Love, Cozad. In



the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked at 160 Michael Schamberger, Hoxie.

Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Pfannenstiel took a slim 2-1 lead in the second period but Schamberger got an escape in the third period to tie the score at 2-all and send the match into overtime. Schamberger prevailed in the extra period with a 4-2 victory. Pfannenstiel's record is now 15-3. Schamberger is now 6-1 for the season.

Blake VanEaton, who is ranked No. 3 in the state, was seeded No. 2 at 140 pounds. In the first match, he won a 13-3 major decision over Colton Lang, Russell. In the semi-

finals, he lost a 9-6 decision to No. 3 seed and No. 1 state ranked Travis Warner, Smith Center.

In the consolation bracket, VanEaton won an 11-7 decision over Jake Wolf, Cozad, then won a 2-1 decision over No. 4 seed Dustin Warta, Scott City, to place third. VanEaton's season record is now 18-2.

Warner won the championship by shutting out No. 1 seed Matt Westin, Mill Valley, 4-0. Westin is ranked No. 5 in Class 5A and brought a 19-1 record into the title match.

David Counter was seeded No. 6 at 103 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then wrestled No. 2 seed Tanner Popp, Hoxie, in the

semi-finals. He was pinned in 1:23. In the consolation bracket, he received another bye, then wrestled Jesus Contreras, Scott City, for the consolation championship. He was pinned in 2:07 and placed fourth. Counter's record is now 6-9.

No. 1 seed and No. 2 ranked in 5A Tyler Williamson, Mill Valley, won the championship by pinning Popp in 3:07.

Kent Mann, who is ranked No. 4 in the state, was seeded No. 3 at 130 pounds. In his first match, he won a 9-0 major decision over Marshall McCall, Smith Center. In the semi-finals, he lost a 10-4 decision to No. 2 seed and No. 3 state ranked Tait Weatherbee, Thomas More Prep.

In the consolation bracket, he won a 16-2 major decision over No. 5 seed Kaid Calhoun, Beloit. He wrestled No. 4 seed Nick Kough, Scott City, in the consolation championship and lost an 8-1 decision to place fourth. Kough is ranked No. 5 in the state in Class 4A. Mann came into the tournament unbeaten and is now 14-2.

No. 1 ranked and No. 1 seed Tyler Baker, Hoxie, won the championship by injury default over Weatherbee. Baker extended his perfect record to 23-0.

Davvid Stanley was seeded No. 4 at 171 pounds. In the first round, he won a 12-2 major decision over No. 5 seed Kaleb McDaniel, Scott City. In the semi-finals, he lost an 11-2 major decision to No. 1 seed James Wright, Beloit, who is ranked No. 5 at 160.

In the consolation bracket, Stanley pinned Michael Hubbard, Smith Center, in 1:49. He wrestled No. 2 seed and No. 4 state ranked, David Obermeyer, Hoxie, in the consolation championship and lost a 4-2 decision to place fourth. Stanley's record is now 10-9.

Wright extended his season record to 11-2 with a 14-6 major decision over No. 3 seed Ryan Levell, Cozad, in the championship match.

Norton junior Shane Stanley was seeded No. 5 at 189 pounds. In his first round match, he was pinned in 4:59 by No. 4 seed Braxton Berning, Leoti. In the consolation bracket, he received a bye, then wrestled Aaron Rosin, Scott City. He lost a 4-3 decision to Rosin, who continued on to decision No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, 6-1, for third. Palmer brought a 10-0 record into the tournament. Stanley's record is now 8-8.

No. 3 seed Eric Short, Beloit, won a 10-4 decision over No. 1 seed and No. 5 state ranked Joe Libal, Cozad, to earn the championship. Short extended his record to 11-1. Libal brought a 17-1 record into the title match.

Norton sophomore Zach Mannel was seeded No. 5 at 275 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then lost by a fall in 1:30 to No. 1 seed and No. 6 state ranked, Kurt Gill, Cozad. In the consolation bracket, Mannel was pinned in 2:41 by Tyler Hancock, Mill Valley. Mannel's record is now 4-12.

Gill won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Shelby Wright, Atwood, in 4:43.

Norton was open at 215 pounds.

## Norton wrestlers have busy week scheduled

By DICK BOYD

This will be a busy week for the Norton Community High School wrestling team.

On Thursday, they will compete in Mid-Continent League duals with Trego Community and Smith Center in WaKeeney.

The duals will begin at 5 p.m. with Smith Center vs. Trego. Norton will wrestle Smith Center in the second dual of the night. The third dual will feature Norton vs. Trego.

On Friday and Saturday, Norton will compete in the prestigious 43rd annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Newton, will be teams from Andover, Arkansas City, Bishop Carroll, Buhler, Campus, Colby, Clay Center, Derby, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia, Gardner-Edgerton, Hutchinson, Leavenworth, Maize, Manhattan,

McPherson, Shawnee-Mill Valley, Perry, Salina South, Valley Center, Wichita East, Wichita Northwest, Wichita South, Winfield and Bishop Lynch, Texas.

Norton is the defending champion and is the smallest enrollment school to ever win the title.

Wrestling will begin at 11:30 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Admission for all or any part of Friday or all or any part of Saturday will be \$7 for adults, \$5 for students 1-12.

On Friday, the Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete in the annual Elm Creek Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Elm Creek, Neb.

Competing, in addition to Norton junior varsity and Elm Creek, will be Alma, Overton, Pleasanton, Southern Valley, Burwell, Arapahoe, Rock County and junior varsities from Gibbon, Holdrege, Lexington and Cozad.

Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

**Soup Supper**

to benefit the Trego Girls' Tennis Team

**Thurs., Jan. 12**

**5:00 P.M.**

Trego Community High School Commons Area

SMITH CENTER, NORTON, TREGO WRESTLING

**\$5 MEAL**

### High School Sports This Week

**Norton Blue Jays**

**Northern Valley Huskies**

**Logan Trojans**

**WRESTLING:**

Norton vs. Trego Community, Smith Center (in WaKeeney) ..... 5 p.m., Thursday

Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions (in Newton) ..... 11:30 a.m. Fri.; 9 a.m. Sat.

Norton Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational (in Elm Creek, Neb.) ..... 2:30 p.m., Friday

**BASKETBALL:**

Norton vs. Trego Community (in Norton) ..... 5 p.m., Boys Junior Varsity

Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym; Girls Junior Varsity, Girls Varsity;

Boys Varsity, Norton Community High School Memorial Gym, Friday

Norton Girls Varsity in First Round of Mid-Continent League Tournament ... TBA, Mon.

Norton Boys in First Round of Mid-Continent League Tournament ..... TBA, Tuesday

Northern Valley Girls vs. Western Plains in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) ..... 4 p.m., Today

Logan Boys vs. Kensington in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) ..... 7:45 p.m., Today

Logan Girls vs. Western Plains in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) ..... 4 p.m., Thursday

Logan Boys vs. Northern Valley in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) ..... 7:45 p.m., Thursday

Consolation and Championship Boys and Girls Games in Cheyenne Conference Tournament (Auxiliary and Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) ..... Beginning 3 p.m., Friday