

Blue Jay wrestlers win Panther Classic

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team won five individual championships on the way to successfully defending their title in the annual Panther Classic Tournament held Saturday in Phillipsburg.

The Blue Jays entered 11 wrestlers and 10 of them wrestled for championships on Saturday evening.

Norton scored 197 points to outdistance second place Phillipsburg by 38.5 points. The Panthers tallied 158.5 points and were followed in third place by Beloit with 125. Fourth place went to Hoxie, 105, followed by Concordia, 101; Hoisington, 51; Ellis, 50; Minneapolis, 45; Lincoln, 38.5; Hill City, 24; Stockton, 20; Ellsworth, 12.

Champions for Norton were freshman Zach Bainter, 112; senior Clay Madden, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125; junior Blake VanEaton, 140 and senior Lance Roe, 160.

Winning silver medals were junior Kent Mann, 130; senior Jon Harding, 135; senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152; senior Davvid Stanley, 171 and junior Shane Stanley, 215.

Sophomore Jeff Soderlund, in a replacement role for injured senior Jeremy Harding, finished in fourth place at 145 pounds.

Norton compiled a 24-7 win-loss record and 11-2 pin ratio.

"We had an outstanding day," said Coach Johnson. "Qualifying 10 of our 11 wrestlers for the finals was very good."

"It was our last tournament before regionals. Several of our wrestlers had to win matches to help their criteria for the regionals and they did."

"Davvid Stanley got a big win over David Obermeyer of Hoxie and Shane Stanley getting to the finals was a major accomplishment."

"We lost a few close matches in



No. 1 seed Clay Madden, Norton senior at 119 pounds, takes No. 2 seed Dustin Dooley, Concordia, down to the mat during Madden's 3-0 shutout of Dooley for the

championship of the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

Defending state champion Clay Madden pinned Ben Ploutz, Ellsworth, in 1:11 of their first round match at 119 pounds. In the semi-finals, Madden won an 18-8 major decision over No. 4 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit. Madden wrestled No. 2 seed Dustin Dooley, Concordia, in the championship finals. Madden led 2-0 after one period and 2-0 at the end of the second period. Madden scored one point in the third stanza to shutout Dooley 3-0 and win the gold.

Spangler placed third with an 8-6 overtime win over No. 3 seed Tommy Knapp, Lincoln.

At 125 pounds, Nathan Broeckelman was also seeded No. 1. In the first round, he pinned Cody Johnson, Hill City, in 40 seconds. He took four seconds longer to pin No. 4 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, in the semi-finals. Broeckelman wrestled No. 2 seed Kyle Cook, Hoisington, in the championship finals. There was no score after one period. In the

second, Broeckelman took a 2-1 lead and held it through the furious third quarter to win 2-1.

No. 3 seed Jake Hoesli, Concordia, placed third by pinning Augustine in 48 seconds.

Kent Mann was seeded No. 2 at 130 pounds. In the first round, he pinned Alex Lomas, Hoisington, in 48 seconds. In the semi-finals, Mann shutout No. 3 seed Cody Eaton, Minneapolis, 5-0. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed and defending state champion Tyler Baker, Hoxie. Baker held a 2-0 lead after one period and extended it to 7-0 in the second period. Neither wrestler scored in the final period as Baker prevailed 7-0.

Eaton placed third with a 7-2 decision over No. 4 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City.

At 135 pounds, Jon Harding was seeded No. 1. In the first round, he pinned Dominick Machnicki, Lincoln, in 47 seconds. In the semi-finals, Harding pinned No. 4 seed Garrette Breen, Minneapolis, in 33 seconds. In the championship finals, Harding wrestled No. 3 seed Brad Esterl, Beloit. Harding trailed 2-1 after the first period and 4-2 after two periods. Esterl outscored him 5-2 in the third period to win 9-4.

No. 2 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, placed third by pinning Breen in 56 seconds.

Blake VanEaton was seeded No. 1 at 140 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Tony Ceman, Phillipsburg, in 35 seconds in the semi-finals. In the championship finals, VanEaton faced No. 3 seed Wade Adams, Beloit. VanEaton was the aggressor from the opening whistle. He led 4-0 after one period, 6-0 after two periods and won a 9-1 major decision to earn the gold.

Third place went to Ceman, who pinned No. 5 seed Brian Keller, Ellis, in 1:28.

At 145 pounds, Norton's Jeff Soderlund was in the feather bracket. He pinned Alan Nichol, Hill City, in 1:05 of their feather bracket match. That qualified him for a No. 5 seed. In the first round, he lost a 10-4 decision to No. 4 seed Nathan Palmer, Stockton. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then won an 8-6 decision over Zach Gehring, Ellis. In the consolation semi-finals, he decided No. 6 seed Derek Rowland, Phillipsburg, 6-2 to reach the consolation championship match. He wrestled No. 3 seed Quinn Aumiller, Hoxie, and lost a 5-1 decision to place fourth.

No. 1 seed Blake Mayes, Beloit, won the championship with a 9-2 decision over No. 2 seed Jake Livesay, Lincoln.

Luke Pfannenstiel was seeded No. 2 at 152 pounds. In the first round, he won a technical fall over Justin Gnad, Ellis. In the semi-finals, Pfannenstiel pinned No. 3 seed Matt Hyman, Beloit, in 14 seconds. In the championship finals, Pfannenstiel faced No. 2 seed Michael Schamberger, Hoxie, who was state runnerup last year at 160. Pfannenstiel battled hard but trailed 2-0 after one period and 2-1 after the second period and lost a 3-1 decision.

Third place went to No. 4 seed Ryan Swatzell, Phillipsburg, when he pinned Hyman in 1:38.

Defending state champion

Lance Roe was seeded No. 1 at 160 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won a technical fall over No. 4 seed Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg, in the semi-finals. Roe held a takedown clinic in the championship finals, when he completely dominated No. 2 seed Jeremy Thoman, Concordia, in winning a 21-8 major decision.

Third place winner was No. 3 seed Dalen Ryan, Lincoln, with a 6-5 decision over Wickham.

At 171 pounds, Davvid Stanley was seeded No. 3. He drew a first round bye, then won a 5-4 decision over No. 2 seed David Obermeyer, Hoxie. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 31 seconds by No. 1 seed James Wright, Beloit.

No. 4 seed Lee Hadley, Phillipsburg, placed third by pinning Obermeyer in 1:29.

Norton was open at 189 pounds. No. 1 seed Chris Sutton-Kearn, Concordia, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg, in seven seconds.

Third place went to No. 5 seed Slade Hackney, Ellis, with a pin in 53 seconds of No. 4 seed Kody Moody, Minneapolis.

At 215 pounds, Shane Stanley was seeded No. 3. In the first round, he pinned No. 6 seed Eli Mckee, Concordia, in 36 seconds. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 2 seed David Hadley, Phillipsburg, in 1:21. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Tim Erwin, Hoxie, and was pinned in 28 seconds.

Hadley won third place by pinning No. 4 seed Jake Reilly, Ellis, in 1:23.

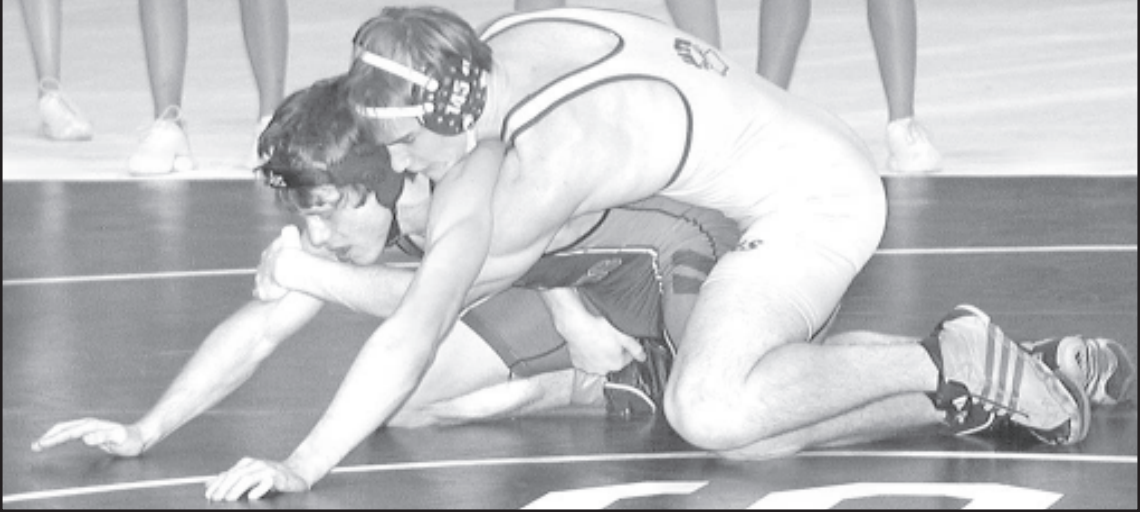
Norton was also open at 275 pounds. No. 1 seed Jacob Schneider, Hoisington, pinned No. 2 seed Jace Smith, Phillipsburg, in 55 seconds to win the championship.

No. 3 seed Cory Kiser, Minneapolis, placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Justin Metcalf, Hill City, in three seconds.

Next action

Norton will travel to Osborne on Thursday to wrestle Osborne and Hill City. Action will begin with the Norton-Osborne dual at 5 p.m., followed by the Norton-Hill City dual around 5:30 p.m. and the Osborne-Hill City dual around 6 p.m.

The Norton junior varsity will compete on Saturday in the "Bill Voss" Novice Tournament at the high school in Colby, beginning at 9 a.m.



Blue Jay junior Blake VanEaton, No. 1 seeded at 140 pounds, scores two points during his 9-1 major decision over No. 3 seed Wade Adams, Beloit, to win the championship of the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg.

Norton wrestlers defeat Ellis, Plainville in duals

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestlers remained undefeated this season in duals on Friday night when they outscored Ellis 48-21 and Plainville 51-19 in Mid-Continent League duals in Ellis.

Norton over Ellis

Norton won eight of the 12 matches wrestled against Ellis.

At 103 pounds, David Counter lost by a 7-0 decision to Justin Henrickson.

Norton won the next seven matches.

Zach Bainter wrestled 112 and shutout Dusty Unrein 4-0.

At 119, Clay Madden won a 15-5 major decision over Kevin Urban.

Jared Bebb pinned Austin Morton in 2:38 of their 125 pound match.

At 130, Kent Mann pinned Rowdy Wichman in 3:23.

Jon Harding wrestled 135 and won an 18-1 major decision over Chase King.

At 140, Blake VanEaton pinned Brian Keller in 1:23.

Jeff Soderlund pinned Zach Gehring in 4:37 of their 145 pound match.

At 152, Brock Lauer lost a 16-10 decision to Justin Gnad.

Coady McMullen won by forfeit at 160.

At 171, Jordan Durham lost a 6-4 decision to Justin Labarge.

Norton was open at 189 and Slade Hackney, Ellis, won by forfeit.

At 215, Shane Stanley pinned Jake Reilly in 3:23.

Zach Mannel was pinned in 2:42 by Michael Hiss at 275.

"The dual with Ellis was pretty low key," said Coach Johnson.

"There weren't too many premier matchups."

Norton over Plainville

Norton won eight of the 11 matches wrestled against Plainville.

At 103, Norton was open so Dan Weigel won by forfeit.

Zach Bainter pinned Travis Bird in 45 seconds of their 112 pound match.

At 119, Clay Madden pinned D.J. Brown in 1:18.

Nathan Broeckelman pinned Josh Darnell in 1:58 of their 125 pound match.

At 130, Plainville was open so Travis Ray won by forfeit.

Jon Harding wrestled 135 for Norton and won a 14-6 major decision over Aaron Dinkel.

At 140, Blake VanEaton won a 4-3 decision over Stuart Rempe.

Jeff Soderlund pinned Donovan Wahrman in 1:53 of their 145 pound match.

At 152, Luke Pfannenstiel won

a 13-5 major decision over Luke Brin.

Jordan Duurham lost an 11-1 decision to Jacob Keas at 160.

Lance Roe moved up to 171 and won a 19-7 major decision over Conner McMullen.

At 189, Davvid Stanley lost an 8-7 decision to Tyler Brungardt.

Shane Stanley won 215 by forfeit since Plainville was open.

At 275, Zach Mannel was pinned in one minute by Andy Brown.

"These two duals gave us a chance to wrestle some of our junior varsity wrestlers and they represented us well. We moved Davvid Stanley up to 189 against Plainville so he would have the experience of wrestling Brungardt. It was a good match. Davvid lost but it will help him a lot."

Norton jr. varsity vs. Ellis

Breyer Simmons pinned Steven Schmidt in 1:01 at 112 pounds.

Michael Ward pinned Erick Estrada in 1:20 of their 130 pound match.

Noton jr. varsity vs. Plainville

Jordan Bebb was pinned in 4:55 by Heath Rath at 140 pounds.

Breyer Simmons won a 7-5 decision over Carson McMullen at 112 pounds.

Todd Bolt pinned Heath Rath in 2:20 at 140 pounds.

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Telegram photos by Dick Boyd

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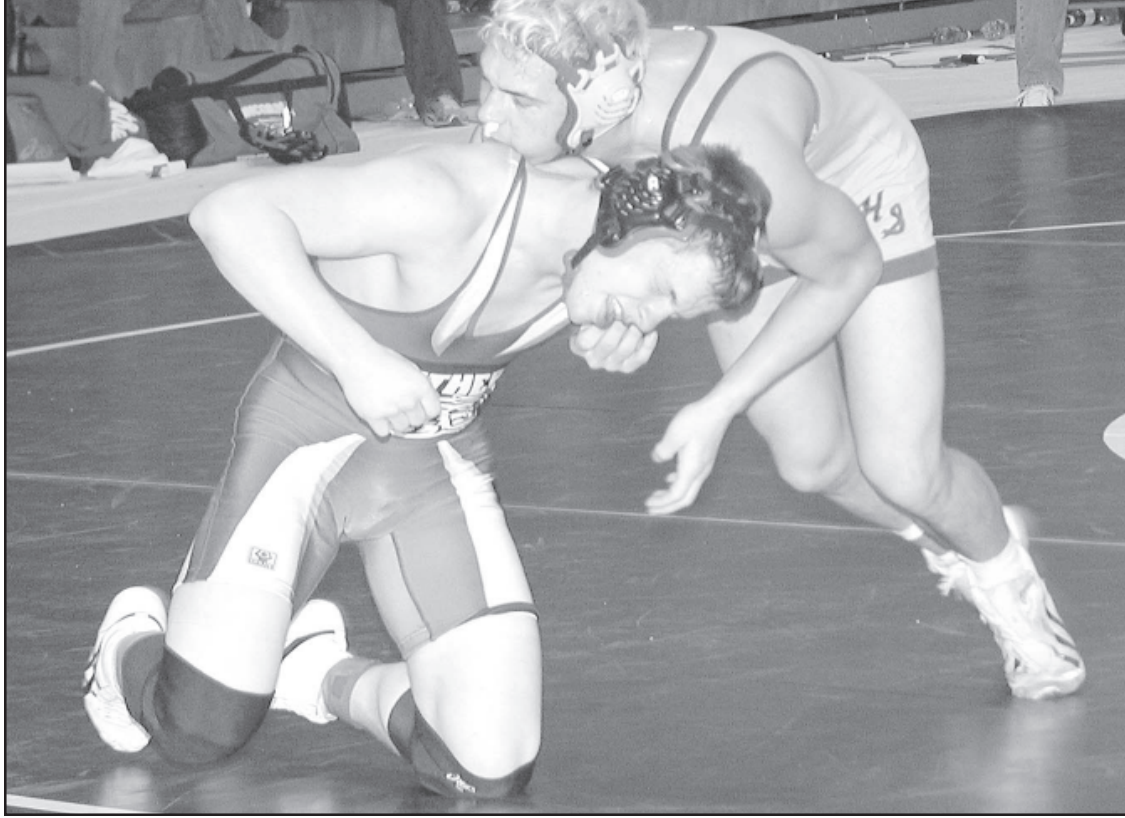
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Defending state champion



Top seed Norton senior Lance Roe works a takedown against No. 2 seed Jeremy Thoman, Concordia, during Roe's 21-8 major decision at 160 pounds for the championship of the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg. Roe was chosen recipient of the "Chuck Lovenstein Outstanding Wrestler" award by vote of the team coaches.

High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:	
Norton vs. Osborne, Hill City in Duals (In Osborne)	5 p.m., Thursday
Norton vs. Osborne, then Norton vs. Hill City, then Osborne vs. Hill City	9 a.m., Saturday
Norton in Bill Voss Novice Wrestling Tournament (In Colby)	9 a.m., Saturday
BASKETBALL:	
Norton vs. Oberlin (There)	4:30 p.m., Today
Norton vs. Plainville (There)	4 p.m., Friday
Norton vs. Hoxie (Here)	4 p.m., Tuesday
Logan vs. White Rock (In Logan)	4:30 p.m., Today
Logan vs. Western Plains (In Ransom)	4 p.m., Friday
Logan vs. Palco (In Palco)	4:30 p.m., Tuesday
Northern Valley vs. Arapahoe, Neb. (In Arapahoe)	3:30 p.m., Today
Northern Valley vs. Palco (In Palco)	4:30 p.m., Friday
Northern Valley vs. Victoria (In Victoria)	4 p.m., Tuesday