

Norton junior varsity wrestlers competed in Colby tourney

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers competed in the "Bill Voss" Novice Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Colby.

No team scores were recorded but nine of the 17 Blue Jay wrestlers placed in the top four of their weight classes.

Norton had two champions, two second place finishers, one third place wrestler and four fourth place finishers.

Winning championships were Jared Bebb, 125 and Jeff Soderlund, 145.

Finishing second were Aaron Husted, 135 and Jordan Durham, 160.

Third place finisher was Travis Ray, 130.

In fourth place were Breyer Simmons, 119; Kerby Brandyberry, 125; Michael Ward, 130 and Todd Bolt, 140.

Norton Coach Doug Ray named Jared Bebb the "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week."

Jared Bebb was seeded No.1 at 125 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won a 16-0 technical fall over No.4 seed Meyer, St. Francis, in the semi-finals. In the championship finals, he won a 13-3 major decision over No.2 seed Harlow, Colby, to win the gold medal.

Kerby Brandyberry was seeded No.6 at 125. In the first round, he decided No.3 seed Danneler, Plainville, 5-4. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 4:33 by Harlow. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then lost a 1-0 decision to Danneler to place fourth.

David Counter wrestled at 103 for Norton and was seeded No.7. In the first round, he was pinned in 1:31 by No.2 seed Kough, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 6-4 decision to No.6 seed Talley, Oberlin. In an exhibition match, he pinned No.8 seed Kruse, Oakley, in 2:27.

Phillip Becker was seeded No.5 at 103. In the first round, he lost a 6-0 decision to No.4 seed Olson. In the consolation bracket, he shutout Meyer, St. Francis, 4-0. In the consolation semi-finals, he was pinned in 2:09 by Harlow, Colby.

No.1 seed Talsma, Colby, wrestled No.2 seed Kough, Scott City, for the championship. Harlow and Olson wrestled for third place.

Breyer Simmons was seeded No.5 at 119. In the first round, he was pinned in 4:56 by No.4 seed Schroeder, Colby. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then won a 12-11 decision over No.6 seed Bebb, Atwood, to reach the consolation championship. He wrestled Schroeder for the second time and lost a 14-1 major decision to place fourth.

At 130 pounds, Travis Ray was seeded No.3. In the first round, he pinned No.6 seed Harmen, Garden City, in 3:01. In the semi-finals, he lost an 11-10 decision to No.2 seed Zweygardt, Colby. In the consolation bracket, he decided Pacheco, St. Francis, 14-9 to reach the consolation championships. He won a 7-1 decision over Michael Ward, Norton, to place third.

Ward was seeded No.4 at 130. In the first round, he pinned No.5 seed Geist, Goodland, in 36 seconds. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 3:02 by No.1 seed Quintanar, Garden City. In the consolation bracket, he decided Harmen 11-2 to qualify for the consolation championship match versus Ray.

Quintanar wrestled Zweygardt for the championship.

Aaron Husted was seeded No.3 at 135. In the first round, he pinned No.6 seed Kahle, Oakley, in 36

seconds. In the sem-finals, he pinned No.2 seed Powers, Garden City, in 4:39. He wrestled No.1 seed McClure, Colby, for the championship and lost a 9-4 decision to place second.

Jordan Bebb was seeded No.5 at 135. In the first round, he was pinned in 5:13 by No.4 seed Patterson, Garden City. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 3:24 by Claussen, Garden City.

Todd Bolt was seeded No.3 at 140. In the first round, he drew a bye, then lost a 4-3 decision to No.2 seed Arnberger, Colby. In the consolation bracket, he decided Royal Fisher, Oberlin, 10-1. In the consolation championship match, he wrestled No.1 seed Garrison, Garden City, and lost a 6-3 decision to place fourth.

Logan Kelly was seeded No.5 at 140. In the first round, he was pinned in 27 seconds by No.4 seed Baetz, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 2:55 by Royal Fisher, Oberlin.

Baetz wrestled Arnberger for the championship.

At 145, Jeff Soderlund was seeded No.2. In the first round, he pinned Jennings, Colby, in 1:38. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.3 seed Ford, St. Francis, in 2:33. He won the championship by pinning No.1 seed Mudd, Smith Center, in 4:32.

Clay McMullen was seeded No.5 at 145. In the first round, he pinned No.4 seed Wahrman, Plainville, in 3:05. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 2:23 by Mudd. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 1:22 by No.6 seed Watt, Phillipsburg.

Brad Nuzum was seeded No.8 at 145. In the first round, he was pinned in 1:39 by Mudd. In the consolation bracket, he was

pinned in 51 seconds by Wahrman. Ford and Watt wrestled for the consolation championship.

Brock Lauer was seeded No.7 at 152. He drew a first round bye, then lost a 16-0 technical fall to No.3 seed McGraw, Garden City. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 1:58 by No.8 seed Marcuson, Oberlin.

No.1 seed Taylor, Goodland, wrestled McGraw for the championship. Marcuson and No.4 seed Schroeder, Colby, wrestled for the consolation championship.

At 160A, Jordan Durham was seeded No.6 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.2 seed Voss, Colby, in 25 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.5 seed Breon, Phillipsburg, and was pinned in 2:21 to place second.

Coady McMullen was seeded No.1 in 160B. In the first round, he was pinned in 3:16 by Johnson, Goodland. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then was pinned in 3:23 by No.2 seed McCoy, Colby.

Johnson and No.6 seed Rall, Hoxie, wrestled for the championship and McCoy and No.3 seed Hilt, St. Francis, wrestled for third place.

At 275, Zach Mannel was seeded No.4 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 32 seconds by No.1 seed Reyes, Garden City. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 5-2 decision to No.3 seed Thompson, Colby.

Reyes and No.6 seed Moore, Oberlin, wrestled for the championship and No.2 seed Osbourne, Trego, and Thompson wrestled for third place.

Norton was open at 112, 171, 189 and 215.

Norton wrestlers prepare for regional tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's No.1 state ranked Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team will compete in the Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament on Friday and Saturday at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin.

With five of the top 10 ranked Class 3-2-1A teams in the state of Kansas competing, it should be the toughest regional tournament in the state.

In addition to Norton, ranked teams competing will be St. Francis, No.2; Oberlin, No.4; Hoxie, No.5 and Oakley, No.7.

Other teams in the tournament will be from Atwood, Cimarron, Deerfield, Hill City, Holcomb, Lakin, Leoti-Wichita County, Montezuma-South Gray, Palco, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Quinter, Stockton, Sublette and WaKeeney-Trego Community.

Out of 84 state-ranked wrestlers, 36 (43 percent) are on teams which will compete in this tournament.

The two-time defending state champion Blue Jays have had a great season so far. They have compiled a 14-3 overall dual record, which includes a perfect 8-0 dual record and championship of the Mid-Continent League. In addition, they won their third straight championship of the Hoxie Invitational, placed third in the Goodland Holiday Classic dual tournament, placed third in the Clay Center Invitational, won their third straight championship of the J.R. Durham Invitational in Norton, won the Mid-Continent League Tournament championship for the seventh year in a row and won the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg for the third year in a row.

Norton's biggest victory so far this season was their second straight championship of the prestigious Newton Tournament of Champions. Until Norton won the title a year ago, no team from a school smaller than Class

5A had won the championship in the long history of the tournament.

State-ranked wrestlers

Norton's 10 state ranked wrestlers are: freshman Zach Bainter, No.3, 112; senior Clay Madden, No.1, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, No.1, 125; junior Kent Mann, No.4, 130; senior Jon Harding, No.5, 135; junior Blake VanEaton, No.3, 140; senior Jeremy Hardy, No.6, 145; senior Luke Pfannenstiel, No.3, 152; senior Lance Roe, No.1, 160; senior Davvid Stanley, No.3, 171.

Other state-ranked wrestlers expected are: Zach Cemen, Phillipsburg, No.2; Dan Weigel, Plainville, No.5; Chris Orr, Hill City, No.6, 103; Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, No.6, 112; Trevor Richard, St Francis, No.2; Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City, No.5, 119; Matt Migchaelbrink, Atwood, No.2; Joe Olson, Trego, No.5, 125; Tyler Baker, Hoxie, No.1, 130; Dylan Lloyd, St. Francis, No.1, 135; Jonathan Richards, Oberlin, No.2; Justin Sherlock, St. Francis, No.4, 140; Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, No.4; Kelly Younkin, Oakley, No.5, 145; Michael Schamberger, Hoxie, No.1, 152; Scott Miller, Oberlin, No.5, 160; Terry Urban, Oberlin, No.2; Conner McMullen, Plainville, No.6, 171; Michael Malay, Trego, No.1; Kyle Rietcheck, Oakley, No.2; Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg, No.4, 189; Aaron Racette, Oakley, No.2; Tim Erwin, Hoxie, No.3; Ed Vargas, Leoti, No.5, 215; Brennan Wilger, St. Francis, No.2; Jace Smith, Phillipsburg, No.6, 275.

Coach's comments

"We anticipate that this will be the best regional tournament in the state," said Coach Johnson. "Each and everyone of our wrestlers will have to wrestle extremely well to qualify for the state tournament. This regional tournament is the first step in a wrestler's quest for a state championship."

"We don't care where we place as a team, we just want to get as many entries in the state tournament as possible. Statistics since

this 3-2-1A tournament began show that, if you qualify for the state tournament from this one, you have a very good chance of placing in the state tournament.

"Every year, some wrestlers who deserve to be in the state tournament don't make it and some who don't deserve it, make it. It depends a lot on who you wrestle and injuries can also make a difference.

"Records do not matter in this tournament. You must prove who is the best on this weekend."

"No matter how our wrestlers are seeded, all must wrestle well in order to place and qualify for the state tournament."

Four wrestlers from each weight class will qualify for the state tournament in Hays.

Norton wrestlers

103 - sophomore David Counter, 7-17; 112 - freshman Zach Bainter, 20-1; 119 - senior Clay Madden, 32-1; 125 - junior Nathan Broeckelman, 32-2; 130 - junior Kent Mann, 23-6; 135 - senior Jon Harding, 24-11; 140 - junior Blake VanEaton, 27-7; 145 - senior Jeremy Hardy, 21-3; 152 - senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 27-5; 160 - senior Lance Roe, 30-1; 171 - senior Davvid Stanley, 21-13; 189 - Open; 215 - junior Shane Stanley, 17-14; 275 - sophomore Zach Mannel, 10-22.

Tournament schedule

Wrestling will begin at 2 p.m. on Friday with the championship quarter-finals around 5 p.m. The first round consolation matches will begin at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, the semi-finals will start at 11 a.m., followed by the consolation quarter-finals around 1 p.m., consolation semi-finals around 3 p.m., consolation finals about 5 p.m. and championship finals at 6:30 p.m.

Admission on Friday will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students. Saturday's admission will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission on Saturday evening only will be \$4 for adults and \$3 for students.

Norton couple's grandson signs to play football at Dodge City

By JIM MERRIOTT

Oberlin's Jason Thomas has signed to play football at Dodge City Community College, a two-year Division I junior college.

The 5-foot, 11-inch, 215 pound Thomas will play linebacker for the Conquistadors. He will receive

a scholarship that pays for his books and tuition, the maximum amount that junior colleges can offer.

Thomas was a two-year starter for the Red Devils in football. On offense, he played fullback and tight end, carrying the ball 72

times for 427 yards and three touchdowns. He had 16 receptions for 245 yards and five touchdowns.

On defense, he was a two-year starter at linebacker, recording 286 tackles, three interceptions, six fumbles caused and six recovered. He was a three-year letterman and senior team captain.

His junior year, Thomas was voted first team All-Northwest Kansas League linebacker. His senior year, he was a second-team league tight end on offense and second-team linebacker, All-Area third team, and honorable mention for All-State.

Thomas said he plans to major in human health and performance. He is the son of Dennis and Kaylene Thomas, and has a sister, Jennifer. He is the grandson of Don and Marie Thomas of Oberlin, and Don and Elaine Mann of Norton.

Thomas signed last Wednesday, the national letter of intent signing day for high school football players. The letter of intent is an agreement signed by the player promising to attend a particular college for one year. In return, the recruit receives a scholarship helping pay all or part of college costs.



Jason Thomas

Norton County Weather - February 14th - 18th

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
55/20	35/15	25/10	20/5	25/8

Normal High: 45
Normal Low: 19

Sunrise: 7:33 to 7:38 A.M.
Sunset: 6:15 to 6:20 P.M.

The warmer temperatures that we have seen the last 2 months may come to an end for awhile after today. The 7 to 14 day forecast has much colder temperatures and several shots for at least light snow in it. Today's 50 degree highs will be a distant memory come Friday and Saturday when high temperatures will only be in the 20's and lows in the single digits. Along with the cold will be chances for 1" or 2" of light snow Wednesday night and Thursday morning with occasional snow flurries Friday and Saturday.

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Booster Club meets Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on recent competition by their teams and preview upcoming action. Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited.

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