

No. 42

Wrestlers converge on Norton Saturday

Tourney draws 11 schools

By DICK BOYD

The annual J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament will be held on Saturday in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Teams from Atwood, Beloit, Thomas More Prep-Hays, Hoxie, Leoti, Quinter, Scott City, Shawnee-Mill Valley, Smith Center and Cozad, Neb. will compete in addition to host team Norton.

The first session will begin at 9:30 a.m. on three mats.

The second session will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m. with third and fourth place matches on two mats, followed by honoring of former state medal winners at 5 p.m. and championship finals on one mat at 5:30 p.m.

It will be the 42nd annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 10th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed nine years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton, the former longtime wrestling coach in Norton.

Jake's many honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

At around 5 p.m., Norton's former state wrestling medal winners from 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977 and 1997 will be honored.

The pep band will play the national anthem and the cheerleaders and dance team will perform.

The championship finals will

follow on one mat around 5:30 p.m.

All times are estimated and may vary according to the progress of the tournament.

Plaques will be awarded to the top three teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight class. An "Outstanding Wrestler" will be chosen by vote of the coaches.

"It should be a very close tournament with a lot of evenly matched wrestlers throughout," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"It will be our first encounter with Smith Center and they are highly ranked.

"I don't expect many points to separate first from fourth or fifth in the team standings.

"Cozad, Nebraska usually brings in a very quality team. They tied for third in last year's tournament.

"We don't have any injuries but the quality of our conditioning is not as good as normal because the weather kept us from practicing as much over the holiday break. But, most of the teams coming to the tournament are probably in the same boat."

Nineteen wrestlers ranked in the state of Kansas are members of teams competing in the tournament.

Norton is the defending tournament champion. The Blue Jays have won the tournament the past three years, which broke a seven-



Norton's 285 pound junior Alex Thomas pinned Zach Holzmeister, Oakley, with 53 seconds left in the second period to win the gold medal in that weight class at the Hoxie Invitational Tournament on Dec. 2. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

year winning streak by Hoxie.

Six Norton wrestlers are state ranked. They are: freshman Connor Pfannenstiel, No.5 at 103; freshman Kaenon Keiswetter, No.3 at 112; sophomore Zach Bainter, No.2 at 125; senior Nathan Broeckelman, No.1 at 130; senior Kent Mann, No.2 at 135; senior Blake VanEaton, No.2 at 152.

Smith Center has four state-ranked wrestlers. They are: freshman Colt Rogers, No.2 at 112; sophomore Trevor Rempe, No.4 at 130; senior Justin York, No.2 at 140; junior Kirk Palmer, No.2 at 215.

Other state ranked wrestlers expected to compete are four from Beloit: sophomore Cade Hewitt, No.6 at 125; sophomore Cas Spangler, No.5 at 135; senior Bradly Esterl, No.1 at 140; junior

Matt Hyman, No.2 at 171.

Also state ranked are: senior Matt Migchaelbrink, Atwood, No.1 at 125; senior Nick Kough, Scott City, No.2 at 145; sophomore Chris Mader, Quinter, No.6 at 160; senior Tyler Williamson, No.4 at 112 and junior Brett Delich, No.5 at 125, both of Mill Valley.

Norton, who has won the Class 3-2-1A state championship the past three years, is ranked No.1 among teams in the state. Smith Center, who was second in the state last year, is ranked No.3 behind No.2 Phillipsburg, who was fourth in the state last year. Silver Lake is ranked No.4 in the state, followed by Beloit, No.5; Garden Plain, No.6; St. Francis, No.7; Eureka, No.8; Hill City, No.9; Sabetha, No.10.

Norton lineup

The tentative Norton wrestling lineup for Saturday is as follows: Connor Pfannenstiel, fresh., 103; Kaenon Keiswetter, fresh., 112; Zane Perez, fresh., 119; Zach Bainter, soph., 125; Nathan Broeckelman, sr., 130; Kent Mann, sr., 135; Aaron Husted, jr. or Todd Bolt, jr., 140; Jeff Soderlund, jr., 145; Blake VanEaton, sr., 152; Brock Lauer, soph. or Matt Stanley, soph., 160; Jordan Durham, sr., 171; Robert Derauf, fresh. or Coady

McMullen, soph., 189; Shane Stanley, sr., 215; Alex Thomas, jr., 285.

To honor former wrestlers

Norton Community High School has a long and rich wrestling tradition. Since beginning wrestling in 1931, NCHS has crowned nine state championship teams, 83 individual champions and a total of 242 individual state medalists.

Being honored from the 1947 team which placed sixth in the state tournament will be James Mulder, second, 103; Bill Smith, third, 112, deceased; Edgar Taylor, third, 154; Don Hemphill, fourth, hwt.

One wrestler, Leon Weiser, will be honored from the 1957 team. He placed second at 103.

The 1967 team placed second in the state tournament. To be honored from that team will be Quentin Horning, first, 138; Ron Tacha, first, 154; Stan Ward, second, 103; Myron Lowry, second, 112; Wayne Thiele, second, 133; Pat Donovan, third, 145; Ron Zwickle, fourth, hwt.

Placing fourth in the state tournament was the Blue Jay squad from 1977. Members to be honored will be John Horesky, first, 167; Tim Schulze, third, 145; Wayne Dillon, third, 185; Amos Donaldson, third, hwt.

The 1997 Norton wrestling team placed second in the state tournament. Members to be honored are Brent Brandyberry, first, 103; Curtis Brown, first, 171; Josh Kellerman, first, 215; Jeff Boyle, first, hwt; Kale Mann, second, 145.

Mann is currently an assistant coach for Mill Valley.

Norton's honored state medal winners and families will first meet at 4 p.m. in Room 143 at Norton Community High School for fellowship and light refreshments.

Around 5 p.m., the former state medalists from Norton will be introduced to the crowd at the tournament. Each will receive a certificate of wrestling excellence from J.R. "Jake" Durham in honor of the anniversary of their state medal.

A reception will be held after the finals in the school cafeteria until 10 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend and meet the former wrestlers and their families.

Admission to the entire tournament is \$6 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission to Session No.2, third and fourth place matches on two mats and championship finals on one mat, is \$3 for kindergarten through adults. Pre-school children are admitted free.

Session No.2 will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Norton 3rd in tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Todd Fulton's Norton Community High School boys C-team placed third in the Joe Green Invitational Basketball Tournament in Hill City.

In the opener on Thursday, Norton defeated Stockton 33-31, then lost a 50-25 game to Quinter in the semi-finals on Friday and defeated Osborne 55-37 to win the consolation championship on Monday.

Quinter and Hill City were scheduled to play Tuesday for the championship.

"Our young guys did a great job in placing third in the tournament," said coach Fulton.

"We improved in our fundamentals and knowing how to play defense the way we play it.

"I was proud of their efforts and all their hard work."

Stockton

In the opening win over Stockton, Norton scored 6 points in the first quarter while limiting the young Tigers to just 1 point and no field goals. In the second quarter, Stockton hit six field goals and Norton hit four as the Tigers outscored the Blue Jays 12-8 to narrow Norton's lead to 14-13 at halftime.

Norton edged ahead 27-25 by outscoring Stockton 13-12 in the third quarter. Both teams had six points in the final period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Landon Hamel with 14 points. He was followed by Matheus Martins, 6; J.D. Gall, 5; Marcus Herman, 3; Ashton Draper, 3; D.J. Ebner, 2. Trevor Winters led Stockton with 12 points.

Quinter

In the loss to Quinter, Norton trailed by quarters 16-4, 24-12 and 37-17.

Leading scorers for the Blue Jays were Martins and Draper with 8 each, followed by Gall, 5; Herman and Ebner, 2 each.

Scott Ochs was scoring leader for Quinter with 23 points. Jordan Hargitt added 12.

Osborne

The game with Osborne was tied 10-all after one quarter but the Blue Jays outscored the Bulldogs 20-4 in the second quarter to take a 30-14 lead. Both teams scored 12 points in the third quarter but Norton still led by 16 at 42-26. The Blue Jays edged the Bulldogs 13-11 in the final stanza to win by 18 points.

Norton had three players in double scoring figures. Draper led with 16 points, followed by Martins, 14; Zac Dreher, 13; Gall, 8; Herman, 2; Ebner, 2. Shane Clark led Osborne in scoring with 18 points; Ike Sumpter added 13.

Booster Club meeting set

The first Blue Jay Booster Club meeting of the new year will be Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Norton girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka, boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson will give fans an update on competition by their teams and preview this week's contests.

All fans of Norton Community High School athletics are invited.




FYI...

End is near for last of 32 bowl games




- Here is a glimpse at the college bowl activity, starting with the national title game next Monday and working back to the first of the 32 bowl games.
- **Monday, Jan. 8**, BCS National Championship at Glendale, Ariz., Ohio State (12-0) vs. Florida (12-1), 7 p.m. FOX
 - **Sunday, Jan. 7**, GMAC Bowl at Mobile, Ala., Southern Mississippi (8-5) vs. Ohio (9-4), 7 p.m., ESPN
 - **Saturday, Jan. 6**, International Bowl at Toronto, Cincinnati (7-5) vs. Western Michigan (8-4), 11 a.m. FOX
 - **Wednesday, Jan. 3**, Sugar Bowl at New Orleans, Notre Dame (10-2) vs. Louisiana State (10-2), 7 p.m. FOX
 - **Tuesday, Jan. 2**, Orange Bowl at Miami, Wake Forest vs. Louisville, 7 p.m., FOX
 - **Fiesta Bowl**, Boise State 43, Oklahoma 42 (2 OT)
 - **Rose Bowl**, Southern California 32, Michigan 18
 - **Gator Bowl**, West Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35
 - **Capital One Bowl**, Wisconsin 17, Arkansas 14
 - **Cotton Bowl**, Auburn 17, Nebraska 14
 - **Outback Bowl**, Penn State 20, Tennessee 10
 - **MPC Computers Bowl**, Miami, Fla. 21, Nevada 20
 - **Chick-fill-A Bowl**, Georgia 31, Virginia Tech 24
 - **Alamo Bowl**, Texas 26, Iowa 24
 - **Meineke Bowl**, Boston College 25, Navy 24
 - **Champ Sports Bowl**, Maryland 24, Purdue 7
 - **Insight Bowl**, Texas Tech 44, Minnesota 41 (OT)
 - **Liberty Bowl**, South Carolina 44, Houston 36
 - **Sun Bowl**, Oregon State 39, Missouri 38
 - **Music City Bowl**, Kentucky 28, Clemson 20
 - **Texas Bowl**, Rutgers 37, Kansas State 10
 - **Holiday Bowl**, California 45, Texas A&M 10
 - **Independence Bowl**, Oklahoma State 34, Alabama 31
 - **Emerald Bowl**, Florida State 44, UCLA 27
 - **Motor City Bowl**, Central Michigan 31, Middle Tenn. 14
 - **Hawaii Bowl**, Hawaii 41, Arizona State 24
 - **Armed Forces Bowl**, Utah 25, Tulsa 13
 - **New Mexico Bowl**, San Jose State 20, New Mexico 12
 - **Papa John's Bowl**, South Florida 24, East Carolina 7
 - **New Orleans Bowl**, Troy 41, Rice 17
 - **Las Vegas Bowl**, Brigham Young 38, Oregon 8
 - **Poinsettia Bowl**, Texas Christian 37, Northern Illinois 7

Pick your team, cheer them on

Nothing beats high school sports!



High School Sports This Week

 Norton Blue Jays  Northern Valley Huskies  Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:
Tenth Annual J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament (Here) 9:30 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Osborne (There) 4 p.m., Friday
C-Team Girls Tournament in Phillipsburg 9 a.m., Saturday
C-Team Boys Tournament in Smith Center 9 a.m., Saturday
Logan vs. Golden Plains in Rexford 4:30 p.m., Friday
Logan in Cheyenne Conference Tournament in Phillipsburg January 8-13
Northern Valley vs. Eastern Heights in Almena 4:30 p.m., Friday
Northern Valley in Cheyenne Conf. Tournament in Phillipsburg January. 8-13