

Norton wrestlers lock up Panther Classic

By **DICK BOYD**

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team turned in another stellar performance on Saturday in winning their fifth straight Panther Classic Tournament championship in Phillipsburg.

Coach Bill Johnson's Blue Jays rolled up 173 points to outdistance runner-up Phillipsburg, who scored 130.5. Third place went to defending co-Class 3-2-1A state champion Beloit with 128.5.

Abilene was fourth with 107, followed by St. Francis, 89; Lakin, 61; Minneapolis, 48; Ellsworth, 44.5; Hoxie, 44; Hoisington, 38; Stockton, 34; Ellis, 29.5; Trego Community, 29; Lincoln, 24; Hill City, 19.

Ten of the 13 Norton wrestlers competing placed in their weight divisions. The Blue Jays had three champions, three runner-ups, two third placers and two fourth place finishers.

Champions for Norton were freshman Troy Bainter, 103; freshman Landon Keiswetter, 119 and senior Alex Thomas, 285.

Earning runner-up medals were sophomore Kaenon Keiswetter, 125; senior Todd Bolt, 140 and senior Jeff Soderlund, 152.

Freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112 and sophomore Zane Perez placed third in their divisions.

Earning fourth place finishes were junior Matt Stanley, 160 and sophomore Robert Derauf, 215.

Also competing for Norton were senior Aaron Husted, 145; junior Jordan Bebb, 171 and junior Brock Lauer, 189.

Norton compiled a 29-15 win-loss record and a 15-3 pin ratio.

"Overall, I thought we wrestled extremely well," said coach Johnson. "Each and every one of our wrestlers competed hard and did their best."

"We did not win every match but we gave it everything we had and that is all I can ask of them"

"We were wrestling without two time state placer Zach Bainter, who was resting a minor injury and were still able to win the tournament by over 40 points. I was very happy with our performance."

"The regional tournament is just around the corner and several of our wrestlers were able to help their regional seeding by either avenging early season losses or defeating someone who will be in our regional tournament."

"We were only able to crown three champions but there were some very tough brackets. We did place ten of our 13 entered."

"Troy Bainter bounced back from a sluggish dual Friday night to look good on Saturday and bring home a title. But, the one wrestler who stands out is freshman Landon "Tug" Keiswetter. He came into the tournament with a losing record and was able to win the tournament from the No. 4 seed. I was very proud of him. He defeated the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds in the tournament."

Coach Johnson named Keiswetter the "Varsity Wrestler of the Week."

Individual results

*103 -- Troy Bainter was seeded No. 2 and drew a first round bye. He won an 8-3 decision over No. 3 seed Chris Ceman, Phillipsburg, then decided No. 1 seed Luke Cole, Abilene, 6-3 to win the championship.

Ceman placed third with a 19-2 technical fall over No. 4 seed Samantha Gonzales, Lakin.

*112 -- No. 2 seed Billy Broeckelman drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he lost a 7-5 decision to No. 3 seed Cody Sherlock, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he won a 13-3 major decision over Ruben Sherwood, Trego, then pinned No. 4 seed Mark Livesay, Lincoln, in 7 seconds to place third.

No. 1 seed Dalton Davis, Lakin, won the championship with a 7-3 decision over Sherlock.

*119 -- Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 4 and pinned No. 5 seed Cordrey Spires, Stockton, in 1:09 of their first round match. Next, he won a 6-3 decision over No. 1 seed Courtney Strauss, Abilene, to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No. 2 seed John Corman, Minneapolis, and decided him 6-4 to win the gold medal.

Third place went to Strauss with a 15-5 major decision over Josh Crain, Phillipsburg.

*125 -- Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No. 1 and pinned Trevor Popp, Hoxie, in 50 seconds of their opening match. Next, he won an 11-3 major decision over No. 4 seed Dusty Greer, Minneapolis. In the championship finals, he lost a 3-2 decision to No. 2 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, to place second.

Greer won third place with a 2-1 decision over Cole Orr, Hill City.

*130 -- Zane Perez was seeded No. 3. He won a first round 9-4

decision over Tyler Hamilton, Minneapolis. In the semi-finals, he lost a 4-0 decision to No. 2 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg. In the consolation bracket, he won a 5-2 decision over No. 5 seed Tyler Johnston, Stockton, and pinned Levin Schneider, Ellsworth, in 30 seconds to place third.

Rachow won the championship with a 4-2 decision over No. 1 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit.

*135 -- No. 2 seed Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, won the championship with an 8-4 decision over No. 5 seed John Lynch, Lakin. No. 3 seed Gavin Smull, St. Francis, placed third by injury default over No. 1 seed Tommy Knapp, Lincoln.

*140 -- Todd Bolt was seeded No. 2. He pinned Alex Anderson, Lakin, in 1:14 of their first round match. Next, he pinned No. 3 seed Quinton Wuthnow, Abilene, in 2 seconds. In the championship finals, he wrestled familiar foe No. 1 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit, and lost an 11-5 decision to place second.

Wuthnow placed third with a 15-6 major decision over No. 4 seed Heath Maley, Trego.

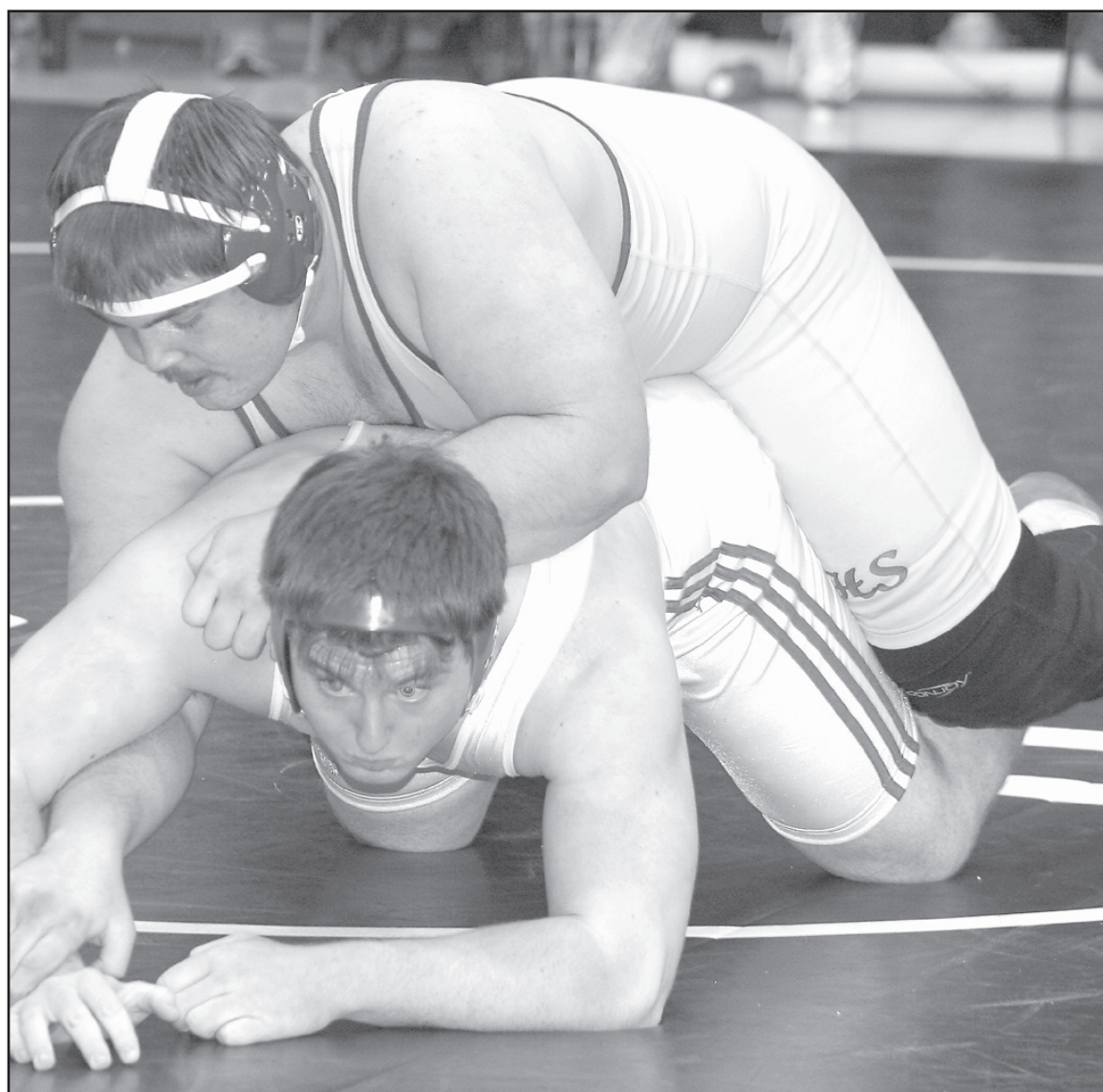
*145 -- Aaron Husted was seeded No. 4. He lost a 10-8 first round decision to No. 5 seed Jess Pacheco, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Dylan Obermueller, Lincoln, in 25 seconds. Then, pinned Zane Sanders, Hoisington, in 30 seconds. He just missed the consolation finals when he lost a 7-2 decision to No. 2 seed Chase King, Ellis.

No. 1 seed Colin Loomis, Beloit, won the championship by a 5-4 decision over No. 3 seed Ryan Wuthnow, Abilene.

*152 -- Jeff Soderlund was seeded No. 5. In the first round, he pinned No. 4 seed Colten Picking, Abilene, in 1:35. Next, he pinned No. 1 seed Justin Sherlock, St. Francis, in 1:23. In the championship finals, he lost a 9-2 decision to No. 2 seed Blake Mayes, Beloit, to place second.

Sherlock placed third by default over No. 3 seed Alberto Contreras, Minneapolis.

*160 -- Matt Stanley was seeded No. 4. He won a 10-2 major decision over No. 5 seed Scott Ford, St. Francis, in the first round. Next, he lost a 6-2 decision to No. 1 seed Marvio Tischhauser, Abilene. In the consolation bracket, he won an 8-1 decision over Zach Gehring, Ellis, then lost by a 9-4 decision to No. 3 seed Clayton Rall, Hoxie, to



By the look on the face of No. 3 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, he is wondering what he can do to get out of the grasp of Norton's No. 1 seed Alex Thomas in the 285-lb. finals in the Panther Classic on Saturday in Phillipsburg. As it turned out, he didn't have enough time to make a decision because Thomas pinned him in 12 seconds.

-Telegram photo by Charlotte Stephenson

place fourth.

Tischhauser won the championship by a 7-5 decision over No. 2 seed Cody Hanel, Beloit.

*171 -- Jordan Bebb was pinned in 42 seconds of his first match with Brett Melton, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Trent Stevenson, Ellsworth, in 4 seconds. Next, he pinned Adam Guthmiller, St. Francis, in 30 seconds. He just missed the consolation finals when he lost a 12-7 decision to Melton in their second encounter of the day.

No. 1 seed Ryan Swatzell, Phillipsburg, won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Tad Miller, Stockton, in 1:33. No. 3 seed Justin Gnad, Ellis, won third with a 6-3 decision over Melton.

*189 -- Brock Lauer pinned Steven Timson, Lincoln, in 6 seconds in his first match. Next, he lost a 13-4 major decision to No. 2 seed Taylor Wuthnow, Abilene. In the

consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then was pinned in 12 seconds by Alex Stout, Ellsworth.

No. 1 seed Matt Engstrom, Hoisington, won the championship with a 7-4 decision over Wuthnow. No. 3 seed Keath Thomas, Phillipsburg, won third by pinning No. 5 seed David Guthmiller, St. Francis.

*215 -- Robert Derauf lost a 6-4 decision to No. 3 seed Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg, in the first round. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Logan Mosburg, Lakin, in 59 seconds. Next, he pinned Talon Jones, St. Francis, in 1:11. In his next match, he won a 5-4 decision over No. 5 seed Cody Pope, Hoxie, to reach the consolation championship match where he wrestled Wickham for the second time in the tournament. Wickham pinned him in 44 seconds to place third.

No. 1 seed Steve Kyler, Ellsworth, won the championship by

pinning No. 2 seed Taylor Dirks, Trego, in 1:14.

*285 -- Alex Thomas was seeded No. 1 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he won a 6-3 decision over No. 4 seed Jared Rice, Phillipsburg. In the championship finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, in 12 seconds to win the gold medal.

Rice placed third by pinning No. 2 seed Tyler Gjerstad, Abilene, in 21 seconds.

Next action

Norton will travel to Osborne on Thursday to wrestle Osborne and Hill City.

The Blue Jays will wrestle the Bulldogs at 5 p.m., followed by the Norton vs. Hill City dual and the Osborne vs. Hill City dual.

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 Ladies roll over Ringnecks on the road

By **DICK BOYD**

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With junior guard Laura Lee Baird scoring from beyond the arc and junior post Hayli Bozarth unstoppable inside, the Norton Community High School girls varsity basketball team dominated Mid-Continent League foe Hill City in a 59-34 win at Hill City on Friday night.

The Lady Jays held quarter leads of 13-7, 28-13 and 41-25.

Bozarth hit two baskets and two free throws. Baird hit her only two-point basket of the night and a shot from long range and junior post KaraJo Jones added a basket for the Lady Jays in the first quarter.

Feeding Bozarth inside was working so well that the Lady Jays kept doing it. The result was that Bozarth scored all 15 of Norton's points in the second quarter on six field goals and 3 of 3 from the charity stripe.

The Lady Jays brought the ball back out to the perimeter in the second half and three different players buried three-point shots.

Baird hit two treys in the third quarter and two in the fourth period. Sophomore guard Ashlie Stewart connected from long range once in the third and again in the fourth quarter and junior guard Katharine Roy buried a three-point shot in the final stanza.

For the game, Norton hit 8 of 25 three-point shots for 41 percent of the Lady Jays' points.

Baird hit 5 of 16 trey tries for 31 percent, 1 of 6 two-point attempts for 17 percent and 6 of 22 overall for 27 percent and 17 points. She did not attempt any free throws.

Bozarth left the nets smoking as she connected on 9 of 12 shots in the paint for 75 percent accuracy, was a perfect 7 of 7 from the charity stripe and finished with 25 points.

Leading scorer for Hill City was Crystal Kinderknecht with 11.

"This was our best game of the year by far," said Norton head girls coach Kevin Jilka. "Our intensity level was great for four quarters and that is what we have been looking for."

"Offensively, we executed well

all night. We had only seven turnovers, which is excellent. Our players did a great job of taking care of the ball.

"Defensively, it was by far our best effort of the year. We had girls flying around to the ball all night long and that is what we have been looking for from our players."

"We are trying to earn a home court for the sub-state tournament opener and need to keep playing well to do that."

In addition to hitting 8 treys, the Lady Jays connected on 14 of 37 two-point attempts for 38 percent accuracy and were 22 of 62 overall for 35 percent.

The Lady Ringnecks, swished 3 of 7 from beyond the arc for 43 percent, 10 of 27 two-point tries for 37 percent and 13 of 34 overall for 38 percent.

The Lady Jays hit 7 of 8 free throws for an excellent 88 percent while the Lady Ringnecks swished 5 of 12 from the line for 42 percent.

Norton pulled down 12 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds for 24 total. Hill City grabbed 6

offensive and 16 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Senior guard Courtney Cox and Bozarth led Norton in rebounding with 7 each, followed by Roy, 4; senior guard Megan Kats and Jones, 2 each; Stewart, senior post Chantille Campbell, 1 each.

The Lady Jays stole the ball 11 times and only allowed Hill City 3 thefts. Baird and Bozarth each had 3 steals, followed by Stewart, Jones, 2 each; Campbell, 1.

Norton had 16 offensive assists compared to 11 for the Lady Ringnecks. Baird was assists leader with 5, followed by Kats, 3; Stewart, Cox, Roy, 2 each; KaraJo Jones, Shelby Jones, 1 each.

Norton had just 7 turnovers while Hill City turned the ball over 21 times against the aggressive Norton defense.

Norton is 9-5 for the season.

Junior varsity

Norton won the girls junior var-

sity contest by a 52-36 score.

The young Lady Jays held an 11-9 lead after one quarter but trailed 22-20 at intermission. Norton outscored Hill City 15-8 in the third period to take a 35-30 advantage into the final stanza where Norton outscored the Lady Ringnecks 17-6.

Leading scorer for Norton was Amanda Ray with 14 points, followed by Lacy Keilig, 9; Shelby Jones, Kaitlyn Wolf, 8 each; Dustyna Sprigg, 6; Raven Brown, 4; Krystal Rossi, 3.

Crystal Kinderknecht led Hill City in scoring with 9 points.

"This game was nip and tuck until the fourth quarter when our girls put together about a six basket run and some stops on defense to put the game away," said Norton assistant girls coach George Rossi.

"Our girls were a bit streaky in the early quarters."

"Our press worked well tonight."

Next action

Norton will host Oberlin of the Northwest Kansas League today in varsity and junior varsity games, beginning at 5 p.m.

The junior varsity girls will play first in the Stull Gymnasium, followed by the varsity girls and varsity boys games.

BOX SCORE

Norton girls 59

Katharine Roy 0 1 0-0 3; Ashlie Stewart 0 20-0 6; Laura Lee Baird 1 5 0-0 17; Courtney Cox 2 0 0-0 4; KaraJo Jones 2 0 0-1 4; Hayli Bozarth 9 0 7-7 25; Total 14 8 7-8 59.

Hill City girls 34

Lexi Hardiek 0 1 1-2 4; Kali Roberts 2 0 1-2 5; Katelyn Keith 3 0 0-0 6; Tayler Money 1 00-0 2; Tamra Long 0 2 0-2 6; Crystal Kinderknecht 4 0 3-6 11; Total 10 3 5-12 34.

Tough third quarter downs Huskies

A bad third quarter, it turns out, pretty much spelled the difference between victory and defeat for the Northern Valley varsity basketball boys in their game against Eastern Heights at Almena Friday night.

The visitors were out front at the end of the first quarter 13-10. In the second quarter, the Huskies outscored Eastern Heights 13-10 to knot the game at 23 all at halftime.

Enter: Third quarter. The Huskies managed to score only 9 points while letting Eastern Heights get

away with 22. That put the visitors in the lead by 13 points (45-32) at the buzzer.

The Huskies came roaring back to put through 21 points in the final frame, while Eastern Heights collected 28.

The Huskies had four players in double figures: Eric Woodside 13; Tanner Jessup 12; and Dusty Eagleburger and Cody Callaway with 10 each. Bryce Marble chipped in 6 and Ethan Hays 2.

Eastern Heights had four players in double digits: Michael Iman

23; Joe Suchsland 14; and Capps and Reynolds 11 apiece. Adding to the score were Horn with 6; Rose 6; and Rhea 2.

The Huskies scored on 16 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 15 free throws.

For Eastern Heights, it was 25 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 17 from the charity stripe.

The Husky junior varsity picked up a 39-32 win over Eastern Heights. Dusty Eagleburger was top scorer with 18, followed by Chaim McMillin with 14.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Hill City, Osborne.....5 p.m. Thursday in Osborne
Norton Junior Varsity in Bill Voss Novice Tournament 9 a.m. Saturday in Colby

BASKETBALL:

Norton vs. Oberlin V, JV 5 p.m. Today in Norton
Norton vs. Atwood V, JV 6:30 p.m. Friday in Atwood
Norton vs. Hoxie, V, JV 5 p.m. Tuesday in Norton
Logan vs. Jewell 4 p.m. Today in Logan
Logan vs. Western Plains 4 p.m. Friday in Logan
Logan vs. Victoria 4 p.m. Tuesday in Victoria
Northern Valley vs. Arapahoe, Neb. 3:30 p.m. Today in Arapahoe
Northern Valley vs. Kensington 4 p.m. Friday in Almena
Northern Valley vs. Hill City (Senior Night) 4 p.m. Tuesday in Almena