

Past medalist honored

By Dick Boyd

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Former Norton Community High School state wrestling medal winners from 1943, 1953, 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003 were honored during ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament last Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

The honorees were escorted onto the gym floor by the NCHS cheerleaders. Each honored wrestler received a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" and congratulatory handshake from Norton Community High School Activities Director Dustin McEwen.

Current Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson began to recognize the "Norton Wrestling Tradition" during his first year in Norton in 1992.

Norton has won 11 state wrestling team championships and has had 290 individual state medal winners and 92 individual state champions.

The 1943 team placed second in the state and had seven placers. They were Ralph Mason, Vic Peterson, Keith Sanderson, Russell Awalt, Lewis Howell, Eldon Archer and Gerald Horning. None of them were able to be present.

Raymond Hewett was a state placer from 1953 but was also unable to be present.

The 1963 team was coached

by Jake Durham and had two state placers: Rod Fisher, Collinsville, Okla., who placed third and Richard Miller, Norton, who placed fourth at 112 pounds. Fisher was unable to be present but Miller was present and received his certificate.

The 1973 Norton team was also coached by Jake Durham and they were winners of the Class 3A state championship. Honored were Bill Klein, Norton, first at 98 pounds; Evan Whitney, Norton, first at 138 pounds; Dave Ward, Hays, second at 105 pounds; Roland Washburn, Norton, third at 132 pounds; Bruce Koel, Princeton University, N.J., third at 145 pounds and Keith Sides, Redmond, Ore., first at 126 pounds. Sides was the only one unable to be present.

The 1983 Norton team placed third in the Class 4A state tournament and they were also coached by Jake Durham. Honored were Kent Hahn, Stockton, first at 132 pounds; Shane Wyatt, Norton, first at 185 pounds; Chuck Dalton, deceased, fourth at 138 pounds and Stan Wahlmeier, Burlington, fourth at 167 pounds. Wahlmeier was the only wrestler from the team who was present. Dalton's certificate was accepted by his uncle Jake Durham.

Norton's 1993 team was coached by Bill Johnson. Billy Smith, Norton, was the only

medal winner. He placed sixth at 112 pounds but was unable to be present.

The Blue Jay 2003 team compiled a 12-0 dual meet record en route to a second place finish in the Class 3-2-1A state tournament. They were also coached by Bill Johnson. Medalists were: Clay Madden, first, 103, freshman year; Luke Pfannenstiel, fifth, 112, freshman year; Lance Roe, fifth, 119, freshman year; James Annon, first, 125, junior year; Eric Johnson, second, 145, senior year; Tim Sprigg, sixth, 160, senior year; Bo Pfannenstiel, fifth, 171, junior year; Michael Sprigg, second, 275, sophomore year.

All were present except for James Annon and Michael Sprigg. Annon's award was accepted by his father Bobby Annon and Sprigg's award was accepted by his brother, Tim Sprigg.

This was the 48th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 16th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed for longtime Norton wrestling coach J.R. "Jake" Durham.

Jake's 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.



Jake Durham, Norton Hall of Fame wrestling coach, is shown here visiting with some former Norton state wrestling medal winners prior to them being introduced and receiving "Certificates of Wrestling Excellence" during the J.R. Durham Wrestling Tournament last Saturday in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium in Norton. Pictured are, from left, Luke Pfannenstiel, Clay Madden, Bo Pfannenstiel, Bill Klein, Stan Wahlmeier, Rich Miller, Roland Washburn, Dave Ward, Evan Whitney, Jake Durham, Lance Roe, Bruce Koel and Eric Johnson. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton edged out by the Plainville Cardinals

By Dick Boyd

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Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys varsity basketball team came close to handing an excellent Plainville five only their second loss of the season before the Cardinals tallied the final points of the game on Tuesday night in Stull Gym in Norton to edge the Blue Jays 37-34.

The tight first quarter ended with the score tied 10-all. Jacob Brooks, Drew Schrum, Dalton Miller, Tanner Furbush and Lane Bigge each hit a basket for a balanced attack.

The Blue Jay defense held the Cardinals to just 5 points in the second period while scoring 10 more points to lead 20-15 at halftime. Schrum and Miller each buried three-point shots and Furbush hit a two-point basket in the period.

The third quarter was played on even terms with Plainville edging Norton 13-12 but still trailing the Blue Jays 32-28. Brooks hit three baskets in the quarter, Miller buried a three-pointer and hit a free throw and Carson McKenna hit a basket.

Unfortunately, the Blue Jays found a lid on the basket in the fourth period and scored only 2 points on a basket by Furbush with 54 seconds left to tie the score at 34-all. In the final seconds, the Cardinals escaped with a three-point win.

"To win close games, you have to play better defense down the stretch," said coach Reusink.

"We let them get the ball in good shooting spots.

"We did what we needed to do to have the opportunity to win but had trouble finding the basket at the end."

Brooks led Norton in scoring with 10 points; Miller added 9.

Leading scorer for Plainville was Nolan Weiser with 14 points.

As a team, Norton hit 3 of 19 three-point tries for 16 percent, 12 of 31 two-point attempts for 39 percent and 15 of 50 overall for 30 percent.

Plainville hit 17 of 38 two-point tries for 45 percent and missed both trey tries.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 1 of 5 for 20 percent and the Cardinals hit 3 of 9 for 33 percent.

Norton had 9 offensive and 12 defensive rebounds for 21 total. Plainville grabbed 5 offensive and 17 defensive caroms for 22 total.

Brooks was leading rebounder

played.

Leading scorer for Norton was Porter with 6, followed by Johnson, 4; Kobie Unterseher, 2; Brendon Frack, 2.

Craig Garvert scored 4 points for Plainville.

Next action

Norton will travel to Wakeeney this evening for more Mid-Continent League action, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Norton boys

Jacob Brooks 5 0 0-0 10; Drew Schrum 1 1 0-1 5; Dalton Miller 1 2 1-2 9; Tanner Furbush 3 0 0-0 6; Carson McKenna 1 0 0-2 2; Lane Bigge 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 12 3 1-5 34.

Plainville boys

Hadley Gillum 4 0 3-7 11; Nolan Weiser 7 0 0-2 14; Connor Collins 1 0 0-0 2; Kent Diaz 5 0 0-0 10; Totals 17 0 3-9 37.



Norton's Lane Bigge outhustles a Plainville player for a loose ball during the Blue Jays' close contest with the Cardinals on Tuesday evening in the Stull Gym. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

for Norton with 8, followed by Conor Cox, 5; Bigge, 3; Ellis, 2; Furbush, McKenna, Miller, 1 each.

Norton had 11 steals compared to 5 for Plainville. Jacobs and Schrum each had 4 thefts, followed by Ellis, Miller, McKenna, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 7 offensive assists compared to 8 for the Cardinals. Brooks led with 4, followed by Miller, 2; Schrum, 1.

Norton had just 8 turnovers while Plainville lost the ball 15 times.

Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity game by a 47-17 score.

Norton held quarter leads of 17-4, 29-10 and 37-11.

Tanner Furbush led Norton in scoring with 11 points, followed by Quinton Porter, 9; Marc Miller, 8; Trever Lewis, 6; Noah Johnson, 5; Connor Griffey, 3; Conor Cox, 2; Tyler Kuhn, 2; Breven Sondergaard, 1.

Quinn Dewey led Plainville with 6 points.

C-team

Norton also won the C-team game by a 14-9 score.

Only three quarters were



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