

Blue Jays take third in Holiday Classic

By **DICK BOYD**
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After winning the Mid-Continent League Round Robin Tournament Championship last Friday in Norton, the No.1 state ranked Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team traveled to Goodland on Saturday and placed third in the grueling Holiday Classic.

With little rest for the wrestlers, it was a full day of wrestling duals versus a wide variety of teams.

Norton defeated Scott City 67-6, outscored Leoti 69-6, lost to Colby 37-34 and rolled over Baca County, Colo. 58-12 to reach the finals. In the championship finals, Colby defeated the other pool's champion Goodland by a 33-30 score.

Norton beat Hugoton 53-26 to finish third.

Ulysses defeated Scott City 36-27 for fifth, Baca County outscored Burlington, Colo. 30-27 for seventh and Leoti beat Trego Community 35-24 for ninth.

"We had five varsity wrestlers out of the lineup but I realize other teams have the same problem," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"We have a lot to work on. It's a double edged sword. Many of our wrestlers received 10 matches the last two days. Not many of the matches were that competitive and that's what we need.

"We took some losses but ended up third overall. I was pleased with the way we wrestled against Colby.

"I'm proud of our young boys. It's tough taking losses but you have to pay your dues

before you have success. They don't hand out state awards before Christmas. Our goal is to do well at regional and state tournaments.

"The good thing is we have a lot of time to work to get better and healed up. This lets us know where we are at the break.

"We'll start all over on December 30 and hit it hard in 2014."

Wrestler of the Week

The Norton coaches named sophomore Mike Kasson the Norton varsity "Wrestler of the Week" for his winning record at Goodland in addition to pinning his way to the 152 pound championship in the league round robin on Friday.

Fastest pin

Norton's Ethan Ross won the award for recording the fastest pin in the tournament. He pinned Danny Tapia, Hugoton, in 14 seconds!

Stetson Loader of Baca County was chosen Outstanding Wrestler in the lower weights and Andrew Taylor was Outstanding Wrestler in the upper weights.

Scott City

106 - Caysean Campbell pinned Zachary Tucker in 4:05.

113 - Branson Addington won by forfeit.

120 - Kyle Bell was pinned in 2:42 by Chase Ramsey.

126 - Ethan Ross pinned Morgan Roberts in :54.

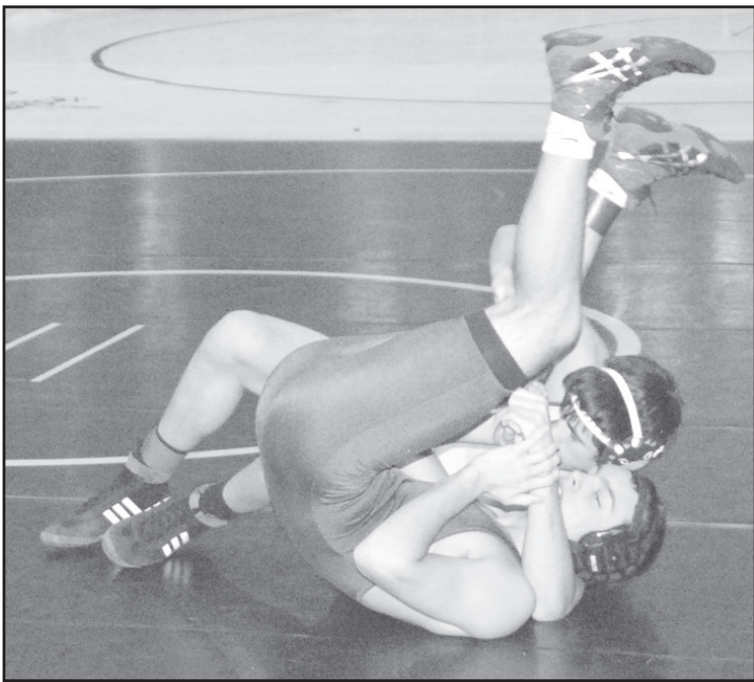
132 - Trenton Wright won by forfeit.

138 - Alec Hager pinned Jess Anchondo in 2:11.

145 - Jared Tallent won a 4-3 decision over Wyatt Kropp

152 - Mike Kasson pinned Abe Wiebe in 1:48.

160 - Kendall Miller won by



It took only 38 seconds for Norton junior Kendall Miller to pin Romano Burger, Hugoton, during the 160 pound weight class of the dual between the two schools during the Holiday Wrestling Classic in Goodland on Saturday. Miller went undefeated for the day, pinning three opponents, winning one match by a major decision and winning another by a forfeit.

forfeit.

170 - Cole Renner won by forfeit.

182 - Double forfeit.

195 - Jordan Dole pinned Garrett Osborn in :32.

220 - Jacob Green won a 12-4 major decision over Lane Hayes.

285 - Michael Johnson pinned Cole Birney in 1:39.

Leoti

106 - Caysean Campbell won by forfeit.

113 - Branson Addington pinned Brett Binns in :40.

120 - Kyle Bell pinned Lane Ridder in 2:31.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

126 - Ethan Ross won by forfeit.

132 - Trenton Wright pinned Blaze Fisher in :27.

138 - Alec Hager won by forfeit.

145 - Jared Tallent pinned Layton Tankersley in 1:09.

152 - Mike Kasson won a 3-2 decision over Zeke Castillo.

160 - Kendall Miller pinned Taylor Seaton in 1:04.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Colton Northrup in 1:14.

182 - Double forfeit.

195 - Jordan Dole was pinned in 3:01 by Brice Mason.

220 - Jacob Green won by forfeit.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 5:04 by Ethan Jay.

Baca County

106 - Caysean Campbell won by forfeit.

113 - Branson Addington won by forfeit.

120 - Kyle Bell won by forfeit.

126 - Stetson Loader of Baca County won by forfeit.

132 - Toby Nickell lost a 7-5 decision to Austin Batterton.

138 - Alec Hager pinned J.D. Chenoweth in 2:52.

145 - Jared Tallent pinned Dax Doyle in 2:26.

152 - Mike Kasson lost a 3-1 decision to Luke Lofflin.

160 - Kendall Miller won a

21-7 major decision over Rafe Hutches.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Ethan Hebbard in :52.

182 - Double forfeit.

195 - Jordan Dole won by forfeit.

220 - Jacob Green pinned Dalton Westphal in 1:41.

285 - Michael Johnson won by forfeit.

Hugoton

106 - Skylar Johnson pinned Israel Montoya in :22.

113 - Branson Addington pinned Reed Rome in :39.

120 - Ethan Ross pinned Danny Tapia in :14.

126 - Kyle Bell lost an 18-3 technical fall to Pedro Ordenez.

132 - Toby Nickell lost a 9-3 decision to Zane Littell.

138 - Alec Hager pinned Edgar Villa in 1:19.

145 - Jared Tallent won a 16-1 technical fall over Genesis Martinez.

152 - Gavin Lively won by forfeit.

160 - Kendall Miller pinned Romano Burger in :38.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Kole Kahl in 2:21.

182 - Noel Camacho of Hugoton won by forfeit.

195 - Jordan Dole was pinned in 1:12 by Bradley Campbell.

220 - Jacob Green pinned Austin Harper in :17.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:59 by Nick Evans.

Next action

Norton will begin wrestling in the new year on Friday, Jan. 10 when the Blue Jays host Ulysses, beginning at 6 p.m.

The annual J.R. Durham Tournament will be held the next day, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Norton Junior Varsity teams bring home wins

By **DICK BOYD**
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The Norton Community High School girls and boys junior varsity basketball teams both won the championship of the Junior Varsity Basketball Tournament played in Oakley on Saturday, Dec. 21.

The Norton girls defeated Trego Community 37-33, then outscored Quinter 44-35 to go perfect for the day and the tournament.

In the win over Trego, the young Lady Jays held a 9-8 lead after one quarter but were outscored 10-8 in the second period to trail 18-17 at halftime. Norton had their best quarter in the third when they scored 14 points while holding Trego to 8 to take a 31-26 lead.

Norton scored just 6 points in the fourth quarter but limited Trego to 7 points, all scored from free throws.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lexi Voss with 12 points, followed by Kira Robertson, 7; Baylee Miller, 6; Erin Archer, 4; Kristen Dole, 4; Adrienne Hager, 2; Brittany Wright, 2.

Nickelson and Hladky each scored 8 points for Trego and Buchholz added 7.

"We moved the ball well against their zone defense but struggled knocking down our outside shots in the first half," said Norton assistant coach Cheri Brooks.

"We were able to make some adjustments on defense and were able to create some steals and in return got some transition points.

"We need to work on correct defensive positioning when helping on the drive and what hand to steal the ball with. We were fortunate to get all our players some playing time in this game."

The 44-35 win over Quinter was not as close as the final score. Norton led by quarters 16-7, 26-14 and 36-19.

Hanna Brooks led the young Lady Jays in scoring with 12 points, followed by Baylee Miller, 10; Lexi Voss, 10; Kylie Perez, 7; Erin Archer, 2; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Kira Robertson, 1.

S. Coburn led Quinter with 16 points.

"We did some good things offensively in this game," said coach Brooks.

"We did not adjust to the officiating, however, and got into foul trouble.

"This was, hopefully, a good day for our girls to gain some confidence in themselves."

Boys champions, too

The Norton boys defeated Trego Community 43-20 and outscored Oakley 53-33.

In the win over Trego, the young Blue Jays held quarter leads of 7-4, 25-8 and 33-12.

Leading the Norton scor-

ing was Kobie Unterseher with 18 points, followed by Derick Campbell, 10; Landon Porter, 7; Tyler Kuhn, 3; Will Ellis, 3; Connor Griffey, 2.

Cook and Bliss each scored 6 points to lead Trego.

"We started the game very sluggishly, as if we were having difficulty waking up on a Saturday morning," said Norton assistant coach David Stover.

"To the players' credit, we were able to create some offense with good defensive pressure and established a lead late in the first half that we never relinquished.

"This was a good way to start the tournament."

In the 53-33 victory over Oakley, Norton got off to a great start in the first half, outscoring the Plainsmen 18-12 in the first quarter and 17-12 in the second period to lead 35-24 at intermission. There was little scoring in the third quarter with Norton tallying just 6 points compared to 9 for Oakley but the Blue Jays were still on top by a comfortable margin 41-33.

The Blue Jays had a solid fourth quarter when they put 12 more points on the scoreboard while shutting Oakley out in the final stanza.

Leading the scoring for the young Blue Jays was Landon Porter with 12 points, followed by Derick Campbell, 11; Koby McEwen, 8; Kobie Unterseh-

er, 7; James Berry, 6; Connor Griffey, 5; Tyler Kuhn, 4.

Scoring leader for Oakley was Stewart Hefner with 11 points. Engel added 8.

"The start of this game was the complete opposite of the first game of the day," said coach Stover. "We came out shooting lights out in the first half and were able to gain a good lead at

the half.

"The second half turned into a defensive battle and I was very pleased with the way we were able to play solid defense down the stretch, shutting out Oakley in the fourth quarter to earn the tournament championship."

Coach's overall comments

"I was very pleased with the play of our team," said coach

Stover.

"Each and every player was able to make a positive contribution to our victories.

"We are seeing improvement in each individual at this point and it gives us positive momentum heading into the Christmas break."

Joe Green Invitational starts soon

By **DICK BOYD**
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The Norton Community High School C-team boys basketball team will compete on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 28, 30 and 31 in the annual Joe Green Invitational Tournament at the High School in Hill City.

Competing in addition to Norton and Hill City will be teams from Ellis, Ness City, Northern Valley, Oakley and Stockton.

Play will begin Saturday with the Hill City vs. Stockton game at 1 p.m., followed by Northern Valley vs. Ness City at 2:30 p.m. and Norton vs. Oakley at 4 p.m. Ellis will receive a bye.

The winners of the Hill City-Stockton and Northern Valley-

Ness City games will play in the semi-finals at 2:30 p.m. Monday and the winner of the Norton-Oakley game will play Ellis at 4 p.m. Monday.

The losers of the Hill City-Stockton and Northern Valley-Ness City contests will play at 1 p.m. Monday in the consolation bracket and loser of the Norton-Oakley contest will receive a bye in the consolation round.

Winners of the championship semi-finals games will play for the championship at 1 pm. Tuesday and losers of the championship semi-finals will play at 11:30 a.m. for third place.

Winner of the consolation game between the losers of the Hill City-Stockton and North-

ern Valley-Ness City contests will play the loser of the Norton-Oakley game for fifth place at 10 a.m. Tuesday.

Medals will be presented to members of the top three teams. A 10-member All-Tournament Team will be chosen by the Hill City Booster Club and each player honored will receive a medal.

This holiday basketball tournament has evolved from its original concept as a freshman boys tournament and is now played each year in honor of longtime Hill City High School Coach and Athletic Director Joe Green.

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