

Norton wrestlers fight to win TOC title

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team held off a late challenge by Phillipsburg to successfully defend their 2013 championship in the third annual Western Kansas Tournament of Champions held Saturday in Ellis.

Sixteen teams competed in the tournament which started two years ago as a competition between the Northwest Kansas and Mid-Continent League. Different teams have been added since the inception of the tournament.

The Blue Jays had been passed for the team lead by the Panthers but Norton regained the lead in the consolation rounds to lead by five and one-half points when the finals began. When the championship matches were finished, Norton had extended their lead to win over Phillipsburg by 33.5 points.

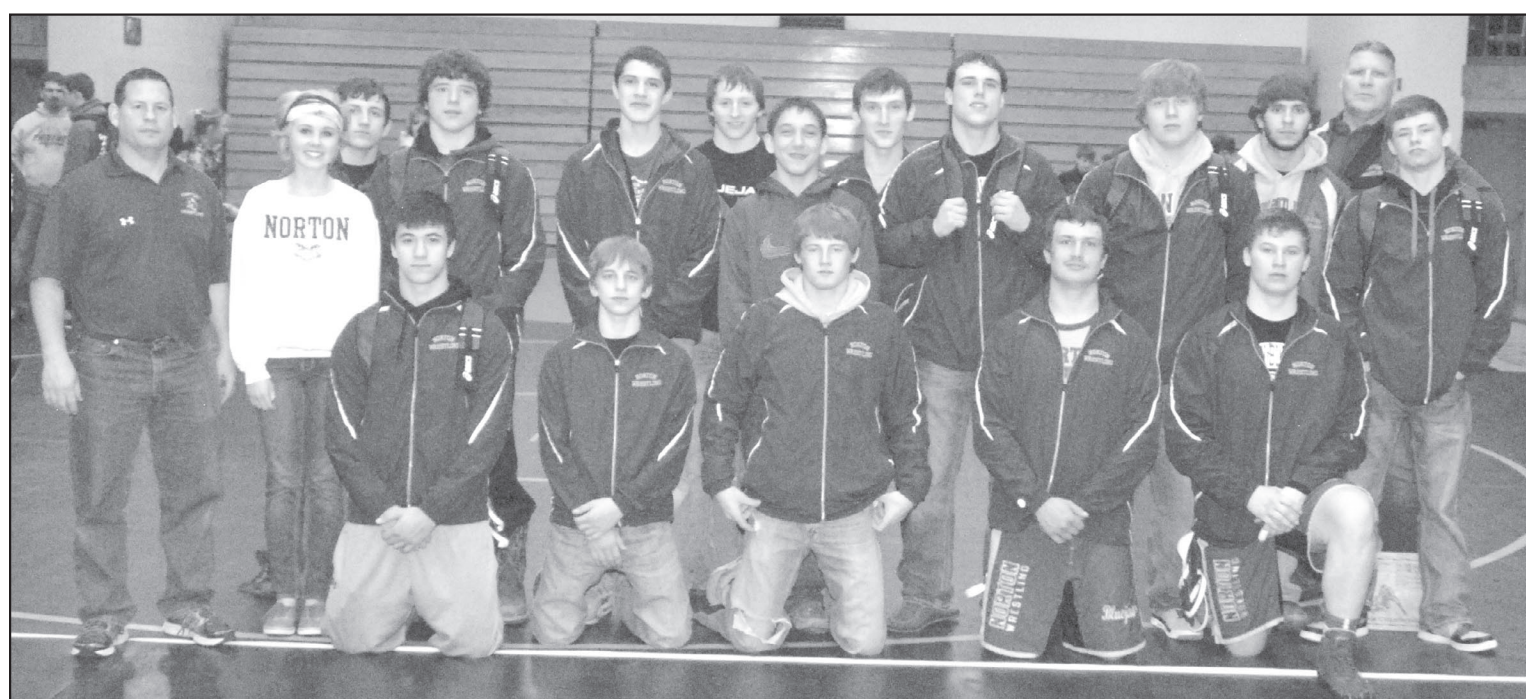
Wrestling in the finals was on three mats for fifth, third and first places. Norton had five wrestlers going for first and all five were champions!

Norton finished with 194.5 points, followed by Phillipsburg, 161; Smith Center, 128.5; Oberlin, 115; Oakley, 110; Plainville, 100.5; Ellis, 92; Atwood, 87; St. Francis, 79.5; Leoti, 59; Hill City, 51; Hoxie 41; Trego, 35; Stockton, 33; Greeley County, 28; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 21.

Winning gold medals for Norton were Skylar Johnson, 106; Alec Hager, 138; Kendall Miller, 160; Kolton Harting, 195 and Jacob Green, 220.

Finishing in third place were Branson Addington, 113; Jared Tallent, 145 and Cole Renner, 170. Mike Kasson, 152, placed fourth and Trenton Wright, 126, sixth. Michael Johnson, 285, also wrestled for the Blue Jays.

"We had a few losses through-



The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team, coaches and managers are shown following their impressive championship win at the Western Kansas Tournament of Champions on Saturday in Ellis. They are, from left, front row: Kendall Miller, Skylar Johnson, Alec Hager, Kolton Harting, Jacob Green; second row: head coach Bill Johnson, manager Jordyn Gosselin, Mike Kasson, Trenton Wright, Caysean Campbell, Cole Renner, Michael Johnson, Jared Tallent; back row: Ethan Ross, Toby Nickell, Branson Addington, Manager Austin Hager, assistant coach Doug Ray.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

out the day that stung but, for the most part, the way we finished the day was impressive," said coach Johnson. "Phillipsburg came close but we won all three head-to-head championship matches with them and that was nice.

"Winning all five championship matches was great and put an exclamation point on the day!"

One of the big wins for Norton came when freshman Jacob Green, who is ranked No.4 in the state at 220 pounds, edged Phillipsburg junior Luke Jacobs, who is ranked No.2, by a score of 3-2 to earn the gold medal.

For his performance, the Norton coaches selected Jacob Green as the "Norton Wrestler of the Week".

The Norton wrestlers com-

pleted an outstanding won-loss record with 31 wins and just 10 losses. Their pin ratio was also excellent with 11 pins and only 5 losses by pins.

Norton was open at 120, 132 and 182 pounds.

Norton individual results

106 - Skylar Johnson was seeded No.1. He won a 15-0 technical fall in 2:56 over Trayton Kroeger, Ellis; pinned John Kuhn, Trego, in 4:46 and won a 14-2 major decision over No.2 seed Auston Holzmester, Oakley, to win the championship.

113 - Branson Addington was seeded No.1. He pinned Bryson Parson, Ellis, in 1:14; pinned Frank Nasta, Atwood, in 2:26; lost a 3-2 decision to Tucker Rhoades, TMP; pinned Reilly Ritter, Oakley, in 4:37 and won an 11-5 decision over Dalton Oliver, Smith Center, to place

third.

120 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Tristan Porsch, Hoxie, won a 13-3 major decision over No.2 seed Dalton Hensley, Ellis, for the championship.

126 - Trenton Wright drew a bye, was pinned in 2:47 by No.2 seed Riley Juenemann, Phillipsburg; pinned Brevin LaBarge, Ellis, in 2:35; was pinned in 1:18 by Gunner Kerns, Plainville; lost a 5-0 decision to Gabe Hamel, Hill City, to place sixth.

132 - Norton was open. No.2 seed Trevor Houser, Plainville, won the championship by a 4-2 score over No.1 seed Clay Cas-saw, St. Francis.

138 - Alec Hager was seeded No.1. He drew a bye, pinned Drake Rowh, Hoxie, in 5:00; won a 2-1 decision over Brody Frieling, Smith Center and decided No.3 seed Taylor

Murphy, Oakley, 6-3 to win the championship.

145 - Jared Tallent was seeded No.3. He won a 15-0 technical fall in 4:57 over Chase Ryan, Smith Center; won a 22-5 technical fall over Jared Pfeifer, Ellis, in 5:57; lost a 2-1 decision to No.2 seed Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg; won an 8-2 decision over Ryan in their second match of the day and defeated Colter Stoll, Oakley, 1-0 to place third.

152 - Mike Kasson won a 16-1 technical fall over Allen Goff, Trego, in 4:31; won a 5-3 decision over Landon Younger, Ellis; lost a 5-2 decision to No.1 seed Clint Rogers, Smith Center; won a 6-4 decision over Trevor Desaire, Plainville; lost a 6-4 decision to Younger in their second match of the day to place fourth.

160 - Kendall Miller was

seeded No.1. He drew a bye, won a 16-1 technical fall over Will Ginther, Atwood, in 2:09; won an 11-3 major decision over Bryson Wesley, Oberlin; pinned No.3 seed Hunter Kohler, Phillipsburg, in 2:52 to win the championship.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Lane Hobrock, St. Francis, in 3:29; pinned Colton Northrup, Leoti, in 1:56; was pinned in 3:36 by No.1 seed Dylan Wiesner, Plainville; won a 15-10 decision over Anthony Merida, Atwood; won a 3-1 decision over Grant Gilliam, Oberlin, to place third.

182 - Norton was open. No.1 seed Rex Diederich, Oberlin, won the championship with a 7-3 decision over No.2 seed Brice Mason, Leoti.

195 - Kolton Harting returned to the Norton lineup after being injured early in the season and was seeded No.1. He drew a bye, pinned Dylan Haas, Ellis, in 1:48 and won a 1-0 decision over No.2 seed Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg, to win the championship.

220 - Jacob Green was seeded No.2. He pinned Cameron Colgan, Atwood, in :39; won an 11-6 decision over No.3 seed Skyler Tebo, Ellis and defeated No.1 seed Luke Jacobs, Phillipsburg, 3-2 to win the championship.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:27 by Shokotah Blanka, St. Francis; drew a bye; was pinned in 2:56 by Bryce Henry, Atwood.

Next action

Norton varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete in a Mid-Continent League dual this Friday in Norton versus Smith Center, beginning at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, Norton varsity and junior varsity wrestlers will compete in the annual Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Norton wrestling coach receives national award

By DICK BOYD

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Bill Johnson, head wrestling coach at Norton Community High School, is one of two Kansas coaches and 21 high school coaches from across the country selected as 2013 National Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers) and in one other sport that is not included in the top 10 listings. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their award. This year's awards recognize coaches for the 2012-13 school year.

Coach Johnson has coached wrestling for 26 years and has compiled a 222-78 record, which is winning 74 percent of all matches. In that time, he has guided his teams to six state championships, most recently in 2013, to go along with 14 league championships and 11 regional

championships.

In addition to being the Class 3-2-1A defending state wrestling champions, the current Norton wrestling team is ranked No.1 in the state and seven Blue Jays wrestlers are ranked in the top ten in their weight class.

Coach Johnson currently holds a seat on the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association executive board, which he has held since 1989.

Most recently, coach Johnson received the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Class 3-2-1A Coach of the Year award in 2013, an award he has won three previous times in 1997, 2001 and 2010.

He was also inducted into the Fort Hays State University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999 and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 2005, he was named the Head Coach of the Year in Kansas by the National High School Wrestling Coaches Association.

He was also one of the 18 coaches and boosters of high school wrestling named "2005 Man-of-the-Year" by Wrestling USA Magazine.



Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson

A graduate of Flinthills High School, Rosalia, coach Johnson won a national championship, was national runner-up twice and placed fourth once nationally while wrestling for Fort Hays.

He was chosen the "Outstanding Senior Male Athlete" at Fort Hays State in 1989. He also placed tenth in the wrestling Olympic trials at 114.5 pounds in 1988.

In addition to coaching wrestling, Johnson is a junior high football coach, involved in the

Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is the local coordinator for "Kids Voting Kansas".

The Kansas State High School Activities Association works with the Kansas Coaches Association to nominate Kansas coaches. The KCA contacts their potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach's record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and com-

munity activities and programs and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an NFCA award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach or designee and then approved by the executive director (or designee) of the state athletic/activities association.

The other Kansas honoree is Jeff Hulse, softball coach at Olathe East High School.

Johnson and Hulse are receiving their national award after first being awarded state and sectional awards.

The NFHS is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities.

Since 1920, the National Federation of State High School Associations has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition and helping

those who oversee high school sports and activities.

The NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.7 million in high school sports.

As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings, sanctions interstate events, offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials, sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators, serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities.

For more information, visit the NFSH web site at www.nfhs.org.

Junior Huskies win three in a row against the Logan/Damar basketball team

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Junior High Huskies boys basketball team won all three games it played against the Logan/Damar Trojans on Monday, Jan. 27 in Damar. The A-team improved to 9-0 on the season with a 22 point win over the Trojans. Riley Sides had an outstanding performance

The B-team also improved to 9-0 on the season with an 18 point victory. Jesus Saenz was the Huskies leading scorer.

The C-team had to fight for a two point, 11-9 over the Trojans, and are now 2-1 on the season.

"The A-team boys played great defense the whole game. We had trouble hitting our shots the first half and led 15-9. The Huskies got hot in the second half scoring 26 points and winning 41-19. Riley Sides scored a career high 25 points, including five three pointers.

The B-team boys played a good game winning 43-25. Jesus Saenz led the team with 17 points, while Chris Lowry and Ross Cole each scored 9 points.

The Husky C-team won a close game 11-9. Kale Cox and Brady Rogers led in scoring with 6 and 5 points."

A-team Boys

Northern Valley - 41

Logan/Damar - 19
Huskies scoring:
Riley Sides - 25

Caden Kinderknecht - 5
Nick Stutsman - 4
Caden Bach - 3
Ross Cole - 2

Chris Lowry - 2
Trojans scoring:
Michael Daniels - 6

David Thompson - 4
Blake Bouchee - 4
Garrett Handley - 3
Colton Greving - 2

B-team Boys
Northern Valley - 43
Logan/Damar - 25
Huskies scoring:
Jesus Saenz - 17

Chris Lowry - 9

Ross Cole - 9
Kale Cox - 4
Dawson Stevens - 4

Trojans scoring:
Michael Daniels - 8
Dawson Goble - 6
Bodey LeRoux - 4

Vincent McLaughlin - 3
Jay Mulder - 2
Cody Brown - 2

C-team Boys
Northern Valley - 11
Logan/Damar - 9
Huskies scoring:
Kale Cox - 6

Brady Rogers - 5
Trojans scoring:
Cody Brown - 5
Nate Cruz - 2
Shaydin Speth - 2

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