

Blue Jays are State wrestling champions

(Continued from Page 1)

-nament of Champions to get ready for regional and state competition.

During the evening, coach Johnson received a national wrestling award from the National Federation of State High School Associations Coaches Association. The handsome plaque read: "Presented to Bill Johnson in grateful appreciation of outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics." Making the presentation was David Cherry, Assistant Executive Director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

Darren McMullen, an official from Norton, also received a plaque from Mr. Cherry. His plaque read: In recognition and appreciation of your dedicated service to the Kansas State High School Activities Association and its member schools while serving 20 years as an active official. It was signed by Gary Musselman, Executive Director of the association.

Jeff Giles, longtime wrestling coach at Minneapolis High School who died of a stroke recently, was honored by the Kansas Officials as "Sportsmanship Coach of the Year".

The Norton coaches chose the entire Norton Wrestling Team as "Norton Wrestlers of the Week" in honor of their tremendous performance.

Norton had an excellent 30-16 won loss record and 9-5 pin ratio in the state tournament.

Norton's assistant coaches again this season were Shane Miller, Doug Ray and Tony Fiscus.

Student managers were Austin Hager, Jordyn Gosselin, Lindsay Addington and Macayla Kent.

Norton is losing eight seniors off this year's squad. They are Alec Hager, Branson Addington, Cole Renner, Ethan Ross, Garret Otter, Kolton Harting, Michael Johnson and Toby Nickell. Coach Johnson thanked them for their dedication to the team during their high school careers.

Individual matches

106 -Skylar Johnson pinned Michael Marsh, Silver Lake, in 1:07; pinned Austin Constable, Minneapolis, in 4:31; lost a 9-4 decision to Bryce Gfeller, Rossville; won a 7-1 decision over Trevor Haun, Fredonia and won a 10-1 major decision over Dylan Leckner, Wellington, to place third.

Gfeller won first with a 13-10 decision over Hunter Ostertag, Effingham-Atchison County.

Haun placed fifth with an 8-2 decision over Bryce Bacon of Hoxie.

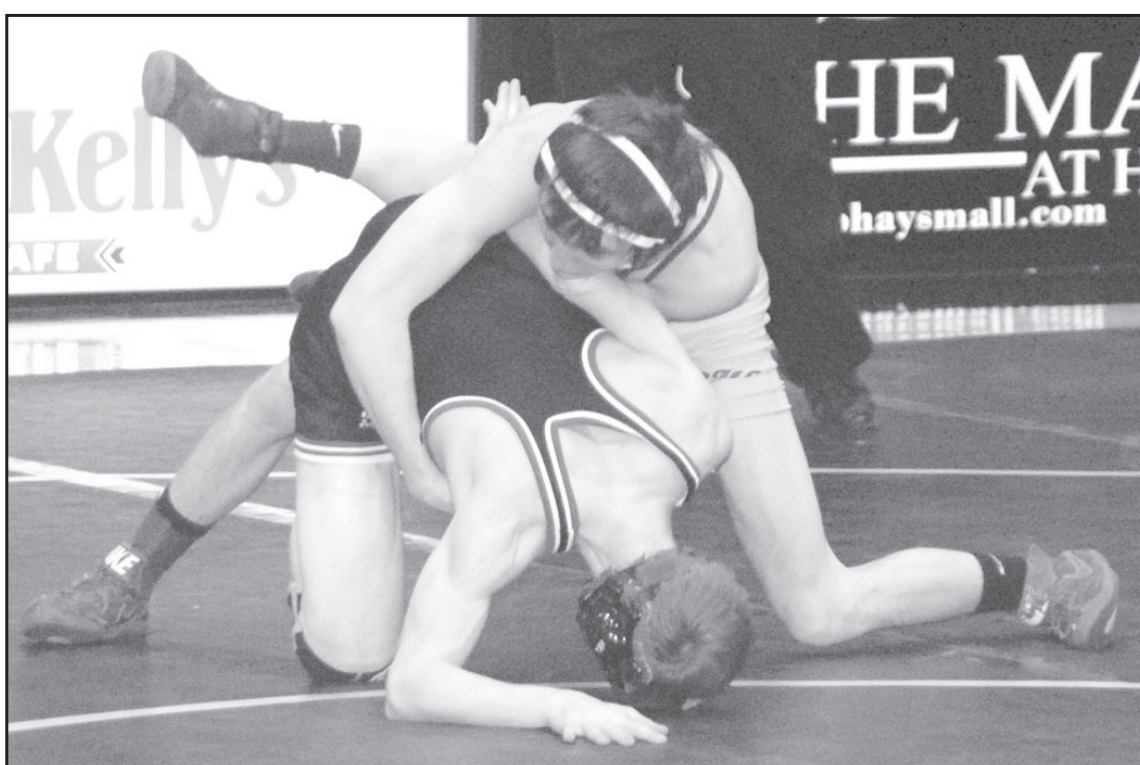
Skylar finished the season 27-3. Gfeller was 37-7 and Ostertag was 28-9.

113 - Branson Addington won a 17-1 technical fall over Gage Leckner, Wellington; won a 10-2 major decision over Dalton Goans, Lyons; won a 5-4 decision over Chris Deters, Marysville and won a 3-2 decision over Ty Nienke, Ellsworth, to win the gold medal.

Third place went to Dalton Dultmeier, Silver Lake, with a 5-2 decision over Deters. Fifth place went to Gavin Burgess, Fredonia, with a 2-0 win over Tucker Rhoades, TMP.

Branson finished the season 32-6. After his first loss of the season to Addington, Nienke ended 36-1.

120 - Norton was open. Tristan Porsch, Hoxie, finished the season with a perfect 39-0 record after winning the championship from David Hileman, Smith Center, with a 13-7 decision. Hile-



Norton senior Branson Addington had his work cut out for him in the 113 pound championship match in the State Wrestling Tournament in Hays on Saturday night. His opponent senior Ty Nienke of Ellsworth came into the match with a perfect 36-0 record. Branson is pictured getting a two-point reversal to tie the score at 2-2 in the first period. Branson scored another point before the final whistle to win 3-2 and earn the gold medal!

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

man finished the season 33-10.

Third place went to Sam Aylor, Fredonia, who pinned Cody Salazar, Sterling, in 4:59. Winning fifth place was Dalton Hensley, Ellsworth, with a 3-1 decision over Marshall Schottler, Lyons.

126 - Norton was open. Haegan Schaefer, Silver Lake, won the championship with a 10-4 decision over Macrae Migchelbrink, Atwood. Third place went to Blake Graham, Pleasant Ridge, with a 6-3 decision over Cale Rogers, Smith Center. Austin Swartz, Council Grove, finished fifth with a 7-0 shutout of Cannan Smith, Minneapolis.

Schaefer finished the season 37-4, Migchelbrink was 35-5 and Graham was 32-10.

132 - Toby Nickell was pinned in 4:18 by Jake Gentry, Rossville; pinned Robert Hutchins, Burlingame, in 4:18; won a 10-4 decision over Marshall Barkow, Ellsworth; won a 4-3 decision over Mason Bannister, Phillipsburg; was pinned in 3:48 by Hunter Howerton, Silver Lake and was pinned in 2:20 by Casey Garner, Leon-Bluestem, to place sixth.

Brandon Ball, Hoisington, won the championship by pinning T.J. Ragnoni, Bennington, in 1:22. Third place went to Logan Bowen, Effingham-Atchison County, who pinned Hunter Howerton, Silver Lake in 2:34.

Toby finished the season 11-12. Ball completed a perfect 44-0 season. Ragnoni was 30-9 and Bowen was 26-2.

138 - Alec Hager won a 16-2 major decision over Mikey Aguilar, Stafford; won a 6-5 decision over Colton Stalford, Caney Valley; won a 4-3 decision over Carter Wessling, Beloit and lost a 15-6 major decision to Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia, to place runner-up.

Wessling placed third with a 3-1 decision over Stalford. Fifth place went to Jonathan Ball, Hois-

ington, with a 5-2 decision over Willy Dieckmann, Effingham-Atchison County.

Alec finished the season 41-6. Humphrey compiled a 38-1 season. Wessling was 37-6, Stalford was 34-9 and Ball was 41-4.

145 - Jared Tallent won a 17-1 technical fall over Logan Sherman, Fredonia; won a 5-2 decision over Mo Rojas, Ellsworth; lost a 10-4 decision to Greg Tooley, St. Mary's; won a 5-2 decision over Marc Reiss, St. George-Rock Creek; won a 6-2 decision over Dayton Dreher, Oberlin, to place third.

Tooley won the championship with a 12-5 decision over Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg. Fifth place went to Reiss with a 7-0 decision over Chuck Schmidt, Eureka.

Jared finished the season 40-9, Tooley was a perfect 46-0, Dusin was 42-3, Dreher was 39-5 and Reiss was 29-7.

152 - Mike Kasson lost a 2-0 decision to Chase Ridder, St. George-Rock Creek; won a 12-4 major decision over Cody Delk, Hillsboro, lost a 6-4 decision to Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit, to end his season.

Tagen Lambotte, Rossville, won the championship with a 4-3 decision over Andrew Beck, Centralia. Third place went to Clint Rogers, Smith Center, with a 1-0 decision over Tanner Niemczyk, Beloit. Justin Wagner, Effingham-Atchison County, won fifth by pinning Petter Ekroll, Halstead, in 4:27.

Mike finished the season 27-12. Lambotte was 41-1, Beck finished 36-7 and Rogers was 39-2.

160 - Kendall Miller pinned Paul Holt, Burlingame, in 1:28; was pinned in 5:40 by Garret Dunlap, Doniphan-West; decisioned Bobby Bleakley, St. Mary's 6-3 and lost a 6-2 decision to Kreal Smith, Southeast of Saline, to end his season at

33-9.

Bowe Behymer, Beloit, won the championship with a 12-8 decision over Dunlap. Third place went to Lucas McMichael, Burden Central, with a 4-2 overtime win over Josh Nelsen, Marysville.

Kendall finished his season 33-9, Behymer was a perfect 40-0 for the season and Dunlap was 35-7.

170 - Cole Renner won a 10-4 decision over Austin McHenry, Hoisington; lost a 15-7 major decision to Isaac Luellen, Rossville; won a 7-6 decision over Paxton Noll, Howard-West Elk and lost a 9-5 decision to Adam Janzen, Marion, to end his season with a record of 35-12.

Dylan Weisner, Plainville, won the championship by pinning Luellen in 4:24. Third place went to Michael Baumgartner, Sabetha, with a 3-1 decision over Keith Short, Southeast of Saline. Scott Birkinsha, Effingham-Atchison County, placed fifth with a 9-2 decision over Adam Janzen, Marion.

Wiesner compiled a 37-2 record this season. Luellen ended 41-9, Baumgartner was 32-10 and Birkinsha was 31-8.

182 - Norton was open. Nick Wuthnow, Salina Sacred Heart, won the championship with an 11-4 decision over Gavin Grater, Riley County; Brice Mason, Wichita County, placed third with a 6-2 decision over Rex Diederich, Oberlin. Fifth place went to Braedan Lockhart, Silver Lake, with a 3-1 decision over Kyle Ames, Onaga.

Wuthnow finished the season with a perfect 38-0 record, Grater was 43-2, Mason was 37-4 and Diederich was 29-6.

195 - Kolton Harting lost a 1-0 decision to Avery Urban, Hoisington; pinned Chance Schooler, Richmond-Central Heights, in :43; won a 10-2 major decision over Dustin Blow, Onaga; pinned Drake Whalen, Osage City, in 1:10; was pinned in :52 by Urban in their second meeting and lost a 3-1 decision to Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg, to place sixth.

Tristan Speer, Troy, won the championship with a 6-1 decision over A.J. Cooper, Cimarron. Quentin Clark, Minneapolis, placed third with a 3-2 decision over Urban.

Kolton compiled a 14-8 record this season. Speer was a perfect 37-0 for the season. Cooper was 30-6, Clark was 22-5, Urban was 40-6.

220 - Jacob Green pinned Gabe Forrestt, Burlingame, in 1:27; won a 6-4 decision over Jesse Correll, St. George-Rock Creek, lost a 5-2 decision to Dylan Gassmann, Oakley, pinned Casey Hilton, Marysville, in 5:51 and pinned Luke Jacobs, Phillipsburg, in :42 to place third.

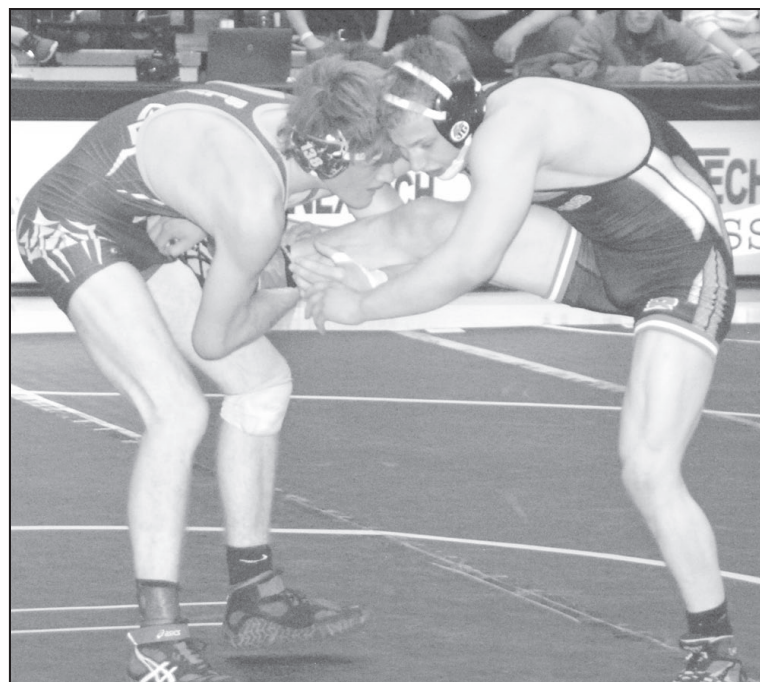
Gassman won the championship with a 3-2 decision over Kyle Palic, Marion. Fifth place went to Hilton with a 4-3 decision over Skyler Tebo, Ellis.

Jacob ended the season with a 34-8 record. Gassmann was 22-6, Palic was 35-4 and Jacobs was 38-7.

285 - Norton was open. Fritz Berger, Sylvan Grove, won the championship by pinning Bryce Black, Beloit, in 5:47. Third place went to Jaden Helms, Anthony/Harper-Chaparral, with a pin in 3:35 over Zach Crick, South Gray. Quada McCoy, Eureka, placed fifth by pinning Chance Boor, Hoisington, in 4:28.

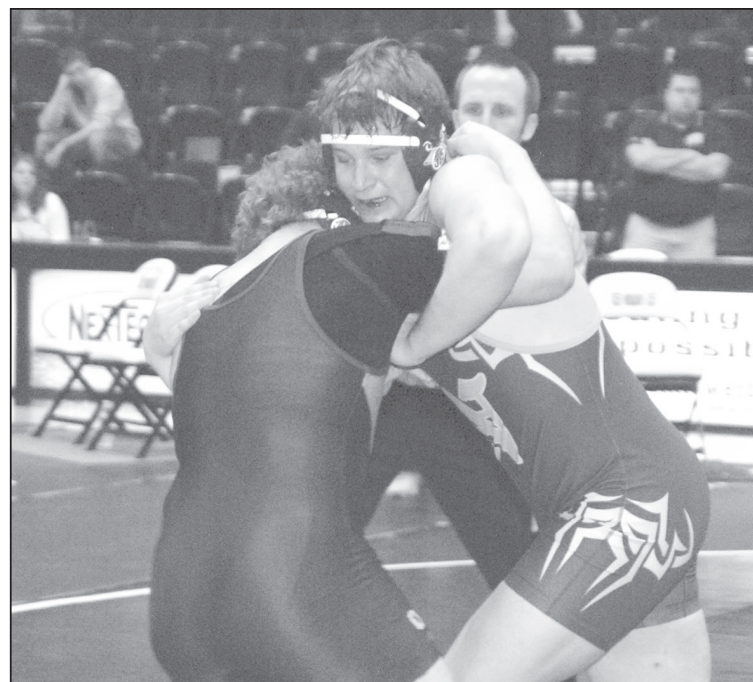
Berger finished the season 36-3, Black was 7-2, Helms was 31-8 and McCoy was 28-10.

**B
L
U
E
J
A
Y**



Blue Jay senior Alec Hager controls Beloit sophomore Carter Wessling with a single leg during their 138 pound championship semi-finals match on Friday in the State Wrestling Tournament. Alec defeated Wessling 4-3 to advance to the state finals on Saturday evening where he lost 15-6 to Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia to place runner-up. Humphrey had only one loss this season. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

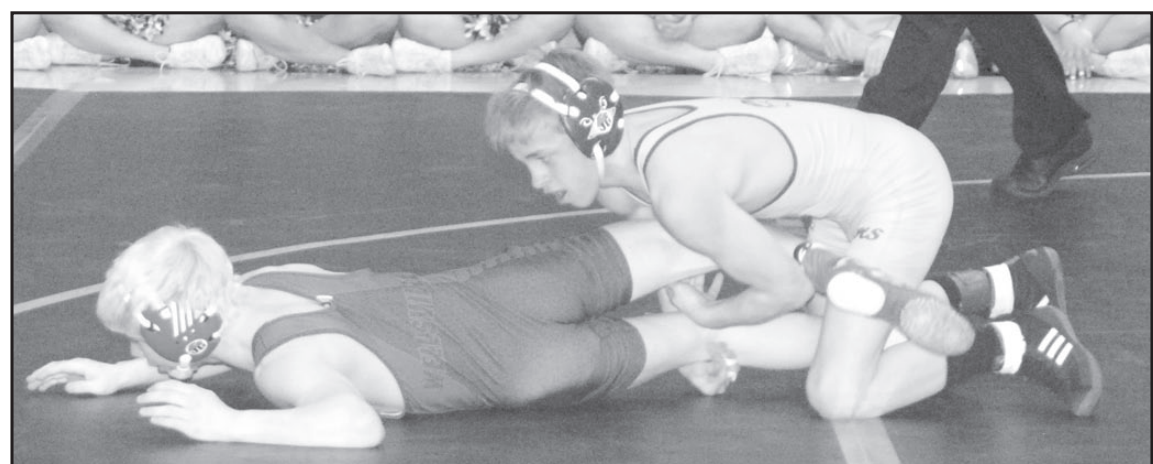
**C
H
A
M
P
I
O
N
S**



Norton freshman Jacob Green battles with Dylan Gassmann, Oakley junior, during their 220 pound championship semi-finals match on Friday in the State Wrestling Tournament in Gross Coliseum in Hays. Gassmann edged Jacob 5-2 and continued on to win the championship. Jacob went through the back door to pin Phillipsburg junior Luke Jacobs and place third. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Blue Jay junior Jared Tallent takes Oberlin senior Dayton Dreher to his back and almost gets a fall during his 6-2 win to place third at 145 pounds in the State Wrestling Tournament in Gross Coliseum in Hays on Saturday. It was only the fifth loss of the year for Dreher. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Norton sophomore Skylar Johnson scores a takedown during his dominant 10-1 major decision over sophomore Dylan Leckner, Wellington, to place third in the State Tournament at 106 pounds on Saturday in Gross Coliseum in Hays. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd