

At the Game

Junior high team attends tournament

The St. Francis junior high wrestling team brought home a third place trophy at the Northwest Kansas League Junior High Wrestling Tournament which was held in Oberlin on Tuesday, Feb. 22. Oakley won the tournament and Rawlins County was second. Decatur Community placed fourth and Hoxie fifth.

Shakotah Blanka was named a Northwest Kansas League champion at the end-of-the season tournament. Eight other Indians placed in the top three positions. Second place finishers included Clay Cassaw, Garrett Brunk, Lane Hobrock, Justin Pacheco, Jude Faulkender and Cade Bracelin. Placing third were Travis Rogers, Austin Patton and Blake Meyer.

"It was fun winning the championship tonight and beating the Hoxie kid (Waggener) when I had to," Blanka said. "To place seven in the finals was pretty cool, also. The finals were tough but I thought we fought hard."

The Indians had a total of 24 takedowns, 37 near falls, five reversals, eight escapes, 13 falls, 18 wins and 20 losses.

"We have really come a long way and defeated kids today that had defeated us earlier in the year," Coach Steve Jenkins said. "I thought the kids came together as a team and that was fun to watch."

"I'm proud of these kids." Assistant coach Bruce Swihart said it had been a fun day altogether.

Individual results follow:

Clay Cassaw won by a fall over Harrison, Decatur Community; won by a 10-9 decision over Leibbrandt, Rawlins County; lost by a fall to Rains, Oakley. Placed second.

Riley Shay lost by a fall to Rowh, Hoxie; lost by a fall to Juennemann, Decatur Community. Placed fourth.

Junior varsity overcomes press, wins home game

The junior varsity boys were behind at halftime in the Wallace County game but stepped up and scored a 48-46 win over the Wildcats.

"Finally!!!!," Coach Tanner Kinen said. "We got a win. We played all four quarters of basketball and it payed off."

"They pressed us most of the game and we were able to break it to get a few easy baskets."

"We played mostly zone defense and pretty much shut their offense down."

Mason Schiltz led the way with 21 points but the team also had good scoring from Dillon Straub and Wyatt Landenberger who each scored 12 points.

This close game had the Indians ahead part of the time and the Wildcats in the lead occasionally.

"It was a good way to bounce back from the Friday game (a loss to Greeley County)," Coach Kinen said.

S 12 13 14 09 48
W 19 05 14 08 46
Scoring: Schiltz 21, Landenberger 12, Straub 12, Keegan Sherlock 4, Martin Hnizdil 1.



Playing basketball involves knowing the rules of play, and learning how to work as part of a team.

The coaches for the program are Matt Bandel, Chris Bracelin and Jason Johnson who are past Indian basketball players.

Participants of the program include: fourth, fifth and sixth grade session: Luke Lampe, Connor Keller, Coy Cassaw, Bob Havel, Frank Havel, Quinton Cravens, Brice Hays, Kaleb Hays, Reagan Beims, Jenna Confer, Zoe Sundstrom, Madison Tice, Tate Busse, Joel Hill, KC Krien, Taylor Rogers, Emileigh Dinkel, Lauren Johnson, Lindsey Johnson, Taylor Kyser, Cody



SECOND PLACE FINISHER – Adam Guthmiller, a senior, has an arm bar hold on his opponent. Guthmiller won three matches at the 3-2-1A State Tournament to qualify for the finals. He placed second.

Herald photo by Kristi Guthmiller

Indians have state placer 74 years

By Betty Jean Winston
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St. Francis was represented by Lane Hoffman and Adam Guthmiller at the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Hays on Friday and Saturday. Guthmiller earned a second-place finish for the tournament at 215 pounds while Hoffman, a freshman, did not place. The Indians are under the leadership of Nathan Smith, first year head coach, and Kyle Buffington, assistant coach.

Guthmiller finished his senior season with a 36-3 record. Hoffman's record for the season was 31-7. This was St. Francis' 74th consecutive year of having someone place in the state wrestling finals.

Both wrestlers qualified for the state tournament by placing in the top four positions at the Goodland Regional Tournament on Feb. 18 and 19.

The top 10 teams in the 3-2-1A division of the state tournament included Norton, Hoxie, Rossville, Scott City, Eureka, Smith Center, Beloit, Burden-Central, Decatur Community, (tie) Goodland and Phillipsburg. St. Francis earned 29 points and tied for 20th.

Final Indian season wrap up will be printed in *The Herald* next week.

Individual results

103: Hoffman lost by a fall to Brady Lowell, Republic County; won by a fall over Clayton Gum, Pleasant Ridge; won by a fall over Dylan Piddy, Silver Lake; lost by a fall to Dakota Kohler, Phillipsburg.

"Lane had a great run at the state tournament after getting

caught in the first match," Coach Smith said. "It's not easy to battle all the way back through and place. Lane came one match away from bringing home a state medal."

215: Guthmiller won by a fall over Riley Callahan, Silver Lake; won by an 11-1 major decision over Thomas Lowe, Eureka; won by a fall over Dustin Bayless, Caney - Caney Valley; lost by a fall to Luke Hayes, Scott City.

"Adam finished a terrific career with a great state tournament," Coach Smith said. "He dominated his way through the tournament like he has since the Colby tournament before the Christmas break. He has been an absolute pleasure to coach. I believe with his two pins in the state tournament he will be St. Francis Community High School's record holder for most falls in a season."

"We talked a lot this year about what it would take to get St. Francis wrestling back to the level people around the state perceive us. If our young wrestlers will just look at Adam they will see what it takes. He puts in the time in the weight room, classroom, wrestles in the off season, practices hard everyday, he does everything the way it needs to be done to be successful."

Top four placings

103: C. Skillman, Burlington, T. Francka, Chase County, J. Goepfert, Marysville; C. Rogers, Smith Center, 112: C. Milligan, Scott City; Risewick, Norton, D. Dreher, Decatur Community, Speer, Horton; 119: Schumacher,



FRESHMAN QALIFIES FOR STATE –Lane Hoffman, who wrestles at 103 pounds qualified to attend state by winning first place at regionals.

Hays Thomas More Prep, Howard, Eureka, A. Kough, Scott City, K. Biddle, Burden Central; 125: B. Humphrey, Fredonia, C. Ochs, Hoxie; Z. Hoehn, Wellsville, B. Juennemann, Decatur Community; 130: T. Baniter, Norton; S. Miller, Goodland, 135: T. Lambotte, Rossville, B. Terrell, Norton, 140: K. Newell, Smith Center, A. Thibault, Halstead, K. Hurla, Rossville, Hunsicker, Ellis; 145: S. Graves, Rossville, K. Biddle, Burden-Central, D. Snyder, Hoxie, D. Paul, Scott City; 152: T. Rachow, Phillipsburg, T. McMichael, Burden Central,

D. Bainter, Hoxie, M. Smith, Rossville; 160: L. Keiswetter, Norton, J. LaMay, Wellsville, B. Mayes, Beloit, N. Becker, Garden Plains; 171: S. Shirk, Norton, B. long, Southeast of Saline, Z. Eaton, Smith Center, R. Denny, Caney Valley; 189: T. Omli, Southeast of Saline, C. Castlebury, Douglass, T. Lowe, Eureka, L. Herl, Goodland; 215: L. Hayes, Scott City, A. Guthmiller, St. Francis, S. Siale, Chaparral, T. Lowe, Eureka; 285: D. Salmans, Hoxie, T. White, Cimarron, C. Wilcox, Chaparral, J. Martinez, Marysville.

Recreation commission sponsors winter basketball program for boys and girls

The St. Francis Recreation Commission's Little Kids basketball program started its basketball year in November and has been practicing every Monday night through March 28.

The program focuses on teaching the youth the fundamentals and concepts of basketball to grades second through sixth for both boys and girls. The program has two sessions one for fourth, fifth and sixth grades and the second session is for second and third graders.

The kids learn ball handling drills, passing and catching drills, rebounding for kids to obtain the exercise they need, and helps youth develop large motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

putting their new basketball skills to use by participating in 3-on-3 and 5-on-5 basketball contests in the surrounding area.

There was an added feature to the youth basketball program this year. Rob and Carla Schiltz coordinated the give a-way of autographed St. Francis high school Indian basketballs to one boy participant and one girl participant in the youth program. The basketballs were presented to the youth at each St. Francis high school home basketball game by St. Francis Indian basketball players.

The second and third grade session participants are Kobe Tice, Jesse Baxter, Emma Johnson, Karly Bandel, Taighe Weeter, Brady Dinkel, Colton Neitzel, Kattie Wurm, Dakota Morris, Garin Cooper, Adam Krien, Seth Prentice, Jasper Hunt, Trenton Bartels, Brady Schoenrogge, Aaron White, Cassidy Busse, Shadryon Blanka.

Some of the participants have been

