

State-championship wrestling team honored

By DICK BOYD

The 2003-'04 Class 3-2-1A State Champion Norton Community High School Wrestling Team was honored during the Wrestling Banquet April 18 at the American Legion Hall in Norton.

The Blue Jay wrestlers put together a tremendous season to win their first state title in Coach Bill Johnson's 13 years at Norton and the first since the 1973 team.

En route to the state championship, Norton compiled a perfect 16-0 dual record and won six of seven regular season tournaments. The Blue Jays placed fourth in the Newton Tournament of Champions, considered to be the toughest tournament in the state.

The Mid-Continent League champion Blue Jays placed second to favored and defending state champion Hoxie in the regional tournament but defeated the Indians in exciting fashion in the state tournament the next week in Hays.

The state tournament will be remembered as one of the most exciting in history. The team title came down to the final 275 pound match and junior Michael Sprigg came through with an overtime win to secure the state championship.

Placing in the state tournament for Norton were: freshman Kent Mann, 103, fifth; sophomore Clay Madden, 112, first; freshman Nathan Broeckelman, 119, second; senior James Annon, 130, first; sophomore Lance Roe, 135, fourth; senior Scott Goldsby, 140, second; senior Jordon Haussermann, 152, third; senior Bo Pfannenstiel, 171, fifth; junior Michael Sprigg, 275, first.

Senior Curtis Black, 125, competed at state and scored valuable points that helped the Blue Jays win the championship.

Following a potluck meal, Coach Johnson spoke to the wrestlers, parents and fans and presented a number of awards. Winning the "Most Outstanding Wrestler" Award was senior James Annon, a two-time state champion and three-year state medalist who compiled a 35-2 season record.

Named "Most Improved Wrestler" was senior Scott Goldsby, who placed second in the state tournament and compiled a 27-14 season record.

Receiving the "Coach Durham Award" was senior C.J. Thiele, 160, who just missed qualifying for the state tournament when he lost a regional overtime match to Doug Campbell, Hoxie, who placed fifth in the state tournament.



C.J. Thiele, Norton's 160 pound senior wrestler, received the prestigious "Coach Durham Award" during the annual NCHS Wrestling Banquet. The award is based on hard work, good sportsmanship, academics and good citizenship.

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The "Underdog Match Winner of the Year" Award was won by Goldsby for his 3-1 decision over Cody Sprang, Effingham, in the state tournament semi-finals.

Sprigg's 5-3 overtime decision over Ryan Honas, Ellis, to avenge his state tourney loss to Honas in the finals a year ago earned him the "Most Exciting Match of the Year" Award.

The "Key Match of the Year" Award winner was senior Mark Maybon, who decisioned Kale Katt, Scott City, 12-10 to win the 189 pound championship in the dual with Scott City at Goodland. "That win by Mark was the turning point in our season," said Coach Johnson. "His upset of one of the top all-around athletes in Northwest Kansas gave our entire team enough confidence to make us state champions."

"Most Promising Freshman of the Year" Award winner was Nathan Broeckelman. Winning the "Outstanding Sophomore" Award was Clay Madden.

The "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Year" Award went to sophomore Jon Harding, who compiled a 14-2 junior varsity record and also was 10-2 in his varsity

matches.

Senior Curtis Black won a special "Coach's Award" for his contribution to the team. "He has been a faithful member of the team for four years," said Coach Johnson. "This season, he stepped up, improved week after week and did great in both the Newton Tournament and State Tournament. He scored a lot of points for us."

Another special "Coach's Award" went to sophomore Luke Pfannenstiel, who placed fifth in the state tournament as a freshman and was injured and out for the season early in this season.

"Life is not always fair," said Coach Johnson. "Luke was a big part of our team and had a season-ending injury. His desire and dedication are hard to match."

Academic Awards for each class went to Broeckelman, freshman, 3.67 GPA; Madden, sophomore, 3.05 GPA; Sprigg, junior, 3.88; C.J. Thiele, senior, 3.83 GPA.

Coach Johnson also stated that Thiele and Maybon were chosen to the first team (3.5 GPA or higher) on the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Academic All-State Team.

He also pointed out that his assistant coaches Doug Ray and Deyton Hager were chosen Assistant Coaches of the Year for Class

3-2-1A by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association and that the Kansas coaches also chose Fig Millan of KQNK Radio as one of the Media Persons of the Year.

Winners of "Wrestler of the Week" awards during the season were: entire team, Hoxie Invitational; Jared Bebb, Alma Junior Varsity Tournament; Sean Lauer, Clay Center Tournament; Kent Mann, Southern Valley Tournament; Curtis Black and Mark Maybon, Phillipsburg and Stockton duals and Goodland Dual Tournament; Curtis Black, Jon Harding and Nathan Broeckelman, Jake Durham Invitational; Curtis Black, Smith Center and Trego duals, and Newton Tournament of Champions; Nathan Broeckelman, Hays and Kearney Duals, Mid-Continent League Tournament; Mark Maybon, varsity and Blake VanEaton, junior varsity, Plainville and Ellis duals and Panther Classic Tournament; Jordon Haussermann, Osborne and Hill City duals; Davvid Stanley, Colby Junior Varsity Tournament; Scott Goldsby, 3-2-1A Regional Tournament; entire team, 3-2-1A State Tournament.

The entire team set team records for the season in four categories: individual wins, 401; near falls (two points), 157; near falls (three points), 185 and major decisions (8-14 points), 52. The 2003-2004 team was second in takedowns with 727, compared to the record of 734 set by last year's team; second in decisions (1-7 points) with 117, compared to the record of 123 set by last year's team and second

in falls with 170, compared to the record of 174 set by the 1996-97 team.

Individual category leaders this season were: Annon, 172 total points; Roe, takedowns, 128, new school record; Chris Davis, junior varsity takedowns, 21; Annon, most reversals, 21; Logan Keiswetter, junior varsity reversals, 8; Roe, total near falls, 45; VanEaton, junior varsity near falls, 17; Bo Pfannenstiel, decisions, 13; Davis and Josh Green, junior varsity decisions, four each; Roe, major decisions, 12, new school record; VanEaton, junior varsity major decisions, two; Roe, technical falls, four; VanEaton, junior varsity technical falls, two; Sprigg, most falls, 22; Jon Harding, most junior varsity falls, 13; Haussermann, escapes, 46.

Goldsby received the award for fastest pin, which was in 13 seconds. He won the same award last year with the same quick time. Junior varsity's fastest pin award went to Davvid Stanley for pinning an opponent in 15 seconds.

Guest speaker was Captain Erik Hinckley, Manhattan, Recruiting Company Commander in Northwest Kansas for the U.S. Army and Army Reserve. He wrestled for Nicollet, Minnesota High School and competed at the state level. He was Armed Forces Korea Wrestling Champion in 1989 and 1993 and was an All Army wrestler. Hinckley was a Southwest Collegiate Wrestling Association champion in 1991 and 1992. He coached the Angelo State University Wrestling Club from 1990-92.

"You have a strong community with a winning attitude," said Hinckley. "Your wrestlers display mental toughness and you have good coaches."

"I've witnessed wrestling around the world but this year's Class 3-2-1A state wrestling tournament was the most exciting I've ever seen. It was fantastic!"

After his speech, Hinckley presented a large, colorful banner highlighted with the Norton team photo to the team. Coach Johnson also presented a special plaque to each of the nine seniors on the team: Black, Annon, Goldsby, Haussermann, Thiele, Green, Pfannenstiel, Maybon and Lauer. The seniors also presented color pictures of themselves to the coaches.

In their four years of competition, the nine seniors were part of Norton Community High School wrestling teams that compiled a 51-3 dual meet record, were the Mid Continent League Tournament and Dual Meets champions all four years, were regional tournament runners-up their freshmen and senior years, were regional champions their sophomore and junior years, placed third in the state tournament as freshmen, fifth as sophomores, were runners-up last year and state champions their senior season.

The four student managers this season were Kelli Johnson, Kayla Douglas, Alexi Wolf and Jessica Sprigg. Coach Johnson introduced them and thanked them for all they did for the team.

A short video of the state tournament finals made by Kelli Johnson was shown.

Coach Johnson also read aloud portions of a Kansas Senate resolution congratulating and commending the team.

"We had a remarkable run," said Coach Johnson. "The excitement at the state tournament was unbelievable. We had injuries all season but had wrestlers who filled in capably. All 26 wrestlers on our squad won varsity matches for us. That's the dedication it takes."

"We had wrestlers wrestling up or down a weight. Our wrestlers put in a lot of hard work. We've been knocking on the door and finally did it."

Coach Johnson thanked the wrestlers, assistant coaches, parents, his family and fans for a great season.

Coach Johnson also handed out the following "fun" awards: Quiz The Coach Award, Sean Lauer; Clock Watcher of the Year Award, Josh Green; Original Six Pound Orange Award, Davvid Stanley; Assistant Coach of the Year Award, Mark Maybon; Porker of the Year Award, Kent Mann; Leaner of the Year Award, Mark Maybon; Mash Award, Perrell Stanley.

Golfers compete in Goodland

By DICK BOYD

The Norton Community High School junior varsity golfers competed in the Goodland Junior Varsity Golf Invitational Tournament on April 20.

No team scores were kept but Norton had two medalists. Junior Kyle Kats shot a 47 to earn fourth

medalist and junior Ryan Maddy carded a 48 to place seventh among medalists.

Other Norton golfers and their scores were senior Josh Green, 49; junior Josh Jackson, 51; sophomore Jordan Herman, 54; freshman Michael Ward, 58; senior Cody Moreland, 62.

Medalists, in addition to Kats and Maddy, were: Elder, Sharon Springs, 47, first; Ladenburger, Colby, 47, second; Erickson, Goodland, 47, third; Cox, Colby, 47, fifth; Donn, Colby, 48, sixth;

Hardwick, Dundey County, 48, eighth; Griffith, Goodland, 49, ninth; Sloan, Sharon Springs, 49, tenth.

"This was a very good performance by our junior varsity golfers," said Coach David Stover. "All our golfers shot season best rounds. It was good to see Kats and Maddy earn medalist honors. Green tied for individual honors but lost in a playoff."

"This group is making tremendous improvement and we hope this trend will continue."

Freshman takes fifth in WaKeeney

By DICK BOYD

Norton boys and girls track athletes competed in the Trego Freshmen-Sophomore Track Meet on April 19 in WaKeeney.

Freshman Brienne Nelson placed fifth in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 61.4.

Not placing were: Nelson, 15.45, 100-meter dash; 32.70, 200 meter dash; and 12'4", long jump; and freshman Laura Delimont, 26'7", personal record, shot put; 72'6 1/2", discus; and 68'9", personal record, javelin;

Competing for the boys were: sophomore Dan Cummings, 15.09; freshman Jared Bebb, 14.34, 100 meter dash; Cummings, 30.87; Bebb, 30.06, 200-meter dash; Bebb, 63.06, 400 meter dash; sophomore Josh VanSki, 29'1", personal record; freshman Corey Rutherford, 34'2", personal record, shot put; Rutherford, 92'2"; VanSki, 80'3", discus; Rutherford, 97'7"; VanSki, 92'6", personal record, javelin; Bebb, 15'3"; and Cummings, scratched, long jump.

NORTON GIRLS TENNIS TEAM BENEFIT SUPPER

WHEN:
May 2
WHERE:
Norton Tennis Courts
TIME:
5:00 p.m.-
7:00 p.m.
MENU:
Porkburgers,
Chips, Baked
Beans & Cake
COST:
Free-Will
Donation

HOSTED BY THE NCHS GIRLS TENNIS TEAM

In case of inclement weather the supper will be in the H.S. cafeteria

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