

Norton wrestlers win league tournament

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team placed 11 of 13 wrestlers en route to winning their seventh straight Mid-Continent League Tournament championship on Saturday in Ellis.

The Blue Jays scored 206 points to easily outdistance Phillipsburg, who tallied 166.5. Smith Center placed third with 142. Fourth place went to Hill City with 86, followed by Trego, 79; Plainville, 63.5; Osborne, 35; Ellis, 34; Stockton, 34.

The top three teams were the same as a year ago.

Winning championships for Norton were: freshman Zach Bainter, 112; senior Clay Madden, 119; junior Nathan Broeckelman, 125; junior Kent Mann, 130; senior Luke Pfannenstiel, 152; senior Lance Roe, 160; senior Davvid Stanley, 171.

Runnerup places on Saturday went to junior Blake VanEaton, 140 and junior Shane Stanley, 215. Placing third were senior Jon Harding, 135 and sophomore Jeff Soderlund, 145, who replaced injured senior Jeremy Harding.

Also competing for the Norton squad were sophomore David Counter, 103 and sophomore Zach Mannel, 275.

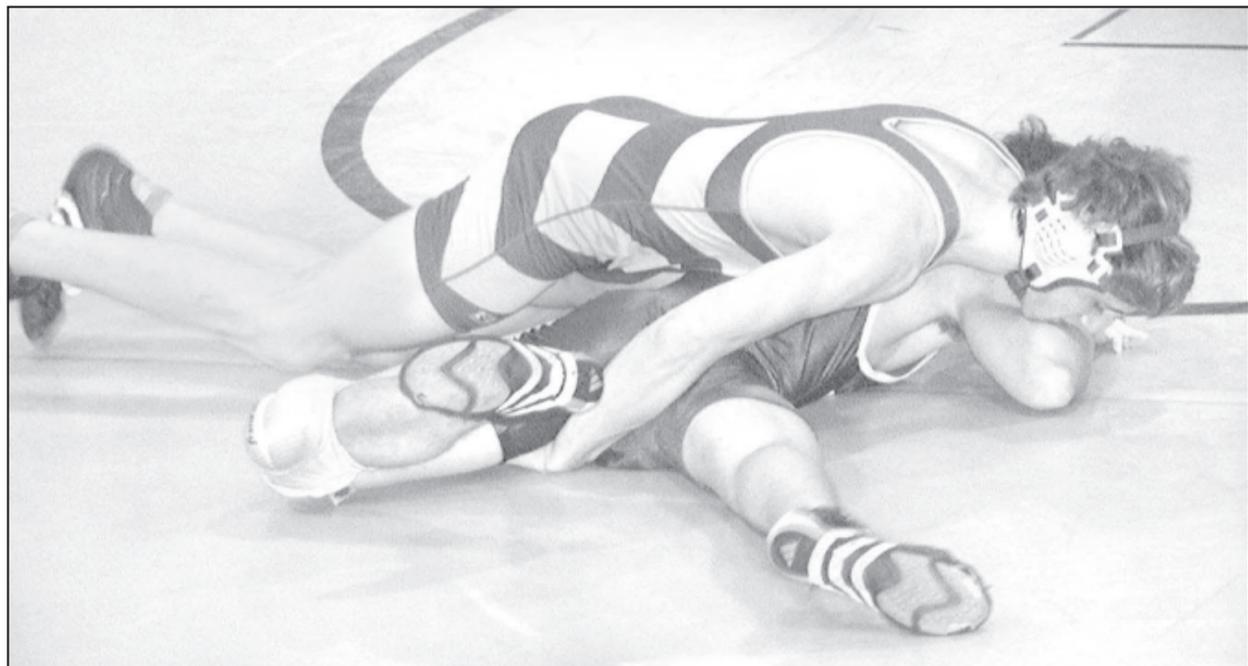
Norton was open at 189.

Norton wrestlers won 25 matches and lost just 8 in the tournament. The Blue Jays pinned 14 opponents and were pinned only 4 times.

"I wasn't sure how many points we'd be able to score in the tournament but to score over 200 points is an accomplishment," said Coach Johnson. "It means our young men wrestled well.

"We had some dominating matches and had some good back-ups by Stanley and Soderlund, a junior varsity wrestler who moved up in Jeremy's absence.

"Broeckelman really stood out. He ended his championship match with Joe Olson of Trego with a punctuation. With nine seconds left and Broeckelman leading 9-1, the two wrestlers went out of bounds. Instead of coasting, Broeckelman got a takedown, put



Norton junior Kent Mann controls Jon Baumfalk, Hays, during his 7-5 decision over Baumfalk at 130 pounds in the dual win over Hays here last Tuesday. Mann also won

Olson on his back and scored five more points to win a major decision. Olson is a two-time state placer.

"We always tell our wrestlers not to quit until all six minutes are totally gone. We want every one of our wrestlers not to be satisfied with a big lead.

"Shane Stanley moved up to 215 and really wrestled well in the championship finals. Brother Davvid Stanley also wrestled well and avenged an earlier defeat by Lee Hadley, Phillipsburg, when he pinned him in their first round match.

"Soderlund just missed qualifying for the finals when he lost a 6-5 decision to Nathan Palmer, Stockton. Soderlund was ahead the entire match and lost it in the last 10 seconds on a takedown by Palmer.

"We are in good physical condition and, although we have a lot of things we can improve on, we are progressing and are right where we need to be at this point in the season. Having nine in the finals

and winning seven of them is a good day. Several of our wrestlers really stepped up and improved their regional seedings or just dominated, like in Broeckelman's case."

Coach Johnson named Shane Stanley, Davvid Stanley, Nathan Broeckelman and Jeff Soderlund "Wrestlers of the Week".

Individual matches

At 103, David Counter was seeded No.5. In the first round, he was pinned by No.4 seed Chad Jamison, Trego. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then lost by a fall in one minute to No.3 seed Scott Helberg, Hill City.

Counter's record is now 6-16.

Helbert won third place with a fall over Jamison. No.1 seed Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a fall over No.2 seed Aaron Geist, Osborne. Ceman extended his perfect season record to 23-0.

Zach Bainter was seeded No.1 at 112 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he won a 4-2 decision over No.5 seed Tyler

Johnston, Stockton. In the championship finals, Bainter shutout No.3 seed Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, 2-0 to win the gold.

Bainter extended his season record to 14-1.

Third place went to No.2 seed Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, who won a 17-5 major decision over No.6 seed Cole Orr, Hill City.

At 119, Clay Madden was seeded No.1 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he won a 9-0 major decision over No.4 seed Kevin Urban, Ellis. Madden won the championship with a 14-4 major decision over No.2 seed Rayson Brachtenbach, Hill City.

Madden is now 26-1 for the season.

Third place went to Urban, who decisioned No.3 seed Scott Jewell, Trego.

Nathan Broeckelman dominated 125 pound opponents. In the first round, he pinned Cody Johnson, Hill City, then pinned No.5 seed Chris Schneider, Phillipsburg, in 1:37 to reach the championship finals. He won a 14-1 major decision over No.2 seed Joe Olson, Trego, to win the gold.

Broeckelman extended his season record to 28-2.

No.3 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, pinned No.6 seed Jace Miller, Stockton, for the second time in the tournament to finish in third place.

At 130, Kent Mann received a No.1 seed and drew a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed Heath Maley, Trego, in 1:27. In the championship finals, he shutout No.2 seed Jeremy Chase, Hill City, 5-0 to win the title.

Mann is now 19-5 for the season.

Third place winner was No.3 seed Marshall McCall, Smith Center, who decisioned Malay 5-1.

Jon Harding was seeded No.3 at 135. In the first round, he won a 10-5 decision over No.6 seed Aaron Dinkel, Plainville. In the semi-finals, he lost a close 5-4 decision to No.2 seed Justin York, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, Harding pinned No.5 seed James Richmeier, Trego, in 1:03 to reach the consolation championship. He pinned No.4 seed Chase King, Ellis, to place third.

Harding's record is now 22-4.

York won the championship

with a 10-8 decision over No.1 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg.

At 140 pounds, Blake VanEaton was seeded No.2. In the first round, he decisioned Brian Frick, Trego, 9-5. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.6 seed Trey Kellner, Trego. In the championship finals, he lost a 4-0 decision to No.1 seed Travis Warner, Smith Center, to place second.

VanEaton is now 23-7 for the season.

Third place went to Tony Ceman, Phillipsburg, with a pin over No.4 seed Stuart Rempe, Plainville.

Jeff Soderlund was seeded No.3 at 145. In the first round, he pinned Alan Nichol, Hill City. In the semi-finals, he lost a close 6-5 decision to No.2 seed Nathan Palmer, Stockton. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.5 seed Zach Gehring, Ellis, in 1:52. In the consolation championship match, he pinned No.4 seed Derek Rowland, Phillipsburg, to place third.

Soderlund's record is now 17-8.

No.1 seed Adam Montgomery, Smith Center, won the championship by pinning Palmer.

At 152, Luke Pfannenstiel drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.4 seed Cody Dix, Stockton, in 1:27. In the championship finals, he won a 10-1 major decision over No.2 seed Luke Brin, Plainville, to win the gold.

Pfannenstiel extended his season record to 24-4.

No.3 seed Ryan Swartzell, Phillipsburg, placed third with a 7-6 decision over No.6 seed Grady Godsey, Smith Center, to avenge a 3-2 loss to Godsey in the first round.

Lance Roe was seeded No.1 at 160 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.5 seed Ryan Jackson, Hill City. In the championship finals, he won a 9-4 decision over No.2 seed Jake Nichols, Smith Center, to win the title.

Roe is now 27-1 for the season.

Third place went to No.3 seed Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg, with a 7-5 decision over No.4 seed Josh Eberle, Trego.

At 171 pounds, Davvid Stanley was seeded No.5. In the first round, he pinned No.4 seed Lee Hadley, Phillipsburg, in 2:40. In the semi-finals, he pinned No.1

seed Dillon Bell, Hill City, in 2:30. In the championship finals, he shutout No.3 seed Connor McMullen, Plainville, 4-0, to win the gold.

Davvid Stanley's record is now 20-10.

Third place went to Bell with a 5-2 decision over Hadley.

No.3 seed Michael Malay, Trego, won the 189 pound championship with a 5-1 decision over No.4 seed Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg. No.1 seed Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, placed third when No.2 seed Tyler Brungardt, Plainville, defaulted.

At 215, Shane Stanley was seeded No.3. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned No.2 seed Kyle Spena, Trego, in 1:50. In the championship finals, he lost a 6-2 decision to No.1 seed David Hadley, Phillipsburg, to place second.

Shane Stanley is now 14-14 for the season.

Spena won third place by pinning Dan Pfannenstiel, Osborne.

Zach Mannel was seeded No.6 at 275. In the first round, he lost by a fall in eight seconds to No.3 seed Luke Fabrizio, Trego. In the consolation bracket, he lost by a fall in 2:30 to No.7 seed Justin Metcalf, Hill City.

Mannel is now 8-18 for the season.

No.2 seed Jace Smith, Phillipsburg, won the championship with a fall over No.1 seed Andy Brown, Plainville. No.4 seed Dustin Patee, Osborne, placed third with a 5-4 decision over Metcalf.

Next action

Norton will travel to Ellis on Friday to wrestle duals against Plainville and Ellis, beginning at 5 p.m.

The Norton-Ellis dual will be first, followed by Norton-Plainville and Ellis-Plainville.

On Saturday, Norton will compete in the Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

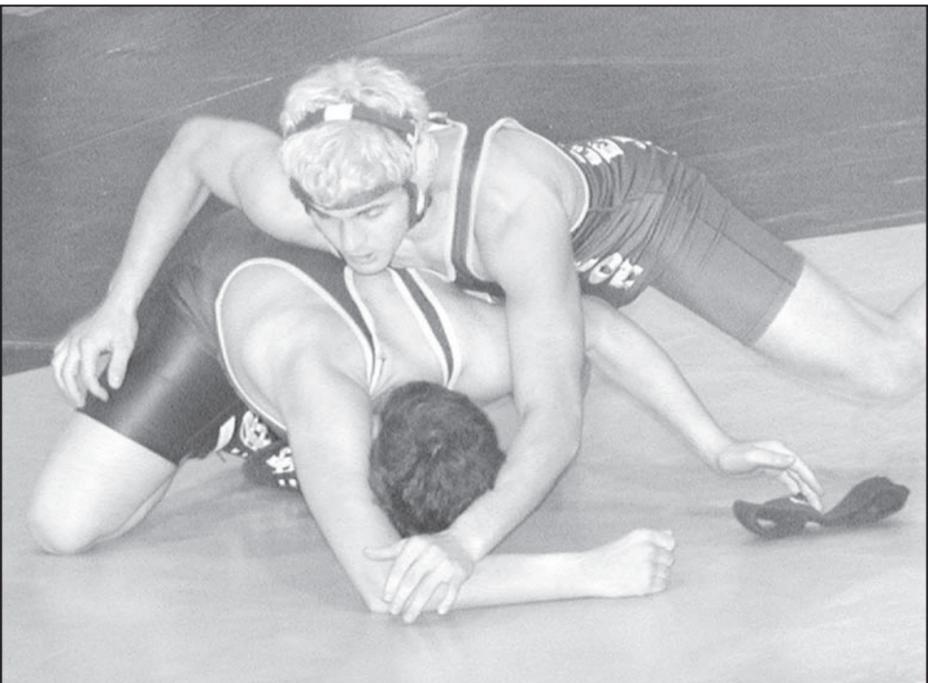
Competing teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Beloit, Colby, Concordia, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lincoln, Minneapolis and Stockton.

Varsity wrestlers will compete in the Chuck Newlin Gym.

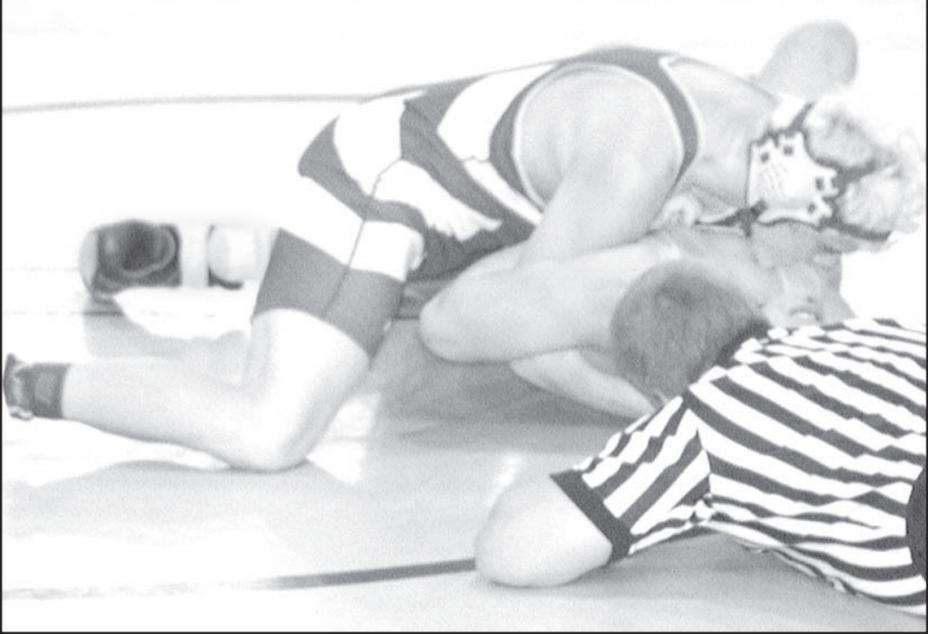
A junior varsity tournament will be held in the auxiliary gym.

Medals will be awarded to the top four places in each weight class. Plaques will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. The outstanding wrestler will receive a medal and framed certificate.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students (K-12). Admission is good for all day.



Norton senior Lance Roe (above) scores two points on Cody Dreiling during the Blue Jays' dual win over Hays last Tuesday in Norton. Roe moved up to 171 pounds and pinned Dreiling in 1:26. Roe also won the 160 pound championship on Saturday in the Mid-Continent League Tournament. Blue Jay senior Davvid Stanley (below) pins Michael Shafer, Kearney, in 33 seconds of their 171 pound match during the dual here last Tuesday. Stanley also won the 171 pound championship on Saturday in the Mid-Continent League Tournament.



High School Sports This Week



WRESTLING:
Norton vs. Ellis and Plainville in Duals (In Ellis) 5 p.m., Friday
Norton vs. Ellis, then Norton vs. Plainville, then Ellis vs. Plainville
Norton in Panther Classic Tournament, V & JV (In Phillipsburg) 9 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:
Norton vs. Smith Center (Here) 4 p.m., NCHS Memorial Gym, C-Team Girls,
Followed by JV Girls, Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys; 6:30 p.m., Wilmeth Kirk Gym,
Junior Varsity Boys, Today
Norton vs. Hill City (There) 5 p.m., Friday
Norton vs. Oberlin (There) 6:30 p.m., Tuesday
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb. (In Alma) 4 p.m., Today
Northern Valley vs. Bertrand, Neb. (In Alma) 4 p.m., Friday
Northern Valley vs. Arapahoe, Neb. (In Arapahoe) 3:30 p.m., Tuesday
Logan vs. Stockton (In Logan) 4:30 p.m., Today
Logan vs. Kensington (In Logan) 4:30 p.m., Friday
Logan vs. White Rock, Neb. (In Logan) 4:30 p.m., Tuesday

Hey, Blue Jay Fans!
Join the Hill City Lions Club at their soup supper, Friday night, February 3, 5 until 7 p.m. in the Hill City High School Cafeteria.
Vegetable soup, chili, grilled cheese sandwiches, cinnamon rolls and more served in conjunction with the Hill City-Norton basketball games.
EVERYONE WELCOME!