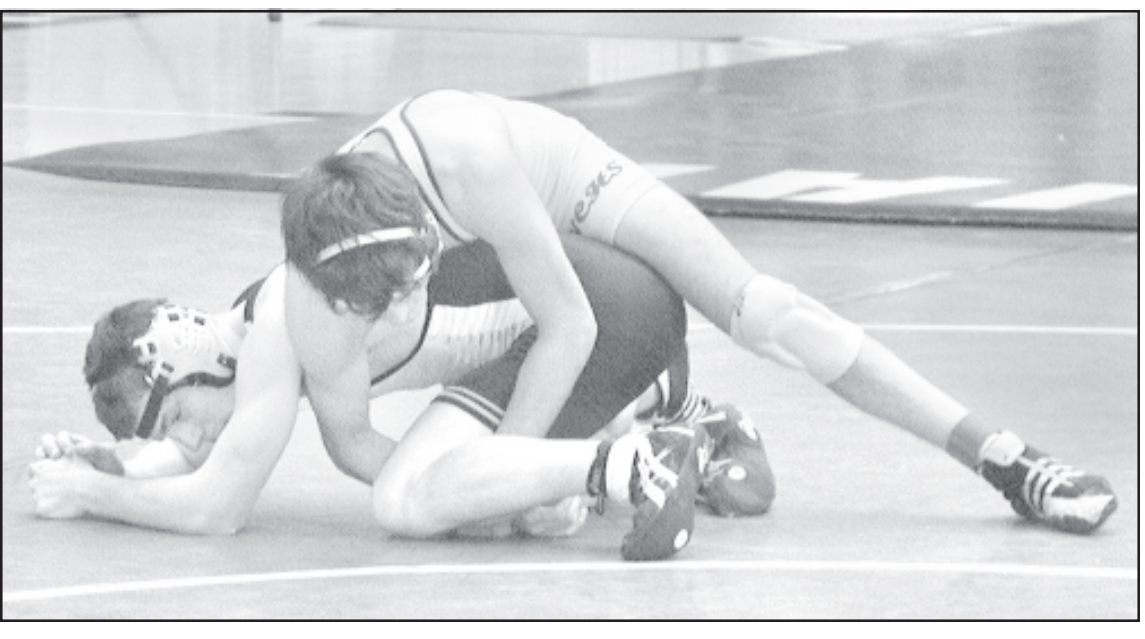
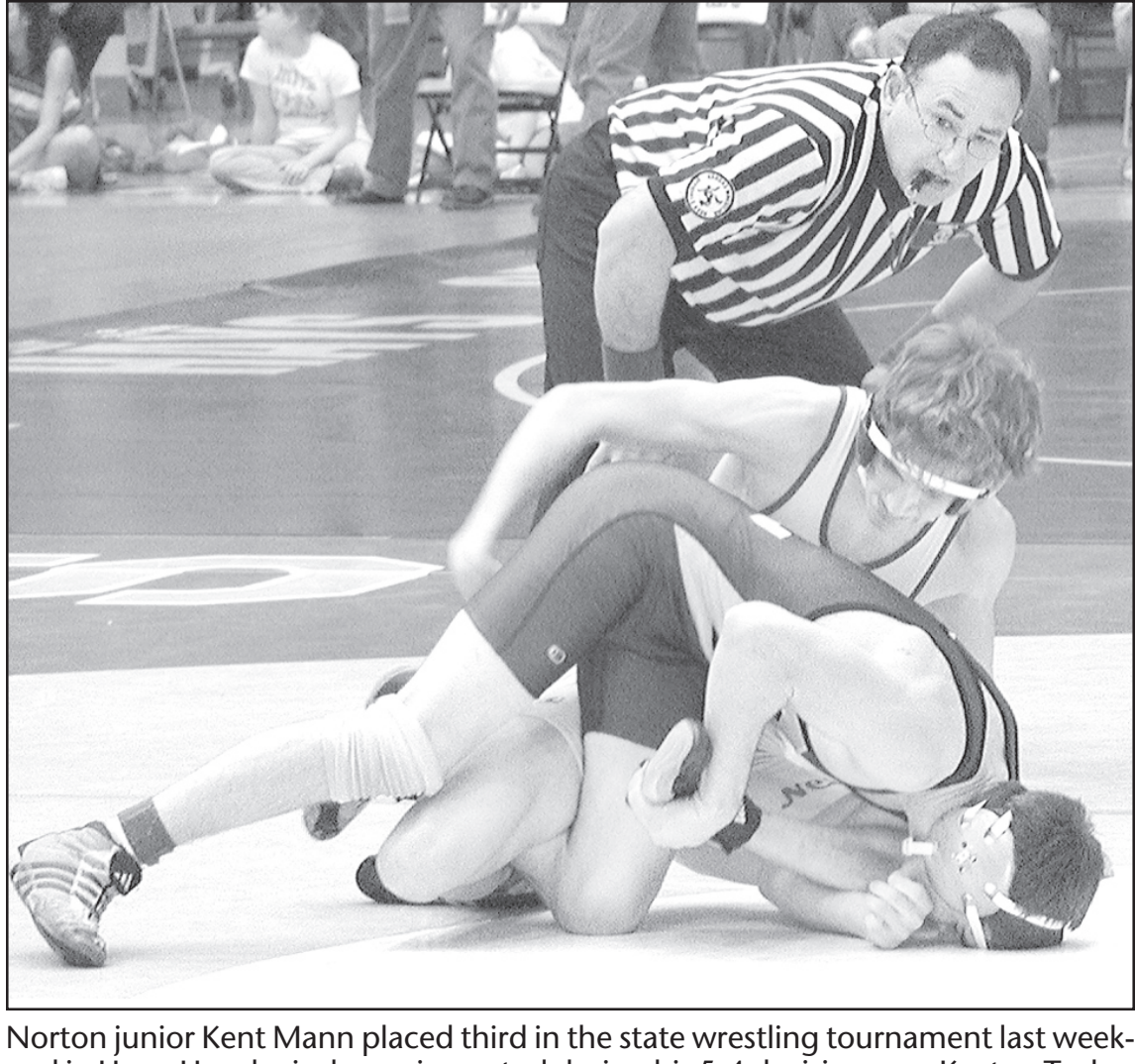


Blue Jay senior Jon Harding lost to only one wrestler in the state tournament last weekend in Hays at 135 pounds. Despite one-point losses in two matches to eventual third place winner Justin York, Smith Center, Jon is shown here easily decisioning Cris Carstenson, Rock Creek, 9-5 to place fifth. - Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



Norton junior Kent Mann placed third in the state wrestling tournament last weekend in Hays. Here he is shown in control during his 5-4 decision over Keaton Taylor, Silver Lake, in the 130 pound consolation championship.

Highway 36 schools produce many outstanding wrestlers

BY JIM MERRIOTT

When it comes to state high school wrestling champions, one need look no further than U.S. 36, which runs east to west across the northern tier of counties.

Schools along the road produced 31 wrestlers with at least a sixth-place finish out of the 84 possible places, 44 percent of the winning places at the Class 3-2-1A state tournament at Hays on Saturday.

From St. Francis in the west as far east as Sabetha, just a few miles north of 36 on U.S. 75, the "Route of the Windmills" has developed into a vein of wrestling tradition.

That's 324 miles out of the 391 from the Colorado state line to Missouri, just 83 percent of the road producing all those state champion high school wrestlers, said Fred Holthaus at the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The 2006 champions came from Norton, St. Francis, Atwood, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Belleville and Sabetha.

Norton won the Class 3-2-1A state title, for the third consecutive year, a first for the Blue Jays. And one of their wrestlers, Clay Madden at 119, won his fourth consecutive championship, another first for the Norton program.

U.S. 36, part of the original Pony Express route from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., is still producing the gritty, stubborn, never-give-up men forged these communities years ago.

"The Northwest Kansas League and the Mid-Continent league produce many fine wrestlers," said Adam Kadavy, KFNF radio play-by-play announcer at the state tournament.

State medalists from these towns are:

• **103 pounds,** Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, second.

• **112 pounds, Zach Bainter, Norton, second**; Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, fourth; Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, fifth.

• **119 pounds**, **Clay Madden, Norton, first;** Trevor Richard, St. Francis, second; Aaron Weatherhead, Belleville, sixth.

• **125 pounds**, **Nathan Broeckelman, Norton, first;** Matt Migchelbrink, Atwood, third; Travis Rempe, Smith Center, fourth.

• **130 pounds**, **Kent Mann, Norton, third**.

• **135 pounds**, Dylan Loyd, St. Francis, second; Justin York, Smith Center, third; Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, fourth; **Jon Harding, Norton, fifth**.

• **140 pounds**, Travis Warner, Smith Center, first; Jon Richards, Oberlin, second; **Blake Van Eaton, Norton, third**; Tony Ceman, Phillipsburg, sixth.

• **145 pounds**, Jason Pyle, Sabetha, first; **Jeremy Harding, Norton, second;** Jordan Gienger, St. Francis, third.

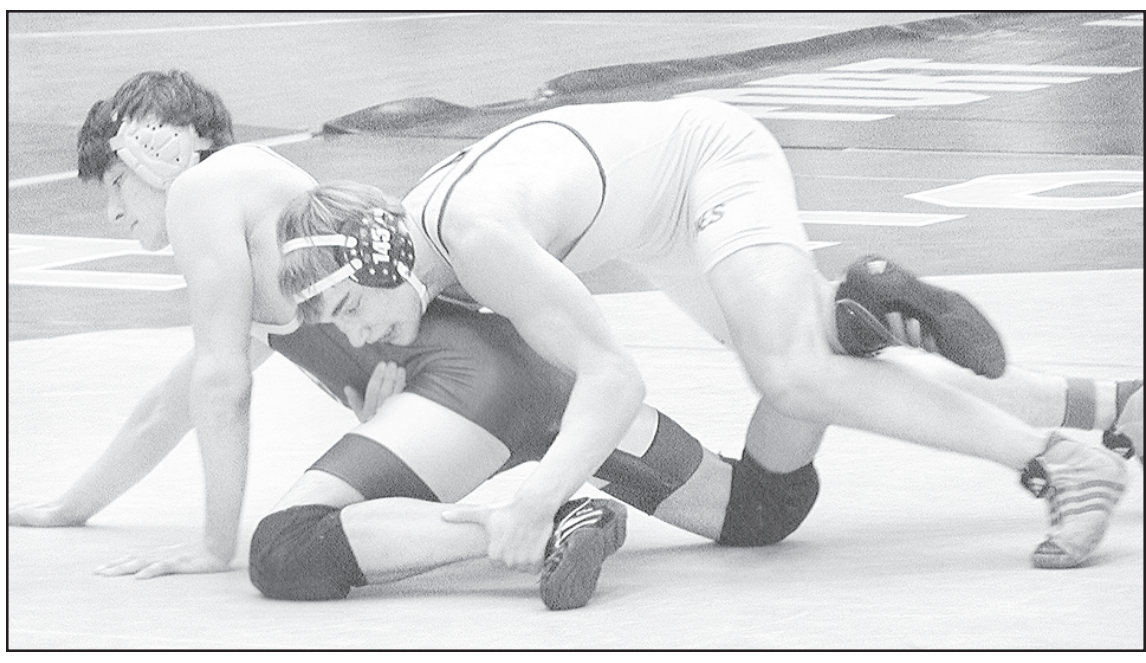
• **152 pounds**, **Luke Pfannenstiel, Norton, first;** Denton Bailey, Oberlin, fourth.

• **160 pounds**, **Lance Roe, Norton, first;** Gabe Smull, St. Francis, second; Jake Nichols, Smith Center, third.

• **171 pounds**, Terry Urban, Oberlin, third.

• **189 pounds**, Cody Jarvis, Phillipsburg, fourth; Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, fifth.

• **Heavyweight**, Brennon Wilger, St. Francis, second.



Norton junior 140 pound wrestler Blake VanEaton dominates Eric Cress, Goessel, during Blake's 6-2 decision over Cress to win third place in the state wrestling tournament on Saturday in Hays. Blake lost his first match of the tournament and it turned out to be his only loss as he came all the way through the back door to win the bronze medal!

Northern Valley Junior High girls finish season with perfect record

Another unbeaten season for the Northern Valley Junior High basketball girls was assured at the Greater Northern Elementary Conference tournament in Logan.

The Huskies demolished Logan 40-13 and dished out similar punishment to Eastern Heights 44-24.

The Huskies ended the season 14-0, marking the second year in a row for an undefeated season.

Coach Jim Cole said: "The Northern Valley Junior High girls played a great defensive game in the semi-finals, beating Logan 40-13.

"Northern Valley played Eastern Heights in the finals and had a big second half, outscoring Eastern Heights 30-14 to win by a score of 44-24.

"I am very proud of these girls. They worked hard and deserve to be the league champions!"

Here's the recap:

A-Team Girls (13-0)
Semi-Finals
Northern Valley 40
Logan 13
Individual Scoring:
Northern Valley — Megan Cole 18; Alison Cole 12; Christina Anderson 10.

A-Team Girls (14-0)
Finals
Northern Valley 44
Eastern Heights 24
Individual Scoring:
Northern Valley — Megan Cole 14; Christina Anderson 12; Alison Cole 6; Miriah Florence 6; Karen Wenzl 4; Staci Dole 2.

Junior High Husky boys basketball finish fourth in league tourney

The Northern Valley Junior High basketball boys placed 4th in the Greater Northern Elementary Conference tournament in Logan.

Coach Jim Cole explained that "Northern Valley had a big win in the first round, beating Eastern Heights in a tight game, 29-27. The Huskies were down 12-4 in the first quarter, but never gave up.

"The team then lost to the tournament champions Damar in the semi-finals and then lost to Logan in the 3rd place game.

"The Huskies finished the season with a 3-12 record."

The recap:

A-Team Boys (3-10) 1st round
Northern Valley 29
Eastern Heights 27
Individual Scoring:
Northern Valley — Colton Lowry 14; Jacob Gallentine 6; Dusty Eagleburger 4; Hutch Gehrke 4; Brandon Towery 1.

A-Team Boys (3-11)
Semi-Finals
Northern Valley 19
Damar 44
Individual Scoring:
Northern Valley — Lowry 10; Gallentine 4; Eagleburger 3; Bryant Tharman 2.

A-Team Boys (3-12)
Consolation Game
Northern Valley 29
Logan 45
Individual Scoring:
Eagleburger 11; Gallentine 5; Towery 4; Lowry 4; Gehrke 3; Caleb Bach 2.

Northern Valley Lady Huskies face Claflin tonight in 1A semifinals

The Northern Valley basketball girls will take to the floor at Russell tonight at 6:00 to face Claflin in the semifinal round of the Class 1A Substate Tournament.

The Huskies take a 9-14 record into the contest vs. Claflin's 22-1 mark.

In the second Friday semifinal game at 7:30 p.m., Brewster (21-2) meets Western Plains (12-10).

In boys' action Thursday, Greeley County (18-5) played Wallace County (15-8), followed by Claflin (16-7) and Kensington (18-5).

The girls' championship game begins at 6 p.m., Saturday, also at Russell, followed at 7:30 p.m. by the boys' title game.

The two winners move onto the state showdown the following weekend.

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