

Blue Jays capture tournament title

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's No. 1 state-ranked and three-time defending state champion Norton Community High School wrestling team, won their fourth straight J.R. Durham Invitational Tournament championship on Saturday in Norton by edging a strong No. 5 state-ranked Beloit squad by four and one-half points in an exciting finish.

Entering the championship finals, Beloit led the team race with 135 points and Norton was second with 128.5. Beloit had seven wrestlers in the finals and Norton had five. The Trojans won just two championships, however, and the Blue Jays won four, including the 285 pound final match which Norton needed to win it all.

After Beloit's Cody Hamel decided Chaston Hoeme, Scott City, 7-3, to win the 160 pound title, the Trojans led the Blue Jays 143-141.5. At that point, Beloit had two wrestlers left and Norton had one. Beloit's Matt Hyman is ranked No. 2 in the state at 171 pounds and was seeded No. 1 and he wrestled No. 2 seed Ryan Levell, Cozad, in the finals. Levell edged Hyman 3-2, leaving one Beloit and one Norton wrestler, 285 pound junior Alex Thomas.

The Trojans' Sawyer Krone was No. 1 seeded at 189 and wrestled No. 2 seed John Binning, Atwood, for the championship. Binning pinned Krone with 3:08 remaining but Beloit still held onto a one and one-half point lead over the Blue Jays.

It all came down to the 285 pound match between Norton's Thomas, No. 2 seed, and Atwood's Shelby Wright, the No. 1 seed. Thomas took charge from the opening whistle and held a 2-0 lead after one period. In the second period, he became even more aggressive and took Wright down hard on the mat. Wright did not get up right away but eventually was ready to wrestle again. This time Thomas took him to the mat and pinned him with 31 seconds gone in the second period as the Norton fans went wild!

Thomas' victory gave Norton 147.5 points and the championship and Beloit had to settle for second place with 143.

Scott City placed third in the team competition with 105.5 points, just edging No. 3 state ranked Smith Center who compiled 105. Atwood was fifth with 84, followed by Mill Valley, 67; Cozad, Neb., 55; Hoxie, 24.5; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 20. Leoti and Quinter were scheduled to compete but were not able to do so due to weather conditions.

Norton entered 13 of the 14 weight classes and medaled 10 wrestlers. The Blue Jays had four champions, one runnerup, four third place finishers and one fourth place wrestler.

Winning gold medals for Norton were senior Nathan Broeckelman, 130; senior Kent

Mann, 135; senior Blake VanEaton, 152 and junior Alex Thomas, 285. Sophomore Zach Bainter placed second at 125. Bronze medals were earned by freshman Kaenon Keiswetter, 112; freshman Zane Perez, 119; junior Jeff Soderlund, 145 and senior Shane Stanley, 215. Junior Aaron Husted placed fourth at 140 pounds.

"We finished really strong," said coach Johnson. "I knew going in that there were a lot of teams fairly equal so it didn't surprise me that the team scores were close.

"I would say that our fitness level is very good for this time of year. We won several matches because we were in better condition than our opponents.

"We did have some matches, however, where we didn't wrestle as well as we should have. We will have to keep working hard to get better. This is just one step towards our ultimate team goal."

Coach Johnson named Blake VanEaton "Wrestler of the Week" for Norton.

Smith Center's 140 pound wrestler Justin York was voted the "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament by team coaches. York, who is ranked No. 2 in the state, decided Bradly Esterl, Beloit, who is ranked No. 1 in the state, 5-2 to win the championship. York has only one loss this season and Esterl came into the finals undefeated.

Norton compiled a 21-13 winning record in the tournament and had a 10-7 pin ratio.

Individual matches

VanEaton was seeded No. 1 at 152 pounds and is No. 2 state ranked. He drew a first round bye, then decided No. 4 seed Lakin Dreiling, Scott City, 3-1, in the semi-finals. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 3 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center, and dominated him to win the gold medal. VanEaton led 1-0 after one period, 3-1 after two periods and won a 6-1 decision.

VanEaton extended his season record to 9-2.

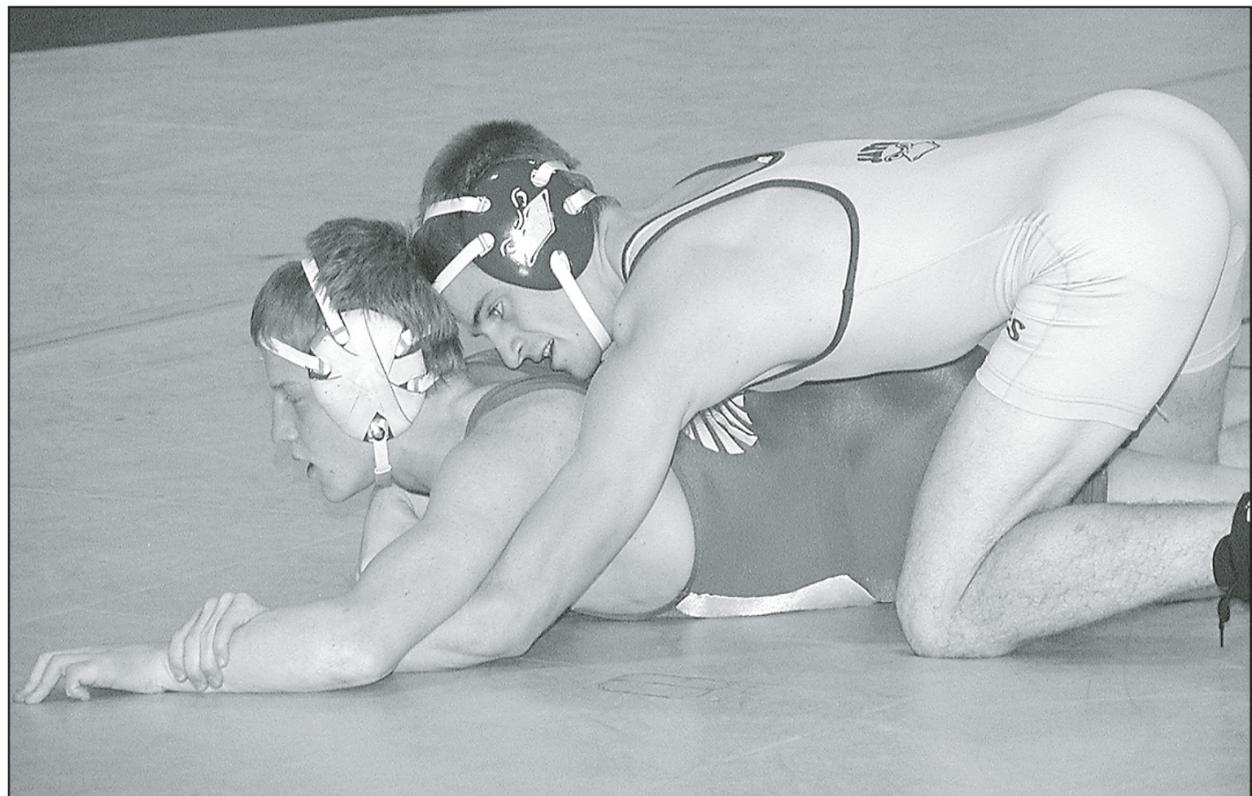
No. 3 seed Travis Budke, TMP, placed third with a 4-2 decision over No. 6 seed Cory Devin, Cozad.

At 130 pounds, Nathan Broeckelman is ranked No. 1 in the state and was seeded No. 1. The unbeaten Norton wrestler drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Morgan Numrich, Scott City, in 5:32 of their semi-final match. In the championship finals, he wrestled unbeaten Trevor Rempe, Smith Center, who was seeded No. 2 and is ranked No. 4 in the state.

Broeckelman led Rempe 2-0 after one period, 6-0 after two periods and shut him out 9-0 to win the championship with a major decision.

Broeckelman extended his unbeaten season record to 16-0 and Rempe fell to 11-1.

In the battle for third place,



Norton's No. 1 state-ranked and No. 1 seed 130-lb. wrestler Nathan Broeckelman extended his unbeaten season record to 16-0 by winning the championship of the J.R. Durham Invitational on Saturday. He is shown above with complete control over No. 4 state-

ranked and No. 2 seed Trevor Rempe of Smith Center, in the championship finals. He shut out Rempe 9-0 to hand him his first defeat of the season.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Numrich shutout No. 3 seed Weston Fletchall, Beloit, 6-0.

Norton's Kent Mann is ranked No. 2 in the state at 135 pounds. He received the No. 1 seed and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he shutout No. 4 seed Dan Niles, Cozad, 2-0. In the championship finals, Mann wrestled No. 2 seed and No. 5 state ranked Cas Spangler, Beloit. Mann held a 3-2 lead after one period and was ahead 6-4 after two periods. He scored one more point in the final period to win 7-4 and earn the gold medal.

Mann extended his unbeaten season record to 17-0. Spangler is now 13-2.

Norton's Alex Thomas is not state ranked although he is unbeaten at 285 pounds. He came into the tournament seeded No. 2 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he pinned No. 3 seed Tyler Jamis, Beloit, in 2:22 before pinning No. 1 seed Shelby Wright, Atwood, in 2:31 to win the championship.

Thomas extended his unbeaten season record to 15-0.

Jamis won third place with a 7-2 decision over No. 4 seed Tyler Hancock, Mill Valley.

In the 125 pound weight class, Norton's Zach Bainter is ranked No. 2 in the state but Atwood's Matt Migchelbrink is ranked No. 1. Bainter was still seeded No. 1 and Migchelbrink No. 2. Bainter drew a first round bye, then pinned No. 4 seed Sam McDaniel, Scott City, in 3:14 of their semi-final match. In the championship finals, Bainter and Migchelbrink met to decide just who was the best in the class. Bainter trailed 2-0 after one period, 4-2 after two periods and lost a 6-3 decision to place second.

Bainter's season record is now 11-4. Migchelbrink extended his unbeaten season record to 13-0.

Cade Hewitt, Beloit, the No. 3 seed who is ranked No. 6 in the

state, won a 5-1 decision over McDaniel to place third.

The Blue Jays' Kaenon Keiswetter, who is ranked No. 3 in the state, received a No. 3 seed at 112 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then defeated No. 6 seed Trevor Popp, Hoxie, by a technical fall in 3:15 of their quarter-finals match. In the semi-finals, he lost a 10-1 decision to No. 2 seed and No. 2 state ranked Colt Rogers, Smith Center. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 4 seed Dylia Nuzum, Beloit, in 1:59, then pinned No. 5 seed Dillon Stucky, Scott City, in 2:44 to win the consolation championship.

Keiswetter extended his season record to 16-3.

Rogers won the championship with a 12-5 decision over No. 1 seed and No. 4 state ranked Tyler Williamson, Mill Valley. Rogers is now 12-0 for the season.

At 119 pounds, Zane Perez was seeded No. 2. He drew a first round bye, then was pinned in 2:35 by No. 3 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 5 seed Kevin Moss, Hoxie, in 1:41, then won a 2-1 decision over No. 1 seed Tyrel George, Scott City, to place third. Perez is now 14-3 for the season.

Augustine won the championship with a 5-1 decision over No. 4 seed Kevin Wolters, Atwood.

Jeff Soderlund was seeded No. 5 at 145 pounds. He drew a first round bye, then won a 13-8 quarter-finals decision over No. 4 seed Tanner Sturgeon, Cozad. In the semi-finals, he was pinned in 3:20 by No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Nick Kough, Scott City. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 7 seed Josh Van Holland, Mill Valley, in 2:18. In the consolation championship match, he decided No. 3 seed Clint Taylor, TMP, 6-3 to earn the bronze medal. Soderlund's record is now 13-6 for the season.

Kough won the championship

with an 8-3 decision over No. 2 seed Wade Adams, Beloit.

Shane Stanley was seeded No. 4 at 215 pounds. After receiving a bye, he wrestled No. 1 seed and No. 2 state ranked Kirk Palmer, Smith Center, and was pinned in 2:41. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No. 6 seed Tyler Gadwood, Mill Valley, in 46 seconds. Then, he won the consolation championship by pinning No. 2 seed Matt Peters, Beloit, in 4:08.

Stanley's season record is now 2-1.

Palmer won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Cody Pope, Hoxie, in 28 seconds.

At 140 pounds, Aaron Husted was seeded No. 3. He drew a first round bye, then was pinned in 4:00 by No. 2 seed Justin York, Smith Center, the No. 2 state ranked wrestler in this class. In the consolation bracket, he drew a bye, then was pinned in 3:43 by No. 4 seed Robby McClung, Mill Valley, to place fourth.

Husted is now 6-5 for the season.

York decided No. 1 seed and No. 1 state ranked, Bradly Esterl, Beloit, 5-2 in the championship match.

In the 103 pound weight class, No. 4 seed Francisco Antillon, Scott City, pinned No. 2 seed Trevor Boyer, Mill Valley, in 2:00 to win the championship. No. 1 seed Garth Griffith, Atwood, placed third, by pinning No. 3 seed Garrett Kuhlmann, Smith Center, in 2:04.

Sophomore Matt Stanley competed for Norton at 160 pounds and was seeded No. 6. He drew a first round bye, then won a 7-5

decision over No. 3 seed Jake Wolf, Cozad. In the semi-finals, he lost a 10-0 decision to No. 2 seed Cody Hanel, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, Stanley lost a 9-2 decision to No. 8 seed Grady Godsey, Smith Center.

Stanley is now 11-7 for the season.

Hanel won the championship with a 7-3 decision over No. 1 seed Chaston Hoeme, Scott City. Wolf placed third with a 9-8 decision over Godsey.

Blue Jay senior Jordan Durham wrestled at 171 pounds. He was seeded No. 8 and drew a first round bye. In the quarter-finals, he lost a 16-7 major decision to No. 1 seeded and No. 2 state ranked Matt Hyman, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he decided No. 4 seed Jesse Mudd, Smith Center, 8-2, then lost by a fall in 4:18 to No. 3 seed Logan Numrich, Scott City.

Durham is now 1-2 for the season.

No. 2 seed Ryan Levell, Cozad, won the championship with a 3-2 decision over Hyman. J.R. Logan, Mill Valley, the No. 5 seed, won third place with a 5-3 decision over Numrich.

Freshman Robert Derauf took the mat at 189 pounds for the Blue Jays and was seeded No. 5. He drew a bye, then was pinned in 1:45 by No. 1 seed Sawyer Krone, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 5-0 decision to No. 6 seed Cole Pearson, Scott City.

Derauf is now 2-7 for the season.

No. 2 seed John Binning, Atwood, pinned Krone in 3:08 to win the championship. No. 3 seed Jack Delashmit, Mill Valley, won third with a 6-3 decision over Pearson.

Norton High 'Jay' wrestlers face a busy week

By DICK BOYD

This week will be a busy one for the Norton Community High School wrestling team. On Thursday, they will compete in Mid-Continent League duals with Smith Center and Trego Community in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gymnasium in Norton, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Norton vs. Smith Center dual will be first, followed by the Trego vs. Smith Center dual. The final dual of the night will be Norton vs. Trego.

On Friday and Saturday, Norton will compete in the prestigious 44th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton. Others competing will be Andover, Ark City, Bishop Carroll, Buhler, Campus, Colby, Clay Center, Derby, Dodge City, El Dorado, Emporia, Gardner-Edgerton, Hutchinson, Leavenworth, Maise, Manhattan, McPherson, Mill Valley, Perry, Salina South, Valley Center, Wichita East, Wichita Northwest, Wichita South and Winfield.

Norton is the two-time defending champion and is the smallest enrollment school to ever win the

title. Wrestling will begin at 11 a.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students 1-12.

On Friday, the Norton junior varsity wrestlers will compete in

the annual Elm Creek Invitational Wrestling Tournament in Elm Creek, Neb. Wrestling will begin at 2:30 p.m.

Others entered are Alma, Overton, Pleasanton, Southern

Valley, Burwell, Arapahoe, Rock County and junior varsities from Gibbon, Holdrege, Lexington and Cozad.

Admission will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

High School Sports This Week

WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Trego Community, Smith Center (Wilmeth Kirk Gym) 6 p.m., Thursday
Norton in Newton Tournament of Champions (in Newton) 11 a.m. Fri; 9 a.m. Sat.
Norton Junior Varsity in Elm Creek Invitational (in Elm Creek, Neb.) .. 2:30 p.m. Friday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity vs. Trego Community (in WaKeeney) ... 4:45 p.m., Friday
Norton Boys Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament TBA, Monday
Norton Girls Varsity in First Round, Mid-Continent League Tournament .. TBA, Tuesday
Northern Valley Girls vs. Logan in Cheyenne Conference Tournament,
(Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 4 p.m., Today
Northern Valley Boys vs. Kensington in Cheyenne Conference Tournament,
(Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 7:45 p.m., Thursday
Logan Girls vs. Northern Valley in Cheyenne Conference Tournament,
(Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 4 p.m., Today
Logan Boys vs. Western Plains in Cheyenne Conference Tournament,
(Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 5:15 p.m., Today
Logan Girls vs. Kensington in Cheyenne Conference Tournament,
(Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) 6:30 p.m., Thursday
Consolation and Championship Girls and Boys Games in Cheyenne Conference
Tournament (Auxiliary and Newlin Gym, Phillipsburg) Beginning 3 p.m. Saturday

Norton AYSO Soccer

Region #1365 announces the start of the 2007 Spring Soccer registration.

Both registration sessions will be held at the Prairie Land Electric basement located at 1101 W. Hwy 36. Registrations received after January 27 will be placed on a waiting list. The first game will be on March 31.

The early registration will be held on:
Fri., Jan. 12, 5-8 p.m. and Sat., Jan. 13, 2-6 p.m.
The cost for the early registration is \$30 per child

Final registration will be held on:
Saturday, January 27, 2-6 p.m.
The cost for the final registration is \$35 per child

Norton AYSO Soccer would also like to thank all of the players for their fundraising efforts and congratulate the 2006 winners:

FIRST PLACE; CADE DOUGHERTY
Son of Travis and Michelle Hogan, and Paul and Nicole Brungardt

SECOND PLACE; SHAYD DICKS
Son of Amy Dicks

THIRD PLACE; BREVEN SONDERGAARD
Son of Ed and Tanya Temmel

We are in need of volunteers to fill several board positions as well as coaches and referees. Please consider donating your time and talents.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Toby Kuhn, Regional Commissioner	(785) 877-2275
Julie Baughman, Registrar	(785) 877-2678
Deena Wente, Secretary	(785) 877-5235