

Norton wrestlers win Panther Classic — again

By DICK BOYD

Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team turned in another strong performance on Saturday to win the Panther Classic Tournament in Phillipsburg for the fourth year in a row.

Norton amassed 197 points to outdistance second place Phillipsburg by 45.5 points. The Panthers totaled 151.5 points and were followed by Beloit, 144; St. Francis, 105; Hoisington, 95.5; Ellsworth, 46; Minneapolis, 42; Lincoln, 41; Stockton, 40; Ellis, 37; Hill City, 27; Lakin, 24; Hoxie, 16.

The Blue Jays had nine wrestlers in the championship finals and four won championships. Two other Norton wrestlers placed third and one finished fourth out of the 14 who competed.

Champions for Norton were freshman Kaenon Keiswetter, 112; senior Nathan Broeckelman, 130; senior Kent Mann, 135 and junior Alex Thomas, 285.

Earning runnerup medals were freshman Connor Pfannenstiel, 103; freshman Zane Perez, 119; sophomore Zach Bainter, 125; junior Jeff Soderlund, 145 and senior Shane Stanley, 215.

Junior Aaron Husted, 140 and senior Jordan Durham, 171, each won third place. Senior Blake VanEaton qualified for the third place match at 152 pounds but defaulted due to illness and placed fourth.

Also competing for Norton were junior Todd Bolt, 160 and senior Jared Bebb, 189.

Norton compiled a 28-12 win-loss record and a 12-4 pin ratio.

"It was a very grueling week for us," said coach Johnson. "We overcame an awful lot of sickness to win the two duals on Friday and the Panther Classic. Many of our wrestlers were not feeling 100 percent by any means.

"We dropped some matches that we normally would have won.

"All that said, I was pleased with our team performance. Scoring nearly 200 points where you only place four is tough to do."

Coach Johnson named Nathan Broeckelman "Wrestler of the

Week".

Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg's 125 pound champion, was named "Chuck Lovenstein Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament.

Individual results

•103 — Conner Pfannenstiel was seeded No.3. He pinned C.J. Wilson, Lincoln, in 1:42; decisioned No.2 seed John Redetzke, Hoisington, 6-3 and lost a 5-3 decision to No.1 seed Carlos Galloway, Stockton, to place second.

No.4 seed Darris Keller, St. Francis, won third with a 6-1 decision over Redetzke.

•112 — Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No.1. He pinned Cordrey Spires, Stockton, in 1:21; won a 16-2 major decision over No.4 seed Mark Livesay, Lincoln and wrestled No.2 seed Zach Ceman, Phillipsburg, for the championship. It was a very close match but Keiswetter edged Ceman 6-5 to win the gold medal.

No.3 seed Dyllan Nuzum, Beloit, won third by pinning Livesay.

•119 — Zane Perez was seeded No.2. He pinned Josh Carpenter, St. Francis, in 54 seconds; won an 8-7 decision over No.3 seed Chris Orr, Hill City, and wrestled No.1 seed Brad Augustine, Beloit, in the championship finals.

The score was tied 2-all after one period and Perez led 4-2 after two periods. Perez was ahead 4-3 when he got out of position and was pinned in 5:39 in the third period to place second.

Orr won third by pinning Carpenter.

•125 — Zach Bainter was seeded No.2. He drew a first round bye, then won a 5-3 decision over No.3 seed Cade Hewitt, Beloit, and lost a 12-3 major decision to No.1 seed Dustin Zahorsky, Phillipsburg, to place second.

Hewitt won third by pinning No.4 seed Nathan Willis, Hoisington.

•130 — Nathan Broeckelman was seeded No.1. He pinned Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg, in 59 seconds; won a 13-2 major decision over No.5 seed Kevin Urban, Ellis and wrestled No.2 seed Tommy Knapp, Lincoln, for the

championship. Broeckelman led 2-0 after one period, 4-0 after the second period and held a 6-0 lead when he pinned Knapp in 5:52 of the third period.

No.3 seed Gavin Smull, St. Francis, won third with a 2-0 decision over Urban.

•135 — Kent Mann was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed Shane Hall, Ellsworth, in 34 seconds. In the championship finals, Mann wrestled No.2 seed Cas Spangler, Beloit. Neither wrestler scored in the first period but Mann took a 1-0 lead in the second period and it held up in the third period to earn Mann the championship.

No.3 seed John Lynch, Lakin, won third with an 8-4 decision over Hall.

•140 — Aaron Husted was seeded No.3. He pinned Brad Artz, Phillipsburg, then lost a 12-6 decision to No.2 seed Cody Eaton, Minneapolis. In the consolation bracket, Husted won a 6-2 decision over No.5 seed Jessie Pacheco, St. Francis, then wrestled No.4 seed Sam Schmitt, Lakin, in the consolation championship match. Husted built up an early 10-2 lead in the first period and went on to win 13-6 and place third.

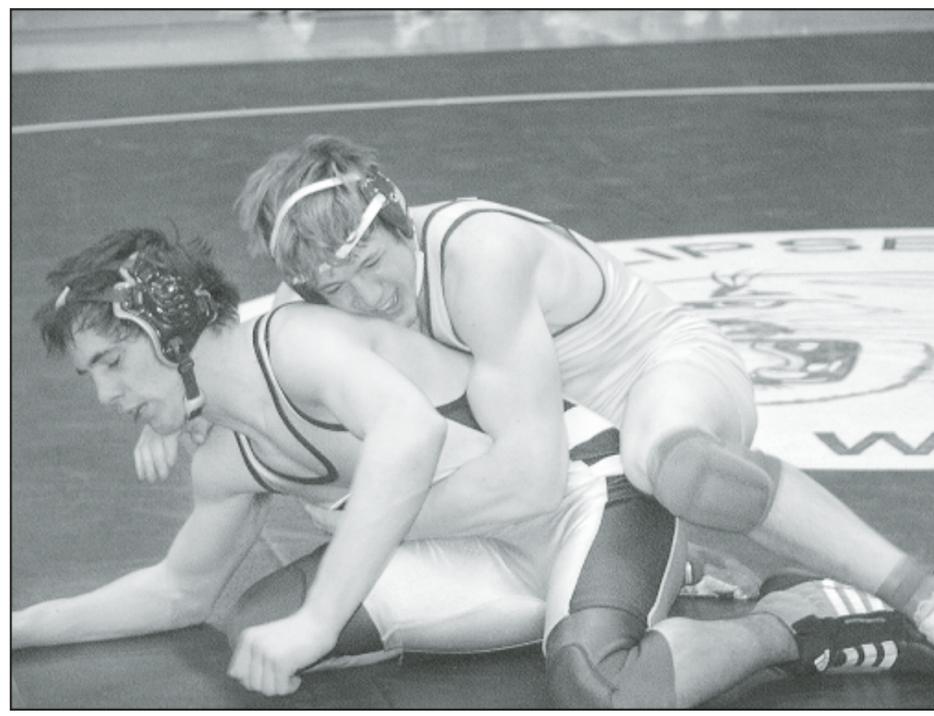
No.1 seed Brad Esterl, Beloit, won the championship by pinning Eaton.

•145 — Jeff Soderlund was seeded No.2. He pinned Nick Torres, Minneapolis, in 1:47 and won a 9-4 decision over No.3 seed Wade Adams, Beloit. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed Kade Bloom, Phillipsburg, and lost a 12-4 major decision to place second.

Adams won third by pinning No.4 seed Chase King, Ellis.

•152 — Blake VanEaton was seeded No.2. He won a 2-0 decision over Nathan Palmer, Stockton, then lost a 4-2 decision to No.3 seed Jake Livesay, Lincoln. In the consolation bracket, he won a 7-0 decision over No.5 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis, then defaulted from the third place match, which was awarded to No.4 seed Alberto Contreras, Minneapolis.

No.1 seed Jordan Gienger, St.



Norton's 171-lb. senior Jordan Durham scored two points on a reversal with time running out to win 11-10 over Gabe Wickham of Phillipsburg, and place third in his weight class in the Panther Classic on Saturday at Phillipsburg. - Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Francis, won the championship with a 6-5 decision over Livesay.

•160 — Todd Bolt lost a 9-6 decision to Clayton Rall, Hoxie, then was pinned in 1:20 by No.4 seed Tad Miller, Stockton.

No.1 seed Ryan Swatzell, Phillipsburg, won the championship by pinning No.2 seed Cody Hanel, Beloit. No.3 seed Justin Sherlock, St. Francis, won third by pinning Rall.

•171 — Jordan Durham was seeded No.4. He pinned No.5 seed Trent Stevenson, Ellsworth, in 1:31, then lost a 6-2 decision to No.1 seed Russell Rogers, St. Francis. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Zach Gehring, Ellis, in 3:55 to reach the consolation championship match. He wrestled No.3 seed Gabe Wickham, Phillipsburg.

Durham led 6-0 after one period but by only 8-6 after two periods. In the exciting third period, Durham fell behind 10-9 but earned a two-point reversal with time running out to win 11-10 and

place third!

Rogers won the championship with an 8-5 decision over No.2 seed Carl Hickel, Hoisington.

•189 — Jared Bebb was seeded No.7. He was pinned in 1:18 by No.2 seed Sawyer Krone, Beloit. In the consolation bracket, he won a 6-4 decision over No.6 seed Andy Griffith, Minneapolis, then lost a 4-1 decision to No.4 seed Colton Findlay, Ellsworth.

Findlay lost the third place match to No.3 seed Caleb Breon, Phillipsburg, by a 6-5 decision. No.1 seed Matt Engstrom, Hoisington, won the championship with a 12-1 major decision over Krone.

•215 — Shane Stanley was seeded No.4. He pinned No.5 seed Steven Lee, Lakin, in 1:28, then won a 7-5 decision over No.1 seed Luke Keener, Hoisington. In the championship finals, Stanley wrestled No.3 seed David Hadley, Phillipsburg.

The score was tied 2-all after one period but Stanley was pinned

in 3:26 to place second.

Keener placed third with a 9-5 decision over No.2 seed Steve Kyler, Ellsworth.

•285 — Alex Thomas was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then won a 10-3 decision over No.5 seed Jace Smith, Phillipsburg. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.2 seed Daniel Schneider, Hoisington. Neither wrestler scored in the first period. Thomas took a 4-1 lead in the second period and pinned Schneider in 5:02 of the third period.

Smith won third place by pinning No.3 seed Michael Hiss, Ellis.

Next action

Norton will travel to Hill City on Thursday to wrestle Hill City and Osborne.

Action will begin at 5 p.m. The Norton junior varsity will compete on Saturday in the "Bill Voss" Novice Tournament at the high school in Colby, beginning at 9 a.m.

Blue Jay boys get key conference win over Ringnecks

By DICK BOYD

Coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team hit five three-point baskets and the Blue Jays' smothering defense stifled a potent Hill City offense in a key 51-40 Mid-Continent League win Friday night in The NCHS Stull Gymnasium.

The win extended Norton's season record to 10-4 and dropped

Hill City to 9-4.

Norton pleased the large home crowd by jumping out to a 15-8 advantage after the first quarter, which saw three Blue Jays bury shots from beyond the arc. Senior guard Jared Engelbert, junior guard Jared Cox and junior guard Logan Kats all tickled the nets from three-point range. Kats added two more two-point baskets and Engelbert connected on two

free throws.

Both teams scored just 7 points in the second quarter as Norton took a 22-15 halftime advantage. Junior forward Wes Georgeson got in on the scoring in the second period when he hit Norton's fourth three-point basket and added a two-pointer. Kats hit Norton's other basket in the quarter.

The third quarter was another evenly matched one which saw the

visiting Ringnecks cut the Blue Jays' lead to 31-27 with time running out. Senior post Blake Wolf gave Norton some momentum for the fourth quarter when he hit a basket at the buzzer to give the Blue Jays a 33-27 advantage. Wolf also hit another basket earlier in the third quarter and senior forward Nic Lewis got on the scoreboard for the first time in the game with three baskets and a free throw. Hill City edged Norton 12-11 in the third stanza.

The fourth quarter belonged to Norton as the Blue Jays outscored the Ringnecks 18-13. Eleven of Norton's fourth quarter points came from the free throw line.. Kats buried another three-point try and hit four free throws. Lewis hit a basket and charity. Cox and senior guard Brian Juenemann each hit three free throws and Engelbert hit a two-point basket.

"This was a good win for us because Hill City is a good team," said coach Reusink. "They are well coached and make you do things right or you pay.

"We played good defense the entire game and hit our free throws down the stretch. Our three-point shooting made them change defenses from a zone to a man-to-man and that helped."

Leading scorer for Norton was Kats, who continued to shoot very well. He hit 2 of 3 from long-range for 67 percent, 3 of 7 two-point shots for 43 percent and 5 of 10 overall for 50 percent. From the free throw line he was 4 of 6 for 67

percent and finished with 16 points.

Lewis was the Blue Jays' only other double figure scorer. After failing to score in the first half, Lewis hit 10 points after intermission. He was 4 of 6 from the field for 67 percent and 2 of 8 from the free throw line for 25 percent.

Alex VanLoenen led Hill City with 12 points and David Gerstner added 11.

As a team, the Blue Jays ripped the nylons on 5 of 12 three-point attempts for an excellent 42 percent, swished 11 of 25 two-point tries for 44 percent and connected on 16 of 37 overall for 43 percent.

The Ringnecks hit 4 of 7 from beyond the arc for an outstanding 58 percent but only 8 of 22 two-point shots for 36 percent. Hill City was 12 of 29 overall for 41 percent accuracy.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 14 of 24 for 58 percent and Hill City connected on 12 of 21 for 57 percent..

The Blue Jays pulled down 9 offensive and 15 defensive rebounds for 24 total. Norton limited Hill City to just 5 offensive boards and 12 defensive for 17 total.

Lewis was the rebounding leader for Norton with 8, followed by Georgeson, 4; Engelbert, Kats, Juenemann, 3 each; Wolf, 2; Cox, 1.

Norton had 10 steals. Georgeson and Lewis led with 3 thefts, followed by Kats, 2; Juenemann, Wolf, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 12 assists.

Juenemann was the leader with 5, followed by Kats, 3; Engelbert, Georgeson, 2 each.

Norton suffered 12 turnovers and Hill City lost the ball 13 times.

Lewis blocked 2 Hill City shots.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity lost to Hill City by a 44-26 score.

Norton led 5-4 after one quarter but trailed 21-15 at halftime. Both teams scored 4 points in the third quarter to make it a 25-19 game. Hill City outscored the young Blue Jays 19-7 in the fourth period.

Jared Cox, Zac Dreher and Preston Herman led Norton with 6 points each. Landon Hamel scored 4 and Zach Dole and Ashton Draper hit 2 each.

Breese led Hill City with 12.

Next action

Norton will play at Oberlin this evening. Games will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the girls varsity and boys junior varsity games. They will be followed by the boys varsity and girls junior varsity contests.

BOX SCORE:

Norton Boys 51
Jared Engelbert 11 2-27; Logan Kats 3 2-4 6 16; Brian Juenemann 0 0 3-4 3; Blake Wolf 2 0 0-0 4; Jared Cox 0 1 3-4 6; Wes Georgeson 1 1 0-0 5; Nic Lewis 4 0 2-8 10; Total 11 5 14-24 51.

Hill City Boys 40

David Gerstner 1 2 3-6 11; Alex VanLoenen 3 2 0-0 12; Zach Thompson 2 0 3-6 7; Tane Brown 1 0 4-5 6; Brady Jeffery 1 0 1-2 3; Dylan Vap 0 0 1-2 1; Total 8 4 12-21 40.

Northern Valley ladies pick up win

By TOM DREILING

You win some and you lose some.

In the case of the Northern Valley Huskies, the girls claimed a victory at Bertrand last Friday night, while the boys weren't as fortunate.

Then at home against Golden Plains on Saturday, neither team was able to pocket a "W."

Girls (45) vs. Bertrand (41)

The Huskies held a 4-point 13-9 lead at the end of the first quarter. When the buzzer sounded intermission, the Huskies were still on top, 27-23. A 9-point third quarter by Bertrand vs. 7 for the Huskies, closed the margin to just two, 34-32. In the fourth quarter, Northern Valley maintained the edge, 11-9 to assure the victory.

Kelli Cole with 14, Alison Cole with 13 and Jena Jessup with 10 led the charge.

Box Score

Northern Valley 45
Alison Cole 6 0 5-1 13; Kelli Cole 3 2 4-2 14; Andrea Lowry 1 0 3-1 3; Kelsey Kinderknecht 0 0 2-1 1; Jena Jessup 2 2 2-0 10; Jessica Largent 2 0 2-0 4. Totals: 14 4 18-5 45

Bertrand 41

K. Seacrest 2 1 0-0 7; J. Dannehl 1 0 1-1 3; J. Tacha 2 0 2-0 4; Am. High 1 2 0-0 8; T. Tacha 1 1 2-2 7; Al. High 3 0 1-0 6; R. Ford 2 0 4-

2 6. Totals: 12 4 10-5 41

Boys (44) vs. Bertrand (95)

The Huskies trailed throughout, 27-13 after the opening frame, 42-21 at the half, and 77-38 going into the final quarter.

Henry Griffiths paved the way for the Huskies with 24 points.

Box Score

Northern Valley 44
Ethan Hays 2 0 0-0 4; Bryce Marble 2 0 0-0 4; Drew Britt 1 0 1-0 2; Henry Griffiths 7 2 8-4 24; TJ Siard 2 2 0-0 10. Totals 14 4 9-4 44.

Bertrand 95

(Box score unavailable)

Girls (40) vs. Golden Plains (53)

It was a bad first quarter that spelled defeat for the Lady Huskies, as they managed only 2 points while Golden Plains poked through 12.

In the second frame, Northern Valley hit for 15 points while the visitors drained 19.

The third period found the Huskies scoring 16 while holding Golden Plains to 10.

The final frame found the Huskies scoring 7 and Golden Plains 12.

Top scorer for Northern Valley was Kelli Cole with 13.

Box Score

Northern Valley 40

A. Cole 2 0 2-0 4; M. Cole 0 1 0-0 3; K. Cole 1 3 2-2 13; A. Lowry 1 2 0-0 8; J. Jessup 0 2 2-2 8; J. Largent 2 0 0-0 4. Totals: 6 8 6-4 40

Golden Plains 53

I. Vargas 1 0 0-0 2; K. Spresser 5 1 6-6 19; R. Rall 1 0 0-0 2; B. Ritter 3 0 4-4 10; Karly Spresser 2 3 4-3 16; L. Staats 0 0 2-2 2; A. Lobato 0 0 2-2 2. Totals: 12 4 18-17 53

Boys (33) vs. Golden Plains 93

It was another decisive loss for the Northern Valley boys at home. The Huskies trailed 25-10 at the end of the first quarter; 54-16 at the half; and 85-22 at the end of the third frame.

None of the Husky players scored in double figures.

Box Score

Northern Valley 33
Kersch 3 0 2-1 7; T. Hammond 1 0 0-0 2; D. Britt 1 0 3-2 4; J. Griffiths 1 0 0-0 2; J. Lee 2 0 0-0 4; TJ Siard 3 0 2-1 7; D. Eagleburger 2 1 0-0 7. Totals: 13 1 7-4 33

Golden Plains 93

T. Moss 0 0 2-2 2; I. Broeckelman 1 0 0-0 2; Bruggeman 8 0 6-3 19; Rogers 3 3 1-1 16; A. Bruggeman 9 0 3-1 19; Brantley 1 3 0-0 11; A. Broeckelman 4 0 2-2 10; B. Spresser 6 0 2-2 14. Totals: 32 6 16-11 93

Booster Club meets Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, boys basketball coach Doug Reusink and girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka will report on their team's latest competition and preview upcoming contests.

All fans of Norton Community High sports are invited.

Telegram SportsLine: (785) 877-3361