

'Gold' opening for Blue Jay wrestlers

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team opened the 2007-'08 season on Saturday by winning their fifth straight championship of the Hoxie Invitational Tournament.

The Blue Jays ran away with the championship, outscoring second place Oakley by 82 points. Norton totaled 226 points, followed by Oakley, 144; Plainville, 111; Oberlin, 95; Hoxie, 74; Trego, 59; Holcomb, 58. Lakin was scheduled to compete but did not due to inclement weather conditions in their area.

Coach Johnson's wrestlers compiled an impressive win-loss record of 27-12 and had an exceptional 20-3 pin ratio. Every Norton wrestler placed in the tournament. Six of the Blue Jays won individual championships, two placed second, three finished third and three placed fourth.

Norton champions were: freshman Troy Bainter, 103; freshman Billy Broeckelman, 112; junior Zach Bainter, 135; senior Todd Bolt, 140; senior Jeff Soderlund, 152 and senior Alex Thomas, 285.

Sophomore Connor Pfannenstiel, 125 and sophomore Zane Perez, 130, each placed second.

Winning third in their weight classes were: junior Matt Stanley, junior Jordan Bebb and sophomore Robert Derauf.

Placing fourth were freshman Landon Keiswetter, 119; senior Aaron Husted, 145 and sophomore Tyler Cook, 189.

Coach Johnson named Jeff Soderlund and Jordan Bebb "Co-Wrestlers of the Week."

"We are really young right now and we are not in very good physical condition; we have a lot of freshmen and sophomores in the lineup," said coach Johnson.

"It's a learning experience. We were ahead in quite a few matches and got beat due to lack of experience.

"With a few exceptions, we have to get physically tougher. When the going gets tough, we have to step up, respond and fight back. We wrestled like we've been practicing. Our intensity is not the best right now. Hopefully, we can improve on that.

"We'll have to perform a lot better in the Clay Center tournament. There will be a lot of tough teams there."

Dan Weigel, Plainville, the 119 pound champion, won the "Outstanding Wrestler" award for the tournament by vote of the team coaches.

Individual results

Troy Bainter won a three-man round robin at 103 pounds. He pinned Jarvis Jarnagin, Holcomb, in 37 seconds of the first period

and won an 11-2 major decision over Cole Werner, Plainville, to win the gold medal.

Werner pinned Jarnagin in 50 seconds of the first period to place second.

Freshmen are not seeded but Billy Broeckelman wrestled as the No.3 seed at 112. He pinned Ruben Sherwood in 1:59 of the first period, won an 18-0 technical fall over Nolan Peters, Oberlin, then pinned Andrew Peterson, Oakley, in 3:35 of their championship match.

No.1 seed Devon Schneider, Plainville, placed third with a 15-4 major decision over Peters.

Landon Keiswetter was seeded No.4 at 119. He pinned No.5 seed Ehtan Ghumm, Trego, in 18 seconds; lost an 8-0 major decision to No.1 seed Jace Campbell, Oakley; pinned Chris Heim, Hoxie, in 14 seconds, then lost 5-3 to No.3 seed Troy Krehbiel, Holcomb, to place fourth.

No.2 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville, edged Campbell 8-7 for the championship.

At 125 pounds, Connor Pfannenstiel was seeded No.2. He drew a first round bye, then outscored Carson McMullen, Plainville, 12-4. In the championship match, he was decisioned 7-1 by No.1 seed Steven Samuelson, Oakley, to place second.

No.3 seed Matt Amos, Holcomb, decisioned McMullen 10-9 to place third.

Zane Perez was seeded No.1 at 130. He drew a first round bye, then decisioned No.4 seed Wiley Farr, Oberlin, 9-3. In the championship match, he was leading No.2 seed D.J. Brown, Plainville, when he got out of position and was taken down to the mat and pinned with just 13 seconds left in the match.

No.3 seed Michael Halbleib, Oakley, placed third with a 4-2 decision over Farr.

At 135, Zach Bainter was seeded No.1. He pinned Nick Stegman, Holcomb, in his first round match and won a 19-2 technical fall over No.4 seed Kevin Moss, Hoxie, in the semi-finals. He completely dominated No.2 seed Travis Bird, Plainville, in the championship finals, winning a 17-3 major decision.

No.3 seed Andrew Richards, Oberlin, placed third with a 7-5 decision over Moss.

Todd Bolt was seeded No.2 at 140. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.3 seed Brad Halbleib, Oakley, in 3:51 of their semi-finals match. In the championship finals, he wrestled No.1 seed Heath Maley, Trego, and edged him 11-10 in an exciting match to win the gold medal.

Halbleib placed third with a 6-3 decision over Levi Koehn, Holcomb, whom he had decisioned 8-2 in the first round.

At 145, Aaron Husted was seeded No.1 and drew a first round bye. In the semi-finals, he lost a 5-4 decision to No.4 seed Josh Darnell, Plainville. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Clayton Schamberger, Hoxie, in 3:06. He was ill and unable to compete for third place so defaulted to No.2 seed Jarrett Stanton, Holcomb.

No.3 seed Everitt Urban, Oberlin, shutout Darnell 3-0 to win the championship.

Jeff Soderlund was seeded No.2 at 152. In the first round, he pinned Cody Stewart, Oakley, in 57 seconds, then pinned No.3 seed Kevin Chalmers, Holcomb, in 30 seconds of their semi-finals match. Jeff placed fourth in the state tournament last season and No.1 seed Gage Reichert, Oberlin, also placed fourth in a different weight class. The two met in the championship finals and Jeff dominated him, winning a 12-4 major decision and the gold medal.

Stewart placed third by pinning Chalmers in 51 seconds.

At 160, Matt Stanley was seeded No.3. He drew a first round bye, then lost a 9-7 decision to No.2 seed Clayton Rall, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.4 seed Josh Plante, Plainville, in 1:35, then pinned Ace Manning, Oberlin, in 3:22 to place third.

No.1 seed Kelly Younkin, Oakley, shutout Rall 7-0 to win the championship.

Jordan Bebb was seeded No.4 at 171. He pinned Dayton Crist, Holcomb, in 52 seconds of the first period in their first round match, then lost a 5-4 decision in overtime to No.1 seed Quinn Aumiller, Hoxie. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Nathan Simonsson, Oberlin, in 1:59, then pinned Jon James, Trego, in 2:38 to place third.

Aumiller pinned No.2 seed Ethan Jirak, Oakley, in 1:57 to win the championship.

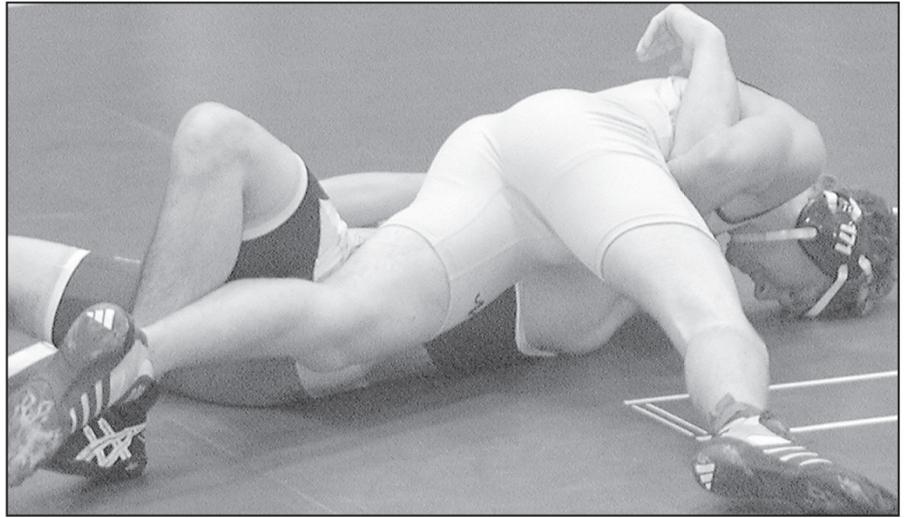
Tyler Cook wrestled at 189 pounds in a four-man round robin. He lost an 18-2 technical fall to Jared Marcusson, Oberlin; was pinned in 34 seconds by Matt Dietz, Trego and lost a 9-8 decision to Danny Baker, Hoxie, to place fourth.

Marcusson won an 8-0 decision over Baker and pinned Dietz in 40 seconds to win the gold medal.

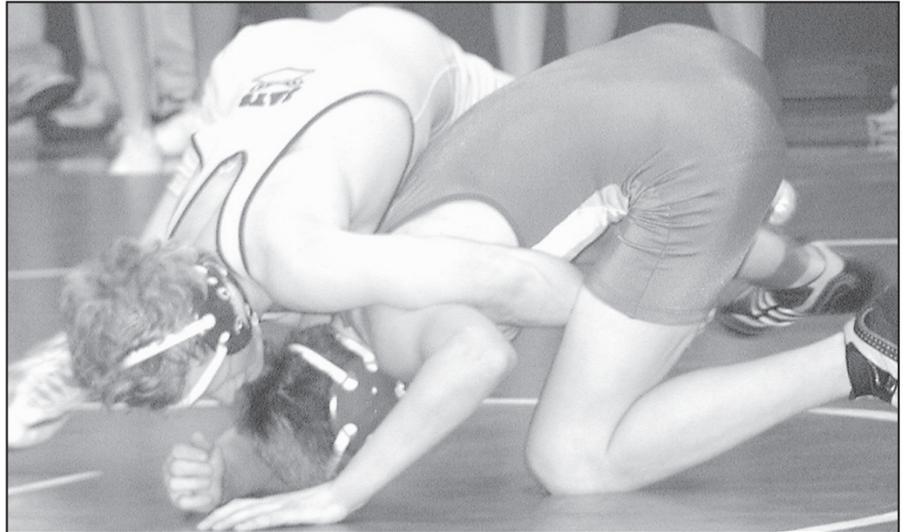
Robert Derauf lost a 7-5 decision to No.2 seed Taylor Dirks, Trego, in the first round of the 215 pound weight class. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.4 seed Coulton Newell, Holcomb, in 43 seconds, then decisioned No.3 seed Cody Pope, Hoxie, 4-2 to place third.

No.1 seed Aaron Racette, Oakley, won the championship by pinning Dirks in 53 seconds.

At 285, Alex Thomas was seeded No.1. He drew a first round bye, then pinned No.4 seed William



Junior Jordan Bebb, who pinned three different wrestlers at 171-lbs. in the Hoxie Invitational, is shown here pinning Jon James of Trego, to place third. Coach Johnson named Bebb "Co-Wrestler of the Week."
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Senior Jeff Soderlund won the battle between two fourth-place finishers at different weights in last year's state tournament when he wrestled Gage Reichert., Oberlin, for the 152-lb. Championship in the Hoxie Invitational. Soderlund is shown here winning a 12-4 major decision over Reichert. Coach Johnson named Soderlund "Co-Wrestler of the Week."
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Hendrickson, Trego, in 1:11. In the championship finals, he pinned Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, in 1:12 to win the gold medal.

No.2 seed Zach Riggs, Oakley, placed third with a 7-2 decision over No.3 seed Colt Deiderich, Oberlin.

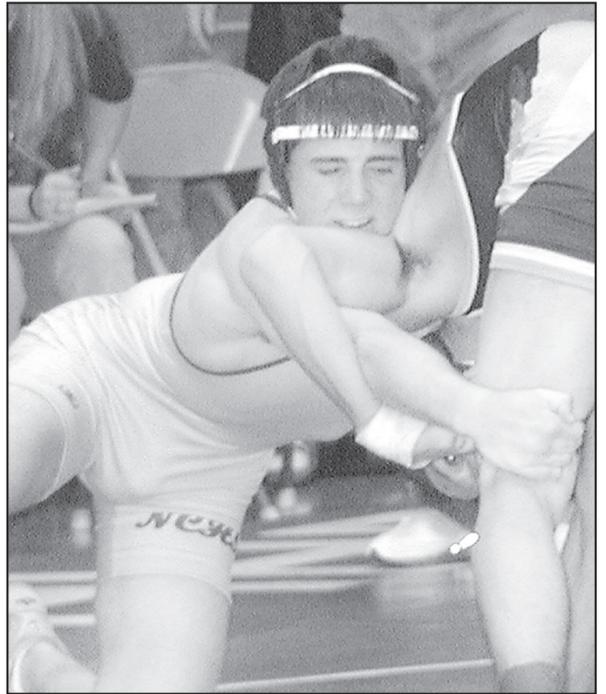
Next action

The Norton varsity wrestlers' next competition will be Saturday in the 46th annual Clay Center Invitational Wrestling Tournament, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

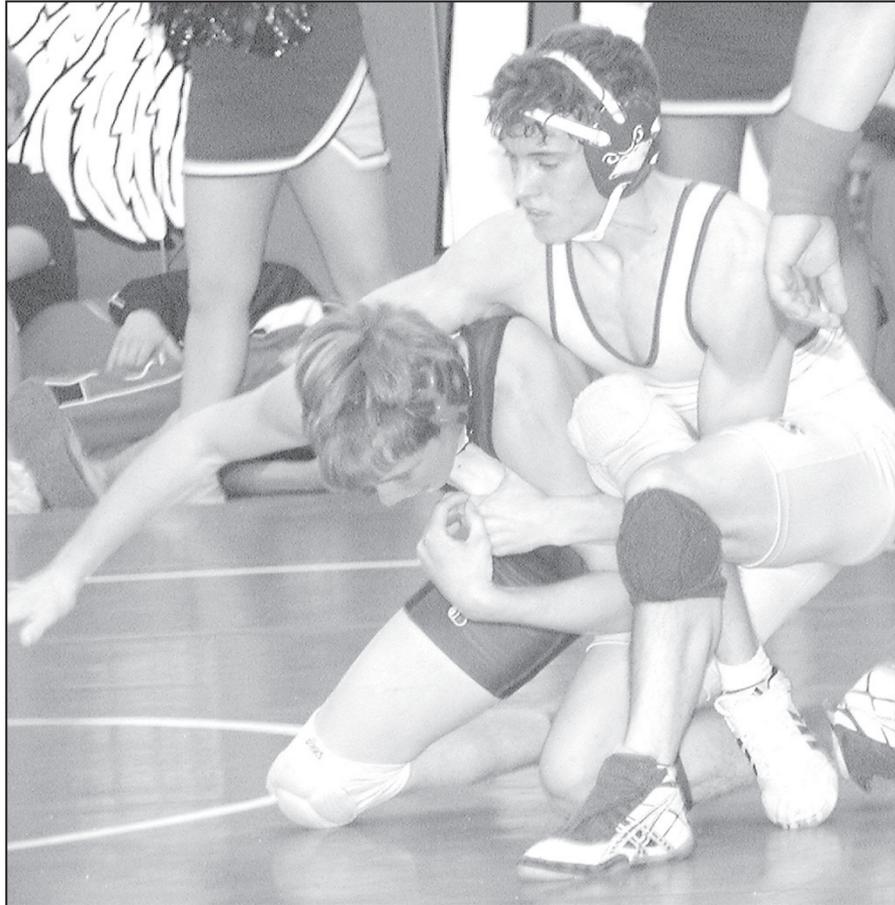
Competing, in addition to Norton and Clay Center, will be teams from Andale, Beloit, Ellsworth, Junction City, Salina Central, Salina South, Topeka-Seaman and Wamego.

The Norton junior varsity wrestlers were scheduled to open their season last Saturday in the varsity tournament at Alma but it was postponed due to inclement weather. At press time, the new date for the tournament had not been set.

The Blue Jay junior varsity wrestlers are scheduled to compete Friday in the Southern Valley Varsity Tournament at Oxford, beginning at 3:30 p.m.



Senior Todd Bolt applied pressure to Heath Maley of Trego in their hard fought 140-lb. Championship match at Hoxie. No. 2 seed Bolt edged No 1 seed Maley 11-10 to win the gold medal.
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



Junior Zach Bainter was the No. 1 seed at 135-lbs. In the Hoxie Invitational and proved the accuracy of his seeding by dominating No. 2 seed Travis bird, Plainville, during a 17-3 major decision to win the championship.
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Local basketball preview page 9

High School Sports This Week



Norton
Blue Jays



Northern Valley
Huskies



Logan
Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton Junior Varsity in Southern Valley Invitational (in Oxford)..... 3:30 p.m. Friday
Norton Varsity in Clay Center Invitational (in Clay Center)..... 9:30 a.m., Saturday

BASKETBALL:

Norton Boys vs. Skyline in Topside Tip-Off Tournament5 p.m., Thursday. (in Goodland)
Norton Girls vs. Goodland in Topside Tip-Off Tournament..... 7 p.m., Thursday in Goodland
Norton Girls and Boys in Topside Tip-Off Tournament TBA Friday, Saturday
Northern Valley Girls vs. Trego Community in Purple and Gold Tournament 4 p.m., Today (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley Boys vs. Trego Community in Purple and Gold Tournament 5:45 p.m., Today (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley Girls vs. Victoria in Purple and Gold Tournament 7:30 p.m., Friday (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley Boys vs. Victoria in Purple and Gold Tournament 9:15 p.m., Friday (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley Girls vs. Western Plains in Purple & Gold Tournament 4 p.m., Saturday (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley Boys vs. Western Plains in Purple and Gold Tournament 5:45 p.m., Saturday (in WaKeeney)
Northern Valley vs. Smith Center (in Alma).....4 p.m., Tuesday
Norton Girls and Boys vs. Stockton in Round Robin (in Phillipsburg)..... 4 p.m., Today
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Plainville in Round Robin (in Phillipsburg)..... 4 p.m., Friday
Logan Girls and Boys vs. Phillipsburg in Round Robin (in Phillipsburg). 3 p.m., Saturday