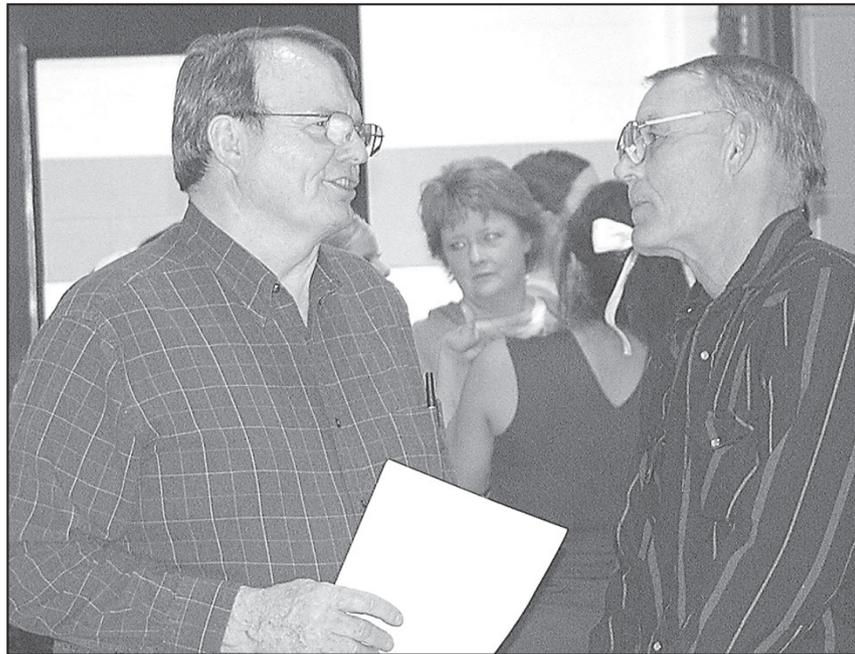


Recalling the past



Two former Norton state wrestling champions, Alvin Bird, left, and Quentin Horning visit about the old times following the "wrestling excellence" ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament in the Stull Gymnasium on Saturday. Bird, who now lives in Winfield, was state champion at 154 pounds in 1959 on the Blue Jays' first state title team under coach Jake Durham. Horning resides in Mulvane and was state champion on the third place 1969 team at 138 pounds.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Past tourney medalists honored

By DICK BOYD

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Former Norton Blue Jay state wrestling medal winners from 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989 and 1999 were honored during ceremonies at the J.R. Durham Invitational Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in the Stull Gymnasium in Norton.

Each honored wrestler received a "Certificate of Wrestling Excellence" and congratulatory handshake from Norton Community High School Activities Director Jeff Wallingford.

Current Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson began to recognize the "Norton Wrestling Tradition" during his first year in 1992. Since that time, 313 Norton state wrestling medalists have been honored.

Norton's 1939 team placed tenth in the state tournament. Everett Amos Mason placed second from that team at 103 but is deceased.

The Blue Jay 1949 team placed seventh in the state. Members who would have been honored had they been present were: Don Strevey, first, 165, Omaha, Neb. and Dwight Johnson, third, 154, Minneapolis, Minn. Another medal winner from that team, Harold Waufle, third, 120, is deceased. Their coach Paul Casper is also deceased.

The 1959 Norton wrestling team was the first of six state championship teams coached by J.R. "Jake" Durham. Present from that team was Alvin Bird, Winfield, who was the champion at 154 pounds.

Other state medalists from that

team who could not be present were: Rex Stephenson, second, 95, Seal Rock, Ore.; Larry Taylor, second, 103, Perryton, Tex.; Jim Kent, second, 127, Saint Joe, Ark.; Bob Balinger, third, 133, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

Coach Durham's 1969 team placed third in the state in Class 3-2-1A. Present to be honored Saturday night was Quentin Horning, Mulvane, state champion at 138 pounds. Quentin was a three-time state champion for the Blue Jays and runner-up as a freshman.

Tom Ankenman, third at 112, Hutchinson, was unable to be present but coach Durham accepted the certificate of excellence for him. Other team medalists who could not be present were: Roger Fisher, champion, 95, Jamestown, N.D. and Ralph Hackney, third, 165, Hays.

The 1979 Blue Jay wrestling team was also coached by Jake Durham and placed second in the state in Class 4A. Kyle Hahn, state champion, 119, Ness City and James Durham, second, 145, Kansas City, Ks. were present to accept their awards. Mike Ray, state champion, 132, Springfield, Va., was not present but his certificate was accepted by his niece Amanda Ray. Kurt Hahn, third, 98, Wichita, was not present but Fig Millan accepted his certificate. Mike Jimenez, third, 155, Fresno, Calif., and J.D. Higgason, third, 105, Kansas City, Mo., were unable to be present.

Norton's 1989 team had two state medalists and was coach Durham's final Blue Jay team after a very successful 33 year career. Chris Harting, third, 171, Norton

and Kendall Hahn, fourth, 130, Omaha, were the medalists. Chris was present to receive his certificate and Kendall's father, Dick Hahn, accepted his certificate.

The Blue Jay 1999 team was coached by Bill Johnson and had two state placers. J.B. Harding, state champion, 103, Hays and Shawn O'Toole, third, 112, Carrollton, Ga. J.B. was present to accept his certificate. Shawn is currently stationed in Iraq and his brother, Ryan O'Toole, accepted his certificate.

This was the 44th annual wrestling tournament held in Norton and the 12th annual Durham tournament. It was renamed 11 years ago in honor of J.R. "Jake" Durham of Norton.

Jake's honors include membership in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and Kansas High School Wrestling Hall of Fame. Jake and his wife, Ruth, still reside in Norton.

Post-tournament reception
Following Norton's sixth straight Durham Tournament team championship on Saturday, honorees, Norton wrestlers and fans were invited to a reception for the state medalists in the high school cafeteria.

In addition to enjoying refreshments, those present received valuable words of wisdom and interesting Norton wrestling scenarios from the past from former state champions Alvin Bird and Quentin Horning, coaches Jake Durham and Bill Johnson and others. Saturday was a great day for Norton Community High School wrestling and the continuance of its long, rich tradition!

Busy week for Blue Jay wrestlers

By DICK BOYD

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This will be a busy week for the Norton Community High School wrestling team.

On Thursday, they will host Mid-Continent League duals with Trego Community and Smith Center in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

The first dual will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature Norton versus Trego, followed by Trego versus Smith Center and Norton versus Smith Center.

Tournament of Champions
On Friday and Saturday, Norton will compete in the prestigious 46th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton.

Teams in addition to Norton and Newton competing will be Ark City, Bishop Carroll, Campus, Clay Center, Colby, Derby, Dodge City, Emporia, Gardner-Edgerton, Hutchinson, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Liberal, Maize, Manhattan, McPherson, Mill Valley, Salina South, Shawnee Mission West, Wichita East, Wichita Heights and Wichita Northwest.

Norton is the smallest enrollment school to ever win the Newton tournament championship.

The Blue Jays won the team title in 2005 and 2006 and did not compete in 2007 due to inclement weather. Last season, Norton finished ninth as a team.

Wrestling will begin at 11:15 a.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for students K-12 per session. A two-day adult ticket is \$12 and two-day children's ticket is \$8.

Junior varsity to Elm Creek
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.

Entered, in addition to the Elm Creek varsity and Norton junior varsity, will be varsity teams from Alma, Arapahoe, Overton and Pleasanton and junior varsity teams from Burwell, Cozad, Gibbon, Holdrege, Lexington and Southern Valley.

Two team trophies will be presented along with four individual medals in each weight division.

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

Lady Jays win key game

By DICK BOYD

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Coach Kevin Jilka's Norton Community High School girls basketball team won a key Mid-Continent League road game on Friday night when they outscored Osborne 55-43.

The Lady Jays got big scoring nights from Laura Lee Baird on the perimeter and Hayli Bozarth inside and played well enough defensively to hold down the Lady Bulldogs' offense.

Baird hit four baskets from long range and ended with 14 points and Bozarth swished 10 baskets in the paint and totaled 26 points for the night.

Norton outscored Osborne 13-7 in the first quarter when Bozarth hit two baskets and two free throws, Baird buried her first trey of the night and Ashlie Stewart and Lacey Wallingford each hit a two-point basket.

The Lady Jays outscored the Lady Bulldogs by just 9-7 in the second quarter but were up 22-14 at intermission. Bozarth put in two more baskets, Baird swished another shot from long range and Taylor Rossi and Stewart each connected on a free throw.

With Bozarth leading the way with four baskets and three charity tosses for 11 points, Norton outscored Osborne 16 to 12 in the third quarter to extend the lead to 38-26. Amanda Ray and Baird each hit a basket and Rossi connected on another charity toss.

Osborne tried to rally in the fourth period as the Lady Bulldogs scored 17 points but the Lady Jays matched them with 17 of their own to maintain the 12 point advantage. Baird hit two more shots from beyond the arc, Wallingford swished two two-point attempts, Rossi connected on two more charity tosses and Bozarth hit two more baskets and a free throw.

"No question, this was a big win for us," said coach Jilka. "Our offensive execution was great all

night long. We had great patience all night.

"Defensively, we played well all night. At times, we did not rebound very well and we need to improve in that area.

"Our zone defense was good in the second quarter for a change of pace and kept us out of foul trouble.

"Our girls need to keep working hard and trying to get better and not become complacent and we know they will.

"Going to Trego on Friday will be a tough game and we need to keep our concentration and play one game at a time."

Bozarth hit 10 of 16 shots for 63 percent accuracy and was 6 of 10 from the free throw line for 60 percent. Baird hit 4 of 8 from beyond the arc for 50 percent, 1 of 4 two-point tries for 25 percent and 5 of 12 overall for 42 percent.

E. Girard led Osborne in scoring with 13 points and P. Noel tallied 11.

As a team, Norton connected on 4 of 14 from long range for 29 percent, 16 of 35 two-point tries for 46 percent and 20 of 49 overall for 41 percent.

Osborne hit 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent, 13 of 31 two-point attempts for 42 percent and 15 of 39 overall for 38 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton connected on 11 of 19 for 58 percent and Osborne found the range on 11 of 18 for 61 percent.

Both teams had 22 rebounds. Norton pulled down 9 offensive and 13 defensive caroms and Osborne grabbed 7 offensive and 15 defensive boards.

Wallingford and Bozarth led Norton in rebounds with 5 each, followed by Katharine Roy, Rossi, 4 each; Ray, 3; Baird, 1.

The Lady Jays stole the basketball from the Lady Bulldogs 15 times. Bozarth had 7 thefts, Baird had 5 and Wallingford, Roy and Stewart each had 1. Osborne had

11 steals.

Norton had 16 assists and Osborne had 8. Rossi was assists leader with 6, followed by Baird, 5; Bozarth, 2; Wallingford, Roy, Stewart, 1 each.

The Lady Jays had 20 turnovers but their aggressive defense caused the Lady Bulldogs to give up the ball 30 times!

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity quintet did not fare as well as the varsity, losing 36-27.

The young Lady Jays trailed by quarters 11-2, 24-10 and 31-17.

Kaitlyn Wolf led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by Erin Terrell, 8; Dustyna Sprigg, 5; Sady Keilig, Kendra Engelbert, 2 each.

K. Wolters led Osborne with 11.

"We were horrible tonight," said Norton assistant coach George Rossi. "We had no heart or desire. The sad thing is I know we are a much better team than we were tonight."

"Part of the problem is we don't practice with intensity and that is my fault. That will be corrected."

Next action

Norton will travel to WaKeeney to play Trego Community in Mid-Continent League action on Friday.

Varsity, junior varsity and girls C-team games will be played, beginning at 4 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Girls

Lacey Wallingford 3 0 0-1 6; Taylor Rossi 0 0 4-6 4; Ashlie Stewart 1 0 1-2 3; Laura Lee Baird 1 4 0-1 4; Hayli Bozarth 10 6-10 26; Amanda Ray 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 16 4 11-19 55.

Osborne Girls

M. Burch 1 0 0-0 2; J. Wolters 0 0 1-2 1; S. Plowman 2 0 0-0 4; P. Noel 2 2 1-1 11; A. Cady 1 0 0-0 2; E. Girard 4 0 5-8 13; K. Wolters 1 0 0-0 2; B. Nichols 1 0 4-6 6; J. Sturgeon 1 0 0-1 2; Game Totals 13 2 11-18 43.

Jay boys lose by a point

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team lost a close game for the second straight time Friday night when they traveled to Osborne for their first Mid-Continent League game of the season and lost 51-50.

On Tuesday in Norton, the Blue Jays battled Oberlin and came within three points of the Red Devils before losing by five.

Friday night, the Blue Jays led after one quarter and were outscored in the second and third quarters before a fourth quarter rally that fell one point short.

Norton has only three returning lettermen, none of whom were starters last season, so the players are gaining experience as they go. At this point in the season, the inexperience is still causing some problems.

"I was very disappointed in how we played in this game," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink.

"We panicked all night on the offensive end and never had any defensive consistency.

"We must get better leadership out of our upper classmen and consistency in our overall play to have a chance to win some ball games."

The Blue Jays outscored the Bulldogs 9-8 in the first quarter. Zac Dreher hit two baskets and a free throw, J.D. Gall buried a three-point shot and Jordan Wahlmeier also hit a charity for Norton's points.

Norton was outscored 13-8 in the second period to make the score 21-17 in favor of the Bulldogs. Zac Dreher hit Norton's only two field goals in the quarter. Landon Hamel swished two free throws for his only points of the first half and Dakota Dreher and Wahlmeier each connected on one charity.

After intermission, Norton had a better scoring quarter when the Jays hit 12 points but Osborne

tallied 17 to extend their lead to 38-29. Ashton Draper hit his first basket of the game plus two free throws and Dakota Dreher, Wahlmeier, Hamel and Zac Dreher each hit a field goal.

Hamel led the Blue Jays' fourth quarter rally with three two-point baskets, one from long range and a free throw for 10 of Norton's final 21 points. Draper hit the Blue Jays' only other field goal in the fourth stanza along with two charity tosses. All of Norton's other points came on free throws. Zac Dreher and Gall each hit three charities and Tye Nickell one.

Hamel and Zac Dreher led Norton in scoring with 14 points each. Dreher hit 5 of 8 shots from the field for 63 percent accuracy and 4 of 7 free throws for 57 percent. Hamel swished 1 of 1 from long range, 4 of 10 two-point tries for 40 percent and was 5 of 11 overall for 46 percent. He also hit 3 of 5 charity tosses for 60 percent.

Steven Mick led Osborne with 21 points and was the Bulldogs' only double figure scorer.

As a team, Norton hit 2 of 9 from beyond the arc for 22 percent, 13 of 28 from two-point land for 46 percent and 15 of 37 overall for 41 percent.

Osborne connected on 1 of 2 long range shots for 50 percent, 19 of 36 two-point tries for 53 percent and 20 of 38 overall for 53 percent.

Norton hit 18 of 30 free throws for 60 percent compared to 10 of 18 by Osborne for 56 percent.

The Blue Jays outrebounded the Bulldogs 30-25. Norton pulled down 10 offensive and 20 defensive boards compared to 7 offensive and 18 defensive caroms for Osborne.

Zac Dreher was leading rebounder for Norton with 9 caroms, followed by Draper, 8; Gall, 5; Wahlmeier, Dakota Dreher, 4 each.

Norton had 10 steals compared to 9 for Osborne. Hamel led Nor-

ton with 4 thefts, followed by Wahlmeier, Draper, Luke Ninemire, Gall, Marcus Herman, Zac Dreher, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 15 offensive assists and the Bulldogs had 14. Norton's assists leader was Gall with 5, followed by Hamel, 4; Draper, 3; Dakota Dreher, Ninemire, Zac Dreher, 1 each.

Norton had 22 turnovers and Osborne lost the ball 21 times.

Zac Dreher blocked 2 shots and Wahlmeier 1.

Junior varsity

The Norton junior varsity defeated Osborne 26-25.

Osborne led by quarters 8-5, 11-8 and 19-11 but the young Blue Jays outscored the young Bulldogs 15-6 in the fourth quarter to rally for the victory.

Jordan Wahlmeier and Tye Nickell led Norton in scoring with 7 points each, followed by Dillon McConney, 4; Zach Hartwell, 3; Luke Ninemire, Marcus Herman, 2 each; Cole Archer, 1.

JaKob DeMars and Jon Eickenberg each scored 6 points for Osborne.

Next action

Norton will travel to WaKeeney to play Trego Community in Mid-Continent League action on Friday.

Varsity, junior varsity and girls C-team games will be played, beginning at 4 p.m.

BOX SCORE

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 1 0 1-3 3; Jordan Wahlmeier 1 0 2-4 4; Ashton Draper 2 0 4-8; Tyle Nickell 0 0 1-2 1; Landon Hamel 4 1 3-5 14; J.D. Gall 0 1 3-4 6; Marcus Herman 0 0 0-1 0; Zac Dreher 5 0 4-7 14; Game Totals 13 2 18-50.

Osborne Boys

Steven Mick 8 1 2-2 21; Jakob DeMars 2 0 0-0 4; Nathan Mick 2 0 2-6 6; Jon Eickenberg 4 0 1-4 9; Joe Sumpler 1 0 4-5 6; Seth Conway 0 0 1-1 1; Travis Godfrey 2 0 0-0 4; Game Totals 19 1 10-18 51.

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