

Northern Valley Ladies win league tourney

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies won the Cheyenne Conference Tournament by picking up wins over Western Plains, 62-40; Thunder Ridge 58-38; and Ness City 64-30.

Here is the rundown:
Western Plains
 Coach Chuck Zimmerman put it this way:
 "Oh what a difference putting the orange ball through the round cylinder makes in this sport. The Lady Huskies had only been averaging around 25 percent from the field the past 4 games in which we lost 3. This week in the conference tournament we averaged 49 percent and won all three to claim the title.

"We started the tournament off against Western Plains. Now, the Bobcats may not have a very good record but that doesn't seem to bother them as they scored the most points off of us in the tournament and were a thorn in our sides last year as they just don't go away. We did defeat them, 62-40, but they battled the whole way and made us earn every point.
 "Our deflect leader was Megan Cole who bothered the Bobcat guards and touched 5 followed by Brittney Braun and Katie Stillion with 3 each. Steals were then taken by M Cole with 7 while Staci Dole took 4. Rebounds — we have been doing a better job of rebounding as we have been winning the 'war

of the boards' which, coupled with a better shooting percentage pays big dividends. We were led by Christina Anderson with 6 while freshman Katie Stillion raked in 5 while all the others on the team had at least one.
 "Assists were handed out by Anderson as she found 5 teammates open for scores.
 "A good start to a long week."

Scoring: Karen Wenzl 2; Megan Cole 10; Alison Cole 10; Kenzie Chandler 5; Staci Dole 9; Melissa Hawks 0; Christina Anderson 17; Brittney Braun 3; Cassie Field 0; Katie Stillion 6.

Thunder Ridge
 Coach Zimmerman said: "Now, you must understand our schedule is set up so that we do not play any conference teams until the tournament. Scary, for you do not know what to expect especially if they have a new coach which Thunder Ridge (Eastern Heights/Kensington) has. So, we did not know what to expect and they did throw a curve at us early as they ran a man-man defense which surprised us for a moment then we adjusted. [A surprise because this league was basically a zone defense league last season.] We adjusted offensively, we pressed defensively and in the second quarter we scored 24 points to

their 8 to open a lead which was never in doubt the rest of the way as we won 58-38.

"Staci Dole and Alison Cole each got a hand on 3 of the Longhorn passes for deflects, then Brittney Braun, Dole and A Cole each stole 3 balls. Rebounds were grabbed by Braun and Christina Anderson with 7 each while A Cole took 5 off the boards with Megan Cole swiping 4 off the glass.

"Assists were dished out by Anderson with 6 while M Cole found 4 open teammates.

"A good second round game for us that put us into the championship round."

Scoring: Wenzl 4; M. Cole 5; A. Cole 14; Chandler 4; Dole 15; Hawks 1; Anderson 6; Braun 7; Field 0; Stillion 2.

Ness City
 Coach Zimmerman continued: "Ness City? In our conference tournament? Since we only have four schools in our conference (Palco, Logan, Thunder Ridge, Northern Valley), we have invited Western Plains (their new league does not have a league tournament) and Ness City (ditto) to join us to fill out a bracket.
 "So, Ness City is the team we faced in the finals. A team we had already played earlier in the sea-

son at the Trego tournament and defeated but only by five points. In our pre-game talk I told the team we would see which group has improved the most since our last meeting, and I think the score, 64-30, kind of speaks for itself as we played well after we made some adjustments during the first quarter and started pulling away as we again had a very good second quarter as we out scored the Eagles 22-10.

"The main difference in the two contests — 1. Our shooting percentage was much better as the first contest was one of our 24 percent outings compared to this games 49 percent. 2. We out rebounded the taller Eagles (they have 3 that are 5, 10 or better). 3. We attacked the basket better as we drew fouls which helped us two-fold a.) making 18 free throws and b.) put their main players on the bench in foul trouble.

"Our stats were very good in this championship game as the team had 24 total deflects. Again, this is a stat that shows hustle, this is the stat you want to lead in if you want to get more playing time. Leaders for this game Megan Cole and Alison Cole (4 blocked shots) with 7 each while Staci Dole had 5 and Katie Stillion 3.
 "Steals were then taken by

Christina Anderson, M Cole and A Cole with 3 each. Rebounding honors went to M Cole with 8 while Karen Wenzl had 6 with Anderson grabbing 5. Assists were given out by Anderson with 9 and Dole with 5.

"A good week for the Lady Huskies. The win was this group's second straight conference basketball title. Now we go on to conference play where we must prove each night that we are the champions, and, the girls must realize that the other teams will try to prove we are not.

"We want to thank the fans who supported us during the tournament and we hope you continue to follow us as the season now turns to conference play.

"Scoring: Wenzl 4; M. Cole 10; A. Cole 21; Chandler 4; Dole 9; Hawks 0; Anderson 12; Braun 0; Field 0; Stillion 4.

Jayvee wrestlers place 4th in varsity tourney

By **DICK BOYD**
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 The Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers placed fourth in the Elm Creek Invitational on Friday, Jan. 16 in Elm Creek, Neb.
 Five varsity teams were included in the tournament competition.

Elm Creek varsity won the championship with 173 points, followed by Gibbon junior varsity, 165; Arapahoe varsity, 107; Norton junior varsity, 105; Alma varsity, 67; Pleasanton varsity, 53; Holdrege junior varsity, 44; Sargent/Burwell junior varsity, 41; Lexington junior varsity 39; Overton varsity, 19; Southern Valley junior varsity, 3.

Norton entered nine wrestlers and seven of them placed in the tournament.

Individual Norton placings were: R.J. Ellis, 103, second; Colby Poage, 112, second; Justin Waggoner, 125, second; Logan Kelly, 160, third; Casey Robison, 171, third; Jeremy Sproul, 189, second; Jordan Bebb, 215, second.

Also competing unattached were Blue Jays Taylor Gordon, 103 and Andy Nickell, 112.

"We had a great effort by our Blue Jay wrestlers," said Norton assistant coach Shane Miller. "To have just over half of the weights filled and score over 100 points in a varsity dominated tournament is a great feat!"

Justin Waggoner was named Norton's "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

"Justin went 2-1 and placed second in a tough bracket," said coach Miller.

"In his semi-final match, he battled from behind and got a defensive pin on his No.1 seeded opponent from Sargent/Burwell.

"This was Justin's first time to reach the finals in a tournament."

Individual match results

103 - R.J. Ellis was seeded No.6. He pinned No.3 seed Ernie Solorio, Holdrege, in 3:55, then won a 14-11 decision over No.2 seed Cody Cassidy, Sargent/Burwell. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 3:46 by No.1 seed Wyatt Kipp, Arapahoe.

Cassidy placed third by pinning No.4 seed Lucas Cox, Alma, in 1:34.

Norton's Taylor Gordon wrestled unattached. He wrestled Kipp in his first match and was pinned in 1:13. In the consolation bracket, Taylor lost a 5-4 decision to No.5 seed Etan Enochs, Overton.

112 - Colby Poage was seeded No.3. He pinned Katrina Brock, Alma, in 2:40, then pinned No.2 seed Austin Welty, Gibbon, in 3:09. In the championship match, he was pinned in 2:53 by No.1 seed

Derek Stabenow, Elm Creek. Welty placed third with a pin in :19 over No.4 seed Justice Hastings, Arapahoe.

Norton's Andy Nickell wrestled unattached. He wrestled No.1 seed Stabenow in his first match and was pinned in 1:15. In the consolation bracket, he lost an 8-6 decision to No.2 seed Welty.

125 - Justin Waggoner was seeded No.4. He pinned No.5 seed Andrew Benson, Elm Creek, in 1:12, then pinned No.1 seed Boyd Miller, Sargent/Burwell, in 5:18. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 1:58 by No.3 seed Tyler Kautz, Gibbon.

Miller placed third with a 17-12 decision over No.2 seed Mikell Johnston, Alma.

160 - Logan Kelly was seeded No.2. He pinned Jorge Alvidrez, Lexington, in :34, then was pinned in 1:16 by No.3 seed Henry Casteneda, Gibbon. In the consolation bracket, he pinned No.5 seed Colton Long, Alma, in :32, then won a 12-4 major decision over No.4 seed Preston Meier, Overton, to place third.

No.1 seed Nathan Goodner, Elm Creek, won the championship with a fall over Casteneda in :28.

171 - Casey Robison was seeded No.5. He won an 11-7 decision over No.4 seed Alex Torres, Lexington, then was pinned in 1:39 by No.1 seed Josh Arrants, Gibbon. In the consolation bracket, Casey pinned No.3 seed Brady Schneider, Holdrege, in 1:53, then pinned Torres in 4:39 in their second meeting of the day to place third.

Arrants won the championship with a 16-1 technical fall over No.2 seed Cory Lienemann, Alma.

189 - Jeremy Sproul was seeded No.1. He pinned Johnathan England, Holdrege, in :26, then pinned No.4 seed Ben Reeve, Sargent/Burwell, in :37. In the championship finals, Jeremy was pinned in 1:39 by No.2 seed Junior Miller, Pleasanton.

No.3 seed Wyatt Stubbs, Elm Creek, placed third by pinning Jose Muniz, Lexington, in 3:20.

215 - Jordan Bebb was seeded No.2. He pinned J.C. Nelsen, Alma, in 1:02, then pinned No.3 seed Tanner Hemmingsen, Elm Creek, in 3:08. In the championship finals, he was pinned in 3:38 by No.1 seed Ethan Jenkins, Arapahoe.

Hemmingsen won third place by pinning No.5 seed Andrew Ramirez, Lexington, in :36.

Next action

The Norton junior varsity will compete next in the Arapahoe Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 31 in Arapahoe.

Matches are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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More sports Page 10