

Wrestlers 1 point shy of winning title

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School wrestling team came within one point of extending their string of nine straight Mid-Continent League Tournament championships to 10 on Saturday in Osborne when they were edged by one-half point by defending Class 3-2-1A state champion Smith Center.

Norton led the team race with 145 points entering the championship and consolation championship matches and Smith Center was second with 134.5 but the Redmen scored just enough more points to edge the Blue Jays, who are still battling injuries despite getting two wrestlers back into the lineup for the league tournament.

Smith Center scored 169.5 points, followed by Norton, 169; Phillipsburg, 103; Plainville, 89.5; Osborne, 86; Ellis, 57.5; Stockton, 45.5; Hill City, 28; Trego, 18.

Eleven of Norton's 13 wrestlers placed in the tournament, more than any other school. Smith Center had 9 placers but had six champions compared to just two for Norton.

Winning gold medals for the Blue Jays were sophomore Brett Terrell, 125 and senior Jordan Bebb, 215. Placing second in their weight divisions were freshman R.J. Ellis, 103; sophomore Billy Broeckelman, 119; junior Kaenon Keiswetter, 135; senior Zach Bainter, 140; junior Zane Perez, 152; senior Matt Stanley, 160 and sophomore Jeremy Sproul, 189.

Finishing in third place was sophomore Landon Keiswetter, 130.

Sophomore Colby Poage, 112, placed fourth.

Sophomore Kaid McKenna, 145, and senior Logan Kelly, 171, came within one match of placing in their divisions.

Norton was open at 285. Norton compiled a won-loss record of 19-14 and had a pin ratio of 10-5.

"We wrestled about the same as we have been and did basically what I expected with the exception of Billy Broeckelman at 119. Billy pinned No. 2 seed Carlos Gallaway of Stockton and wrestled No. 1 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville, tough before losing the championship match 7-5. Weigel was a state runner-up last season.

"Jordan Bebb also wrestled well at 215. In the championship finals, he avenged a loss in our dual with Smith Center when he pinned No. 1 seed Joel Osburn.

"We got two of our injured wrestlers, Zach Bainter at 140 and Kaenon Keiswetter at 135, back in the lineup and that helped a lot.

"We are competing well. We lost seven championship matches but,

on the positive side, we had nine wrestling for championships."

Coach Johnson named Jordan Bebb as the "Wrestler of the Week" for his outstanding tournament performance.

Individual matches

*103 - R.J. Ellis was in a round robin competition with two other wrestlers. He pinned Kollin Roth, Phillipsburg, in 1:18 and lost a 15-0 technical fall to Jeremy Hrabec, Stockton, to place second.

Hrabec also pinned Roth to win the gold medal.

Ellis is now 6-13 for the season.

*112 - Colby Poage was seeded No. 4. After receiving a first round bye, he lost a 16-3 major decision to No. 1 seed Riley Hunsicker, Ellis. In the consolation bracket, he was pinned in 2:37 by No. 3 seed Diego Gallaway, Stockton, to place third.

No. 2 seed Cole Werner, Plainville, won the championship with a decision over Hunsicker.

Poage is now 3-5 for the season.

*119 - Billy Broeckelman was seeded No. 3. He pinned Ross Coomes, Phillipsburg, in 1:27, then pinned No. 2 seed Carlos Gallaway, Stockton, in 4:12 to reach the championship finals where he wrestled No. 1 seed Dan Weigel, Plainville. Broeckelman trailed 2-1 after one period, was on top 4-3 after two periods but lost 7-5 and placed second.

Gallaway won third place with a decision over No. 4 seed Austin Lopez, Ellis.

Broeckelman is now 20-6 for the season, Weigel is 27-1 and Gallaway is 10-6.

*125 - Brett Terrell was seeded No. 2. He pinned Dylan Spears, Osborne, in :39, then won an 8-2 decision over No. 3 seed Shawn Stansbury, Smith Center. In the championship finals he wrestled No. 1 seed Carson McMullen, Plainville. Brett led 4-2 after one period but trailed 5-4 after the second period. The third period ended with a 6-all tie, sending the match into overtime where Brett won 8-6!

Third place went to Stansbury with a decision over No. 5 seed Matt Schneider, Phillipsburg.

Terrell is now 20-8 for the season and McMullen is 24-7.

*130 - Landon Keiswetter was seeded No. 4. He pinned No. 5 seed Keo Roth, Phillipsburg, in 4:40, then met No. 1 seed Colt Rogers, Smith Center. Landon wrestled Rogers tough but lost a 9-5 decision. In the consolation bracket, Landon won an 8-4 decision over No. 3 seed Cole Orr, Hill City, then wrestled Devon Schneider, Plainville, for the consolation championship. Landon held a 4-2 lead after one period, was on top 6-1 after two periods and

won the match with a 12-1 major decision.

Rogers won the championship with a decision over No. 2 seed Aaron Geist, Osborne.

Keiswetter is now 21-7 for the season. Rogers is 28-3 and Geist is 23-3.

*135 - Kaenon Keiswetter was seeded No. 3. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned No. 2 seed Kale Newell, Smith Center, in 5:08. In the championship finals, Kaenon faced No. 1 seed Danny Floyd, Osborne. Kaenon trailed 2-1 after one period, 4-2 after two periods and lost 8-5 to place second.

Newell placed third with a decision over No. 4 seed Brad Artz, Phillipsburg.

Keiswetter is now 5-2 for the season. Floyd remained unbeaten for the season and now has a 26-0 record.

*140 - Zach Bainter was seeded No. 1. He drew a first round bye, then won a 9-1 major decision over No. 4 seed Travis Bird, Plainville. In the championship finals, Zach wrestled No. 2 seed Trevor Oliver, Osborne. Zach led 3-2 after one period and the score was tied at 4-all after two periods but Oliver edged Zach 7-5 to win the championship.

No. 3 seed Weston Coomes, Phillipsburg, placed third with a decision over Bird.

Zach is now 4-1 for the season and Oliver remained unbeaten with a 25-0 record. Coomes is now 20-6.

*145 - Kaid McKenna was seeded No. 4. He lost a 12-11 decision to No. 5 seed Jason Knoll, Osborne, in the first round. In the consolation bracket, he lost a 10-7 decision to No. 3 seed D. J. Brown, Plainville.

No. 1 seed Trevor Rempe, Smith Center won the championship by pinning No. 2 seed Thomas Rachow, Phillipsburg, and Brown won third place by pinning Knoll.

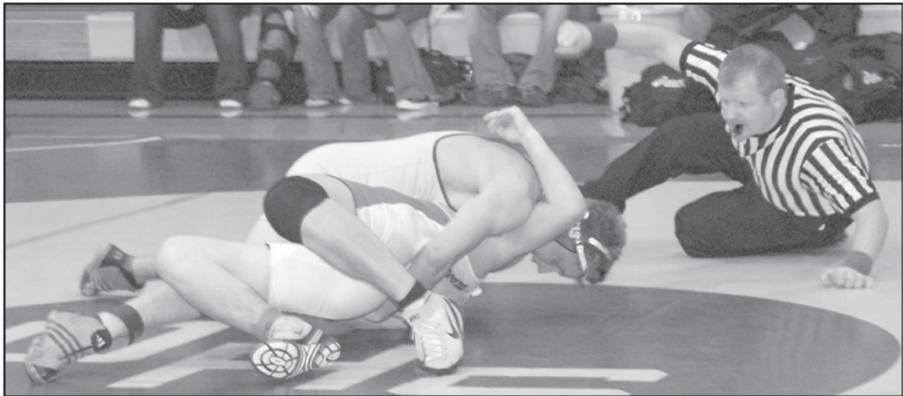
McKenna is now 11-4 for the season. Rempe is 28-3 and Rachow is 22-4.

*152 - Zane Perez was seeded No. 3. He pinned Ethan Morgan, Stockton, in 1:19, then won a 2-1 decision over No. 2 seed Dillon Kinderknecht, Ellis. In the championship finals, Zane wrestled No. 1 seed Marshall McCall, Smith Center. Zane trailed 2-0 after one period and 4-0 after two periods and lost a 9-1 decision to place second.

Kinderknecht placed third with a decision over No. 4 seed Josh Darnell, Plainville.

Perez is now 19-8 for the season. McCall extended his record to 30-2. Kinderknecht is now 21-4.

*160 - Matt Stanley was seeded No. 2. He won a 12-4 major decision over Nathan Thyfault, Plain-



Norton's Jordan Bebb was on a mission Saturday in the 215 pound weight class in the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament in Osborne. After being pinned by Smith Center's Joel Osburn in the recent dual with the Redmen, he wanted a chance to redeem himself and got it in the championship finals. Jordan is pictured here making Osburn count the lights!
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

ville, then decided No. 3 seed Blaise Wilson, Stockton, 7-4. In the championship finals, he faced No. 1 seed Travis Rempe, Smith Center. Matt wrestled hard but could never score any points. The match was scoreless until the third period when Rempe earned two points to win 2-0.

No. 4 seed Chase King, Ellis, placed third with a decision over Wilson.

Stanley is now 15-8 for the season. Rempe extended his record to 30-2.

*171 - Logan Kelly lost his first round match by a fall in 4:24 to No. 3 seeded Jon James, Trego. In the consolation bracket, he won a 9-3 decision over Josh Fielder, Stockton. Next, he was pinned in 2:00 by No. 4 seed Clinton Johnson, Hill City.

No. 1 seed Matt Atwood, Smith Center, won the championship with a decision over James. Third place went to Johnson when he pinned No. 5 seeded Brice Grabast, Osborne.

Kelly is now 7-9 for the season. Atwood is 27-8 for the season and James is 11-7.

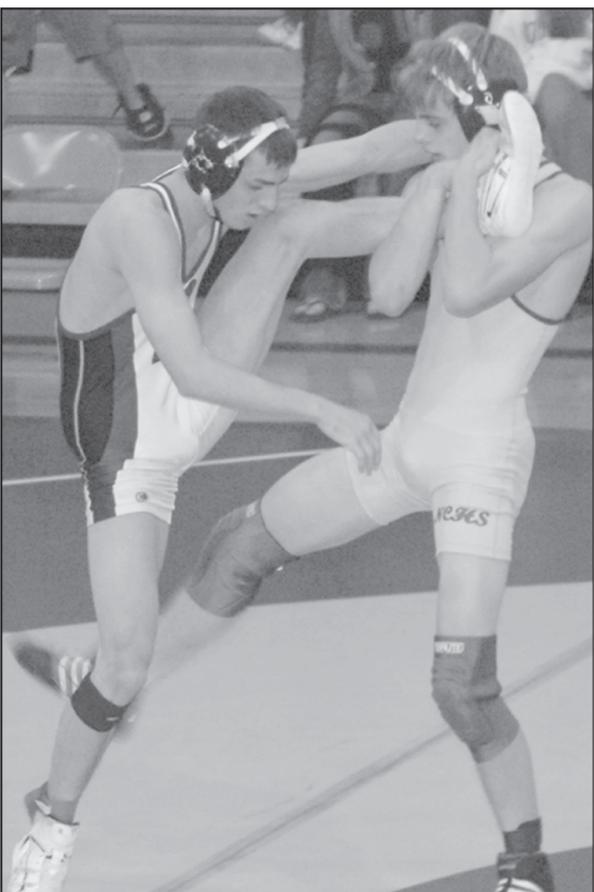
*189 - Jeremy Sproul was seeded No. 2. After a first round bye, Jeremy pinned No. 3 seed Joel Carlin, Osborne, in 2:31. In the championship finals, he wrestled No. 1 seed Kris Lehmann, Smith Center, and was pinned in :42 to place second.

Third place went to No. 4 seed Caid Breen, Phillipsburg, when he pinned Carlin.

Sproul is now 5-4 for the season. Lehmann is 17-9.

*215 - Jordan Bebb was seeded No. 2. After receiving a first round bye, he pinned No. 3 seed Nick Beard, Phillipsburg, in 2:44. In the championship finals, he faced No. 1 seed Joel Osburn, Smith Center, and pinned him in 3:04 to win the gold medal!

No. 3 seed Nick Beard, Phillipsburg, placed third by pinning No. 4 seed Jacob Begler, Ellis.



Norton's 119 pound wrestler Billy Broeckelman took Plainville's Dan Weigel to the mat with a high single leg move during their championship match in the Mid-Continent League Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Osborne. After pinning his way to the championship match, Billy wrestled Weigel who came in with only one loss this season. Billy came close to upsetting the No. 1 seed before losing 7-5.
- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Bebb is now 16-5 for the season and Osburn is 20-12.

*285 - Jared Rice, Phillipsburg, had no opposition so was declared the champion.

Next action

Norton will wrestle Plainville and Ellis in Plainville on Friday, beginning at 5 p.m. The Norton varsity and junior varsity wrestlers

will compete on Saturday in the annual Panther Classic in Phillipsburg, beginning at 9 a.m.

Participating teams, in addition to Norton and Phillipsburg, will be Abilene, Beloit, Ellis, Ellsworth, Hill City, Hoisington, Hoxie, Lakin, Lincoln, Minneapolis, St. Francis and Stockton.

Lady Huskies pick up two big wins, 52-24 and 72-37

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies welcomed Heartland Christian to their court and made quick work of the Crusaders by out scoring them 22-4 in the first quarter and 15-4 in the last with an even till in between for a final score of 52-24.

Needless to say the Crusaders were "out talented" as they were missing three of their first string players but the Lady Huskies played hard and used different defenses and different lineups to work on areas they need to improve upon for later games.

But, even though we "eased" up a bit Megan Cole had her best overall game with 9 steals, some coming off the 23 team deflections, 5 rebounds and didn't miss a shot from the field.

"All this after her last game of getting in foul trouble early and having to sit beside me — I don't think she liked that," said coach Chuck Zimmerman.

"The rest of the team did well also as all contributed in some fashion. Our deflections leader was freshman Katie Stillion who harassed the Crusaders for 7 with Christina Anderson and M Cole touching 4 each with Brittney Braun getting 3.

"Steals honors went to M Cole with her nine followed by Alison Cole, Kenzie Chandler and Staci Dole with 2 each.

"Rebounding was again — the last five games in a row — controlled by the Huskies as Anderson swiped 6 off the boards while Stillion and A Cole each grabbed 5," he said.

"We had 17 assists as the team mates were looking for their 'sisters' who were open and we capitalized on those good passes. A Cole found 4 while Kayla Field found 3 along with 3 from Anderson.

"A good game in which all team members received playing time on the varsity level and gained some valuable experience," the coach said.

The junior varsity also did well as they won 14-8 by being more aggressive and starting to do the little things that pay off in victories. Leading scorers were Kenzie Chandler and Katie Stillion with 5 each while Kayla Field and Ashley Constable each put in 2.

Varsity scorers included: Karen Wenzl 0; Megan Cole 17; Alison Cole 14; Kenzie Chandler 0; Staci Dole 0; M

The Lady Huskies welcomed, for the last time, Western Plains to their court for a conference game as they will be joining their new league next season. They wanted to send them out on a low note and did by defeating them 72-37.

"Needless to say we played well, we played with intensity the whole game no matter who was in and all received some valuable playing time. We just over powered, out ran, and definitely out shot our opponents on this night as we had a shooting percent of 62 which is a high for the season," coach Zimmerman said.

He continued: "Once again our defense played a tremendous part in this victory as the Bobcats did not get the ball past half court for a minute and by then they were behind by 10.

"They did not get a shot off until they were down by 17, so our defense was strong as the stats will show.

"Again, deflections is a key for us as we had 26 with Staci Dole pestering the opponents 8 times while Alison Cole had 6 with 3 being blocked shots followed by Megan Cole with 5.

"Steals were then taken by Christina Anderson with 5 while

M Cole took 4 from the Bobcats as A Cole and Dole were swiping 3 each.

"Rebounds were grabbed by A Cole with 8 with Brittney Braun reaching for 7 with Dole worming her way for 4.

"And some of the passes we had for assists! My goodness, we are starting to find the open player on the break and they are making the shots as Dole and Anderson each found 6 with A Cole finding 3."

The junior varsity came out smokin, as they attacked the Bobcats with their pressure and jumped ahead early in the first

quarter. The young Huskies fought hard and kept working defensively and just did not put enough balls through the basket as the Bobcats did win in the end 16-17 but they knew they were in a battle when the game was over.

"We coaches were very proud of the way these ladies played and are starting to see some very good things from the youngsters.

"The highlight was that we had more scorers in this game as Kenzie Chandler put in 6 with Katie Stillion adding 4 while Melissa Hawks, Ashley Constable and Sarah Whitney each added 2.

"A very good evening for the ladies. But, they have been informed the games from here on out get much tougher as we head into Nebraska then come back and play some of the bigger schools. So, we are gearing up for the home stretch. Hopefully, our schedule has allowed us to build some confidence for when we take on these tougher teams," the coach said.

Scoring in the varsity for the Huskies:

Wenzl 0; M. Cole 11; A. Cole 19; Chandler 9; Dole 9; Hawks 2; Anderson 18; Braun 2; Field 2; Stillion 0.

High School Sports This Week



Norton Blue Jays



Northern Valley Huskies



Logan Trojans

WRESTLING:

Norton vs. Plainville, Ellis 5 p.m. Friday in Plainville
Norton Varsity, Junior Varsity in Panther Classic 9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg

BASKETBALL:

Norton vs. Smith Center V, JV, Girls C 4 p.m. Today in Smith Center
Norton vs. Hill City V, JV 5 p.m. Friday in Norton
Norton vs. Oberlin V, JV 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Oberlin
Northern Valley vs. Alma, Neb 4 p.m. Today in Alma
Northern Valley vs. Arapahoe, Neb 3:30 p.m. Thursday in Arapahoe
Northern Valley vs. Thunder Ridge 4 p.m. Friday in Almena
Logan vs. Stockton 4:30 p.m. Today in Stockton
Logan vs. Palco 4 p.m. Friday in Logan
Logan vs. Jewell 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in Jewell

SportsLine: 877-3361, 877-6908