

Big honor for Blue Jay coach

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Jason Jones, head coach of the Norton Community High School girls and boys track teams, was chosen Class 3A 2008 Girls Track and Field "Coach of the Year" by the Kansas Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association.

Coach Jones was honored and presented a plaque in recognition of the award during the annual Kansas Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association Recognition Luncheon held Jan. 10 in Junction City.

"I am deeply honored to be recognized," said coach Jones. "This recognition is a reflection of our entire track program and I thank all who make our success possible."

"None of what our team accomplished could occur without the dedication and continued hard work of our student-athletes. Thank you to their families, who support them every step of the way and play a part in each individual and team victory."

"In addition, thank you to the wonderfully devoted and very knowledgeable coaches on our entire coaching staff; they have been absolutely vital to our team's success and they, too, deserve recognition."

"Thank you, also to all members of the Norton Community Schools Administration team, all members of the USD 211 Board of Education and all members of our



Norton's head track coach Jason Jones looked at the plaque he received at the Recognition Luncheon in honor of being named Class 3A 2008 Girls Track and Field Coach of the Year by the Kansas Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

faculty and staff who continually provide our student-athletes and our program with positive support in too many ways to state.

"Additionally, thank you to all Blue Jay fans for their constant support."

"Coaching this team in this community has truly been a wonderfully rewarding experience and, for that, I thank everyone."

Coach Jones completed his second year as the head track and field coach at Norton Community High School in 2008 and it was a tremendously successful season.

The Norton girls were the champions of every meet in which they competed, except one, including the regional and state meets. They placed second in the Mid-Conti-

nent League Meet.

Assistant coaches in 2008 were Dale Engelbert, Doug Reusink, Todd Fulton and Lucas Melvin.

Coach Jones is a Logan native. A 1994 Logan High School graduate, he was the Class 1A state pole vault champion. He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays on a track scholarship and pole vaulted for the Tigers. He was an all-conference performer and graduated in December, 1998.

He was head track coach and assistant football coach at Fowler High School for three years before moving to Norton.

He was a teacher and assistant football and track coach in Norton for four years before becoming head track coach.

Norton wrestlers on mats in 3-2-1A regional at Ellis

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team is competing in the annual Class 3-2-1A Regional Wrestling Tournament that started today and continues Saturday at Ellis High School.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Ellis, are teams from Atwood, Cimarron, Elkhart, Goodland, Thomas More Prep-Hays, Hill City, Hoisington, Holcomb, Hoxie, Lakin, Larned, Leoti, Montezuma-South Gray, Oakley, Oberlin, Rolla, St. Francis, Sublette, Trego Community.

With many of the top teams and wrestlers in the state competing, this regional tournament has traditionally been the toughest in the state.

This year, 28 of the 84 state-ranked wrestlers are expected to compete in this tournament.

As a team, Norton is ranked No. 1 in the state and Goodland is ranked No. 3.

Norton's seven state-ranked wrestlers are: Troy Bainter, No. 1, 112; Billy Broeckelman, No. 2, 119; Landon Keiswetter, No. 5,

130; Kaenon Keiswetter, No. 2, 135; Zach Bainter, No. 4, 140; Zane Perez, No. 3, 152 and Jordan Bebb, No. 5, 215.

Other state-ranked wrestlers expected are: Dylan Schumacher, TMP, No. 1, 103; Austin Avelar, Goodland, No. 2, 103; Drew Jones, Hoxie, No. 6, 103; Dalton Davis, Lakin, No. 3, 119; Jace Campbell, Oakley, No. 2, 125; Cody Sherlock, St. Francis, No. 4, 125; Kade Sheldon, Goodland, No. 6, 125; Kegan Smith, Goodland, No. 2, 152; Everett Urban, Oberlin, No. 5, 152; Corey Engstrom, Hoisington, No. 2, 160; Chase King, Ellis, No. 4, 160; Ryan Taylor, Goodland, No. 1, 171; Nathan Simonsson, Oberlin, No. 2, 171; Ben Brown, Leoti, No. 3, 171; Clint Taylor, TMP, No. 5, 171; Carl Hickel, Hoisington, No. 2, 189; Fernando Martinez, Goodland, No. 4, 189; Tanner O-Harrah, Goodland, No. 4, 215; Luke Keener, Hoisington, No. 2, 285; Ross Addison, Cimarron, No. 3, 285; Dillon Salmans, Hoxie, No. 4, 285.

"The Beloit regional will probably be tougher than ours this year but we will have some weights that

are extremely tough," said Norton coach Johnson. "Some very good wrestlers will stay home."

"Goodland is a sleeper; I'm impressed with them. Hoisington will have a lot of tough wrestlers in the upper weights."

The tournament began with the first round at 2 p.m. today, followed by the championship quarterfinals, consolation first round and championship semifinals.

Wrestling will continue Saturday at 11 a.m. with the consolation cross bracketing, followed by the consolation quarterfinals at 1 p.m., consolation semifinals at 3 p.m., consolation finals at 5 p.m. and championship finals at 6:30 p.m.

Plaques will be awarded to the top two teams and medals to the top four wrestlers in each weight.

The top four wrestlers in each weight will qualify for the state tournament next weekend in Hays. Admission is \$3 for students, \$4 for adults on Friday; \$5 for students, \$7 for adults all day Saturday and \$3 for students and \$4 for adults for Saturday evening's action.

Jayvee wrestlers do well in tourney

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Although team scores were not kept, the Norton Community High School junior varsity wrestlers performed as well as any team with all but one Blue Jay wrestler placing in the 24th annual "Bill Voss" Novice Wrestling Tournament last Saturday in Colby.

Competing, in addition to Norton and Colby, were teams from Atwood, Garden City, Goodland, Hays, Thomas More-Prep of Hays, Hill City, Holcomb, Hoxie, Oakley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville, Scott City, Smith Center, St. Francis, Stockton, Trego Community and Ulysses.

Norton had eight wrestlers in the tournament. The Blue Jays had one champion, four second places and two third place finishers.

Trey Millan won a gold medal at 135 pounds. Placing second were Colby Poage, 112; Justin Waggoner, 125; Cayleb Campbell, 160 and Casey Robison, 171.

Third place finishers were R.J. Ellis, 103 and Andy Nickell, 112.

Taylor Gordon also competed at 103 pounds.

"This was the final competition for our junior varsity wrestlers this season and I was very pleased with how they competed," said Norton assistant wrestling coach Shane Miller.

"Competing in Nebraska varsity tournaments throughout the season prepared us very well for this junior varsity tournament. With five of our eight wrestlers in the finals, this is by far our best

showing of the year. It is nice to finish on a 'high note'."

"I have seen a tremendous amount of improvement by this group of young men throughout the season."

Colby Poage received a special award for the fastest pin in the tournament. He made an opponent count the lights in just 15 seconds!

Poage was also named "Junior Varsity Wrestler of the Week".

Match results

•103 - R.J. Ellis was seeded No. 6. He pinned No. 3 seed Emma Blachet, Hays, in 5:12, then lost a 9-3 decision to No. 2 seed Kevin Arnold, Hays. In the consolation bracket, he won a 13-2 major decision over teammate Taylor Gordon, then pinned No. 4 seed Brice Fairleigh, Scott City, in :52 to place third.

Gordon was seeded No. 5. He lost his first match by a 14-8 decision to Fairleigh, then pinned Tyler Flinn, Hays, in 4:52 prior to wrestling Ellis.

Arnold won the championship with a 10-3 decision over No. 1 seed Devon Schlageck, Colby.

•112 - Colby Poage was seeded No. 3. He pinned Logan Whitmore, St. Francis, in :15, then pinned No. 2 seed Chase Harlow, Colby, in 1:15 to reach the championship finals. He wrestled No. 1 seed Derek Stiles, Hays, and was pinned in 3:07 to place second.

Andy Nickell was seeded No. 5. He pinned No. 4 seed Corey Davis, Goodland, in 2:18, then lost an 11-1 major decision to No. 1 seed

Stiles. In the consolation bracket, he pinned David Leibbrandt, St. Francis, in 2:43. In the consolation championship match, he won a 7-2 decision over Harlow to place third.

•125 - This weight was wrestled with a round-robin format. Justin Waggoner lost an 11-3 major decision to Michael Tubbs, Colby; pinned Ross Nicklos, St. Francis, in 2:21 and won a 10-8 decision over Zach Lamb, Garden City.

Waggoner placed second and Tubbs won the championship.

•135 - This weight was also wrestled with a round-robin format. Trey Millan pinned Mikial Freeman, Goodland, in 5:29; won an 11-5 decision over Jon Samson, Oberlin and pinned Clint Reese, Phillipsburg, in 3:41 to win the championship.

Reese placed second.

•160 - In another round robin format, Cayleb Campbell lost a 2-0 decision to Joran Voss, Colby, then won a 6-5 decision over Brandon Weigel, Hays and won by default over Jason Cowan, Goodland, to place second.

Voss won the championship.

•171 - In another round robin format, Casey Robison won a 4-2 decision over Riley Oharah, Goodland; won a 9-6 decision over Jay Wickham, Hays; won an 8-2 decision over Max Purvis, Goodland; lost an 8-4 decision to Paul Starr, Goodland and was pinned in 5:59 by George Smollock, Colby, to place second.

Starr went unbeaten for the tournament to win the championship.

Varsity wrestlers score two wins

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team completed their dual season last Thursday with Mid-Continent League wins over Osborne and Hill City in Hill City.

The Blue Jays defeated Osborne 51-15 and shutout Hill City 67-0. "Overall, we pretty much dominated the competition," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

"Osborne has several good wrestlers but one did not wrestle. Kaid McKenna lost to Osborne's Jason Knoll in the league tournament but he avenged the loss."

"Kaenon Keiswetter lost to Danny Floyd in the league tournament and came up short again but wrestled well. Brock Lauer returned to the lineup and wrestled well, dominating his opponents."

Norton 51, Osborne 15

103 - R.J. Ellis won by forfeit
112 - Troy Bainter pinned Ahmed Mahmoud in 1:13

119 - Bill Broeckelman won by forfeit

125 - Brett Terrell pinned Dylan Spears in 1:49

130 - Connor Pfannenstiel lost a 5-3 decision to Aaron Geist

135 - Kaenon Keiswetter lost a 5-3 decision to Danny Floyd

140 - Zach Bainter won by forfeit

145 - Kaid McKenna won a 16-2 major decision over Jason Knoll

152 - Zane Perez pinned Andrew Plowman in 1:39

160 - Cayleb Campbell pinned Damon Schurr in 4:29

171 - Brock Lauer won a 20-3 technical fall over Brice Grabast

189 - Casey Robison lost a 2-0 decision to Joel Carlin

215 - Norton forfeited to Mike Schellinger

285 - Both Teams Open

Norton 67, Hill City 0
103 - Taylor Gordon won by forfeit

112 - Colby Poage won by forfeit

119 - Andy Nickell won by forfeit

125 - Justin Waggoner won by forfeit

130 - Connor Pfannenstiel won an 8-4 decision over Cole Orr

135 - Kaenon Keiswetter won by forfeit

140 - Zach Bainter pinned Luke Owens in 1:44

152 - Both Teams Open

160 - Cayleb Campbell won a 15-0 technical fall over Kyle Babcock

171 - Brock Lauer pinned Clinton Johnson in 2:59

189 - Casey Robison won by forfeit

215 - Jordan Bebb won by forfeit

285 - Both Teams Open

Tough third spells defeat for Huskies

By TOM DREILING

tom.d@nwkansas.com
Northern Valley's Husky varsity basketball boys battled the Hill City Ringnecks tooth and nail in the first half, faltered badly in the third quarter, and despite outscoring Hill City in the fourth, lost the game, 62-46.

Played at Hill City Tuesday night, the first quarter ended with the Huskies trailing by just 3 points, 17-14. At halftime they were down by a mere 1, 24-23.

Then came the third quarter when the Ringnecks literally burned the nets with a 22-point explosion, while holding the Huskies to just 6 for a 46-29 advantage.

The final period, however, was won by Northern Valley 17-16, but the third quarter was just too much to overcome.

Eric Woodside led the charge for Northern Valley with 16 points. Also scoring in double figures was Colton Lowery with 11. Others breaking into the scoring column were Dusty Eagleburger with 3; Ethan Hays 4; Chaim McMillin 2; Cody Callaway 4; and Drew Eagleburger 6.

The Huskies scored on 12 2-pointers, 7 from 3-point range and 1 of 5 from the free throw line.

Leading the way for the Ringnecks was Dylan Vap with 25; he was joined in double digits by Anthony McDonald with 12 and Reggie Jordan with 10. Seth Thompson put in 7, Lewen Nimmire 2, Blake McKeever 2 and Ross Breese 4.

The Ringnecks scored 14 2-pointers, 10 from downtown, and 4 from the line.

Telegram:
(785) 877-3361

Block draws whistle



Norton senior post Hayli Bozarth appeared to have blocked a Hoxie player's shot during basketball action in Hoxie on Tuesday evening but officials ruled it a body foul.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

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