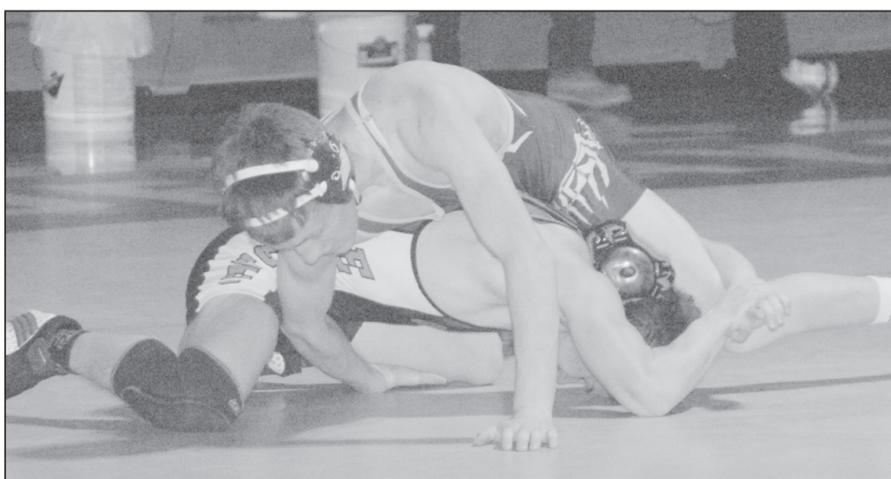


Senior night brings Jays' wrestling win



Norton sophomore 112 pounder John Risewick is shown working for an advantage over Colby's Dustin Reed whom he decided 7-4 on Thursday in the dual in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym. Risewick handed Reed his first defeat of the season and was named "Wrestler of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

By DICK BOYD
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Thursday was "Senior Night" for coach Bill Johnson's Norton Community High School wrestling team and the seniors led the team to an impressive 36-19 dual victory over Colby in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Norton won eight of the 14 matches, lost four and won one by forfeit at 215 pounds.

Several matches were between Norton and Colby wrestlers who had met before.

For instance, at 112 pounds Norton sophomore John Risewick wrestled sophomore Dustin Reed whom he had lost to by a 6-3 decision in the St. Francis Tournament. Although they did not meet in the Newton Tournament, Reed was the 112 pound champion.

Risewick displayed his wrestling abilities against the talented and unbeaten Reed with a 7-4 decision on Thursday night to hand him his first loss of the season! For his performance, Risewick was named "Wrestler of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

Norton's 130 pound wrestler senior Troy Bainter lost a 3-1 overtime decision to Colby's Konner Kriss in the St. Francis Tournament. At Newton, the two

met again and Bainter won 6-4, also in overtime.

On Thursday they met again, and Bainter won again, this time by a 7-3 decision.

Norton senior Landon "Tug" Keiswetter moved up from 160 to 171 pounds in Thursday's dual and won a hard-fought 1-0 decision over Andrew Flanigan.

Keiswetter has not wrestled Flanigan but Norton senior Spencer Shirk, who moved up to 189 on Thursday, pinned Flanigan to win the gold medal at St. Francis, decided him 10-6 in their first match at Newton and decided him 10-5 in their second match at Newton to win the consolation championship.

Flanigan's only losses this season so far have been to the two Norton wrestlers.

Blue Jay senior 285 pound wrestler Josh Asbury wrestled Zell Bieberle of Colby for the second time. He was pinned by Bieberle at St. Francis but wrestled much better this time around. Asbury led 1-0 in the match before losing it 3-1 in overtime.

Results of other matches:

103 - Freshman Branson Addington lost a 5-4 decision to Colby freshman David Mainus.

119 - Junior R.J. Ellis won by

forfeit.

125 - Junior Justin Waggoner won a 9-5 decision over sophomore Macen Shull.

135 - Senior Brett Terrell pinned sophomore Ryan Moore in 42 seconds.

140 - Senior Billy Broeckelman pinned sophomore Brandon Gaede in 1:09.

145 - Sophomore Eli Bozarth won a 1-0 decision over junior Brandon Leth.

152 - Sophomore Jared Bohl lost a 7-1 decision to junior Andrew Elling.

160 - Freshman Cole Renner lost a 10-1 decision to freshman Andrew Taylor.

189 - Senior Spencer Shirk won a 5-3 decision over senior George Smollock.

215 - Colby sophomore Kurt Sloan won by forfeit.

Exhibition matches:

103 - Norton freshman Ethan Ross won a 16-0 technical fall over Norton freshman Garret Otter

135 - Norton freshman Austin Hager pinned Colby sophomore Randy Colling in 3:05.

140 - Norton's Austin Hager pinned Colby freshman Ashley Colman in 2:50.

140 - Norton junior Seth Antrim pinned Colby's Ashley Colman

in 1:00.

145 - Norton's Seth Antrim pinned Colby's Randy Colling in :57.

160 - Norton's Cole Renner lost a 22-7 technical fall to Colby sophomore Beau Brown.

160 - Norton sophomore Treven Rossi was pinned in 3:24 by Colby junior Trevor Strutt.

171 - Norton sophomore Lucas Engel was pinned in 3:53 by Colby sophomore Troy Quenzer.

171 - Norton's Lucas Engel lost an 18-3 technical fall to Colby junior Clayton Applehans.

Coach's comments

"Colby has some excellent wrestlers but we wrestled well," said coach Johnson.

"In every one of our close

matches, we wrestled well. It was a very competitive dual.

"John Risewick avenged an earlier loss to Dustin Reed, who won the Newton Tournament championship at 112 pounds. This was a big win for John.

"Troy Bainter lost to Konner Kriss in overtime in their first meeting but beat him at Newton in overtime before deciding him here.

"Josh Asbury about had his match won but got out of position.

"I feel Cole Renner did a good job of wrestling.

"We juggled the lineup to cover some weights.

"Overall, it was just another step up for our wrestlers.

"This was a good way for our

senior wrestlers to go out in front of the home crowd one final time.

The Norton senior wrestlers and their parents were honored prior to the start of the dual. The Norton senior wrestlers are: Troy Bainter, 130; Brett Terrell, 135; Billy Broeckelman, 140; Landon "Tug" Keiswetter, 160; Spencer Shirk, 171; Kaid McKenna (injured), 189 and Josh Asbury, 285.

Next action

Norton will travel to Kearney today for another dual with one of the leading teams in the state of Nebraska.

Wrestling will begin at 5 p.m.

Norton Blue Jays outscore Smith Center Redmen

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

On Thursday, coach Doug Reusink's Norton Community High School boys basketball team followed a disappointing 63-62 loss in the first round of the Mid-Continent League Tournament to No. 1 seed Plainville with a 76-65 overtime win over Smith Center in the consolation bracket on Thursday in Smith Center.

The Blue Jays lacked consistency in the game but were up to the challenge in the extra period to win and advance in the tournament.

Norton led 17-7 after one quarter and 33-17 at intermission. The Redmen outscored them 17-10 in the third quarter but Norton still led 43-34 with one period remaining. Smith Center also outscored them 23-16 with a furious fourth quarter rally that tied the game at 59-all.

The Blue Jays' senior guard Terrell Lane was fouled numerous times in the overtime and came through in flying colors by

hitting 9 of 12 free throws and a field goal to make 11 of Norton's 17 points in the extra period.

Junior forward Jordan Wahlmeier and junior guard Dillon McConney each added a basket and junior guard Tye Nickell hit two free throws as Norton pulled away for the 11-point win.

Norton got off to a good start, outscoring Smith Center 17-7 in the first quarter. Seven different players tallied for the Blue Jays. Senior forward Dakota Dreher, Wahlmeier, McConney, senior post Luke Ninemire and Lane each hit a basket. Nickell added a trey and sophomore forward Jacob Brooks hit a basket and two charities.

Norton also had a good second quarter, thanks mainly to four more baskets and a free throw by Wahlmeier for 9 of the Blue Jays' 16 points. Nickell hit two more baskets and Dreher added a basket and free throw in the period as Norton held Smith Center to 10 points to take a 33-17 lead into the dressing room at halftime.

The Redmen made a comeback in the third quarter when they outscored the Blue Jays 17-10. Norton's points came on two baskets each by Wahlmeier and McConney and one by Lane.

Norton also had a good fourth quarter, scoring 16 points, but the home standing Redmen were rallying and scored 23 points to tie the score and send it into overtime.

The Blue Jays' fourth quarter points came on four baskets and two free throws by Lane, a basket each by Wahlmeier and McConney and two charities by Nickell.

"It wasn't pretty but we got the win," said coach Reusink. "We had a good lead at halftime but didn't execute offensively and played terrible defense and let them back in the game.

"Once they made a run our boys panicked. We were lucky to go to overtime due to Smith Center missing some free throws. Once we got into overtime, we executed better and hit free throws to get

the win."

For the first time this year, Norton had four scorers in double figures. Lane led with 25 points on 7 of 15 two-point shots for 47 percent and 11 of 15 free throws for 73 percent accuracy.

Wahlmeier ended with 19 points on 9 of 12 from two-point range for 75 percent and 1 of 2 free throws for 50 percent.

Nickell scored 11 points on 1 of 1 from long range for 100 percent, 2 of 10 two-point tries for 20 percent and 3 of 11 overall for 27 percent. He hit 4 of 5 charities for 80 percent.

McConney added 10 points on 5 of 7 two-point shots for 71 percent.

Leading scorer for Smith Center was Nathan Cox with 19 points. Kale Terrill scored 16 and Alex Hobelmann tallied 15 for the Redmen.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 6 trey tries for 17 percent, 27 of 54 two-point attempts for 50 percent and 28 of 60 overall for 47 percent.

Smith Center connected on 5

of 25 from beyond the arc for 20 percent, 20 of 39 two-point tries for 51 percent and 25 of 64 overall for 39 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton swished 19 of 28 for 68 percent and the Redmen hit 10 of 19 for 53 percent.

Norton grabbed 15 offensive and 30 defensive rebounds for a whopping 45 total. Smith Center pulled down 8 offensive and 16 defensive boards for only 24 total.

Eight different Norton players had at least two rebounds. Leader was Lane with 15, followed by Wahlmeier, 9; McConney, 6; Dreher, 4; Ninemire, Nickell, Brooks, 3 each; Zach Hartwell, 2.

Norton blocked 6 shots and Smith Center rejected 1. Wahlmeier had 3 blocks, followed by Brooks, 2; McConney, 1.

Both teams recorded 13 steals. Nickell was thefts leader for Norton with 4, followed by McConney, Wahlmeier, 3 each; Dreher, Ninemire, Lane, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 15 offensive assists and the Redmen had 11. Nickell was the leader with 6, followed by Lane, 5; McConney, 2; Hartwell, Brooks, 1 each.

Norton had 21 turnovers and Smith Center lost the ball 15 times.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher 20 1-15; Jordan Wahlmeier 9 0 1-2 19; Dillon McConney 5 0 0-1 10; Luke Ninemire 10 0-02; Zach Hartwell 0 0-2-0; Tye Nickell 2 1 4-5 11; Terrell Lane 7 0 11-15 25; Jacob Brooks 10 2-24; Game Totals 27 1 19-28 76.

Smith Center Boys

Alex Hobelmann 6 1 0-3 15; Zach Linn 1 0 0-5; Trey Molzahn 0 10-0 3; Kale Terrill 3 1 7-12 16; Nathan Cox 8 0 1-2 19; Grady Brooks 1 0 0-0 2; Kody Molzahn 0 10-0 3; Payton Buckmaster 1 0 0-2 2; Game Totals 20 5 10-

Blue Jays take fifth in Mid-Continent League Tournament

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The No. 9 seeded Norton Community High School boys basketball team placed fifth in the Mid-Continent League Tournament with a 48-42 win over No. 7 seed Hill City on Saturday in the Gross Coliseum in Hays.

The Blue Jays had a good tournament.

After losing their first round game by one point to unbeaten No. 1 seed and eventual champion Plainville and dropping into the consolation bracket, they beat Smith Center 76-65 in overtime to advance to the game with Hill City.

The Blue Jays led 13-5 after one quarter over the Ringnecks and outscored Hill City 13-9 in the second period to build a comfortable 26-14 lead at intermission.

The Ringnecks had other plans in the second half and came out fired up and ready to challenge the Blue Jays. They did just that and outscored Norton 12-8 in the third stanza to cut Norton's advantage to 34-26.

Hill City continued to challenge Norton in the final quarter when they cut the Blue Jay lead to 38-36 on two straight three-point shots by Matt Craig with 5:15 left in the game.

Norton senior guard Terrell Lane scored but Hill City added another basket. Junior forward Jordan Wahlmeier hit a basket with 3:43 left but two Hill City free throws made it 42-40. Norton sophomore forward Jacob Brooks stole the ball, passed to Lane and

he passed to junior guard Tye Nickell who scored with 3:02 remaining!

With Norton still leading 44-40, Wahlmeier stole the ball but Norton could not score. The next time the Blue Jays got the ball, Brooks fed Lane inside for two more Norton points and the Blue Jays were on top 46-40 with 1:46 left. Once again, the Blue Jay defense was equal to the occasion and they regained possession. Lane tallied again with 52 seconds left on the scoreboard clock and Norton led 48-40.

A last second basket by the Ringnecks was too little, too late as Norton prevailed 48-42.

An unusual aspect of the game is that there were not enough Hill City fouls for Norton to shoot any free throws and the Ringnecks only shot 4 charities, hitting 3.

"We played well in the first half but then we let them get within two points of us," said Norton head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink.

"After they came so close, we did some things right offensively to stretch our lead.

"We need to quit coasting and relaxing when we get a lead and finish strong.

"Overall, I'm proud of how we played in the tournament, winning three out of four games, which included a close loss to Plainville.

"We've now won four of our last five games and brought our record up to 6-7 overall.

"We'll need another good effort tonight when we host an excellent Goodland team."



Norton junior guard Tye Nickell drives in for a layup during the Blue Jays' 48-42 win over Hill City for fifth place in the Mid-Continent League Tournament on Saturday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays. Trailing him is the Ringnecks' Reggie Jordan, No. 24.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Scores of other games

Plainville and Stockton, two unbeaten teams and the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, played for the championship and the Cardinals won 72-49.

Third place went to Osborne with a 49-36 victory over Phillipsburg.

Ellis placed seventh with a 68-47 win over Smith Center.

Next action

Norton will host Goodland in non-league action today.

Games will begin at 4 p.m. in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym with the boys C-team game, followed by the boys junior varsity contest.

The junior varsity girls game will be played at 4:45 p.m. in the NCHS Stull Gym.

The varsity girls game will follow at the regular time of 6:15 and will be followed by the boys varsity contest.

GAME STATISTICS

Norton Boys

Dakota Dreher, 1 0 0-0 2; Jordan Wahlmeier 8 0 0-0 16; Luke Ninemire 2 0 0-0 4; Tye Nickell 2 0 0-0 4; Terrell Lane 5 2 0-0 16; Jacob Brooks 3 0 0-0 6; Game Totals 21 2 0-0 48.

Hill City Boys

Matt Craig 1 2 0-0 8; Eric Pfeifer 1 0 0-0 2; Adam Pfeifer 2 0 0-0 4; Reggie Jordan 6 1 1-2 16; Eric VanLoenen 3 0 2-2 8; Dylan Anderson 1 0 0-0 2; Marcus Goetz 1 0 0-0 2; Game Totals 15 3 3-4 42.