

Wrestlers do well against larger schools at Newton

By Dick Boyd

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Norton Community High School was the smallest enrollment school competing in the prestigious 50th annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton last Friday and Saturday but the Blue Jays' partial team proved once again that they are capable of wrestling against the larger schools in the state.

Coach Bill Johnson entered just nine wrestlers in the 14 weight classes.

Norton, the smallest school to ever win this tough tournament, placed 15th out of 27 teams.

Grand Island, Neb. entered the tournament for the first time and won the championship with 243 points. In a distant second was Arkansas City with 178, followed by Newton, 152.5; Garden City, 152; Colby, 128.5; Andover Central, 124; Manhattan, 123; Derby, 106; Emporia, 97.5; Wichita Northwest, 91.5; Gardner-Edgerton, 88.5; Leavenworth, 82; Lawrence, 74; Blue Valley Southwest, 69; Norton, 62; Mill Valley, 59; Bishop Carroll, 58; Fredonia, 55.5; Wichita Heights, 55; Dodge City, 53.5; Maize, 45.5; Liberal, 44; Salina South, 38; McPherson, 30.5; Maize South, 27; Wichita East, 24; Hutchinson, 21.5.

The Blue Jays won the team title in 2005 and 2006 and did not compete in 2007 due to in-

clement weather. In 2008 and 2009, Norton finished ninth as a team and in 2010 the Blue Jays placed fifth.

In 2011, Norton had a stellar fourth place finish.

Four of the Norton wrestlers placed in the tournament. Senior John Risewick placed fourth at 132, sophomore Jared Tallent finished eighth at 138, junior Kolton Harting finished eighth at 182 and senior Lucas Engel placed eighth at 220.

Also competing for Norton and their records were Caysean Campbell, 106, 1-2 record; Branson Addington, 120, 2-2 record; junior Alec Hager, 126, 2-2 record; senior Cody Ellis, 145, 1-2 record and senior Jared Bohl, 152, 2-2 record.

Kolton Harting was named Norton's "Outstanding Wrestler of the Week" by the Norton coaches for his performance.

Norton had a 19-21 won-loss record and an 11-6 pin ratio.

Named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the Tournament was 120 pound champion Zac Gentzler, Andover Central.

"Every year this tournament gets tougher and tougher," said Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. "New team Grand Island added many talented wrestlers to the mix and their three time defending state championship team ran away with the team title. "We entered nine wrestlers.

Ethan Ross was scheduled to wrestle but a slight elbow injury ruled it unwise for him to compete in a tournament of this caliber.

"After Friday's wrestling ended, I was not at all happy with our performance, especially our hustle and lack of ability to stay positive in a very tough match.

"For the most part, our young men bounced back on Saturday and won several matches in a row to either secure a top eight finish or, in the case of two, come just one match away.

John Risewick

John Risewick was seeded No.3. He pinned Danial Wilson, Leavenworth, in 4:19; won a 5-4 decision over Kendall Biddle, Ark City, before losing a 3-1 decision to Sawyer Like, Blue Valley Southwest. In the consolation bracket, he pinned Anthony Monares, Newton, in 4:52 before losing a 3-0 decision to Tevin Briscoe, Garden City, to place fourth.

"Briscoe was a familiar foe for John," said coach Johnson. "The tight match saw Briscoe escape and Risewick did not. Failure to get escapes in big matches continues to be a problem for many of our wrestlers. That will be an area that we can focus on heading into the regional tournament."

Jared Tallent

Jared was unseeded at 138 pounds and placed eighth.

"That is an excellent finish in an extremely tough bracket," said coach Johnson. "He started the tournament by losing a very exciting 9-3 decision to unbeaten No.1 seed and eventual champion Brogan Humphrey of Fredonia.

"Most of the coaches considered this one of the deepest brackets in the tournament. Jared opened a lot of eyes with his close matches against the best wrestlers in the state regardless of classification."

After losing the first match, Jared pinned Josh Mullin, Manhattan, in 4:56; pinned Corey Campos, Liberal, in 4:13; won a 3-1 decision over Macen Shull, Colby; lost a 3-2 decision to Jared Suppes, Derby and lost a 2-1 decision to Bryan Burnett, Mill Valley, to place eighth.

Kolton Harting

Kolton was unseeded at 182 pounds. "He lost to the eventual fourth place winner, then came alive on the back side of the bracket," said coach Johnson. "He won three straight matches before losing to the eventual third place finisher and losing a double overtime match."

Kolton was pinned in 1:59 by Haris Talundzic, Grand Island; pinned Kyle Harp, Wichita Heights, in 1:27; pinned Jay Zeigelmeier, Colby, in 1:53; won a 6-0 decision over Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Garden City; was pinned in 3:09 by Emilio

Fowler, Gardner-Edgerton and lost a double overtime 2-1 decision to Sage Eckman, Emporia, to place eighth.

Lucas Engel

Lucas was also unseeded at 220 pounds. "Like Tallent, Lucas lost his first match to the eventual champion," said coach Johnson. "On the back side of the bracket, he received a bye and followed that up with two nice wins to put him in the consolation quarterfinals. He dropped his final two matches to finish eighth."

Lucas lost a 12-0 major decision to Edgar Silva, Grand Island; pinned Vincent Dixon, Wichita Heights, in 4:40; won a 1-0 decision over Matt Kissinger, Derby; was pinned in :58 by Anthony Fitchett, Blue Valley Southwest and was pinned in 2:30 by Anthony Gonzalez, Fredonia, to place eighth.

Caysean Campbell

Caysean Campbell won his first 106 pound match by pinning Rylan Kasitz, Salina South, in 3:08; was pinned in 3:46 by Braden Dipman, Derby and lost a 12-2 major decision to Justin Onmugoufor, Witchita Northwest.

Branson Addington

Branson Addington won his first match by a 9-2 decision over Thomas Burton, Wichita East; lost a 16-1 technical fall to No.1 seed unbeaten Zac Gentzler, Andover Central; pinned Tim

Thongone, Lawrence, in 2:33 and lost an 8-5 decision to Jesse Bashor, Maize South.

Alec Hager

Alec Hager won a 7-1 decision over Garrett Girard, Lawrence; pinned Blaise Albers, Salina South, in 1:24; lost a 4-3 decision to Brett Moon, Maize and lost a 9-3 decision to Garrett Whitson, Emporia.

Cody Ellis

Cody Ellis lost an 8-2 decision to Paul Suhr, Andover Central; won a 3-1 decision over Jhett Ostrom, Dodge City and lost a 3-2 decision to Josh Owings, Maize.

Jared Bohl

Jared Bohl was pinned in 2:40 by Ryan Bellinger, Lawrence; pinned Nick Murillo, Hutchinson, in 1:29; won a 14-0 major decision over Jay Page, Andover Central and lost an 8-2 decision to Michael Leeper, Manhattan.

Special mention

Dillon Archer, Newton senior, remained undefeated in winning the 195 pound championship. He is the grandson of Eldon Archer, who was a state wrestling champion for Norton Community High School in 1944.

Next action

Norton hosted Colby in a dual on Thursday in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time..

Norton C-team played in Joe Green tournament

By Dick Boyd

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The Norton Community High School C-team boys basketball team competed in the annual Joe Green Invitational Tournament in Hill City on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 28-29.

The finals were scheduled for Monday, Dec. 31 but they were canceled due to inclement weather.

Norton defeated Lakeside 56-35 in their opener on Friday but lost to Phillipsburg 62-32 in Saturday's semi-finals. The young Blue Jays would have played for third place on Monday.

Lakeside

In the win over Lakeside, Norton held quarter advantages of 11-3, 26-19 and 44-26.

Leading scoring for Norton with 16 points apiece were Breven Sondergaard and Jordan Karnopp.

They were followed by Quinton Porter, 8; Derick Campbell, 7; Connor Griffey, 7; James Berry, 2.

Leading scorer for Lakeside was Roops with 13.

Phillipsburg

In the loss to Phillipsburg in the semi-finals, Norton trailed by quarters 8-5, 27-16 and 49-26.

Sondergaard was leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 12 points, followed by Jordan Karnopp, 9; Quinton Porter, 7; Derick Campbell, 2; Connor Griffey, 2.

Brock Means led Panther scoring with 14 points.

In honor of Green

This holiday basketball tournament has evolved from its original concept as a freshman boys tournament and is now played each year in honor of longtime Hill City High School Coach and Athletic Director Joe Green.

Huskies avenge loss and beat Logan

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Junior High boys basketball team avenged their only loss of the season with a 36-28 victory over the Logan Trojans on Thursday, Jan. 10 in Almena. The Huskies lost to the Trojans by 14 points earlier in the season.

Drake Shearer led the Hus-

kies in scoring with 15 points, Carson Wallace added 9 points, Caden Kinderknecht 6 points, Damian Wellman 4 points and Riley Sides 2 points.

"We played excellent defense, especially in the second half, holding Logan to six points," said head coach Jim Cole.

The Huskies B-team remained undefeated at 9-0 as they cruised

to an easy 37-16 win over the Trojans.

Nick Stutsman was the only Husky to score in double figures with 14 points, Caden Bach 6 points, Ross Cole 5 points, Kale Cox 4 points, Briely Yocum 4 points, Brady Rogers 2 points and Cooper Mussman 2 points.

Northern Valley Husky ladies have big win

By Mike Stephens

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The Northern Valley Junior High girls basketball team held on by six points to earn a big win over the Lady Trojans, 22-16, on Thursday, Jan. 10 in Almena.

The Lady Huskies, like the boys team, avenged a 20 point loss to the Trojans earlier in the season. Six Lady Huskies scored points to help with the win. The Huskies leading scorer was Katie Johnson with 6 points, Chaylee Lowry 5 points, HalLee Linner 5 points, Kylie Kinderknecht 2

points, Paige Baird 2 points and Brittany Wright 2 points.

"We did a much better job of handling Logan's pressure defense in this game. Our defense and especially our rebounding have improved during the season," said head coach Jim Cole.

With the victory the Lady Huskies improved their record to 3-6 on the season.

The Lady Huskies B-team also won a tightly contested game with the Trojans, winning by four points, 21-17. The B-team had six players scoring. Makensy Schroeder led

the Huskies in scoring with 7 points, Paige Baird and Morgan Wright each added 4 points, Brianna Johns 3 points and Micah Kasson 1 point.

"The Husky B-team ran an aggressive full court press to help them win their second game of the season," said coach Cole.

The B-team is 2-7 on the season.

The Husky C-team lost in a close and low scoring affair, 4-0, to the Lady Trojans.

The C-team is 0-4 on the season.

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