Tournament of Champions results

By DICK BOYD
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Norton Community High School was the smallest enrollment school competing in the prestigious 51st annual Newton Wrestling Tournament of Champions in Newton last Friday and Saturday but the Blue Jays' partial team proved once again that they were capable of wrestling with the larger schools in the Sunflower State.

Coach Bill Johnson entered just 11 wrestlers in the 14 weight classes and the Blue Jays placed 15th out of 27 teams.

Norton, the smallest school to ever win this tough tournament, also finished 15th last season.

Norton is the defending Class 3-2-1A state champion and is currently ranked No.1 in the state.

Grand Island, Neb., who entered the tournament for the first time last year and won the title, also won the championship this time around, scoring 183 points. Manhattan finished second with 138, just passing No.1 state ranked in Class 6A and defending state champion Garden City, who scored 137.5 points.

Fourth place went to Ark City with 127, followed by Mill Valley, 126; Newton, 119; Blue Valley Southwest, 111; Bishop Carroll, 101; Derby, 101; Holton, 101; Wichita Northwest, 97.5; Maize, 91; Colby, 88.5; Gardner Edgerton, 87; Norton, 80.5; Maize South, 68.5; Andover Central, 61; Hutchinson, 59; Emporia, 58.5; Leavenworth, 57.5; Wichita Heights, 53.5; Dodge City, 52.5; Lawrence, 52.5; Fredonia, 43; McPherson, 31.5; Wichita East, 18; Salina South, 16.

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

Five of the Norton wrestlers placed in the tournament. Junior Jared Tallent, 145, finished third; senior Alec Hager, 138, was sixth; freshman Jacob Green, 220, finished seventh; junior Caysean Campbell, 106, placed seventh and senior Cole Renner, 170, finished eighth.

Also wrestling for Norton were senior Ethan Ross, 120; sophomore Mike Kasson, 152; junior Kendall Miller, 160; senior Toby Nickell, 132; sophomore Jordan Dole, 195 and senior Branson Addington, 113.

"We enter the Newton Tournament of Champions to be tested and tested we were," said coach Johnson."We were in some real battles, some of which we came out on top and some we did not. But, the lesson we must take away from this is that each and everyone of our wrestlers learned that they have some weaknesses and we will work to improve on those weaknesses over the next few weeks.

"As a team, we placed five of the 11 athletes we took and scored about 20 points more than last year. We are not happy with the 15th place as a team. But, I remind our fans we also placed 15th last year. Several other wrestlers were just one match away from placing in the top eight. In a tournament of this quality, just being in the top eight is an accomplishment."

Since Jared Tallent placed highest for Norton, the Blue Jay coaching staff named him "Norton Wrestler of the Week". "He looked very good in all but one of his matches," said coach Johnson."For third place, he defeated last year's Class 6A state runner-up from Wichita Northwest." Tallent also finished eighth last year at Newton.

Norton had a 24-21 won-loss record and a 10-5 pin ratio.

Named "Outstanding Wrestler" of the tournament was the 138 pound champion Andrew Rojas, Grand Island senior, who extended his perfect record so far this season to 30-0. He defeated No.1 seed Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia senior, 3-0 in the championship match.

Jared Tallent

Jared Tallent won a 21-3 tech fall in 4:40 over Stetson Stara, Grand Island; won a 16-0 tech fall in 1:50 over Ceasar Luna, Derby; won a 7-1 decision over Trevor Watson, Blue Valley; was pinned in 2:21 by No.1 seed Jake Ellis, Mill Valley; won a 17-1 tech fall in 4:55 over Garrett Haskins, Wichita Heights and won a 4-2 decision over Dylan Beckner, Wichita Northwest, to place third.

Alec Hager

Alec Hager won a 9-2 decision over Colton Watters, Ark City; won a 12-1 major decision over Steven Martinez, Leavenworth; won a 3-1 decision over Nic Augustin, Andover Central; lost an 11-4 decision to No.1 seed Brogan Humphrey, Fredonia; lost a 3-1 decision to Tevin Brisco, Garden City and lost a 10-6 decision to Garrett Xanders, Derby, to place sixth.

Caysean Campbell

Caysean Campbell pinned Devon Griego, Dodge City, in 1:06; lost a 4-3 decision to Efrain Sanchez, Garden City; won a 7-5 decision over Joe Braun, Manhattan; lost a 4-3 decision to Tanner Smith, Derby and shutout Trevor Haun, Fredonia, 4-0 to place seventh.

Jacob Green

Jacob Green pinned Jacob Funschelle, Maize, in 3:29; pinned Malik Delacadena, Wichita Heights, in 3:38; lost a 3-2 decision to Nick Nolting, Bishop Carroll; pinned Michael Rubke, Hutchinson, in 3:56; lost a 4-0 decision to Jordan Bell, Wichita Northwest and won an 8-4 decision over Carlos Brown, Andover Central, to place seventh.

Cole Renner

Cole Renner pinned Cordell Clark, Newton, in 5:09; pinned Tommy Finley, Fredonia, in 3:05; was pinned in 5:07 by No.1 seed and eventual champion Dustin Williams, Gardner Edgerton; shutout Ryan Bellinger, Lawrence, 6-0; lost a 6-4 decision to Peyton Bendure, Mill Valley; lost a 3-1 overtime decision to Josh Mullin, Manhattan, to place eighth.

Ethan Ross

Ethan Ross lost a 4-3 decision to Sam Roy, Bishop Carroll; was pinned in 2:24 by Blake Coen, Grand Island; pinned Brett Charbonneau, Emporia, in 1:04 and pinned Ethan VanDorn, McPherson, in :46.

Mike Kasson

Mike Kasson lost a 7-2 decision to Michael Leeper, Manhattan; shutout Tucker Lee, Emporia, 5-0 and pinned Caleb Gash, Derby, in 3:21.

Kendall Miller

Kendall Miller pinned Michael Harrington, Leavenworth, in 5:10; won a 9-4 decision over Lucas Scott, Blue Valley; lost a 5-0 decision to Andrew Rieschick, Hutchinson and lost a 5-2 decision to Jace Brown, Andover Central.

Toby Nickell

Toby Nickell lost a 7-6 decision to Devon Asebedo, Dodge City and was pinned in 3:14 by Dante Todd, Grand Island.

Jordan Dole

Jordan Dole was pinned in 5:34 by Jay Ziegelmeier, Colby.

Branson Addington

Branson Addington lost a 4-1 decision to Conor Murphy, Bishop Carroll and lost a 5-0 decision to Skyler Schmidt, Grand Island.

Next action

Norton traveled to Colby on Thursday for a dual but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Norton loses again to league tourney champion Plainville

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School boys basketball team met the top team in the Mid-Continent League for the second time in a week when they traveled to Plainville on Tuesday and lost again in a very similar game.

The first time it was the No.1 seed in the league tourney versus the No.8 Blue Jays and the result was a 60-43 loss. Plainville continued on to win the championship on Saturday in Hays.

This time, it was the regularly scheduled league game in Plainville and the Blue Jays battled hard as usual but still lost 61-45.

On Tuesday, Plainville jumped out to a 15-9 first quarter lead and was on top 32-19 at halftime. Both teams scored 13 points in the third period, making it 45-32 with one quarter remaining. Norton also scored 13 points in the final stanza but the Cardinals added 16 to their total.

"Plainville is a very good basketball team," said Norton head coach Doug Reusink. "We have to stay disciplined and do things correctly to have a chance to win and we failed to do that in the second quarter. I felt our boys gathered their composure and competed in the second half but we could not overcome the deficit from the first half.

"Gillum is a very good player for them and we had no answer for him tonight.

"We must stay perseverant and keep working to get better. If we do that, we will win more games down the road."

Three Norton players scored 10 points in the game and one tallied 9 points but it wasn't enough to make up for Gillum's 23 and Gehring and Friend's 12 each.

Quinton Porter hit 10 points on 4 of 8 two-point shots for 50 percent and 2 of 2 free throws. Drew Schrum also scored 10 points on 1 of 1 from three-point range, 3 of 5 two-point tries for 60 percent and 1 of 2 free throws. Also scoring 10 points for the Blue Jays was Tanner Furbush on 5 of 14 two-point attempts for 36 percent.

Conor Cox added 9 points on 4 of 8 from the field for 50 percent and 1 of 2 free throws.

As a team, Norton hit 1 of 3 from long range for 33 percent, 19 of 51 two-point attempts for 37 percent and 20 of 54 overall for 37 percent.

The Cardinals swished 2 of 7 from beyond the arc for 29 percent, 25 of 46 two-point tries for 54 percent and 27 of 53 overall for 51 percent.

From the free throw line, the Blue Jays hit 4 of 6 for 67 percent and the Cards hit 5 of 9 for 56 percent.

Norton won the rebounding battle, 30-22. The Blue Jays pulled down 12 offensive and 18 defensive caroms compared to 7 offensive and 15 defensive boards for Plainville.

Leading rebounders for Norton were Quinton Porter and Tanner Furbush, each with 7, followed by Conor Cox, 6; Breven Sondergaard, Tyus Henson, Marc Miller, 2 each; Kobe Unterseher, Drew Schrum, Trever Lewis, Landon Porter, 1 each.

The Blue Jays had 6 steals and the Cardinals had 13 thefts. Miller had 2 steals, followed by Quinton Porter, Henson, Schrum, Furbush, 1 each.

Norton had 10 offensive assists and Plainville recorded 9. Schrum had 4 assists, Quinton Porter had 3, Henson, Miller and Cox each had 1 assist.

Cox blocked 4 shots.

The Blue Jays had 16 turnovers compared to 12 for the Cardinals.

Junior varsity

Norton won the junior varsity boys game by a score of 48-43.

The young Blue Jays trailed 18-7 after one quarter but turned the tables on the Cardinals in the second quarter, outscoring them by a similar score of 18-6 to take a 25-24 halftime advantage.

Both teams scored 10 points in the third quarter as Norton continued to lead by 1 at 35-34.

A 13-9 fourth quarter in Norton's favor led to the 5 point victory.

Jordan Karnopp led Norton in scoring with 16 points, followed by Breven Sondergaard, 11; Kobie Unterseher, 7; Connor Griffey, 7; Landon Porter, 5; Koby McEwen, 2.

Garvert led Plainville in scoring with 11 points.

C-team

Norton also won the C-team game by a score of 33-30.

The young Blue Jays led 8-6 after on quarter and 18-13 at halftime.

Norton was outscored 13-6 in the third period and trailed 26-24 with one quarter remaining. A 9-4 final stanza in Norton's favor led to the three-point victory.

Will Ellis led Norton in scoring with 10 points, followed by Cruz Leon, 9; James Berry, 7; Koby McEwen, 4; Gin Lee, 3.

Crawford led Plainville with 12 points.

Norton boys

Quinton Porter 4 0 2-2 10, Drew Schrum 3 1 1-2 10, Conor Cox 4 0 1-2 9, Tanner Furbush 5 0 0-0 10, Trever Lewis 2 0 0-0 4, Jordan Karnopp 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 19 1 4-6 45.

Plainville boys

Friend 6 0 0-0 12, Frederking 1 1 0-0 5, Gillum 11 0 1-2 23, Dewey 2 0 0-0 4, Newell 1 0 1-1 3, Gehring 3 1 3-6 12, Garvert 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 25 2 5-9 61.

Next action

Norton hosted Phillipsburg in Thursday games in Norton but results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

Lady Jays take a hard loss to Plainville

By DICK BOYD
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The Norton Community High School girls basketball team fell behind early and couldn't catch-up in a Mid-Continent League 32-28 loss at Plainville on Tuesday evening.

The Lady Jays led the entire game when they defeated the Lady Cardinals last week in the MCL Tournament but it was a different story this time around.

Norton shooters were as cold as the outdoors as they failed to tally at all in the first quarter, which ended with Plainville on top 14-0.

Plainville had a cold second period when the Lady Cards hit just 5 points. Norton tallied 8 points but still trailed 19-8 at intermission. The Lady Cardinals added only 4 more points to their total in the third period while Norton scored 12 to cut the Plainville lead to 23-20.

The Norton girls continued to play hard in the final stanza and had several opportunities to win the game but they didn't materialize. The Lady Jays scored 8 points in the final period compared to 9 for the Lady Cards.

"We did not come out ready to play," said Norton head coach George Rossi.

"The bottom line is give the credit to Plainville for being aggressive and taking it to us. By the time we started to wake up, we were 14 or 15 points behind.

"I am very proud of how hard our girls played in the second half. We got back into the game but just couldn't get a lead or tie it up.

"We need to do a better job of moving the ball and attacking the defense and scoring.

"We have a tough stretch of games coming up and we need some wins to get us back into the game."

Leading scorer for Norton was Katie Bohl with 12 points. She hit 6 of 12 attempts from the field for 50 percent accuracy. Johnnye Ruder finished with 8 points on 2 of 8 from beyond the arc for 25 percent and 2 of 2 free throws.

Brianna Casey led Plainville with 13 points.

As a team, Norton hit just 2 of 18 shots from three-point range for 11 percent, 10 of 31 two-point shots for 32 percent and 12 of 49 overall for 24 percent.

Plainville missed all five three-point tries and scored on 14 of 38 two-point attempts for 37 percent.

Ruder was Norton's only player to reach the free throw line, hitting both attempts. Plainville was 4 of 8 from the charity stripe for 50 percent.

Norton barely outrebounded Plainville 29-27. The Lady Jays pulled down 11 offensive and 18 defensive caroms. The Lady Cardinals grabbed 9 offensive and 18 defensive boards.

Leading rebounder for Norton was Katelyn Engelbert with 7, followed by Katie Bohl, 6; Darcy Bainter, 4; Caitlyn Cox, 4; Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Johnnye Ruder, 2; Miah Melvin, 2.

Bainter had 3 of Norton's 8 steals, followed by Engelbert, 2; Bohl, Bailey Ambrosier, Ruder, 1 each. Plainville had just 5 thefts.

Ruder had 3 of the Lady Jays' 7 assists, followed by Engelbert, 2; Marisa Maddy, Bainter, 1 each.

Engelbert and Bohl each blocked 1 shot.

Norton had 15 turnovers but Plainville lost the ball 17 times.

Junior varsity

The Norton girls junior varsity overwhelmed Plainville 57-17.

Norton held quarter leads of 12-2, 32-7 and 51-13.

Leading scorers for the Lady Jays were Caitlyn Cox, Lexi Voss and Miah Melvin, each with 11 points. They were followed by Peyton Renner, 6; Baylee Miller, 6; Molly Maddy, 4; Kira Robertson, 3; Hanna Brooks, 2; Casey Ambrosier, 2; Kylie Perez, 1.

Brooke Eillers led the Lady Cards with 6 points and Meghan Augustine added 5.

"Our girls were hungry to play a game after their break during the league tournament and their play showed it," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt.

"Our press was strong although our fundamental half court defense had a few mental lapses.

"It was a great win and all 15 of our junior varsity players contributed to the victory."

Norton girls

Caitlyn Cox 1 0 0-0 2, Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4, Katie Bohl 6 0 0-0 12, Bailey Ambrosier 1 0 0-0 2, Johnnye Ruder 0 2 2-2 8; Totals 10 2 2-2 28.

Plainville girls

Shania Werner 1 0 0-0 2, Mallory McQueen 2 0 0-0 4, Ashley Winters 2 0 0-0 4, Lyric Dewey 2 0 1-2 5, Allison Sears 1 0 0-0 2, Brianna Casey 5 3-4 13, Courtney Crawford 1 0 0-0 2; Totals 14 0 4-8 32.

Next action

Norton hosted Phillipsburg in Thursday games in both Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym and NCHS Stull Gym. Results were not available at the Norton Telegram's press time.

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