

Blue Jays place fourth in Panther Clas-

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School varsity wrestling team entered 10 wrestlers in the always tough Panther Classic in Phillipsburg on Saturday but only eight finished competition and the Blue Jays placed fourth.

Phillipsburg won the team title with 126.5 points, followed by Hoisington, 123; Marysville, 112.5; Norton, 103; Abilene, 99; Beloit, 90; Oakley, 58.5; Minneapolis, 55; Lincoln, 50.5; Ellsworth, 49; Ellis, 32; Hoxie, 25.5; St. Francis, 25; Thomas More Prep-Hays, 17; Hill City, 10; Stockton, 2.

Alec Hager at 138 was Norton's only champion. Because of his good day, which included defeating a previously unbeaten wrestler in the finals, Alec was named "Norton Wrestler of the Week" by the Blue Jay coaches.

Wrestling for championships and placing runner-up were Caysean Campbell, 106; Branson Addington, 113 and Jared Tallent, 145.

Placing fourth were Cole Renner, 170 and Kolton Harting, 195.

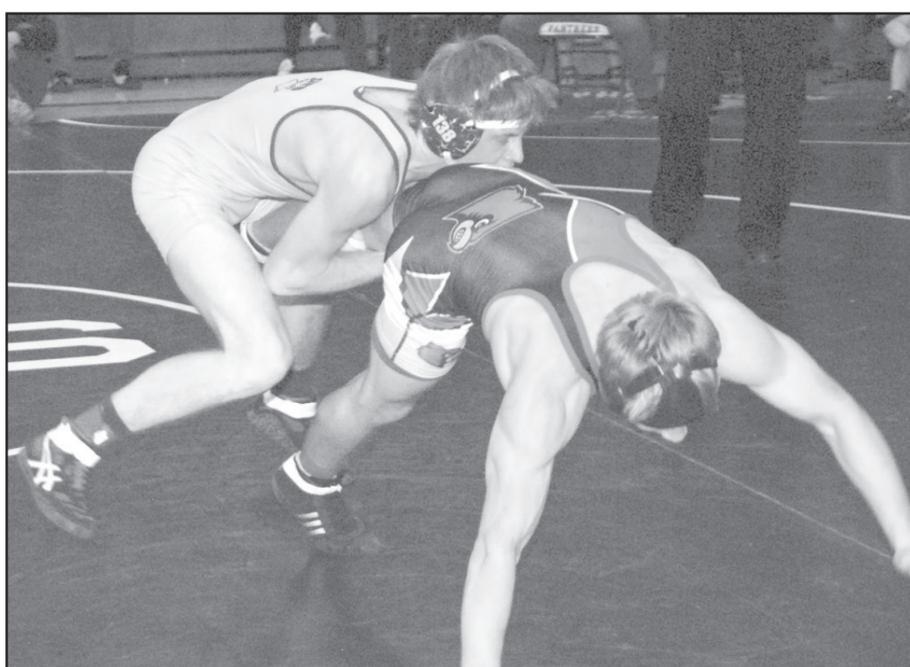
Norton was open at 120, 132, 182 and 220.

Also wrestling for Norton were Trenton Wright, 126; Gavin Lively, 152; Kendall Miller, 160 and Michael Johnson, 285.

Lively won one match and lost one, then withdrew due to injury. Miller won one match before withdrawing due to illness.

"We knew we would be more shorthanded than normal, mainly due to injury, but as the day went on, it was apparent it would be even worse," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson. "Miller was out due to illness after winning one match and Lively wrestled a couple of matches before withdrawing due to an injury. Caysean Campbell placed second in a hard fought, well-wrestled match but received a rib injury in the closing seconds.

"I'm not happy with our performance but, when you look at the team scores, we weren't that far out of first place. In this tournament, year in and year out, we have had several wrestlers out of the lineup due to injury. You can't control injuries or sickness.



Norton's 138 pound wrestler Alec Hager finishes a single leg attack on Hoisington's Jonathan Ball during his 5-2 championship win over Ball at the Panther Classic. It was Ball's first loss of the season; he is now 31-1 and Hager improved his season record to 32-5. Hager was chosen "Norton Wrestler of the Week" by the Norton coaches.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

"All of our injuries are frustrating to both our coaching staff and our wrestlers. It's hard to get momentum rolling. In the end, you just put your healthiest weestlers on the mat and pray for good things."

Norton had a 15-12 won-loss record and a 7-3 pin ratio in the tournament.

Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg, was chosen "Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament" by vote of the team coaches.

Individual results

106 - Caysean Campbell was pinned in 5:59 by

Logan McDowell, Abilene; pinned Brayden Winters, Stockton, in 2:55; pinned Austin Holzmester, Oakley, in 5:06.

113 - Branson Addington won by forfeit; lost a 9-2 decision to Ty Nienke, Ellsworth; pinned Rocky Krueger, Lincoln, in 3:00.

126 - Trenton Wright lost an 11-2 major decision to Gabe Hamel, Hill City; lost a 10-0 major decision to Riley Juemann, Phillipsburg; won a 7-4 decision over Josh Plante, TMP.

138 - Alec Hager won a 13-8 decision over Blake Anguiano, Abilene; pinned Derick Coomes,

Phillipsburg, in 5:28; won a 5-2 decision over Jonathan Ball, Hoisington. Ball entered the match with Hager with a perfect 31-0 record.

145 - Jared Tallent won a 5-1 decision over Mo Rojas, Ellsworth; won a 7-3 decision over Cotter Stoll, Oakley; lost an 8-6 decision to Michael Dusin, Phillipsburg, in overtime.

152 - Gavin Lively pinned Nick Feldkamp, Lincoln, in 1:27 and lost a 9-5 decision to Jacob Mintzmeier, Marysville, who has relatives in Norton. Mintzmeier went on to place second. He is a freshman with a 16-7 record.

160 - Kendall Miller won an 11-8 decision over Tristan Ptacek, Ellis.

170 - Cole Renner pinned Trey Bender, Abilene, in 4:46; won a 15-4 major decision over Randall Martin, Lincoln; lost a 5-3 decision to Dalton Langham, Beloit; lost 7-5 in overtime to David Heck, Marysville.

195 - Kolton Harting pinned Jaron Christensen, Abilene, in :44; lost a 5-2 decision to Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg; lost a 3-2 decision to Seth Boswell, Phillipsburg.

285 - Michael Johnson was pinned in 1:40 by Chance Boor, Hoisington; was pinned in :37 by Shakotah Blanka, St. Francis.

Next action

Norton's final dual action of the season will be this Friday when the varsity and junior varsity wrestlers travel to Goodland.

Wrestling will begin at 6:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Norton will compete in the Bill Voss "Novice" Wrestling Tournament in Colby.

Teams competing, in addition to Norton and Colby, will be Garden City, Goodland, Hays, TMP of Hays, Hill City, Holcomb, Hoxie, Hugoton, Lakin, Oakley, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Atwood, Scott City, St. Francis, Trego Community and Tribune.

Three individual medals will be awarded for each weight class. A Most Inspirational Wrestler and Most Improved Award will be selected by coaches. A fastest pin will also be awarded for lower and upper weight classes.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Lady Jays take a second half loss to Hill City

By DICK BOYD

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It was a tale of two halves on Friday night when the Norton Community High School girls basketball team led at halftime of their Mid-Continent League game at Hill City but were unable to stop a Lady Ringneck rally after intermission and lost 41-37.

The Lady Jays were on top 10-9 after the first quarter and 25-16 after a 15-7 second quarter. Despite being outscored 13-7 in the third period, Norton still led 32-29 after three quarters. The Hill City girls had another good fourth period when they scored 12 points and Norton was only able to hit 5 points on two baskets by senior guard Johnnye Ruder.

The Lady Jays had a lead of 35-31 after Ruder drained her third three-point basket of the game but a trey at the other end of the court and two Lady Ringneck free throws with 4:57 still remaining put them ahead 36-35. Norton hit just one basket the rest of the way, a steal and two-pointer by Ruder, and the Lady Ringnecks added 5 more points for the win.

"This loss stings," said Norton head coach George Rossi.

"We were two different teams. In the first half, we were aggressive and confident and in the second half we just lacked both of those things. We fouled in the second half, putting Hill City to the line and they are excellent free throw shooters. The bad thing is that most of our fouls were careless reaches.

"This game is not the end of the world but our schedule upcoming is very difficult. We need to believe in ourselves and get some wins!"

Ruder ended as the leading scorer for Norton with 11 points on 3 of 13 from beyond the arc for 23 percent, 1 of 1 two-point attempts and 4 of 14 overall for 29 percent. Katie Bohl and Darcy Bainter both added 10 points. Bainter swished 2 of 5 three-point tries for 40 percent, 2 of 2 from two-point range and 4 of 7 overall for 57 percent. Bohl hit 3 of 7 from the field for 43 percent and 4 of 6 free throws for 67 percent.

Lexie McDowell led Hill City scoring, also with 11 points.

While both teams pulled down 21 rebounds and Norton had fewer turnovers, Hill City outshot them from both the field and the free throw line.

The Lady Jays hit 5 of 23 from



Norton's Darcy Bainter drives past a Hill City defender to score during the Lady Jays' game against the Lady Ringnecks on Friday evening. Bainter hit 57 percent from the field and finished the game with 10 points.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

beyond the arc for 22 percent, 8 of 20 two-point tries for 40 percent and 13 of 43 overall for 30 percent. The Lady Ringnecks swished 3 of 12 from long range for 25 percent, 12 of 23 two-point tries for 52 percent and 15 of 35 overall for 43 percent.

From the free throw line, Norton hit 6 of 9 for a creditable 67 percent but Hill City did even better on 8 of 10 for 80 percent.

Norton grabbed 7 offensive and 14 defensive rebounds for 21 total and Hill City also pulled down 21 total caroms.

Katie Bohl led Norton with 8, followed by Bailey Ambrosier, 4; Katelyn Engelbert, 3; Caitlyn Cox, 2; Miah Melvin, 2; Darcy Bainter, 1; Johnnye Ruder, 1.

The Lady Jays had 14 turnovers but the Lady Ringnecks gave up the ball 19 times.

Norton had 7 steals and Hill City had 11 thefts. Bainter led Norton with 3, followed by Bohl, 2; Bailey Ambrosier, Ruder, 1 each.

Ruder had 3 of Norton's 7 offensive assists, followed by Engelbert, Bainter, Bailey Ambrosier, Melvin, 1 each.

Junior varsity

Norton edged Hill City 14-12 in a two-quarter game.

Hill City led 8-6 after one quarter but Norton outscored the home team 8-4 in the second period.

Leading scorer for Norton was Lexi Voss with 4 points, followed by Peyton Renner, Kylie Perez, Baylee Miller, Miah Melvin, Molly Maddy, 2 each.

Amanda Conway led Hill City with 5 points.

"Rebounds made the difference tonight," said Norton assistant coach Joan Bolt. "We

outrebounded them 17-11 and that was big.

"Our girls also played very good help defense, which decreased the number of touches by their post players."

Norton girls

Katelyn Engelbert 2 0 0-0 4, Darcy Bainter 2 2 0-0 10, Katie Bohl 3 0 4-6 10, Bailey Ambrosier 0 0 2-2 2, Johnnye Ruder 1 3 0-0 11; Totals 8 5 6-9 37.

Hill City girls

Tessa Reynolds 3 0 0-0 6, Amanda Conway 1 0 0-0 2, Lexie McDowell 2 1 4-4 11, Adrianna Nicholson 2 0 0-0 4, Maegan Gosselin 1 1 2-2 7, Leslie VanLoenen 1 1 0-0 5, Brooke Burton 2 0 2-4 6; Totals 12 3 8-10 41.

Next action

Norton girls and boys hosted games with Colby on Monday evening. They had been postponed from January 31 due to inclement weather.

This evening, Norton girls and boys will travel to Oberlin for games beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Wrestlers win "Senior Night" dual

By DICK BOYD

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The Norton Community High School wrestlers enjoyed "Senior Night" on Friday in the Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym by defeating Smith Center 61-16 in a dual.

There were only six varsity matches. Norton won three and Smith Center won three.

Senior wrestlers honored, along with their parents, were: Alec Hager, Branson Addington, Cole Renner, Ethan Ross, Garret Otter, Kolton Harting, Michael Johnson and Toby Nickell. Senior managers honored were Jordyn Gosselin and Austin Hager.

"It was a nice relaxing night to honor our eight wrestling seniors and two senior managers," said Norton head coach Bill Johnson.

"Unfortunately, there were only six varsity matches. We thought the toughest would be at the 138, 152 and 170 pound weights and they were. We won two and lost the other."

Match results

106 - Caysean Campbell won by forfeit.

113 - Branson Addington won a 12-4 major decision over Dalton Oliver.

120 - Kade Unterseher was pinned in 2:50 by David Hileman, Smith Center.

126 - Trenton Wright lost a 12-3 major decision to Cale Rogers, Smith Center.

132 - Ethan Ross won by forfeit.

138 - Alec Hager pinned Brody Frieling in 5:15.

145 - Garret Otter won by forfeit.

152 - Gavin Lively was pinned in 3:47 by Clint Rogers.

160 - Kendall Miller won by forfeit.

170 - Cole Renner won an 8-6 decision over Wyatt Oliver.

182 - Alex Hjort won by forfeit.

195 - Kolton Harting won by forfeit.

220 - Jacob Green won by for-

feit. 285 - Michael Johnson won by forfeit.



Sudoku Puzzle #3174-M

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