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SPORTS REPORTING  
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## JCC WRESTLING



Payton Handevidt tries to turn Lucas Jurek of Kimball Area during a 7-2 win in the first round of the Class A state wrestling tournament this past Friday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

# HANDEVIDT SIXTH AT STATE

Butzon wins two matches, comes up just one win short of podium

by DAN CONDON  
Sports Editor

A streak that dates back more than 30 years is still intact after Jackson County Central freshman Payton Handevidt earned a sixth-place finish at the Class A individual state wrestling tournament Saturday.

Handevidt went 3-3 at the state tournament to give Jackson County at least one place-winner at the state tournament every year since 1988.

Handevidt, ranked ninth in Class A, earned his sixth-place finish at 120 pounds. He finishes the season with a record of 41-6.

Eighth-grader Logan Butzon came up just one win short of placing, going 2-2 in his state tournament debut. Butzon ends his season with a mark of 38-11.

Handevidt finishes sixth

Handevidt opened the 120-pound state tournament with a 7-2 win over Lucas Jurek of Kimball Area this past Friday. Handevidt led 5-0 after the first period thanks to a takedown and three near-fall points and used a third-period takedown to seal the win.

Later that night, he lost a heartbreaker in overtime to Dane Niemi of New York Mills.

Handevidt led 2-0 after a first-period takedown, but the match was tied heading to the third period. Handevidt nearly got an escape that would've likely won the match late in regulation, but it went to

overtime and Niemi got a takedown late in the one-minute extra session for a 4-2 win.

A win would've guaranteed Handevidt a spot on the podium, but he got there anyway with a pair of wins.

The first came Friday night when Handevidt

See **WR** on **B4**



Logan Butzon takes on Marshall Larson of Aitkin in an 11-5 win during the first round of the Class A state wrestling tournament at the Xcel Energy Center.

## JCC BOYS' BASKETBALL

# Huskies survive first-round scare

by DAN CONDON  
Sports Editor

In a sub-section where seven of the eight teams have at least 11 wins, Jackson County Central boys' basketball coach Alex Hein knew nothing would come easy for his second-seeded Huskies.

That proved to be the case in Saturday's playoff opener against seventh-seeded Tracy-Milroy-Balaton.

The Huskies trailed by two midway through the second half before rallying and then hanging on to beat the Panthers 72-66.

"At this point in the season, you just gotta win," Hein said. "None of them are going to be easy, es-

pecially in our sub-section that has seven teams with 10-plus wins. We did enough to win."

The key, Hein said, is his team is still playing.

"Our goal is still out there and we can still achieve it," he said.

The Panthers scored at the buzzer to pull within two points at the half, then opened the second half with a basket to pull even with the favored Huskies.

Despite three-pointers from Andrew Hesebeck and Jack Brinkman, the Huskies found themselves tied at 36 and then down by a point after a Panther three-pointer.

It was the three-ball that helped the Panthers hang

See **BBB** on **B5**



Rudy Voss splits a trio of Tracy-Milroy-Balaton defenders for a basket during Jackson County Central's playoff-opening win over the Panthers Saturday.

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

## JCC GIRLS' BASKETBALL

# Cardinal rally brings end to the season for JCC girls

by DAN CONDON  
Sports Editor

Everything went according to plan for the sixth-seeded Jackson County

Central girls' basketball team in the first half of last Thursday's South Section 3AA semifinal game against second-seeded

See **GBB** on **B5**



Alaina Wolff scores two points during last week's South Section 3AA semifinal playoff game against Redwood Valley despite a hand in her face.

PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

## JCC GYMNASTICS



Carson Schneekloth performs on balance beam at the Class A state tournament on Feb. 23. Schneekloth, who scored 8.975 at state to finish 26th, earned all-conference honors this season.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Schneekloth, Benda earn all-conference honors

Jackson County Central landed two gymnasts on the all-Big South Conference gymnastics team.

Freshman Carson Schneekloth and eighth-grader Payten Benda each earned all-conference honors for the West Division.

All-conference awards are earned based on a point system used during conference meets throughout the season.

Schneekloth, who ended her season with a score of 8.975 on balance beam at the state tournament last month, won all-around in three conference meets and was in the top three in the other three.

She won vault during three conference meets and balance beam once and placed in the top four on vault and floor exercise in five of the six conference meets.

All of Schneekloth's season-high scores came in

conference meets. She had season highs of 9.075 on vault, 9.1 on beam, 8.0 on bars and 35.15 in all-around against Luverne. She also scored 8.975 on floor against Luverne and tied that in a meet against Worthington.

Benda was the floor exercise champion in two conference meets, including when she scored her season-high score of 9.25 against Luverne. She was runner-up on floor in two other BSC meets.

Benda had the top score on beam once, when her career-high against Luverne tied her with Schneekloth for first place. She placed fourth on beam in three BSC meets and was in the top four on vault four times.

The Huskies finished second in the West Division of the conference with a 5-1 mark and placed third in the BSC tournament.



## BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE STANDINGS

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	10-1	21-5
JCC	8-4	17-9
Redwood	8-4	13-11
Worthington	7-5	15-10
Pipestone	5-7	14-11
Luverne	3-8	11-12
Windom	0-12	2-24
East		
Team	BSC	All
Waseca	10-0	25-1
St. Peter	8-2	19-6
St. James	4-6	16-8
Fairmont	3-6	13-13
BEA	3-7	11-12
New Ulm	1-8	6-19

### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	12-0	20-7
Pipestone	8-4	16-8
Redwood	7-5	17-8
Worthington	5-7	6-17
Luverne	4-8	14-11
Windom	3-9	13-13
JCC	3-9	9-16
East		
Team	BSC	All
Waseca	10-0	26-1
New Ulm	8-2	20-6
St. Peter	4-5	14-10
BEA	4-6	13-11
Fairmont	3-7	9-16
St. James	0-9	4-21

### WRESTLING

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	6-0	19-3
Redwood	5-1	15-7
Worthington	4-2	14-8
Windom	3-3	13-5
JCC	2-4	12-8
Pipestone	1-5	5-18
Luverne	0-6	3-15
East		
Team	BSC	All
Fairmont	5-0	22-2
St. Peter	4-1	12-6
BEA	3-2	25-9
Waseca	1-3	5-5
New Ulm	1-3	12-12
St. James	0-5	9-13

### GYMNASTICS

Team	BSC	All
Worthington	6-0	10-0
JCC	5-1	7-3
Luverne	3-3	4-6
Redwood	2-2	4-4
Marshall	2-3	3-6
Windom	1-5	2-7
Pipestone	0-6	0-9
East		
Team	BSC	All
MCA	4-0	8-1
New Ulm	3-1	5-2
Waseca	3-2	4-3
St. Peter	3-4	4-5
BEA	1-3	2-6
St. James	0-4	0-9

### BOYS' HOCKEY

Team	BSC	All
Marshall	15-1	22-3-1
MN River	12-2	20-4
New Ulm	11-3	17-8-1
Luverne	8-7	10-14
Waseca	7-7	9-14
Windom	5-7	8-11-1
Redwood	4-10	9-15
Fairmont	1-13	1-20
Worthington	1-14	1-21

### GIRLS' HOCKEY

Team	BSC	All
New Ulm	12-1-1	17-9-1
Marshall	11-2-1	17-7-3
Luverne	10-3-1	16-7-3
MN River	6-7-1	8-16-1
Waseca	5-8	8-17-1
Windom	4-9	7-17
Worthington	3-12	6-18
Fairmont	3-12	4-22

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## SPORTS CALENDAR

- Thursday, March 7**  
BBB vs Pipestone (section tournament in Windom)
- Friday, March 8**  
No events
- Saturday, March 9**  
BBB - Sub-section finals (TBD at SMSU)
- Sunday, March 10**  
No events
- Monday, March 11**  
SB - Practice begins  
T&F - Practice begins
- Tuesday, March 12**  
No events
- Wednesday, March 13**  
No events

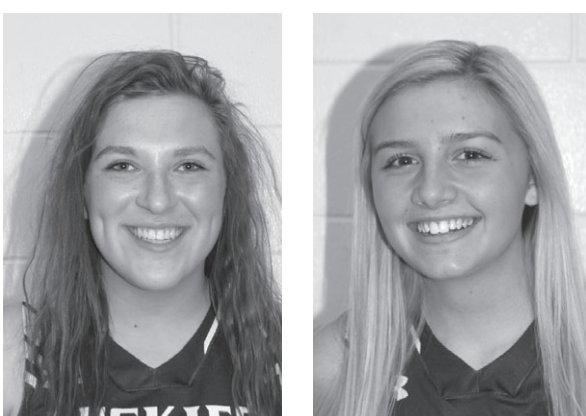
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- Feb. 28, 6:24 p.m.**  
Carson Schneekloth and Payten Benda earned all-Big South Conference honors in gymnastics for JCC.
- Feb. 28, 8:05 p.m.**  
Huskies have scored 8 straight to lead 28-11 with 3:00 left in the half.
- March 1, 12:27 p.m.**  
Logan Butzen opens the 106-pound state tournament with an 11-5 win. He'll be in the quarterfinals tonight.
- March 2, 7:55 p.m.**  
Buhl three-pointer and Benda bucket force a TMB time-out. JCC scores five straight to lead 50-47 with 10:57 left.

Follow for more updates

## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



**Name:** Melissa Brandt (left) and Kailey Koep  
**Grade:** 12  
**Sport:** Girls' basketball  
**The week that was:** Brandt and Koep capped impressive careers last week against Redwood Valley. Brandt scored eight points and led the team with eight rebounds, while Koep had four points and three rebounds.  
**Coach's comments:** "They meant a ton to this program," Chris Aggen said. "You've got Melissa, an undersized post, who last year was an all-conference kid and averaged 13 points and eight rebounds and like six offensive rebounds a game. I'd be shocked if she wasn't something like that again this year. Kailey has been taking care of the basketball for us the last two years. She's really brought it on this year. She was much better this game as well. I think they both went out playing an overall pretty good game."

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## Record breaking at its un-finest!

February was a record-breaking month. It was our snowiest February ever. There was also a record breaking for me; I broke a record no one else would even think about breaking.

No, I am not talking about record breaking in my youth. That was more like broken records. That record breaking involved some of Dad and Mom's old phonograph records. They made great Frisbees.

At the time, it did not matter the records still played great on our portable wind-up phonograph. What mattered was they made great Frisbees. Real Frisbees cost money; we already had the records. No brainer.

I should verify. They made great Frisbees, except for the fact that they tended to shatter on impact when they hit the side of our barn. Which, coincidentally, happened to be our target. And there are some who say I could not hit the broad side of a barn.

I really do not remember why we started using those old records as Frisbees; I know Dad was not impressed. Some of the records were pretty good songs. The record I remember most had Sheb Wooley's "Luke The Spook" on one side. I do not recall the flip-side song.

"Luke The Spook" was a catchy song. It was one of those songs where, if you heard it, it played the rest of the day in your head. It was so catchy, it still plays in my head all these years later. "Luke, Luke, Luke, Luke the Spook..."

To throw the records as Frisbees was one of those decisions I would like to have back; it was fun, but did not feel quite right.

Especially when we felt Dad's wrath. That wrath definitely did not feel right.

I do not know why Dad should have been so upset with us. We did not break the records. We only threw them. It was the side of the barn that broke them. I know that is splitting hairs, but when records are being broken, some hairs just have to be split.

For my record-breaking performance, it was not hairs that were split, but pins. Bowling pins. Last week during league bowling at Bowlers Inn, I rolled seven splits in a row. Seven.

There are many bowlers who have rolled seven or more strikes in a roll — in fact, I once watched a guy roll back-to-back 300s — and there are many more with seven or more fills in a row. I, myself, once had a streak of 50 straight fills.

But I do not know of anyone who rolled seven splits in a row. I could do some research. But, I really do not want to. To me, it is a record. If nothing else, it is a personal record.

World record or personal record, I am guessing it is one record that will stand for a long time. Who would even admit they broke it? Other than me, that is.

The thrill of my record-breaking performance was tempered not only by my temper, but also by the realization that what was once a good score was shattered in more pieces than that old "Luke The Spook" record.

After rolling a 200 in my first game, and after eight solid frames in game two, I was well on my way to another 200. I never got there. Rolling un-pick-up-able splits in

both the ninth and 10th assured me of only a 183.

I then proceeded to start the third game with five more consecutive splits, shattering any hopes at a great series score. It got to the point where I started wondering if I split the whole game, I would get an award. I also started to type an ad reading "Bowling ball for sale."

It got so ugly, in the fifth frame, instead of being around 100, I was only in the 40s with a fear of not even breaking 100 for a score. Thankfully, I rebounded enough to hit triple digits and avoid further embarrassment. It was a performance of which I was not overly proud.

Last week, the Jackson County Central Middle School musicians put on a performance of which to be proud. Congratulations on a great band and choir concert!

Congratulations to Payton Handevit and eighth-grader Logan Butzen for their performance last week in the state wrestling tournament. I have a sneaking suspicion these two will have another shot at being state champion.

And now, as I do not want to start sounding like a broken record, I had better close for this week. Until next week, set your own record for loudest cheering as you root our athletes on to victory. Go, Huskies!



**WIDE WRITE**  
Stephen A. Condon

## LEAGUE BOWLING SCORES

- Tuesday night men**  
Team standings: Bowler's Inn 21-15, Phillips Agency 20-16, Hage Oil 19-17, New Fashion Pork 12-24  
High game: Dwayne Hage 258, Brian Pelzel 246, Tony Phillips 242  
High series: Dwayne Hage 651, Brian Pelzel 541, Tyler Ayers 618
- Wednesday night men**  
Team standings: S&J Cleaning 25-3, Elness Livestock 21-11, Leftovers 15-17, Pocket Pounders 14-18, FCA 10-22, Schaap Sanitation 10-22  
High game: Darren Tietz 257, Terry Hansen 236, Ben Clark 235  
High series: Ben Clark 661, Darren Tietz 650, Terry Hansen 635
- Thursday night women**  
Team standings: Rubis Farms 19-9, Split Personalities 15.5-12.5, Lakefield Savings Bank 13-15, Pampered Chicks 13-15, 9th Ave Salon 12-16, Elness Livestock 9.5-14.5  
High game: Kris Porath 216, Dannielle Schulz 199, Kim Nelson 183  
High series: Kris Porath 609, Dannielle Schulz 535, Kim Nelson 495



## WAGNER WINS STATE

**One year ago, March 8, 2018**  
Jackson County Central senior Dalton Wagner left little doubt as to who the best 195-pound wrestler in Class A was at the state tournament. Wagner pinned his way to the championship match, where he dominated Zumbrota-Mazeppa's Jacob Bennett 7-1 to win his first state title. Senior Jacob Tvinnereim finished second at 152 pounds. He got to the finals with three tight decisions before losing 3-1 in the championship match.

## HUSKIES TAKE THIRD AT STATE

**Five years ago, March 6, 2014**  
The JCC wrestling team finished third at the Class A state tournament after winning four straight state titles. The Huskies opened with a 31-25 win over Minneota before losing 38-25 to Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City in the semifinals. JCC erased a 25-6 deficit to beat Frazee 33-32 in the third-place match. Jordan Biehn, Paden Moore, Luke Norland and Keegan Moore each went 3-0 in the team competition. Keegan Moore won the 170-pound individual state championship, pinning his first three opponents before winning a 22-7 technical fall in the finals.

## LET'S PLAY TWO

**10 years ago, March 5, 2009**  
The fourth-seeded JCC girls' basketball team beat top-seeded Fairmont 88-81 in double-overtime of a South Section 3AA basketball game, outlasting last-second shot attempts by the Cardinals at the end of regulation and the first overtime. JCC scored 16 points in the four minutes of the second overtime, including making 11 free throws in the final two minutes. Whitney Burmeister finished with 32 points and made all six of her three-point attempts. Ashley Kruse scored 24 points and had a team-record 16 assists to go with six rebounds and four steals. Brooke Burmeister scored 10 points and had seven rebounds.

## HABERMAN GOES 1-2 AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNEY

**25 years ago, March 10, 1994 - Jackson County Pilot**  
Matt Haberman completed his high school wrestling career by going 1-2 at the Class A state tournament. Haberman opened with a 10-0 loss to two-time state champion Brian Heimerl of Lester Prairie/Winsted Holy Trinity, then pinned Milaca's Shane Johnson in 2:23 in wrestlebacks. Haberman then lost 5-0 to finish his season with a record of 30-10. Haberman won 98 matches in his career, ranking second on the Jackson career list to Tim Allen's 104.

## CHAD KRAFT TAKES THIRD STATE WRESTLING TITLE

**25 years ago, March 10, 1994 - Lakefield Standard**  
The three-pea is complete. Heron Lake-Okabena-Lakefield senior Chad Kraft stormed through the 145-pound field at the Class A state wrestling tournament to win his third straight title. Kraft won a 17-6 major decision over Aaron Kvien of Greenbush-Middle River/Badger in the finals to cap a perfect 42-0 season. He went 195-14-1 in his career, ranking only behind Chad Stender of Browerville (204 wins) on the career list. Kraft pinned his first three opponents at the state tournament.

## HL-O CORNER

### Season ends for Wildcats with loss to Adrian

The season came to an end for the Heron Lake-Okabena boys' basketball team last Thursday with a 71-53 loss to Adrian in a pigtail game of the Section 3A tournament. The Wildcats trailed just 31-30 at the half.

The Wildcats were the 10 seed, while Adrian was seeded seventh. Eli Fest scored nearly half of HL-O's points, finishing with 25. He also led the team with six assists and three steals.

Andrew Madsen scored eight points for the Wildcats. HL-O finishes the season with a record of 4-20.

### Volk named to all-conference girls' hockey team

Heron Lake-Okabena senior Anna Volk has been named to the all-Big South Conference girls' hockey team.

Volk is a first-team selection, while teammate Aba Turner is an honorable-mention pick. It's the first time Volk has earned first-team honors after being named to the honorable-mention team during her sophomore and junior seasons.

Volk led the Eagles with 18 goals — more than twice that of any of her teammates — and 26 points. She had eight assists, which was second on the team.

The Eagles were 7-17 overall and 4-9 in the BSC this season.

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## EAGLE GIRLS' HOCKEY

### Turner, Volk honored by Big South Conference

Jackson County Central senior Aba Turner and Heron Lake-Oak-bena senior Anna Volk have been honored by the Big South Conference for



Aba Turner

their contributions to the Windom Area girls' hockey team. Turner earns honorable-mention all-conference honors, while Volk is a first-team selection. It's Turner's first time earning conference accolades, while Volk bumps up to the first team after being an honorable-mention selec-

tion as a sophomore and junior. Turner, lauded by head coach Bill Fredin as one of the best defenders in the conference, scored four goals and had six assists for the Eagles this season. Her 10 points and six assists are both fourth on the team. Her four goals tie two others for fourth.

Volk led the Eagles with 18 goals — more than twice that of any of her teammates — and 26 points. She had eight assists, which was second on the team. The Eagles were 7-17 overall and 4-9 in the BSC this season.

### Practice starts Monday for softball and track

Several feet of snow still cover much of the county, but spring starts Monday. At least spring sports seasons do. Practice begins for Jackson County Central softball and track and field teams Monday. Baseball and golf practices are scheduled to begin March 18. A spring sports meeting also takes place Monday at 6 p.m. at the JCC High School. Those in seventh through 12<sup>th</sup> grade playing a spring sport should attend, along with a parent. Meetings for baseball (commons), track and field (gymnasium) and golf (library) will take place following the spring sports meeting.

## WR: Handevidt and Butzon are among best in the entire state

Continued from B1

beat Davis Sunken of Blue Earth Area 11-4. Sunken led 2-0 early with a takedown, but Handevidt scored the next five points to lead 5-2. After another takedown by Sunken trimmed Handevidt's lead to one, the JCC freshman got an escape, takedown and three near-fall points for the win.

Handevidt guaranteed himself a medal with a 5-0 win Saturday morning over eighth-ranked Kelvin Andrade-Ponce of Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City.

Handevidt got a takedown in each of the first two periods for a 4-0 lead and shut out the Falcon.

Handevidt then lost 5-0 to fifth-ranked Blaine Fischer of Belgrade-Broten-Elrose — who finished third — and then had a rematch against Niemi in the fifth-place match.

Niemi started the match with a takedown before the two traded reversals to leave Niemi ahead 4-2. Handevidt nearly got another reversal late in the period, but came up just a couple seconds short of securing the two points.

"We needed another couple seconds at the end of that period to get that two and that maybe would've been a little different match," JCC head coach Nate Hanson said.

Handevidt earned a stalling point in the second period to get within one, but wasn't able to escape in the third period to even the match. "He lost a couple heart-breaking matches up here — two to the same guy," Hanson said. "Once in overtime in the quarters and once for fifth place. I know that one really hurt because he wanted revenge. He was talking about it."

Hanson said a sixth-place finish for his ninth-ranked freshman made for a pretty good state tournament debut. "I thought he wrestled really well," Hanson said.

**Butzon wins twice**  
Butzon used four third-period takedowns to pull away from Marshall Larson of Aitkin in the opening



Payton Handevidt wrestles Davis Sunken of Blue Earth Area in the Class A state wrestling tournament this past Friday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Handevidt beat Sunken 11-4 and eventually placed sixth.

PHOTOS BY DAN CONDON

round at 106 pounds.

Butzon got a first-period takedown and second-period escape for a 3-1 lead, but led by just one after Larson got an escape to open the third period.

Butzon ended any chance Larson had when he recorded four takedowns to pick up an 11-5 win.

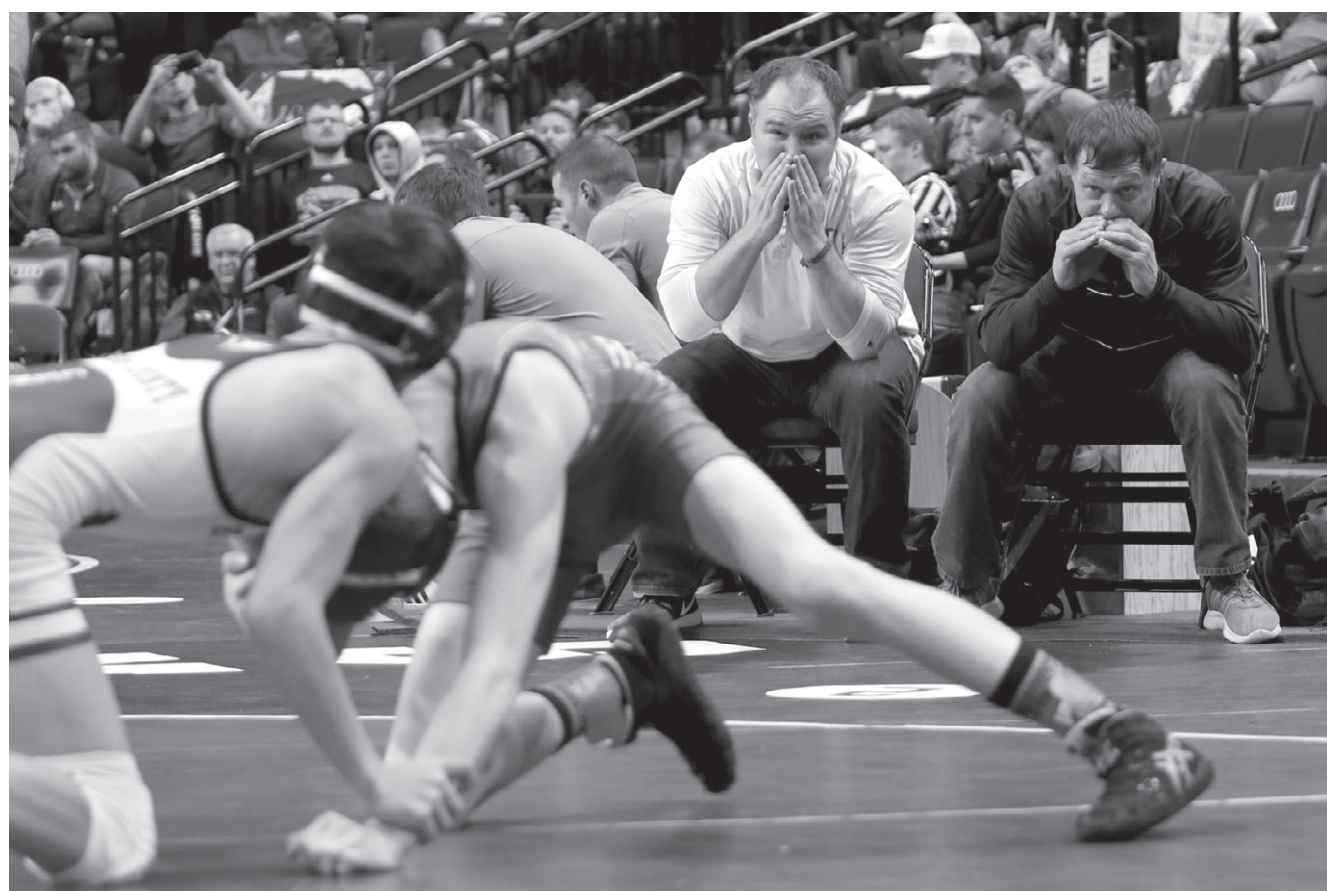
Butzon nearly knocked off No. 7 Cole Holien of ACGC in Friday night's quarterfinals, which would've guaranteed him a spot on the podium. Butzon led 2-1 after a first-period takedown, but Holien got a takedown and two near-fall points in the second period to lead 5-2.

Butzon got a takedown in the third period and looked like he could've gotten two near-fall points, but wasn't awarded them.

He let Holien escape, then got a takedown with about 30 seconds left to tie the match at six. He intentionally let Holien escape to trail by one and wasn't able to get a go-ahead takedown late in the match.

"He was one or two points away from making the semis," Hanson said. "I think we had a two near-fall we didn't get in that match and that cost us. I thought we were there for a long time. The ref kind of

walked all the way around and then started counting." Butzon bounced back with a 4-1 overtime victory over 10<sup>th</sup>-ranked Bryce Sonnek of United South Central in wrestlebacks Friday night. Each wrestler got an escape during regulation, then neither could get a takedown in the one-minute sudden-death overtime. Butzon was awarded a



Jackson County Central head coach Nate Hanson (left) and assistant coach Randy Baker yell out instructions to Logan Butzon during the Class A state wrestling tournament.

stalling point in the second overtime, then got two near-fall points in the third overtime to win 4-1.

Butzon's state tournament came to an end Saturday morning with a 3-0 loss to third-ranked Ethan Hendrickson of United North Central.

"I thought Logan wrestled great for an eighth-grader," Hanson said. "I thought he fought hard the whole weekend."

Hanson said coming up one win short of the podium will serve as motivation for his young Husky.

"He's an eighth-grader, so I think he learned a lot from this and he's hungry for it now," he said.

**Learning experience**  
Hanson said he had to remind himself both his wrestlers were at the tournament for the first time. "You've been here a thousand times, but it's their first time down here," he said. "They don't know where they're going or what the routine is. It's been a few years since we've had somebody down here for the first time. As a coach, sometimes you forget they haven't been here

because you've done it for so long."

Hanson said just being at the state tournament can be a huge learning experience, let alone getting four matches for Butzon and six for Handevidt.

"I think it was huge," Hanson said. "It will make a big difference now. It'll get some of the nerves out. They know what to expect now."

That experience and the talent the two Huskies bring to the mat gives them a good chance for continued success at state.

"They're right there," Hanson said. "Everybody up here is pretty even. It just comes down to who makes it happen that day."



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## BBB: Huskies open with victory

Continued from B1

around in the second half. "Some of the threes they made were insane," Hein said. "You can't let guys get confidence early. You can't let guys get open ones or layups early, especially good shooters. No. 3 (Jake Tauer) and No. 4 (Trevor Larson) saw the ball go in the hoop early and they just had that confidence the rest of the game."

But the Huskies sank some longballs themselves, including another by Hesebeck for a 41-39 lead with just less 15 minutes to play.

The lead changed hands four times during the first nine minutes of the second half, including when the Panthers scored five straight points to lead 52-50.

Hein said that might have given the Huskies the spark they needed to rebound for the win.

"When we were ahead, I thought we made some dumb plays," he said. "It was when they were going on a run that we played better, which is good to see. We didn't freak out. That's when we seemed to get back to the game plan."

The Huskies scored nine straight points to take a 59-50 lead they would never relinquish.

Rudy Voss scored the first six points of the run and Jack Brinkman capped it with a three-pointer with 4:58 left in the game.

Hesebeck hit another three-pointer and Voss

made a free throw for a 63-55 lead, but the Panthers kept crawling back.

TMB used a 9-2 run to get within one point with 80 seconds left and was still within two with 17 seconds left, but Voss and Hesebeck each made a pair of free throws late to seal the win.

"We did enough and we got to advance," Hein said.

### Nothing to lose

Hein said the Panthers had some key ingredients as they tried to pull off the upset: the possibility of someone playing his final high school game — TMB has six seniors — and being the underdog.

"When it comes down to a seniors' last game, I thought they played with a sense of urgency," he said. "I think they felt like they had nothing to lose."

Add in some early confidence and the Panthers weren't an easy out.

"Whenever a lower seed makes a run, you worry about if the guys are going to kind of freak out, but I thought when they were making a run we played better," Hein said.

Hein said the Huskies will be able to learn plenty from their first-round scare.

"Hopefully this gives us a little more sense of urgency going into our next game," he said. "I'd rather play a close game and learn some things than a blowout and not learn anything. I

think we can learn from this."

### Big games for Voss and Hesebeck

Voss and Hesebeck each had big games for the Huskies and accounted for 26 of the team's 44 second-half points.

Voss scored 15 of his team-high 23 points in the second half and added seven rebounds, five assists and three steals.

Hesebeck finished with 17 points, with 11 coming after the break. He completed yet another double-double with 13 rebounds.

Bradley Buhl made a trio of three-pointers for all nine of his points and Brinkman finished with six points, five assists and three steals.

Noah Carr scored seven points and added three rebounds and Jordan Hassing and Parker Benda each scored four points.

### Huskies pull away from Bucs in finale

JCC ended the regular season last Thursday with



PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Dominic Bargfrede makes a basket between two defenders in Saturday's playoff-opening win over Tracy-Milroy-Balaton.

an 89-70 win over Blue Earth Area. The Huskies led just 41-38 at the half before pulling away late.

Voss finished with 26 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Carr scored 15 points and added seven rebounds — including four on the offensive end — and four

assists. Hassing scored 14 points and had a team-high eight rebounds as the team's lone senior had a good showing on Senior Night.

Hesebeck scored 12 points and had six rebounds, Dominic Bargfrede finished with eight points and six rebounds,

Brinkman scored five points and added five assists and three rebounds and Alex Bretzman scored five points.

### Up next

The Huskies play Pipestone tonight (Thursday) in the sub-section semifinals (see preview below).

## Huskies hope to establish their pace against Arrows in sub-section semifinals

When Jackson County Central and Pipestone met on the hardwood this season, it was a tale of two games.

In JCC's 80-66 home win on Jan. 5, the Huskies were able to get up and down the court with the fast-pace action they prefer.

In a 46-42 road loss exactly a month later, it was the Arrows who controlled the tempo.

That's the key when the two teams face off tonight (Thursday) in the sub-section semifinals in Windom, JCC head coach Alex Hein said.

"It'll be two different, opposite teams, so it'll be interesting to see which one wins out," he said.

He hopes his team is able to use its athleticism and depth to get up and down the floor like it did in its victory over the Arrows.

"When we played them here and won, we were up and down," he said. "We got to play fast. When we played there, it was a slow game with long possessions, which plays to their favor. It's going to be really about setting the pace, which I think we can do."

The Huskies put five players in double figures in their win — including three players with 15 or more points — but had just two hit double digits — led by 14 points from Rudy Voss — in the loss.

Hein said he expects the Arrows to try to make things difficult for Voss, who eclipsed the 1,000-point mark for his career this season and leads the team in scoring for the second straight year.

"They're going to make him work really hard," Hein said. They're also going to make the Huskies work on the glass.

"Pipestone is big, so they rebound well," he said. "We're going to have to be physical."

The winner of tonight's game — which starts around 7:30 — plays either No. 1 St. James or No. 5 Fairmont in the sub-section finals. That game takes place at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

### Boys' basketball

JCC vs. TMB				
TMB	26	40	66	
JCC	28	44	72	

### JCC (72)

Player	2	3	FT	PF	TP
Carr	3	0	1	0	7
Voss	4	2	9	1	23
Buhl	0	3	0	0	9
Benda	2	0	0	4	4
Brinkman	0	2	0	1	6
Bargfrede	1	0	0	1	2
Hassing	0	1	1	0	4
Hesebeck	2	3	4	4	17
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>72</b>

### Boys' basketball

JCC vs. Blue Earth Area				
BEA	38	32	70	
JCC	41	47	89	

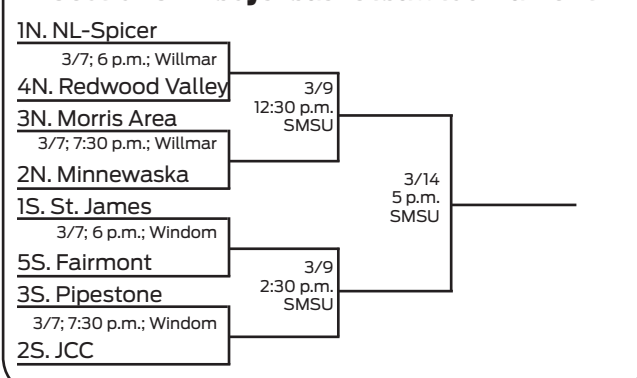
### JCC (89)

Player	2	3	FT	PF	TP
Carr	6	0	3	1	15
Voss	2	6	4	2	26
Buhl	0	2	0	2	3
Bretzman	1	0	3	1	5
Brinkman	1	1	0	0	5
Ringelsen	0	0	1	0	1
Bargfrede	3	0	2	5	8
Hassing	1	2	6	0	14
Hesebeck	6	0	0	3	12
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>89</b>

### Blue Earth Area (70)

<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>70</b>
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### Section 3AA boys' basketball tournament



## GBB: Huskies lose second-half lead as season comes to an end

Continued from B1

Redwood Valley. The Huskies controlled Cardinal Haley Garman — albeit mostly due to her sitting on the bench much of the half after two early fouls — and jumped out to

a big lead. But things changed in a hurry in the second half as the Cardinals rallied to win 65-55.

JCC led by 11 at the half and 15 after scoring

the first two baskets out of the break, but saw its lead trimmed down to four points over the next five minutes.

A three-pointer by Sadie Voss gave the Huskies a 44-

37 lead, but the game was tied three minutes later after the Cardinals answered with seven straight points.

JCC led 45-44 when Kailley Koep made a free-throw, but the Cardinals continued their second-half surge and led 60-46 with just more than three minutes to play.

"They chipped away slowly," head coach Chris Aggen said of the Cardinals. "They were able to get some easier ones inside. Our rebounding wasn't there in the second half."

As the Cardinals came back and eventually took the lead, Aggen said his team felt the effects emotionally.

"We lost a little bit of energy as they went on some runs," he said.

The Cardinals took their 60-46 lead on the strength of a 23-2 run that ended with a dozen straight points.

"They went on that little run, then all of a sudden, with six, seven minutes left in the game, I almost felt as if the girls thought there was like 30 seconds left," Aggen said. "Every time a shot went up for us, we always had four girls looking to trap the basketball and we had nobody back. It was a six-point game and they'd make one outlet pass and make a layup and, before you know it, it was 10, 12 points."

But the Huskies got right back in it, thanks to Voss and Alaina Wolff. Voss scored, then Wolff hit a three-pointer to give the Huskies life. They were within seven points when Wolff got a steal and passed ahead to Voss for an easy basket with just more than two minutes to play.

But Redwood Valley scored the next three points — and wound the clock down under a minute

in doing so — as they held on for the win.

"They hit a couple buckets," Aggen said of the Cardinals. "They stepped up, they hit shots, they crashed the boards hard. They did enough in the end to get the win."

But Aggen said he thought his team played hard enough to deserve a win, as well.

"They did what we wanted them to do as a coaching staff," he said. "They played hard. They didn't lose for a lack of effort, a lack of intensity on the defensive end, for following the game plan at all. The girls played their butts off and they deserve credit as well."

### Strong start

After Redwood opened with the first five points, the Huskies took control.

Melissa Brandt drew Garman's second foul in the game's first four minutes and she and her teammates took advantage.

Koep made a basket for a 6-5 lead and Brandt followed with the next four points. Wolff nailed a three-pointer for a 13-0 run that gave the Huskies a 13-5 lead with 10:29 left in the half.

Wolff started an 8-0 run later in the half, which also included baskets from Sophia Lovell, Brandt and Voss. The run gave the Huskies their biggest lead of the game at 28-11, but the Cardinals were able to whittle the JCC lead to 11 points at the half.

"We still went into half-time up 11, playing with a ton of confidence," Aggen said.

Keys to the half were solid defense and taking care of the basketball. JCC had just three turnovers in the half before committing 11 in the second half.

"We basically did everything we wanted to do as far as what our game plan was and what we were trying to scheme against them," Aggen said.

### Seniors finish strong

JCC's two senior starters played well in their final game, Aggen said.

Brandt scored eight points — all in the first half — and had a team-high eight rebounds.

Koep finished with four points and three rebounds.

"They meant a ton to this program," Aggen said. "They worked their butts off."

Brandt could be counted on to contribute in the post, while Koep did a good job as the team's point guard.

"You've got Melissa, an undersized post, who last year was an all-conference kid and averaged 13 points and eight rebounds and like six offensive rebounds a game," Aggen said. "I'd be shocked if she wasn't something like that again this year. Kailley has been taking care of the basketball for us the last two years. She's really brought it on this year. She was much better this game as well. I think they both went out playing an overall pretty good game."

### Wolff has big night

Wolff scored 23 points for the Huskies, with 13 coming in the first half. She also had four rebounds and three steals.

Voss scored 10 points and pulled down six boards.

Lovell and Alicia Brandt (seven rebounds) each scored four points and Jordan Rogotzke (three rebounds) added two.

### Girls' basketball

JCC at Redwood Valley				
JCC	33	22	55	
RV	22	43	65	

### JCC (55)

Player	2	3	FT	PF	TP
Voss	2	2	9	3	10
MBrandt	4	0	0	3	8
Koep	1	0	2	2	4
Lovell	2	0	0	0	4
Brandt	2	0	0	3	4
Rogotzke	1	0	0	2	2
Wolff	5	3	4	4	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>55</b>	

### Redwood Valley (65)

<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>65</b>
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PHOTO BY DAN CONDON

Melissa Brandt scores two of her eight points in last week's sub-section semifinal game against Redwood Valley.