

Charley's in charge

8th-grader claims Medford's first state title since 2012

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

SAINT PAUL — Medford's Charley Elwood couldn't contain his excitement after winning the 113-pound Class A state championship on Saturday at Xcel Energy Center. So he took a victory lap around the backstage corridor area.

"It was just a little walk to let it soak in," he said moments after defeating Sibley East's Derek Steele (41-5) in the championship match. "I just feel a lot of relief that it's over and all that hard work paid off. It feels really good."

After placing second in his previous try at an individual wrestling state title, Elwood (35-2) took care of unfinished business.

Elwood entered the tournament ranked No. 1 in

the state and as the No. 1 seed in his respective weight class.

"I felt like I kind of had a target on my back, like everybody was coming for me, but you have to push that all aside and wrestle," Elwood said. "I came up short last year and it just makes it all that much sweeter to get it done this year."

Elwood became the Tigers' first state champion since Curt Maas in 2012 and just the sixth in the program's history.

In the championship match, Elwood played to his strengths and used his length to ward off the attacks of the much shorter Steele.

"I really like my length," he said. "I've figured out how to use it and it obviously helps me in my matches against shorter opponents."

Elwood controlled the match after securing an early



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Charley Elwood has his hand raised after winning the Class A 113-pound state championship at Xcel Energy Center.

takedown and eventually won by a 4-0 margin.

Steele was able to avoid the pin-fall defeat, as Elwood avoided any unnecessary risks and completely controlled the match.

"A win is win," Elwood said. "There is no team points or team title on the line here. It's just about winning and

moving forward."

Medford head coach Dennis Whitman said he loves the way Elwood handled the pressure of the weekend that came with being the No. 1 seed.

"He went out there and proved it," Whitman said. "Everyone was giving him their best shot and it was

impressive the way he handled everything."

Elwood earned his trip the state championship match after he won 9-5 over Crookston's Zach Brown (39-3) in the semifinals.

"He's incredibly savvy," Whitman said. "A lot of people make a big deal out of him being an eighth-grader, but

he's put far more time and effort into this than your average eighth-grader and it shows."

Elwood had his closest match of the tournament in the semifinals against Easton McCory (31-10) of Minnewaska in quarterfinals on Friday

SEE ELWOOD, B10



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Medford's Willie VonRuden prepares to takedown an opponent in the state tournament semifinals.

Medford's VonRuden earns silver at state meet

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

Medford's Willie VonRuden wrestled well enough to win a state championship on Saturday during the MSHSL State Wrestling tournament at Xcel Energy Center, unfortunately, he came away just short after a questionable penalty costed him in the title match of the Class A 145-pound weight class.

"Obviously, we are all heartbroken on the way that match ended," Medford head coach Dennis Whitman said. "The circumstances that led up to how it ended, there was a sense of it being a little unfair. But it's a credit to Willie and the person that he is because he's not dwelling on it and he doesn't feel like he got shortchanged. He will move on real quick, which is really

impressive to me because I'm still dwelling on it and haven't moved on yet."

VonRuden (35-2) led 4-2 late in the title match against Caledonia's Kyle Cavanaugh (40-0), however he was called for a one-point penalty and Cavanaugh secured a takedown to take a 5-4 advantage with less than one minute remaining in the match.

VonRuden said he didn't know he was called for the penalty until there was about 15 seconds remaining in the match.

"I got up and his coach yelled that he was up," VonRuden said. "I thought we were tied, but I looked at the clock and I was down 5-4. I tried to put a few moves together, but it was not enough."

VonRuden was the only opponent able to takedown Cavanaugh this season. He near

took him down again but went out of bounds.

"I tried to take a lot of fake shots to get him off balance and moving," VonRuden said. "My game-plan going in was to push the pace and put the pressure on him, but we pretty much had the same idea. I tried to push the pace, but he was a tough son of a gun. He was just a smart, technical wrestler and he came out on top."

VonRuden said he came into the tournament "prepared mentally, physically, with a good gas tank and ready to roll, after not being being completely there mentally at state season's state meet."

He started the tournament with by pinning Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg's Jared Carlson (31-9) in only 35 seconds. VonRuden

SEE MEDFORD, B10

Huskies place trio at state tournament

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

SAINT PAUL — It was a bit anticlimactic, but Albert Lea Area's Zach Grazier (47-0) wrestled a defensive masterpiece against Owatonna's Cade King (43-5) to win the a Class 3A wrestling state championship on Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul.

Grazier defeated King 1-0 in the 182-pound championship. It was the fifth time Grazier had beaten King this season and the second consecutive 1-0 decision. Grazier and King were both state champions this past season. King at 182 and Grazier at 170.

"Cade is not going to back down or compromise from anything he believes," Owatonna head coach Adam Woitalla said. "He went out there and tries his best. He wasn't going to let anyone tell him otherwise or doubt him."

King could have dropped down or move up a weight class and likely

won a state championship, but he decided to take another shot at the undefeated Grazier.

"Cade is the type of kid who will tell you how it is," Woitalla said. "He doesn't sugar coat anything. Actually, his honesty is one of his best qualities. Ultimately, we have to give Cade credit for making that decision because he easily could have gone up a weight class and probably have won another state title, but he believed in himself and wanted a challenge. It's that determination and almost stubbornness that make him such a great athlete."

The final showdown between the No. 1 and No. 2 ranked wrestlers was a clash of contrasting styles.

King was ultra-aggressive. He attacked and kept moving forward. He tried to push the pace and get into scrambles. On the other hand, Grazier was the ultimate defensive wrestler. He stayed in a good



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Owatonna's Cade King battles Albert Lea Area's Zach Grazier for the Class 3A 182-pound state championship on Saturday at the Xcel Energy Center. Grazier defeated King 1-0 in the battle of defending state champions.

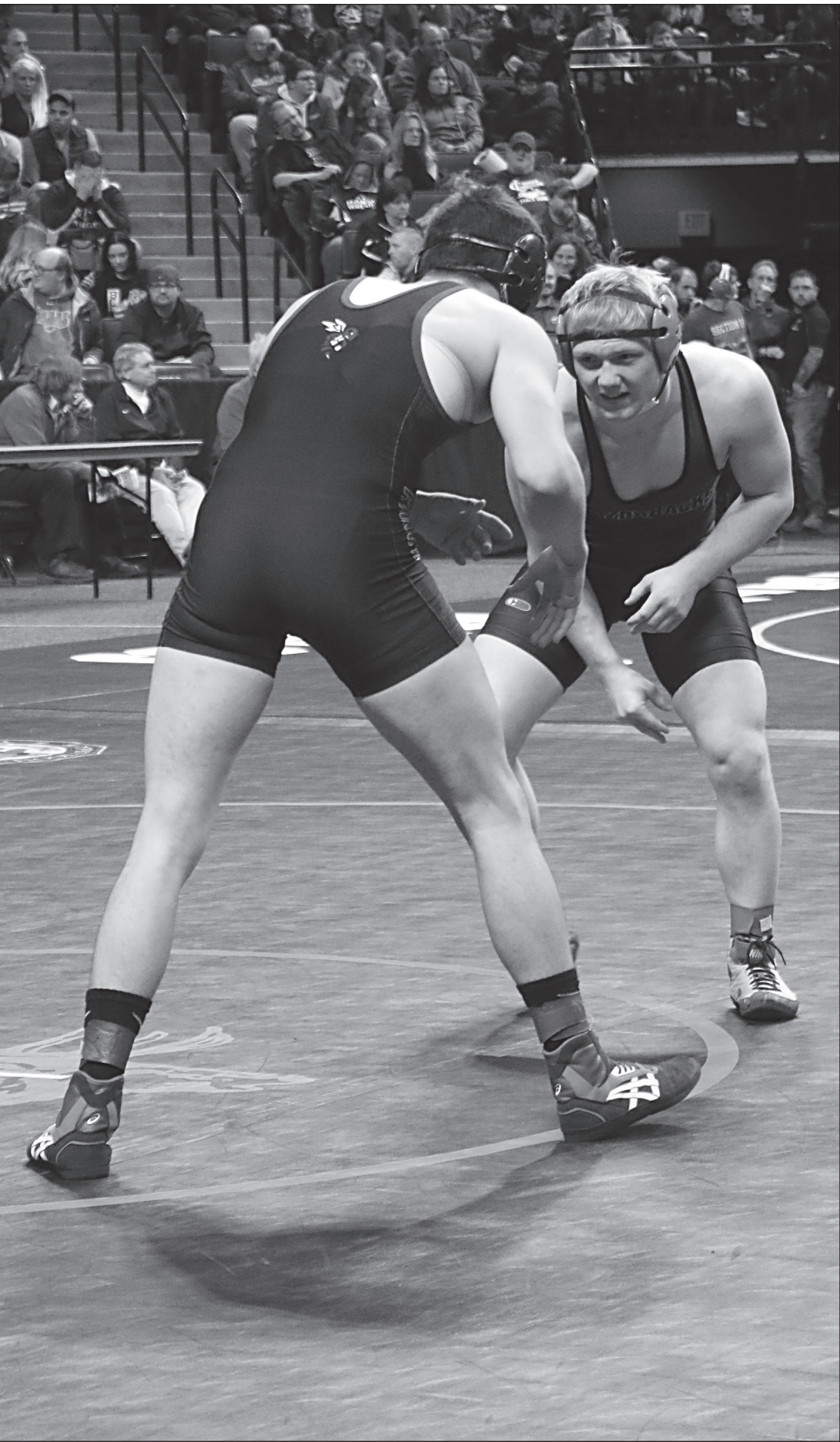
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Westfield's Krell upset in state meet, rebounds for bronze



Westfield's Colton Krell wrestles during the third place match of the Class A 170-pound weight class at the MSHSL State Tournament on Saturday at Xcel Energy Center.

BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

It wasn't what No. 1 ranked Colton Krell had envisioned when he was upset in the semifinals of MSHSL State Wrestling Tournament on Saturday at Xcel Energy Center, but the Westfield grappler still found some silver lining.

Krell (38-4) rebounded to win his final two matches and claim third place of the Class A 170-pound tournament after he was upset by Minnewaska Area's Tyson Meyer (39-0) in the championship semifinals 7-2.

"In my mind I would rather get third than second and go out on a win oppose to the loss," Krell said. "I wrestled my hardest and did everything that I could. It didn't work out the way I wanted it to, but I could have let it bother me and get in my head and end up sixth, but I wanted to show my heart and determination."

Meyer had a definite size advantage over Krell, but was somewhat of unknown after losing in the first round of the state tournament the past two years.

"He had good size and he knew how to wrestle me," Krell said. "I'm almost positive he's watched me wrestle because I watched him in the finals and he was extremely offensive and against me he didn't really take a whole lot of shots."

Meyer went on to win the tournament.

"He was very good wrestler," Krell continued. "Obviously, losing in the first round and not even getting a chance at third really bothered him enough to point that he improved a lot through a lot of work and he got the title."

Krell won a 10-4 decision over Minneota's Shawn Buysee (32-13) in the consolation semis and a 9-3 decision over Frazee's Brett Graham (37-13) in the third place match. He won his first two matches 9-1 and 9-3. to advance to match with Meyer. This was Krell trip to the state tournament.

He finished second at 170 in 2018 and fourth at

160 in 2017.

"I just have to get better," Krell said. "I wanted to be a three-time champion and I didn't get that. Then I wanted to be a two-time champion and I didn't get that. Now I just have to work even harder to be a state champion."

Westfield other state qualifier, Dylan Nirk (27-11), was eliminated after going 0-2 on Friday.

"I think he's hungrier than he has even been," Krell said. "That will really drive him and I really think he will dominate kids next year."

Despite the earlier exit, Nirk was competitive in his matches. He lost the two matches by a combined three points.

Westfield co-head coach Shane Masching said the sky is the limit for both Krell and Nirk next season.

"When you get the state tournament it's anyone's to win," Masching said. "The kids performed well. It's always good competition up there and we couldn't be more proud of them."

Masching said upsets are something that happen when you wrestle against the elite.

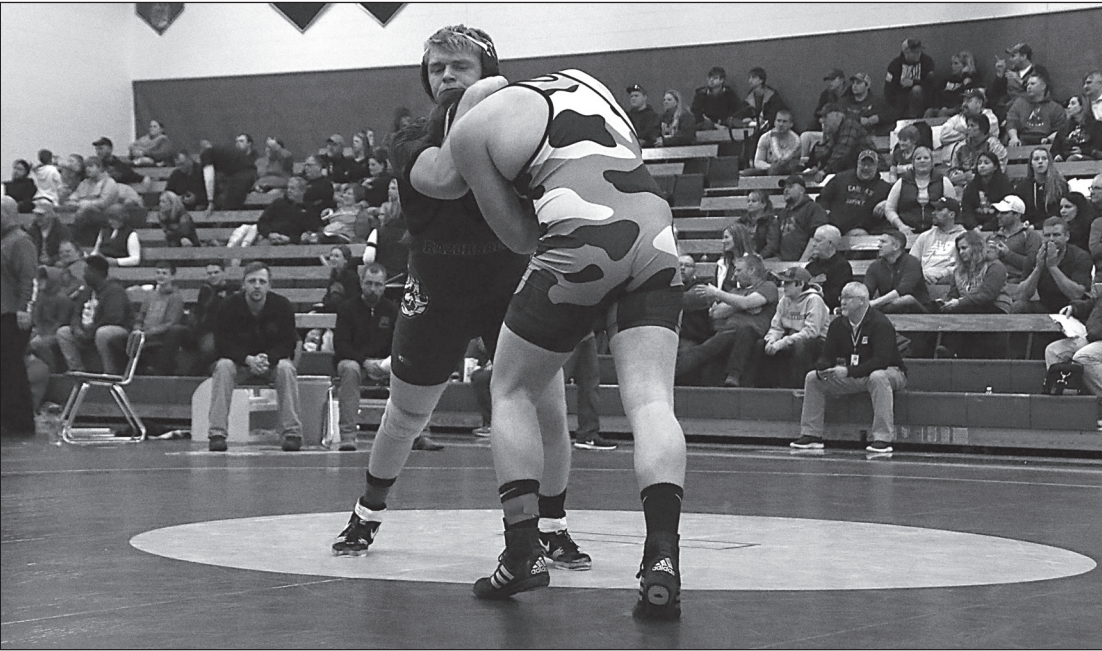
"Anything can happen," Masching said. "Every match is a grind. Meyer is a very good wrestler. He has a great style and great stagger on the mat. He hadn't been taken down all year until he faced Colton. They both wrestled well and the outcome didn't go our way."

Masching said Nirk and Krell were both great leaders for the Razorbacks this season and he's excited to have the multiple-time state qualifiers back for another season.

"Our future is definitely bright," he said. "We have some good talent coming up. I'm already excited and optimistic for next season."

Westfield would have likely had another state qualifier if not for a late-season injury that ended senior Tristan Rieken's season.

Rieken defeated Plainview-Elgin-Millville's Logan Wingert earlier this season. Wingert (44-7) finished second at 285 in Class 2A on Saturday.



Westfield's Dylan Nirk competes during the section tournament at Blue Earth High School.

Panthers make early exit from state tournament

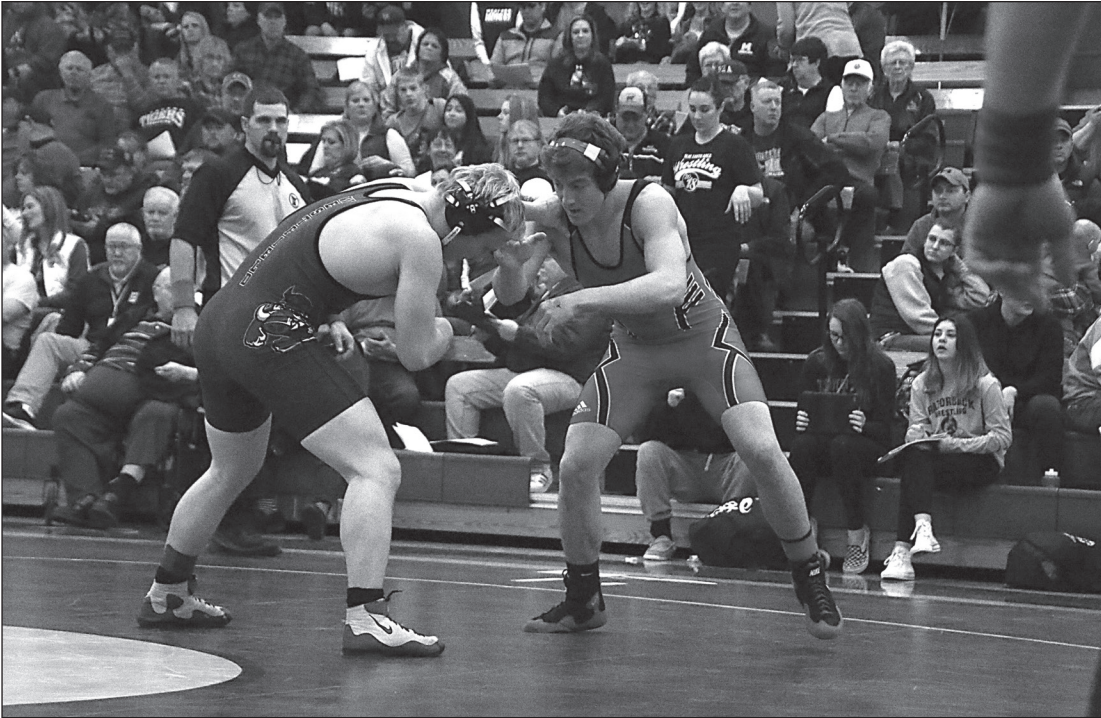
BY DENNIS MARSHALL
SPORTS EDITOR

New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva senior wrestlers Tyler Jacobson and Quinten Arndt each may have made early exits from the MSHSL State Tournament on Friday, but both represented their school and community well and left it all out on the mats at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul.

"I am extremely proud of these two athletes," NRHEG head coach Shawn Larson said. "They both have worked very hard for many years and even though they did not make the podium, they were able to make the state tournament, which is something many athletes never get to do. Both of these wrestlers are going to be missed as we move on without them, as they are the example of what we at NRHEG want all of our athletes to be like. Again I could not be prouder of these boys."

Jacobson said he wishes he could have wrestled a little better in his second trip to the state tournament, but it was overall a good experience.

"It's always fun to get the opportunity to wrestle in the



NRHEG's Tyler Jacobson competes during the section tournament at Blue Earth High School.

Xcel," he said. "It's pretty cool up there. I'm obviously happy to be able to make it up there twice."

Jacobson (25-13) lost bu a 5-0 decision in his only match to Jace Paplow (47-4) of Tracy-Milroy-Balton-Westbrook-

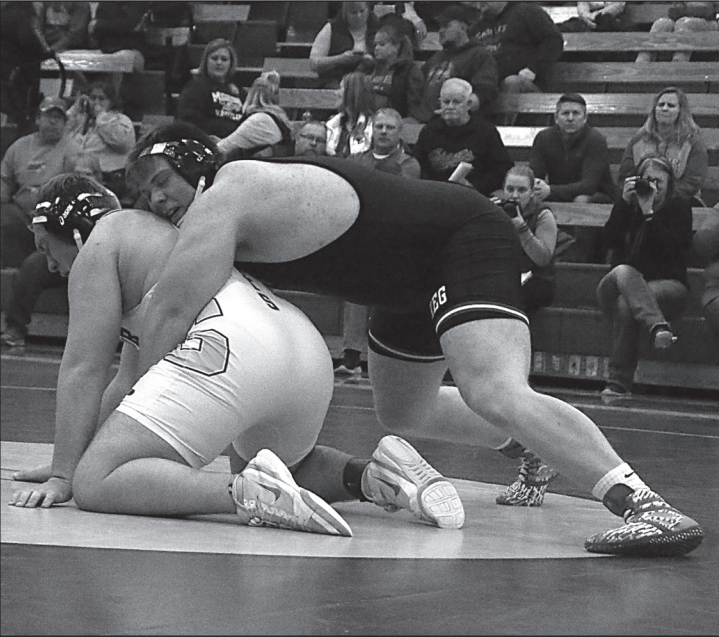
Walnut-Grove.

"He was really strong and didn't give up and position," Jacobson said. "I just couldn't do what I wanted."

Jacobson said he's grateful for the memories made the

past 14 years while wrestling for the Panther's program.

"It's awesome being to go to state in wrestling and football in the same year," he said. "It's been a fun ride that's for sure. There are a lot of good memories. I'm thankful for



NRHEG's Quinten Arndt competes during the section tournament at Blue Earth High School.

the opportunity."

Arndt (29-11) lost both of his matches. A 6-2 decision to Tanner Berghuis (46-3) of Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City and a 3-0 decision to Cian Buehler (33-11) of Ottertail Central.

"It was cool experience and I had a blast," Arndt said. "I

had lots of fun and enjoyed everything. The competition was very challenging. But I couldn't have asked for a better senior year. I'm very proud of how everything went and I couldn't ask for a better group of guys to compete with."



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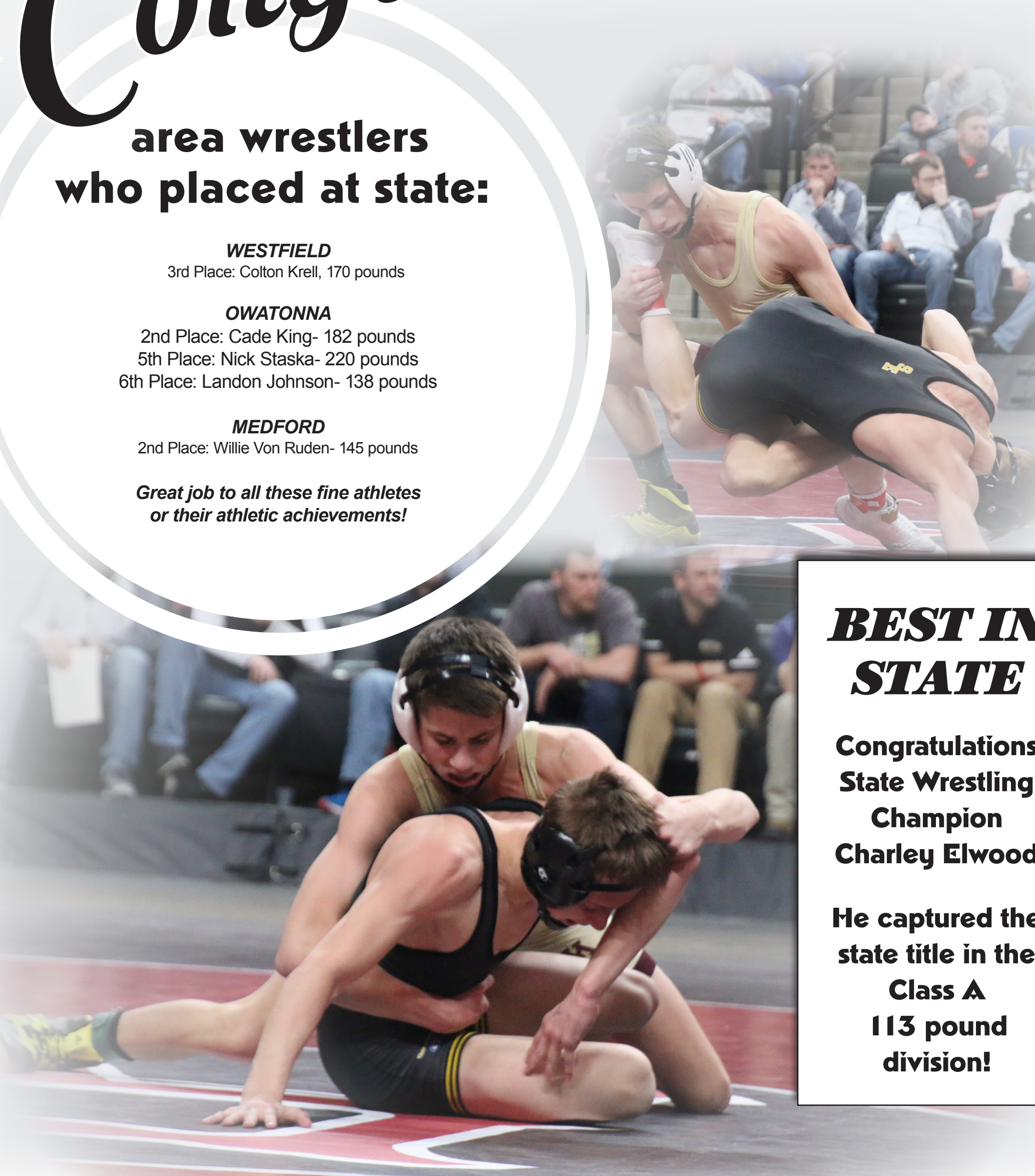
area wrestlers who placed at state:

WESTFIELD
3rd Place: Colton Krell, 170 pounds

OWATONNA
2nd Place: Cade King- 182 pounds
5th Place: Nick Staska- 220 pounds
6th Place: Landon Johnson- 138 pounds

MEDFORD
2nd Place: Willie Von Ruden- 145 pounds

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BASKETBALL

BP boys open section with win

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

It proved much easier than thought as the Blooming Prairie boys' basketball team ran past Goodhue 69-38 in quarterfinal action of the Sub-Section 1A tournament.

The higher seeded Blossoms used the home court advantage Thursday, Feb. 28, to jump to a 33-13 halftime lead and coast into a semifinal game against Hayfield Tuesday at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.

It pretty much told the story of the game to find the locals up by 23 points just ten minutes into the contest and the Awesome Blossoms did that with extremely balanced scoring in this one.

BP had four players in double figures, and all but one player scored points.

The Blossoms also had a wide edge in rebounding, with Karson Vigeland pulling down 12 and Gabe Hagen adding seven

"The boys really played well tonight," BP head coach Nate Piller said. "The offense really clicked, and defensively we set the tone early and continued to work hard. We had great balance in scoring, as well."

Hagen led the scoring with 16 points, and Vigeland and Kaden Thomas each had 14.

Zach Archer chipped in 12 points, nine of them on 3-pointers.

Dawson Evenson and Lucas Schumaker each had 12 points for the Wildcats.



BP's Tim Wolf and Kaden Thomas trap a Goodhue player on Thursday during the subsection game at BPHS.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

WEATHER STILL PREVAILS

It isn't very funny, but if February had been in a leap year, we would have set a record for the snowiest month in history, as March 1 duped another four-plus inches of snow upon us.

We did get a respite from the snow over the weekend, but then the extremely cold temperatures visited us again instead.

Our theater of seasons has finally gotten to just about all of us, and a moderation of snow and cold would be most welcome.

WINTER SPORTS ENDING

It has been a season often disrupted by cancellations and postponements, but the winter sports teams are in the final weeks of competition or have concluded their seasons in the playoffs. I have nothing but admiration for the basketball girls who finished their year with a tough loss to No. 2 seeded Grand Meadow.

The team compiled a winning record, and they did it without one senior to provide leadership. I guess that goes a long way to offer congratulations to the underclassmen for providing that leadership. We know that circumstances can change in a moment but, as of now, hopes and aspirations for the next season have reached a very optimistic outlook.

Congratulations are in order to the coaches and the players for their attitude this season, their obvious concern for each other, their willingness to learn and be coachable, and their determination to become a good team, despite the absence of senior leadership. Well done, team and coaches!

The basketball boys got their playoff experience off on the right foot with the easy win over Goodhue.

For the past half dozen seasons, Goodhue has had the upper hand on the Blossoms in just about every sport, and it is refreshing to watch the locals handle the Wildcats, at least for a couple of years.

Now the Blossoms go head to head with another arch-rival when they face Hayfield at Rochester Tuesday. The teams are seeded right next to each other, and it should be an interesting matchup. The team has had a very good season with just six losses, and the team would like to keep going a little longer. Good luck to the Blossoms in that battle.

In wrestling Westfield's Colton Krell won his first two bouts to advance o the semifinals, but Dylan Nirk lost his opening bout. Unfortunately the deadline for my column came before the final outcome, but I am sure that fellow writer Dennis Marshall will report the finals.

A STAR VISITS

A week ago students at the local high school had occasion to hear film star and BPHS graduate Jay Christianson recount some of his experiences as a Hollywood actor. I had the distinct privilege of spending some time twice last week with Christianson, as he was taking a break from his travels around the country. He is currently touring to many locations showing his feature film, "Garrow" at various film festivals in several cities.

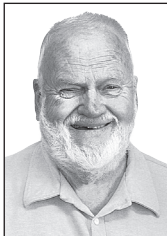
We had a good time reminiscing about our days in school, he as a student, and I as one of his teachers. He also regaled me with stories about his budding career and his other occupations pursued at various times. He was a flight attendant for a time and also spent time in New York at various jobs.

My other occasion to interact with Christianson came when he and his sister picked me up last Wednesday, and we saw the movie "Mary Poppins, The Return". That was quite a treat for me, as I hadn't seen a movie in a theater for almost 20 years. It was a fun afternoon, and I am grateful to the two of them for that excursion. I hope to see a little more of him, as he divides time between his film festivals and his sister's here in the Cities. Thanks for the experience.

COMING UP

I notice that plans are now well underway for the huge BP Ed Foundation coming up in just a few weeks. This is the biggest affair for the Foundation all year, and a lot of money is raised for many projects in the school system that couldn't be afforded without the help of that organization. I hope residents are making plans now to attend this great benefit and add their bids to the items offered. There are some great items, both in the silent and the live auction. Mark that date on your calendars now.

Let's all hope for a break in the weather soon, and we'll talk again.



Outside
the Lines
LEMAR NELSON

Season ends for BP girls

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

Defeating Grand Meadow girls' basketball team likely couldn't happen. But scaring the No. 2 seeded Super Larks certainly could and did. Grand Meadow edged the Blooming Prairie Awesome Blossoms 49-43 in the Class 1A Sub-Section playoffs at Rochester Tuesday, Feb. 26.

BP trailed just 42-40 with two minutes to play, before the winners made a 3-pointer and pulled ahead six points to preserve the win.

The underdog Blossoms made a great effort in the game, but fell behind early and trailed throughout.

BP did rally, but each time the team did, Grand Meadow answered every run.

The Super Larks led 28-24 at the break and scored the first six points of the second half to open up a ten-point margin. But the Blossoms chipped away at the lead until Julia Worke's 3-pointer pulled the locals to that two-point deficit.

"It was a great effort by the BP girls in this game," BP head coach John Bruns said. "We trailed throughout, but still had a chance by getting within two points. I am very proud of the girls and their determination, and they had season success without a single senior on the team. It should be a fun year next season."

Only four Blossoms scored in this game, led by Megan Oswald with 15 points. Worke contributed 12 and Bobbie Bruns chipped in 11.

Maggie Bruns scored five and dished out four assists, Bobbie Bruns had five assists and stole the ball three times.

Oswald recorded another double-double with 12 rebounds.

Riley Queensland and Jordan Glynn counted 16 and 14 points to lead the winners.

The Blossoms finished the season with a 13-10 overall record and a 7-7 mark in the conference, which landed them in fifth place. The team will return all the players next season.



BP's Megan Oswald drives the baseline during a game earlier this season.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Undefeated Tigers fall to familiar foe in subsection playoff

BY LEMAR NELSON
STAFF WRITER

The Medford Tigers girls' basketball was upset in the second round of the Section 2AA tournament on Friday at Mankato East High School.

The 46-33 loss to No. 4 seed Saint Peter (13-10) wasn't a complete shock, as the Saint walloped the Tigers in last season's playoff, 59-26.

"It was two teams playing great defense and they just hit a couple more shots than us," Medford head coach Mark Kubat said. "We didn't back down. I'm still trying to figure out a how they suffered a couple of their losses."

The Saints stormed out to 20-point advantage in the first half, but the Tigers' narrowed it to a 37-30 margin midway the second half. Saint Peter answered Medford runs by re-extending its lead never looking back from that point on.

Emma Kniefel and Izzy Reuvers led Medford with 10 points. Kiley Nihart had seven and Kinsey Cronin and Jenna Berg each had three.

The loss ended an incredible season by the Tigers.

The Tigers should be one of favorite to win the section next year as all but one player, senior Bailey Purrier, will return.

Kubat said while Purrier may not light on the stat book, she does provide the team with something

that can't be replaced.

"Nobody sees what she does in practice," Kubat said. "I call her the mother duckling because she takes care of all the younger chicks. She leads in a very positive way and everyone on our team really looks up to her."

The Tigers could possible move sections this summer with realignment on the horizon.

"We just have to keep playing and striving to be better," Kubat said.

NRHEG no match for Medford No. 1 seeded Medford outscored The New Richland Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva 43-27 in the first half and defeated the Panthers 78-58 in opening round action of the Class 2A subsection tournament.

The contest on Tuesday, Feb. 26, moved the Tigers into the next round of the playoffs and ended the season for the Panthers.

NRHEG came out playing hard and scoring well, but the Medford offense proved too much. The Panthers cut Medford's lead to ten points a couple of times, but it ballooned back to 20 every time.

The Tigers are a really tough team and were led in scoring by Kinsey Cronin, Kiley Nihart and Izzy Reuvers led Medford in scoring. Each scored 12 points. Emma Kniefel added 11, Isabella Steffen and Jenna Berg had eight, Purrier had four, Alorah Wiese had three and Jordyn Stadler and



Medford's Izzy Reuvers and NRHEG's Lexie Ignaszewski battle for a loose ball during subsection action on Tuesday, Feb. 26 at MHS.

STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL

Brooke Purrier had two.

The Panthers finished the year with a 9-18 overall record, and the team said goodbye to seven seniors.

"We had a tough draw facing the No. 1 Medford team," NRHEG head coach Onika Peterson said. "We hung with them for a time. It is hard to believe the season is already over. Tonight just wasn't our night, but I thank the girls for their attitude and their love of

the game. Thanks especially to the seniors for their leadership all season."

Alexis Anderson and Hannah Budach led the scoring in this game with 12 points, and Sidney Schultz and Kim Johnson chipped in eight and seven points. Anderson had six rebounds, and Schultz dished out 11 assists in the game. Sophie Stork added two steals and four rebounds

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ELWOOD: *His goal is to be 5-time state champion*

FROM B1

when he squeaked out a 3-1 decision.

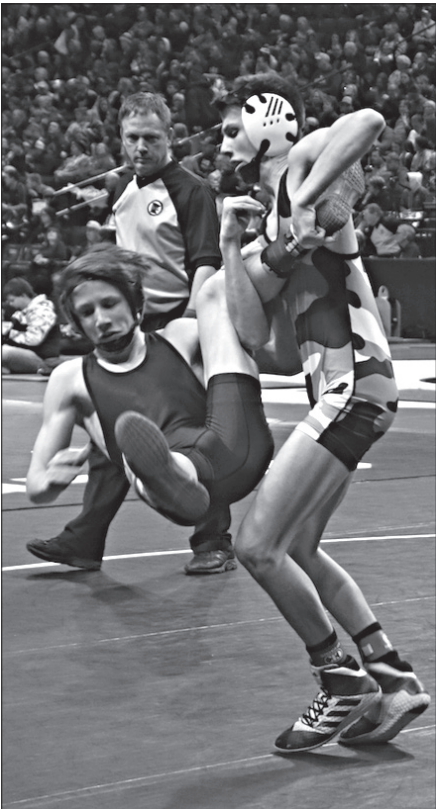
“There are times where it isn’t going to pretty,” Whitman said. “But the ultimate goal is to win and move on and that’s a credit to his mindset.”

Elwood suffered just two losses this season, one of which was due to a medical forfeit.

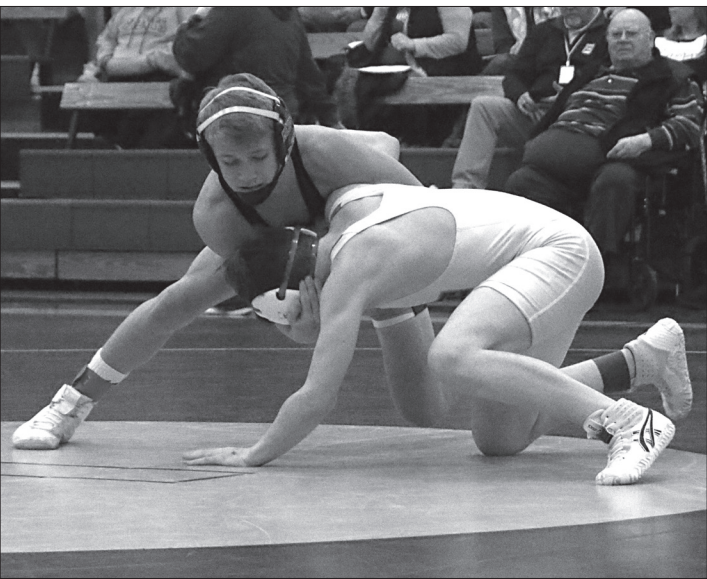
The other was to Winona’s Ryan Henningson (45-2), who lost in the Class AA 113-pound title match by the score of 6-5.

Elwood achieve the first step in some lofty goals he has set for myself. However, he does have a wrestling pedigree and his older brother Seth Elwood was an Division-II All-American at Minnesota State.

“I want to keep winning titles and hopefully being a five-timer state champ is in my future,” he said. “I’m just always trying to achieve my goals. I just have to keep grinding forward. I plan on getting in the weight room and eating good over the next year. Just get bigger and maybe jumping up a couple of weight classes.”



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL
Medford's Charley Elwood takes an opponent down in a hurry during the semi-finals of the MSHSL Class A 113-pound weight class state tournament at Xcel Energy Center on Saturday.



STAFF PHOTO BY DENNIS MARSHALL
Medford's Alex Helgeson competes during the section tournament at Blue Earth High School.

MEDFORD: *Eighth-grader Helgeson has tough draw*

FROM B1

followed that up with a 9-1 mayor decision over Windom-Mountain Lake's Zack Spinks (29-11) in the quarterfinals and a 6-4 decision over Owen Novacek (45-4) in the semis.

“In the past, I kind of would psych myself out before matches by worrying about my opponents records or who they had beat,” he said. “This year I didn’t worry about that stuff. I focused on myself. I knew if I did that and wrestled my hardest then anything could happen. I was excited going into the finals and wasn’t nervous at all. I just wrestled a tough opponent and lost by one to good competitor.

“I’m proud of my team and coaches,” VonRuden continued. “The support we get from our small community of Medford is great and I’m just thankful to be a part of it.”

VonRuden said he was especially proud of teammate Charley Elwood for winning the Class A 113-pound title.

“We both set goals of being state champs, but he got the job done and I couldn’t be happier for him and his family,” VonRuden said.

Whitman said he’s been impressed with VonRuden all year, and not just with his wrestling.

“It’s his growth, maturity and preparedness for each match,” he said. “He is mentally ready to perform every time he steps on the mat. That’s a hard thing to do, especially in a state tournament. Those are some long hours and days, but his approach never changed.”

VonRuden finished third at 138 pounds last season, while Canavaugh was the state champ at that weight class.

Medford eighth-grader Alex Helgeson (24-12) also qualified for the state tournament at 106 pounds, but he was eliminated on Friday after losing his first two matches.

“He had a super tough draw, but he did phenomenal,” VonRuden said of Helgeson. “It was a tough break for him, but he improvement so much throughout the season and he has the right mindset. He will be back for the next four or five years.”

He lost by major decision 9-1 to Zumbrota-Mazeppa’s Michael Majerus (40-10) and 15-5 to United North Central’s Ethan Hendrickson (38-6). Majerus entered the tournament ranked No. 5 in the state, but was seeded No. 1 in the tournament. He finished second. Hendrickson entered the tournament ranked No. 3 in state. He

finished sixth.

“It was a horrible draw,” Whitman said. “But he battled. It’s easy to feel like you don’t have shot in that situation, but he went out there and gave him opponent all he could ask for. That’s something great to build onto for the next four years.”

Whitman said it was nice for Helgeson to get a taste of

the state tournament at such a young age.

“He got the nervousness and first-time jitters out of the way,” he said. “He realizes that he is an eight-grader and he will have plenty of chances moving forward. He took some giant steps this year. His future is bright and he knows it. I’m really looking forward to seeing what he can do.”

Cancer Corner

Blooming
Prairie Cancer
Group



Wanna play 25 games of BINGO?

By **HOWARD LESTRUD**
Staff Writer



Ethan Thompson, New Richland, and his grandfather, Hank Thompson of Ellendale were a lucky pair at the Blooming Prairie Cancer Group’s Ham Bingo last year at the Pizza Cellar in Blooming Prairie. (Staff photo by Howard Lestrud)

Yell BINGO and win a ham or some Hope butter.

The Blooming Prairie Cancer Group will be sponsoring its annual Ham Bingo night on Thursday, March 7 at the Pizza Cellar in BP. The BINGO party begins at 7 p.m.

More than 60 Bingo goers of all ages participated in the fundraiser at the Pizza Cellar party room in Blooming Prairie last year.

Last year at Ham Bingo, Ethan Thompson of New Richland hit the jackpot by winning two meat raffles, bingoing twice to win Hope Butter and a ham. Oh yeah, he also won cupcakes given as a door prize.

He and his grandfather, Hank Thompson, have been regular Bingo fanatics at BP Cancer Group Bingo events.

Twenty-five games will be played with the final game a blackout to claim a BIG Easter basket with all kinds of goodies. Mike Hoffman of BP won the basket last year. His wife Julie was sitting next to him and also won a ham. She won the grand prize in two previous Bingo parties.

The BP Cancer Group plans a Designer Purse Bingo at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 6 at the BP Servicemen’s Club. The event will also feature loaded Bloody Marys.

Ten games will be played and door prizes will be offered.

The event is already sold out.

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