



Raiders are Section 6A champions . . .

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The 2020-2021 Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale/Parkers Prairie Raiders wrestling team is the Section 6A champion! —photos by Ray Benning



Gideon Ervasti rolled his BBE opponent to his back and got the pin for the Raiders.

but your name on each team's 55-person guest list was well worth the price of admission.

Last week we started by winning the bottom six weights for a 24-0 lead before the Knights stormed back only for us to close the door on the top 42-29. Matchups were expected to be similar, so the plan was to hold our ground. This time we jumped out to a commanding lead after the first five weights with pins from Bennet Arceneau, Revering, and Deagen Captain. Larson and Thompson

point lead.

However, the Knights got their six at 220 and the dual came down to heavyweight. It was a crazy match of flurries from one back to another as both team's dreams hung in the balance, but in the end Hayden Captain persevered with the fall and BHVPP captured our third straight Section 6A crown with a 44-33 win.

BBE earned their first Section Championship on mat two by knocking out the two-time defending State Champs and the

being prevailing 5-4. Two matches in the books, the same score as before, with twelve matches to go 3-3.

The Jaguars flipped the matchups in the next two weights by the way they weighed in. Previously, Deagen Captain and Larson both gave up six. This was definitely a position in the dual where we believed we could swing some points. Deagen did just that, not only did he not get pinned, his smooth moves on his feet picked up the decision and BHVPP had swung nine turning our -7 into a +2. Larson battled hard at 126 giving up the technical fall to his ranked opponent which made it 8-6 Jaguars, but +3 in my book. BBE sent out their State Champ at 132 and Thompson gave him everything he could handle in the previous matchup.

Not today, the Champ found a way to come through for his team with the fall to extend the lead to 14-6 and even up the dual on paper with nine matches to go.

Blake Sumstad battled at 138 to slow down the match against his ranked foe, but eventually was turned halfway through the third. Somehow, some way Blake found a way back to his belly giving up the technical fall instead of the pin from two weeks ago. He popped to his feet with a fist pump energizing the team and the crowd. Blake had stolen another point in favor of the Raiders. BBE's second ranked 145-pounder did his job by holding par and putting Justin Koehn away late in the first period. The 152-pound match was a position where we thought we could save a point, but in the end the Jaguars ranked wrestler finished off Peterson by technical fall.

Six matches to go, down 30-6, the Raiders had the Jaguars in their sights right where we wanted them within striking distance. The next six weights would be a roller coaster of emotions as one misstep for the Raiders would most likely mean defeat. Schroeder earned a pin at 160 in the first go around and we were hoping to mount our comeback with a lightning strike. However, Mason had to dig deep as he found himself behind and nearly glued to the mat. He battled through and survived the period. The hole had

been dug, but not deep enough as he fought back to get the decision.

Dean handled his business putting up six at 170 to hold par as BHVPP had cut the score in the half 30-15 with four weights to go.

The rematch at 182 pounds went in favor of the Jaguars on a late takedown in late February. A loss here would mean the Raiders would have to pin out and that seemed to be highly unlikely so Tyler needed to swing the match in favor of his team.

An early takedown and he was out in front defending off his opponent in multiple positions. With a 3-1 lead, his opponent once again got his late takedown in the final seconds. Thankfully, this time it sent the match to sudden victory instead of defeat. Tyler blasted into a double and looked to have the takedown, his opponent defended and looked to have it, but Tyler rolled with the punches to come out on top drawing the Raiders within twelve, 30-18.

Three weights to go, BBE juggled the next three matchups hoping to change the previous outcome. Gideon held par with a first period fall and it was down to the final two matches. The Jaguars slid their previous 195 up to 220 in hopes of taking out Grant to prevail. After a scoreless first period, James earned a two-point nearfall in the second period for the lead. After a scary mat return and five minutes of concussion protocol, his opponent came back energized to tie the match with thirty seconds to go. Grant exploded to his feet for the one-point lead and controlled the ties. A late flurry and what looked like a potential takedown for his opponent as time expired. The refs quickly gathered and discussed it declaring "no takedown" and Grant the winner. The Raiders had pulled within 30-27 and had won seven matches.

A simple win at 285 would tie the dual and send BHVPP to the next round on criteria. Hayden Captain went right after the opportunity to be the hero. A takedown and a turn opened the first period. His opponent somehow found a way to escape. Another throw and three more nearfall points made it 10-1 after the first

period. The second period would see two more Hayden takedowns to open the gap to 14-3 with one period to go. Hayden went down to start the third period and rose to his feet for an escape. He went right back in for the takedown and on the cusp of a technical fall. With the head lever in hand, Hayden got out and drove his opponent over.

Two swipes of the ref's arm sent our crowd of 55 (which made noise for the hundreds at home) and the bench into a frenzy even before he secured the fall, 33-30, the Raiders had done it. They battled every punch that came their way and persevered to punch their ticket to the State Semifinals.

It was an amazing day of wrestling with four great teams. If we wrestled it again tomorrow, I would almost guarantee the results would be different as all four teams are quality programs and so evenly matched. However, you only get one chance and Saturday was the day the Raiders never quit, made their breaks, and rose to the top.

Semifinal pairings will be out sometime this week. As for now, we will move our focus to individuals with the Section 6A tournament in Barret on Tuesday advancing the top four at each weight to the State Preliminaries on Saturday in Long Prairie.

The individual matchups were as follows:

- BHVPP 66 vs. Barnesville 12**
- 106-Asher O'Brien (BAR) Fall Justin Olson 5:25
- 113-David Revering received a Forfeit
- 120-Evan Jares received a Forfeit
- 126-Aiden Larson Dec. Ayden Hauck (BAR) 5:3
- 132-Holden Truax Fall Hunter Blilie (BAR) :52
- 138-Reese Thompson Dec. Dawson Gregg (BAR) 8:6
- 145-Justin Koehn Fall Cameron Halverson (BAR) 1:11
- 152-Brock Peterson received a Forfeit
- 160-Mason Schroeder received a Forfeit
- 170-Hunter Dean received a Forfeit
- 182-Tyler Eggert Fall Gavin Grommesh (BAR) 1:22
- 195-Jordan Kroll (BAR) Fall Koal Plautz :55
- 220-Gideon Ervasti Fall Brady Kroll (BAR) 3:49
- 285-James Grant Fall Tim Wells (BAR) 1:24
- BHVPP 63 vs. Pelican Rapids 13**
- 106-Justin Olson Dec. Danny Salazar (PR) 6:5
- 113-David Revering Fall Jed Carlson (PR) 1:21
- 120-Deagen Captain Fall Daniel Diaz (PR) 1:04
- 126-Aiden Larson received a Forfeit
- 132-Reese Thompson Fall Tommy Thach (PR) 3:57
- 138-Sebastian Centeno (PR) Maj. Dec. Blake Sumstad 9-1
- 145-Abby Ervasti received a Forfeit
- 152-Carter Johnson (PR) Fall Justin Koehn 5:14
- 160-Brock Peterson Fall Kayden Holt (PR) 1:06
- 170-Hunter Dean received a Forfeit
- 182-John Ziebell (PR) Dec. Tyler Eggert 4-2
- 195-Gideon Ervasti Fall Jacob Willets (PR) 1:25
- 220-Hayden Captain received a Forfeit
- 285-Melvin Blumer received a Forfeit
- BHVPP 44 vs. WCAABE 33**
- 106-Bennet Arceneau Fall Carter Lohse (WCAABE) 5:35
- 113-David Revering Fall Mason Richter (WCAABE) 2:41
- 120-Deagen Captain Fall Sam Olson (WCAABE) :20
- 126-Aiden Larson Maj. Dec. Adam Lohse (WCAABE) 8-0
- 132-Reese Thompson Maj. Dec. Solomon Wales (WCAABE) 10-2
- 138-Ashton Danner (WCAABE) Dec. Blake Sumstad 9-5
- 145-Reubens Swanson (WCAABE) Fall Justin Koehn 1:39
- 152-Jordan Lohse (WCAABE) Fall Brock Peterson 3:37
- 160-Anthony Sykora (WCAABE) Fall Mason Schroeder 1:42
- 170-Hunter Dean Fall Kade Olson (WCAABE) 3:15
- 182-Nathaniel Kisgen (WCAABE) Fall Tyler Eggert 1:55
- 195-Gideon Ervasti Fall Tyler Stone (WCAABE) 4:56
- 220-Colton Lindquist (WCAABE) Fall James Grant 5:03
- 285-Hayden Captain Fall Austin Mattson (WCAABE) 4:40
- BHVPP 33 vs. BBE 30**
- 106-Brett DeRoo (BBE) Dec. Bennet Arceneau 10-6
- 113-David Revering Dec. Tanner Viessman (BBE) 5-4
- 120-Deagen Captain Dec. Wyatt Engen (BBE) 8-4
- 126-Ryan Jensen (BBE) Tech Fall Aiden Larson 22-7; 5:52
- 132-Walker Bents (BBE) Fall Reese Thompson 5:44
- 138-Tyler Jensen (BBE) Tech Fall Blake Sumstad 17-0; 5:02
- 145-Blaine Fischer (BBE) Fall Justin Koehn 1:51
- 152-Maximus Hanson (BBE) Tech Fall Brock Peterson 19-4; 5:10
- 160-Mason Schroeder Dec. Dylan Kampsen (BBE) 10-5
- 170-Hunter Dean Fall Talen Kampsen (BBE) 1:55
- 182-Tyler Eggert Dec. Cooper Wold (BBE) 5-3 SV
- 195-Gideon Ervasti Fall Carson Gilbert (BBE) 1:53
- 220-James Grant Dec. Mark Jennings (BBE) 5-4
- 285-Hayden Captain Fall Ethan Spanier (BBE) 4:43



106# Bennet Arceneau had a tough battle with BBE's Brett DeRoo in the opening match of the State quarter final round.

bonused with major decisions and it was 26-0. However, a decision at 138 for the Knights had swung a point in their favor.

They gained another point on paper through 160 with three consecutive falls and looked to be swinging the 170-match until Dean put an end to it with a pin bringing the score to 32-21 with four weights to go. We swapped pins at 182 and 195 as both #2 ranked wrestlers won with Gideon Ervasti posting the six for the Raiders. Two weights to go, just don't get pinned with an eleven-

State Quarterfinal was set. Two weeks to the date, the Raiders traveled to Belgrade and went home in defeat 37-30. Something would have to change this time around if we were going to keep the season alive.

The first match went the same as the first time with the Jaguars picking up the decision over Arceneau. Revering was close to a major decision the first time around and 113 was a place where we thought we could gain some ground. However, this match turned into a dog fight with Rever-



Wadena Commissioners . . .

continued from front

out the definition of what regularly established means, such as five years or longer.

Commissioner Mike Weyer asked if the ordinance wasn't enforced for years if that is why it is not considered regularly established. Ladd explained the regularly established events dates back to when the ordinance was originally established. When they found they already had a large gathering ordinance, they were obligated to enforce it.

Krekla would like to change the language to be regularly established since 2019.

Commissioner Bill Stearns said he was in favor of changing the amount of participants instead of changing the language to benefit one entity. A public hearing could be held.

Board Chair Sheldon Monson suggested they could have the entities apply and if they continue the following years they wouldn't need to reapply.

Ladd agreed the number of participants was the issue for the health and safety aspect of the event.

The commissioners agreed to a public hearing and will work on setting a date.

DDA Agreement

Tessia Melvin with DDA gave a background on the classification and compensation study

In 2018, they conducted a market study and the county chose to go from 20 steps to 10. Job descriptions and evaluations were old and DDA rewrote them. They keep up on changes, pay grades and statutory compliance for the equity report that has to be done every three years. This prevents them from losing state aid funds. The job descriptions help decipher qualifications needed for the positions from education, physical

ability and potential hazards of the job as well as pay comparable to the market. The agreement allows them to continue maintenance without having to conduct large studies without pay gaps and budget disruptions while remaining competitive in the market.

Ladd and Stearns inquired about the pay scale that is still in the works and hasn't been decided on. Stearns recommended a closed session to discuss the implementation and to use at the negotiations with unions.

Approved the agreement for job description maintenance 2023 for \$3250 (\$16,250 for all three years, Sourcewell paying the other half). Kangas opposed.

Other Business

• Approved Human Services administrative warrants and ACH-EFT transfers in the amount of \$25,265.

• Approved the liquor license renewal for Twin Lakes Lodge-N-Resort.

• Approved to adopt the charters for County Board of Appeal and Equalization and Safety and Security Committees.

• Approved to rescind the resolution that was passed on 12/15/2020 with the incorrect description revoking CSAH 4 to the city of Wadena. Approved the updated resolution revoking the remnant portion of CSAH 4 to the city of Wadena. Approved the resolution establishing the new alignment of County State Aid Highway 4.

• Approved the 2021 to 2023 Maintenance Agreement with DDA Human Resources, Inc. for \$3250 from HR Department Professional and Technical Services.

• Kangas would like to have the links to the Zoom meetings online since they are currently given by email. He suggested adding the

links to the county calendar on their website. Odden said they will get the iterative links placed in the descriptions of the meetings.

• Mitchell Janson, soil and water conservation district county feedlot officer reported they fulfilled their required seven percent inspections, inspecting six feedlots. There are 81 registered feedlots in the county. The report was approved.

• Approved to support the efforts of Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) to ask the Walz Administration to withdraw the proposed MN Clean Car rule and ask for a legislative review of the topic instead. They are looking for support from at least 18 of the 37 rural counties.

A public comment period was held for the sheriff's office body worn cameras and unmanned aerial vehicles. Chief Deputy Joe Schoon explained this was a requirement to use the equipment that was purchased in 2019 that was overlooked at the time. Schoon received two comments. One was favorable to the body worn cameras. Both were against the drones.

Schoon felt it was due to the cost factor, privacy issues. If law enforcement is involved they would have to get a search warrant to use these in some instances. They now have to report to the BCA what that drone was used for in the previous year. They used the drone 13 times last year including test flights to keep up with certification, to search for people and for structure fires, bad crashes and checking county ditches for the highway department. Approved the body worn cameras and the unmanned aerial vehicles.

• Closed the meeting for negotiation strategy.

Verndale Area Food Shelf new hours

The Verndale Area Food Shelf will have new hours beginning October 1.

They will no longer be open on Mondays.

New hours are Thursdays from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the first Thursday evening of the month from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

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