

Parkston Runs Away With Region 3B Title

BY EMILY NIEBRUGGE
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WAGNER — An already successful regular season translated into the post-season for the Parkston Trojans, who won the team title at the Region 3B Wrestling Tournament on Saturday in Wagner.

Parkston took first place with 232 points, followed by Burke-Gregory (146.5) and Winner (142.5). Wagner came in third with 142 points, with Bon Homme (113), Miller-Highmore-Harrold (62) and Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes following. Mount Vernon-Plankinton (40.5) came in eighth, with Scotland (26), Sunshine Bible (26), Lyman (25), Andes Central (22) and Wessington Springs-Woonsocket-Wolsey-Wessington (6) finishing it out.

Parkston sent a total of 12 wrestlers through, while Wagner sent eight and Bon Homme sent six. Andes Central sent two wrestlers to state, and Scotland will send one.

Senior Myles Bialas of Parkston said he was happy with the way his team finished, as well as his own individual finish.

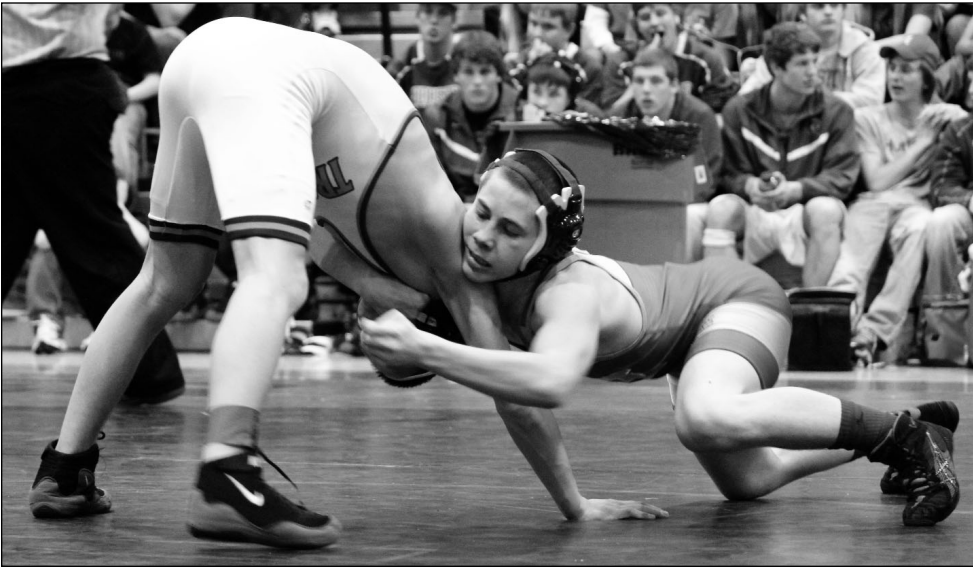
“I didn’t really want to get pinned at the end, but that’s just the way it goes. Tyler is a good kid, and hopefully I can meet up with him next week at state. I can’t complain about scoring 232 points — that’s not a bad day.”

Now he and his teammates will focus on conditioning, which he said got his team so far, to push through to state.

“Our coach pushed us every single day to be better. Conditioning is a big thing — I could see that today. We were definitely the more conditioned team. When it gets down to those close matches, it’s going to help in the long run.

“Now, we’re just going to keep doing what we’ve been doing. We’ve been winning most of the tournaments we’ve gone to, so why change something that isn’t broken.”

Wagner head coach Chas Welch said he knew his kids had their ups and downs throughout the day, but wanted to focus on the eight



Duncan Stoeber, right, of Bon Homme tangles with Logan Mahoney of Parkston during their 106-pound championship match at Saturday's Region 3B Wrestling Tournament in Wagner.

his team did send through.

“We had some kids punch their ticket, so we’re going to focus on that,” he said. “We just wanted to go out and do as well as we could at this point and eight is what we ended up with. It was a season of long hard work everyday, working in the gym to get better in every position. Now it’s just tweaking little things and making sure we’re all as ready as we can be.”

For Andes Central head coach Rich Stephens, the tournament was a step in the right direction. Since the program just started a year ago, this was the first state tournament his wrestlers have been to.

“Today was awesome,” he said. “We brought three kids and put two through to state. We just worked hard. There are only five of us in the

wrestling room, and a few of them have never wrestled before. Our oldest kid is a freshman, so we just worked as hard as we possibly could everyday.”

Although the wrestlers are young, Stephens said he can see their determination and was proud of their finish.

“They’re young, but they’re wrestling to win,” he said. “There was a lot to overcome this year. Everybody else has wrestled two or three seasons, and this is basically our first time since our kids are so young. Now we’ll just have to do what we’ve got to do to stay fit — show up to practice to prepare for state.”

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Lancers

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three games. Seniors Alyssa Whetham and Taylor Forsch each had eight points.

Whetham notched eight points for the second straight game, one shy of her career high of nine. It was the fifth time this season she scored eight points.

“Alyssa’s been pretty solid,” Schlingens said. “She works hard. I’ve been happy with her effort.”

Sarah Crosgrove, who started and finished with two rebounds, and Hannah Youngberg were also

honored after the game as seniors for the squad.

Concordia now faces a Dordt team that handed the Bulldogs their first loss of the season, 96-86 on Jan. 5. Concordia later scored an 87-64 victory over the Defenders on Feb. 9.

While the top four teams in the GPAC are all ranked in the top 10 in NAIA Division II, Olson noted that playing the “next four” isn’t any easier.

“This is a tough conference,” he said. “The next four teams (5-8), none of those are teams you can take lightly. You don’t want to play around.”

MMC takes a five-game losing streak into its matchup at North-western. While the Lancers took

care of the ball in both matchups with the Raiders this season, MMC shot 27.1 percent from the field in the first meeting (62-51) and 25 percent from the field in the second (80-54).

“The big thing for us will be taking care of their pressure defense, not letting their pressure scare us,” Schlingens said. “We handled them in the full court, but had trouble in the half court. I think we can defend them well, as long as we’re not giving up layups off turnovers.

“It comes down to taking care of the ball.”

MMC’s game at Northwestern will be a 6 p.m. start in Orange City, Iowa. The winner of the MMC-Northwestern game will play the winner of the Dordt-Concordia game Satur-

day, Feb. 23, at the site of the higher seed. The championship game is set for Tuesday, Feb. 26.

You can follow James D. Cimbrerek on Twitter at twitter.com/ace-man904

CONCORDIA (24-5)
Bailey Morris 5-15 2-2 13, Tracy Peitz 4-6 3-4 13, Lori Laboda 2-5 0-0 4, Kristen Conahan 7-10 0-0 19, Katie Rich 3-4 10-16, Taylor Wissing 0-0 0-0 0, Kelsey Hizer 1-2 0-0 2, Beth Kohnmetscher 0-1 1-21, Dawn Martin 0-2 0-0 0, Jenna Lehmann 2-3 0-0 4, Jericca Pearson 2-3 2-4 6, Britney Birtell 1-3 0-0 2, Ashley Kuntz 2-4 4-8 8, TOTALS: 29-58 22-26 88.

MOUNT MARTY (16-13)
Alyssa Whetham 2-5 2-2 8, Alexa Berg 2-2 0-0 5, Sarah Crosgrove 0-3 0-0 0, Taylor Forsch 2-3 2-2 8, Brittany Little 5-8 2-4 12, April Winne 1-3 2-4 5, Allison De Kam 3-6 0-0 6, Holly Hegge 3-6 5-6 11, Raquel Sutura 2-3 2-3 6, TOTALS: 20-49 15-21 61.

At the half: CU 45, MMC 28, Three-Pointers: CU 8-23 (Conahan 5-7, Peitz 2-3, Morris 1-8, Rich 0-1, Laboda 0-2, Martin 0-2), MMC 6-20 (Whetham 2-5, Forsch 2-8, Berg 1-1, Winne 1-2), Rebounds: MMC 33 (Little 8), CU 31 (Laboda 7), Personal Fouls: CU 21, MMC 20, Fouled Out: None, Assists: MMC 13 (Winne 4), CU 12 (three with 3), Turnovers: MMC 28, CU 14, Blocked Shots: MMC 2, CU 1, Steals: CU 14 (Rich 4), MMC 8 (three with 2), Attendance: 575.

The Bucks rolled to an 81-43 victory in the ‘A’ game behind 16 points and 13 rebounds from Alex Withrow. Tanner Frick netted 14 points, Landon Binder had 13 points and Bradey Sorenson added 10 points in the win.

Pierre took the ‘B’ game 42-34. For Yankton, Tyler Guthmiller had 12 points, Levi Schmidt had 10 points and Rayden Terca added 11 rebounds.

PIERRE (14-5)
Garret Pochop 2-4 2-4 6, Austin Christophersen 1-5 0-0 2, Lane Severn 4-7 11-13 19, Cody Honeywell 0-1 0-0 0, Zach Hanson 7-13 10-13 24, Nick Rabern 0-0 0-0 0, Erin Severn 1-2 0-0 2, Carson Eisenbeiz 0-0 0-0 0, Brevin Kaiser 0-0 0-0 0, Cooper Walton 2-5 1-2 5, Totals 17-37 24-32 58.

YANKTON (4-13)
Michael Rucker 3-12 2-4 9, Andrew Hummel 3-5 0-0 7, JJ Hejna 4-8 2-3 10, Brady Hale 0-5 0-0 0, Kellen Soulek 5-8 1-2 11, Ryan Olson 5-7 0-2 11, Landon Breen 1-3 0-0 2, Reid Sawatzke 0-0 0-0 0, Tanner Termansen 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 21-49 5-11 50.

PIERRE12 29 38
YANKTON11 25 34

Three-Point Field Goals — P 3-3 (Christophersen 0-1, Severn 0-1, Honeywell 0-1), Y 3-8 (Rucker 1-3, Hummel 1-2, Hale 0-1, Olson 1-1, Termansen 0-1), Rebounds — P 32 (Hanson 11), Y 24 (Hejna 9), Personal Fouls — P 13, Y 24, Assists — P 4 (Christophersen 2, Honeywell 2), Y 6 (Rucker 1, Hejna 3, Olson 2), Turnovers — P 4, Y 10, Blocked Shots — P 3 (Hanson 3), Y 0, Steals — P 4 (Pochop 2), Y 8 (Hejna 3), Fouled Out — None.

disruptive. They got things done.”

Neither team made the GPAC Tournament, which begins on Wednesday.

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CONCORDIA (6-22)
Phil Friedrich 0-4 3-6 3, Joey Werning 1-7 2-2 4, Joel Haywood 2-9 5-6 10, Beau Smith 6-14 1-2 18, Brent Houchin 5-11 4-6 14, Daniel Grundmeier 0-0 0-0 0, Alex Wakefield 1-1 0-0 2, Charles Dunbar 0-1 0-0 0, Robby Thomas 0-8 0-0 0, Max Wegener 0-2 0-0 0, Zach Chrzan 0-5 0-2 0, TOTALS: 15-62 15-24 68.

MOUNT MARTY (8-21)
Saladin Smith 3-7 0-0 6, Scott Odekirik 1-3 0-1 2, Joe Hieb 15-19 8-11 43, Austin Harms 1-4 1-2 3, Jeff Larsen 5-7 1-2 11, Chris Richardson 4-8 0-1 10, Tyler Payer 1-5 0-0 2, Chevy Fischer 1-3 1-2 3, Alex Irvine 1-1 2-2 4, TOTALS: 32-57 13-21 84.

At the half: MMC 40, CU 19. Three-Pointers: MMC 7-17 (Hieb 5-7, Richardson 2-3, Smith 0-1, Odekirik 0-1, Payer 0-3), CU 3-16 (Smith 2-5, Haywood 1-4, Houchin 0-1, Dunbar 0-1, Chrzan 0-1, Werning 0-2, Thomas 0-2), Rebounds: CU 44 (Smith 10), MMC 41 (Odekirik 7, Larsen 7, Fischer 7), Personal Fouls: MMC 22, CU 19, Fouled Out: Odekirik, Larsen, Assists: MMC 14 (Harms 5), CU 6 (Werning 2), Turnovers: CU 16, MMC 11, Blocked Shots: CU 2, MMC 1, Steals: MMC 10 (Hieb 4), CU 6 (Friedrich 2, Werning 2), Attendance: 600.

Bucks

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But a slew of untimely fouls by the Bucks would put Hanson and South Dakota State recruit Lane Sevryn on the free throw line and Yankton in foul trouble. Fouling slowed down the Bucks momentum finally giving the Governors a rhythm going into the final quarter.

“We just fouled too much,” Yankton head coach Chris Haynes said. “They were really hard to guard and we just had six or seven stupid fouls to put them on the free throw line. You just can’t do that against a good team and give them free points.”

Those extra points would plague the Bucks and they tried

to fight back from an early 34-43 fourth-quarter deficit. Pierre’s Erin Sevryn traveled coast-to-coast for a layup to give the Governors a 12-point lead, their biggest lead of the night, causing a Yankton time out.

A couple hustle plays by Soulek and Hejna gave the Bucks sparks of momentum but it wasn’t enough to counter the deficit as the Governor’s grabbed the victory 58-50.

“Our guys battled,” Haynes said. “Kellen, JJ, and Landon on the inside really did a good job of trying to keep the ball outside, defending them the best they could and we tried to give them help, but they’re just good players. We executed our game plan fairly well — it’s just that those guys are really good.”

For Pierre, two players finished with double-doubles as

Hanson had 24 points and 11 rebounds and Lane Sevryn added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Three Bucks finished in double-figures as Soulek and Olson put up 11 points and Hejna added 10. Hejna also added nine rebounds and three steals.

Both teams with take on their next and final season opponents next week as Yankton hosts Mitchell on Thursday and Pierre travels to Aberdeen on Tuesday.

The Bucks defeated the Governors 46-39 in the JV game as Yankton’s Tanner Frick put up 19 points and Pierre’s Charlie Anderson was close behind with 18.

The Bucks sophomore squad overcame their opponents 46-38, led by Mitchell Gullikson with 12 points. Pierre’s Nick Rabern led his team with 15.

Yankton split with the Governors in freshmen action.

MMC Men

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For Hieb, though, the total score was more important than his total.

“I wanted to go out on a win for us,” he said. “I tried to stick with the offense, pick my spots. A lot of it was my teammates setting me up.”

Jeff Larsen, another senior, had 11 points and seven rebounds in his final game as a Lancer. Scott Odekirik, who grabbed seven rebounds, and Austin Harms, who had a team-high five assists, also finished their Lancer careers on Saturday.

“Jeff and Scott were undersized posts. We’d put Jeff on the other team’s biggest guy. Scott has the quickness to be a wing,” Thorson said. “Austin was playing well when he went down last year. He gave us a bigger kid to guard, and understood things well.”

Also for MMC on Saturday, Chris Richardson scored 10 points. Saladin Smith, Jose Pena-Benjamin and he will return with starting experience. Chevy Fischer also was a regular throughout the season, making two starts.

Sophomore Tyler Payer and freshman Alex Irvine, who each had one start, also grew into bigger roles in the second half of the season.

“Midway through the season Tyler was barely playing. We put

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