Wynot Edges Stuart For D2-2 Title

BY BRUCE VIERGUTZ

For the Press & Dakotan

BATTLE CREEK, Neb. — With four state basketball championships already tucked neatly in the showcase back home, Wynot figured its might as well make room for a possible fifth straight title.

Junior Danielle Wieseler plopped in 1 of 2 free throws with 4.3 seconds left to help give Wynot a thrilling 53-52 victory over Stuart in the Class D2-2 district final at Battle Creek High School Friday night.

Stuart had a chance to win the game but Jaden Schafer's last-second shot fell way short.

It was a great game," Wynot coach Steve Wieseler said. "Both teams really gave it their all out there tonight. I watched them both in the fourth quarter, they could hardly move they were

The Blue Devils, 20-5, punched their ticket to the Nebraska state high school basketball championships starting Thursday in Lincoln.

The Broncos rallied late to make matters intense. Brittany Hanzlik

drained a 3-point basket to close the gap to 51-50 with 50.8 seconds remain-

Wieseler hit 1 of 2 free throws to put the Blue Devils up one but Stuart tied it on a pair of free throws by junior Monique Schafer with 25.7 seconds

Wynot called its last time out and got the ball in Wieseler's hands. Monique Schafer was then called for a foul on Wieseler who sank the game-

'We do a lot of free throws in practice and try to put pressure on them,' coach Wieseler said. "I don't know if it gets to be more pressure than that but she got it done — she's a competitor.'
Stuart coach Dexter Goodner ar-

gued against the call but his complaints fell on deaf ears.

"It was a foul," coach Wieseler said. "The (Stuart) girl bodied her all the way and knocked into her pretty good. Unfortunately for them, there was only four seconds left. But that's part of the game. This game could've gone either way all the way through. It was very evenly-matched.

Senior Jenna Heine, who led all

scorers with 19 points, hit a 3-point basket to give Wynot a 49-43 lead with 3:13 left in the game.

"That shot wasn't necessarily designed but Jenna is a heck of a shooter," Wieseler said. "She is a smart player and she knew it was time to take a shot like that. We designed it to go to the free-throw line but when you get an open look like that, that was a good shot for her.'

"We were just trying to stall and take some time off the clock," Heine said. "I was open and I shot it and it

Heine scored eight of the Blue Devils 16 points in the third quarter.

"I just had the determination to keep going," Heine said. "We never gave up and we really wanted this

Baskets by Cortney Arkfeld and Wieseler helped give the Blue Devils a 46-38 advantage with 6:05 left in the

Wynot held a six-point lead three times in the third quarter before holding onto a 42-37 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

A 3-point basket by Hanzlik cut

Wynot's lead to 24-22 before two free throws by Skylar Arkfeld gave the Blue Devils a 26-22 advantage at halftime.

Wynot connected on 18 of 40 field goals and was 14-for-22 from the foul line. Stuart turned the ball over 22 times to 20 for Wynot, which hit 5 of 9 3s. The Blue Devils outrebounded Stuart 27-25, led by Skylar Arkfeld's 11

Stuart, which hit 17 of 37 field goals and 15 of 23 free throws, was led by Brittany Hanzlik and Jaden Schafer

"I think maybe our press got to them a little bit," coach Wieseler said.
"That might be the only advantage we had. Stuart is a very good basketball

Coach Wieseler said the Blue Devils will try their best to win their fifth state title in a row.

We've had changes in our roster but we've gotten steady support from the school and the community," he said. "The kids at our school are very committed and dedicated. They have their priorities straight. We've been blessed with kids that work hard and have some ability.'

Pirates Surge Past Creighton In D1-3 Final

BY BEN HEGGE sports@yankton.net

WAYNE, Neb. — The Emerson-Hubbard Pirates are

headed to Lincoln. The Pirates punched their ticket for the Class D-1 State Tournament with a 56-46 victory over the Creighton Bulldogs on Friday night in the District D1-3 final in Wayne.

The two teams met back on Feb. 9 in the finals of the Lewis and Clark Conference Tournament. Emerson-Hubbard won the previous meet-

Regardless of the previous matchup, the Pirates were not taking the Bulldogs lightly.

"They are a good team," said Emerson-Hubbard head coach Troy Haberman "We were prepared and came out with intensity.

Both teams thrived defensively in the game's opening

Creighton ran a zone defense throughout the first half, while Emerson-Hubbard used an aggressive full-court

The Bulldogs led 12-9 at the end of the opening quarter. Chastity Wilmes scored six of Creighton's twelve first quarter points.

'We had a really solid first half," said Bulldogs head coach Kyle Kibbie. "Our defensive effort was tremendous early and remained steady throughout the entire

After a few lead changes in the second quarter, the Bulldogs took a 20-18 lead into halftime.

However, Emerson-Hubbard dominated quarter number three, out-scoring the Bulldogs 21-11.

Madison Martin made four three-pointers in the third and scored 16 of the Pirates 21 points in the quarter.

Maddie was knocking some big shots down for us," said Haberman. "It always helps when you can have a shooter in a rhythm like that.'

The Pirates took a 41-31 lead into the final quarter, and never looked back. Emerson-Hubbard finished with a 56-46 victory, and a District D-3 Championship plaque.

Senior Madison Martin finished the game with 27

"We played a really solid 32 minutes, and I am very proud of our team," said Kibbie. "We did a great job of guarding them, but eventually their shots just started to

The Bulldogs set a school record for wins, and finished the year with a record of 21-5. Creighton will graduate eight seniors from this seasons

"This group of seniors is special," said Kibbie. "I am proud of everything they have accomplished over the last four years, and they will be missed."

Emerson-Hubbard heads to the state tournament with a record of 23-3. The Nebraska State Tournament will be held in Lincoln on March

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YOUR NEWS! The Press & Dakotan

Crofton

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traps to create pressure and turnovers; we try to turn those into offensive opportu-

'They change all the time," Plainview head coach Steve White said of the Lady Warriors. "They're good; that's all there is to it. With all that pressure, they just don't let up.

'Arens really hurt us defensively with her hands and her deflections," White

The Lady Pirates kept things close early as Nicole White and Brittany Waldow each hit field goals in the first quarter, but Crofton got it going late in the frame and held a 14-5 lead after the first quarter.

By the time Plainview scored again — on a free throw from Nikki Mosel with 37 seconds left in the first half — Crofton had scored 24straight points and held a 40-8 lead at the break.

I thought our subs really gave us a spark there," Losing said of the Crofton surge. "We got a couple of threes" and then we got some shots to fall, it really got things going for us.

The Lady Warriors kept their foot on the gas and built a 55-8 lead, opening with a dime from Arens to Monica Arens on the break. Ouinn Wragge and Allison Arens each had steal-and-lay-up combos and Lauren Šteffer knocked down a long jumper from the corner to increase Crofton's lead to 55-8.

We really never get a chance to look at the scoreboard," Arens said. "Coach does a really good job at keeping us motivated, and if we make one mistake, he'll make us fix it."

Lauren Steffen scored four of her 11 points in the final frame as the Lady Warriors notched the expected 65-19 Arens fine all-around game

included a game-high 16 points and seven assists. Monica Arens added nine

points.

White led Plainview (14-9) with seven points as Waldow had five counters. The Lady Warriors will

now carry the burden of repeating, beginning next That's the goal all along,

and our kids know that," Losing said. "Our kids are focused and work hard toward that goal every day. 'They can't think of this

as a 3-day event, just to take each step as it comes," Losing added. "Thursday, we will focus on the first task at hand.' "We are excited as any

team to be there," Arens said. "We do have to take one game at a time and not look ahead."

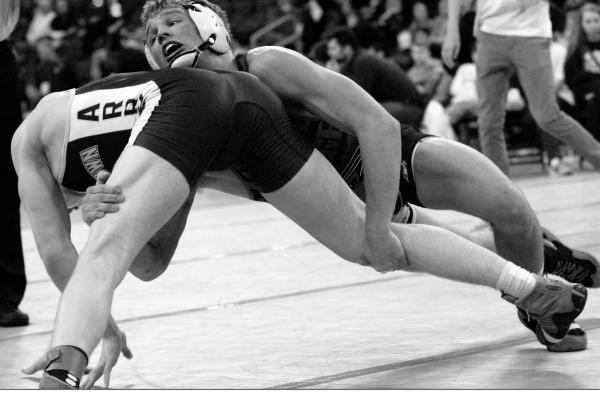
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JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Vermillion's Regan Bye tries to turn Watertown's Dylan Mitzel during their opening round match at 160 pounds in the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Class A

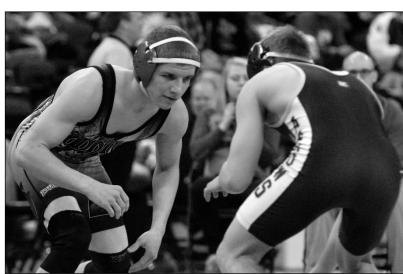
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Kyle Seibel (126), Noah Walker (138), Brandon Hertz (182) and Noah Westergaard (195) were eliminated on

Dakota Valley's Collin Becker (106), Brady Dam (152) and Ryan Parker (285) were all eliminated in

the second round of consolation Aberdeen Central holds an 86-83.5 lead over Pierre in the team standings after day one. Sioux Falls Roosevelt is a close third with 83 points. Rapid City Central is fourth at 65 points.

Competition begins at 10 a.m. today with semifinals and third round consolation. Placing rounds begin around 4 p.m., with championship matches set to begin at 6:05 p.m.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D. Yankton's Spencer Huber, left, looks for an opening during his opening round matchup against Watertown's Brady Bollinger at 126 pounds during the South Dakota State Class A Wrestling Tournament on Friday in Sioux Falls.

Class B

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tential we can do it." Parkston put Logan Ma-

honey (120), Blake Bietz (145), Ripp (160), Wes Dvorak (170) and Austin Bertram (220) forward to the semi-finals, and Kyle Holzbauer (132), Dawson Semmler (138), Lucas Bietz (152) and Miles Semmler (195) will compete in the third round.

While each team has already faced ups and downs, the desire to compete is still

"We've had our ups and downs throughout the day, but it's an exciting day," said sophomore Stas Sutera of Beresford. 'We got some good bonus points. We're going to rest up tonight and hopefully we can get some state titles.

Kaleb Crownover (106), Sutera (113), Duncan Stoebner (120), Alex Caba (132) and Dan Stibral (285) will compete in the semi-finals today (Saturday) for Bon Homme-Scotland, and Zach Sykora (126), Sam Caba (138) and Kreg Kepplinger (220) will compete in the thrid round.

Nick Casperson (152) and Connor Hoy (285) of Beresford; Turner Blasius (195) Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes; Trevor Lensing (182) from Wagner; Trezen Doren (285) of Andes Central and Payton Jensen (285) of Parker.

clude: Ben Soukup (113) and Truman Ashes (285) from Wagner; Chase Andersen (113) of Parker; Tristan Lutter (220) and Conor Hoy (285) of Beresford;



EMILY NIEBRUGGE/P&D

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Bon Homme-Scotland's Dan Stibral and Sioux Valley's Drew Newman face off in the quarter-finals Friday afternoon at S.D. State Class B Wrestling at the Plaza Civic Center in Rapid City.

and Ty Namanny (120), Austin

Moore (285) from Kimball-

White Lake-Platte-Geddes.

Also advancing to the semifinals are Dakota Ğalt (126),

Third-competitors also inthe one to trust

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