



Senior Michael Fanz wears his medal at State. Fanz placed third in heavyweight wrestling. (Photo used with permission by Mitch Lefkowitz)



Senior Ty Brunk wears his medal after placing fourth at State. Brunk wrestled in the 160 pound weight class. (Photo used with permission by Mitch Lefkowitz)



After placing sixth, Junior Camden Pye wears his State medal. Pye competed in the 132 pound weight class. (Photo used with permission by Mitch Lefkowitz)

# Boys wrestling rises in postseason

## Falcons take home first District title, three athletes place at State

Ruth Vogel  
Photo Editor

First place team District title, seven Sectional titles, three All State wrestlers. On Feb. 13, the boys wrestling team traveled to Hillsboro High School and competed for a place in the Sectionals meet. After Districts, the team qualified 13 wrestlers to go to Sectionals. Senior Charles Ploesser said the day was very intense but it was memorable. “As I was competing, all I could think of is how this is really my senior year so I need to make it count,” Ploesser said.

Ploesser was successful as he pinned down an opponent he lost to earlier in the season at the Highway 141 tournament. Ploesser not only qualified for Sectionals, but was able to qualify for the Class three State Championship. “That was the biggest accomplishment of my career so far but I still wasn’t satisfied as [we had] Sectionals and State coming up,” Ploesser said. Sectionals were held at Hillsboro on Feb. 27, and seven wrestlers qualified for the upcoming State Championship meet. Senior Ty Brunk said that the tactic he used to succeed in his final match was to create a

situation in which he thrived. “I wore him down with my consistent threat of attack and head pressure so when I finally did take a double in overtime, I had an opening to score,” Brunk said. Brunk placed in the number one seed as a two-time qualifier, allowing a bye through the first round at State. Junior Camden Pye said the first match was all about going out with attacks and not giving his opponent a chance to win. “I was able to pin him in the first which was huge for my confidence going into my second match,” Pye said. Pye was a three-time qualifier for State

and was placed in the number two seed. On March 12, the boys went to State in Kansas City. Three athletes represented the school on the State podium. Senior Michael Fanz placed third, Brunk placed fourth and Pye placed sixth at State. Pye said that placing at State was his goal since freshman year. “I was finally able to overcome this year to make it on the medal stand,” Pye said. Pye also said that next season he is looking forward to working hard and bonding with his teammates. “Next year the goal is to place in the top three but I will work for the State Championship all year,” Pye said.

# Breaking records

Julia Distler  
Of The Talon staff

Despite a two-week quarantine and a canceled relay, junior Abby Wampler took two titles at the State girls swim meet on Feb. 20. When Wampler, the only qualifying swimmer on the girls Swim and Dive team, attended the State meet at St. Peters Rec-Plex, she swam two races placing fourth in the 100 yard Breaststroke and fifth in the 200 yard Individual Medley. She broke both of her own school records in the process with a time of 1.07.75 on the 100 yard breaststroke and a time of 2.09.69 on the 200 individual medley. Swim and Dive coach Lucas Benson said he was truly impressed with how well she did. “[I] couldn’t have asked her for more. She did fantastic. She performed better than I think that anybody was expecting of her, even herself,” Benson said. Regardless of the quarantine, Wampler said she was motivated and hopeful going into the meet, but that she was challenged both physically and mentally. “Because there was no pool time, I did a lot of running and I journaled down a bunch of past races and memories. That helped my brain get in the thought process of ‘this is how I want to swim this race,’” Wampler said. “My coach from my club team sent me [some] workout-oriented stuff to focus on keeping the muscle memory that I could possibly lose from not being in the water.” She said she was anxious that her two-week quarantine would limit her performance because she couldn’t get pool time, and she wouldn’t perform as well as



After placing fourth and fifth in her two State races, junior Abby Wampler displays her medals. The State meet took place on Feb. 20. (Photo used with permission by Abby Wampler)

she would have otherwise. “I was nervous that I wouldn’t have the proper training that I needed and that my body would be really tired and not as fast as I would be if I was able to practice the normal times instead of being out of the water for a really long time. There was a lot of self-doubt that I probably wouldn’t do as well as I wanted to do,” Wampler said. Although Benson and Wampler said they both had their worries about how the event would go, in the end they agreed they wouldn’t have changed a thing about the outcome of the State meet. “No matter the challenges that are presented to you, [believing] in yourself, determination, and trusting in your coaches’ training is the ultimate key to succeeding,” Wampler said.

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