

FIVE SURVIVE START

Cougars send contingent on to Districts

BY COREY MEINTS
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Realistically, AGWSR head coach Chad Gerbracht felt he could have sent six out of Saturday's Class 1A Sectional in Lake Mills on to the district in Denver this week. With a little luck and great wrestling, maybe more.

He got five, and that was fine with him.

The Cougars will have senior Lane Abbas (120), junior Bo Gerbracht (138), and sophomores Noah Klikeman (126), Kaden Abbas (132), and Tate Miller (285). All finished second and will face Clarksville's sectional winners.

"We really thought we'd Aiden Heitland at 220 joining us, but he fell just a little short," Gerbracht said. "But he has done a great job and comes back next year. Everybody but Lane and Jayden Bowles, who was injured and missed this, comes back. We're already looking for big things from all these guys."

L. Abbas (22-12) faces junior Garrett Rinken (48-0) of Nashua-Plainfield. Runner-up there was junior Gavin Reed (33-11) of Waterloo Columbus.

A first-round bye put L. Abbas in the semis, where he pinned Lake Mills' Geraldo Vazquez in 1:20. Mason City Newman's Liam Stockberger racked up a major decision in the finals. All eyes then turned to the other mat as Vazquez beat West Fork's Preslee Dickman to take away the wrestleback and move L. Abbas on to the district meet.

"He wasn't feeling well at all yesterday and sat out of practice," Gerbracht said. "But we talked and he knew he only had one shot at this. He could've stayed home and have questions, or he could show up and wrestle. He showed up and he wrestled. He took last year off with injuries, and now he's a district qualifier. It's a good way to go out as a senior. We'll see what happens Saturday."

Klikeman (20-20) hooks up with sophomore Tanner Arjes (39-4) of North Butler-Clarksville. Second place went to Kendrick Huck (37-10) of N-P. He was also spared a wrestleback after getting pinned by MCN's Alex Bosch in the title bout. Klikeman, the fifth



PHOTOS BY COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Kaden Abbas, a returning state qualifier, celebrated his wrestleback win against Mason City Newman's Caden Gibbons at Saturday's Class 1A Sectional in Lake Mills. The pin, in 1:14, qualified him as one of five Cougars to reach this week's district meet in Denver. Wrestling starts at noon with state berths on the line.

seed, got there with a first-round pin of Lake Mills' Carter Christianson in 1:59 and an 11-3 major decision over Northwood-Kensett's Michael Davis.

"I couldn't even circle a winner at this weight," Gerbracht said. "Everybody was all over the place. Noah showed up today. His competitiveness today was great, maybe the best he's wrestled all year."

K. Abbas (28-8), reached the finals with a bye and fall in 3:24 against LM's Cody Cox in a match he was trailing 5-2 before hitting an over-under throw. Brock Mathers of Central Springs stopped him in the gold medal match in 3:05.

With MCN's Caden Gibbons beating Cox in the consolation match, Abbas was forced to win one more. It didn't take him long. He scored a takedown then cradled Gibbons for a pin in 1:13.

A state qualifier a year ago, K. Abbas sees senior Joe Ebaugh (35-6) of Denver. Silver went to senior Ethan Maldonado (29-10) of South Winneshiek.

"We figured this is how it would work for him today, one or two," Gerbracht said. "The

Cox kid didn't have a lot of matches but put us in a bad position that we battled through and got the fall.

A lot of kids would have quit in that position. Then he got out of position a couple times in the final and had to wrestleback. He looked good there."

Gerbracht (25-13), also had to win a wrestleback to move on. He did, with a dominating 12-6 decision over MCN's Pete Miller. It was all set up with a bye and a pin in 1:59 against LM's Garrett Ham. He lost by fall in 1:26 to Clayton McDonough of Central Springs - who won his 200th match - in the finals.

Gerbracht squares off with senior Trey Nelson (43-9) of N-P. Nelson finished ahead of sophomore Collin Holm (5-2) of South Winn.

"Bo knew he couldn't worry about McDonough and that he would have to beat Miller to go," Gerbracht said. "That's where his focus was. We told him not to spend a lot of energy if the McDonough match wasn't going your way. He needed that energy and did a good job winning that wrestleback."

Miller (29-7) draws top-ranked senior and defending state champion Chet Buss (42-0) of

Class 1A Sectional

Saturday at Lake Mills

Team Standings: 1. Central Springs 220; 2. Lake Mills 199; 3. Mason City Newman 174.5; 4. AGWSR 158.5; 5. Northwood-Kensett 156; 6. Rockford 71; 7. West Fork 54.

AGWSR Results

113: Jaedrek Bowles (4th place)- TF Aden Bice (NK) 16-0 5:19; pin by Hayden Helgeson (LM) 1:27; pin by Jack Pruin (CS) 1:52.
120: Lane Abbas (2nd)- Bye; pin Geraldo Vazquez (LM) 0:34; MD by Liam Stockberger (MCN) 12-2; NO CONTEST.
126: Noah Klikeman (2nd)- pin Carter Christianson (LM) 1:59; MD Michael Davis (NK) 11-3; pin by Alex Bosch (MCN) 4:35; NO CONTEST.
132: Kaden Abbas (2nd)- Bye; pin Cody Cox (LM) 3:24; pin by Brock Mathers (CS) 3:06; pin Caden Gibbons (MCN) 1:14.
138: Bo Gerbracht (2nd)- Bye; pin Garrett Ham (LM) 1:59; pin by Clayton McDonough (CS) 1:26; dec. Pete Miller (MCN) 12-6.
145: Collin Willems (4th)- Bye; pin by Hayden Brua (LM) 0:58; pin by Hayden Moore (NK) 1:34.
160: Ben Puenta (4th)- pin Scott Heinselmann (MCN) 5:26; pin by Josiah Kliment (NK) 1:25; pin by Rory Prazak II (CS) 2:57.
170: Ryley Bohner (5th)- pin by Nash Holmgaard (MCN) 0:49; Bye; Bye.
182: Jared Granzow (6th)- pin by Jaxon Sellon (MCN) 5:23; Bye; pin by Ki Janssen (WF) 1:12.
195: Clayton VanLoh (4th)- Bye; pin by Carson Nuehring (WF) 1:45; pin by Nathaniel Contreras (CS) 2:28.
220: Aiden Heitland (3rd) Bye; pin by Marshal Schlader (Rock) 2:08; pin Chase Berding (CS) 1:25; NO CONTEST.
285: Tate Miller (2nd)- pin Jair Ramirez (WF) 1:06; pin Colton O'hern (CS) 1:04; pin by Mason Thofson (NK) 1:33; NO CONTEST.

NB-C. Second was Mitchel Marr (38-4) a senior from Riceville.

Miller pinned his way to the title match, sticking West Fork's Jair Ramirez with a roll through in 1:05, and Central Springs' Colton O'hern in 1:03 after surrendering an opening takedown. N-K's Mason Thofson ended things against Miller in 1:32.

That was quick enough that Miller could watch the consolation match between O'hern and MCN's Kael Hanig. A Hanig win meant Miller would have to wrestle one more time. He started warming up again as Hanig held a 10-2 lead with 30 seconds left. Then things turned. O'hern escaped and took Hanig down to his back, getting the fall with less than 10 ticks left to give Miller the district berth.

"We drew first and second there, and ended up getting second and ended up wrestling a kid we've seen before," Gerbracht said. "He'll need to do a better job against Thofson this week, but he's another one that had a losing record last year and now he's a district qualifier. There's good things happening there."

Gerbracht said the team will continue to practice as normal this week leading up to the district meet. He the focus will be on building a plan for Saturday.

"It's pretty solid district," Gerbracht said. "It'll be tough to get through, but anything can happen. You just have to go out and wrestle tougher than ever for six minutes and make something happen." ●

Home split with East Marshall ends loop

AGWSR girls win, boys tumble

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Though the North Iowa Cedar League-West schedule may not be completed for everybody, it ended for the AGWSR Cougars at home Friday night as they split with the East Marshall Mustangs.



The host girls rolled to a 51-20 win while the boys, for the second time last week, fell hard with a 59-33 loss. The win lifted

AGWSR vs. E. Marshall	
Feb. 4 at Ackley	
GIRLS	
EM:	3 3 6 8 - 20
AGWSR:	12 14 17 8 - 51
Scoring	
E. Marshall:	Ellie Hull 4 0-0 10; Morgan Neuroth 2 1-1 5; Delaney Runner 1 1-3 3; Bailey Grant 1 0-0 2.
AGWSR:	Brynn Smith 5 0-1 15; Karis Lippert 3 3-6 9; Trevyn Smith 3 2-6 8; Grace Finger 3 0-2 8; Ava Olson 1 2-4 4; Josie Kuper 2 0-0 4.
BOYS	
EM:	13 12 18 16 - 59
AGWSR:	7 12 11 3 - 33
Scoring	
E. Marshall:	Junior Brown 6 5-6 20; Adrian Arifi 4 2-2 12; Landon Neuroth 4 2-2 10; Cale Vos 3 0-0 6; Alex Jacobson 2 0-0 5; Carter Anderson 0 2-2 2; Toby Ryan 1 0-0 2; Joe Terrones 1 0-0 2.
AGWSR:	Gabe Nederhoff 4 5-6 16; Darren Veld 2 2-4 6; Daniel Stahl 2 0-0 5; David Koop 2 0-0 4; Jeffrey Pfaltzgraff 0 2-3 2; Cale Culver 0 0-3 0.

the girls to an 11-9 overall mark with a 7-3 conference record. The boys fell 6-13 and 2-8.

The hosts never trailed

in the opener, holding a 12-3 lead after the first quarter and 26-6 at the half. Led by Brynn Smith's 15 points, the

wire-to-wire win came on the heels of some recent scoring struggles. Head coach Mike Smith said it was good to see his squad play well.

"The girls were really good again on defense, including holding their leading scorer Morgan Neuroth to just five points," Finger said. "But we were also much better tonight on offense, including a season-low five turnovers. Also, Brynn Smith, who guarded Neuroth most of the night, had four three-pointers. Grace Finger had two and Catelynn Koop had one, so we shot the ball better, too. We had good execution on both ends of the court, and for four quarters. It was a satisfying win for sure."

Only four Mustangs scored. Neuroth, who av-

erages over 16 points per game, was held to five. Smith led the hosts with 15, all on three-pointers.

AGWSR boys head coach Ryley Schipper said after Monday's 10-point loss in LeGrand that he was eager to get another crack at EM. In between that and Friday night was an emotional double overtime loss to South Hardin. But with one big quarter costing his Cougars Monday, he felt this was a chance to right the ship.

The end result was an even worse loss to the Mustangs.

"Yeah, I really thought we had a great opportunity to get a win tonight," Schipper said. "They didn't really do anything different than last time. We had them in early foul trouble, but we didn't make free throws and

overall just really didn't execute. I don't know if there was a let down after the South Hardin game or if we just weren't mentally ready to play. We are a lot better than we played tonight. The guys know that and I know that."

The only real discernable difference between Monday in LeGrand and Friday in Ackley was that there wasn't one real monster quarter that the Cougars grabbed. Instead, EM consistently outscored them. A three-point fourth quarter didn't help, however.

The Mustangs led the whole way, taking a 13-7 first-quarter lead and maintaining the spread with a 25-19 halftime surplus. Their lead grew to 43-30 after three before blowing it open with a 16-3 final verse. ●

DUCK > CONT'D

second overtime.

That's when the Tigers' McGonigal, the same one who was called for traveling in the shadow of the basket at the end of regulation, took over with Sheldahl and Butler fouled out in the first OT. He putback his own miss to start for the lead. Stahl scored on a reverse lay-up to knot it again. McGonigal then stroked a threbbie, only to have Stahl equal it on the other end to keep it tied. But the final blow came

with 28 seconds remaining as McGonigal, who finished the night with 20 points, hit another trey to give the visitors the win. Stahl finished with 23.

The contest was tight throughout. AGWSR held a 13-12 lead after the first quarter, and were up 29-26 at the half. It was a 40-35 home surplus after three, with their biggest lead of the night coming on a Nederhoff shot to make it 29-19, setting the stage for the back-and-forth fourth.

Schipper was disappoint-

ed with the loss, but said he couldn't be happier with the effort. He said it was a big step forward toward the ultimate goal, it just happened to come in a losing attempt.

"We played fantastic," Schipper said. "Sometimes you just get beat in the end, and that's what happened. Tonight I thought the effort was great. We're at that point in the year when wins are nice, but we want to be playing our best basketball come tournament time. We took a giant step towards that." ●

East Marshall 60, AGWSR 50

Jan. 31 at LeGrand	
AGWSR:	12 2 15 21 - 50
E. Marshall:	8 18 13 21 - 60

Scoring

AGWSR: Daniel Stahl 8 1-2 19; David Koop 3 0-2 8; Gabe Nederhoff 3 0-0 8; Darren Veld 1 5-6 7; Jeffrey Pfaltzgraff 3 0-0 6; Cale Culver 1 0-0 2.

E. Marshall: Junior Brown 6 7-9 23; Landon Neuroth 1 10-10 12; Alex Jacobson 4 0-0 11; Adrian Arifi 3 2-2 10; Cale Vos 1 1-2 3; Toby Ryan 0 1-2 1.

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gars with 19.

"The second quarter really hurt us," AGWSR head coach Ryley Schipper said. "We fought back from 19 down and got it

to seven and then just ran out of gas. Daniel played really well again and we will need to rely on him a lot down the stretch."

The loss dropped AGWSR to 6-12 overall and 2-7 in the conference. ●