

Briefs

Cougars vs. Cancer night planned

The AGWSR basketball teams and cheerleaders will be hosting a Cougars vs. Cancer night against Grundy Center on Friday, Jan. 27. Donations will be collected and there will be other fundraising opportunities. ●

Schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, JAN. 20
Reinbeck/8 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Gladbrook-Reinbeck

SATURDAY, JAN. 21
Ackley/4:30 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Jesup

MONDAY, JAN. 23
Belmond/7:30 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Belmond-Klemme

FRIDAY, JAN. 27
Ackley/7:45 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Grundy Center

SATURDAY, JAN. 28
Traer/6:45 p.m.
AGWSR vs. North Tama

TUESDAY, JAN. 31
Eldora/8 p.m.
AGWSR vs. South Hardin

FRIDAY, FEB. 3
Ackley/7:45 p.m.
AGWSR vs. East Marshall

MONDAY, FEB. 6
Colo/8:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Colo-NESCO

TUESDAY, FEB. 7
Ackley/7:30 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Sumner-Fredericksburg

GIRLS BASKETBALL

FRIDAY, JAN. 20
Reinbeck/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Gladbrook-Reinbeck

MONDAY, JAN. 23
Belmond/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Belmond-Klemme

FRIDAY, JAN. 27
Ackley/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Grundy Center

SATURDAY, JAN. 28
Traer/5 p.m.
AGWSR vs. North Tama

TUESDAY, JAN. 21
Eldora/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. South Hardin

FRIDAY, FEB. 3
Ackley/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. East Marshall

BOYS WRESTLING

THURSDAY, JAN. 19
Sumner/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Sumner-Fredericksburg and Union

SATURDAY, JAN. 28
Parkersburg/10 a.m.
NICL Meet

GIRLS WRESTLING

THURSDAY, JAN. 19
Sumner/6:15 p.m.
AGWSR vs. Sumner-Fredericksburg and Union

FRIDAY, JAN. 27
Decorah/11 a.m.
Super Regional

FEB. 2-3
TBA/Coralville
Girls State Championships



Senior Jared Granzow scored this takedown on his way to a fall at 182 in Saturday's Cougar Invite in Ackley. He finished fifth but the hosts won the meet with four champions.

COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Cougars take own title

Modified tourney goes to AGWSR

BY COREY MEINTS
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Two days after being honored at his final home meet as the AGWSR Cougar head wrestling coach and a day before his 50th birthday, the hits kept coming for Chad Gerbracht. His squad won the home Cougar Invitational with four champions in their final home appearance of the season on Saturday.

The Cougars trailed much of the tournament, and were as low as fourth as results came in over the final two rounds, but edged East Buchanan 177.5 to 173 for the title. Bo Gerbracht (138), Kaden Abbas (145), Eli Brandt (195) and Aiden Heitland (220) all won their weights in the modified tournament that was both round-robin and bracketed.

"We talked about it last night that we could do this," coach Gerbracht said. "Thursday night was a good performance and we wanted to do it again in front of our home fans and they did it. There were good kids

throughout this tournament and it made for a tough day, but the kids went out and competed hard. I'm very happy for them."

Especially, he noted, for his two senior champions. Brandt won his title in dominant fashion with two pins, a major and two decisions to highlight his first season as a regular varsity member. Heitland was also impressive in his three-man round-robin. He picked up two quick pins, 16 and 25 seconds, to go along with a bye.

Gerbracht breezed through his first two matches with a technical fall and a pin before taking a decision in the championship. His was the only bracket of AGWSR's four winners that wasn't a round-robin.

The hosts also got a second place from senior Ben Puentes whose only stumble came by decision in his final match at 179. Before that he booked two pins and a medical forfeit.

Coach Gerbracht said it was a good day to build on. With only a quad and the North Iowa Cedar League Tournament remaining ahead of Districts, Gerbracht is happy with where his team is right now.

"We got three duals on Thursday and then we get ready for conference," Gerbracht said. "We still have some things we need to work on, little things, but I like where we're at. Our attitudes and mindsets are good." ●



Brandt



Gerbracht



Heitland

Cougar Invite

Jan. 14 at Ackley

Team Standings: 1. AGWSR 177.5; 2. East Buchanan 173; 3. Bondurant-Farrar 171.5; 4. Mason city Newman 114.5; 5. Belle Plaine 103.5; 6. Southeast Warren/Melcher-Dallas 84; 7. Fort Dodge St. Edmond 78; 8. Rockford 38; 9. Northwood-Kensett 20.

AGWSR Results

106: Jariyah Bowles (3rd place)- dec. by McCain Hewitt (BF) 10-9; Bye; pin by Jackson Weeda (BP) 3:26.
120: Jaedrek Bowles (4th)- Bye; TF by Liam Stockberger (MCN) 21-6 5:34; pin Justin Enfield (SEW) 1:59; pin by Jaden Peyton (EB) 2:47.
132: Noah Clikeman (3rd)- Bye; dec. by Will Sankot (BP) 5-3; pin Jase Anderson (MCN) 1:34; pin Alex Baltes (Rock) 1:08; pin Sam Cook (EB) 6:56; dec. Alex Tiedemann (NK) 6-0.
138: Bo Gerbracht (1st)- TF Payton Malchow (Rock) 15-0 3:24; pin Colton Carpenter (BF) 0:26; dec. Pete Miller (MCN) 8-4.
138: Jayden Nagel (6th)- pin by Pete Miller (MCN) 1:18; Bye; pin by Colton Carpenter (BF) 1:55; pin by Brody Crow (SEW) 2:42.
145: Kaden Abbas (1st)- pin Blake Briley (BF) 2:42; pin Drake Steil (SEW) 2:47; Bye; pin Gabe Lewerke (MCN) 1:10; pin Wade Sankot (BP) 2:30.
152: Collin Willems (4th)- pin by Andrew Argo (BP) 1:12; Bye; dec. by Caleb Meyer (BF) 6-2; pin by Fults (EB) 0:41; pin Jayden Jones (SEW) 5:51.
170: Ben Puentes (2nd)- pin Trey Fisher (SEW) 2:26; pin Jaxon Sellon (MCN) 3:56; Bye; mff. Clayton Vanderpool (BF); dec. by Clay Wilgenbusch (EB) 4-3.
182: Jared Granzow (5th)- pin by Chase Wickwire (BP) 1:22; pin Jesse Davison (SEW) 0:44; pin by Levi Standing (BF) 1:24; pin Hank Brandenburg (MCN) 0:55.
195: Eli Brandt (1st)- pin Uriah Paulsen (MCN) 3:15; MD Andrew Hockett (BF) 10-0; pin Brody Kosman (SEW) 0:58; dec. Clayton VanLoh (AG) 5-0; dec. Adam Walker (St. Ed) 8-2.
195: Clayton VanLoh (4th)- pin by Adam Walker (St. Ed) 5:28; pin Uriah Paulsen (MCN) 0:42; dec. by Andrew Hockett (BF) 7-2; dec. by Eli Brandt (AG) 5-0; TF Brody Kosman (SEW) 17-0 3:42.
220: Aiden Heitland (1st)- Bye; pin Cooper Moore (BF) 0:16; pin Kael Hanig (MCN) 0:25.
285: Tate Miller (3rd)- pin Caleb Dirks (EB) 1:46; pin Max Webster (St. Ed) 0:26; pin by Noah Winger (BF) 2:20; mff. Colin Bohr (Rock) 1-4; pin by Cody Fox (EB) 0:13.

Girls host first meet

Rotgers and Willems win at home

BY COREY MEINTS
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It may have been a round-robin tournament with no team scores kept, but the AGWSR Cougars were the winners. Not that they would have won had there been team scores, but in the sense of being winners of the meet itself.

The Cougars hosted the first-ever girls tournament on Friday, crowning two champions in the process of the historic meet. They wrestled with Iowa Falls-Alden, SH-BCLUW, Baxter, Waverly-Shell Rock and the Cedar Falls JV. Some brackets were full, others only had two or three.

"For our first tournament, I think it ran pretty smoothly," AGWSR head girls coach Dustin Meyer said. "Obviously next year we're looking to grow and get better. Tonight we had some good matches. There were quality girls here. They all



PHOTOS BY COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Kylie Willems pinned her two opponents, one in 34 seconds and the other in 36, to win the 190A title at the first Cougar Girls Tournament in Ackley Friday night.



Nova McStockard placed second in a two-girl bracket at 145. She was one of six Cougar girls taking part in the first-ever home girls wrestling tournament.

came to wrestle tonight and I think we did pretty good." Trinity Rotgers at 155

and Kylie Willems at 190 especially, Meyer said. Rotgers had an unusual route to her title, winning once by injury default and a second by medical forfeit. Willems pinned her way to her crown.

The Cougars had six girls in the meet with Nova McStockard and Kayla Lyman both medaling at 145 and 140 respectively. McStockard was in one of the small brackets, losing twice to the only other girl. Lyman split her four matches, getting two pins and getting beat twice.

AGWSR Cougar Invite

Jan. 13 at Ackley
Team Standings: No Team Scores

AGWSR Results

100: Melanie Searcy (4th place)- pin by Annabelle Rohret (CF) 0:23; pin by Amber Hoth 0:19; pin by Andrea Williams (CF) 0:44.
125: Nevada Buchheit (4th)- pin by Eva Heise (WSR) 0:32; pin by Abigail Schlader (CF) 2:10; pin by Kyla Foy (WSR) 3:11.
140: Kayla Lyman (3rd)- pin by Taya Hollingsworth (SH) 1:16; Bye; pin Daniela Palomares (CF) 0:25; pin by Kiara Djoumessi (WSR) 0:28; pin Maya Swarts (CF) 1:30.
145: Nova McStockard (2nd)- pin by Haidyn Snyder (WSR) 1:36; pin by Haidyn Snyder (WSR) 1:48.
155: Trinity Rotgers (1st)- inj. def. Alli Seegers (WSR); med. ff. Alli Seegers (WSR).
190A: Kylie Willems (1st)- Bye; pin Finley Larson (CF) 0:34; pin Hope Good (Bax) 0:36

Melanie Searcy (100) and Nevada Buchheit (125) both finished fourth in four-girl brackets.

"The girls that won and did their stuff I kind of expected," Meyer said. "Where they placed is pretty well where I thought. Now we keep growing and getting better. We go to Sumner on Thursday then head to Decorah for a tournament and then it's Regionals back in Decorah. We'll go and see what happens." ●



Catelynn Koop is fouled after swiping the ball from Unions Brigitte Rohrer in AGWSR's 66-26 win in Ackley last Tuesday. The Cougars moved to 12-0 on the season.

Rough road split

Girls rumble, boys stumble at North Tama

BY COREY MEINTS
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Just when it looked like the AGWSR Cougars were going to sweep a pair of basketball games, the rug was yanked out from under them.

While the AGWSR Cougar girls (11-0) continued to take care of business, the boys (0-9) continued to search for a place in that partnership. After the girls walked away with 69-32 win in Traer, the boys were tripped up at the finish line.

Thanks to a 20-8 opening quarter, the Cougar girls beat the Redhawks 69-32. And thanks to perhaps their best half of basketball this season, the Cougar boys led 27-15 at the half but lost 42-41 on a miracle three-pointer with eight seconds left.

The girls game was never in doubt. Nakia Ollivierre, who finished with 26 points, opened the scoring with a lay-up off a steal and Josie Kuper scored the first of her 25 points to stake the visitors out to a 4-0 lead. It was a 20-8 Cougar lead by the end of the first quarter.

AGWSR held a 31-14 lead midway through the second, then went on a run to close out the half up 44-18.

The Cougars continued to pour it on through most of the second half before calling off the starters and going to the bench. It was 67-24 after the third verse before the subs closed it out.

"The girls played good defense and really unselfish on offense," head coach Mike Finger said. "We got some turnovers off the press and converted them. The girls are playing unselfishly and continue to be coachable. But we have room for improvement."

For the first time this season, AGWSR boys head coach Ryley Schipper questioned his squad's effort. Especially in the second half.

"I just thought we thought, with a lead at the half, that we were going to be able to coast and that wasn't the case," Schipper said. "We got complacent."

That wasn't the case in the first half as they pulled out of a sluggish start by both teams to build a 14-7 lead after the first quarter on Redhawk misses and turnovers. The gap widened to 27-15 at the half on the same formula as Gabe Nederhoff poured in 13 points.

Nederhoff was held to just three in the second half as it was AGWSR's turn to miss and turn the ball over. Meanwhile, the hosts found their stroke. NT cut the game to 30-26 midway through the third quarter, and took the lead with just more than one minute to play at 31-30.

The 32-30 that the Redhawks held to start the fourth verse was erased on a Nederhoff three-pointer, then see-sawed until the Cougars took a 41-37 lead on a Bradley Roder hoop and free throw with 58 seconds to play.

The Redhawks scored the game's final five points, including a Jared Dvorak three-point heave from the corner as he was falling with eight seconds left. That was the winner.

"We played a great first half," Schipper said. "We rebounded well and shared the basketball. It was the best half defensively we have played all year, really. We just couldn't finish this one tonight and it's one I really thought we had." ●



Nederhoff



Ollivierre

Rolling right along

AGWSR girls stay undefeated, beat Union by 40

BY COREY MEINTS
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The AGWSR Cougar girls have been tested on their way to an unblemished 11-0 mark heading into Tuesday's home joust with the Union Knights (2-10). For a while, it looked like they would be tested again.

But only for a while. AGWSR turned a tight game into a rout with a 66-26 win in Ackley to move to 12-0.

After Josie Kuper opened the scoring to give the hosts a quick lead, Ava Mills turned around to knot it for Union. Mills would be the reason why it was close early. Nakia Ollivierre, who finished with a game-high 28 points, started a 7-0 run that gave the Cougars a 9-2 lead.

But Mills answered, and kept answering, scoring 11 points in the quarter.

AGWSR 66, Union 26	
Jan. 10 at Ackley	
Union:	13 1 6 6 - 26
AGWSR:	15 21 21 9 - 66
Scoring	
Union:	Ava Mills 5 0-0 11; Brigitte Rohrer 3 3-4 9; Reagan Glenn 2 0-0 4; Reagan Lorenzen 1 0-1 2.
AGWSR:	Nakia Ollivierre 11 2-2 28; Josie Kuper 7 0-0 14; Brynn Smith 5 1-2 11; Karis Lippert 2 0-0 5; Elizabeth Kielty 1 0-0 3; Trevyn Smith 1 1-2 3.

When Union's Brigitte Rohrer ended the first quarter scoring, AGWSR led just 15-13. Mills wouldn't score again the rest of the night.

"Union got off to a fast start with Mills, but about half-way through the first quarter we started buckling down on her," AGWSR head coach Mike Finger said. "Brynn Smith did an outstanding job defending their point guard and Karis Lippert came in and shut Mills down. Between her and Trevyn Smith, they kept her in check the rest of the

game." With AGWSR's defense tightening the screws, Union's only tally of the second quarter was a Rohrer free throw at the 7:08 mark. The Cougars widened the gap with Kuper on the bench in slight foul trouble.

Ollivierre, who only scored two in the first frame, ignited to drop 11 points in the second with three three-pointers. The Cougars also got points from Trevyn Smith and B. Smith. The closing blow came on a trey by Lippert that made it 36-14 at the half.

"It was awesome for us to be able to do that both defensively and offensively without Josie on the floor," Finger said. "To pull away with her on the bench is huge for us."

The hosts continued to score in the third verse, dropping 21 more points to hold a 57-20 lead. Ollivierre closed the quarter with her fourth triple. Both benches saw the floor for most of the fourth quarter to close it out. AGWSR's final points came on an Elizabeth Kielty three to make it a final. ●

Knights' night in Ackley

Union drubs AGWSR 70-29

BY COREY MEINTS

Ryley Schipper refuses to give up on his team despite its now 0-10 start. In fact, his resolve seemed stronger than ever in the wake of Tuesday's 70-29 loss to Union (6-7) in Ackley.

"For us it's about sticking together instead of listening to the outside noise about not winning," Schipper said. "Outside of wins and losses, create memories and become the best basketball player you can with what you have. I've never given up on a team and I never will. We're going to find a win somewhere and when it does, we can build from that."

Union won the tip and never looked back, using a tight pressing defense to create four Cougar turnovers on their way to a quick 10-0 lead. Bradley Roder got the hosts on the board at the 4:36 mark of the opening frame. Ryne Pickering later added a free throw and George Van Hove hit a jumper. Gabe Nederhoff did the only other scoring for the Cougars as the Knights held a 28-7 lead.

The second quarter was only slightly better, but only after Union scored the first nine points. Eli Kuper stopped the run with a stoppage, but the visitors led 44-17 at the half.

The Cougars were held to just five third-quarter points, scoring on a Roder three-pointer with 7:22 to play and another Roder make



Eli Kuper (left) and Gabe Nederhoff battle for this rebound in Tuesday's home loss to Union. The Cougars fell to 0-10 on the season.

Union 70, AGWSR 29	
Jan. 10 at Ackley	
Union:	28 16 14 12 - 70
AGWSR:	7 10 5 7 - 29
Scoring	
Union:	Caden Sorensen 8 0-0 20; Jackson Anderson 8 0-0 16; Mason Mullen 5 0-0 12; Eric Niepert 2 2-2 7; Cameron Mullen 10-0 3; Sawyer Spence 1 0-0 3; Ty Lorenzen 1 0-0 2; Logan Rosauer 1 0-2 2; Tim Griswold 1 0-0 2; Owen Henning 0 2-2 2.
AGWSR:	Bradly Roder 3 3-4 10; Gabe Nederhoff 3 0-0 3; George Van Hove 2 0-1 5; Talan Mutschler 1 0-0 2; Jesus Garibay 1 0-0 2; Tristen Dennis 1 0-0 2; Eli Kuper 1 0-0 2; Ryne Pickering 0 1-2 1.

with 17 seconds left. AGWSR owned the first two-plus minutes of the final verse - with Roder adding three freebies and

Nederhoff tossing in a runner - before both sides went to the bench to finish the game.

The loss, AGWSR's 10th in as many games this season, came on the heels of a heartbreaking one-point last second loss 24 hours earlier in Traer. And while this loss wasn't what he was looking for, Schipper said he almost expected it.

"I just told them in the locker room that we played really good basketball Thursday and Friday of last week and for a half last night," Schipper said. "Tonight was a product of four games in six days for us. We're not very deep. We got down early and that took the wind out of us." ●

AGWSR vs. N. Tama	
Jan. 9 at Traer	
GIRLS	
AGWSR:	20 24 23 2 - 69
N. Tama:	8 10 6 8 - 32
Scoring	
AGWSR:	Nakia Ollivierre 10 1-2 26; Josie Kuper 12 1-2 25; Karis Lippert 2 2-2 6; Ava Olson 2 1-4 5; Brianna Kruger 1 1-1 3; Ella Diemer 1 0-0 2; Brynn Smith 0 1-3 1; Trevyn Smith 0 1-2 1.
NT:	Ava Breckenridge 5 2-4 12; Izzy Hallett 4 1-2 12; Rylee Ridout 2 0-0 4; Jamie Jacobs 1 0-0 2; Lydia Taylor 0 2-2 2.
BOYS	
AGWSR:	14 13 3 11 - 41
N. Tama:	7 8 17 10 - 42
Scoring	
AGWSR:	Gabe Nederhoff 6 0-0 16; Bradley Roder 4 2-3 10; Carter Roder 2 3-3 8; Ryne Pickering 2 0-0 4; George Van Hove 1 0-0 3; Talan Mutschler 0 0-1 0.
NT:	Josh Dostal 6 2-6 17; Jared Dvorak 4 0-0 12; Lucas DeBoef 3 0-3 6; Michael Schrier 2 1-3 5; Kayler Morris 0 2-3 2.

More of the same for AGWSR

Split keeps girls perfect, boys winless

BY COREY MEINTS
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The AGWSR boys had been playing better since the Christmas break, Friday's loss was a set-back, keeping them winless. Meanwhile, the Cougar girls continued their perfect start.

The two split their North Iowa Cedar League-West road games in LeGrand, the girls beating the Eat Marshall Mustangs 73-36 and the boys losing 70-32.



Smith

AGWSR's girls moved to 13-0 on the season and 4-0 in the conference behind a quartet of double-digit scorers led by freshman Nakia Ollivierre's 24 points. Nine of those in the first half when it was still a game.

The contest was knotted at 8-8 with three minutes to play in the first quarter, but AGWSR led 17-10 entering the second. The spread got bigger from there, with the visitors up 33-12 at one point. EM (2-11, 0-5) pulled close by halftime, but only to 35-20.

A 14-2 run to start the third quarter set the tone for the rest of the game. With Brynn Smith leading the way against their top scorer Morgan Neuroth (21.2ppg), AGWSR's defense held the hosts to just 16 second half points.

"Brynn did an amazing job on their leading score and Brynn kept her to eight points," AGWSR head girls coach Mike Finger said. "And six of those came in the last couple of minutes. Karis Lippert and Trevyn Smith also guarded her. Karis gave us a huge lift off the bench and played amazing defense and rebounded like nobody else. She's at three games in a row where she's played really well."

The Cougars out-rebounded the Mustangs 32-10 and forced and grabbed 10 steals to along with 19 forced turnovers. While that defense thrived, so did the offense. Adding to Ollivierre's game-high total, Josie Kuper added 17 while Lippert and B. Smith each tossed in 10.

"Nakia was very good offensively as she is every night," Finger said. "She took her own opportunities when it was available and did an awesome job of sharing the ball with her teammates as well. Josie played well and was 5-5 from the free throw line."

While Finger continued to see his girls roll, Cougar boys skipper Ryley Schipper was just looking to compete. He got it, in the opening seven minutes. The game was 7-all with two minutes to go in the first quarter, but EM (3-9, 2-3) led 12-9 a minute later. Another 60 seconds saw them with a 20-9 lead.

That late spurt was part of a 19-0 run that lasted more than two minutes into the second quarter.

"We weren't able to recover from that," Schipper said. "I thought we executed pretty well at times but got caught with some bad turnovers that really turned things."

The Mustangs led 44-21 at the half. Then, early in the third quarter, AGWSR's leading scorer Bradley Roder (19.6ppg) turned an ankle. He didn't return. The visitors scored just seven points in the frame, only two in the final four minutes and four in the fourth.

"I wanted to see us compete and we played a really great first quarter until the one minute mark," Schipper said. "We lost Bradley early in the third with an ankle injury so we will see what comes out of that. We have to continue to get better and focus on ourselves and we will do that." ●

AGWSR vs. East Marshall

Jan. 13 at LeGrand

GIRLS	AGWSR:	17	18	22	16	-	73
E. Marshall:	10	10	8	8	-	36	

Scoring
AGWSR: Nakia Ollivierre 10 0-0 24; Josie Kuper 6 5-5 17; Karis Lippert 3 4-6 10; Brynn Smith 4 0-0 10; Trevyn Smith 2 2-2 6; Ava Olson 2 0-0 4; Avery Lafrenz 1 0-0 2.

EM: Vaeda Bryan 3 4-6 10; Morgan Neuroth 3 2-2 8; Makayla Hala 4 0-0 8; Ava Bringmann 3 2-2 8; Delany Ryan 0 2-2 2.

BOYS

AGWSR:	9	12	7	4	-	32
E. Marshall:	20	24	21	5	-	70

Scoring
AGWSR: Bradley Roder 4 3-3 11; Gabe Nederhoff 2 1-1 6; Carter Roder 2 0-0 5; George Van Hove 2 0-0 4; Ryne Pickering 1 0-0 2; Jesus Garibay 0 2-2 2; Eli Kuper 1 0-2 2.

EM: Junior Brown 7 3-3 21; Cale Hungerford 4 0-0 9; Adrin Arif 4 2-2 13; Carter Anderson 4 2-2 10; Landen Neuroth 4 0-0 8; Leland Hamilton-Youngbird 2 0-0 5.



Jack Green of the Aplington-Parkersburg Dirty Bird Club was all smiles during his first match at Sunday's Curtis Benning Youth Tournament. Dozens of youth clubs were represented.

SUNDAY ON THE MAT

Big turnout for 43rd Curtis Benning Memorial

STORY AND PHOTOS BY COREY MEINTS
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There were 72 brackets with nearly 300 youth wrestlers from kindergarten through eighth grade in Ackley on Sunday. They were there for the 43rd Annual Curtis Benning Youth Tournament held in memory of Curtis Benning who was killed as an Ackley-Geneva middle schooler. Registrations came from as far away as Ohio to wrestle more than 400 matches.

"It was great turnout with a lot of kids and a lot of alumni coming back," said Brian Benning, brother of Curtis and a three-time A-G State placewinner and State champion. "It's always good to see so many help every year to make this something great for the kids." ●



Kyle Meyer wipes away tears after losing a match at Sunday's Curtis Benning Youth Tournament. He was one of nearly 300 kids to wrestle in the 43rd annual event.



AGWSR state placer Clay Meinders gets ready to ref A-P's McKinley Goetsch and Mayera Neuendorf.



This was the seen before wrestling even started at the 43rd Curtis Benning Youth Tournament in Ackley.



Parents lined the mats in Ackley with cameras and advice at the ready during Sunday's annual youth tourney.

Split ends home duals

Gerbracht honored at farewell triangular

BY COREY MEINTS
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AGWSR head coach Chad Gerbracht doesn't seek the limelight. It's always been about his wrestlers. But when more than two dozen of his former guys stood up, he couldn't help but give a little wave and wipe away a few tears.

Thursday was Gerbracht's final home triangular after 24 years. It was also the final home dual for six of his boys; Aaron Huber, son Bo Gerbracht, Ben Puente, Jared Granzow, Eli Brandt and Tate Miller. Two other seniors, Trinity Rotgers and Kylie Willems, awaited their home finale for a night later.

The near-capacity crowd was treated to two highly-contested duals, with the Cougars losing to the Jesup J-Hawks 41-39 and beating the Hudson Pirates 42-33.

For Gerbracht, all the hoopla surrounding him seemed secondary. What he liked most was his team competed – though his wet cheeks showed the emotion of it all.

"Dual wise, the kids competed hard and are great leaders," Gerbracht said. "They wanted to impress the crowd, which was awesome having everybody here, and they did. We talk about leaving it all on the mat, and they did that. We had a couple guys come up short, but I don't fault their efforts. They all battled hard the entire time. We're where we want to be today."

Both matches came down to the final match.

After Jesup downed Hudson 48-27 in the North Iowa Cedar League triangular opener, the Cougars opened a 12-0 lead on the J-Hawks. Aiden Heitland started the Cougars off with a fall at 220, followed by a pin by senior Tate Miller. Jesup four matches, three by fall and a forfeit, to take the lead.

Noah Klikeman (132) took the first of three-straight Cougar wins by taking a free one. Bo Gerbracht (138) – another senior – and Kaden Abbas followed with pins for an AGWSR lead at 30-24. A technical fall at 152 and a forfeit at 160 gave that lead right back to the J-Hawks with three matches to go.

Senior Ben Puente did his part with a pin at 170 to put AGWSR up again. Jared Granzow, another senior, led his match 10-0 after the first period at



COREY MEINTS/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Aiden Heitland picked up two pins last Thursday in AGWSR's final home meet of the season. AGWSR split the triangular, with a loss to Jesup and a win over Hudson.

NICL Wrestling

Jan. 12 at Ackley
Jesup 41, AGWSR 39
220: Aiden Heitland (AG) pin Skyler Blad 3:02; 285: Tate Miller (AG) pin Evan Sebetka 0:59; 106: Cooper Hinz (J) pin Jariyah Bowles 0:43; 113: Ayden Bergman (J) pin Aaron Huber 0:47; 120: Ethan Krall (J) pin Jaedrek Bowles 1:54; 126: Treven Delagardelle (J) FF; 132: Noah Klikeman (AG) FF; 138: Bo Gerbracht (AG) pin Braydon Van Brocklin 0:46; 145: Kaden Abbas (AG) pin Dawson Bell 0:42; 152: Kile Bucknell (J) TF Collin Willems 16-0 4:28; 160: Brady Gleiter (J) FF; 170: Ben Puente (AG) pin Wyatt VanderWerff (J) 3:10; 182: JD Sadler (J) pin Jared Granzow 3:22; 195: Eli Brandt (AG) dec. Drew Munson 6-1.

AGWSR 42, Hudson 33

285: Miller (AG) pin Kason Ingamells 0:56; 106: Jar. Bowles (AG) pin Andrew Langham (H) 2:23; 113: Mason Fogt (H) pin Huber 0:22; 120: Jae. Bowles (AG) pin Brody King 1:10; 126: Jamison Buskohl (H) FF; 132: Noah Klikeman (AG) pin Oswaldo Gomez 2:40; 138: Gerbracht (AG) pin Jackson Colsch 1:36; 145: Abbas (AG) pin Ben Holton 1:07; 152: Carter Boeding (H) pin Willems 1:35; 160: Braden McCullough (H) FF; 170: Blake Carolan (H) dec. Puente 3-2; 182: Andrew Gaudian (H) dec. Granzow 8-4; 195: Trevor Koelling (H) dec. Brandt 7-4; 220: Heitland (AG) over Colin Olson 0:27.

182, but lost by fall. That meant senior Eli Brandt needed a pin at 195 to give the hosts the dual. He scored a take-down in each of the three periods, but couldn't find the turn, and settled for a 6-1 win.

The Cougars got off to another good start in the nightcap against Hudson. Miller opened with a fall, followed by a pin by Jariyah Bowles at 106. Aaron Huber, the final senior on the roster, was upended to end the early run but the

Cougars got that six back with a Jaedrek Bowles pin at 120.

Following a forfeit at 126 for Hudson, the Cougars got pins from Klikeman, Gerbracht and Abbas to hold a 36-12 lead. Then the tide turned. Hudson picked up a forfeit at 160 and three-straight decision to pull to within three at 36-33.

All Heitland needed to do was win, but he turned in his second pin of the night – this one in just 26 seconds – for the dual win. ●