



TWO SENIOR VETERANS AND A ROOKIE

Story by Jenna Comes and Pictures by Matt Gengler

Sophomore Jace Henderson wasn't sure about going out for wrestling this year. He had never wrestled before.

A lot of the wrestlers, including seniors TJ Nutt and Kolby Scott, talked him into going out for wrestling.

After the first couple matches, Henderson said he still wasn't sure.

"I did not like wrestling. I got beat a couple times and I hate losing," he said. "But the coaches really pushed me through that."

Coach Steven Schaffer said, "He went to our first meet taking two losses and I was worried he would quit."

Things changed after Henderson won the 285 lbs. title at MVAOCOU's Kingsbury Invitational on Dec. 9 and he has loved wrestling ever since then.

"Jace has progressed faster in one year than I see most athletes progress in an entire career," Schaffer said. "He is a truly impressive athlete and learner."

Henderson went from losing early matches to winning 38 matches and becoming a state qualifier.

"I was happy just to be a conference champion and I never thought I would have made it to state," Henderson said.

Henderson was lucky to have had two veteran

wrestlers, Nutt and Scott, to show him what it takes to be successful.

Scott and Nutt have hit a number of career milestones during their senior seasons on the way to qualifying for state. As a matter of fact, Nutt earned his 100th career victory on the night Scott earned his 100th career pin.

Nutt said, "My 100th win was a surreal moment, watching my mom bring out the balloons and thinking about how she has helped through my wrestling career."

He also noted reaching the 100th win mark was especially special since he started wrestling in seventh grade.

For Scott, his senior season is the conclusion of outstanding wrestling career that started when he was in Pre-K. Going into the season, Scott said he knew all of the records that he could break along the way (including the school record for most career wins) but his biggest goal was to make it to the state finals.

Scott is a four-time Western Valley Conference tournament champ and this is his fourth trip to the state tournament which has never happened in



school history.

He holds the school record in most career wins, most career pins, most pins in a season and the fastest pin (six seconds). Going into the state tournament, Coach Schaffer said, "Out of Kolby's 42 wins, 34 are pins...that is what we call dominance."

Scott said breaking the school record for most career wins has the most special moment this season as he broke the record at their home dual on Feb. 2.

As Nutt and Scott finish out their senior seasons, they said self discipline is one of the best life lessons they have learned from wrestling.

"I have learned self discipline and you have to sacrifice in order to be great," Nutt said.

Scott said, "Every day is a grind, especially at the beginning of the season when you are trying to cut weight. I don't think you can get this kind of work ethic anywhere besides wrestling."

Side Note: This season (2022-2023) is the most state qualifiers the school has had since 1991 when Todd Berg (fourth place), Brian Andre, and Marshal Goslar qualified.

CONGRATULATIONS

Kolby, TJ and Jace on making it to State!

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