

SWEET PERFECTION

2023
State
Champions

#1 RANKED



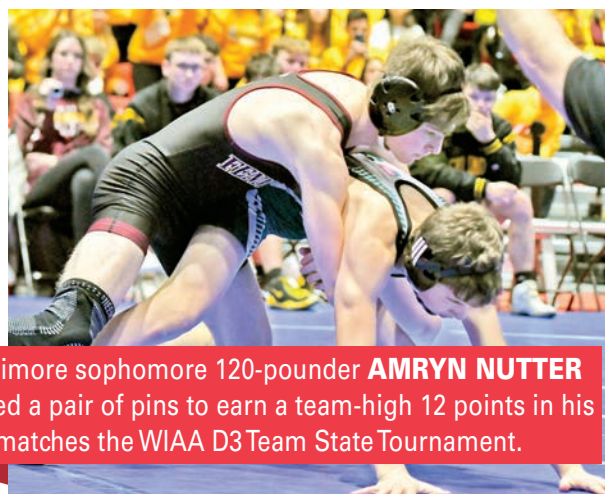
FENNIMORE WRESTLING

UNDEFEATED GOLDEN EAGLES WIN SECOND-STRAIGHT WIAA DIVISION 3 TEAM STATE TITLE, FOURTH IN EIGHT YEARS



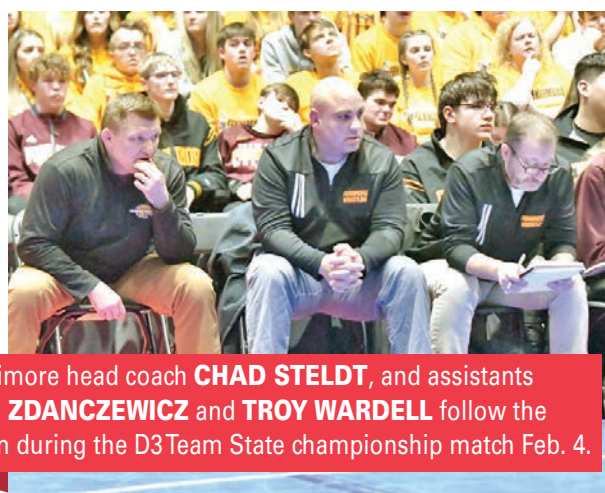
Senior **CAMERON WOLF** closed out Fennimore's team state championship victory over Shiocton with a 2:21 pin at 195 pounds.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS
2016
2019
2022
2023

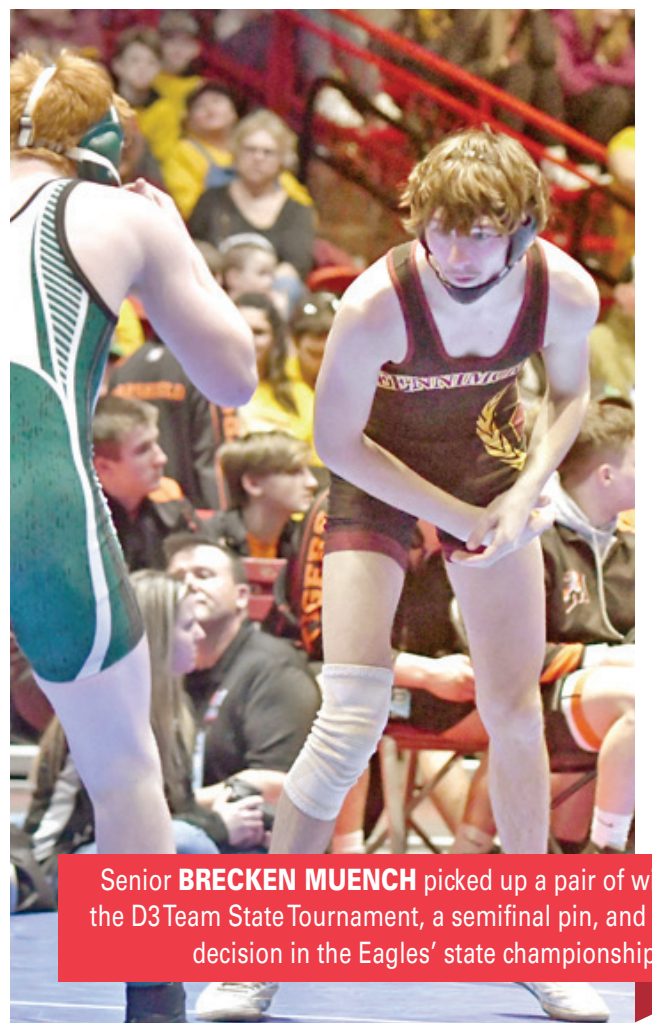


Fennimore sophomore 120-pounder **AMRYN NUTTER** scored a pair of pins to earn a team-high 12 points in his two matches the WIAA D3 Team State Tournament.

STATE RUNNER-UP YEARS
2017
2018
2020



Fennimore head coach **CHAD STELDT**, and assistants **DON ZDANCZEWICZ** and **TROY WARDELL** follow the action during the D3 Team State championship match Feb. 4.



Senior **BRECKEN MUENCH** picked up a pair of wins at the D3 Team State Tournament, a semifinal pin, and a 6-3 decision in the Eagles' state championship win.

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DYNASTY IN PROGRESS

BY JASON NIHLES FENNIMORE TIMES

The Fennimore wrestling team claimed its second-straight WIAA Division 3 Team Wrestling State Championship with a dominating 43-18 victory over No. 2 Shiocton Saturday, Feb. 4. Earlier in the day the undefeated #1-ranked Golden Eagles (17-0) pinned No. 4 Stratford 55-13 in the semifinals to advance to their seventh Team State championship match in the past seven years.

Coach Chad Steldt's program trained an entire year for the opportunity to repeat as team state champions and there is no doubting this year's successes; a perfect 17-0 dual meet record, a combined score of 214-40 in four postseason duals, a sixth SWC/SWAL Clash title in the past eight years, and its seventh SWAL duals title during that same span, as well as three regular tournament championships.

"Winning back to back state titles has been hard and it definitely is a big accomplishment," said Steldt. "This says a lot about our guys not taking their success for granted and working hard on a daily basis. Our motto is 'Embrace the Lifestyle' and I think this is very fitting for this team."

"This championship was perfected in the winter, but it was really earned by a core group of guys dedicating themselves to a lifestyle that is conducive to success and that lifestyle, that belief in be winners happens everyday, not just during season," Steldt added. "This team is a team that rises to the occasion too. When the lights come on they like to perform. They look forward to the big stage. Much of this attitude is directly tied to their intense training. This team deserves every inch of dominance. They have been the most consistent and hard working group across the board. It is a sight to see and watch them drill for 45 straight minutes in perfect harmony with each other. They amaze me."

With its latest state championship, the Fennimore wrestling program has earned a place in local prep lore alongside other area dynasties such as Cuba City girls basketball (Jeff Pustina), Cuba City boys basketball (Jeff Pettigou), Cassville boys basketball (Dennis Uppena), Potosi baseball (Ron Kading), Lancaster football (John Hoch) and Belmont softball (Jeff Hodgson).

The Fennimore wrestling team has now won four D3 team state titles (2016, 2019, 2022, 2023) and finished three times (2017, 2018, 2020) in eight state appearances since 2015, when Steldt became the program's head coach after one year as an assistant coach under Greg Jentz. Steldt has churned out

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE...

The Fennimore High School wrestling team won its second-straight WIAA Division 3 Team State championship Saturday, March 4 with a 43-18 victory over No. 2-ranked Shiocton. The Golden Eagles have now **WON FOUR TEAM STATE TITLES** and had **TWO RUNNER-UP FINISHES** in eight team state tournament appearances since 2015.

TEAM STATE TITLES	TEAM STATE APPEARANCES	DUAL MEET VICTORIES
4	8	122

The Golden Eagles won WIAA Division 3 Team State titles in 2016, 2019, 2022 and 2023.

Fennimore has won eight D3 Team Sectional titles to advance to team state eight times in the past nine seasons.

The Golden Eagles have compiled a 122-14 dual meet record and an .897 winning percentage in the last nine seasons.

"I LOVE TO SEE FENNIMORE BE PROUD."

"I ENJOY SEEING THE FANS LAUGHING AND SMILING WITH PRIDE. I LOVE THOSE FINER MOMENTS THAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF SUCH SUCCESS. SO, I REALLY DO NOT WANT TO KEEP COUNT ON TITLES AND SUCH. THERE IS TRULY SO MUCH MORE TO WINNING THAN THE WIN."

- CHAD STELDT, FENNIMORE WRESTLING COACH

- CHAD STELDT, HEAD COACH** — Steldt has led the Golden Eagles to a 118-13 dual meet record and four WIAA D3 Team State championships during his seven seasons as head coach (2016-20, 2022-23).
- SCREECH, FHS MASCOT** — The Golden Eagles flexed their muscle with a pair of blowout victories at this year's Division 3 Team State Championships, including a 43-18 win over No. 2 Shiocton in the finals.
- BRETT BIRCHMAN, Sr.**, 113 pounds (28-5) — After winning the D3 113-pound individual state title, Birchman capped his career with 21-7 major decision in the state semifinals, and a 1:16 pin in the win over Shiocton.
- TRISTAN STELDT, So.**, 160 pounds (42-4) — Steldt, the 160-pound D3 individual state champion, joined classmate Amryn Nutter as the only Golden Eagle to record pins in both his team state matches for the champion Eagles.
- EVAN GRATZ, Jr.**, 285 pounds (45-4) — A week after scoring a dramatic pin to win the D3 285-pound state title, Gratz recorded a semifinal pin and collected a forfeit victory in the final to help Fennimore claim its second-straight team state championship.

winning-team after winning team, posting a 118-13 dual meet record, which is good for a .901 winning percentage, in his seven years as head coach (2015-2020, 22-23).

"I do not really like to stop and think about all of that because it gets me too sentimental," said Steldt. "There are just too many great personal relationships you have to build with kids, family, coaches to make the program perform at this level on an annual basis, and when I slow down or try to stop and think about that it gets too emotional."

"I love to see Fennimore be proud. I enjoy seeing the fans laughing and smiling with pride. I love those finer moments that are the effects of such success," said Steldt. "So I really do not want to keep count of titles and such. There is truly so much more to winning than the win. I am sure there will be a day, sooner than later, that I will sit back and look at what we have done here and smile too. I honestly just have a hard time doing that now. For now, I will let our parents and fans and kids sit back and see what they have done. What is more impressive with this team is that 28 wrestlers and managers out of 36 made honor roll. That is impressive."

Steldt also acknowledges the role his assistant coaches have played in Fennimore's recent run of dominance, including filling in for Steldt during the 2020-21 COVID season when he took a one-year leave of absence for health concerns.

"Hats off to my coaching staff, Jeff Muench, Don Zdanczewicz, Chris Lull, Troy Wardell, Riley Lull, Luke Blair, Justin Tollefson," Steldt said. "They have done a remarkable job with individual kids and match planning. Troy did a nice job with the match-ups like he always does, which by the way starts for him in November! I cannot praise Don and Chris with the lifting our guys do. It is pretty obvious to see when our team steps on the mat the strength advantage."

MAX MILES, Sr., 152 pounds (23-9)

JAYDEN GLASSBRENNER, Sr., 138 pounds (28-8)

SYLER ZDANCZEWICZ, So., 145 pounds (33-18)



IAN CRAPP, Jr., 132 pounds (48-10)

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2023 DIVISION 3 TEAM STATE

17-0
OVERALL
6-0 SWAL

Champions



2022 - 23 ROSTER

Wt.	Name	Gr.	Rec.
106	Cade Birchman	9	29-12
106	Owen Klaas	9	9-9
113	Brett Birchman	12	28-5
113	Dalton Leffler	11	18-18
120	Amryn Nutter	10	46-3
126	Brecken Muench	12	19-8
126	Taron Crowley	9	4-6
132	Ian Crapp	11	48-10
138	Jayden Glasbrenner	12	28-8
138	Noah Schwendinger	10	0-0

Wt.	Name	Gr.	Rec.
145	Syler Zdanczewicz	10	33-18
145	Malin Hahn	11	2-2
152	Maximos Miles	12	23-9
152	Gavan Yoose	10	3-2
152	Carsen French	11	0-0
160	Tristan Steldt	10	42-4
160	Ryder Zdanczewicz	9	14-8
165	Rachel Schauer	11	10-3
170	Nathan Blaschke	10	36-19
170	Konner Swatek	12	4-6
170	Jayden Kopp	10	2-0

Wt.	Name	Gr.	Rec.
182	Wyatt Ahnen	11	27-8
182	Drew Crubel	10	13-9
182	Asa Cutting	11	0-0
182	Madden Crubel	9	0-0
195	Cameron Wolf	12	38-12
195	Nick Friemoth	10	1-3
220	Dalton Wolf	10	15-9
220	Wyatt Miles	11	22-8
285	Evan Gratz	11	45-4
285	John King	9	0-0

Opponent	Score
Darlington/Black Hawk*	51-15
Boscobel/ Wauzeka-Stuben*	66-10
Cuba City/Benton/ Southwestern*	59-9
Holmen	34-33
Lodi	41-28
Marshfield	56-14
Mineral Point*	47-21
Iowa-Grant/Highland*	52-13
Riverdale*	55-12
Garner-Hayfield/Ventura (IA)	74-3

2022 - 23 SCHEDULE

Tournaments	Place
North Gayette Valley (IA)	60-15
New Hampton/Turkey Valley (IA)	51-21
Crestwood (IA)	47-19
Pittsville#	80-0
Iowa-Grant/Highland#	66-9
No. 4 Stratford\$	55-13
No. 2 Shiocton\$	43-18

Bold = home dual
 * - SWAL conference dual
 # - WIAA D3 Cashon Sectional
 \$ - WIAA D3 Team State