

WIAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

A new wrestling legend

Kewaskum's Scoles now one of 26 wrestlers in state history to achieve four-peat

By Steven L. Tietz
Daily News Correspondent

MADISON — Kewaskum's Braeden Scoles became just the 26th wrestler in Wisconsin prep history to record four WIAA state titles on Feb. 25 at the Kohl Center in Madison before an overflowing and very loud and appreciative audience of over 16,000.

In what has become his calling card the last couple of seasons, Scoles (51-0) made it look easy, recording a third period technical fall in the D2 160-pound final over St. Croix's otherwise excellent Connor Faust (40-2).

Scoles was actually the fourth wrestler to achieve this remarkable feat on the night, joining D3 132-pounder Brayden Sonnentag of Cadott, D2 138 Rhett Koenig of Prairie du Chien, and D1 138 Greyson Clark of Kaukauna.

Like the others, he received a sustained standing ovation from the knowledgeable crowd, which he politely acknowledged. Then he shook hands, talked to other champions and happily took part in the collective photo of champions afterward the finals were completed.

There was even a terrific separate photo of the four smiling four-timers and their bracket cards taken on the center mat at the Kohl.

It's getting a lot of traffic on Instagram and they all look so happy.

But you just wonder how easy mentally and emotionally it all was for the four to achieve this enormous feat? Scoles, for his share, finished his prep career having not lost a high school match since his freshman year.



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

Kewaskum senior Braeden Scoles raises his hand after winning his fourth state title during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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WIAA INDIVIDUAL WRESTLING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

West Bend West junior Cole Mirasola holds up two fingers after repeating as a state champion during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

West Bend West senior Connor Mirasola brings down Merrill senior Ryder Depies in the 195-pound Division 1 championship match during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Mirasolas bring back gold to West Bend

G'Town's Riddle also claims 170-pound title

By Steven L. Tietz
Daily News correspondent

MADISON — Accomplished West Bend West wrestlers Connor and Cole Mirasola maintain an even strain most of the time and never see a moment that's too

big for them.

They've been in countless major meets statewide, regionally and nationally, some more important than others and have approached all of them with the goal of improving themselves and of course, winning.

Lots of winning (even though their mother Robbie still turns her head and can't bear to watch when they compete).

They see the WIAA state meet at the Kohl Center in Madison as another one of those many events. Important, but not really more so than the others.

However, there are a couple of major differences they see with the state test, that make it a tick more important than

other events. Especially when it comes to the bonkers, noisy close to absolute sell-out 17,000-person crowd for the finals conducted on the last Saturday night in February each season.

"You can't beat that atmosphere," said Connor.

And he was absolutely right on Feb. 25 as the place was almost bouncing with energy from the huge crowd in attendance for the latest round of state finals at the Kohl.

Connor, competing at 195 pounds won his third WIAA title that night and Cole at 285 claimed his second before a large, engaged crowd. They did it in their traditional workmanlike, efficient fashion, never letting their very capable opponents think they had a chance at winning, just as they've been doing it for the last few years.

It's nothing that Spartan coach Aaron Spaeth takes for granted because with every

major achievement the goals just get higher and higher for the twins.

"They're goals are always to be the best," said Spaeth, "and they train at such a high level. It's a lifestyle for them. They're very consistent in what they do. They do all the right things, and they embrace the sport in all its aspects and that includes things like team lifts.

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WIAA GIRLS BASKETBALL REGIONAL FINAL ROUNDUP

Kewaskum edges out Falls

Adams leads Indians to sectional play with game-high 16 points

Daily News Staff

KEWASKUM — It was a hard-fought, low-scoring affair on Saturday, but Kewaskum survived and advanced to sectional play with a 41-34 victory over Sheboygan Falls in a Division 3 regional final.

Morgan Adams scored a game-high 16 points to lead the Indians, while also pulling down six rebounds with three assists. Julia Steger was second with 12 points and pulled down six rebounds, while Madilyn Dogs was third in scoring with 11 points to go along with a team-high seven rebounds and three blocks. Grace Leitheiser added a game-high five steals while also recording two rebounds and two assists.

Orioles fall at home to DSHA

HARTFORD — The Orioles' season came to a close on Saturday, as a second-half rally by Divine Savior Holy Angels knocked Hartford out of the playoffs with a 74-64 defeat in a Division 1 regional final.

Bella Klages led Hartford with 19 points, while also pulling down six rebounds. Kacy Kratz was second in scoring with 15 points while just

missing out on a double-double with nine rebounds, and rounding out the double-digit scorers for the Orioles was Makena Christian with 10 points.

Hartford ended its season with an 18-8 overall record, and 13-5 record in the North Shore Conference.

KML falls short to Oostburg

OOSTBURG — Kettle Moraine Lutheran was unable to close the gap after trailing at halftime, as the Chargers saw their season end in a 71-55 loss to Oostburg in a Division 3 regional final.

KML was led in scoring by Makenzie Luehring with 26 points, as she also pulled down a team-high seven rebounds while recording a game-high five steals. Madeline Leffel was second in scoring with 16 points and in rebounds with 6, while Mollie Murphy was second with three steals.

Kettle Moraine Lutheran ended its season with a 14-12 overall record, and an 8-4 record in East Central Conference play.

LWL knocked out at home

JACKSON — The Timberwolves'

season came to an end on Saturday, as Living Word Lutheran fell 80-47 to Random Lake in a Division 4 regional final.

Kaleah Alles led LWL with 16 points while also pulling down four rebounds. Delaney Winkelmann was the only other double-digit scorer for the Timberwolves, finishing with 15 points while dishing out a game-high seven assists to go along with a game-high two blocks.

Living Word Lutheran ended the year with an 18-8 overall record, while going 8-6 in Midwest Classic play.

Warhawks cruise to sectionals

GERMANTOWN — The Warhawks got off to a hot start and never looked back on Saturday, as Germantown cruised to a 72-51 victory over Fond du Lac in a Division 1 regional final.

KK Arnold led the Warhawks with a double-double in the win, scoring a game-high 29 points, while also pulling down a game-high 10 rebounds. Danica Gosz was second on the team with 20 points and seven rebounds, while Lucy Leininger stuffed the stat sheet with nine points, five rebounds, three assists, a game-high five steals and a game-high five blocks.

Germantown will take on Divine Savior Holy Angels in a sectional semifinal match on Thursday night.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
BUCKS	43	17	.717	—
Cleveland	39	25	.609	6
Chicago	28	33	.459	15 1/2
Indiana	27	35	.435	17
Detroit	15	47	.242	29
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	18	.710	—
Philadelphia	39	21	.650	4
New York	36	27	.571	8 1/2
Brooklyn	34	26	.567	9
Toronto	30	32	.484	14
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	33	29	.532	—
Atlanta	31	30	.508	1 1/2
Washington	28	32	.467	4
Orlando	26	36	.419	7
Charlotte	20	43	.317	13 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	36	23	.610	—
Dallas	32	30	.516	5 1/2
New Orleans	30	32	.484	7 1/2
San Antonio	14	47	.230	23
Houston	13	47	.217	23 1/2
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	43	19	.694	—
Utah	31	31	.500	12
Minnesota	31	32	.492	12 1/2
Portland	29	31	.483	13
Oklahoma City	28	32	.467	14
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	35	25	.583	—
Phoenix	33	29	.532	3
L.A. Clippers	33	30	.524	3 1/2
Golden State	31	30	.508	4 1/2
L.A. Lakers	29	32	.475	6 1/2

Monday's Results

Charlotte 117, Detroit 106
Miami 101, Philadelphia 99
New York 109, Boston 94
Orlando 101, New Orleans 93

Today's Games

BUCKS at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Atlanta, 6:30 p.m.
Denver at Houston, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Utah, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 9 p.m.
Portland at Golden State, 9 p.m.

On The Air

Television

TODAY
12 p.m. — MLB Preseason Baseball: Houston Astros at New York Mets. (ESPN)
1:30 p.m. — Women's College Golf: 2023 Darius Rucker Intercollegiate, Second Round. (GOLF)
2 p.m. — MLB Preseason Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers. (WSN)
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Teams TBA. (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Brooklyn Nets. (WSN)
6:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Washington Wizards at Atlanta Hawks. (TNT)
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Teams TBA. (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Teams TBA. (ESPN)
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Michigan State at Nebraska. (BIGTEN)
9 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Minnesota Timberwolves at Los Angeles Clippers. (TNT)

WEDNESDAY

12 p.m. — MLB Preseason Baseball: Washington Nationals at New York Yankees. (ESPN)
1:30 p.m. — Women's College Golf: 2023 Darius Rucker Intercollegiate, Final Round. (GOLF)
1:30 p.m. — Premier League Soccer: Arsenal vs Everton. (USA)
6 p.m. — College Basketball: Auburn at Alabama. (ESPN2)
6:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Cleveland Cavaliers at Boston Celtics. (ESPN)
6:30 p.m. — NHL Hockey: New York Rangers at Philadelphia Flyers. (TNT)
8 p.m. — College Basketball: Texas at TCU. (ESPN2)
8:30 p.m. — LPGA Tour Golf: HSBC Women's World Championship, First Round. (GOLF)
9 p.m. — NBA Basketball: New Orleans Pelicans at Portland Trail Blazers. (ESPN)
9 p.m. — NHL Hockey: Carolina Hurricanes at Vegas Golden Knights. (TNT)

Radio

TODAY
2 p.m. — MLB Preseason Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Milwaukee Brewers. (AM 620)
6:30 p.m. — NBA Basketball: Milwaukee Bucks at Brooklyn Nets. (AM 620)

MLB

Pitch clock speeding things up

Implementation has shaved 20 minutes off game time

By Jimmy Golen
AP Sports Writer

By the time Cubs outfielder Brennan Davis actually saw a pitch from Arizona's Joe Mantiply, the count was already at a ball and a strike.

Both the hitter and pitcher were penalized at the start of Davis' at-bat to lead off the top of the third inning of Monday's spring training game, the latest odd twist in baseball's speed-up rules. After Mantiply entered the game as a reliever, he took too long to throw his warmup pitches; then Davis was too slow to get ready for the pitch.

Major League Baseball approved its first pitch clock this season, and every day is a new experience for the players as they try to get used to them this spring. On Saturday, Boston's game against Atlanta ended on a walk-off automatic strike; on Sunday, Mets ace Max Scherzer struck out Washington's Joey Meneses in just 27 seconds.

"I like the idea of games being shorter," Marlins reliever Matt Barnes said. "In Boston, we played a nine-inning, four-and-a-half-hour game against New York on a Tuesday. That's not fun. So I like the idea of it being quicker."

So far, it's working. The new rules, which also limit the number of times a pitcher can throw to first base, have helped cut more than 20 minutes from spring training games through the first weekend, dropping from an average of 3 hours, 1 minute last spring to 2:39.

"It's here, and we have to abide by the rules, and we have to learn how to do it," Barnes said. "I'll just have to figure out my routine, adjust my routine a little bit and kind of go from there."

ASTROS STARS RETURN

Houston's star infielders Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña made their exhibition season debuts in Monday's 4-3 loss to the Marlins in West Palm Beach, Florida. Both were hitless in three at-bats apiece, but they turned a double play in the fourth.

Peña batted .345 in the postseason last year, and was the first rookie position player to win the World Series MVP. He also won a Gold Glove and was the AL Championship Series MVP.

Astros manager Dusty Baker said he hopes to play Altuve and Peña together as much as possible during Spring Training before the World Base-



Associated Press

Home plate umpire Paul Clemons, left, calls a pitching clock violation against Chicago White Sox relief pitcher Reynaldo Lopez as Seattle Mariners' AJ Pollock looks on during the third inning of a spring training game on Monday in Phoenix.

ball Classic starts in March. Altuve will play for Venezuela, and Peña will play for the Dominican Republic.

"Those guys, they have to really know each other," Baker said. "Especially now, going back to the new defenses, they really have to know the range of each guy and where they are on double plays."

INJURIES

■ Dodgers infielder Gavin Lux went down going from second to third in Monday's game against the San Diego Padres and had to be taken off the field on a cart. He was clutching his right leg.

■ Rays pitcher Tyler Glasnow threw just six pitches before cutting short a live batting practice session with an abdominal muscle injury, the Tampa Bay Times reported. The paper said he will have an MRI on Tuesday.

■ Cubs outfielder Seiya Suzuki has pulled out of the World Baseball Classic. Suzuki was set to play for Japan, but he was scratched from Chicago's exhibition lineup on Saturday because of left oblique tightness.

MAKING UP

Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol and umpire C.B. Bucknor shook hands when lineup cards were exchanged before the game, a day after Bucknor refused to.

"I was raised and brought up this organization to do exactly what I did today," Marmol said. "You go to home plate. You hand the lineup card and you shake the hands of the four umpires who are running that game."

The bad blood dates back to a game last year when Bucknor ejected Marmol and the manager said Buc-

knor had "no class."
SPRING TRAINING FOR EVERYONE

Cleveland's Shane Bieber, making his first spring start, was also dinged with an automatic ball for throwing a warmup pitch with less than 30 seconds left on the between-innings clock. Miles Mastrobuoni ended up grounding out to the pitcher, and after the inning Bieber and Guardians manager Terry Francona each had discussions with home plate umpire Jordan Baker.

"It was his first action as well. We were joking around, figuring it out together," said Bieber, who walked one and struck out one. "They don't want to have to hit anybody on a violation. They're just trying to do their best to communicate beforehand."

OLD DAYS

Yankees manager Aaron Boone said there will be no pitch clock in use when New York plays Tampa at Disney's ESPN Wide World Sports on Tuesday because the facility isn't equipped for it.

The Rays' game with the Yankees will be the only one played at the complex, and the first big-league spring training game there since the Atlanta Braves moved to North Port, Florida following the 2019 exhibition season.

Tampa Bay relocated workouts to the Disney facility near Orlando after Hurricane Ian damaged the team's spring training facility in Port Charlotte, Florida, last year. But the Rays will play the remainder of its home spring training games at Tropical Field, the Rays regular season home.

EASY BEING GREENE

Reds right-hander Hunter Greene, the second

pick in the 2017 amateur draft, made his first start and pitched into the second inning before exhausting his pitch count.

Greene went 5-13 with a 4.44 ERA as a rookie last year, including a September game in which he threw 47 pitches at 100 mph or more — the most in baseball. He took a no-hitter into the eighth inning in one start and allowed just one hit in seven innings in another.

"He experienced a lot of success. He had adversity," Cincinnati manager David Bell said, noting that Greene spent some time on the injured list. "He handled it all. You don't want them to get hurt or have failures but it was a perfect season for his development."

Greene was also called for two pitch clock violations.

ON THE OTHER HAND

A day after Scherzer fanned Meneses on three pitches in the time it used to take a lot of pitchers to throw one, the Mets played a more traditional 2:59 game against the Cardinals, with St. Louis winning 12-7.

The teams combined for 19 runs — St. Louis won 12-7 — 25 hits, 11 walks and 18 strikeouts. There were two balks, neither of them because a pitcher stepped off too many times, and three wild pitches.

Mets manager Buck Showalter made three pitching changes in the middle of an inning; Cardinals pitching coach Dusty Blake made two mound visits.

Marmol said it was more like what he was used to.

"The pace is obviously going to be quicker. That's for sure," he said. "But the 2:26s of the world—I'm not sure about those."

GOLDEN EAGLES 90, BLUE DEMONS 84

Marquette clinches share of Big East title

Kolek records double-double with 22 points, 14 assists in win

By Steve Megargee
AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE — Marquette didn't bother cutting down any nets after clinching a share of its first Big East regular-season title in a decade.

The Golden Eagles have bigger goals in mind.

"We don't want to share," Tyler Kolek said after his 22 points and 14 assists helped No. 10 Marquette to a 90-84 victory over DePaul on Saturday night. "We want to put our stamp and really win the league. ... I think the scene will be different when we actually do that."

Kam Jones also scored 22 points as Marquette (23-6, 15-3) earned its first conference title since 2013, when the Golden Eagles shared the Big East crown with Georgetown and eventual national champion Louisville.

Not bad for a team that didn't have a single preseason all-Big East selection and was picked by the league's coaches to finish ninth out of 11 conference teams.

The other Big East teams with a shot to win a share of the title are No. 16 Xavier (21-8, 13-5) and No. 20 Providence (20-8, 12-5). Marquette can clinch the championship outright by winning either Tuesday at Butler or Saturday at home against St. John's.

That remaining schedule explains why Marquette held off on a celebration.

"We've got two more games left," Marquette coach Shaka Smart said. "If this was our last game, then we would have done that. I asked Oso (Ighodaro) and Tyler a couple of days ago what they wanted to do with that, and they said, 'Let's try to win more.' Obviously when you get to this point — we've got two games remaining and we've clinched a share — it's a good time to be greedy in a good way."

Marquette rolled to a 49-28 halftime advantage and hung on after DePaul (9-20, 3-15) got close down the stretch.

Marquette has won nine of its last 10, while DePaul has lost 10 straight.

DePaul cut Marquette's lead to 78-72 on Umoja Gibson's 3-pointer with 3:18 remaining and got it down to four with 15 seconds left, but the Blue Demons couldn't keep Kolek off the free-throw line in the closing minutes.

Kolek scored 15 of Mar-

quette's last 16 points and was 9 of 10 on free-throw attempts in the final 2:04.

"They're a resilient group, but you just can't dig yourself a 21-point hole on the road against a team as good as Marquette," DePaul coach Tony Stubblefield said. "You have to exert so much energy to even get back in the game, that it's really hard to overcome."

Jones, celebrating his 21st birthday, put Marquette ahead for good by sinking a pair of 3-pointers in the first two minutes of the game. He made four shots from beyond the arc in the first 5 1/2 minutes and had a career-high six 3-pointers by halftime.

"He's one of the best shooters I've ever seen and one of my favorite guys to play with," Kolek said.

Marquette shot 11 of 21 on 3-point attempts during a first half that featured 11 assists by Kolek. The Golden Eagles were just 1 of 7 from beyond the arc in the second half, enabling DePaul to claw back into the game.

Gibson led DePaul with 20 points and eight assists. Nick Ongenda added 16 points and 12 rebounds.

BIG PICTURE

DePaul: The Blue Demons deserve credit for making this game competitive in the second half, but their losing streak still reached double digits. ... DePaul was missing forward Yor Anei due to a hamstring injury. Da'Sean Nelson didn't play the second half due to an ankle injury. ... One bright spot was the performance of Ongenda, who had season highs in points and rebounds. Ongenda was playing just his fourth game of the season after recovering from wrist surgery.

Marquette: If the Golden Eagles play the way they did the first half, they can beat anyone in the country. But their second-half fade should serve as a lesson as they gear up for the NCAA Tournament. They might not have been able to survive that kind of late slump against a better opponent.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

There's at least a possibility Marquette could move into the top seven for the first time since the 1977-78 season. No. 6 Virginia, No. 7 Arizona and No. 8 Texas all lost this week.

UP NEXT

DePaul: At No. 18 UConn on Wednesday.
Marquette: At Butler on Tuesday.

Scoles

From Page 1B

How much of the spotlight's glare was he feeling going into this final go-around on the high school mats? "It wasn't easy," he said. "The moment I got that first (title), everyone started talking about four. So instead of thinking about that I started putting it into working with other people, mentorship programs, things like that.

"I found I liked thinking about and helping other people more than just thinking about myself."

And the process has worked as Scoles finished his spectacular, historic career at 163-3, with all his losses coming his freshman season.

"The pressure has been building for years, but he has just handled it so well," said his admiring older brother Brad Scoles.

For those moments when it has been a challenge Scoles had close by in his corner someone who understands fully the effort that is required to win one state title and then have to ramp up and do it again.

Indian coach and former two-time Kewaskum state wrestling champion (2005 and 2006) Scott Rhoads.

"For one of the first times since his freshman year he had a lot of nervous energy," Rhoads said of this last state meet. "There were always the questions of whether he could do it (win a fourth title). He never liked it when people spoke of it as if it were pre-determined outcome. He didn't like to hear 'When you win.'

"So when he put the nail in the coffin so to speak on Saturday night, I think he had a lot of fun. We wanted to see him celebrate because we all know that he likes to be humble."

Which he remained in his initial comments afterward.

He said he took in all the atmosphere of the Kohl Center one last time, but in his mind, he was already moving on.

"I don't know emotionally (what I'm feeling) yet," he said. "I was thinking about it being my last minutes with the guys (the team and coaches). They've all been through a lot with me.

"I'm been thinking about a lot, but not necessarily state titles. But I will definitely take it in sometime. I've got the four titles and now it's over.

It's a little like when I was younger. I get this thing done and then it's 'What's next?' 'What's next?' and 'What's next?'"

The biggest next thing for Scoles will be that trip to the University of Illinois in the fall for college. There he will likely do what he's always done, reach out an open hand to people, find out what makes them tick and how he can be of use to them.

He's considering becoming a teacher.

"I think he would be a phenomenal teacher," said Rhoads. "He gets along so well with everybody. Makes everybody feel important.

It's all part of that outward attitude that Scoles projects, one that has helped him bring more people into the Kewaskum program.

They include freshman 120-pound fourth place finisher Ethan Immel who got to watch all the pomp and circumstance surrounding Scoles up close and personal, along with junior Dylan Soyk, who was sixth at 195, and freshman James Racer, who went 1-2 at 113.

"Braeden's really helped me so much," said Immel, "especially in getting used to high school. He's an amazing person. The (practice) room is great too because of Braeden. We all get along and try to be the best we can be.

"This was all super exciting, such a cool moment."

Indeed it was, as Scoles achievement also drew the admiration of fellow state champions and Askren Wrestling Academy (AWA) friends Connor and Cole Mirasola of West Bend West, with whom Scoles exchanged hearty handshakes after the awards' ceremonies.

He also has big admirers in Mequon, as long-time AWA training partner, 160-pound D1 champ and close friend Charlie Millard of Homestead said his work with Scoles was a big part of his own success.

"We're friends, practice partners and he's a big role model to me," said Charlie Millard. "Braeden came to AWA not all that long ago. He was a bit introverted, but we got him to open up a bit, and we've discovered that he's awesome to hang out with.

"And obviously, he's someone can make you so much better and can help you learn new stuff."

The admiration goes deeper with Millard's coach and father Ernie



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

Kewaskum senior Braeden Scoles takes down Saint Croix Central junior Owen Wasley in the 160-pound Division 2 championship match during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Millard.

"Braeden is such a tremendous kid," said Ernie Millard. "He's always been so classy, and you learn so much about competing from a kid like him." Ernie Millard even got Scoles to help officiate the junior varsity tournament Homestead hosted in late January.

"It turns out I'm not very good at saying 'no' to people," laughed Scoles.

It's a trait that runs deep with him.

Because as everyone knows, he is someone who reaches his hand out in friendship even to strangers, who likes to work as a teaching assistant for the middle school physical education class, who has made a good friend of a young Down's Syndrome student and who has also been described as "hilarious" by Charlie Millard.

And for someone who doesn't see himself as "super sociable" he is still able to pull people in and get them to help others too.

At that stupendous 500-plus person youth tournament held in Kewaskum on Feb. 19, the morning after the WIAA sectional qualifying meet, Scoles not only served as a referee but was also able to bring along the Mirasola twins, Charlie Millard, and future D2 170-pound champ Silas Dailey of Plymouth to help blow the whistles too.

"Take away all the wrestling success and he's still one of the most incredible people I've been around," said Kewaskum physical education teacher Jeff Grotenhuis in whose classes Scoles helps out as a teaching assistant. "...The way he goes about his interactions with kids is like that of a veteran teacher who's loved by all."

When he heads off to college, Scoles said he will miss his family, competing with his friends on the team and the culture that now surrounds the Kewaskum wrestling program.

A culture he helped build.

But he will be missed much more by those he leaves behind.

"Braeden has helped me grow as a coach," Rhoads said. "When you have an athlete of such potential, you need to be on your 'A-game' as a coach, so he's simply raised my own expectations of myself.

"He's allowed me to see a lot of new perspectives, and definitely demonstrated a deep care towards our lower-level athletes and our program."

A care that extends to everyone he meets.

"(Just a) first-class kid all around," said Grotenhuis.



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

Germantown senior Ethan Riddle (right) tries to take down Shawano Community senior Caden Young in the 170-pound Division 1 state championship match during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.



Dave Radcliffe/Daily News Staff

West Bend West juniors Cole Mirasola (left) and Connor Mirasola shake hands following Cole Mirasola's victory in the 285-pound Division 1 championship match during the WIAA State Individual Wrestling Tournament Saturday at the Kohl Center in Madison.

Wrestling

From Page 1B

"Sometimes when it gets late in the season, everybody is a little tired for that (the lifts), but they're out working hard and trying to motivate the team to do their best too."

Their Askren Wrestling Academy (AWA) training partner and friend Ethan Riddle of Germantown (52-2) also takes pride in being an aspirational instrument for his team too. He won the 170-pound championship in dominating fashion, 14-5 over Shawano's Caden Young, to bookend the 160 crown he claimed in 2022.

"The kids just really look up to Ethan," said Warhawk coach Mike Krause.

For Riddle, repeating meant everything, as when he came off the medal stand, holding the bracket each champion is given he could be seen carefully letting out a small sigh of relief.

"Oh man," he said. "I'm just trying to slow down a little, just enjoy the experience. Last year, I wasn't sure if I really did it (won) or not, but this year is more fun."

The Minnesota recruit, who started life in Michigan and Pennsylvania before his family settled in Germantown about eight years ago said he had been nervous all day and needed to get on the

mat to let all that anxiety out.

Krause was not surprised at the repeat.

"The first time we saw him (Riddle) wrestle as a freshman it was like we were watching someone who had been wrestling forever," said Krause. "His composure was just ridiculous. We actually thought he was a lot looser this year. He got his first one last year and now the pressure was off, he was just having fun.

"But while doing that he met every challenge that he could."

The title, the precursor to the Warhawks WIAA state team tournament appearance this Friday in the UW-Madison Fieldhouse, capped a spectacular weekend for the Germantown program as the Warhawks earned four top six state medals.

Senior Riese Thornberry (51-2) did not back down to now four-time state champ Greyson Clark of Kaukauna, falling in a 13-3 decision in the 138-pound state finals while sophomore Owen Becker at 106 (41-4) fought his way back to earn fourth and 2022 state finalist senior Talan Schutte (49-7) was sixth at 152.

In the girls' state event, Germantown's Maev Michalak earned the Warhawks' first medal on that side of the ledger when she claimed fifth at 152.

Krause was immensely impressed with Thornberry's

effort against the Purdue-bound Clark.

"He really did more than just hold his own," said Krause.

Becker said it was amazing being part of such an accomplished team and that seniors like Riddle, Thornberry and Schutte meant everything to the Warhawks' success.

"It was a lot of fun being around them," he said. "We're really going to miss them a lot because they've really helped build the team and establish our reputation."

Meanwhile at West, the reputation of the Mirasolas has already been established but Connor would like to cement that rep by making a little history next year.

He really liked all the pomp and circumstance that was bestowed on four-time champs Clark of Kaukauna (D1 138), Rhett Koenig of Prairie du Chien (D2 138), Brayden Sonntag of Cadott (D3 132) and Mirasola friend Braeden Scoles of Kewaskum (D2 160).

Only 26 wrestlers in Wisconsin history have achieved the feat.

Each got a rousing, standing ovation from the crowd, something that Connor took notice of after he dispatched Ryder Depies of Merrill (46-2) with a finals' fastest pin of just 32 seconds.

The win gave Connor three state titles in three different

weight classes (170, 182 and 195) in three different years.

Connor got a friendly handshake afterward from Scoles and was later seen speaking in a warm manner to Kewaskum coach Scott Rhoads. He made no bones about the fact that he would like to experience the accolades that go along with being a four-time champ, an opportunity he will chase in 2024.

"This feels good to get three, feels important," he said, "but now I want to get to four."

Meanwhile, brother Cole was impressive claiming his second crown on a sore ankle he injured in his semifinal win on Feb. 24. Even with that, he still dominated now three-time state runner-up Griffin Empey of Stoughton (51-3), taking him down at will with strong leg attacks enroute to a 19-9 decision.

"I really didn't feel it when I was wrestling," Cole said of his ankle, "but when I woke up this morning it was sore. I just had to power through. My focus was to just get in on his legs and not let him scramble."

With the win, Cole finished up a remarkable challenge he set out for himself in a remarkable way when he decided to jump two weight classes and compete in the 285 pound despite weighing just 198 pounds.

Connor said Cole would win the title weeks ago and

his brother proved him correct as the pair finished the season at 53-2 apiece with both losses for the Penn State recruits coming to out-of-state opponents.

"It was fun," said Cole.

Almost more fun and inspiring was the epic heartbreaker of a loss that West senior Ben Bast suffered in the 9-8 triple overtime finals decision at 120 to Oconomowoc freshman Kellen Wolbert. It was Bast's third close loss to him this season.

Bast was up 6-2 early in the third when Wolbert went on a flurry, taking Bast down and letting him up repeatedly before finally getting the tying takedown with just two seconds left in regulation. After a scoreless initial overtime, Wolbert chose down in the second OT and escaped, narrowing missing out on taking down Bast in the 30-second session.

Then it was Bast's turn in the down position and after an amazing series of scrambles in which Bast nearly achieved a decisive reversal, Wolbert held on for all 30 seconds and secured the win.

The loss denied Bast his second state title (he won at 106 in 2021) but Spaeth chose to accentuate the positives of the bout that had the crowd on its feet and roaring.

"It was one of those matches as a coach you just wish that the action would never

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stop," he said, noting that were a couple of stoppages for blood issues for Wolbert. "But it was still a special bout. Anyone who saw it and noticed both wrestlers' efforts would say so.

"It was something to be very proud of."

Bast's sophomore brother Ethan Bast earned third at 106, defeating area rival Becker for a second time in the tournament in his final match. Spaeth said Ethan has shown tremendous growth this year.

West Bend East wrestler Kasey Gish finished his career on a sound note, taking fourth at 182. That medal goes along with the third place showing at 170 he turned in in 2022. He is a combined 91-17 over those last two seasons.

In short, it was a dazzling state tourney for Washington County wrestlers.

"Many of these kids train together at AWA," said Spaeth, "and they all make each other better and better. It's our little pocket of amazing wrestling here and it is just awesome to see how these guys love each other and help each other out."