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SPORTS

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Swimmers have time of their lives

Mount Horeb places 14th at state meet

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

WAUKESHA — Shock. Mount Horeb senior swimmer Alex Gundrum used the word first.

Junior Angus Best then chose the same term himself.

The Vikings — a group of just six swimmers competing as an independent school for the first time ever — made a remarkable splash at last Friday’s WIAA Division 2 state meet held at Waukesha South High School.

Mount Horeb sent all six of its swimmers to the state meet, then finished in 14th place as a team.

The Vikings — the ‘Little Engine That Could’ if there

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Angus Best and Mount Horeb’s boys swimming team finished in 14th place at the WIAA Division 2 state meet last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

End of the road Mount Horeb’s seven wrestlers come up short at sectionals

by **DENNIS SEMRAU**
Sports Reporter

WAUNAKEE — It pays to be lucky in life as well as on the wrestling mat.

The Mount Horeb/Barneveld wrestling team couldn’t catch a break, though, at last Saturday’s WIAA Division 1 Waunakee Sectional.

MH/B had advanced seven wrestlers from regional competition at DeForest the previous week. Only the top two finishers at each weight class in Division 1 sectional competition advanced to the individual state tournament at the Kohl Center.

But the best the Vikings could do were fourth-place finishes from sophomore Cole

Cunningham at 113 pounds, senior JJ Poarch at 120 and senior Garrett Waefler at 220.

“The season went about as expected. Unfortunately, it wasn’t good enough,” MH/B coach Josh Hinze said. “The closest chance we had of getting anyone through was junior Brooks Pernot at 138. He lost to the eventual

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Mount Horeb’s Garrett Waefler finished fourth at sectionals at 220 pounds. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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Mount Horeb lands No. 3 seed

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

It was a rough week for Mount Horeb's boys basketball team on the court.

Off the court, things went swimmingly.

The Vikings received the No. 3 seed in their WIAA Division 2 sectional on Sunday afternoon. Mount Horeb has a first round bye, then hosts either sixth-seeded Milton or 11th-seeded Baraboo in a regional semifinal on March 3 at 7 p.m.

The regional final is March 4 at 7 p.m., and if seeds hold, the Vikings would travel to second-seeded Stoughton.

The sectional semifinals are March 9 and the sectional finals are March 11.

"We were very happy with our seed," said Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim, whose team dropped a pair of games last week and fell to 13-9 overall. "There were several teams bunched together with very similar records.

"Often times, if we had done this the old way and left it up to the coaches to seed, it seemed like (they) went off win/loss record and didn't take into consideration strength of schedule. I feel the computer recognized our schedule and the teams we beat."

McFarland is the No. 1 seed on the Vikings' side of the sectional, followed by Stoughton, Mount Horeb, Sauk Prairie, Monona Grove, Milton, DeForest, Monroe, Portage, Fort Atkinson, Baraboo and Reedsburg.

Westosha Central is the No. 1 seed on the opposite side of the bracket.

The WIAA and Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association switched to an electronic seeding formula in 2022, in large part to remove human biases. While there is certainly some logic to that, the WIAA and WBCA have also drawn the wrath of many coaches and fans because they haven't been forthright with just how the seeding formula is determined.

The criteria the formula uses to determine seeds includes:

- Team's win percentage
- Opponents' win percentage
- Defeated opponents' win percentage
- Defeated opponents' opponents win percentage
- Historical conference playoff win percentage
- Historical team playoff win percentage
- Strength of loss game value
- Computer random draw

The WIAA and WBCA have refused to say what percentage each category is worth, though. That leaves coaches uncertain whether to schedule powerhouses, lightweights, or something in between.

Nesheim put together a schedule of largely heavy hitters, and it appears to have paid off.

"I wasn't sure what to expect and was prepared to be anywhere from a (No.) 3 to a 6," Nesheim said. "Regardless, you are going to have to beat some really good teams to advance."



Mount Horeb boys basketball coach Todd Nesheim and his Vikings earned the No. 3 seed in their sectional. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Mount Horeb drops a pair

Vikings fall to Monroe, Oregon

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Mount Horeb's boys basketball team has picked the wrong time to lose three straight games.

The good news for the Vikings, though, is they still have time to reverse course.

Mount Horeb fell at Monroe, 79-61, on Feb. 14. The Vikings then dropped a 74-72 decision at Oregon on Feb. 17.

Mount Horeb fell to 13-9 overall, 6-7 in the Badger West Conference and saw its losing streak reach three games.

Here's a recap of the Vikings' week:

- Monroe 79, Mount Horeb 61 — Nick Vorwald scored 23 points, but the Vikings fell to the host Cheesemakers. Rocco Richie added 13 points and Auston Leibfried had 12 for Mount Horeb.

"We just didn't have 'it', which was our concern coming in," Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim said. "On top of that, Monroe shot the bell extremely well (12-of-23) from the arc and 54% overall for the game. However, we didn't do much to make them miss."

The Vikings hung around early, and thanks to a pair of early 3-pointers from Vorwald trailed, 18-16, midway through the first half. Mount Horeb encountered some foul trouble, though, and with three key players on the

bench, Monroe surged to a 33-28 halftime lead.

"We felt like we were just going through the motions," Nesheim said of his halftime discussion. "There was no real energy in the gym. On top of that, we had refs from outside the league and the game was called differently than normal. We didn't adjust very well."

Mount Horeb opened the second half on a 6-0 run and surged to a 34-33 lead. The Vikings still held a 43-41 advantage with 13:33 remaining, but the Cheesemakers went on a 15-1 run to take a 56-44 lead.

"Monroe was in control the rest of the way," said Nesheim, whose team fell behind by as many as 19. "We never mounted a run."

- Oregon 74, Mount Horeb 72 — Oregon's Evan Miles made a halfcourt shot as time expired to lift the Panthers to an improbable win over the Vikings.

Despite the loss, Mount Horeb coach Todd Nesheim was thrilled what he saw from his team during a road game against one of the top teams in the conference.

"As I told the kids in the locker room after the game, we saw what we needed to see tonight out of their play," Nesheim said. "We executed a sectional final type of game. We ran into some back luck with the half court shot, which resulted in the loss."

Oregon led, 71-68, with 24



Rocco Richie and Mount Horeb's boys basketball team dropped a pair of games last week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

seconds left and the Vikings took a timeout. After the break, Mount Horeb's Rocco Richie used a nice spin move to attack the rim and score and pull the Vikings within 71-70.

Oregon's Miles, who later played hero, was fouled and missed the front end of the bonus.

Mount Horeb freshman Josh Manchester came down, attacked the rim and was fouled with 4 seconds left. Manchester then made both free throws and gave the Vikings a 72-71 lead.

Oregon had to go the length of the court in just 4 seconds. Miles caught the inbound, dribbled to half court and

heaved up a two-hander that went in and gave the Panthers a most improbable victory.

"We battled back a couple different times and also had to handle a couple comebacks of Oregon's," Nesheim said. "This is the team we have had most of the year and this is the team we need to show up the rest of the way. I couldn't be more proud of their effort and execution."

Manchester finished with 28 points, while Richie added 19 and Auston Leibfried had 10.

The game was tight throughout.

Richie had nine early points

as the Vikings hung tough and trailed, 19-18, midway through the first half. Mount Horeb got red hot, though, and surged to a 48-38 halftime lead.

At one point, the Vikings made five 3-pointers in seven possessions — including a pair from Richie. And Mount Horeb finished the first half 8-of-14 from beyond the arc.

Oregon pulled within five early in the second half. But Manchester came off the bench, immediately stuck a triple and gave the Vikings a 58-50 advantage with 9 minutes left.

The Panthers wouldn't fold, though, and answered with a

15-6 run to take a 65-64 lead with 2 ½ minutes left.

"Oregon made their run as we struggled to score," Nesheim said.

That set the stage for the dramatic finish. And even though the ending was a heartbreaker for Mount Horeb, the Vikings gained plenty of positives from the defeat.

"From a coaching perspective, I wanted to know where my team was at mentally and physically," Nesheim said. "Our teams historically have peaked at the right time and this for us was a game of prove it."

Which the Vikings did — even in defeat.

Gymnasts win conference crown

Mount Horeb cruises to another title

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Success breeds success. Winning leads to more winning.

And no one knows that more than Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team.

The Vikings — who had several holes to fill from last year's WIAA Division 2 state runner-up team — haven't missed a beat this winter.

And last Saturday, Mount Horeb added another Badger Conference championship to its lengthy list.

The Vikings won the conference meet with a team score of 137.275. Reedsburg was second at 135.30, while Sauk Prairie and Baraboo tied for third (134.675) and Watertown was fifth (131.975).

It was the Vikings' 12th conference title since joining the Badger in 2002. Prior to that, Mount Horeb wasn't in a conference.

"We have a very competitive conference and we knew we needed to hit on all four events to claim the conference title," Vikings coach Martha Koller Faust said. "It was a very close competition and, not to sound like a broken record, but our team depth is what separated us from the other seven teams.

"The team championship is always our number one goal. In addition, seeing numerous Vikings earning individual honors is an added bonus."

Mount Horeb's Athena Ouradnik was third in the all-around with a 34.950.

Ouradnik won the balance beam with a 9.075, while Annelle Moyer was eighth (8.525), Tess Angle was 12th (8.40) and Reece Olinger was 15th (8.30).

Ouradnik also won the floor exercise with a 9.250, while Moyer and Izzy Walker tied for fifth (9.10), and both Angle and Marley McIntyre tied for 30th (8.350).

Marley McIntyre was third on the vault with an 8.550, while Edie Balster was fifth (8.450), Ouradnik was 13th (8.275) and Olinger was 18th



Champions!

Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team won the Badger Conference championship last Saturday. Photo submitted

(8.150).

Sylviah Seeliger was fourth on the uneven bars with an 8.60, while Walker was fifth (8.525), Ouradnik was eighth (8.350) and McIntyre was ninth (8.275).

"The importance of the gymnasts in the alternate spot was evident today," Koller Faust said. "We had a couple injuries during the meet and when our alternates were called upon to compete, and they didn't hesitate at the opportunity.

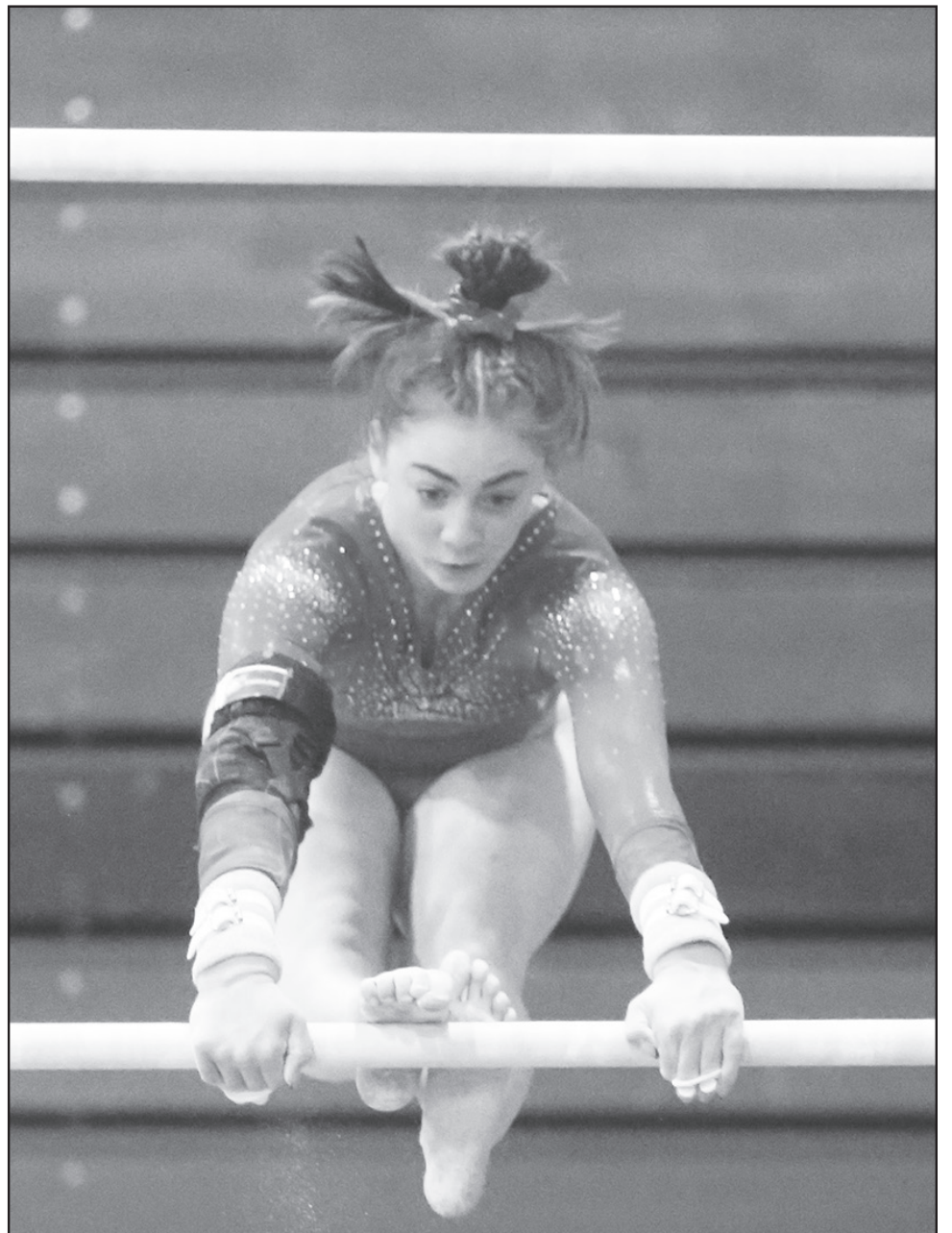
"To say that I'm a proud coach is an understatement. I'm proud of this team and

each member of it."

• **On deck:** The Vikings will host the Mount Horeb Sectional Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

The top two teams at sectionals, along with the top five individuals in the all-around, beam, vault, uneven bars and floor will all advance to the state tournament March 3-4 at Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln.

Teams competing include Baraboo, Elkhorn Area, Jefferson/Cambridge, Mount Horeb, Sauk Prairie, Watertown and White-water.



Izzy Walker and Mount Horeb's girls gymnastics team won the Badger Conference championship last Saturday. Photo courtesy of Holly Stoenner



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Vikings picking up some steam

Girls basketball team heads to playoffs on two-game win streak

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

They have some momentum.

They have a little juice.

And Mount Horeb's girls basketball team is now hoping to pull off a surprise or two this postseason.

The Vikings won a pair of games last week — defeating Dodgeville, 65-62, on Feb. 14 and besting Baraboo, 43-32, on Feb. 18.

Mount Horeb finished the regular season 8-15 overall and 5-10 in the Badger West Conference with the postseason now here.

"It is nice to get some momentum going into the playoffs," Mount Horeb co-interim coach Bart Leibfried said. "The girls have really responded and given great effort the last two games."

The Vikings are the No. 8 seed in their WIAA Division 2 sectional and hosted ninth-seeded Milton in a regional quarterfinal on Tuesday. The winner of that game travels to top-seeded Monona Grove for a regional semifinal on Feb. 24.

The regional finals are Feb. 25, while the sectional semifinals and finals are March 2 and 4, respectively.

Mount Horeb defeated Milton, 65-50, back on Nov. 22. Ella Fager led the Vikings that night with 17 points, while Myesha Thompson had 12 and Morgan Monroe had 10.

The Vikings faced Monona Grove on Dec. 6 and dropped a 63-25 decision. The Vikings trailed, 26-19, at halftime that night, but were outscored 37-6 after intermission.

Those games were a long time ago, though. And Mount Horeb has come miles in the last two months.

"We are improving our 2-3 zone, which has helped with our lack of size," Leibfried said. "And kids are starting to understand that you use the same principles as man to man, and if you ball watch, we will get back screened for perimeter jump shots."

Here's a recap of the Vikings' two games last week:

• **Mount Horeb 65, Dodgeville 62 (OT)** — Myesha Thompson led the Vikings with 14 points and Morgan

Monroe added 12. Ella Fager and Jada Mathews both added nine points, while Ava Kolb had eight.

Mount Horeb went 11-14 from the free throw line, and Thompson converted six of seven foul shots.

The Vikings let a five-point lead slip away in the final 40 seconds of regulation, but rallied back and prevailed in the extra session.

"We played much more physical this game and I thought our experience playing in a very physical Badger Conference paid big dividends," Leibfried said. "We still struggle to close out games ... but learning how to win is a skill that we will get."

• **Mount Horeb 43, Baraboo 32** — Ella Fager and Myesha Thompson both scored nine points to lead the Vikings. Morgan Monroe and Rowan Johnson each added seven points.

When these same teams met three weeks ago, Baraboo raced to a 27-point lead before the Vikings battled back and eventually lost, 64-57. This time, Mount Horeb was in control throughout and notched a big win in a game played at beautiful Jack Young Middle School.

"Our kids played extremely hard and were very physical in the lane," Leibfried said. "Our kids rose to the challenge and didn't get pushed around, kept their composure and did a much better job at the end protecting the lead and finished the game out."

"It was a total team effort, but we kept them off the



Ava Kolb and Mount Horeb's girls basketball team begin the playoffs this week. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

boards for easy put backs in the lane. Any second chance points were bad bounces off the rim."

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SWIM

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ever was one — capped their first season as an independent in grand fashion. And afterwards, Mount Horeb's 'Super Six' was surprised, to say the least.

"I can only speak for myself, but this was a shock," Gundrum said.

"I have to agree with Alex," Best said. "Definitely a shock."

Perhaps the only one that wasn't stunned was Mount Horeb coach Bryce Hoppe, who believed from day one his talented and dedicated group was capable of big things.

"Overall, every guy on the team was happy how the season went," Hoppe said. "It was very tough at times, but we pushed through. This is a great group of young men who are willing to put in the work and get good results from it."

Mount Horeb and Verona had enjoyed a co-op that seemed to benefit both sides for several seasons. But the Big Eight Conference voted down an extension of that partnership after last season, putting Mount Horeb's swimmers in limbo.

Because Mount Horeb doesn't have a pool, Vikings athletic director Kolleen Nesheim coordinated a schedule with the Verona Aquatics manager that allowed the swimmers to practice at the Verona Aquatics Center or the Natatorium.

"It was quite the scheduling process," Nesheim said.

Hoppe was also forced to be creative with workouts, which included designated morning time in the Mount Horeb weight room with parent volunteers.

Early on, Mount Horeb's swimmers weren't optimistic things would go, err, swimmingly.

"I knew going into this season that things were going to be different, and I was a bit pessimistic on our potential," Gundrum said. "Very quickly though, these thoughts disappeared.

"Bryce is a coach that is incredibly knowledgeable in his field, and made sure that our practices were tailored specifically to our success. He capitalized on our lack of pool time in our schedule by having our limited time in the pool be very intensive, and showed us how to healthily recover from such workouts.

"Bryce has been the glue that kept our team together, and our team noticed that during our time under him, our motivation to succeed was greatly increased. And with his decade of swimming experience he directed our motivation toward success through his practices and routines."

Best quickly noticed the same thing.

"After this year, I personally have learned many things about swimming and sports in general," Best said. "What worked for us this year was very different from how it has been in the past, at least for me, and I believe that our coach Bryce really knew what he was doing. Not only did he keep us on track with a hectic schedule, but he made more than the most of it."

That was evident at the state meet, where the Vikings held

their own against Wisconsin's finest.

The Vikings started the day with a sixth place finish from their 200-yard medley relay team of junior Charles Olson, Gundrum, Best and senior Dane Sickler. The top six finishers earn a place on the podium, and that's just where Mount Horeb's quartet landed.

The Vikings were seeded seventh in the 200-yard medley relay after posting a time of 1:41.29 at sectionals. But Mount Horeb dropped nearly a full second at state and finished in 1:40.46.

"I was very excited to start the meet off with a great relay and end up dropping almost a full second," Hoppe said.

The Vikings were just as giddy.

"We were just ecstatic after the medley relay," Best said. "Being on the podium is really all we could ever ask for especially having a brand new team. And even though we were limited with our swimmer options, we had no one swimmer that fell short."

Gundrum echoed those sentiments.

"I really enjoyed this race because the Mount Horeb swim team got to place at state, and we did it as a team," Gundrum said. "Winning always feels good, but winning with your teammates and friends always feels great."

Best then finished in 10th place in the 100-yard freestyle. Best swam that race in 49.66 seconds at sectionals, then dropped nearly a full second at state and finished in 48.80.

"I am very proud of him," Hoppe said.

Mount Horeb's foursome of senior George Rothamer, Sickler, sophomore Carter Craven and Best then placed 12th in the 200-yard freestyle. The Vikings' quartet swam the race in 1:34.32, which was more than a second faster than their sectional time (1:35.50).

Gundrum then finished his high school career with an 11th place finish in the 100-yard breaststroke. Gundrum's time of 1:02.03 was 0.61 seconds faster than his time at sectionals (1:02.64).

"I definitely thought one top-16 finish was possible this year, but it is great to see that every single event we raced this year was top-16," Hoppe said. "I am still ecstatic that we were able to send the entire team to state."

The Vikings were on cloud nine themselves as they exited Waukesha Friday night.

"Throughout the season, we were constantly just a family and we were constantly showing our best times," Best said. "This really kept us motivated to put our all into every single swim we did."

Gundrum felt the same.

"As a team, we had been consistently PR'ing throughout the season, so going into state we had a lot of mental momentum and confidence," Gundrum said. "To finish off a successful regular season by continuing to improve our times and standings was a great feeling. Even when the stakes were at its highest, we performed our best."

Team scores — 1, Rhinelander, 256; 2, McFarland, 250.5; 3, Shorewood, 249; 4, Whitefish Bay, 225.5; 5, Nicolet, 161; 6, Sauk Prairie/Wis. Heights, 132; 7, Plymouth, 125.5;

8, Whitnall, 121; 9, Ashwaubenon, 102; 10, Brookfield Academy, 85; 11, Stoughton, 84.5; 12, Baraboo, 62; 13, Two Rivers/Roncalli, 52; **14, Mount Horeb, 49**; 15, Brown Deer/University School of Milwaukee, 41; 15, The Prairie School/St.Catherine's, 41; 17, Rice Lake, 37; 18, Port Washington, 35; 19, Grafton, 30; 20, Tomahawk, 23; 20, Kiel/Elkhart Lake-Glenbeulah, 23; 20, Chilton Co-op, 23; 23, Menomonie, 22; 24, Fort Atkinson, 20; 25, Edgewood, 18; 26, DeForest, 15; 27, Berlin/Green Lake, 13; 28, Platteville/Lancaster, 11; 29, Notre Dame, 9; 30, Jefferson/Cambridge, 3; 30, St. Thomas More/St. Francis, 3; 32, Milton, 1.

100 freestyle — 1, Jack Sullivan, Nicolet, 45.27; 2, Aiden Strath, Shorewood, 46.41; 3, Ben Coley, Plymouth, 47.79; 4, Patrick Zabawa-Lodholz, McFarland, 48.17; 5, Will Phillips, Shorewood, 48.19; 6, Zach McDowell, Whitnall, 48.33; **10, Angus Best, Mount Horeb, 48.80**.

100 breaststroke — 1, Julian Callender, Stoughton, 56.76; 2, Sam King, Sauk Prairie/Wis. Heights 57.63; 3, Jack Gunderson, Whitefish Bay, 58.82; 4, Charlie



Dane Sickler and Mount Horeb's boys swimming team shined at the WIAA Division 2 state meet last Friday. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

Prince, Port Washington, 59.27; 5, Jack Antonuk, Rhinelander, 59.94; 6, Damian Henning, Sauk Prairie/Wis. Heights, 1:00.56; **11, Alex Gundrum, Mount Horeb, 1:02.03**.

200 medley relay — 1, McFarland, 1:35.99; 2, Rhinelander,

1:36.44; 3, Sauk Prairie/Wis. Heights, 1:37.68; 4, Whitefish Bay, 1:38.21; 5, Shorewood, 1:40.45; **6, Mount Horeb (Charles Olson, Alex Gundrum, Angus Best, Dane Sickler), 1:40.46**.

200 freestyle relay — 1, Rhinelander, 1:27.00; 2, Shorewood,

1:27.45; 3, Whitefish Bay, 1:29.43; 4, Nicolet, 1:30.24; 5, Whitnall, 1:30.69; 6, Stoughton, 1:31.29; **12, Mount Horeb (George Rothamer, Dane Sickler, Carter Craven, Angus Best), 1:34.32**.

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Funding under the SDWLP programs also requires all iron and steel products used in the construction of the project be produced in the United States (FFY 2014 Appropriations Act and/or Section 608 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA)), including lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

Federal Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO), The Offeror's or Bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specification" included in the specifications. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the Contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area, are as follows:

- Goals for minority participation for each trade = 2.2% (Dane County)
- Goals for female participation in each trade = 6.9%

WAGE RATES:

The successful bidder will be required to conform to the wage requirements prescribed by the federal Davis-Bacon and Related Acts which requires that all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and sub-contractors performing on contracts funded in whole or in part with federal funds in excess of \$2,000 pay their laborers and mechanics not less than the prevailing wage rates and fringe benefits, as determined by the Secretary of Labor, for corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on similar projects in the area, per the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division May 29, 2009 Guidance.

RIGHTS RESERVED:

The Village of Blue Mounds reserves the right to reject any and all bids, for whatever reason, and to waive any informalities in bids or in the bid process.

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WRESTLE

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sectional champion, Dylan Muehlenberg of Sun Prairie United, 8-7 in their first-round match."

That meant that Perrot (28-14) was one and done.

Also losing their opening-round matches and ending their day early were junior Ryan Errthum (152 pounds), senior Payton Kirchstein (160) and sophomore Levi Maier (285).

But of the opening-round setbacks, Hinze said Perrot's was particularly hard to take.

"(Freshman Sam Zanton) from Middleton, who Brooks had lost to twice this season, broke his foot and didn't compete," Hinze said. "Brooks had already beaten (Muehlenberg) this season, so that was a disappointing loss for him.

"It was a match he should have gotten. He had already beaten that kid. But he's a junior, so he'll get one more crack at it next year."

The match went back and forth, and Perrot had his opportunities but wasn't able to cash them in.

"At the end, he got up to his feet. I thought it was an escape but they didn't give it to him," Hinze said of the final seconds of Perrot's match. "He had the kid on his back twice, just couldn't finish. So he was one and done, unfortunately."

Cunningham and Poarch, who had qualified for the state meet a year ago, were unable to duplicate their performances of last season to earn a return trip to the Kohl Center.

Poarch said it was a disappointing way to end their seasons.

"I never placed at Bi-State until this year, which was good," he said. "I'm not ashamed at how I finished. I'm proud of my season. Do I think I could have gone further? Yeah, but I didn't."

"Cole's performance today and throughout the year has been phenomenal. The people he wrestled here simply wanted it more. But he will go back to state next year, and he's going to place."

Cunningham, a regional champion, pinned Stoughton's Lukas Hartberg in 25 seconds in the quarterfinals to get off to a great start. But Cunningham lost to Madison La Follette's Daniel Jimenez, the eventual runner-up, 21-8 in their semifinal match.

Reedsburg Area's Boe Severson ended Cunningham's season with a pin in 3:26 in their third-place match.

When Jimenez ended up losing to champion Evan Fahey of Oregon, 10-1, in the finals, though, by rule Jimenez would have ended up with the final state berth due to his earlier victory over Cunningham anyway.

"Cole wrestled the toughest strength of schedule of anybody on the team," Hinze said of Cunningham (21-16). "His record isn't indicative of his performance. He was in a tough weight. He was the

third-best kid at that weight.

"Losing to (Severson) at the end was more of a mental thing because he pinned the kid in the first period last week. But realizing how he wasn't going on, probably affected him."

Poarch (25-9) earned an 11-1 major decision over Oregon's Andy Pollock in their quarterfinal match.

"I had wrestled him before and knew what he was good at and was not good at and used his weaknesses to my advantage," Poarch said of Pollock. "It was a fun match, but definitely tough. He's a good wrestler. I just wanted it more than he did."

But Poarch then lost by technical fall to eventual champion Peyton Oberg of Baraboo at 18-3 in 5:54.

"He's a fighter. He's strong and super athletic," Poarch said of Oberg. "I give props to the kid. I know he's going to place (at state). He's really good."

"So I just went out there with nothing to lose. I said I was either going to win it because I wanted it more or it's not going to go in my favor, and it didn't."

Poarch's day, season and prep career officially ended when he dropped a 5-3 decision to Reedsburg Area's Kade Parrish in their third-place match.

"He's tough. I beat him earlier but lost to him at regionals," Poarch said of Parrish. "I knew it was going to be tough. We both know each other well. It was who gets the better angles, and he got the better angles in that one."

Waepler (27-15), a two-time sectional qualifier, had a state berth in his sights after he pinned Verona Area's Nick Filandrinos in 1:15 in the quarterfinals.

But Stoughton's Beckett Spilde pinned Waepler in 1:33 in the semifinals. Sun Prairie United's Isaiah Horan then pinned Waepler in 5:28 in their third-place match.

"He did lose to (Horan) in overtime when they wrestled at Sauk Prairie," Hinze said. "The match could have gone either way. We needed to have a lot of things go our way, and they didn't."

Feb. 16 Waunakee Sectional

Team scores: 1, Reedsburg Area, 162; 2, Stoughton, 117.5; 3, Baraboo, 96; 4, Oregon, 80.5; 5, Sun Prairie United, 79.5; 6, Waunakee, 71; 7, Sauk Prairie, 47; 8, Madison La Follette, 46; 9, Middleton, 34; 10, Mount Horeb/Barneveld, 23; 11, Madison East, 20; 12, Madison West, 14; 13, Madison Memorial, 13; 14, Verona Area, 8; 15, Monona Grove/McFarland, 6; 16, DeForest, 0.

Mount Horeb/Barneveld individual results

113: Cole Cunningham (21-16) placed fourth and scored 8 team points. Championship Bracket – pinned Lukas Hartberg, Stoughton, 0:25; Semifinals – lost by



Mount Horeb's Cole Cunningham (top) and JJ Poarch (above) both finished in fourth place at the Waunakee Sectional last Saturday. Photos courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

maj. dec. to Daniel Jimenez, Madison La Follette, 21-8; Third-place match – lost by pin to Boe Severson, Reedsburg Area, 3:26.

120: JJ Poarch (25-9) placed fourth and scored 7 team points. Championship Bracket -- won by maj. dec. over Andy Pollock, Oregon, 11-1; Semifinals – lost by tech fall to Peyton Oberg,

Baraboo, 5:54 (18-3); Third-place match – lost by dec. to Kade Parrish, Reedsburg Area, 5-3.

138: Brooks Pernot (28-14) didn't place. Championship Bracket – lost by dec. to Dylan Muehlenberg, Sun Prairie United, 8-7.

152: Ryan Errthum (20-22) didn't place. Championship Bracket – lost by pin to

Ethan Soderbloom, Stoughton, 5:23.

160: Payton Kirchstein (18-23) didn't place. Championship Bracket – lost by pin to Seth Niday, Oregon, 10:16

220: Garrett Waepler (27-15) placed fourth and scored 8 team points. Championship Bracket – pinned Nick Filandrinos, Verona Area,

1:15; Semifinals – lost by pin to Beckett Spilde, Stoughton, 1:33; Third-place match – lost by pin to Isaiah Horan, Sun Prairie United, 5:28.

285: Levi Maier (13-7) didn't place. Championship Bracket – lost by fall to Jackson Mankowski, Madison La Follette, 1:59.

Co-op hockey team wins regional championship

by **ROB REISCHEL**
Sports Editor

Sauk Prairie's co-op hockey team is alive and skating.

And each time the Eagles take the ice becomes a little more exciting.

Sauk Prairie — which forms a co-op with Mount Horeb, River Valley and Wisconsin Heights — won a WIAA Division 1 regional championship last week.

The fifth-seeded Eagles

opened with an 8-1 win over 12th-seeded Baraboo/Portage in a regional semifinal on Feb. 14. Sauk Prairie then went to fourth-seeded Madison Memorial and upended the Spartans, 1-0, in a regional final on Feb. 16.

The Eagles advanced to the sectional semifinals, where they'll travel to top-seeded Verona on Feb. 21. The sectional final will be Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. at Sun Prairie.

Sauk Prairie is gunning for its first trip to state since 2004.

In the Eagles' win over Baraboo/Portage, Colin Harrington had a memorable night with four goals and an assist. Landon Froese was sensational himself with three goals and three assists, while Luke Mast had a goal and seven assists.

Froese and Harrington had first period goals as Sauk Prairie took a 2-1 lead. Harrington scored in the second period to make it 3-1 heading to the third.

The Eagles then pulled away in the final period.

Froese and Harrington both had third period goals, while Mast had a goal and four assists in the final period.

Kaden Stracke was outstanding in net, finishing with 13 saves and earning the win.

Two nights later, the Eagles surprised Madison Memorial and kept their season alive. And Stracke was a major reason why.

Stracke, the Eagles' goalie, turned in a brilliant performance with 31 saves to lift Sauk Prairie to victory.

Mast scored an even strength goal with just 29 seconds left in the first period to give Sauk Prairie a 1-0 lead. Karsyn Banta and Josh Mast both assisted on the goal.

Thanks to Stracke, that was all the offense the Eagles needed as they captured a regional title and moved onto sectionals.



Colin Harrington and Sauk Prairie's co-op hockey team won a regional title last week after defeating Madison Memorial, 1-0. Photo courtesy of Mary Langenfeld

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