

TWO WRESTLERS FINISH SEASON AS CHAMPIONS

by Kinta Kail

Six wrestlers qualified for the state tournament Feb. 26 at Hartman Arena. Two of them walked away as state champions; the team placed tenth out of 32 teams.

In the first available weight class at 106 pounds, sophomore Michael Spangler took just 29 seconds to pin Spencer Janson from Leavenworth, earning himself a state championship.

"Winning state was one of the best wrestling moments in my life, especially seeing my best friend Adam [Ayala] win it also," Spangler said. "They were tough matches, but going into my championship round, I was thinking that I can win if I wrestle my hardest for six minutes. My dad and my uncle are coaches, so it feels awesome having them in my corner every match."

In the 126-pound weight class, sophomore Adam Ayala bested Seaman's Dakota Orester with a technical fall in 2 minutes, 2 seconds, for the Crusaders' second state championship. A technical fall is awarded after a wrestler outscores his opponent by 15 points.

"I feel like I accomplished a great thing [that] many people don't get a chance at, but at the same time, I still feel like I need more and am looking forward to the next season," Ayala said. "During the last 45 seconds, I heard [my opponent's] coach say, 'You have 45 seconds and you're a state champion'; I knew I couldn't let him score on me."

Coach Tim Dryden said that he and the team are pleased with what they have accomplished, but never satisfied.

"I was so proud of those young men (Ayala and Spangler)," Dryden said. "To see all their hard work and dedication pay off with a championship is very rewarding as a coach."

Four other wrestlers qualified for the



CONTROLLING HIS BISHOP CARROLL OPPONENT, senior Sam Wilson competes Feb. 13 at the GWAL meet at West. The Crusaders placed third in the meet, but won the City League championship. photo by Mikah Betterton

state tournament by placing at regionals Feb. 20, but did not place. They were sophomore Kevin Mills (170 pounds), junior Braden O'Donnell (120 pounds), senior Nick Nece (182 pounds) and sophomore Travis Phelps (220 pounds).

BOWLING

BOWLING TAKES FIFTH IN GWAL

by Abbey Fox

The bowling team tied for fifth with North and South-east at the City League Tournament Feb. 20 at West Acres Bowl. The boys team finished eighth with a score of 2281, while the girls team finished sixth with a score of 1978. Highlighting the day, senior Kaitlyn Stallard bowled a personal high game of 214.

"It was a great sense of accomplishment," Stallard said. "I have been so close all season, so it was a big deal."

Seniors Chris Chisolm and Conner Renollet led the boys team. Chisolm threw a 530 series with a high game of 226, while Conner threw a 588 series with a high game of 220.

Coach Marie Thomas said the team did not finish as well as she had hoped. Senior Ashley Ensign agreed.

"It was kind of upsetting and disappointing," Ensign said. "We struggled with picking up our spares and just staying mentally strong as a team. The day was very long and it was

difficult to not get upset and stay upset."

Even with the result, senior Ralsten Tersol said he feels the team has significantly improved this season.

"We have worked hard to be more consistent on how we play, myself included," Tersol said. "I'm proud to say that I feel much more confident with picking up spares than I did at the beginning of the season. Because I have learned to pick up my spares more consistently, I have found myself to bowl multiple 200 plus games."

Thomas said she is anticipating the regionals tournament Feb. 27 at West Acres Bowl.

"What I'm looking forward to most at regionals is seeing how well we compete," Thomas said. "One major improvement needed for regionals is converting spares. The team's biggest weakness [is that our] spare percentage is low."

The regionals tournament could not be covered due to press time.

GIRLS BASKETBALL



LOOKING FOR AN OPEN TEAMMATE, sophomore Anna Roulston prepares to pass the basketball in KMC's 35-32 loss at Bishop Carroll Feb. 16. photo by Eddie Flores

GIRLS DEFEATED BY TITANS 50-26

by Brett Cass

The girls basketball team lost 50-26 Feb. 23 against the undefeated South Titans. Despite the defeat, the team is optimistic about the way it competed against the first-place team in the City League, according to head coach Billy Graf.

"I'm happy with the way we competed," Graf said. "[South is] the best team in the state, and in the second half the score was 25-21. If we can compete with them, we can compete with any team in the state."

Sophomore Anna Roulston led the Crusaders with 12 points, while five other teammates scored between two and four each. Most of KMC's offensive production against South

came in the second half of the game, as the Crusaders scored 21 points compared to its five in the first half. For South, junior Kayla Callins scored a game-high 13 points, while senior teammate Ericka Mattingly scored 12. South was equally strong offensively both halves, scoring 25 points in each.

"I was [pleased with the way we competed]," Roulston said. "Our coach split it up so that every quarter [in the second half] was split in half to four minutes and we just had to win those four minutes. We won two of those four minutes."

The team finished fourth in the City League with a record of 8-7, and will start its post-season March 3.