

# Wrestlers place at regional tourney

Congratulations to Clay Cassaw and Shakotah Blanka, who survived the Regional Wrestling Tournament held in WaKenney this past weekend. Clay finished as champion of the 132 pound division and Shakotah finished fourth in the 285 pound division. Both wrestlers will now move on to the State Wrestling Tournament, to be held at Fort Hays State University, beginning on Friday, Feb. 28.

This regional tournament is always very tough and this year proved to be no different. Like prior years there were a handful of returning state placers, and qualifiers who are staying home this weekend. There were a lot of upsets that happened throughout the tournament and you saw quite a few number one seeds get upset

and there was even a number one seed who didn't qualify. This just goes to show that you have to be ready to wrestle every time you step out on the mat and you cannot afford to look past anyone, said Coach Dylan Loyd.

As a team I feel like we peaked at the right time, we had some kids beat kids that had defeated them earlier, and we had some kids wrestle kids closer than what they had earlier in the season. When you look at that you see that they had closed the gap a bit and I always view that as improvement. Of course you always wish to of qualified more individuals but, sometimes it just comes down to luck of the draw and we were on the short end of that.

### Team Scores

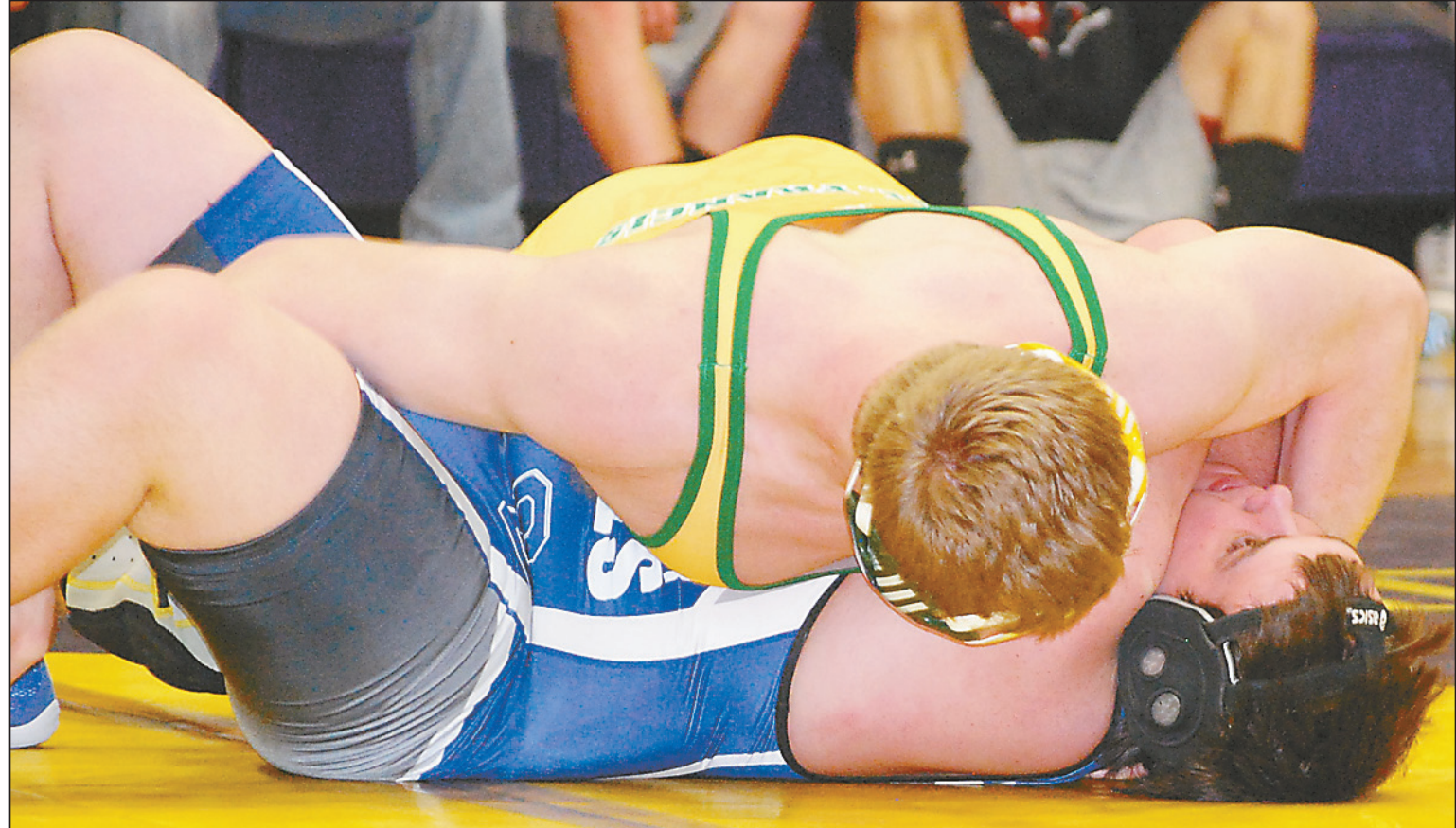
Norton-230.5; Phillipsburg-178.0; Oberlin-120.5; Oakley-81.0; Smith Center-80.0; Ellis-79.0; Atwood-72.0; Plainville-68.5; Leoti-57.0; Hoxie-53.0; St. Francis-46.5; Cimarron-39.5; Hill City 38.5; Hays-TMP-32.0; Sublette-31.0; South Gray-29.0; Lakin-27.0; Holcomb-25.0; Tribune-24.0; Wakeeney-24.0; Stockton-19.0; Thunder Ridge-6.0; Elkhart-0.0; Palco-0.0

### Individual Results

132- Clay Cassaw (Champion): won by a fall over Mead, Oakley; won by a 15-0 technical fall over Anderson, Oberlin; won by a 6-0 decision over Stone, Tribune; won by a 10-1 major decision over Nickell, Norton.

Clay Cassaw had a very dominant weekend, said Coach Dylan Loyd. I feel like he wrestled the best he had all year this last weekend. He dictated the pace in every match, he never backed down, and he was always looking to score more points. He is peaking at the right time of year, and he has a legitimate shot at bringing home a state medal.

138- Garrett Brunk: lost by a fall to Toothaker, Cimarron; won by a fall over Frieling, Smith Center; lost by a fall to Coomes, Thunder Ridge.



**KYLER ZWEYGARDT, a St. Francis high school junior wrestling at 220 pounds, was just a move away from qualifying for the state tournament in Hays. He lost his first match, then pinned the next two opponents. However, the last wrestler from Oakley won over Zwegardt.**

Herald photo by Shawna Blanka

# Wrestlers meet in Oberlin

The St. Francis Indians wrestling team was edged out 35-33 by the Oberlin Red Devils on Friday, Feb 14, in Oberlin.

### Individual Results

106- both teams open; 113- Trinity Weers won by a fall over Larew; 120- Connor McBride won by forfeit; 126- forfeit to Oberlin; 132- Clay Cassaw won by a 8-2 decision over Anderson; 138- Garrett Brunk won by a fall over Juenemann; 145- Justin Pacheco lost by a 14-1 major decision to Dreher; 152- Lane Hoffman lost by a 8-3 decision to Anderson; 160- forfeit to Oberlin; 170- Lane Hobrock lost by a 16-7 major decision to Gilliam; 182- forfeit to Oberlin; 195- Ryan Grover lost by a fall to Diederich; 220- Kyler Zwegardt won by a forfeit; 285- Shakotah Blanka won by a fall over Glading.

Garrett Brunk had a better weekend, he showed us what he is capable of doing, said Coach Loyd. He dropped a tough first match to an opponent that he was actually beating at the time he got pinned but, he bounced back and had a good day on Saturday. This weight class has been very tough at every tournament that we have been to this season, and this weekend was no different. He has a lot of talent and there is no reason for him to not be a contender next season, I am looking forward to seeing the rest of his high school career unfold.

145- Justin Pacheco: lost by a 16-1 technical fall to Tallent, Norton; lost by a fall to Stoll, Oakley. Justin Pacheco had a very tough draw having to wrestle Tallent out of Norton in the first round of the tournament, don't be surprised to see Tallent finish in the top 3 this upcoming weekend, said Loyd. The bracket didn't fall in Justin's favor this weekend but, he showed improvement. He had Stoll from Oakley on the ropes and made one crucial mistake but, I think Justin now knows what he is capable of doing. He's a very tough kid and he's another I feel lucky to have him around for a couple more

years. 152- Lane Hoffman: lost by a 9-3 decision to Castillo, Leoti; lost by a fall to Markland, Atwood.

Lane Hoffman had a tough weekend; he also was in a pretty deep weight class where you could easily see 4 different qualifiers if the regional tournament was wrestled again this upcoming weekend, said Coach Loyd. He got caught in a tight headlock his last match with a lot of time still left in the period and its situations like that, that are tough to wrestle out of. You hate to see him not make it out, but it's just one of those things that happens and you always question why.

170- Lane Hobrock: lost by a fall to Wiesner, Plainville; won by a fall over Morgan, Hoxie; lost by a fall to Garcia, Cimarron.

Lane Hobrock showed a lot of improvement throughout this season, said Coach Loyd. As the year went on you could see him start to develop some confidence in himself and I think he had a decent shot at qualifying if the bracket had just fallen a little differently, but hindsight is always 20/20 and there's nothing you can do about it. He had a tough draw having to wrestle the #1 ranked kid in the

state first round, but he battled him and he didn't back down. He's another one that I feel fortunate to have for another couple years.

195- Ryan Grover: lost by a fall to Northrup, Leoti; lost by a fall to Haas, Ellis.

Ryan Grover battled his tail off all year and he gained a lot of quality experience throughout the course of the season, said Coach Loyd. He got better throughout the season and he never backed down from anyone. It's tough to compete at 195 pounds as a freshman but, he never made excuses and did the work to get better and I feel like he has a very bright future on the mat ahead of him.

220- Kyler Zwegardt: lost by a fall to Tebo, Ellis; won by a fall over Coleman, South Gray; won by a fall over Colgan, Atwood; lost by a fall to Gassman, Oakley.

Kyler Zwegardt was just one move away from qualifying, which is an amazing feat due to the fact that he had never wrestled before until this season, said Coach Loyd. He worked hard all year and he closed the gap on kids as the year progressed. He's already committed himself to getting better this offseason and I have no doubts that he will put in

the work.

285- Shakotah Blanka (placed 4th)- won by a 3-0 decision over Pulec, Stockton; lost by a fall to Crick, South Gray; won by a 4-2 OT decision over Schippers, Hoxie; lost by a fall to Lumpkin, Phillipsburg.

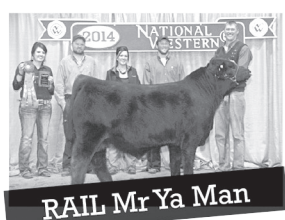
Shakotah Blanka had a good weekend he was very close to making it into the finals Friday night, but he made just one crucial mistake that cost him the match, said Loyd. I was proud of how he battled back on Saturday, which is hard to do when you suffer a tough loss like he had the night before. In his match to get in he had to defeat Schippers from Hoxie for the 3rd time this season and it went down to the wire, but he found a way to win. I feel like if he believes in himself and wrestles like he is capable of there is no reason for him to not bring home a medal.

I am excited to watch our two qualifiers compete this weekend at the state tournament. I feel like both of them are set up to make noise this weekend, if they both wrestle to the best of their ability, and they take it one match at a time I am confident they both can return home with state medals. Said Coach Loyd.


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