

# Junior high wrestlers finish first in league

The St. Francis junior high wrestlers took first place in the Northwest Kansas League Tournament in Atwood, on Monday Feb. 24.

"For the first time since 1998, the St. Francis Junior High wrestling team has won the League Championship, and I couldn't be more excited for this group of young men," said Coach Dylan Loyd.

"I remember our first meeting of the season, and these young men told me that they wanted to be league champions, and for them to go out and do it goes to show the determination that they have. This is a very special group of young men and it was a joy to be able to of coached them."

"Throughout the season, to be able to watch them improve every day in the practice room and watch them compete at a high level each time they stepped out on the mat was awesome. These guys really did come together as a team, and it was very special to see. For weeks I have written that in order for a good team to be built, each teammate has to be willing to hold one another accountable, and that's what I believe propelled these guys to accomplishing their goals for their team and for themselves."

"In order to win this league championship, they had to defy some odds. Our first round at league, we really didn't perform very well, in fact we only won 4 out of the first 12 matches. Then we went on a roll, winning 26 out of the final 33 matches. That is an unbelievable statistic, and just shows how these men looked themselves in the eye, remembered the goal they had set, persevered and pushed forward to dominate the final 2 rounds of wrestling."

#### Team Scores

St. Francis-142.0; Wakeeney-Trego-113.0; Hoxie -95.0; Oberlin-92.0; Atwood-90.0; Tribune-51.0; Leoti-27.0

#### Individual Champions

80 lbs- Zach Sherman- Hoxie; 92 lbs- Coy Cassaw- St. Francis; 98 lbs- Dayton Porsch- Hoxie; 104 lbs- Isaiah Tucker- Oberlin; 110 lbs- Tate Busse- St. Francis;

116 lbs- Braden Leitner- Atwood; 122 lbs- Axel Sanchez- Tribune; 130 lbs- Latham Schwarz-Hoxie; 138 lbs- Hunter Folsom-Wakeeney; 146 lbs- TJ Haffiger-Wakeeney; 154 lbs- Colton Heskett- Hoxie; 162 lbs- Shaye Aumiller- Wakeeney; 170 lbs- Brady Walt- Wakeeney; 182 lbs- Luin Norris- St. Francis; HWT- Trayton Doyle- St. Francis

#### Individual Results:

Coy Cassaw (League Champ)- won by a fall over Ridder, Leoti; won by a fall over Keller, St. Francis; won by a fall over Tiemeyer, Atwood.

Connor Keller (3rd Place)- lost by a fall to Tiemeyer, Atwood; lost by a fall to Cassaw, St. Francis; won by a fall over Ridder, Leoti.

Tayton Weeter (3rd Place)- won by a fall over Biermann, Leoti; lost by a fall to Grafel, Oberlin; won by a 12-0 major decision over Reding, Tribune; won by a fall over Poling, St. Francis.

Tiernan Poling (4th place)- lost by a fall to Porsch, Hoxie; won by a fall over Biermann, Leoti; lost by a fall to Weeter, St. Francis.

KC Krien- lost by a fall to Breth, Oberlin; won by a 9-2 decision over Shubert, Wakeeney; lost by a fall to Miller, Tribune.

Tate Busse (League Champ)- won by fall over Hastings, Leoti; won by fall over Bjorklund, Tribune; won by fall over Spencer, Wakeeney; won by fall over Juenemann, Oberlin.

Jordan Raby (2nd place)- won by fall over Dinkel, Wakeeney; lost by a 9-2 decision to Leitner, Atwood.

Kouper McQuigg (4th place)- won by fall over Wurm, Oberlin; lost by fall to Leitner, Atwood; won by fall over Faulkendar, St. Francis; lost by a 14-9 decision to Dinkel, Wakeeney.

Jake Faulkendar- lost by fall to Dinkel, Wakeeney; lost by fall to McQuigg, St. Francis.

Cody Baxter (3rd place)- lost by fall to Waterman, Oberlin; won by fall over Fisher, Leoti; won by fall over Flax, Wakeeney.

Wyatt Hilt- lost by fall to



**KOUPER McQUIGG** works for a pin during a recent home match as referee **Mitch Schlepp** officiates.

*Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper*

Waterman, Oberlin; lost by fall to Flax, Wakeeney; won by a 9-7 decision over Fisher, Leoti.

Luke Lampe (2nd place)- won by an 8-3 decision over Kruep, Atwood; lost by a 9-2 decision to Schwarz, Hoxie.

Dalton Straub (3rd place)- lost by fall to Beagley, Hoxie; won by fall over Hayes, Atwood; won by a 18-4 major decision over Schippers, Oberlin.

Luin Norris (League Champ)- won by fall over Hernandez, Leoti; won by fall over Ochsner, Tribune.

Trayton Doyle (League Champ)- won by fall over Nichols, Oberlin; won by fall over Jimenez, Oberlin; won by fall over Washington, Hoxie; won by fall over Beikman, St. Francis.

Martin Beikman (3rd place)- lost by a 4-2 decision to Washington, Hoxie; won by fall over Jimenez, Oberlin; lost by fall to Doyle, St. Francis.

"This group has had success in every sport, up to this point, and there is no reason for them to not be successful going forward.



**TAYTON WEETER**, St. Francis junior high student, turns his opponent.

*Herald staff photo by Douglas Sloper*

This is a season that I will never forget, and I am very, very proud of this group of young men," said Coach Loyd.

"Each individual contributed to this special achievement and this group showed that when to

put your mind to something and you work hard and stay persistent you can achieve anything. As a high school coach this group excites me for what is to come, they all are hard workers and are committed to being the very best

that they can be."

"Moving forward, I believe St. Francis wrestling is on the rise, and good things are coming. Congratulations to you young men. Coach Buffington and I couldn't be any prouder!"

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