

Five Eagles wrestlers qualify for state

Eagles take fourth at regionals

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Five members of the Colby High Eagles wrestling team qualified for state at the Class 4A regional tournaments in Concordia this weekend, with three taking the championship in their weight classes.

Senior Andrew Flanagin, junior Konnor Kriss and sophomore Dustin Reed took first in their weights. Senior George Smollock and freshman David Mainus also qualified.

The Eagles finished fourth as a team.

Flanagin defeated Jordan Ward of Abilene 7-3 in the finals of the 171-pound class in a rematch from earlier in the season. Flanagin got by Ward 12-11 the first time the two squared off.

The match was tied at 3, then Flanagin got two penalty points when Ward pushed him after he was already out of bounds. The senior went on to win 7-3.

Flanagin said it was nice to win after being kept out of regionals last year by an injury.

Flanagin won his first two matches by a pin and a technical fall. He pinned his third man in 55 seconds to advance to the finals.

Kriss dominated his opponents in the finals at 130, winning a 15-5 major decision.

After falling behind 2-0 in his first-round match, Kriss regained the lead with an escape and a take-down of his own. He got another point off an escape to go up 4-2 in the second period. Then Kriss scored two more points on a take-down and extended his lead to



Colby High senior Andrew Flanagin squared off against Jordan Ward of Abilene in Saturday at Concordia. High School. Flanagin won the match to take first place in finals of the 171-pound class at the Class 4A Regional Wrestling Tournament on his weight, winning a ticket to the state championships this weekend in Salina.

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10-2 by the end of the period. He went on to win 15-5.

"I've improved on my feet more," Kriss said when asked how he had changed since the beginning of the season.

The three-time state qualifier said lifting weights had helped him a lot this year. Kriss pinned his first three opponents.

Reed won a 13-4 major decision over Abilene's Junior Morgan in the finals at 103 pounds despite being slammed down hard on his ribs near the end of the first pe-

riod. Reed stayed down for a little while, but he got back to his feet and finished the match. He led 4-2 going into the second period.

Reed got a point early in the second because Morgan applied an illegal hold and broadened his lead to 8-2 by the end of the period. Morgan got a point off an escape early in the third before

Reed scored two more points on a takedown. Reed went up 13-3 after getting Morgan's shoulders exposed to the mat for five seconds. He went on to win 13-4.

Coach Matt Sims said Morgan was ranked No. 2 in the state. After the match, Reed, grimaced, appearing to favor his ribs and apparently in pain. Sims said Reed was fine, however, and suffered no serious injuries.

Mainus won by fall to take third place at 103. He went 2-1 in his bracket, winning twice by falls but losing a 5-4 decision in his first match.

Mainus has made some huge strides this season: After losing his first five matches, the fresh-

man now sports a 21-16 record. Smollock took second at 189, losing the final match 5-1. The senior won his first match by fall and his second 6-0.

In other action, freshman Andrew Taylor went 2-2 at 160. He was eliminated from state contention after losing a competitive match 7-5 in overtime.

Sophomore Quade Woofter went 2-2 at 140 and sophomore Ryan Moore went 1-2 at 135. Sophomore Macen Shull finished with one win and two losses at

125 and sophomore Zell Bieberle was 1-2 at 285. Sophomores John Faber, Troy Quenzer and juniors Andrew Elling and Brandon Leth all lost both their matches at 119, 215, 152 and 145.

Sims said a lot of his younger wrestlers had improved and he thinks the outlook for next season is better.

The five wrestlers will be competing at the Class 4A state tournament Friday and Saturday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

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