

## Burlington Wrestling qualifies eight for state tournaments

Burlington Wrestling will be represented in state competition by eight grapplers, with five boys and three girls qualifying for their respective state tournaments.

At the Class 4A Regional tournament held at Anderson County Jr./Sr. High School in Garnett Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21 and 22, the Wildcats qualified five boys for the Class 4A State tournament, seniors Cael Johnson and TT Totty, juniors Caedon Berkenmeier and Damon Hoback and freshman Tucker Williams.

All 13 of Burlington's wrestlers who competed in the tournament made it to day two. Of those who didn't qualify for state by placing in the top four of their bracket, five wrestlers, seniors Johnathon Williams and Keegan Kuhlmann, sophomores Mitchell Broyles and Brock Zimmerman and freshman Wayne Rohrer, made it to the top eight and were two wins away from qualifying for state, and two more, senior Collin Birk and sophomore Eli Crutchfield, made it to the top six and were just one win away from qualifying for state.

"We showed a lot of grit and determination on Saturday," Burlington coach Doug Vander Linden said. "We had a rough day on Friday and found ourselves with just one guy in the finals, Cael Johnson, and facing a Chanute team that was running away with the tournament. We treated Saturday like it was its own tournament. Friday was in the past, and we needed to focus on moving forward to the podium. I thought our guys really responded well to that challenge, and we competed at a high level all day."

Johnson highlighted Burlington's showing at the regional tournament. He earned a regional runner-up finish at 160 pounds after taking a tough loss by a 5-4 decision to Chanute's Parker Winder.

"Cael had a great finals match against Parker," Vander Linden said. "Both of these guys are defending state runners-up from 2019. They are tough, hard-nosed wrestlers. They have had three battles so far. Cael has continued to stay focused on his goals and developing a match strategy to find success against all levels of guys that he will face this weekend. He is focused and on a quest."

In addition to his strong performance and regional runner-up finish, Johnson also reached a career milestone during his 3-1 regional run.

"Cael earned his 150th varsity career win on Friday night with his semifinal victory," Vander Linden said. "He becomes just the third Burlington wrestler in our 39 years of wrestling to achieve this milestone. The other two are Colby Johnson (2017) and Brett Bober (2019). Very few wrestlers in the state are able to achieve this mark, let alone do it on the varsity level all four years. We are proud of Cael for his determination, his drive and his work ethic to achieve this accomplishment."

Williams, Totty, Berkenmeier and Hoback all wrestled for third place in their respective brackets. Totty and Berkenmeier placed third at 132 and 138 pounds, respectively, and Williams and Hoback came in fourth at 106 and 152 pounds, respectively. Totty and Berkenmeier finished 4-1 on the weekend, while Williams and Hoback finished 3-2.

Of the remaining Wildcats, Birk and Crutchfield went 3-2 at 145 and 170 pounds. Finishing 2-2 were Broyles at 120 pounds, Johnathon Williams at 126 pounds, Zimmerman at 182 pounds, Rohrer at 195 pounds and Kuhlmann at 285 pounds. Owen McManus went 1-2 at 113 pounds.

"We had three great young men whose careers came to an end at regionals on Saturday," Vander Linden said. "Collin, Johnathon and Keegan have been key parts of our team's success the past four years. They have made an impact on our program through their dedication and work ethic. You can't ask for anything more than what



Photo submitted  
Burlington senior Johnathon Williams works to turn Columbus' Kayden Cox onto his back during Class 4A Regional wrestling action at Garnett Saturday, Feb. 25.



Photo submitted  
Senior Wildcat Collin Birk prepares to wrestle from the bottom position during a match against Osawatomie's Jackson Lowe.



Photo submitted  
BHS senior Cael Johnson, center, celebrates his 150th career win with his parents, Kristy and Tim Johnson.

they gave us this season and throughout their high school careers. Our coaching staff is very proud of these three young men and very optimistic about what their future holds based on the lessons they learned on the mat."

As a team, the Wildcats came in fifth with 104.5 points. Ahead of them were Chanute with 271 points, Frontenac with 134, Prairie View with 117 and Fort Scott with 110.5.

The Lady Wildcats competed in the girls' East Regional at Paola Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14 and 15. Junior Bryleigh Isch and sopho-

mores M.J. Huff and E'owynn Codney became the first BHS girls to qualify for the official KSHSAA-sanctioned girls' state tournament.

Codney, wrestling at 116 pounds, went 4-1 and was the regional runner-up. Huff, wrestling at 109 pounds, went 5-1 and was the third-place finisher. Isch, wrestling at 191 pounds, went 3-3 and was the sixth-place finisher.

In total, Burlington had nine girls compete in the tournament. In addition to Huff, Codney and Isch, junior

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Eric Baker/The Republican  
Lady Wildcat Matti Huff wrestles an opponent during the girls' East Regional Tournament at Paola. The tournament was held Feb. 14 and 15.



Eric Baker/The Republican  
Burlington's M.J. Huff wrestles in the top position against Santa Fe Trail's Haley Somchay in a match at the girls' East Regional Tournament.

## CLASS 1A REGIONAL BASKETBALL

### Waverly boys defeat MdCV

Hartford, SCC fall

Regional basketball tournaments for teams in Class 1A are under way. Tournament action for tournaments at Waverly and Moran began with boys' quarterfinal games Monday evening.

In the Waverly tournament, the host Bulldogs, seeded fourth with a 8-12 record, took on fellow Lyon County League team Marais des Cygnes Valley, seeded fifth with a 6-13 record, in a quarterfinal game at Waverly. The Bulldogs took the lead early and held on to it for the remainder of the game. They went up 14-7 in the first quarter and topped MdCV by six points in the second quarter to take a 13-point, 28-15 lead into the locker room at halftime. In the second half, the scoring was much closer: Waverly scored 13 points to MdCV's 12 in the third quarter to go up 14 points with one quarter left. MdCV edged Waverly in the final quarter, but the Bulldogs came away with the win, 55-42.

"Christian Decker, usually our hustle/effort guy who scores four a night, had a career high (by a lot) with 17 points, which was huge for us," Waverly coach Tyler Williams said. "Jolon Lacey owned the glass with 15 rebounds. Damian Foster got his hand in the passing lane a ton, stealing the ball seven times."

Decker's 17 points were the most scored by any player in the game. Foster tallied 14

points for Waverly and Lacey put up 10.

In other stats, Lacey's 15 rebounds, along with his 10 points, were good for a double-double. Also contributing on the boards, Foster finished with six rebounds and Wes Patterson collected four.

Lacey had four assists, Patterson had three and Decker and Logan Pyle each had two. Lacey was credited with all of the team's four blocks. In addition to Foster's seven steals, Decker made three and Patterson and Pyle each made two.

Also in the Waverly tournament, the Hartford Jaguars, seeded sixth with a 4-15 record, played LCL and in-district rival Olpe, seeded third with a 14-5 record, in a quarterfinal game at Olpe. The Jaguars trailed 21-2 after the first quarter and were bested by nine points in the second quarter. Trailing 40-12 at halftime, they were unable to overcome the deficit in the remaining two quarters. They were outscored 19-1 in the third quarter and 11-2 in the fourth and took the season-ending loss, 70-15.

Shayden Sull led the Jaguars' effort with seven points. Tanner Highley and Ali Smith each scored three points and Devon Smith chipped in two.

In the Moran regional hosted by Marmaton Valley High School, the Southern Coffey County Titans, seeded sixth with a 1-18 record, took on Crest, seeded third with a 7-12 record, in a quarterfinal

game at Colony. The Titans' season came to an end with a heartbreaker, as the Titans fell to Crest by two points, 48-46. A box score was not available at press time.

Girls' quarterfinal games for both the Waverly and Moran regional tournaments were held Tuesday, Feb. 25. Boys' semifinal games will be played Thursday, Feb. 27, and will include, at the Waverly tournament, games between Madison and Waverly and between Lebo and Olpe. Girls' semifinal games will take place Friday, Feb. 28, and championship games for both girls and boys will be played Saturday, Feb. 29. All semifinal and championship games will be played at the host school, Waverly high school for the Waverly tournament and Marmaton Valley High School for the Moran tournament.

#### Waverly 55, MdCV 42

Waverly	14	14	13	14	55
MdCV	7	8	12	15	42
Waverly -	Decker 6	5-6	17,	Foster 3	(2)
6-10	14,	Lacey 4	2-4	10,	Patterson 2
3-10	8,	Pyle 2	2-4	6,	Totals 17
(3)	18-34	55.			
MdCV -	Vanderpool 2	9-16	13,	Lacey 3	(2)
4-4	12,	Reed 3	0-0	6,	Holloway 2
0-0	4,	Lingenfelter 1	(1)	0-0	3,
Duncan 1	0-0	2,	Woodson 0	2-2	, Totals 12
(3)	15-22	42.			

#### Olpe 70, Hartford 15

Olpe	21	19	19	11	70
Hartford	2	10	1	2	15
Olpe -	D. Hoelting 4	6-7	14,	W. Redeker 5	0-0
10,	Soyez 5	0-0	10,	Barnard 4	0-0
8,	Robert 2	(1)	3-4	8,	D. Redeker 2
(1)	0-0	5,	Olsson 2	0-1-4,	N. Redeker 1
(1)	0-0	3,	Clark 1	0-0	2,
Foraker 1	0-0	2,	C. Hoelting 1	0-0	2,
Skalsky 1	0-0	2,	Totals 29	(3)	9-12
70.					
Hartford -	Sull 3	(1)	0-0	7,	Highley 1
(1)	0-0	2,	A. Smith 0	3-4	3,
D. Smith 1	0-0	2,	Andrews 0	0-0	2,
Totals 5	(2)	3-6	15.		

## BHS basketball teams 5-1 against Council Grove, Osawatomie, SFT

The Burlington Wildcat and Lady Wildcat varsity basketball teams posted a 5-1 record in three outings this past week. They split with visiting Council Grove on Monday, Feb. 24, after they made a clean sweep at Osawatomie Friday, Feb. 21 and hosted Santa Fe Trail Tuesday, Feb. 18, avenging a pair of losses earlier in the season with a pair of double-digit wins.

After starting with an 11-2 run that spanned the first quarter, the Lady Wildcats were topped by five points in the second. They still held the lead by four points, 25-21, at halftime. However, a sluggish third quarter in which they were outscored 16-6 proved costly to their effort to earn the win. They were down six points going into the final quarter and came up four points shy of the victory, 46-42.

Myka Watkins put up 11 points to lead Burlington in scoring. Caydence Doebele finished with nine points and Abby Dunn chipped in six.

In the boys' contest, the Wildcats bounded out to a 21-6 lead in the first quarter and never looked back. Council Grove scored 16 points in the second quarter and was still outscored by 15 by the Wildcats, who scored 31. Burlington scored more points in the first half than they would allow Council Grove in the game. The Wildcats were up 52-22 at the half and weren't to be caught in the final two quarters, though scoring was much closer. They edged Council Grove by three points in the third quarter and two in the fourth to come away with the win by 35 points, 85-50.

Burlington's Brennan Brown and Council Grove's Brodey King led all scorers with 19 points apiece. Also scoring in double digits for Burlington were Noah Smith with 16 points, Andrew Haselhuhn with 15 and Parker Meats with 10.

The Lady Wildcats led by just four points at the end of the first quarter at Osawatomie, but expanded their lead to double digits in the second quarter, scoring 14 points to Osawatomie's six. Burlington was up 27-15 at the half. They added six more points to their lead in the third quarter and maintained their lead through the fourth, despite being outscored by seven points. Burlington won, 48-37.

"We played a solid game," Burlington coach Doug Stewart said. "We shot the ball well Friday night and made free throws. That makes a big



Mark Petterson/The Republican  
Burlington's Myka Watkins takes an open shot during the Lady Wildcats' game against Council Grove Monday, Feb. 24, while head coach Doug Stewart, the Lady Cat bench and Burlington fans look on from behind her.

difference in our confidence level. The last two games, we have shot 83 percent and 72 percent from the free throw line. If we can continue that the remainder of the season into substate, it will pay dividends in close games."

Grace Hess led Burlington's attack with 12 points. Doebele was just behind her with 11 points and Harlee Young finished with nine.

"Caydence has made it common for her to go get double-doubles in points and rebounds," Stewart said. "Again Friday night, she had a double-double. She is our leading rebounder, and when she gets her shot going, she is a force inside. Grace has found her stride at this point of the season and is playing her best basketball. This was the second game in a row for her to shoot it well, and she continues to defend and hustle well. We have tough games this week against Council Grove and Anderson County. These will determine where we will be seeded in our Burlington substate. We will be anywhere from three to six, depending on how we play and how Humboldt, Osage City and Osawatomie come out in their games. We all have very similar records."

Doebele pulled down 10 rebound to record the double-double. Madison Coursen collected seven rebounds and Dunn caught two. Young and Aleesia Hernandez each had three assists, while Doebele, Coursen and Watkins each had two and Hess and Josie Fejfar each had one. Doebele and Coursen each had a block. Coursen and Young each made four steals, Doebele and Watkins each made two and Hernandez made one.

The Wildcats were edged by one point in the first quarter

of the boys' game but found momentum and took control in the second, topping Osawatomie by eight points. Burlington took a 32-25 lead into the locker room at halftime. They went on to best Osawatomie by four points in the third quarter and, despite being outscored by a point in the final quarter, held on for the double-digit win, 74-64.

Meats led Burlington's attack with a game-high 17 points. Brian Payer contributed 15 points and Trevr Bahr finished with 12.

Against Santa Fe Trail on Tuesday, Burlington led 25-18 at halftime. They outscored Santa Fe Trail 34-18 in the second half to win by 23, 59-36.

Young scored 14 points for the Lady Wildcats. Doebele and Hess each scored 13 and Watkins chipped in six.

"This was a big win for us at this point of the season," Stewart said. "It puts us in third so far in the league and right now sitting as a No. 4 seed for substate. Earlier in the year, we went to Santa Fe Trail and didn't play very well. We shot the ball poorly and sent them to the free throw line 32 times. On Tuesday, their big girl on the inside did some damage throughout the game, but our interior and help defense was good enough to get the job done. We did a good job with the ball, only turning it over 10 times."

Young scored 14 points. Doebele and Hess each had 13 and Watkins had six.

"Caydence and Madison were strong on the offensive boards," Stewart said. "Caydence had her sixth double-double with points and rebounds for the season. She and Madison both were really active on the boards Tuesday