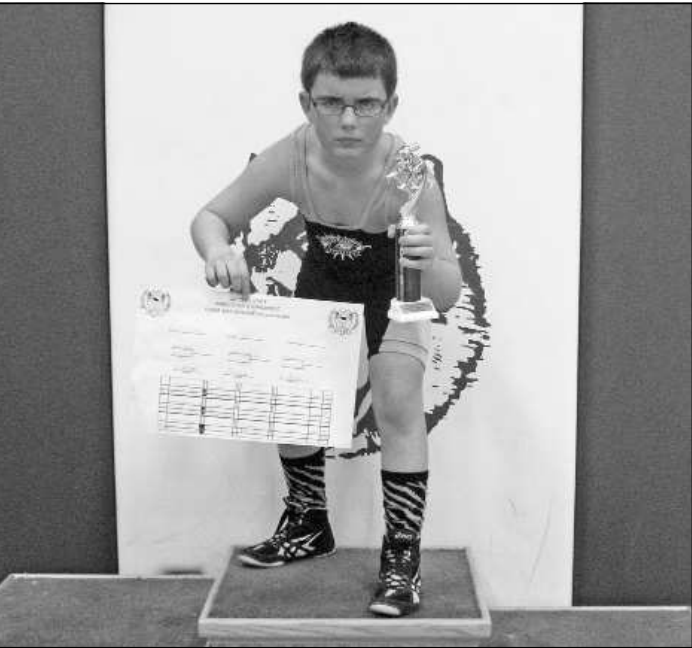


SPORTS

YOUTH WRESTLING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The Mighty Mustangs’ Hudson Mann stands on the podium to pose for a picture with the first-place trophy he won at Saturday’s southern Minnesota Jaycees State Youth Wrestling Tournament in Albany.

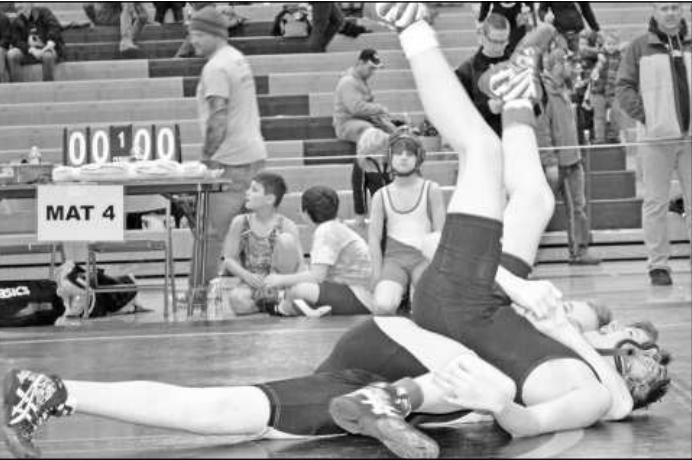
Five Mighty Mustangs first at Grand Rapids

Hudson Mann first at south state meet

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Five youth wrestlers with the local Mighty Mustangs finished first Saturday at a tournament in Grand Rapids, which was a qualifier for next month’s northern Minnesota Jaycees State Youth Wrestling Tournament. The Mighty Mustangs’ first-place finishers (by grade/weight, wins-losses and pins) included Diego Christianson (4/83.2, 2-0, 2), Kalvin Silvers (PreK/42, 3-0, 3), Kyan Swanson (K/48, 3-0, 1), Parker Wiersema (PreK/45.5, 2-0, 0) and Lon-

don Rasmussen (6/113, 2-0, 2). Swanson remains undefeated in matches this year. **MANN FIRST AT ALBANY** Another Mighty Mustang wrestler, third-grader Hudson Mann, wrestled Saturday in the south state youth wrestling tournament in Albany and finished first in the 91-97-pound weight class after recording two first-round pins over opponents from Anoka and Lakeville. Prior to the north state meet April 12 in Grand Rapids, the Mighty Mustangs will join forces with a team from North Woods in a dual meet North Woods is hosting to wrestle against a team from Virginia as part of the second annual North Woods Jamboree on April 5.



In back, the Mighty Mustangs’ London Rasmussen puts a pinning move on his Hibbing opponent at Saturday’s meet in Grand Rapids.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

New Richland-H-E-G wins Class AA title

Esko finishes 3rd

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Carlie Wagner didn’t want to take her jersey off for the last time, but she conceded. She tried to hold back the tears, but they flowed. New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Gevena’s senior guard finished her record-setting career Saturday with an undefeated season and a second straight Class AA championship by scoring 36 points to help lift the top-ranked Panthers over No. 2 Kenyon-Wanamingo 71-61 at Williams Arena. After the game, Wagner wept for the finality of the moment. Her time playing for the Panthers (31-0) with freshmen twin sisters Maddie and Marnie Wagner, along best friend and fellow senior Jade Schultz, was over. “You think it’d be tears of joy right now, which it is, but it’s a combination of sadness of being done right now,” Wagner said. “It’s indescribable. It’s hard to believe it’s all over. It hits you hard when you

know it’s your last game. It’s really hard.” Wagner, the state’s all-time leading scorer, ended her career with 3,957 points, with 371 of those coming in state tournaments, another state record. After shooting 3-for-14 in the first half of Saturday’s championship game, Wagner came out in the second half against the Knights and rattled off 21 consecutive points to put the Panthers up 56-32 with over 11 minutes to play. The Knights (31-2) failed to avenge their only regular season loss, a 67-60 defeat to the Panthers on Jan. 9, but they went on a 17-5 run to cut the Panthers’ lead to 61-49 with about five minutes left. The Panthers struggled at the free-throw line, shooting 17-for-31, which helped keep the Knights within reach until time ran out. Schultz and Wagner will play together next year at the University of Minnesota. Schultz, who tore the anterior cruciate ligament in her knee and missed out on last year’s state championship, will walk on. But the two were able to

stand together on the same raised floor they’ll play on in college to hoist the high school state championship trophy one last time. “It’s as special as it’s going to get,” Panthers coach John Schultz, Jade’s father, said. “I think 20, 30 years from now they’ll be coming back to reunions and they’ll be legendary in our area. To win one state tourney is one thing, but back to back is unheard of.” When asked about what all of her records and potential legacy meant, Wagner said that wasn’t on her mind. Her teammates were all she could think about. “I honestly haven’t thought about it. This game and everything, all the emotion hitting me, I haven’t given it much thought I guess,” Wagner said. “Knowing I’m never going to get to play with these girls again. It’s not going to be the same crowd. I’m excited to get to the ‘U’ and stuff, but it’s the stuff you’re going to miss, mostly.” **ESKO 53, HL-W-W 44** In the Class AA game for third place, Esko, which

lost in the semifinals to Kenyon-Wanamingo, closed out the tournament by defeating Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted, 53-44. The Eskomos shot 45.2 percent (14-31) from the field and 42.9 percent (9-21) from 3-point range. The Lakers of Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted finished shooting 34.9 percent (15-43) from the field. Bailey Mudek was the high scorer for Esko, finishing with 16 points. Ava Gonsorowski and Kailee Katt each added 11 points for the Eskomos, and Gonsorowski and Judy Wage-maker each grabbed four rebounds. Abby Miller and Gabby Gruenhagen both scored 17 points for Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted. Gruenhagen also tallied the double-double with a team-high 10 rebounds. Miller set a new state tournament record with her 16 3-pointers over three games. She hit seven in the quarterfinals against Minnehaha Academy of Minneapolis, six in the semifinals against New Richland-H-E-G and three against Esko.

VOYAGEURS

► continued from B1

Humbert noted the Voyageurs had runners in scoring position in three of the innings in which they were unable to bring anyone home. Of RRCC’s seven hits, Megan Johnson and Clark had two singles apiece, while Alexis Fancy doubled and also accounted for the team’s only run after being driven in by Courtney Branham. In the field, RRCC committed two errors. **RRCC 6, ITASCA 5** The Voyageurs defeated MCAC North foe Itasca for the second time in two days when they opened Friday’s action with a 6-5 victory. Dobie pitched all seven innings to record the victory, allowing five runs, four earned, on eight hits with two walks while striking out eight. RRCC committed two errors in the field.

Of the Voyageurs’ 11 hits, freshman Charley Garmaker had three singles, Lynsi Emery and Dobie both singled and doubled, Marina Johnson added two singles, Clark hit a solo home run and Fancy doubled. **FERGUS FALLS 10, RRCC 9** The Voyageurs lost their second game Friday morning to Fergus Falls, 10-9. RRCC was leading 9-4 when Humbert noted he put in freshman Beth Austad to pitch for the sixth inning to relieve Dobie, who had been doing the bulk of the team’s pitching up to that point last week. However, Austad allowed four runs, two earned, on three hits with a walk and a hit batter working two-thirds of an inning. Dobie returned to pitch and gave up a pair of runs in the final inning. Over 6 1/3 innings, Dobie allowed six runs, four earned, on 10 hits with two walks while striking out six.

The Voyageurs committed four errors over seven innings. Seven batters accounted for RRCC’s seven hits with the multiple-base hits coming from Brinker (home run), Clark (triple) and Baryliski (double). **RRCC 18, NORTHLAND 11** The Voyageurs’ final game Friday was a proverbial slugfest when they defeated Northland, 18-11. Humbert noted RRCC’s No. 2 and 3 pitchers, who need more experience, got into the game. Austad pitched 5 2/3 innings, allowing six runs, two earned, on six hits with three walks and a hit batter while striking out three. Angela McGrath worked 1 1/3 innings, allowing five earned runs on eight hits with five walks. The Voyageurs committed three fielding errors. At the plate, RRCC erupted for 19 hits. Dobie batted 3-3 when she hit two singles and a double with 4 RBI. Emery hit three sin-

gles with 4 RBI. Baryliski homered and doubled with 2 RBI. Megan Johnson and Brinker each had a pair of doubles, while Rebecca Dilley and Clark both had two singles. After nine games this season, the Voyageurs have two players batting above .500. Dobie, who has also accounted for five of RRCC’s six pitching victories, is batting 13-24 for a team-leading .542 average. Garmaker, who is 7-13 at the plate, has a .538 batting average. Nine other players with at least 13 at-bats have an average above .300. The Voyageurs are scheduled to be back at the Irish Dome this coming Friday and Saturday to play four games over two days in the Cross-over Tourney. Their home doubleheader that was scheduled for April 8 against Northland has already been postponed. RRCC’s first conference and outdoor games are now scheduled for April 12 at Vermilion.

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