

SPORTS

YOUTH WRESTLING

Four Mighty Mustangs win Jaycees state titles

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Nineteen Mighty Mustangs competed among the more than 700 wrestlers at Saturday's Jaycees State Tournament in Grand Rapids with four of the Mustangs winning state titles. The four Jaycees state champions include, by name (grade/weight class), Kalvan Silvers (K/45-50), first-year wrestler Dominick Juen (2/65-68), Hudson Mann (4/106-115) and London Rasmussen (8/135-140). Second-place finishers are Kyan Swanson (1/45-50) and Carter Ellison (3/61-65). Third-place finishers in-

clude Aiden Juen (K/51-55), Ashden Lennox (1/56-60), Charlie Bannert (2/45-50), Kalan Kittelson (3/56-60), Hannah Anderson (3/70-75), Noah Armstrong (3/76-80), Anthony Bechik (5/71-75) and Diego Christianson (5/90-95). Fourth-place finishers are Austin Randal (PreK/36-40), Pablo Christianson (1/45-50), Austin Hamm (4/71-75), Nathan Anderson (5/116-130) and Levi Cottrel (8/106-115). Coming up for the Mighty Mustangs is the "Top of the Nation Championship" they will be hosting April 12 at Falls High School.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mighty Mustangs first-year wrestler Dominick Juen poses for pictures on the podium after placing first at Saturday's Jaycees State Tournament in Grand Rapids.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

Dean Blais back in the Frozen Four

BY KEVIN BONESKE
Sports Editor



Willie Corrin



Dean Blais

Two International Falls natives are headed to the NCAA's Frozen Four, while another Falls native came close last weekend to reaching the national tournament semifinals after losing in the Division I men's hockey regional finals. Dean Blais, who is in this sixth year as the University of Nebraska Omaha head coach, advanced to his fourth Frozen Four and first as UNO's coach after the Mavericks won Sunday's Midwest Regional finals by shutting out RIT, 4-0. "It was kind of unexpected because we have such as young team," said Blais, who also noted UNO was one of six National Collegiate Hockey Conference teams in this year's national tournament, in which any of the 16 teams is capable of being the champion. "I'm happy we survived our regional." UNO, which qualified for the NCAA Division I National Tournament this

season for only the third time in school history, also won its first NCAA tournament game ever when the Mavericks were victorious Saturday in their regional semifinal game over Harvard, 4-1. Blais, who had been in the Frozen Four three times when he was the head coach at North Dakota from 1994-2004, said having experienced being among the four remaining national tournament teams will help him with dealing with all the distractions that can arise leading up to the national semifinals and finals, which take place this year on April 9 and 11 in Boston, Mass. "You get used to some of

the hoopla," he said. Being that the Frozen Four teams will have next weekend off before playing in the national semifinals, Blais said that will help teams get rested and recover from injuries. He noted the Mavericks will have limited practices this week before traveling to Boston next Tuesday and facing Providence in the semifinals. The Falls player on UNO's roster, sophomore defenseman Matt Youso, saw action in Saturday's regional semifinals but wasn't in the lineup for Sunday's finals. Blais said Youso has been dealing with a lower-body injury this season and is "day-to-day" as to being in the lineup. CORRIN'S SEASON ENDS Another defenseman from the Falls, University of Minnesota Duluth junior Willie Corrin, also played in this year's national tournament, but came short of advancing to the Frozen Four when the Bulldogs lost Saturday's Northeast Regional finals to Boston University, 3-2. "No one wants to lose that way," said Corrin, who noted the winning Boston University goal came on a power play with less 3 left in the game and what looked like a subsequent tying goal by UMD was disallowed. Corrin recorded an assist in the regional finals when the Bulldogs tied the game at 1-1 in the second period. UMD opened the tournament Friday by winning its regional semifinal over intrastate rival Minnesota, 4-1. "We played fast and furious and (the Gophers) couldn't keep up with us," Corrin said. Unlike when the Bulldogs won 2-1 over Minnesota on Nov. 15 before a standing-room crowd of 7,424 at AM-SOIL Arena, Corrin noted the NCAA tournament game against the Gophers had low attendance in comparison with only 5,123 on hand. Though he won't be playing in the Frozen Four this year, Corrin said he will be rooting next week for his former Bronco teammate, Youso.

MEN'S COLLEGE HOCKEY

North Dakota tops St. Cloud State to reach Frozen Four

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Drake Caggiula scored his team-leading 18th goal of the season, Zane McIntyre stopped a handful of point-blank shots and North Dakota beat St. Cloud State 4-1 on Saturday night in the West Regional final to advance to the Frozen Four. North Dakota advanced

to the Frozen Four for the seventh time in Dave Hakstol's 11 years as coach. Hakstol is 7-2 in regional championships, but has never won a national title. Caggiula scored what proved to be the winner at 6:49 of the second period when his shot was stopped by goalie Charlie Lindgren and ricocheted in off a St.

Cloud defenseman. Forward Luke Johnson scored an insurance goal at 2:53 of the third period. North Dakota (29-9-3) received a rare goal from senior defenseman Andrew Panzarella, who was called on to play in just his ninth game of the season after regular defenseman Keaton Thompson went

down with an illness. Panzarella, who had not played since Jan. 24, notched his first goal of the season and just his 10th career point in 77 games. McIntyre finished with 19 saves, including 10 in the third period when St. Cloud tried to rally. Lindgren, his counterpart, had 22 saves.

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers win first three semifinal series games

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers opened their Superior International Junior Hockey League best-of-seven semifinal series by winning the first three games against the Thunder Bay North Stars. On Friday night, the Lakers got a pair of goals from Nick Minerva to help lead them to a 6-2 home victory over the North Stars in game one at Ice for Kids Arena.

on the ice, but couldn't put the puck past Park before time expired. Park finished with 28 saves to pick up the win for the Lakers. Mann stopped 38 shots for the North Stars in the loss. LAKERS 5, NORTH STARS 4



Mason Meyer

The North Stars scored first with the only goal of the opening period when Daniel McKittrick scored on the power play at 9:23. The Lakers scored on the power play to tie the game at 7:02 of the second period when Dylan Kooner put the puck past Thunder Bay goalie Nathaniel Dupuis.

Fort Frances then added goals from Carter Chorney and Marco Romano to lead 3-1 before the North Stars pulled within a goal at 16:47 of second period when McKittrick scored for the second time that evening.

Minerva scored 72 seconds later when Fort Frances took a 4-2 lead going into the third period.

The Lakers extended their lead 83 seconds in the final period when Fort Frances forward Mason Meyer of International Falls scored his first goal of the of the postseason, before Minerva's second goal of the night, which came on the power play at 12:30 and closed out the evening's scoring.

Fort Frances goalie Nathan Park recorded 38 saves in picking up the win in net.

Dupuis faced 31 shots in the loss for Thunder Bay.

LAKERS 2, NORTH STARS 1

A Miles Nolan goal at 17:26 of the second period turned out to be the game-winner Saturday night when the Lakers edged the North Stars, 2-1, in game two of their SIJHL semifinal series at Ice for Kids Arena.

Fort Frances picked up the lone goal of the opening period when Meyer scored on the power play at 17:46.

Thunder Bay tied the game at 1-1 at 12:13 of the second period when North Stars defenseman Tim Cavar scored a shorthanded goal

Nolan then put in the game-winner for the Lakers just over 5 minutes later to close out the scoring.

Thunder Bay had an opportunity late in regulation to force overtime after pulling goalie Eric Mann to have an extra skater

The Lakers built up a four-goal lead before the 6-minute mark of the second period Monday night, then had to withstand a comeback bid by the North Stars to pull out a 5-4 victory in game three of their SIJHL semifinal series at the Fort William Gardens.

Fort Frances scored first 6:50 into the opening period when Minerva put the puck past Mann.

The North Stars outshot the Lakers in the first period, 18-9, but could score a goal on Park. Meyer put the Lakers up a pair on a goal at 2:40 of the second period. Fort Frances added another goal at 4:29 of the second period when Nolan Ross scored.

The Lakers then ended Mann's night in goal at 5:52 of the second period when Wyatt Cota scored to make it a 4-0 game with Thunder Bay switching to Dupuis in net.

The North Stars got on the scoreboard at 7:01 of the second period when defenseman Aaron Wesley-Chisel put the puck past Park.

Thunder Bay pulled to within two goals when Bradley Belisle scored on a power play at 14:49 of the second period.

The Lakers extended the lead to 5-2 at 2:54 of the final period when Bowen Alcock scored. Thunder Bay pulled back within two goals less than a minute later when Nicholas Nigro scored.

The North Stars cut the deficit to a single goal midway through the third period when Matthias Gardiman scored.

However, Thunder Bay was then unable to score the equalizer to force overtime. Park finished the evening with 43 saves on the night to record the win.

Dupuis and Mann combined to face 35 shots in defeat. The Lakers sought a four-game sweep of the series Tuesday night in game four back at the Fort William Gardens.

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