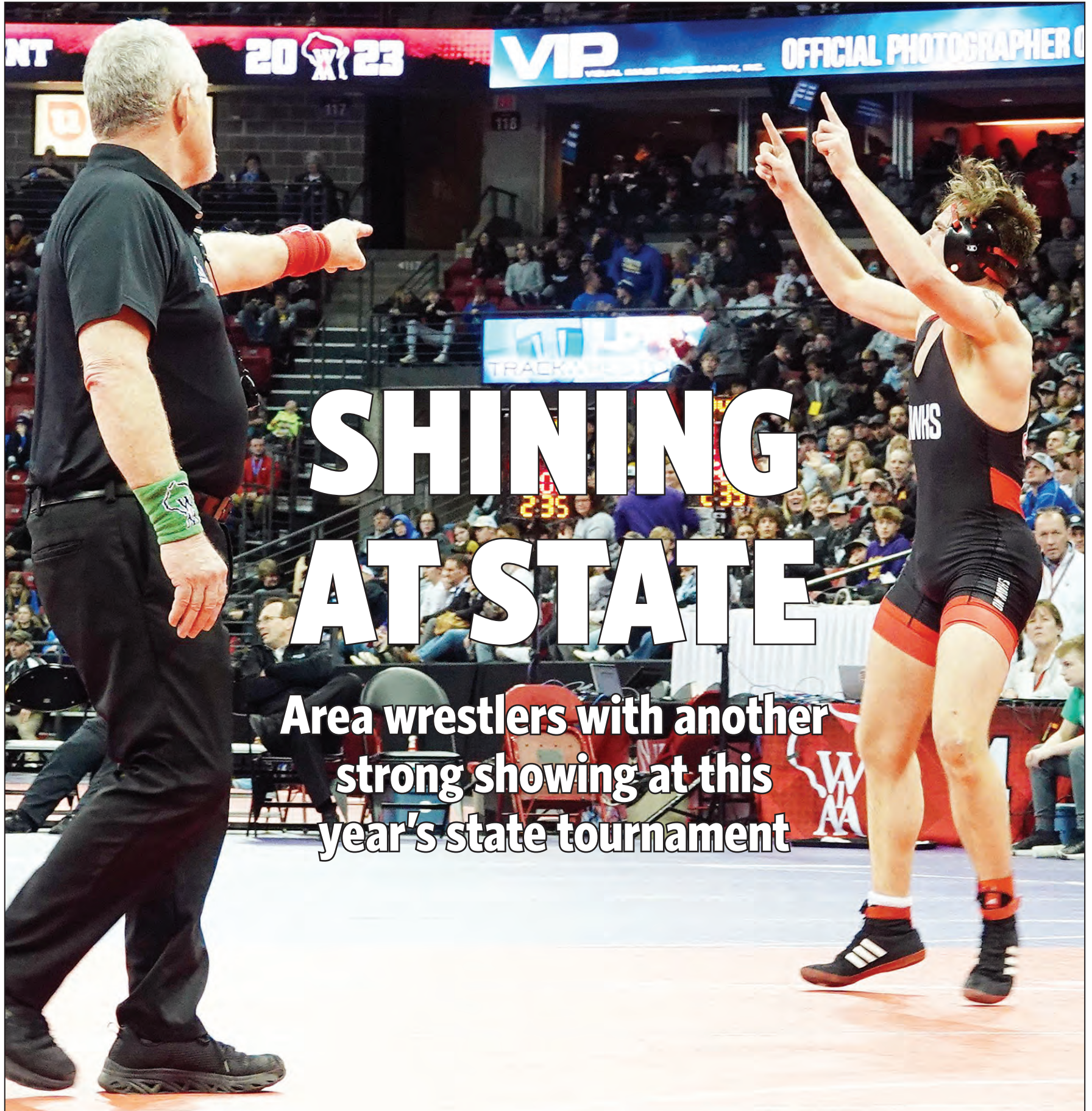


WRESTLING REVIEW

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FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023



Shawano's Caden Young celebrates a win during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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Area state wrestling reaches new heights

The state wrestling tournament is always one of my favorites events to cover during the school year.

The tournament had a little extra buzz and excitement this year as high school girl wrestlers joined the fray at the Kohl Center in Madison.

This year's state tournament turned out to be a banner year,

with two state champions and 12 of the 28 area qualifiers placing in the top six, also known as a podium finish. After the strong showing and "only" 13,742 photos at my disposal, this



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special state wrestling section was born.

After driving through the biggest late snowstorm we've experienced this winter, I arrived at the Kohl Center on the afternoon of Feb. 23. The Division 1 boys and every girls state qualifier hit the mats first and the wins from area athletes started piling up. By the end of the night, just about every area wrestler had hit the state mats, and many advanced on to at least the next day.

Over the next couple of state sessions, area wrestlers continued to battle hard, scratch out wins and keep their hopes of state titles alive.

When all was said and done, the area was not only well represented, but well respected after its strong finishes.

One of my favorite conversations to overhear while in Madison is, "Do you know where (insert Northeast Wisconsin high school here) is?"

It was two girls who led the area with state titles, as Bonduel's Maddy Sokolski and Oconto Falls' Taylor Whiting each placed first.

Didn't get a chance to see those two wrestle at state or this season? No worries, because Sokolski is a



Wittenberg-Biramwood's Andres Sanchez, left, wrestles during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison. Packed stands and high energy filled the Kohl Center for the WIAA wrestling main event this winter.

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sophomore and Whiting only a freshman. With that in mind, and several other underclassmen from the area coming back, the area should have no trouble repeating or even exceeding this year's success in the years to come.

Wittenberg-Biramwood David Gauderman and Shawano's Caden Young were also part of state title matches before settling for second-place finishes — a more than re-

spectable way to go out for the two seniors who left everything on the mat.

In total, all but one of the seven area teams that got to state — Bonduel, Oconto Falls, Shawano, Witt-Birn, Lena, Pulaski and Suring/Gillett — had at least one wrestler finish in the top six.

It seems like it must not be that hard to do given the area's success over the years, but don't get it twist-

ed, these area wrestlers are not only some of the best around, but some of the best in the entire state.

It's always fun to learn these kids' stories and then see their hard work and dedication pay off in Madison. Enjoy the following special section that helps highlight the 2023 state wrestling qualifiers one last time.

Morgan Rode is the sports editor for NEW Media. Readers can contact him at sports@newmedia-wi.com.



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BONDUEL



ABOVE: Bonduel's Maddy Sokolski wrestles in her state title match during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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LEFT: Bonduel's Tyson Bogacz, right, wrestles during the state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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Bonduel sent six wrestlers — three boys and three girls — to Madison for state this year and returned to Bonduel with a state champion and three other podium finishers.

Maddy Sokolski led the Bears with a first-place finish in the girls 138-pound weight class. She was simply dominant at state, winning her first three matches by pins in the first period before a 7-0 decision win in the title match. None of her four opponents scored a single point against her.

Sokolski's two girls teammates, Hailey Berg and Kaitlyn Kroening, also made the state podium.

Berg earned fourth place at 126

pounds after going 4-2 at state. Three of her wins were by pin, with the other being a 3-2 decision win.

Kroening claimed sixth at 100 pounds after going 3-3 in Madison. Her three wins were all by pin.

Tyson Bogacz led the boys trio at state with a fourth-place finish in the Division 3 182 weight class. He went 2-2 at state, with a win by pin and another by a 1-0 decision.

Tyson's younger brother Jaxon Bogacz, and Colin Fischer were the team's other two state qualifiers. Both fell in their opening matches but got valuable state experience and will be looking for better results in the years to come.



Clockwise from above, Bondul's Colin Fischer, Hailey Berg, Jaxon Bogacz and Kaitlyn Kroening wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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OCONTO FALLS



Oconto Falls had three wrestlers qualify for state this year, and two placed in the top four.

Taylor Whiting was the lone girl from Oconto Falls at state, but she represented the team well with a top finish in the 107-pound weight class. She won by pin and two major decisions before earning a 4-0 decision win in the title match.

Cole Bozile and Garrett Ganter got to state on the boys side of things.

Bozile claimed fourth in the Division 2 132 weight class, while Ganter lost his only match at 106 pounds. Bozile went 2-2 at state, with his wins coming by a pin and major decision.

All three could make it back to state in 2024, as Ganter is a junior, Bozile a sophomore and Whiting just a freshman.

LEFT: Oconto Falls' Taylor Whiting flexes to the crowd after winning her state title match during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison. MORGAN RODE | NEW MEDIA

BELOW LEFT: Oconto Falls' Cole Bozile, left, wrestles during the state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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BELOW RIGHT: Oconto Falls' Garrett Ganter, right, wrestles during the state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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PULASKI

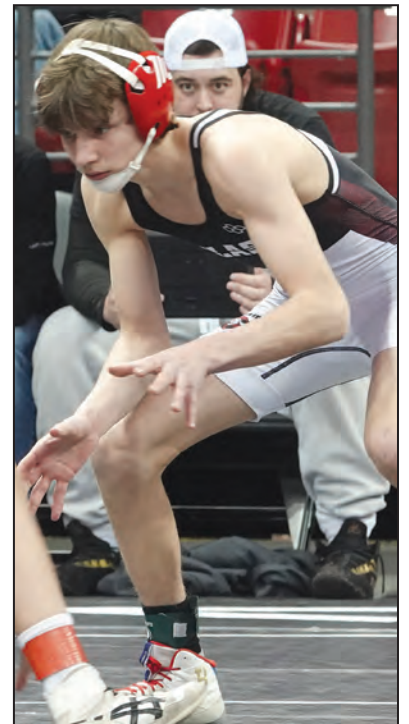


Pulaski sent three boys and one girl to Madison, with two returning with podium finishes.

Trenton Gibbons led the trio of boys with a third-place finish at the Division 1 182-pound weight class. He lost just one match at state, and won two matches by pin, another by decision and his career-ending one by major decision.

Marna Andre represented Pulaski on the girls side of things, and came home with a sixth-place finish in the 235 weight class. Andre went 3-3 in Madison, with all three wins coming by pin.

Mason Wells and Broc Ambrosius were the other two boys wrestlers at state. Wells finished 2-2, while Ambrosius dropped both of his matches.



Clockwise from top left, Pulaski's Trenton Gibbons, Broc Ambrosius, Mason Wells and Marna Andre wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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SHAWANO



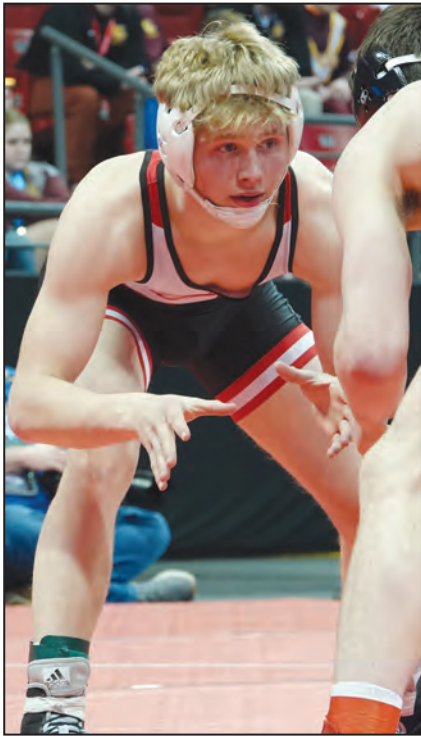
Shawano sent two boys and two girls to Madison for state, with Caden Young's second-place finish highlighting the team's showing.

Young earned second in the Division 1 170-pound weight class after going 3-1. He won two matches by major decision before a thrilling 3-1 sudden victory in the semifinals before falling by major decision in the title match.

Carsen Herm was the other Shawano boy at state. He dropped both of his matches.

Onna Hermann and Courtney Schenk represented the Shawano girls.

Hermann just missed out on the podium after going 2-2, with a win by pin and decision. Schenk dropped her only state match.



Clockwise from above, Shawano's Caden Young, Carsen Herm, Courtney Schenk and Onna Hermann wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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WITTENBERG-BIRNAMWOOD

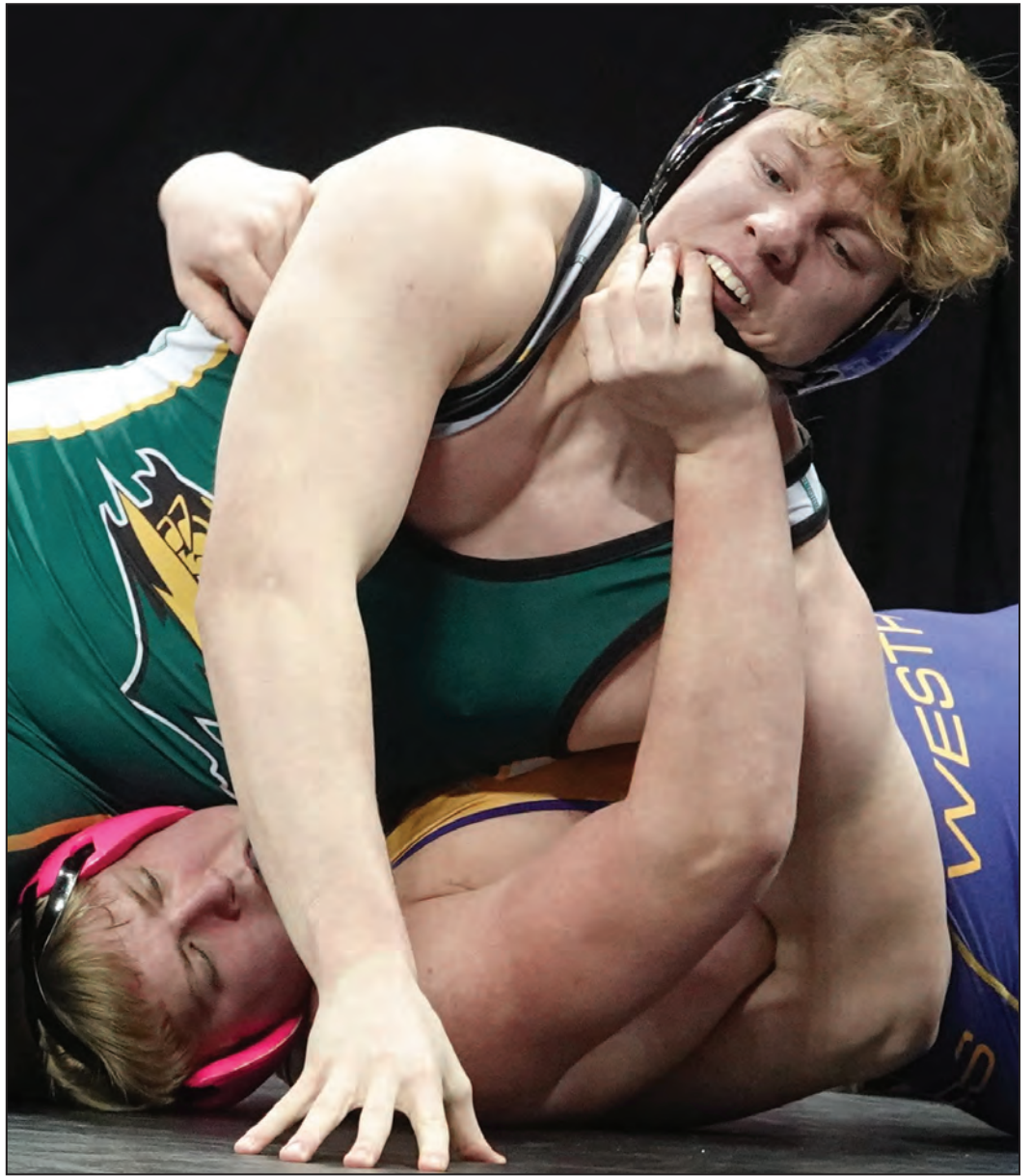
Wittenberg-Birnamwood sent five boys and one girl to state, with David Gauderman's second-place finish leading the Chargers.

Gauderman earned that finish in the Division 3 285-pound weight class. He won his first two matches by pin before losing by pin in the final.

Andres Sanchez and Ben Miller each posted 1-2 records at state. Both Charger wrestlers won by pin in their first state matches.

Devin Wudtke and Nathan Waupekenay also made it to state for the boys team. Each wrestler dropped their only state match.

Brenna Marsh made it to state on the girls side of things. She lost her lone state matchup.



Clockwise from top right, Wittenberg-Birnamwood's David Gauderman, Ben Miller, Brenna Marsh, Andres Sanchez, Devin Wudtke and Nathan Waupekenay wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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SURING/GILLETT



Two girls from the Suring/Gillett co-op qualified for state this winter.

Shylah Hisey dropped both of her matches while at state.

Parker Zahn was defeated in her only state matchup.

Suring/Gillett's Parker Zahn, left, and Shylah Hisey, below, wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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LENA

Two boys and a girl from Lena made it to Madison for the state tournament.

Dylan Comins capped his wrestling career with a fourth-place finish in the Division 3 120-pound weight class. He went 3-2 at state, with a technical fall win, a sudden victory and decision win.

Luke Misco capped his high school career with a fifth-place finish at 132 pounds. Misco rallied from an 8-0 deficit to put himself on the podium. He finished 3-2 at state, with wins by pin, technical fall and major decision.

Miriam Alberts was the Lena girl that advanced to state. She dropped both of her state matches.

Lena's Luke Misco, top right, Dylan Comins, bottom right, and Miriam Alberts wrestle during the 2023 state wrestling tournament at the Kohl Center in Madison.

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