

# WRESTLE: Four advance to state tournament

(Continued from Page A10)  
 "That's one I wish I could have won, but it means I have to work harder and train harder in the time between now and state," said Phelps.

He was grateful for a good draw in the brackets, saying it was the first time in his four years that it swung in his favor. He won his third place match by pin in the second round.

"I was feeling a bit under the weather the first day, but thankfully it cleared up and I got a boost of energy the second day," Phelps said.

Phelps is hoping for a top three finish at state, but was ready to appreciate whatever he could get from it.

"I'd be ecstatic just to place in the state tournament," he said.

Kesler's third place match was his longest of the tournament, and he won by pin in 1:29.

"He was an unseeded kid coming into it and did really well in the tournament," Kesler said. "The biggest thing was keeping focus and staying confident throughout the tournament, and wrestling the way I needed to wrestle."

His goal is keeping that focus, and not getting nervous in a match, as he heads to the state tourney.

"I hope to win it, but there are a couple of hammers in my weight class and I'll need to overcome them," he said.

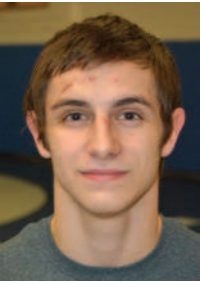
Putnam, a sophomore, finished third at 170 pounds after narrowly missing a shot at going to state as a freshman. He was seeded third going into the regional tournament this year.

"I was pretty upset about losing in the semis to the No. 2 seed this time, but I knew I just had to wrestle back and meet my seeding," Putnam said.

He lost by pin in the third round of his semifinal match, but rebounded to win his next match by fall and his third place match in a 9-1 decision.

"At the beginning of the season, my goal was to qualify for state. Now, I feel like I've got two weeks to set a new goal whether it's winning as many matches as I can or trying to place," Putnam said. "Everyone on the team really matters, but there are some wrestlers who are valuable to the coaches and the program. I think it helps me become more valuable to the program. If I've been able to do this well as a sophomore, I get excited thinking about what I'll be able to do for the program and younger wrestlers as a senior."

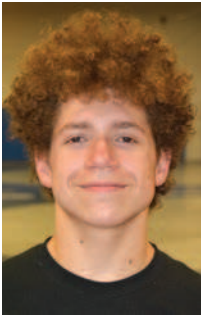
Other notable finishes for McNary were: Joey Kibbey and Ricky Hernandez, fourth and fifth, respectively, at 113 pounds; Kyle Bonn, fourth at 220 pounds, Keifer Smith, fourth at 285 pounds, and Nick Hernandez, sixth at 120 pounds.



Jon Phelps



Wyatt Kesler



Isaiah Putnam

# BOYS,

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do," Kirch said. "At this point in the season, we are a well tested and experienced team. That allows our guys to play with peace and confidence in any situation, knowing that it is something that we have faced before."

Kirch said Ismay was the difference in the game as the Titans focused their defensive strategies on Celts Harry Cavell and Trent Van Cleave.

"That has allowed Mathew to have some one-on-one opportunities that we think he exploits well," Kirch said.

McNary won its next contest, with McMinnville High School Friday, Feb. 12, 54-33. While the game looks like a rout on paper, it unfolded quite differently.

McMinnville turned up the heat on defense in the first half, making the Celtics settle for perimeter shots that were less-than-successful.

It meant that the Grizzlies were able to keep the score close and even take a few leads in the first half. Kirch said the team survived by closing ranks on defense.

"That made it difficult for McMinnville. We made some adjustments offensively in the second half which allowed some better spacing and countered their switching zone defenses," Kirch said.

Celt Adam Harvey said the team got a second wind after the first whistle of the second half.

"Even when it was tough, we kept our edge in the first half, and came out explosive



KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald  
 Celt Harry Cavell puts up a shot in the West Salem game.

in the second half," Harvey said.

The game was also the first in several weeks when the Celtics shot the ball well.

"If we can get back to shooting well before the playoffs, like we did at the start of the season, then we are going to be in a good place when they arrive," Ismay said.

Looking to what awaits the Celts after their final two games, Harvey said the team needs to be consistently starting strong.

"It comes down to our pre-game prep. We have had a few games where we start out flying around and that happens when we have a good practice beforehand," Harvey said.

# Lady Celt wins girls regional wrestling title

By ERIC A. HOWALD  
 Of the Keizertimes

Brooke Burrows, a 106-pound McNary High School freshman, won the girls regional wrestling tournament Saturday, Feb. 6.

The win sets Burrows up to compete in the state tournament later this month.

For those given to thinking it must have been a shallow pool, nothing could be further from the truth.

"There were 17 girls in my bracket, it was so big they had to split it up," Burrows said.

Burrows beat both the first and second seeds in her weight class to take the regional title. After getting a bye in the first round of the tournament, Burrows defeated Harley Miner of Grants Pass High School by pin in the second round. From there, she beat Zenaida Bresser of Henley High School in a 7-3 decision and Gracie Olson in a tight 2-1 decision in the championship match.

"I kept my mind in it, thought about what I'd been learning in practice and tried to wrestle my match," Burrows said.

Since the beginning of the wrestling season, Burrows has been matching up with male wrestlers from other schools

and in the practice room. She's claimed her share of victories, and more than a few moral ones as she flummoxed opponents who were unable to keep her on the mat or in their grip.

"When I'm with the girls it's different because I'm used to the guys being way stronger than I am. The girls seem like a better competition, but some of them are still pretty strong," Burrows said.

She's hoping to place at the state tournament, but is considering even bigger prizes.

"They have a girls national team and I'm thinking about joining them and wrestling in Fargo later this year," she said.



Brooke Burrows

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