



WRESTLEMANIA

Junior Derek Wallin wrestles at the state tournament. Wallin finished in 6th, the Chargers' 10th state placer in six years.
Below: Alex Warner wrestles at state.
Bottom: Junior Eli Mumpower wrestles at state. Mumpower and Warner were eliminated after two matches.

Photos by Hannah Mumpower.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is your most unpopular opinion?

"Eminem is not as lyrical as people think he is."
junior Adam Miller

"Cottage cheese and tomatoes are good."
sophomore Madison Coffman

"Earbuds are better than AirPods. I'm oppressed by AirPod people."
freshman AJ Grutsch

"Cereal with milk is gross."
junior Justice Houston

"Nutella is disgusting."
freshman Ashley Piper

"Golf is not a sport."
junior Ilyana Tertzanlis

"Ranch goes with steak"
senior Sierra Quatham

"Breakfast foods always need syrup on it."
senior Maddy Hutley

"Starbucks is overrated."
senior Luke Stuhlsatz

"I Can't listen to Luke Bryan because he sounds like Kermit the Frog."
music teacher Jamie Rogers

"Best way to eat seeds is with sour patch kids with them."
P.E. teacher Garret Eck

"Friends' is overrated."
sophomore Justin Carlson

"White stuff in Oreos is not that good."
sophomore Jackson Havenstein

"Shotguns in Fortnite are overrated."
freshman Jorge Carmona

"No one we know will die from the coronavirus,"
teacher Lisa Hull

"We should get rid of prom."
science teacher Brandi Miller

"Parks and Rec' is way better than 'The Office'."
English teacher Brendan Praeger

"You're not human if you sleep in jeans."
junior Christian McMIndes

"I like mustard more than ketchup."
junior Ethan Johnson

Wallin finishes 6th in state; Mumpower, Warner gain experience

Hannah Mumpower
 @Hlmump01

Wabaunsee wrestling returned to the state podium last weekend.

Friday and Saturday, juniors Eli Mumpower, Derek Wallin and Alex Warner competed at the Class 3-2-1A KSHSAA State Wrestling Championship at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.

Wallin went as far as placing 6th and earning a state medal in the 160 pound weight class.

"The experience was different," Wallin said. "It was super loud. I couldn't hear the coaches at all, but it was a good change. Matches were a lot tougher because everyone was there to win."

He started Friday off by wrestling Konnor Pfeifer of Ellis, pinning him with 40 seconds to spare in the third period. He then fell to Matthew Rodriguez of Southeast of Saline by a 7-5 Decision.

The number one reason kids quit wrestling is because it is too tough. Those that stick it out are a different breed of athlete.
 — **Joey Heersche**

On the back side of his bracket, Wallin met Chasyn Vogan of Minneapolis and won by a 4-0 Decision. He went on to defeat Andrew Foote of Hoxie in an overtime thriller 4-2 Decision, making himself a State placer. Wallin then fell to Jesse Gardner of Leoti-Wichita County and landed in the fifth place match, a rematch against Pfeifer of Ellis.

Wallin fell to Pfeifer by pin to take home a strong sixth place finish.

"Derek earned every bit of his state medal this weekend," coach Joey Heersche said. "It is the best we have ever seen him wrestle. Overtime is always intense, but overtime in the match to place at state is on another level. In that match, Derek had two takedowns waved off, but he kept his head and took care of business in overtime. That makes ten state wrestling medals in the past six years."

"I felt like I could have done better," Wallin said. "But my coaches were happy. I cared more and focused more than I sometimes do. I was tired at the end, so I was exhausted going into the last match and it ended pretty quickly. It hasn't really set in that I'm a state placer. I looked at the medal and it seems cool, but I think I'll feel better about it as time goes on. I'm excited, but I definitely need a break. I'll have to start pumping iron to beef up like some of the other kids I faced. I'm definitely shooting for a championship next season."

Mumpower and Warner were not so fortunate at the state tournament. Mumpower competed in the 145 pound weight class. He faced Dawson Kempt of Oberlin-Decatur



Community and lost by pin in the middle of the second period. On the back side of his bracket, he faced Fredonia's Matt Weilert and fell by pin, ending his season.

"The first match, I got down early," Mumpower said. "I fought a bit and got put on my back again. The second match was very short. (Weilert) was a lot more aggressive and threw me quickly. It shows how much wrestlers want to win. Every-

one there was extremely competitive. Next year I need to be ready to wrestle more aggressively."

Warner, who wrestles in the 152 pound weight class, began Friday facing Hunter Prochaska of Beloit and fell by pin. He then wrestled Kade Lovelady of Lakin and lost by a 6-4 Decision to finish his season.

"I know now that I'm not as bad as I thought I was," Warner said. "I'm going to go into next season with a little more confidence and make it a goal to get back to state next year."

"Both Eli and Alex had tough draws," Heersche said. "Alex had to face the eventual state champ in the first round, and Eli's losses were to the kids who got third and fourth. I thought they all wrestled tough and showed that they belong at the state tournament. All three being juniors, and Jackson Havenstein being

a sophomore, we definitely expect to be back at the state tournament next year. We also have a handful of 8th graders that could do some damage at the state tournament next year, provided they come out for wrestling."

"The number one reason kids quit wrestling is because it is too tough. Those that stick it out are a different breed of athlete."

Strait Signs with Coffeyville Community College volleyball

Lauren Schutter
 @schutterlauren

Senior Megan Strait signed her letter of intent to play volleyball at Coffeyville Community College in a ceremony February 20.

Megan said she looks forward to her time there. "They have one of the best programs in D2 Juco, won the national championship twice, and got third in the last 3 years. I like the small town feel and how close everyone is. Delice (Downing) is an amazing coach and an amazing person, she connects with the girls as a mom figure rather than just being a coach all the time."

She also said Wabaunsee has well prepared her for her athletic

future. "Wabaunsee prepared me through tough competition and left me with so much success that I'll always be hungry for more."

Megan played volleyball four years, and was a key component in the team's state championship last fall. She plays as an outside hitter, right side hitter, and also passes. She also played basketball four years, softball three and track one.

WHS volleyball coach Tracy Capoun said "Megan was a great utility player throughout her high school career. Over the years she has changed roles many times. In those roles she did whatever was asked of her from the team and coaches with a 100% effort. She's a great volleyball player, and I can't wait to see what her future holds."

Coffeyville's coach, Delice Downing, expressed her excitement in adding Megan to the program in an email: "We are so excited to have Megan as part of our Raven Family. She will bring so much versatility to our court and a passion that one cannot coach. I look forward to coaching such a great young woman in this wonder game called life and volleyball. We are blessed to have such a passionate stud on our roster in 2020."

Principal Jan Hutley also praised Megan's time at WHS. "Megan clearly loves volleyball and I am truly happy for her. That she gets to pursue her passion at the college level is a challenge she has been prepared to face and I wish her all the best."



Senior Megan Strait signs her letter of intent to play volleyball at Coffeyville. Megan is joined by her family, brother Connor, mother Maggie and father Lyle Strait. Megan was a "12-sport" athlete at WHS, playing four years of volleyball, basketball and softball/track.