

Brave Brawlers

FLATHEAD WRESTLING



2019-2020
AA MHSA STATE RUNNER-UP

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

SEASON RECAP

24-4 Dual Meet Record

1st Place..... Capital City Duals
2nd Place..... Best of the West Dual Tournament, WA
1st Place..... Best of the West Individual Tournament, WA
4th Place Buzz Lucey Classic
1st Place..... Pacific Northwest Classic, WA
2nd Place..... Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic
2nd Place..... AA Duals, Great Falls
1st Place..... Western Divisionals: 19 of 25 Wrestlers Qualified for State
2nd Place AA STATE RUNNER-UP (10 State Placers)

2020 State Results

1. Great Falls High.....242.5
2. Flathead.....197.0
3. Billings Senior196.5
4. Bozeman186.0
5. Butte160.5

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

"EVERYDAY MATTERS"

MANAGERS

(Letter Winners)

Alyssa Cadwalader
Rylee Barnes
Alyssa Poe-Hatten
Hunter McGillivary
Faith Cheff

ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Rylee Barnes	Jalen Hawes
Nolan Cate	Fin Nadeau
Aleeya Derlatka	Noah Poe-Hatten
Katherine Eberhardy	Tanner Russell
Emma Gambino	Chase Youso
Eric Gardner	

LETTER WINNERS

NAME	GRD	YRS	NAME	GRD	YRS	NAME	GRD	YRS
Payton Caudill	9	1	Alex Saranto	9	1	Timber Richberg	11	2
Austin Olson	9	1	Cade Troupe	9	1	Zaybin Stewart	11	3
Nolan Cate	9	1	Emmalee Yeadon	9	1	Gaige Winter	11	2
Kayden Chuey	9	1	Aleeya Derlatka	10	1	Brendan Barnes	12	4
Ben Corbett	9	1	Brandon Manley	10	1	Chance Sheldon-Allen	12	2
Aaron Gaitan	9	1	Mason Doran	10	2	Aydan Prieto	12	4
Emma Gambino	9	1	Anna Morrison	10	1	Paxton Boyce	12	4
Katherine Eberhardy	9	1	Kaden Henshaw	10	1	Eric Gardner	12	1
Cade Gardner	9	1	Asher Kemppainen	10	1	Garett Rieke	12	4
Forest Howell	9	1	Fin Nadeau	10	2	Tanner Russell	12	4
Dylan Kratofil	9	1	Logan Speed	10	1	Dillon Yeadon	12	4
Zarek Lee	9	1	Tommy Williams	10	1	Jalen Hawes	12	1
Duke McKee	9	1	Chase Youso	10	2			
Noah Poe-Hatten	9	1	Hudson Magone	11	2			
Skye Shelmerdine	9	1	Greg Muljadi	11	1			

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

VARSITY STATS

		Record	Take Down	Falls	Major Decision	Decision	Near Fall	Reversal	Escape
103	Dylan Kratofil	29-20	26	12	1	2	13	11	9
113	Cade Gardner	26-25	26	18	1	1	11	7	9
120	Nolan Cate	26-23	23	14	1	3	19	11	11
126	Cade Troupe	47-7	49	35	0	4	17	3	8
132	Asher Kemppainen	44-10	64	14	5	13	65	17	25
138	Brendan Barnes	45-9	70	20	2	9	30	9	23
145	Fin Nadeau	44-7	86	24	3	11	32	4	32
152	Noah Poe-Hatten	42-14	50	22	2	15	29	32	50
160	Chase Youso	37-18	55	31	0	4	31	10	16
170	Tanner Russell	42-8	50	25	1	5	55	14	14
182	Paxton Boyce	32-16	45	11	4	6	17	9	24
205	Zaybin Stewart	42-12	37	21	0	7	39	8	9
HWT	Ayden Prieto	22-26	17	10	0	2	7	6	5

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

DEPTH CHART

WEIGHT	NAME	GRADE	RECORD	2020 DIVISIONALS	2020 STATE
103	Dylan Kratofil	9	29-20	4 th	DNP
	Cole Keeney	9	6-9		
	Emmalee Yeadon	9	7-7		
	Anna Morrison	10	3-11		
113	Cade Gardner	9	26-25	3 rd	DNP
	Nolan Cate	9	26-23	6 th	DNP
	Skye Shelmerdine	9	2-7		
120	Kayden Chuey	9	26-23		
	Emma Gambino	9	9-10		
126	Cade Troupe	9	47-7	1 st	4 th
	Dillon Yeadon	12	11-5	6 th	DNP
132	Asher Kemppainen	10	44-10	2 nd	3 rd
	Ben Corbett	9	2-4		
138	Brendan Barnes	12	45-9	1 st	2 nd
	Aaron Gaitan	9	17-8	6 th	DNP
145	Fin Nadeau	10	44-7	1 st	2 nd
	Eric Gardner	12	4-5	7 th	DNP
	Hudson Magone	11	4-10		
	Jalen Hawes	12	4-1		
	Duke McKee	9	3-6		
152	Noah Poe-Hatten	9	42-14	3 rd	3 rd
	Zarek Lee	9	10-8		
	Levi Bender	9	3-3		
	Aleeya Derlatka	10	4-10		
	Katherine Eberhardy	9	3-4		
160	Chase Youso	10	37-18	3 rd	5 th
	Mason Doran	10	9-9		
	Chance Sheldon-Allen	12	2-3		
	Greg Muljadi	11	1-3		
170	Tanner Russell	12	42-8	2 nd	2 nd
	Garett Rieke	12	14-5	3 rd	3 rd
	Kaden Henshaw	10	10-4		
	Brandon Manley	9	4-10		
182	Paxton Boyce	12	32-16	2 nd	4 th
	Gaige Winter	10	24-11	5 th	DNP
	Alex Saranto	9	1-9		
	Payton Caudill	9	3-6		
205	Zaybin Stewart	11	42-12	3 rd	5 th
	Tommy Williams	10	5-10	8 th	DNP
	Austin Olson	9	7-9		
	Forest Howell	9	6-6		
HWT	Ayden Prieto	12	22-26		
	Timber Richberg		13-11	8 th	DNP
	Logan Speed	10	5-4		

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

SCHEDULE

DATE		OPPONENT	RESULTS
December	6	Butte	39 – 33
	7	Helena Duals	VS. Bozeman 71 – 6 VS. Helena 66 – 6 VS. Big Sky 32 – 31
	13-14	Mining City Duals	5 th
	17	Sentinel Dual	68 – 6
	17	Hellgate Dual	71 – 6
	20	Best of the West Dual	2 nd
	21	Best of the West Individual	1 st
	20-21	Buzz Lucey Tournament	4 th
January	3-4	Pacific NW Tournament	1 st
	8	Big Sky Dual	39 – 24
	10	Glacier Dual	43 – 24
	17-18	Rocky Mountain Classic	2 nd
	18	John Fisher Tournament	9 th
	25	AA Duals	2 nd
	25	Ted Kato Tournament	8 th
	30	Helena Capital Dual	47 – 18
	30	Helena High Dual	67 – 3
February	8	Divisionals	19 Wrestlers Seeded
	14-15	MHSA AA State Championships	10 State Placers
March	9	Awards Night	

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

HUSTLE AWARD WINNERS

DATE		DAY	OPPONENT	Name	Name
December	6	Friday	Butte	Aydan Prieto	Cade Troupe
	7	Saturday	Helena Duals	Asher Kemppainen	Noah Poe-Hatten
	7	Saturday	Wes Hines, Glacier	Estaban	Timber
	13	Friday	Mining City Duals		
	13	Friday	George Wild JV	Zarek Lee	Emma Gambino
	14	Saturday	Mining City Duals	Zaybin Stewart	Nolan Cate
	14	Saturday	George Wild JV	Gage Winter	Kaden Henshaw
	17	Tuesday	Sentinel	Brendan Barnes	Hudson Magone
	17	Tuesday	Hellgate	Chase Youso	Cade Gardner
	20	Friday	Eureka JV Dual	Hudson Magone	
	20	Friday	Best of the West Duals	Tanner Russell	Paxton Boyce
	21	Saturday	Eureka JV Tourney	A-A-Ron	Mason Doran
	21	Saturday	Best of the West Individual	Dylan Kratofil	Fin Nadeau
January					
	3	Friday	Pacific Northwest Classic	Garett Rieke	Cade Troupe
	3	Friday	Ronan Tourney	Dillon Yeadon	Anna Morrison
	4	Saturday	Pacific Northwest Classic	Tanner Russell	
	8	Wednesday	Big Sky	Eric Gardner	Skye Shelmerdine
	10	Thursday	Glacier	C. Youso/Forest	Jalen Hawes
	17	Friday	Rocky Mtn. Classic	Fin Nadeau	Paxton Boyce
	18	Saturday	Rocky Mtn. Classic	Managers.....	Managers...
	18	Saturday	John Fisher JV	Timber	Cole Keeney
	25	Saturday	Ted Kato JV Invite	D. Yeadon	G. Winter
	25	Saturday	AA Duals	C. Gardner	Tanner Russell Zaybin Stewart
	30	Thursday	Helena Capital	Seniors	
	30	Thursday	Helena	Seniors	
February	8	Saturday	Divisional Tourney		

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

ALL-CONFERENCE / ALL-STATE

ALL CONFERENCE

103	Dylan Kratofil
113	Cade Gardner
113	Nolan Cate
126	Cade Troupe
126	Dillon Yeadon
132	Asher Kemppainen
138	Brendan Barnes
138	Aaron Gaitan
145	Fin Nadeau
145	Eric Gardner
152	Noah Poe-Hatten
160	Chase Youso
170	Tanner Russell
170	Garett Rieke
182	Paxton Boyce
182	Gaige Winter
205	Zaybin Stewart
205	Tommy Williams
285	Timber Richberg

ALL STATE

126	Cade Troupe / 4 th Place
132	Asher Kemppainen / 3 rd Place
138	Brendan Barnes / 2 nd Place
145	Fin Nadeau / 2 nd Place
152	Noah Poe-Hatten / 3 rd Place
160	Chase Youso / 5 th Place
170	Tanner Russell / 2 nd Place
170	Garett Rieke / 3 rd Place
182	Paxton Boyce / 4 th Place
205	Zaybin Stewart / 5 th Place

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

FLATHEAD WRESTLING RECORDS

CATEGORY	RECORD	NAME	YEAR
SEASON WINS	48	Brendan Barnes	2018
	48	Tucker Nadeau	2018
	47	Cade Troupe	2020
	45	Brendan Barnes	2020
	45	Tanner Russell	2019
	44	Tanner Beaman	2008
	44	Payton Hume	2018
	44	Asher Kemppainen	2020
	44	Fin Nadeau	2020
	43	David Lau	2008
	42	Luke Fischer	2008
	42	Noah Poe-Hatten	2020
	42	Zaybin Stewart	2020
	41	Brian Ham	2008
	41	Tyler Thomas	2008
	40	Shawn Lau	2007
	40	Tucker Nadeau	2017
	40	Tyler Wells	2008
	39	Brian Ham	2005
	39	Mikey Kuehne	2005
	38	Brendan Barnes	2019
	38	Matt Gash-Gilder	2017
	38	Tiger Harris	2003
	38	Payton Hume	2017
	38	Michael Lee	2017
	38	Fin Nadeau	2019
	38	Chris Thompson	2005
PINS	36	Tanner Russell	2019
	35	Cade Troupe	2020
	31	Shawn Lau	2009
	30	Larry Johnson	2004
	29	Tyler Thomas	2008
	28	Devin Eystad	2002
	28	Michael Lee	2018
	28	Michael Lee	2017

	28	Chris Thompson	2005
	27	Caleb Allen-Schmid	2008
	27	Brendan Barnes	2018
	27	Payton Hume	2017
	27	Shawn Lau	2007
	26	Garett Rieke	2018
CONSECUTIVE WINS	74	Burke Tyree	1986-1988
	64	Trae Vasquez	2015-2016
	50	Tucker Nadeau	2018
	26	Luke Fischer	2008
	25	Tyler O'Meyer	2001
	24	Cade Troupe	2020
	19	Fin Nadeau	2020
	18	Mikey Kuehne	2005
	17	Brendan Barnes	2018
	15	Brendan Barnes	2020
	15	Shawn Lau	2007
	15	Tanner Russell	2020
CAREER WINS	155	Tanner Russell	2016-2020
	154	Payton Hume	2015-2018
	151	Brendan Barnes	2016-2020
	138	Brian Ham	2005-2008
	138	Tucker Nadeau	2015-2018
	137	Shawn Lau	2007-2011
	132	David Lau	2005-2008
	126	Tyler Wells	2005-2008
	118	Burke Tyree	1985-88
	117	Devin Eystad	2001-2004
	115	Paxton Boyce	2016-2020
	113	Luke Fischer	2005-2008
	113	Brandon Mitchell	2002-2005
	111	Mikey Kuehne	2003-2006
	110	Scott Cassel	2003-2006
	108	TC Decker	2005-2008
DIVISIONAL TITLES	4	Shawn Lau	2007, 2008, 2009,2010
	3	Devin Eystad	2002, 2003, 2004
	3	Mikey Kuehne	2004, 2005, 2006
	3	Bryce Stacy	2008, 2009, 2010
	3	Trae Vasquez	2015, 2016, 2017
	2	Brendan Barnes	2019, 2020
	2	Luke Fischer	2007, 2008

	2	Brian Ham	2006, 2008
	2	Tiger Harris	2003, 2004
	2	Payton Hume	2017, 2018
	2	David Lau	2007, 2008
	2	Michael Lee	2017, 2018
	2	Zach Lorenz	2002, 2003
	2	Fin Nadeau	2019, 2020
	2	Tucker Nadeau	2017, 2018
	2	Eric Richeson	2000, 2001
	2	Hunter Rush	2016, 2017
	2	Tanner Russell	2018, 2019
	2	Tyler Wells	2007, 2008
	2	Austin Zapata	2005, 2007
STATE TITLES	3	Shawn Lau	2007, 2009, 2010
	3	Burke Tyree	1986, 1987, 1988
	2	Bruce Ewing	1971, 1973
	2	Vic Green	1961, 1962
	2	Brian Ham	2007, 2008
	2	Tiger Harris	2003, 2004
	2	Ashley Keltner	1989, 1990
	2	John Lee	1962, 1963
	2	Jim Miller	1958, 1959
	2	Bryce Stacy	2008, 2010
	2	Trae Vasquez	2015, 2016
TAKEDOWNS	202	Greg Thompson	2004
	161	Mikey Kuehne	2005
	133	Trae Vasquez	2016
	131	Tucker Nadeau	2017
	126	Mikey Kuehne	2006
	126	Greg Thompson	2003
	124	Tucker Nadeau	2018
	116	Tyler Wells	2008
	115	Mikey Kuehne	2004
	111	Jeff Tafoya	2003

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

STATE CHAMPS - INDIVIDUAL

Year	Name	Year	Name
1956	Jack Sanders	1989	Dan Troupe
1958	Bill Lee	1990	Ashley Keltner
1958	Jim Miller	1993	Mike Ballard
1959	Jim Miller	1993	Steve Balla
1961	Bill Olson	1996	Trent Gardner
1961	Vic Green	1998	Corbin Eystad
1962	Vic Green	2000	Eric Richeson
1962	John Lee	2002	Tyler O'Myer
1963	Allen Johnson	2003	Tiger Harris
1963	John Lee	2004	Tiger Harris
1964	Bernie Olson	2005	Brandon Hoffenbacker
1966	Rich Jacobson	2005	TC Decker
1967	Roger Fincher	2007	Shawn Lau
1970	Bill Carr	2007	Bryce Stacy
1970	Dan Fischer	2007	Brian Ham
1971	Jim Mann	2008	Brian Ham
1971	Bruce Ewing	2008	Tanner Beaman
1973	Dave Crone	2008	David Lau
1973	Bruce Hawk	2008	Tyler Wells
1973	Wayne Hall	2008	Luke Fischer
1973	Don Clapper	2009	Shawn Lau
1973	Bruce Ewing	2009	Bryce Stacy
1980	Derek Tyree	2009	Ryan Thiel
1982	Jeff Anderson	2010	Bryce Stacy
1982	Greg Pisk	2010	Shawn Lau
1986	Burke Tyree	2010	Caleb Allen-Schmidt
1986	Jim Poe	2012	Larry Francis
1987	Burke Tyree	2015	Trae Vasquez
1987	TJ Campbell	2016	Trae Vasquez
1987	Tim Minghini	2018	Payton Hume
1988	Burke Tyree	2018	Tucker Nadeau
1989	Ashley Keltner	2018	Michael Lee

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

STATE CHAMPS - TEAM

Team	Year	Team	Year
Missoula	1962	Butte	1992
Missoula	1963	Billings Skyview	1993
Missoula	1964	Billings West	1994
Sentinel	1965	Butte	1995
Sentinel	1966	Billings Skyview	1996
Sentinel	1967	Butte	1997
Sentinel	1968	Billings Skyview	1998
Sentinel	1969	Great Falls High	1999
Great Falls	1970	Butte	2000
CM Russell	1971	Billings Skyview	2001
Great Falls	1972	Billings Skyview	2002
Flathead	1973	Butte	2003
Billings West	1974	Flathead	2004
CM Russell	1975	Billings Skyview	2005
CM Russell	1976	Flathead	2006
CM Russell	1977	Flathead	2007
Hellgate	1978	Flathead	2008
CM Russell	1979	Flathead	2009
Butte	1980	Flathead	2010
Butte	1981	Bozeman	2011
Butte	1982	Glacier	2012
Butte	1983	Great Falls High	2013
Butte	1984	Great Falls High	2014
Butte	1985	Great Falls High	2015
Butte	1986	Billings Senior	2016
Butte	1987	Flathead	2017
Butte	1988	Flathead	2018
Butte	1989	Bozeman	2019
Butte	1990	Great Falls High	2020
Butte	1991		

2019-2020 FLATHEAD WRESTLING

IN THE NEWS

WINTER PREP SPORTS PREVIEW

Basketball, wrestling and swimming seasons begin this weekend with a handful of Flathead Valley programs eyeing state championships

By [Andy Viano](#) // Dec 5, 2019

The last echoes of the fall season are still ringing around Montana, but the prep sports scene has already moved indoors, with basketball, wrestling and swimming teams all hard at work in advance of the season's first competitions this weekend.

The Flathead Valley has brought home four state basketball titles, two in wrestling and a pair in the pool in the last three seasons alone, and this year's crop of teams includes at least a handful with realistic title hopes.

On the hardwood, it's a tale of two different title chases for the valley's two recent stalwarts. The two-time defending state champion Bigfork boys will be looking to replace nearly their entire roster, and their head coach from a season ago, while the always reliable Columbia Falls girls return a young and gifted core from a team that has finished in the top three in the state for six straight seasons. Meanwhile, the four Kalispell programs all have reason to be optimistic after just one, the Glacier girls, qualified for the state tournament a season ago.



On the mat, Flathead is looking to rebound from a seventh-place finish at state in 2018-19 — a down year for a program with lofty expectations — and brings back almost all of its state qualifiers from last year. In Columbia Falls, state champion Taylor Gladeau returns to defend his 285-pound title.

In the pool, Whitefish's girls are the two-time defending state champions and should once again be in the hunt with a pair of state champions returning, and the Bulldogs boys are led by one of the state's best freestyle swimmers in Preston Ring.

Flathead's Brendan Barnes competes against Glacier's Tristan Little at the crosstown wrestling match at Glacier High School on Jan. 3, 2019. Greg Lindstrom | Flathead Beacon

WRESTLING

FLATHEAD BRAVES

Head coach: Jeff Thompson (12th season)

2018-19 postseason: 7th at state

Key returners: Brendan Barnes, Sr., 138 lbs.; Fin Nadeau, So., 145; Tanner Russell, Sr., 170

The valley's most decorated winter program reached its modern pinnacle in the 2017-18 season, winning the school's second straight state title and the eighth in program history. Fourteen state qualifiers from a year ago are back this season, led by state runners-up Nadeau and Russell, and two-time state placer Barnes.

STRONG START FOR FLATHEAD GRAPPLERS IN BUTTE

December 06, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

BUTTE — Flathead's Aidan Prieto (285) beat Butte's Ty Raiha in a heavyweight clash to give the Braves a 39-33 win in their opening meet of the season at Butte High School on Friday. "Great win out of the gate for our young Flathead wrestling team," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. "For the first dual of the year to come down to heavyweight, you can't ask for much more excitement." Freshmen Noah Poe-Hatten (152) and Cade Troupe (126) both earned wins against Butte upperclassmen. Zaybin Stewart (205) lost a tight overtime heavyweight battle to Butte's Kobe Moreno. Thompson said Stewart "wrestled well." The Braves head next to Helena for the Helena Duals. Matches start at 10 a.m. today.

Flathead 39, Butte 33

103 — Trey Whitlock, B, pinned Dylan Kratofil, 1:29; 113 — Christian Sherman, B, pinned Nolan Cate 1:43; 120 — Kip Pumnea, B, pinned Cade Gardner 1:48; 126 — Cade Troupe, F, pinned Keagan Gransbery, 5:44; 132 — Asher Kemppainen, F, dec. Connor Konda, 7-5; 138 — Brendan Barnes, F, pinned Wiley Dallaserra 0:55; 145 — Fin Nadeau, F, pinned Mason Christian 3:11; 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten, F, pinned Anthony Liva 1:44; 160 — Quinn Sullivan, B, pinned Chase Youso 5:17; 170 — Tanner Russell, F, pinned Dominick Scown 3:05; 182 — Kameron Moreno, B, pinned Paxton Boyce 2:28; 205 — Kobe Moreno (Butte) dec. Zaybin Stewart, SV-1 6-4; 285 — Aidan Prieto, F, pinned Ty Raiha 3:40.

Team score: Flathead 39, Butte 33

FLATHEAD WRESTLERS 3-0 AT CAPITAL CITY DUALS

December 07, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

HELENA — The Flathead Braves wrestling team went 3-0 on Saturday at the Capital City Duals at Helena Capital. The Braves won a tie-breaker over Missoula Big Sky 32-31 by virtue of having more pins than the Eagles. Fin Nadeau, Asher Kemppainen, Brendan Barnes and freshman Cade Troupe went undefeated in the first weekend of wrestling season. “It was fun watching our young team build some confidence throughout the weekend,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “It’s going to be a great year for the Brave Brawlers.”

Capital City Duals

Flathead 66, Helena 6

103 — Dylan Kratofil, F, pinned Jason Mandy, 1:32. 113 — Nolan Cate, F, dec. Nathan Elmore, 8-6. 120 — Ian Mehrens, H, pinned Cade Gardner, 3:47. 126 — Cade Troupe, F, pinned Westin LaPierre 2:45. 132 — Asher Kemppainen, F, pinned Andrew Cotton 3:08. 138 — Brendan Barnes, F, pinned Cameron Wyant, 0:59. 145 — Fin Nadeau, F, pinned David Kemp, 1:01. 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten, F, dec. Justice Seamons, 8-2. 160 — Chase Youso, F, pinned Kaleb Kirklin 1:13. 170 — Tanner Russell, F, pinned Kaleb McKay, 1:25. 182 — Zaybin Stewart, F, pinned Dhestin McKinnis 0:28. 205 — Paxton Boyce, F, pinned Ruger Young 1:22. 285 — Aydan Prieto, F, for.

Flathead 32, Missoula Big Sky/Loyola 31

103 — Kratofil, F, for. 113 — Israel Moreno, M, pinned Cate, 4:39. 120 — Isaac Ayers, M, pinned Gardner, 2:40. 126 — Troupe, F, pinned Daniel Peterson, 0:46. 132 — Kemppainen, F, maj. dec. Blake Weingart, 18-4. 138 — Barnes, F, for. 145 — Nadeau, F, dec. Trevin Weizen, 5-2. 152 — Hunter Meinen, M, maj. dec. Poe-Hatten, 12-4. 160 — Dougie Swanson, M, pinned Youso, 3:26. 170 — Bridger Hall, M, dec. Russell 4-3. 182 — Jett Rebish, M, dec. Boyce, 3-1. 205 — Stewart, F, for. 285 — Tommy Leonard, M, dec. Prieto, 4-3.

Flathead 71, Bozeman 6

103 — Kratofil, F, pinned Isaiah Christensen, 2:48. 113 — Cate, F, pinned Dean Christie, 2:59. 120 — Gardner, F, pinned Dawkin Schmidt, 0:33. 126 — Troupe, F, for. 132 — Kemppainen, F, for. 138 — Barnes, F, tech fall Bryant Rivenbark, 21-3, 4:22. 145 — Nadeau, F, pinned Brody Lahey, 1:06. 160 — Youso, F, pinned Gregor Schmidt, 2:17. 170 — Russell, F, for. 182 — Gage Winter, F, pinned AJ Matosich, 0:40. 205 — Boyce, F, for. 285 — Montana Cohenour, B, pinned Prieto, 1:24.

FLATHEAD 3-0, GLACIER 2-1 AT MINING CITY DUALS

December 13, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

BUTTE — The Flathead Braves went 3-0 on the mat at the first day of the Mining City Duals at the Butte Civic Center on Friday, winning their pool and earning them a spot in the championship bracket today. Flathead is 7-0 on the season. “We are getting better,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “That’s all you can ask for as a program.” The Braves take on Missoula Big Sky at 9 a.m. today. Glacier had three wrestlers go 3-0 on Friday: Teegan Vasquez (113), Alec Thomas (205) and Camryn Vergeront and was second in its pool. “Great start to the tournament today, the teamed really fought for each other,” Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. After some tough individual losses during the duals, the next guy came in ready and battled back for the team. Fun to see them work for each other like that.” The Wolfpack will face Frenchtown today in the final day of action. Columbia Falls went 1-2, beating Havre 39-35 in its last match of the day. Polson was 0-3 in its pool.

Mining City Duals at the Butte Civic Center Friday’s Results

Round 1 / Match 1

Flathead 42, Billings Skyview 25

- 113 — Nolan Cate, F, won by forfeit.
- 120 — Talon Barrington, BS, dec. Cade Gardner, SV-1 9-5.
- 126 — Cade Troupe, F, pinned Colten Marquart, 1:41
- 132 — Asher Kemppainen, F, dec. Caleb Partridge, 8-1.
- 138 — Gentry Lamb, BS, pinned Brendan Barnes, 3:08.
- 145 — Fin Nadeau, F, dec. Cameron Savaria, SV-1 8-6.
- 152 — Paolo Salminen, BS, pinned Noah Poe-Hatten, 4:30.
- 160 — Chase Youso, F, pinned Adrian Arbagast, 1:05.
- 170 — Tanner Russell, F, pinned Dillon Barrington, 1:45.
- 182 — Zaybin Stewart, F, pinned Keevan Alexander, 0:39.
- 205 — Brenner Bushfield, BS, maj. dec. Paxton Boyce, 11-2.
- 285 — Aiden Prieto, F, won by forfeit.
- 103 — Hunter Ketchum, BS, pinned Dillon Kratofil, 0:50.

Round 2 / Match 3

Flathead 54, Belgrade 23

- 145 — Fin Nadeau, F, pinned Gage Meyer, 2:44.
- 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten, F, pinned Brendan Gill, 4:56.
- 160 — Chase Youso, F, pinned Logan Linn, 1:04.
- 170 — Tanner Russell, F, won by forfeit.
- 182 — Paxton Boyce, F, won by forfeit.
- 205 — Zaybin Stewart, F, pinned Xaden Cunningham, 3:37.
- 285 — Zane Konkol, B, pinned Aiden Prieto, 0:20.
- 103 — Colton Gutenberger, B, pinned Dillon Kratofil, 0:57.
- 113 — Carter Schmidt, B, pinned Nolan Cate, 2:17.
- 120 — Roystanlee Deguzman, B, pinned Cade Gardner, 1:16.
- 126 — Cade Troupe, F, pinned Brock Colarick, 0:28.
- 132 — Asher Kemppainen, F, won by forfeit.
- 138 — Brendan Barnes, F, won by forfeit.

Round 3 / Match 5

Flathead 76, Ronan 0

- 132 — Asher Kemppainen, F, pinned Caleb Cheff, 3:40. ?138 — Brendan Barnes, F, pinned Julian Stait, 1:09.
- 145 — Fin Nadeau, F, maj. dec. Kolby Reum, 12-1.
- 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten, F, won by forfeit.
- 160 — Chase Youso, F, pinned Gary Myers, 0:32.
- 170 — Tanner Russell, F, pinned Daniel Bishop, 2:37.
- 182 — Zaybin Stewart, F, won by forfeit.
- 205 — Paxton Boyce, F, won by forfeit.
- 285 — Aiden Prieto, F, pinned Max Morency, 4:15.
- 103 — Dillon Kratofil, F, won by forfeit.
- 113 — Nolan Cate, F, pinned Trevor Bartel, 3:38.
- 120 — Cade Gardner, F, pinned Jackson Jore, 0:22.
- 126 — Cade Troupe, F, pinned J Kenelty, 0:26.

STRONG SHOWINGS BY FLATHEAD, GLACIER AT BUTTE DUALS

December 14, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

BUTTE — The final day of the Mining City Duals at the Butte Civic Center wrapped up on Saturday with Great Falls repeating as champions of the event. Flathead went 2-2 in duals and fell in the semifinal to Bozeman, just missing a chance at the final. The Braves started the day by beating Missoula Big Sky 34-31 and beat Billings West 41-33 in the quarterfinal round. In loser out play, the Braves fell in a rematch with Big Sky 41-36. Flathead is 9-2 overall. “It was an emotional roller coaster ride today,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “Lots of highs and lows. We had some big wins and hard fought losses today. We love wrestling the top competition and working hard to get better.” Cade Troupe, Asher Kemppainen, and Zaybin Stewart each had one loss through the two-day tournament. Flathead is next at Missoula Sentinel and Hellgate on Tuesday. Glacier was 0-2 on the mat on Saturday, losing to Frenchtown and Billings Skyview. “Couple close losses today, but competed well, just came up short on a couple matchups,” Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. Columbia Falls was 1-1 on the mat, beating Helena and falling to Missoula Sentinel. Polson lost to Lewistown and Hellgate.

Mining City Duals at Butte Civic Center

Championship Pool / First Round

Flathead 34, Missoula Big Sky/Loyola 31

152 — Hunter Meinzen (Big Sky/Loyola) maj. dec. Noah Poe-Hatten, 18-6.

160 — Dougie Swanson (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Chase Youso, 1:39.

170 — Bridger Hall (Big Sky/Loyola) dec. Tanner Russell, 7-4.

182 — Jett Rebish (Big Sky/Loyola) dec. Paxton Boyce, 6-2.

205 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) won by forfeit.

285 — Tommy Leonard (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Aiden Prieto, 3:11.

103 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) won by forfeit.

113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) pinned Mackaylah Youngblood, 1:23.

120 — Israel Moreno (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Cade Gardner, 2:38.

126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Issac Ayers, 3:08.

132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) pinned Daniel Peterson, 1:22.

138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) won by forfeit.

145 — Trevin Welzein (Big Sky/Loyola) dec. Fin Nadeau, 5-4.

Quarterfinal

Flathead 41, Billings West 33

160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) won by forfeit.

170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) pinned Solomon Hernandez, 1:04.

182 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) pinned Eli Madland, 1:56.

205 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) won by forfeit.

285 — Zac Malcolm (Billings West) pinned Aiden Prieto, 3:13.

103 — Jase Van Pelt (Billings West) pinned Dillon Kratofil, 0:56.

113 — Wyatt Van Pelt (Billings West) pinned Nolan Cate, 0:36.

120 — Jesse Aarness (Billings West) pinned Cade Gardner, 1:16.

126 — Drake Rhodes (Billings West) pinned Cade Troupe, 4:42.

132 — RJ Lowdog (Billings West) dec. Asher Kemppainen, 9-5.

138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) pinned Logan Scott, 3:05.

145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) tech. fall Jake Jaeger, 18-2

152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) pinned Michael Deleon, 5:25.

Semifinal

Bozeman 34, Flathead 31

205 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) dec. Kaden Westlake, 5-0.

285 — Tom Walkup (Bozeman) pinned Aiden Prieto, 1:19.

103 — Sam Crawford (Bozeman) pinned Dillon Kratofil, 3:37.

113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) pinned Kameron Amende, 0:45.

120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) pinned Jack Montoya, 1:53.

126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) won by forfeit.

132 — Avery Allen (Bozeman) mej. dec. Asher Kemppainen, 13-3.

138 — Leif Schroeder (Bozeman) tech. fall Brendan Barnes, 19-3.

145 — Brock Rodrigues (Bozeman) dec. Fin Nadeau, 5-1.

152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) pinned Felix Peterson, 3:45.

160 — Connor Lohss (Bozeman) pinned Chase Youso, 4:39.

170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) maj dec. Coy Cohenour (Bozeman) 9-0.

182 — Kaelan Patten (Bozeman) maj dec. Paxton Boyce, 15-7.

Consolation Bracket / Loser out

Missoula Big Sky/Loyola 41, Flathead 36

285 — Tommy Leonard (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Aiden Prieto (Flathead) Fall 3:21.

103 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) won by forfeit.

113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) pinned Mackaylah Youngblood, 1:29.

120 — Israel Moreno (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Cade Gardner, 1:43.

126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Issac Ayers, 0:29.

132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) pinned Daniel Peterson, 0:31.

138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) won by forfeit.

145 — Trevin Welzein (Big Sky/Loyola) won by DQ over Fin Nadeau.

152 — Hunter Meinzen (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Noah Poe-Hatten, 3:00.

160 — Dougie Swanson (Big Sky/Loyola) won by forfeit.

170 — Bridger Hall (Big Sky/Loyola) pinned Tanner Russell, 5:40.

182 — Jett Rebish (Big Sky/Loyola) tech fall Zaybin Stewart, 15-0.

205 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) won by forfeit.

WRESTLING: FLATHEAD 5-2, GLACIER 2-3 AT MINING CITY DUALS

Braves freshman Cade Troupe earns five pins during event at 126 pounds

By [Andy Viano](#) // Dec 17, 2019

Paxton Boyce of the Flathead High School faces Marcus King of the German state of Baden-Württemberg during an outdoor wrestling event at Legends Stadium in Kalispell on August 7, 2019. Hunter D'Antuono | Flathead Beacon

Flathead won its group but missed out on a top four finish with a pair of narrow losses at the Mining City Duals in Butte Dec. 13-14.

The Braves beat Billings Skyview (42-25), Belgrade (54-23) and Ronan (76-0) on Friday to qualify for the championship bracket, and knocked off Missoula Big Sky-Loyola (35-31) and Billings West (41-33) to set up a showdown against Bozeman with a spot in the championship match on the line. The Hawks prevailed, 34-31, and would go on to finish second at the event behind Great Falls High. The Braves had a chance to wrestle for third place, but Big Sky-Loyola avenged its loss earlier in the day by beating Flathead 41-36. Billings Senior would beat Big Sky-Loyola to take third.

Glacier won a pair of pool matches Friday, taking down Columbia Falls 48-21 and Havre 39-34 before Senior upended the Wolfpack 41-31. Glacier lost to Frenchtown (38-34) and Skyview (43-29) in consolation matches on Saturday.



FLATHEAD GRAPPLERS WINNERS IN MISSOULA

December 17, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

MISSOULA — Flathead earned two dominant wins on the mat over Missoula Hellgate and Missoula Sentinel on Tuesday. The Braves' dual wins came 71-6 over Hellgate and 68-6 over Sentinel. Brendan Barnes' pin of Blake Jolma, a returning state placer for Sentinel, at 138 pounds was one highlight. Cade Troupe scored two pins at 126 to run his season victory total to 11. Freshmen played big roles: Besides Troupe, Nolan Cate (113), Cade Gardner (120) and Dylan Kratofil (103) and picked up two wins. "Every week we just keep getting better and better," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said after Flathead ran its dual record to 11-2. "These wrestlers just love to work hard and it's whow in competition." Next up for the Braves is the Best of West Tourney in Pasco, Washington on Friday and Saturday.

Flathead 71, Missoula Hellgate 6

103 — Dylan Kratofil (Flathead) pinned Keith Zander, 1:49.
113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) pinned Henry Sawfer, 0:41.
120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) pinned Wyatt Zander, 0:23.
126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Alexandria Wahl, 0:12.
132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) tech fall Zane Nealey, 17-1, 2:19.
138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) won by forfeit.
145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) won by forfeit.
152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) pinned Adam Nealey, 1:08.
160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Hunter Golding, 0:43.
170 — Mason Doran (Flathead) won by forfeit.
182 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) pinned Ethan Eppard, 1:26.
205 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) pinned Jake Sweatland, 1:32.
285 — Layne Cooney (Missoula Hellgate) pinned Aydan Prieto, 1:45.

Flathead 68, Missoula Sentinel 6

103 — Dylan Kratofil (Flathead) won by forfeit.
113 — Aaron Gaitan (Flathead) won by forfeit.
120 — Bryson Danzinger (Missoula Sentinel) pinned Cade Gardner, 1:43.
126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Novik Thomas, 1:32.
132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) pinned Jackson Bakken, 3:58.
138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) pinned Blake Jolma, 3:37.
145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) dec. Justin Kovalicky, 5-1).
152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) pinned Jace Mannix, 1:29.
160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Simon Kaldor, 1:52.
170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) won by forfeit.
182 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) tech fall Kristopher Musick, 16-1, 4:00,
205 — Gaige Winter (Flathead) pinned Josh Gunter, 3:18.
285 — Aydan Prieto (Flathead) pinned Ramsey Knowles, 1:30.

FLATHEAD SECOND AT BEST OF WEST DUALS

December 20, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

PASCO, Wash. — The Flathead Braves wrestling team placed second out of 32 teams Friday at the Best of the West Duals in Pasco, Wash. Newberg (Ore.) defeated Flathead 39-32 in the championship match. Flathead was second last year and first in 2017. The Braves' overall dual record is 15-3. Five Flathead wrestlers went undefeated: Cade Troupe (126), Brendan Barnes (138), Noah Poe-Hatten (152), Tanner Russell (170) and Paxton Boyce (182). The individual tournament kicks off at 9 a.m. today.

Best of the West Duals / Pasco, Wash.

Flathead 71 - Wenatchee (WA) 6

120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) pinned Toby Hambleton, 0:56.
126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Triston Miller, 1:14.
132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) tech fall Andrik Schneller, 17-2.
138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) pinned Oscar Martinez, 0:51.
145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) pinned Tyler Schuyleman, 1:57.
152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) dec. Leo Gutzwiler, 13-6.
160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Trent Krukenberg, 1:00.
170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) dec. Jason Briley, 7-4.
182 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) pinned Orlando Rodriguez, 2:46.
195 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) pinned Jesus Segovia, 2:36.
220 — Miguel Molinero (Wenatchee) pinned Estaban Barahona, 0:35.
285 — Aydan Prieto (Flathead) pinned Eli Oliveras, 1:50.
106 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) pinned Kannon Sanders, 4:39.
113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) won by forfeit.

Flathead 81 - Newberg 2 (OR) 0

106 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) won by forfeit.
113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) pinned Coleman Croft, 1:09.
120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) won by forfeit.
126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Patrick Negra, 3:36.
132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) won by forfeit.
138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) won by forfeit.
145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) pinned Tyler Wilson, 1:22.
152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) dec. Nolan Womack, 7-0.
160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Kyle Kelley 3:22.
170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) pinned Cougar Friesen, 3:14.
182 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) pinned Hayden Hampton, 0:41.
195 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) won by forfeit.
220 — Estaban Barahona (Flathead) pinned Jaden Bowes, 1:53.
285 — Aydan Prieto (Flathead) won by forfeit.

Flathead 58 - Camas (WA) 16

- 120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) pinned Chris Foley, 0:46.
- 126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Samuel McCormick, 1:41.
- 132 — Asher Kemppainen (Flathead) dec. Devin Padilla, 11-10.
- 138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) maj dec. Andrew Webber, 16-6.
- 145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) pinned Matthew Pershing, 2:28.
- 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) pinned Cole Schluter, 1:14.
- 160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Aaron Morris, 1:31.
- 170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) pinned Dominic Fujihara, 2:23.
- 182 — Gideon Malychewski (Camas) pinned Gaige Winter, 0:40.
- 195 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) dec. Jacques Badolato-Birdsell, 4-1.
- 220 — Colby Stoller (Camas) maj. dec. Estaban Barahona, 10-2.
- 285 — Aydan Prieto (Flathead) pinned Josue Espinoza, 0:55.
- 106 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) pinned Chase Reid, 0:24.
- 113 — Porter Craig (Camas) pinned Nolan Cate, :50.

Flathead 56 - Selah (WA) 21

- 106 — Marcos Gonzales (Selah) pinned Dillon Kratofil, 2:00.
- 113 — Moon Thompson (Selah) won by forfeit.
- 120 — Cade Gardner (Flathead) won by forfeit.
- 126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) inj. Evan Anderson, 3:03.
- 132 — Jesse Salinas (Selah) dec. Asher Kemppainen, 7-4.
- 138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) pinned Judah Yates, 0:48.
- 145 — Fin Nadeau (Flathead) pinned Jerry Schmidt, 0:56.
- 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) maj. dec. Ethan Garza, 12-3.
- 160 — Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Alonzo Lopez, 0:50.
- 170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) pinned Jackson Yates, 2:58.
- 182 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) maj. dec. Donald Schmidt, 11-2.
- 195 — Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) won by forfeit.
- 220 — Estaban Barahona (Flathead) won by forfeit.
- 285 — Michael Ray (Selah) pinned Aydan Prieto (Flathead), 5:30.

Championship

Newberg (OR) 39 - Flathead 32

- 106 — Dillon Kratofil (Flathead) pinned Dylan James, 0:30.
- 113 — Nolan Cate (Flathead) dec. Sophia Redwine, 5-0.
- 120 — Harrison Womack (Newberg) pinned Cade Gardner, 1:01.
- 126 — Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Nicky Olmstead, 1:19.
- 132 — Boulder Friesen (Newberg) dec. Asher Kemppainen, 2-1.
- 138 — Brendan Barnes (Flathead) pinned Gideon Cole, 1:03.
- 145 — Charlie Evans (Newberg) pinned Fin Nadeau, 1:11.
- 152 — Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) dec. Price Pothier, 3-2.
- 160 — Gavin Korkeakoski (Newberg) pinned Chase Youso, 3:55.
- 170 — Tanner Russell (Flathead) dec. Hudson Davis, 2-1.
- 182 — Paxton Boyce (Flathead) pinned Braden Baxter, 1:36.
- 195 — Hunter James (Newberg) pinned Zaybin Stewart, 2:39.
- 220 — Alec Love (Newberg) pinned Estaban Barahona, 5:41.
- 285 — Connor O`Bryan (Newberg) pinned Aydan Prieto, 1:00.

FLATHEAD FIRST AT BEST OF THE WEST

December 21, 2019 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

PASCO, Wash. — Five Flathead wrestlers won their weight classes and the Braves won the team title at the Best of the West Individual Tournament at Pasco High School in Pasco, Wash., on Saturday. “Getting eight wrestlers in the finals was also a highlight of the weekend,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “We are just so excited to see where this team ends up at the end of the season.”

Flathead beat second place Newberg (Oregon) by 59.5 points. At 126 lbs, Cade Troupe won by decision over state champion Nicky Olmstead of Newberg, 2-1 in the final. Brendan Barnes pinned Newberg’s Gideon Cole in 3:24 to win at 138 lbs. Fin Nadeau (145) kept the Braves’ winning ways going with a pin of Charlie Evans in the final. Noah Poe-Hatten won by decision over Ethan Garza of Selah in the #152 final. Tanner Russell won at #170 with a pin of Lorenzo Gonzalez in the final. Troupe, Barnes, Poe-Hatten and Russell were all undefeated through the weekend.

Best of the West Individual Tournament / At Pasco High School, Pasco, Wa

106

Second Round — Abel Acosta, PROS, pinned Dylan Kratofil, FLA, 4:57

113

Second Round — Nolan Cate, FLA, pinned Aidan Garcia (HANF), 5:52. / Quarterfinal— Malachi Wallway, PRA, pinned Cate, FLA, 3:26. / Loser out — Cate, FLA, pinned Joseph Asterino, WV, 0:29. / Fifth place — Cate, FLA, dec. Moon Thompson (SELA), 10-6.

120

Second Round — Cade Gardner, FLA, pinned Sammy Newell, MTSI, 1:36. / Quarterfinal — Nathanie Tovar, PAS, pinned Gardner, FLA, 1:36. / Loser out — Gardner, FLA, pinned Ler Pweh Htoo, KEN, 1:00; Bryce Waddell, GOLD, pinned Gardner, FLA, 3:28.

126

Second Round — Cade Troupe, FLA, pinned Ivan Cazares, GOLD, 3:09. / Quarterfinal — Troupe, FLA, pinned Isael Duran, BAK, 0:45. Semifinal — Troupe, FLA, dec. Christia Davis, ELL, 2-1. / Final — Troupe, FLA, dec. Nicky Olmstead, NEW, 2-1.

132

Second Round — Asher Kemppainen, FLA, pinned Jacob Bacon, ELL, 3:15. / Quarterfinal — Kemppainen, FLA, tech fall, Daniel Jimenez, PAS, 5:52, 18-3. / Semifinal — Kemppainen, FLA, dec. Johnny Niehaus, BAK, 10-8. / Final — Jesse Salinas, SELA, dec. Kemppainen, FLA, 5-4.

138

Second Round — Brendan Barnes, FLA, pinned Judah Yates, 0:52. / Quarterfinal — Barnes, FLA, pinned Malachi Fleck, SAND, 1:16. Semifinal — Barnes, FLA, pinned Miguel Hinojosa, PAS, 2:45. / Final — Barnes, FLA, pinned Gideon Cole, NEWB, 3:24.

145

Second Round — Fin Nadeau, FLA, pinned Logan Erickson, DP, 2:36. / Quarterfinal — Nadeau, FLA, pinned Zackery Brown, PRA, 1:44. Semifinal — Nadeau, FLA, pinned Devin Fromm, PAS, 4:29. / Final — Nadeau, FLA, pinned Charlie Evans, NEWB, 1:57.

152

Second Round — Noah Poe-Hatton, FLA, pinned, Isaiah Caralis, SAND, 5:59. / Quarterfinal — Poe-Hatten, FLA, pinned Max Leonard, DP, 3:47. / Semifinal — Poe-Hatten, FLA, dec. Nolan Womack, NEWB, 3-2. / Final — Poe-Hatten, FLA, dec. Ethan Garza, SELA, 8-4.

160

Second Round — Chase Youso, FLA, pinned Darius Grogan, 3:16. / Quarterfinal — Scott Lees, WASH, pinned Youso, FLA, 3:25. Loser out — Youso, FLA, pinned Alonzo Lopez, SELA, 0:46. / Fifth place — Youso, FLA, pinned Gavin Korkeakoski, NEWB, 0:41.

170

Second Round — Tanner Russell, FLA, pinned Rieken Rimmasch, PAS, 2:31. / Quarterfinal — Russell, FLA, pinned Benjamin Matson, PRA, 2:46. / Semifinal — Russell, FLA, pinned Gus Shelley, WASH, 1:44. / Final — Russell, FLA, pinned Lorenzo Gonzales, ELL, 3:23.

182

Second Round — Paxton Boyce, FLA, maj. dec. Noah Shelton, PRA, 11-3. / Quarterfinal — Boyce, FLA, dec. Jekoby Tuttle, CON, 12-11. Semifinal — Boyce, FLA, dec. Dylan Holt, KEN, 3-2. / Final — MaHonri Rushton, BAK, pinned, Boyce, FLA, 3:17.

195

Second Round — Zaybin Stewart, FLA, pinned Robert Perez, CHIA, 1:17. / Quarterfinal — Stewart, FLA, pinned Jake Suhr, SAND, 3:17. Semifinal — Stewart, FLA dec. Korben Modoc, WASH, 8-3. / Final — Hunter James, NEWB, dec. Stewart, FLA.

220

First Round — Estaban Barahona, FLA, pinned, Issiah Lyden, WV, 1:07. / Quarterfinal — Jesse Overton, DP, dec. Barahona, FLA 10-3. 7th place— Bryce Williams, WASH, pinned Barahona, FLA, 0:44.

285

Second Round — Aydan Prieto, LFA, pinned Evan Tweinham, SAND, 0:27. / Quarterfinal — Damian Silva, PAS, pinned Prieto, FLA, 0:59. / Loser out — Prieto, FLA, dec. Colton Joralemon, DP, 7-5. / Fifth place — Michael Ray, SELA, pinned Prieto, FLA, 2:51

Team Scores

1. Flathead, 305.5; 2. Newberg (OR), 246.0; 3. Pasco (WA), 181.0; 4. Selah (WA), 177.0; 5. Prairie (WA), 145.0; 6. Southridge (WA), 126.0; 7. Washougal (WA), 124.5; 8. Ellensburg (WA), 123.0; 9. Baker (OR), 120.0; 10. Chiawana (WA), 101.5; 11. Kennewick (WA), 100.5.

Sports

Flathead Rules Crosstown Wrestling Again

Braves win but Glacier posts strongest effort in last four years

BY ANDY VIANO // JAN 3, 2019



SHOW CAPTION

The Flathead High School Braves are still the kings of Kalispell wrestling, but there's no denying their crosstown rival is closing the gap.

Flathead won the annual intra-city wrestling dual 47-15 Thursday night at Glacier High School in the closest match between the two rivals in the last four years. Despite the loss, the Wolfpack matched their point total from the previous three crosstown duals combined.

The two-time defending Class AA state champion Braves posted victories at 10 of 13 weight classes on Thursday, but only four of those wins came via fall. Last season, when Flathead cruised 70-6, the Braves notched 10 pins in 12 contested matches.

The dual began at 103 pounds and Flathead grapplers outpointed their opponents in each of the first five contests as they built an insurmountable 31-0 lead. Glacier senior Caden Willis stopped Flathead's run with a win at 152 pounds in the best match of the night, reversing Bo Meyer with 10 seconds remaining to earn a 3-2 decision. The Wolfpack's remaining points were earned on pins by Colby Martin (205) and Tre Krause (285).

Flathead's Dominic Battelo (138) notched his team's first fall, and minutes later Jaden MacNeil did the same at 145. The Braves final two pins came courtesy of Tanner Russell (170) and Paxton Boyce (182).

Prior to Flathead's 70-6 crosstown win last year, the Braves routed Glacier 66-3 in 2017 and 62-6 in 2016.



KALISPELL 38°F 20°
CLEAR SKY



STANDINGS

Basketball (Boys)

02/19

WESTERN AA	OVR	CNF
Missoula Hellgate	15-0	11-0
Missoula Sentinel	12-2	9-2
Helena Capital	11-4	8-3
Helena	6-9	5-6
Butte	6-9	5-7
Glacier	7-8	4-7
Flathead	3-12	2-9
Missoula Big Sky	1-15	1-11
NORTHWEST A	OVR	CNF
Browning	13-4	8-1
Polson	11-6	7-2
Libby	12-5	6-3

[Tweets by FlatheadBeacon](#)

NINE FLATHEAD WRESTLERS IN NW CLASSIC QUARTERS

January 03, 2020 at 5:00 am |

SPOKANE, Wash. — Dylan Kratofil and Ashler Kemppainen were among the Flathead wrestlers that won Friday in the first round of the Pacific Northwest Classic at University High School.

Results from the quarterfinals of the tournament had not been posted at press time, though the Braves had several wrestlers in that round. That includes Kratofil at 106, Kemppainen at 132, Cade Troupe at 126, Brendan Barnes at 138, Fin Nadeau at 145, Noah Poe-Hatten at 152. Chase Youso at 160 and Garrett Rieke at 182. Zaybin Stewart received a bye at 195.

Nadeau was to meet Glacier's Brok Viau in the quarters, after Viau scored a first-round pin. Also scoring wins for Glacier was Royce Conklin at 152, Caedon Seymour at 220 and Josh Melton at 106.

FLATHEAD GRAPPLERS WIN PACIFIC NW TOURNEY

January 04, 2020 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Flathead Brave Brawlers won another tournament, and it's a big one — three individual winners helped them take the Pacific Northwest Classic at University High School. Cade Troupe (126 pounds), Tanner Russell (170) and Asher Kemppainen (132) all won their weight classes, with Troupe earning the Outstanding Wrestler for the tournament. Flathead scored 214.5 points to 182 for Mt. Spokane. Mead, Washington was third at 148.

Glacier, which had a champion in 106-pounder Josh Melton, was 12th in the 17-team tournament, scoring 72 points.

Flathead coach Jeff Thompson was just as pleased with Garrett Rieke, whose strong return from a torn ACL and then a broken leg continued with a second-place showing at 182 in Spokane. "It was just so exciting to watch Garrett Rieke step back on the mat after a two-year break," Thompson said. "This Flathead team just worked so hard over the Christmas break and that hard work is paying dividends."

Fin Nadeau was also a runner-up for Flathead at 145 pounds. Placing third were Zaybin Stewart at 195, Brendan Barnes at 138 and Noah Poe-Hatten at 152.

Glacier's Melton added three falls to his narrow 8-6 first-round win on Friday.

"Josh had a great two weeks of winter break practices and it showed today," Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. "He had made some great strides since the start of the year."

The Wolfpack's Lance Fretwell rallied from a first-round loss to take fourth at 132. He avenged that pin by Mt. Spokane's Hudson Buth with a 4-3 wrestle-back win over Buth.

106

Quarterfinals — Josh Melton, Glacier, pinned Crosby, MTS, 3:36; Williamson, UNI, md. Dylan Kratofil, Flathead, 11-3. Wrestleback — Boone, SRDG, by default over Kratofil, Flathead. Semifinals — Melton, Glacier, pinned Ereaux, LC, 3:14. Championship — Melton, Glacier, pinned Garcia, HAN, 4:00.

113

Wrestlebacks — Cade Gardner, Flathead, pinned Thomas Putnam, Glacier, :15; Schafer, UNI, pinned Gardner, Flathead, 2:24.

120

Wrestlebacks — Nolan Cate, Flathead, pinned Torres, FER, 2:45; Cody Frost, Glacier, pinned Birkhimer, SAND, 1:01; Cate, Flathead, md. Hernandez, FRE, 13-0; Walker, UNI, dec. Frost, Glacier, 5-0; Cate, Flathead, pinned Hambleton, WEN, 2:01; Mark, MEA, pinned Cate, Flathead, 2:44. Fifth-sixth — Patton, HAN, pinned Cate, Flathead, :27.

126

Quarterfinals — Cade Troupe, Flathead, pinned Perkes, HAN, :57. Semifinals — Troupe, Flathead, pinned Randall, MEA, 1:23. Championship — Troupe, Flathead, pinned Williams, SRDG, 2:5. Wrestlebacks — Anastassi, FER, pinned Hunter Magness, Glacier, 3:55.

132

Quarterfinals — Asher Kemppainen, Flathead, md Werner, FRE, 14-1. Semifinals — Kemppainen, Flathead, dec. Buth, MTS, 5-1. Championship — Kemppainen, Flathead, dec. McCorkle, HAN, 8-2. Wrestlebacks — Lance Fretwell, Glacier, pinned Swanson, EV, 1:10; Fretwell, Glacier, pinned Martinez, WEN, 1:58; Fretwell, Glacier, dec. Buth, MTS, 4-3. Third-fourth — Gonzalez, SNO, dec. Fretwell, Glacier, 4-2.

138

Quarterfinals – Brendan Barnes, Flathead, pinned Stricklin, HAN, 2:40. Semifinals – Sundheim, EV, dec. Barnes, Flathead, 7-5. Wrestlebacks – Kyle McCollam, Glacier, pinned Isaiah, UNI, 5:07; Stricklin, HAN, md. McCollam, Glacier, 11-3; Barnes, Flathead, pinned Sepulveda, SRDG, 2:13. Third-fourth – Barnes, Flathead, dec. Riley Buth, MTS, 1-0.

145

Quarterfinals – Fin Nadeau, Flathead, pinned Viau, Glacier, 1:09. Semifinals – Nadeau, Flathead, tech. fall over Nelson, SAND, 4:00. Championship – Haney, MTS, dec. Nadeau, Flathead, 10-4. Wrestlebacks – Richardson, LAK, pinned Viau, Glacier, 2:23.

152

Quarterfinals – Keller, HAN, dec. Noah Poe-Hatten, Flathead, 10-8; Alexander, UNI, dec. Royce Conklin, Glacier, 8-2. Wrestlebacks – Poe-Hatten, Flathead, pinned Montano, FER, 2:58; Conklin, Glacier, dec. Gideon, SRDG, 7-3; Poe-Hatten, Flathead, inj. Default over Alexander, UNI; Caralis, SAND, dec. Conklin, Glacier, 7-3. Third-fourth – Poe-Hatten, Flathead, md. Caralis, SAND, 11-2.

160

Quarterfinals – Chase Youso, Flathead, pinned Singley, MTS, 1:03. Semifinals – Cote, SNO, dec. Youso, Flathead, 7-5. Wrestlebacks – Kael Willis, Glacier, pinned Hackworth, MEA, 2:31; Singley, MTS, pinned Willis, Glacier, 2:31; Youso, Flathead, pinned Mendenhall, HAN, 2:44. Third-fourth – Howard, LAK, dec. Youso, Flathead, 6-4.

170

Quarterfinals – Andrew Russell, Flathead, pinned Munir LC, 3:44. Semifinals – Russell, Flathead, pinned Gegg, SRDG, 4:00. Championship – Russell, Flathead, tech. fall over Nutting, LAK, 3:14. Wrestlebacks – Caden Gilmond, Glacier, pinned Lenhartzen, UNI, 1:08; Gilmond, Glacier, inj. Default over Larson, UNI; Munir, LC, dec. Gilmond, Glacier, 8-4. 182

Quarterfinals – Garrett Rieke, Flathead, pinned Nelson, LIB, 4:37. Semifinals – Rieke, Flathead, pinned Miethe, MTS, 1:18.

Championship – Whitcomb, LAK, pinned Rieke, Flathead, 3:01. Wrestlebacks – Bushman, HAN, de. Thomas Crofts, Glacier, 5-4.

195

Quarterfinals – Zaybin Stewart, Flathead, dec. Tellinghusen, UNI, 7-0. Semifinals – Clark, LAK, pinned Stewart, Flathead, 3:54.

Wrestlebacks – Stewart, Flathead, dec. Thorne, MEA, 2-0. Third-fourth – Stewart, Flathead, dec. Tellinghusen, UNI, 2-0.

220

Quarterfinals – Dremann, LAK, pinned Caedon Seymour, Glacier, 5:19. Wrestlebacks – Manza, UNI, dec. Estaban Barahona, Flathead, 2-0; Slatter, SRDG, dec. Seymour, Glacier, 1-0.

285

Wrestlebacks – Rocco Beccari, Glacier, pinned Twineham, SAND, 3:10; Aydan Prieto, Flathead, pinned Goodwin, UNI, :55; Parson, LAK, pinned Beccari, Glacier, 2:16; Prieto, Flathead, dec. Jorgenson, UNI, 6-3; Prieto, Flathead, pinned Parson, LAK, 4:30; Hughes, LAK, pinned Prieto, Flathead, 2:34. Fifth-sixth – Prieto, Flathead, inj. Default over Vargas, EV.

FLATHEAD OUTPINS BIG SKY

January 08, 2020 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

Flathead's Tanner Russell avenged an early-season loss and Zaybin Stewart put a finishing pin on his opponent to cap the Brave Brawlers' 39-24 dual win over Missoula Big Sky Wednesday at Flathead High School.

It was a tight dual that included a narrow 2-0 decision by Russell over Big Sky's Bridger Hall at 170 pounds, and a 4-1 decision by Fin Nadeau over Trevin Welzien at 145.

Dylan Kratofil (103) also won by decision, while Cade Troupe (126), Brendan Barnes (138) and Stewart (205) supplied pins, with Stewart's victory in 1 minute, 20 seconds igniting the home crowd.

"Big Sky just got done winning the prestigious CMR Holiday Tournament over Christmas," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. "Taht is a good wrestling team right there."

"When you flip two matches that we lost last time we wrestled them (Russell and Nadeau), it just shows how much this Braves team has improved."

Flathead improved to 16-2 in duals ahead of hosting cross-town rival Glacier Friday.

Flathead 39, Missoula Big Sky 24

103 — Dylan Kratofil, Flathead, dec. Mckaylah Youngblood, MBS, 7-0; 113 — Cade Gardner, Flathead, won by default; 120 — Israel Moreno, BS, pinned Nolan Cate, Flathead, 5:12; 126 — Cade Troupe, Flathead, pinned Isaac Ayers, MBS, 5:59; 132 — Asher Kemppainen, Flathead, won by default; 138 — Brendan Barnes, Flathead, pinned Carter Johnson, MBS, 1:40; 145 — Fin Nadeu, Flathead, dec. Trevin Welzien, MBS, 4-1; 152 — Hunter Meinzen, MBS, dec. Noah Poe-Hatten, Flathead, 10-4; 160 — Dougie Swanson, MBS, pinned Chase Youso, Flathead, 1:29; 170 — Tanner Russell, Flathead, dec. Bridger Hall, MBS, 2-0; 182 — Jeff Rebisch, MBS, dec. Garrett Rieke, Flathead, 9-4; 205 — Zaybin Stewart, Flathead, pinned Vito Moriana, MBS, 1:20; 285 — Tommy Leonard, MBS, pinned Aydan Prieto, Flathead, 1:26.

FLATHEAD, GLACIER SET TO GRAPPLE FRIDAY

January 08, 2020 at 5:00 am | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

Interesting matchups should be in the offing when Flathead's Brave Brawlers play host to the Glacier Wolfpack in a crosstown wrestling dual set for 6 p.m. Friday.

The Brawlers own a 15-2 dual record and have had a very successful tournament season so far, but Glacier (5-7) has several formidable wrestlers.

"I think there will be a number of solid matches throughout the dual," Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. "I'm not quite sure who they'll have in the middle (weights), but I think a couple will be solid matchups."

Nothing is written in ink but 132 pounds could be a battle between Flathead's Asher Kemppainen (24-5 record) and Glacier's Lance Fretwell (16-8). At 170 Glacier's Kael Willis has won 70 percent of his matches, while Flathead's Tanner Russell has won 90 (he's 26-3).

At 205 a battle looms between Zaybin Stewart (23-5) and Glacier's Caeden Seymour.

There are gaudy records up and down the Brawlers' lineup, including Brendan Barnes (27-3 at 138), Fin Nadeau (25-5 at 145), Noah Poe-Hatten (26-5 at 152) and Cade Troupe (28-1 at 126).

Josh Melton is 16-6 at 103 for Glacier, while Camryn Vergeront is 15-3 at heavyweight and Teegan Vasquez is 15-1 at 113 for the Wolfpack. Royce Conklin has picked up 11 wins at 152. Cody Frost has nine pins at 120 to rank among the Wolfpack leaders.

Not all the best records match up, so Flathead – first in three tournaments, including last weekend's Pacific Northwest Classic in Spokane, and second in the Best of the West Duals – has work to do.

Glacier starts its week with a dual Thursday at 6:30 p.m. against visiting Missoula Sentinel.

On Friday a junior varsity dual is also scheduled for 4 p.m., concurrent with signups for the Flathead Valley Wrestling Club. Boys and girls that sign up gain free admission to the crosstown duals.

BRAVE BRAWLERS TAKE DOWN WOLFPACK

January 10, 2020 at 5:00 am | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

Friday's crosstown wrestling dual ended up just how Flathead coach Jeff Thompson wanted, with a sophomore winning to cap a fine night for the host team. Pins by Tanner Russell, Fin Nadeau, Zaybin Stewart, Brendan Barnes and Cade Troupe set the tone for the Brave Brawlers' 43-24 win at Flathead High School. But Chase Youso had the capper. "Ending with a tight match at 160 pounds there – we knew that was going to be a tough match," Thompson said. "Chase Youso pulling out a (9-4) win there ... just being a sophomore, he's put in a lot of time in the offseason and has been kind of a mat rat. "To put the end of the dual in his hands and see his hand raised is pretty darned exciting." It was emblematic of the night: Not easy. For a couple seconds Youso, caught in a move, nearly took a fall. He got bent over his neck, took an injury timeout and then gave up a reversal in the final 1:33 of the match. But Glacier's Caden Gilmond couldn't turn him and it ended up 9-3 for Youso. It was the first time the two had wrestled each other.

Other tough matches were Asher Kempainen's 9-4 win over Glacier's Lance Fretwell at 132 pounds, and Flathead freshman Noah Poe-Hatten taking a 6-2 victory over Royce Conklin at 152. "Fretwell wrestled a really smart match and stayed in great position," Thompson said. "Asher got out of his game a little bit – typically he's more like a cat, using his speed."

Kempainen's win, at 132 pounds, put Flathead ahead in the dual 25-24. Pins by Barnes at 138 and Nadeau at 145 put it out of reach of the Wolfpack.

The dual started at 170 pounds and Flathead got a pin from Russell there, then an 18-5 win from Paxton Boyce at 182 and another fall from Zaybin Stewart at 205.

Then Glacier had its moments: pins from Camryn Vergeront (285), Josh Melton (103), Teegan Vasquez (113) and Cody Frost (120).

"I was happy with Cody Frost coming out and getting a fall there," Wolfpack coach Ross Danker said. "I thought it was maybe a swing match that we needed to get and he came out and was aggressive. I was very excited for him."

The efforts of Fretwell came despite an early 8-0 hole.

"That's a match where if you don't get turned early and keep it closer we've got a shot at it," Dankers said. "They're very tough in the middle (weights), and I think at 32 and 52 there were a couple close matches, and who knows after that? Our kids came out with good intensity."

Glacier is now 6-8 in duals.

It was a sizable crowd that got loud. Thompson suspected his youthful team – five freshmen and three sophomores complement five seniors and a junior – had some jitters. They still moved to 17-3 in duals.

"It was emotional, there were a lot of people here and we don't get to wrestle at home a lot," Thompson said. "The nerves, you could tell were there for our young team tonight."

"This is good, this is going to prepare them for the state meet. Because you're going to be nervous there, too."

Flathead 43, Glacier 24

103 – Josh Melton, Glacier, pinned Dylan Kratofil, 3:50. 113 – Teegan Vasquez, Glacier, pinned Cade Gardner, 2:53. 120 – Cody Frost, Glacier, pinned Nolan Cate, :55. 126 – Cade Troupe, Flathead, pinned Hunter Magness, 1:13. 132 – Asher Kempainen, Flathead, dec. Lance Fretwell, 9-4; 138 – Brendan Barnes, Flathead, pinned Ricardo Hewitt, 1:25; 145 – Fin Nadeau, Flathead, pinned Brok Viau, 2:57; 152 – Noah Poe-Hatten, Flathead, dec. Royce Conklin, 6-2; 160 – Chase Youso, Flathead, dec. Caden Gilmond, 9-3; 170 – Tanner Russell, Flathead, pinned Kael Willis, 1:52; 182 – Paxton Boyce, Flathead, maj. dec. Thomas Crofts, 18-5; 205 – Zaybin Stewart, Flathead, pinned Caedon Seymour, 3:06; Hwt – Camryn Vergeront, Glacier, pinned Ayden Prieto, 3:02.



FLATHEAD WRESTLING WINS TOURNAMENT IN WASHINGTON

Braves top strong field at Pacific Northwest Classic on Jan. 3-4

By Andy Viano // Jan 7, 2020

Three Braves grapplers won their weight classes and Flathead High School bested a field with some of the top wrestling programs in the region to claim first place at the Pacific Northwest Classic in Spokane Valley, Washington on Jan. 4.

Flathead won the two-day event comfortably, with a combined team total of 214 1/2 points. Mt. Spokane High School (182 points) was a distant second.

Cade Troupe (126 pounds), Asher Kemppainen (132) and Tanner Russell (170) won individual titles. Troupe won all four of his matches by fall, going into the second period only once. Fin Nadeau (145) and Garrett Rieke (182) finished second. Brendan Barnes (138), Noah Poe-Hatten (152) and Zaybin Stewart (195) were third.

NADEAU, VASQUEZ BRING HOME TITLES FROM JUG BECK TOURNAMENT

Flathead finishes second at 30-team event in Missoula

By [Andy Viano](#) // Jan 21, 2020



Flathead High School faces Glacier High School at Flathead High in Kalispell for the annual crosstown wrestling match on Jan. 10, 2020. Hunter D'Antuono | Flathead Beacon

Flathead's Fin Nadeau and Glacier's Teegan Vasquez won individual titles, and the Braves finished second as a team at the Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic in Missoula on Jan. 18.

Vasquez, a freshman, won the 113-pound title with a narrow 10-9 decision against Belgrade's Carter Schmidt in the final. Nadeau, a sophomore, also scored a one-point final round victory at 145 pounds, edging Bozeman senior Brock Rodrigues 5-4.

The sprawling tournament featured 30 high school programs from Montana, Idaho and Washington, including 12 of this state's 15 Class AA schools. Flathead's Tanner Russell (170) and Paxton Boyce (182) each finished second in their weight class to help the Braves score 198 points. Great Falls High (213) won the team championship.

Whitefish's Dakota Flannery was the valley's only other finalist. He finished second at 138 pounds.

BEWARE THE BABY BRAVES

Flathead finished a disappointing seventh in the state last year, but this year's team — led by an incomparable freshman phenom — is scary good once again

By Andy Viano // Jan 17, 2020

Replacing three state champions and coming off back-to-back state title-winning seasons, there were lowered expectations, at least externally, for the 2018-19 Flathead Braves.

Internally, the expectations never change.

So when Flathead ranked seventh out of 14 teams at last year's state meet — the worst finish in Jeff Thompson's 12 seasons as head coach — the result was nothing short of program changing.

"We really didn't want to set us up for failure, so we set the bar a little low (this year)," Thompson said. "Last year was a little more intense. This year we've taken the opposite approach."

The results, so far at least, have been encouraging. And they're downright terrifying for Flathead's competition.

With a lineup of five freshmen and three sophomores, the Braves improved to 17-3 in dual matches with a 43-24 win against crosstown rival Glacier on Friday, Jan. 9, and took another step forward in a season that is rapidly washing away any memories of last year. Flathead has won its two biggest individual tournaments (non-dual format) this season, besting 19 other regional schools at the Best of the West in Pasco, Washington in December, and topping a 17-team field that included two of Washington's top prep programs at the Pacific Northwest Classic earlier this month. The last two times Flathead won Montana's Class AA state title, in 2017 and 2018, the Braves finished second and first, respectively, at the Pacific Northwest Classic.

This 2019-20 team, Thompson says, reminds him of one other squad from his tenure, and if past is indeed prologue, Flathead is about to go on a spectacular run. The 2004-05 Braves were one year removed from a state championship, Thompson's first, but were unproven and full of freshmen. That team, somewhat surprisingly, would finish second in the state, and that freshman class would go on to win state championships in 2006, 2007 and 2008, with the 2008 team earning a top-10 national ranking.

This year's freshman class is headlined by 126-pound dynamo Cade Troupe, who has done things even Thompson has never seen before. Troupe is 30-1 this season, won his weight class at the Best of the West and the Pacific Northwest Classic, and was named most outstanding wrestler at Pacific Northwest, a first for a freshman under Thompson's watch.

Troupe's ascent, however, is not entirely unexpected. His father, Dan Troupe, is a former state champion for the Braves and one of the greatest wrestlers the program has ever produced, a two-time All-American at Iowa State University and a member of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Cade was raised in Helena but moved back to the Flathead Valley a little more than a year ago and won the U-14 USA Western States championship at 119 pounds last summer. Still, the start to his high school career has been a pleasant surprise for his coach.

"I just can't believe, first off, what he's accomplished," Thompson said. "He's beaten at least three different state champions this year. He has no fear. He believes he's going to win every time he steps on that mat."

Troupe is far from Flathead's lone threat, too. Fellow freshman Noah Poe-Hatten is 27-6 at 152 pounds, and classmates Dylan Kratofil (103) and Nolan Cate (120) have at least 20 wins on the mat this season. Then there's the sophomore class that includes Fin Nadeau (145), who was the state runner-up last year, and is 28-5 and in the running for a state title. Sophomores Asher Kempainen (132) and Chase Youso (160) have a combined 48-14 mark and could be a force at this year's state meet, too.



And then there are the team's seasoned veterans, a quintet of seniors who have their own impressive histories and are ready to reverse their fortunes from last season. Tanner Russell at 170 pounds was, like Nadeau, second in the state in 2019 and he's lost just three times this year, and 138-pounder Brendan Barnes (29-3) is putting together his best year yet, even after a third-place finish at state as a junior. And at 182 pounds, two seniors — Paxton Boyce (5th in 2019) and Garrett Rieke (5th in 2018) — have placed previously at the state meet. Not to be outdone, the team's lone junior in the starting dual lineup, Zaybin Stewart (205), was fifth in the state a year ago.

What it all means for the 2020 state meet in mid-February is still to be determined, but the one year break the rest of the state got from the brawling Braves appears to be over, and the high expectations are back for the orange and black, even if the veteran coach isn't ready to anoint this group just yet.

"If you focus on winning and it doesn't happen, it's just too much pressure," Thompson said. "We're going to get better, we're going to improve every day and just see where the chips fall."



GLACIER, FLATHEAD WRESTLING WITH WINNERS AT ROCKY

January 18, 2020 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

MISSOULA — Glacier Wolfpack and Flathead Braves wrestling teams finished out the Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic at Sentinel High School in Missoula with several title winners and runners-up.

Glacier's Teegan Vasquez won at 126 pounds, winning a 10-9 decision over Carter Schmidt of Belgrade in the first place match. "Really excited for Teegan and proud of how he battled through a ton of adversity in his finals match to get a takedown to close it out was pretty special," Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. "His hard work is paying off." Josh Melton of Glacier lost in the 103 semifinal but wrestled his way into a fifth-place finish. Also placing fifth was Caedon Seymour (205). Camryn Vergeront (285) fought back to place sixth after a semifinal loss.

Flathead's Fin Nadeau (145) won a tight 5-4 decision over Brock Rodriguez of Bozeman. Paxton Boyce was defeated in the 182 championship by Noah Kovick of Helena Capital. Zaybin Stewart (205) placed fourth, as was Cade Troupe (126), Brendan Barnes (138), and Noah Poe-Hatten (152). Asher Kempainen (132) was fifth.

"Total team effort for the Brave Brawlers this weekend placing 9 wrestlers, putting three in the finals, and one champion at the Rocky Mountain Classic," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. This Braves team just keeps on surprising us. These boys just love to compete and are Brawling for 6 minutes."

Flathead placed second overall with 198 points, behind Great Falls with 213.

Glacier placed 11th.

Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic At Sentinel High School, Missoula

Final Results / Team Scores

1. Great Falls High 213.0; 2. Flathead 198.0; 3. Mead 180.0; 4. Butte 148.0; 5. Missoula Big Sky/Loyola Sacred Heart 144.0; 6. Coeur d 'Alene 132.0; 7. Helena Capital 126.0; 8. Lewistown 115.0; 9. Bozeman 111.5; 10. Powell 106.0; 11. Glacier 103.0; 12. University High 91.0; 13. Havre 85.5; 14. Frenchtown 85.0; 15. Lake City 84.0; 16. Belgrade 83.0; 17. Columbia Falls 66.0; 17. Great Falls CMR; 66.0; 17. Missoula Sentinel 66.0; 20. East Valley (Spokane) 60.0.

FLATHEAD WRESTLERS 2ND AT AA DUALS IN GREAT FALLS

January 25, 2020 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

GREAT FALLS — The Flathead Braves placed second at the Class AA Duals on Saturday in Great Falls.

In the final, Great Falls beat Flathead 51-12. “We were in the fight with the Bison but just couldn’t finish some matches,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said, “The dual was a lot closer than the score. We just have to get better.” Earlier in the day, Flathead beat Billings Skyview and upset Billings Senior in the semifinal. Tanner Russell moved up a weight class to 182 pounds and beat two ranked opponents. “Overall, a great showing for the Brave Brawlers,” Thompson said. “Being the 2nd best dual team in the AA isn’t too bad for this young team.” Glacier had four wrestlers undefeated on Saturday: Caden Gilmond (160), Kael Willis (170), Teegan Vasquez (113) and Lance Fretwell (132). Against Skyview, Glacier lost a tight contest that came down to criteria.

“We feel good about where we are at a couple weeks out from seeding and state, we have some fine tuning to do, but today we were able to flip a number of matches that we had lost early in the season and won today,” Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. “I was proud of the way our guys battled back after the tight dual with Skyview that came down to criteria.” Class AA divisional seeding for the state meet is scheduled for Feb. 8

Class AA Duals

Great Falls

Saturday’s Results

Great Falls 51, Flathead 12

138 - Brendan Barnes (Flathead) dec. Mason Huber, 11-6; 145 - Fin Nadeau (Flathead) dec. Cache Hilliard, 8-5; 152 - Donovan Mahoney (Great Falls) pinned Noah Poe-Hatten, 5:50; 160 - Brendan Lockart (Great Falls) dec. Chase Youso, 11-9; 170 - Tyson Krahe (Great Falls) pinned Garrett Rieke, 3:37; 182 - Tanner Russell (Flathead) dec. Liam Swanson, 3-2; 205 - Elijah Davis (Great Falls) pinned Paxton Boyce, 4:00; 285 - Ethan DeRoche (Great Falls) pinned Aydan Prieto, 3:07; 103 - Cooper Samson (Great Falls) pinned Dylan Kratofil, 5:04; 113 - Austin Phattavong (Great Falls) pinned Cade Gardner, 0:41; 120 - Easton Shupe (Great Falls) pinned Nolan Cate, 1:10; 126 - Irish Furthmyre (Great Falls) pinned Cade Troupe, 1:04; 132 - Asher Kempainen (Flathead) dec. Marc Ramirez, 7-5.

Flathead 36, Billings Senior 30

126 - Matthew Dewitt (Billings Senior High School) pinned Cade Troupe, 4:31; 132 - Jayden Ramirez (Billings Senior High School) dec. Asher Kempainen, 11-7; 138 - Idren Peak (Billings Senior High School) dec. Brendan Barnes, 6-2; 145 - Fin Nadeau (Flathead) pinned Alex Charette, 1:30; 152 - Noah Poe-Hatten (Flathead) dec. Isaiah Murch, 14-7; 160 - Thomas Klepps (Billings Senior High School) pinned Chase Youso, 3:18; 170 - Garrett Rieke (Flathead) pinned Charlie Desmarais, 1:04; 182 - Tanner Russell (Flathead) dec. Peyton Morton, 3-1; 205 - Paxton Boyce (Flathead) pinned Syllas Dillon, 1:41; 285 - Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) pinned Noah Campbell, 1:19; 103 - Holden Howe (Billings Senior High School) pinned Dylan Kratofil, 2:57; 113 - Cade Gardner (Flathead) pinned Daylan Forshee, 4:00; 120 - Jalen Vladic (Billings Senior High School) pinned Nolan Cate, 1:03.

Flathead 43, Big Sky 24

120 - Talen Barrington (Billings Skyview) dec. Nolan Cate, 9-4; 126 - Cade Troupe (Flathead) pinned Dylan Emborg, 1:06; 132 - Asher Kempainen (Flathead) maj. dec. Caleb Partridge, 11-2; 138 - Gentry Lamb (Billings Skyview) dec. Brendan Barnes, 5-4; 145 - Fin Nadeau (Flathead) dec. Cameron Savaria, 4-1; 152 - Paolo Salminen (Billings Skyview) pinned Noah Poe-Hatten, 3:12; 160 - Chase Youso (Flathead) pinned Keegan Alexander, 0:34; 170 - Garrett Rieke (Flathead) over Dillon Barrington, 1:55; 182 - Paxton Boyce (Flathead) won by forfeit; 205 - Brenner Bushfield (Billings Skyview) over Zaybin Stewart (Flathead) (Inj.); 285 - Aydan Prieto (Flathead) won by forfeit; 103 - Hunter Ketchem (Billings Skyview) pinned Dylan Kratofil, 1:56; 113 - Cade Gardner (Flathead) won by forfeit.

Sports

Flathead Wrestling Second at Class AA Duals

Braves fall to Great Falls High in championship match

BY ANDY VIANO // JAN 26, 2020



SHOW CAPTION

KALISPELL 36°F 2°
 CLEAR SKY

Search

STANDINGS			
Basketball (Boys)			02/19
WESTERN AA	OVR	CNF	
Missoula Hellgate	15-0	11-0	
Missoula Sentinel	12-2	9-2	
Helena Capital	11-4	8-3	
Helena	8-9	5-6	
Butte	6-9	5-7	
Glacier	7-8	4-7	
Flathead	3-12	2-9	
Missoula Big Sky	1-15	1-11	
NORTHWEST A	OVR	CNF	
Browning	13-4	8-1	
Polson	11-6	7-2	
Libby	12-5	6-3	

Tweets by [FlatheadBeacon](#)

RELATED STORIES:

• [Beware the Baby Braves](#)

Flathead fell to Great Falls High in the final match of the state's preeminent dual competition in Class AA on Saturday, Jan. 25 in Great Falls.

The Braves defeated Billings Skyview and Billings Senior en route to the championship match but the Bison overwhelmed Flathead there, winning 51-12. Asher Kemppainen (132 pounds), Brendan Barnes (138), Fin Nadeau (145) and Tanner Russell (182) earned wins against Great Falls.

FLATHEAD, GLACIER SWEEP HELENA SCHOOLS

January 30, 2020 at 5:00 am | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

Senior night turned out nicely for both the Glacier and Flathead wrestling programs, who swept the Helena schools in a pair of duals Thursday.

Flathead scorched High Capital 47-18 and Helena High 67-3, running its dual record to 21-4. Glacier had a little tougher time: after beating Helena 53-18, the Wolfpack needed a pin in its final match – from 113-pounder Teegan Vasquez – to edge the Capital Bruins 33-28. Besides Vasquez the Wolfpack had one other wrestler win two matches: Senior Caden Gilmond, who won a pair of high-scoring decisions at 160 pounds. His match with Capital's Ian Isaacson was a treat: Gilmond seemed to have a pin, then was reversed in the second period; in the third he took an injury timeout after a hit to the face. "I got an elbow between the eyes," said Gilmond. "That's my sixth or seventh time facing him and the first time it didn't end in a pin." It ended up 18-11, with Gilmond getting a takedown near the end. He'll be one of 26 Glacier wrestlers heading to the Western AA Divisional seeding tournament next weekend, and looking for his fourth straight trip to state. He's happy for the Wolfpack, which is 13-9 in duals.

"It hasn't been a huge sport here – not a lot of people have been into it for Glacier," he said. "You hear more about the Flathead kids – big crowds, big team. But this year we kind of stepped it up, had a lot of freshmen come in. A lot of really, really tough kids that filled spots. We wouldn't have a full roster if it wasn't for these young kids."

Flathead can say the same thing. The Brave Brawlers will also take 26 kids – two for each weight class – to the seeding tournament.

One is senior Tanner Russell, who picked up two pins Thursday, at 170 and 182. But he credits underclassmen like Cade Gardner, who picked up two wins as well, for making Flathead a threat to take home a state trophy.

"Back in my earlier years we had a lot of older kids, a lot of guys to look up to," he said. "We had those guys push us into some championship years (Flathead won state in 2017-18). Then we kind of had an off year in terms of numbers. Then this year we had a lot of freshmen come out and they knew how to wrestle."



Not counting open weight classes six Braves won twice Thursday: Russell, Gardner, Fin Nadeau (two pins at 152), Asher Kemppainen (two technical falls at 132), Chase Youso (160) and Noah Poe-Hatten (152).

That's a solid nucleus that includes senior Brendan Barnes, who won one match by technical foul but also dropped a 7-4 decision to Capital freshman Conner Kovick.

"Barnes is a little under the weather and it didn't happen for him, not his best performance," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. "That's wrestling, though, that's sports. He's a senior and he wanted to compete."

Glacier honored five seniors between its duals, and Flathead honored nine. The Braves are aiming high at the State AA, which is Feb. 14-15 in Billings.

"I think we'll get first if we wrestle smart," Russell said. "Looking back at the AA Duals we got second (a 50-12 loss to Great Falls High) but we lost five close matches. I feel like if we win those close matches, we win state."

Flathead 47, Helena Capital 18

103 – Hunter Rhan, Capital, pinned Dylan Kratofil, 3:43; 113 – Cade Gardner, Flathead, dec. Lane O'Shea, 11-8; 120 – Nolan Cate, Flathead, won by forfeit; 126 – Cade Troupe, Flathead, won by forfeit; 132 – Asher Kemppainen, Flathead, tech. fall Tyler Tobel, 16-1; 138 – Conner Kovick, Capital, dec. Brendan Barnes, 7-4; 145 – Fin Nadeau, Flathead, pinned Wyatt Schneider, 1:02; 152 – Noah Poe-Hatten, Flathead, dec. Dylan Graham, 2-1; 160 – Chase Youso, Flathead, pinned Ian Isaacson, 1:29; 170 – Tanner Russell, Flathead, pinned Tucker Zanto, 1:50; 182 – Noah Kovick, Capital, dec. Paxton Boyce, 9-3; 205 – Zaybin Stewart, Flathead, pinned Keaton Pouliot, 1:35; 285 – Josh Lee, Capital, pinned Aydan Prieto, 1:22.

Flathead 67, Helena 3

103 – Dylan Kratofil, Flathead, pinned Jason Mandy, 4:58; 113 – Cade Gardner, Flathead, pinned Nathaniel Yargo, :41; 120 – Ian Mehrens, Helena, dec. Nolan Cate, 6-2; 126 – Cade Troupe, Helena, pinned Westin LaPierre, 1:20; 132 – Asher Kemppainen, Flathead, tech. fall Cameron Wyant 17-1; 138 – Brendan Barnes, Flathead, tech. fall Andrew Cotton, 20-5; 145 – Fin Nadeau, Flathead, pinned Gino Dalbec, 1:25; 152 – Noah Poe-Hatten, Flathead, pinned Christian Wyant, 3:49; 160 – Chase Youso, Flathead, dec. Justice Seamons, 6-2; 170 – Garrett Rieke, Flathead, over Kaleb McKay, 2:35; 182 – Tanner Russell, Flathead, pinned Sean O'Connell, :28; 205 – Paxton Boyce, Flathead, pinned Ruger Young, 2:51; 285 – Ayden Prieto, Flathead, won by forfeit.

FLATHEAD, GLACIER WRESTLING SET FOR SEEDING TOURNEY

February 06, 2020 at 5:00 am | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

Glacier and Flathead will be at ovr near the limit of wrestlers – 24 for Glacier, 25 for Flathead – when they take to the mats Saturday at Helena High School for the Western AA seeding tournament.

At stake are top-eight finishes in each of 13 weight classes. Those wrestlers qualify for the State AA wrestling meet Feb. 14-15 at Billings MetraPark.

Flathead is a perennial power that saw its streak of five straight state titles end in 2019. The Brave Brawlers are intent on climbing back to the top behind their nucleus in the middle weights and higher.

Sophomore Asher Kemppainen is 37-8 at 132; senior Brendan Barnes is 38-8 at 138; sophomore Fin Nadeau is 37-5 at 145; senior Tanner Russell is 36-6 at 170; and junior Zaybin Stewart is 34-9 at 205.

Russell, Nadeau and Barnes all won divisional titles last year.

“Our goal is of course is to get as many wrestlers qualified as we can,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “But also to get them placed high. If you can get your guys in the top three that really sets you up well for your first-round matches at state.”

Missoula Big Sky has the wrestlers and depth to challenge Flathead and Glacier isn’t far behind. The Wolfpack has built momentum around junior Lance Fretwell (25-14 132; 12-6 against AA competition) and senior Camryn Vergeront (25-8 at heavyweight).

Both Kalispell teams have excellent freshmen: Cade Troupe is 39-5 at 126 and Noah Poe-Hatten is 34-12 at 152 for Flathead; Josh Melton is 29-11 at 103 and Teegan Vasquez is 30-1 at 113 for the Wolfpack.

Ross Dankers, seventh-year head coach of the Pack, is hoping his team’s depth will win out.

“We’re just hoping to push through as many No. 2s as we can. I think we have as good as No. 2s as anybody in the state,” Danker said. “Then place as high as we can and go from there.”

Junior Cody Frost (120) is a returning divisional champ for Glacier. He, Melton and junior Kael Willis (170) have 13 pins; Vasquez and Vergeront lead the Pack with 18.

The one-day meet is unscored.

FLATHEAD QUALIFIES 19 WRESTLERS FOR STATE, GLACIER 14

February 08, 2020 at 5:00 am | Daily Inter Lake

HELENA – With 19 wrestlers qualifying for state, Flathead coach Jeff Thompson couldn't be much happier about how the Western AA seeding tournament went Saturday at Helena High.

"Overall, we looked good today and put ourselves in the hunt for state," he said after three of his Brave Brawlers won their weight classes, and another eight finished in the top three. "We wrestled about our seeds in most weight classes."

Butte tied Flathead with the most qualifiers with 19, while Glacier had the third-most, with 14. Cade Troupe (126), Brendan Barnes (138) and Fin Nadeau (145) were champions for Flathead.

"Fin Nadeau is just wrestling on a completely different level right now," Thompson said. "He just seems to get better every time he steps on the mat. And Cade pinned everybody in his bracket this weekend."

Asher Kemppainen (132), Andrew Russell (170) and Paxton Boyce (182) lost their championship matches, each by decision.

Glacier had two champions in Josh Melton (103) and Teegan Vasquez (113). Camryn Vergeront also finished third at heavyweight for the Wolfpack.

"Overall a solid day for the Pack," Glacier coach Ross Dankers said. "It was really exciting to see two of our freshmen (Melton and Vasquez) come out and win their first seeding tournament – especially Josh flipping two matches from earlier in the year."

"We had several gritty performances that helped us set up for state."

The all-class state wrestling meet runs Friday and Saturday at the Metra in Billings.

Big chances for state titles among Flathead Valley wrestlers

February 12, 2020 at 9:49 pm | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

Flathead pushed 19 wrestlers through to the State AA wrestling tournament Friday and Saturday at the Billings Metra, which is solid.

The trouble is Butte also moved 19 over, and Great Falls qualified 20.

“Great Falls High is the front-runner; you’ve heard me say that,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “And Billings Senior just has a lot of tough wrestlers, and (defending champion) Bozeman got some of their hot rods back.

“There’s probably five teams that can win it. That said, we’re just going to go enjoy it. It’s going to be a really, really tight race.”

Thompson placed a premium on getting top-three finishes at the Western AA seeding tournament and Flathead had 11 of those. That left him very pleased with Cade Gardner (113 pounds) and Chase Youso (160), among others.

“Those are big points at state,” Thompson said. “We had a lot of tight matchups in the third-fourth matches that we won, and that just sets up really well for the state brackets.”

Glacier, who qualified 14 wrestlers, by comparison had three top-three finishes, with heavyweight Camryn Vergeront taking third and Josh Melton (103) and Teegan Vasquez (113) taking first. Both those grapplers could be at the top of the podium Saturday.

So could Flathead standouts like Cade Troupe (126), Brendan Barnes (138) and Fin Nadeau (145). Then there’s Tanner Russell, who lost a 4-2 decision at 170 to Missoula Big Sky’s Bridger Hall last week. Hall is 6-1 against Russell.

“They have similar styles,” Thompson said. “And right now, Hall just seems to have the upper hand. But you never know what can happen. We just have to stay positive and focus on things we can control – like getting Tanner ready to go.”

Thompson thinks the team race will be as even as he’s seen as a competitor or coach – and he won his first of three individual titles as a Great Falls Bison in 1989, when this tournament first moved to the Metra.

“Crazy things happen at state,” he allowed. “You can’t read into it too much, but it’s probably as wide-open meet as I’ve seen, and that’s what makes it awesome.”

FLATHEAD WRESTLER RIEKE HAS BEEN GROUNDED TOO LONG

February 12, 2020 at 9:50 pm | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

A senior with the goal of being a commercial pilot, Flathead's Garrett Rieke has his feet on the ground when it comes to athletics. He doesn't have much choice. Injuries short-circuited his goal of wrestling in college – at least to this point – but flight school remains a reality. And he's all too familiar with reality. First, there was his junior year in football. "I think it was the eighth game," Rieke said. "We were playing Missoula Hellgate at Washington-Grizzly Stadium." The Braves had come up with an interception, but during the ensuing return, the football was jarred loose. "I saw the ball rolling past me," Rieke said. "And I turned to chase it and somebody hit me at the same time. I heard a loud pop. It was a lot of pain."

It was a torn ACL. Boom. Done for the rest of the football campaign and the wrestling season to follow. "That was hard to come to grips with," he said. "Because I hadn't missed wrestling season since I was five." So Rieke could only watch as Flathead's run of five straight State AA wrestling titles ended last February. But he knew with hard work he'd be ready for the gridiron and mat in 2019-20.

Then came the first football game last fall, when Rieke lined up to contest a point after touchdown kick. He was maybe 20 snaps into his senior season. "I came off one edge and a teammate came off the other and we both dove," he said. "His helmet hit me in the shin and it broke my tibia. I thought I had a big dead leg or a monkey bump. But it got bigger and bigger as the night went on."

It was not a morale boost. Jeff Thompson, Flathead's veteran wrestling coach, remembers running to the sideline when Rieke went down. "I lost sleep," Thompson said. "The first time he tore his knee at football, none of us could sleep that night. He's just a leader, and he leads by example. You lose a guy like that it hurts."

"And then to have him to get hurt again the very first game... My heart was pounding; my phone was buzzing. That's two football seasons where he was probably an all-state guy."

Rieke was in a cast nearly the entire football season, then a brace, and then – just after Christmas – he was cleared. Now he's wrestling again for the Brave Brawlers, who hope to get back to the top of a balanced AA field at the state wrestling meet in Billings this weekend.

His first meet in over two years was the Pacific Northwest Classic in Spokane, where he took second at 182 pounds.

"It was a nice comeback," he said. "It was different than I thought. It was kind of hard to get back in the swing of things, you know?"



Now he has a 9-4 record in his abbreviated senior season after taking third at 170 at the Western AA seeding meet. The weight class is crowded with teammate Tanner Russell and Missoula Big Sky standout Bridger Hall.

He's wrestled Russell plenty in practice but never in a meet. It could happen, and Rieke figures he'll be at full strength: The leg bothers him occasionally in practice, but never in competition.

"He's a beast, man," Thompson said. "Garrett is tough. He goes 100 percent, 100 percent of the time every day in practice. He's a guy who never complains, and he's kind of an assassin. You never know when he's going to attack. He's humble, but at any time he's going to fire."

Rieke had a goal of going to the Air Force Academy, which lines up with his family background. His dad, Rhett, is a commercial pilot for Southwest; his grandfather sold Piper airplanes; his great grandmother might have been the first female pilot in the Pacific Northwest.

"Plans change," he said Tuesday, but he still has a great deal going for him, with a grade point average he's kept above 3.5 (4.0 last quarter) and a spot in Flathead's student government. He has lofty goals, including this weekend.

"I'm reaching for a state championship," he said. "But it'd be even better to get a team championship on top of that."

He's been grounded, but now he's back. It might just be time for him to fly.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Dozens of student-athletes from throughout the Flathead Valley will wrestle or swim for a state championship this weekend

By [Andy Viano](#) // Feb 14, 2020

The second week of February brings to an end two of the winter's prep sports seasons as wrestlers (Billings) and swimmers (Great Falls) will arrive from across the state to chase their championship dreams, and the Flathead Valley will have no shortage of athletes in both sports with a legitimate chance to make their dream come true.

Like most seasons, the Flathead Braves wrestling program is in the running for a state title, back among the sport's heavyweights after a down year in 2019, but on their heels is a rising Glacier High squad with big aspirations of its own. In the pool, Whitefish is staring down a shot at a pair of team titles, and a trio of girls from Kalispell could make a major splash in Class AA.



Here's what to watch for on Feb. 14 and 15 when the state crowns individual and team champions in both sports.

When your rival is one of the most consistently excellent programs, regardless of sport, in the entire state of Montana, it's hard to get much attention. And while the 2019-20 season was not the year the Glacier Wolfpack ended their long crosstown losing streak or unseated Flathead at the top of the Kalispell wrestling hierarchy, the school on the north side has a future that looks very bright.

Glacier will send 14 wrestlers to the all-class state tournament, Feb. 14-15 at First Interstate Arena at MetraPark in Billings, and the headliners are a pair of fabulous freshmen. Teegan Vasquez, the youngest member of a Kalispell wrestling dynasty, captured first place at 113 pounds at the Western AA divisional seeding tournament in Helena on Feb. 8, winning all three of his matches by fall and establishing himself as a favorite for the state title. Josh Melton will join Vasquez as a No. 1 seed at state after he took home the 103-pound crown with a pair of tight decisions in the semis and finals.



The top eight wrestlers in each weight class advance from the seeding tournament to state, and the rest of the Wolfpack contingent is led by Camryn Vergeront, who finished third at heavyweight (285 pounds), and fourth-place grapplers Bridger Beach (126), Caden Gilmond (160) and Caedon Seymour (205).

The Braves, meanwhile, [are positioned nicely to return to the podium](#) as a team and maybe even challenge for a title. Great Falls High will enter the weekend as the favorite on the strength of its

win at the Jug Beck Rocky Mountain Classic last month, but Flathead was second at that event and will bring 19 wrestlers to the state meet, just one fewer than the Bison.

Flathead's state team boasts its own sensational freshman in Cade Troupe, who came out atop the 126-pound weight class at the seeding tournament and will enter state with a team-best 42-5 record. He will be joined as a top seed by senior Brendan Barnes (138) and sophomore Fin Nadeau (145), both of whom finished first at the divisional last year but finished third and second, respectively, at state. Asher Kemppainen (132), Tanner Russell (170) and Paxton Boyce (182) were all runners-up in Helena.

The Braves will be bringing six freshmen to Billings, including Cade Gardner (113) and Noah Poe-Hatten (152) as No. 3 seeds. Ten of Flathead's 19 qualifiers are underclassmen.

In Class A, where the divisional tournaments are also scored as team events, Browning placed second to lead all Northwest Montana programs. The Indians qualified 12 wrestlers for state, including divisional champions Chuck Braverock (285) and Charlie Bullcalf (182). Trey Thompson won the 152-pound title for Libby-Troy, one of eight Greenchain wrestlers to qualify.

Polson finished fifth as a team at the divisional but will send a whopping 15 wrestlers to the state tournament. Columbia Falls (10) and Whitefish (8) will also be well represented.

Eureka qualified seven for the Class B/C state tourney, including divisional champs Gunnar Smith (126), Kyle Durden (132), Nathan Schmidt (138) and Hank Dunn (152). Bigfork's Joseph Farrier finished third at 170 and will be the Vikings' lone representative.

STATE TITLE MATCHES SET AT MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Posted: 11:28 AM, Feb 15, 2020

By: [Richie Melby](#)

BILLINGS -- Thirty-nine state champions will be crowned throughout the afternoon and early evening at First Interstate Arena at MetraPark, after 78 high school wrestlers punched tickets to the state championship matches on Saturday morning.

Great Falls High, Sidney, Huntley Project and Circle took Day 1 leads in their respective team standings, and each secured berths in Saturday's state championship matches.

At the conclusion of Saturday morning's semifinals, Great Falls High had 181.5 points, compared to Bozeman's 164.5. Kalispell Flathead made a charge to third with 154, while Billings Senior was fourth with 147.5.

Great Falls High sent reigning champs Elijah Davis and Ethan Deroche back to the finals at 205 and 285 pounds, respectively.

Bozeman's Leif Schroeder will look to secure his fourth title at 138 pounds, the second match of the night, while teammates Avery Allen, Brock Rodrigues and Tom Walkup are also finalists.

Sidney moved a step closer to two goals -- another team championship and breaking the 2019 Eagles' state-record 310.5 points. The Eagles were at 260 at the conclusion of the semifinals, with an impressive eight wrestlers in the finals.

Frenchtown all but secured the second-place trophy with five wrestlers securing berths in the championships. The Broncs will compete in the final four matches of the night with Landen Stewart, Walker Dyer, Eli Warner and Jake Bibler competing from 103 to 126 pounds. Bibler's match will conclude the tournament as he chases a fourth consecutive title against Lewistown junior and two-time champion Cooper Birdwell in arguably the most-anticipated match of the tournament.

Laurel, Miles City and Havre are in the running for the third-place trophy.

Glasgow and Eureka have moved past Huntley Project in the Class B race. The Scotties have 131 points to the Lions' 103. Huntley Project is at 102, while Whitehall is still in contention with 97 points.

Circle took a commanding lead in the Class C standings with 76.5 points, behind Krayle Stormer and Cole Becker's semifinal wins. All five of the Wildcats' state qualifiers will return next season.

Class AA state championship pairings

103: Jase Van Pelt (West) vs. Hunter Ketchem (Skyview)
113: Teegan Vasquez (Glacier) vs. Carter Schmidt (Belgrade)
120: Jesse Aarness (West) vs. Keagan Gransbery (Butte)
126: Drake Rhodes (West) vs. Matthew Dewitt (Senior)
132: Carson DesRosier (Capital) vs. Avery Allen (Bozeman)
138: Brendan Barnes (Flathead) vs. Leif Schroeder (Bozeman)
145: Fin Nadeau (Flathead) vs. Brock Rodrigues (Bozeman)
152: Hunter Meinzen (Big Sky) vs. Paolo Salminen (Skyview)
160: Dougie Swanson (Big Sky) vs. Thomas Klepps (Senior)
170: Bridger Hall (Big Sky) vs. Tanner Russell (Flathead)
182: Noah Kovick (Capital) vs. Peyton Morton (Senior)
205: Zane McCormick (Capital) vs. Elijah Davis (Great Falls High)
285: Tom Walkup (Bozeman) vs. Ethan Deroche (Great Falls High)

Numbers by team

Bozeman 4
Billings Senior 3
Billings West 3
Helena Capital 3
Kalispell Flathead 3
Missoula Big Sky 3
Billings Skyview 2
Great Falls High 2
Belgrade 1
Butte 1
Kalispell Glacier 1



HAULING HOME HARDWARE

Flathead took second place in dramatic fashion at the Class AA state wrestling meet, just one of many highlights from a busy championship weekend for Northwest Montana's prep athletes

By [Andy Viano](#) // Feb 16, 2020

The Class AA state wrestling tournament on Feb. 14-15 ended with the 126-pound championship match, and while all eyes at Billings' First Interstate Arena at MetraPark were on two Billings grapplers squaring off for a title, there was perhaps no more interested party than the wrestlers, coaches and fans from Flathead High School.

Billings Senior's Matthew Dewitt won the 126-pound crown in extra time, but the victory came via decision (a win by fall or technical fall scores additional team points) and allowed the [Braves to hang onto second place by the smallest possible margin](#) and claim a top-two team finish at the state meet for the eighth time in coach Jeff Thompson's last nine seasons at the helm.

"I've been part of this at the Metra since I was an athlete in 1989," Thompson said. "And this was probably the closest team race I've ever seen."

Thompson's alma mater, Great Falls High, won the team title as predicted with 242 1/2 points, but the race for the next three spots was incredibly tight throughout the weekend. The Braves came into Saturday's wrestle-back and championship rounds in fourth place, but behind a typically strong performance in the so-called blood round and 10 top-six state placers, Flathead (197 points) surged to second ahead of Billings Senior (196 1/2) and 2019 state champion Bozeman (186).

"It just shows you that every point really does matter," Thompson said.



Flathead High School's Tanner Russell wrestles Glacier High School's Kael Willis at Flathead High in Kalispell on Jan. 10, 2020. Hunter D'Antuono | Flathead Beacon

To score those points, the Braves made the most of their scoring opportunities on the two-day tourney's final day. Flathead advanced 11 of its 19 state qualifiers to day two at the double-elimination event and lost only one of those grapplers in Saturday's first consolation round, the round Thompson calls the blood round, after which round-winners are guaranteed a top-six finish.

"We focus on team first. Do it for yourself but also do it for your team," Thompson said. "This has always been Flathead's round; Flathead has always dominated that round."

Flathead's young team entered the season with little in the way of expectations after a seventh-place finish in the state a year ago and with a roster full of freshmen and sophomores, but the Braves inserted themselves into the state trophy conversation with a strong start to the season and wins at the Best of the West and Pacific Northwest Classic tournaments. In the end, it was the Braves' combination of up-and-comers and established seniors that carried the day in Billings. Flathead earned its runner-up trophy without a single state champion, relying instead on point-producing performances up and down the lineup.

Kalispell's other high school, however, did deliver an individual champ. Freshman Teegan Vasquez gave Glacier its first champion since 2017 with an incredible run at 113 pounds, winning all four of his matches by fall and claiming the tournament's quick pin award by earning those four wins in a combined 5 minutes and 12 seconds, or 48 seconds shorter than the length of a regulation, three-period match. The brother of two-time Flathead state champion Trae Vasquez and two-time state placer Tilyne Vasquez, Teegan pinned Belgrade's Carter Schmidt in the final to end his freshman season with a 37-1 record.

“The concepts for him just flow together so quickly and so smoothly,” Glacier coach Ross Dankers said of Vasquez. “An average wrestler, or even a good wrestler, is thinking about things or the transitions come at a moderate pace. He’s three, four steps ahead of everyone else on the mat.”

Vasquez was one of two state placers for the Wolfpack, who earned their best team finish since the 2013-14 season. Glacier finished 10th out of 14 Class AA teams at this year’s tournament, a marked improvement from the prior five seasons, when the Wolfpack occupied one of the bottom two spots. Senior Camryn Vergeront was sixth at 285 pounds at this year’s tournament.

“It’s encouraging, the move forward, but it’s not what I would call satisfying,” Dankers said. “It’s encouraging that we’re getting better, but the expectations continue to rise.”

Flathead High School’s Brendan Barnes wrestles Glacier High School’s Ricardo Hewitt at Flathead High School in Kalispell on Jan. 10, 2020. Hunter D’Antuono | Flathead Beacon

The Braves, meanwhile, fell just one win short of an individual titlist at three different weights. Brendan Barnes ran into four-time state champion Leif Schroeder of Bozeman in the 138-pound final, Tanner Russell was pinned by Missoula Big Sky’s Bridger Hall at 170 and sophomore Fin Nadeau, at 145, came closest of all. Nadeau, who was second to Schroeder last season, squared off against Bozeman’s Brock Rodrigues and the match went to a fourth overtime period. In that period, Nadeau started from the down position and had 30 seconds to escape and win a title, but Rodrigues held Nadeau down to claim victory.



Barnes and Russell were two of four seniors who provided a stable core for their young teammates all year long, and both end their careers with multiple state placements. Barnes did it three times and Russell all four years, including back-to-back seasons in second place. Fellow seniors Garrett Rieke, who battled serious injuries that cost him significant parts of each of the last two seasons, was third at 170 pounds and Paxton Boyce finished fifth at 182.

Flathead’s other placers were Asher Kemppainen (3rd at 132), Noah Poe-Hatten (3rd at 152), Cade Troupe (4th at 126), Chase Youso (5th at 160) and Zaybin Stewart (5th at 205). Youso and Stewart both won three matches in a row after first-round losses to fight their way back to the podium.

LATE BOOST KEEPS FLATHEAD IN TROPHY HUNT

BILLINGS — Great Falls High has the first-day lead in Class AA at the State All-Class Wrestling meet at MetraPark, and that should be no surprise.

Flathead is hanging tough – with a few disappointments and a couple morale boosts – just a few points out of the trophy hunt.

“We lost some tough matches but you know, it’s a long tournament with lots of rounds left,” Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said. “We have 11 guys alive, and that’s pretty darned exciting.”

The Brave Brawlers matched Great Falls by putting seven wrestlers in Saturday’s morning’s semifinal round. They have 99 points; Great Falls has 127 followed by Billings Senior at 108.5 and Butte at 102.5.



“For the most part it’s going how we thought it would,” said Tanner Russell, who made the 170-pound semifinals along with teammate Garrett Rieke. “I wish we had a couple more, though.”

Thompson regretted a couple surprise first-round losses – Chase Youso (160) and Zaybin Stewart (205) – but saw the positive.

“That must have lit a fire in them because they really came back in those consolation matches, and ended probably where they would have anyway,” Thompson said.

Joining Russell and Rieke in the semis are Asher Kemppainen (132), Brendan Barnes (138), Fin Nadeau (145), Noah Poe-Hatten (152) and Paxton Boyce (182).

Poe-Hatten won a 6-5 quarterfinal decision over Great Falls Donovan Mahoney, after trailing 4-2.

One notable quarterfinal loss was by freshman Cade Troupe at 126. Billings Senior’s Jayden Morales won a 3-0 decision. It was a tough match and the Saturday’s wrestlebacks don’t look any easier: Bozeman’s Tayt Rogers, a state finalist last year, awaits.

Providing a lift were Rieke and Russell, scoring pins on adjacent mats just seconds apart.

“Garrett Rieke really came on – getting him in the semis along with Tanner is a neat thing,” Thompson said. “We really came back strong this afternoon.”

FLATHEAD TAKES 2ND

February 17, 2020 at 6:00 pm | By FRITZ NEIGHBOR Daily Inter Lake

BILLINGS –Flathead's Brave Brawlers were sweating out a second-place finish in the team race at the State AA wrestling tournament. Flathead had 10 state placers. That added up to 197 points, or one half-point more than third-place Billings Senior (Great Falls led the way with 242.5).

Helping Flathead out was Helena Capital's Noah Kovick, who scored a 5-2 decision over Senior's Peyton Morgan in the 182 finals. That kept a couple points off the Broncs' total.

But there were many Brawlers that can be thanked for that half-point. Chase Youso (160) and Zaybin Stewart (205) wrestled back to fifth place after losing first-round matches. Early Saturday Cade Troupe was down to Irish Furthmyre before getting a takedown and a near fall – all in the last 14 seconds – for his first win over the Great Falls wrestler.

All of this helps take the edge of Flathead's three finalists dropping their matches. Sophomore Tanner Russell couldn't solve Missoula Big Sky's Bridger Hall at 170; Brendan Barnes ran into Bozeman's Leif Schroeder, who became the 36th Montanan with four state titles with a technical fall at 138.

Fin Nadeau lost an ultimate tie breaker to Bozeman's Brock Rodrigues – the match going through several overtimes before Nadeau was forced to score an escape from the down position, or lose. Rodrigues held on. Nadeau was state runner-up for the second straight year.

"Fin can get away from just about anybody on the planet in a 30-second overtime, but just not today," Flathead coach Jeff Thompson said.

"Could've gone either way," Barnes said. "They were 1-1 against each other coming in. He'll use that pain to try and come back and win a couple championships."

Flathead returned five place-winners from a team that fell to seventh last year after five straight state titles.

"We all worked hard and put in the extra time," Barnes said. "We all hoped we'd be first but it's nice to be second and get some hardware."

Freshman Noah Poe-Hatten was third at 152, as were Asher Kemppainen at 132 and Garrett Rieke at 170. Troupe ended up fourth at 132, as was Paxton Boyce at 182.

Six of those 10 state placers return.

"I'm just so proud of those seniors in Paxton Boyce, Tanner Russell, Brandon Barnes and Garrett Rieke," Thompson said. "These men have given their heart and soul to the program."

