

# Cowboys qualify seven for state wrestling

By Sharon Corcoran

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Goodland High finished third at the regional wrestling tournament, with seven wrestlers qualifying for state, two weight-class champions, two finishing second, two in third and one in fourth.

Cowboys senior Bob Doxon was voted regional Wrestler of the Year by the coaches.

As a team, Goodland had 142 points, behind first-place Colby with 213 and second-place Andale with 177.5. Behind Goodland were Pratt with 137.5, Mulvane with 79, Smoky Valley and Russell each with 70.5, Wellington with 58, Hugoton with 57, Hesston with 55, Buhler with 53, Clearwater with 46, Ulysses with 33, Haven with 26, Nickerson with 2 and Cheney with none.

Senior A.J. Stephens won his weight class at 140 pounds, beating junior Brian Noller of Russell 9-3, while Doxon took the heavyweight championship by pinning senior Spencer Hilley of Clearwater in 47 seconds.

Junior Ryan Taylor was second at 160 pounds, losing in the championship match 11-2 to senior Sam Thoman of Andale, and junior Fernando Martinez was second at 189, losing to junior Treat Bugbee of Colby 3-1.

Junior Keegan Smith beat junior Derick Cline of Wellington 8-6 for third at 145, and senior Aaron Deeds beat junior Derek Newell of Ulysses 9-6 for third at 152.

Junior Kade Sheldon lost his final match at regional 4-2 to Robbie Hines of Ulysses for fourth at 112.

"Overall, we had a good weekend," said Coach Joseph Sramek, "and I felt that all the wrestlers that competed did their very best."

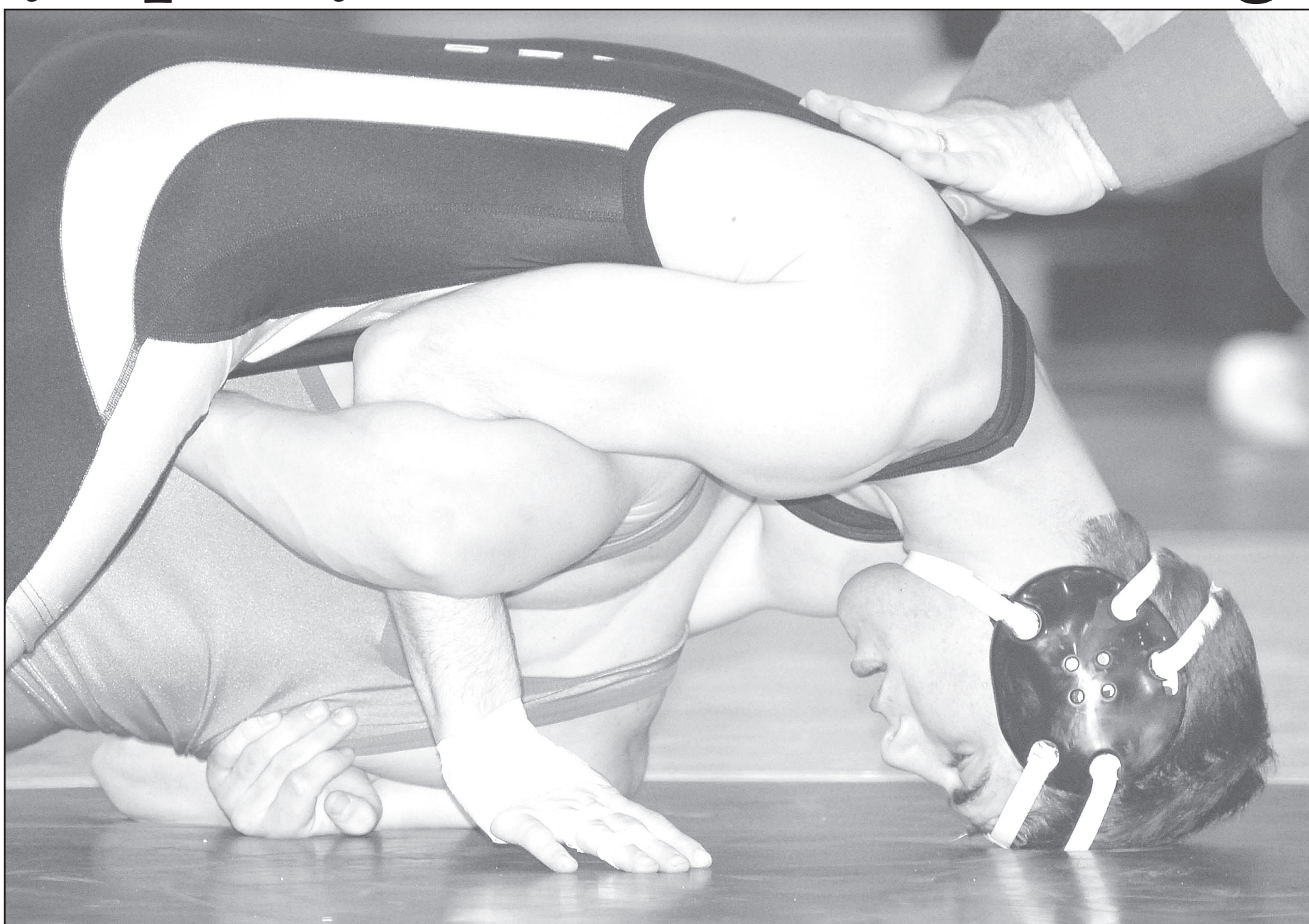
A breakdown of the top four teams' number of qualifiers for state, he said, gives Colby 10, Andale eight, Pratt seven and Goodland seven.

"Next week at state," he said, "I feel we have an opportunity take home a lot of state placers. There will be some great wrestling, and it will be a fun experience."

The Cowboys entered regional competition ranked sixth among Class 4A teams by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association. They had four wrestlers in the state rankings. Doxon was ranked first at heavyweight, Stephens second at 140 pounds, Taylor fifth at 160 and Deeds sixth at 152.

Colby was ranked No. 1 as a team, Clay Center No. 2, Andale No. 3, Santa Fe Trail No. 4 and Labette County No. 5. Baldwin was No. 7, Paola No. 8, Abilene No. 9 and Chanute No. 10.

At Clearwater, the Cowboys faced Colby and Andale, along with Buhler, Cheney, Clearwater, Haven, Hesston, Hugoton, Smoky Valley,



Cowboys senior A.J. Stephens pinned Drake Koemer of Wellington at the Class 4A regional wrestling tournament in Clearwater on Friday. Stephens took the championship in the 140-pound class, qualifying to compete at the state tournament in Salina this weekend.

Photo by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

Mulvane, Nickerson, Pratt, Russell, Ulysses and Wellington.

Individual results from the regionals:

- At 112 pounds, Sheldon pinned freshman Tanner Strohl of Hesston in the first round in 2 minutes, 56 seconds, then pinned junior Eric Mitchell of Smoky Valley in 5:11. He lost 5-3 to freshman Colton Eck of Andale and then beat junior Mitch Landis of Mulvane 7-0 in the consolation bracket, then lost to Hines.

- At 119, freshman Seth Miller lost to sophomore Anthony Negrette of Buhler in the first round. In the consolation bracket, he beat freshman Bryce Jeffery of Haven by technical fall, 16-0, but was then pinned by freshman Colton Day of Wellington.

- At 125, freshman Kayler Rietcheck pinned senior Brady Trotman of Ulysses in 2 minutes, 2 seconds, in the first round. He was then pinned by senior Trent Cox of Andale. In the consolation bracket, Rietcheck had a bye, then was pinned by senior Leo Flores of

Hugoton.

- At 130, freshman Nathan Deeds beat sophomore Michael Scheel of Buhler 8-6 in the first round, then beat sophomore Michael William of Russell 4-1. He lost 4-2 to junior Josh Schulke of Mulvane and in the consolation bracket lost 3-2 to senior Parker Huitt of Pratt.

- At 135, sophomore Lorenzo Delgado lost 7-3 to junior Jordan Simon of Haven 7-3. In the consolation bracket, he beat freshman Brexton Everett of Ulysses 10-3, then was pinned by senior Jordan Doll of Andale.

- At 140, Stephens had a bye, then pinned sophomore Drake Koemer of Wellington in 3:59, won by major decision 10-2 over Heath Stephens of Colby and then beat Noller.

- At 145, Smith beat senior Herbie LaMar of Russell by technical fall, 16-1, then beat junior Derick Cline of Wellington by major decision, 19-10, but lost 7-1 to sophomore Benny Armstrong of Andale. In the consolation bracket, he beat junior Garrett Zweygardt of Colby 1-0 and

then Cline.

- At 152, Aaron Deeds had a bye, then beat sophomore Ethan Stichel of Colby 6-1 but lost 10-4 to senior Adam Lackey of Smoky Valley. In the consolation bracket, he beat sophomore Clint Janzen of Hesston 7-1 and then Newell.

- At 160, Taylor beat sophomore Dylan Young of Buhler 11-6, pinned junior T.J. Miller of Smoky Valley in 3:18 and beat junior Breck Arberger of Colby 7-6 but lost by major decision, 11-2, to Thoman.

- At 171, junior Vance Johnson was pinned by junior Tanner Kriss of Colby in the opening round. In the consolation bracket, he had a bye, then was pinned by sophomore Scott Lester of Andale.

- At 189, Martinez had a bye, then pinned junior Jake Demott of Clearwater in 2:42 and beat senior Ryan Ruane of Haven 5-2 but then lost to Bugbee.

- At 215, senior Ren Scherling pinned senior Caleb Hatfield of Mulvane in 1:54 but was then pinned by senior Kody Page of Wellington. In

the consolation bracket, he pinned sophomore Dillon Ward of Clearwater in 2:19 and beat sophomore Parker Broadfoot of Hesston 8-6. He then lost to junior Adam Waymaster of Russell 7-1.

- At 285, Doxon had a bye, then pinned freshman Garrett Wilson of Wellington in 55 seconds, pinned senior Taylor Brown of Colby in 54 seconds and pinned Hilley in 47 seconds.

The brackets for state competition Friday and Saturday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina begin with:

- At 112, Sheldon (26-12) faces junior Alan Callahan of Baldwin (41-2).

- At 140, Stephens (37-1) faces junior Shae Hinman of Andover Central (22-12).

- At 145, Smith (29-11) faces

senior Buzz Hermreck of Paola (26-11).

- At 152, Deeds (33-5) faces senior Corey Yingling of Spring Hill (34-8).

- At 160, Taylor (27-6) faces senior Nolan Colvin of Chanute (24-14).

- At 189, Martinez (26-8) faces junior Brandon Craft of Eldorado (33-11).

- At 285, Doxon (34-1) faces junior Dennis Devader of Holton (27-7).

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## School calendar for February 19 to February 25

**Today:** Black Day. 7 p.m., National Honor Society Installation. 1 p.m., junior high league wrestling tournament at Oakley.

**Wednesday:** Gold Day. North Site Council.

**Thursday:** Black Day. 2 p.m., eighth grade basketball league tournament at Hoxie and seventh grade basketball tournament at Oberlin.

**Friday:** Gold Day. State wrestling.

**Saturday:** State wrestling.

**Monday:** Sub state basketball. Goodland School Board meeting. 3 p.m., junior high scholars' bowl at Oberlin.

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