

Prep Roundup

Girls punch ticket to state tourney

Boys basketball season ends with pair of losses in district tournament

By EVAN CALDWELL
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The Spartans are heading to the Dome.

But first the Stanwood girls basketball team will play Garfield on Friday or Saturday at a place yet to be determined in the regional round. Win or lose, the Spartans then advance to the state tournament the following week in the Tacoma Dome.

Stanwood locked up the trip to

state — the program’s first since a fifth-place finish in 2018 — with a 54-46 victory over Snohomish on Feb. 15 at Marysville-Pilchuck in a district tournament semifinal game.

“We’re excited, this was the goal,” head coach Alex Iverson said of the state berth.

Against Snohomish, the Spartans found themselves trailing 15-8 after a slow first quarter against a Panthers team with a plastering defense. Stanwood and Snohomish never faced each

other this year due to COVID-related cancellations and postponements.

But Stanwood cranked up the tempo and started to feed 6-foot-4 Vivienne Berrett in the paint — something the Panthers couldn’t stop. Berrett finished with a game-high 27 points.

The momentum swung the Spartans’ way late in the second quarter during a 14-5 run punctuated with an Ava Cook layin at the buzzer to trim the Panthers’ lead to 25-24 heading into the half. Cook scored 11 points in the game.

“Ava hit that buzzer-beater and we were only down 1, but it felt like we were up 10,” Iverson said.



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Vivienne Berrett, left, Ava Cook and the Spartans celebrate clinching a state berth on Feb. 16.

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4 Spartans place at Mat Classic

*Rhue 2nd,
Mayernik 3rd,
Rich 5th,
Roodzant 8th
at state*

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Tyler Rhue ripped off three straight wins to reach the 126-pound title match.

His reward was a showdown against undefeated two-time state champion Kennndl Mobley of North Central.

“I just went out there and tried to let it fly,” the Spartan junior said after the 8-2 loss to earn second place at Mat Classic XXXIII. “I’m not disappointed, but I’m not satisfied.”

Rhue and many of his fellow Spartans said they plan to build off of the team’s seventh place finish at the state championships last weekend.

“I don’t dwell on it, but I will use it as motivation,” Rhue said. “We have a good solid base with this team, and we’ll be back next year.”

Head coach Ray Mather the event will help the junior-laden team make a push to the podium next year.

“We had some great moments and some tough moments,” he said. “It shows them how to prepare for a grind like this.”

Stanwood junior Keaton Mayernik was cruising toward a finals match in the 132-pound bracket but was upended in the semifinal by a controversial last-second call that Mather challenged unsuccessfully.

“That semifinal was tough, but it was one of the best matches from Keaton all year,” Mather said.

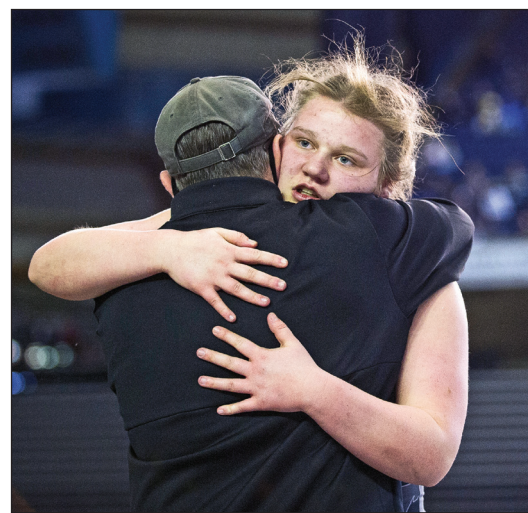
Instead, Cole Turner of Mead walked away with a 3-2 decision, bumping Mayernik into a consolation semifinal.

“Yes, it was heartbreaking, but I had an odd calmness about it,” Mayernik said. “I had to push through the adversity and have the right mindset. And I think that helped.”



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Keaton Mayernik wrestles Saturday at Mat Classic in the Tacoma Dome. The junior earned third place.



Clockwise from top left, Tyler Rhue works for a pin in his semifinal match Saturday on his way to a runner-up finish at Mat Classic. Hailey Rich hugs coach Marcus Requa after pinning her way to a fifth-place medal. Mason Ferguson goes airborne in his match Saturday. Bryan Roodzant looks to make a move in his seventh/eighth-place bout.

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