

Crowell headed to State Wrestling meet, fourth at districts

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 19 February 2014 23:32 -



Gage Crowell qualified for the State Wrestling meet in Omaha this weekend with a fourth place finish at the district meet at North Platte St. Pat's High School Saturday. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta-Palisade wrestler Gage Crowell went 2-2 at the D4 district wrestling meet at North Platte St. Pat's last week, finishing fourth and earning a trip to the State Meet.

It is the first time WP has sent a wrestler to Omaha since Adam Simpson placed fourth in 2010 when the school co-oped with Hitchcock County.

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In the 160 pound bracket, Crowell opened with a win by pin over Hay Springs' Kolten Marx.

Moving on to the semifinals, Crowell lost to number one seed and eventual runnerup Isaac Ascherl of SMC, by pin.

Needing to win to advance to state, Crowell came out and pinned Payden Ayer of Hyannis in 16 seconds.

Heading into the match Coach Chad Cochran said "I just told him it all comes down to this, win and earn a trip to Omaha or lose and go home. I guess he wanted it pretty bad cause he didn't waste any time and took him right into a near side cradle."

"We were pretty excited."

Wrestling for third or fourth, Crowell was down 5-6 with 30 seconds remaining against Ryan Dilley of North Platte St. Pat's.

Cochran said Crowell took a chance that backfired.

Dilley pinned Crowell with 18 seconds remaining.

"That was the one match I think Gage should have won, he made a few mistakes that ended up costing him," Cochran said. "I stressed to Gage that this was an important match to win and would help out a lot with match ups at state."

Cochran added that Crowell seemed to have a different mindset than usual.

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“Both his wins were fast pins and did everything right in order for those to work out the way they did.”

Also wrestling Friday was Cody Barrett.

In the 138 pound bracket, he lost to champion Garrett Toner of Perkins County in the opening round.

Barrett came back to take on Lee Jespersen of Hemingford.

Cochran said Barrett was wrestling well in the match, but Jespersen won by pin as the second period wound down.

“It was a good one to end the year on,” said Cochran.

State Meet

Crowell and Cochran will take off for Omaha Wednesday morning.

Weigh-ins begin at 2:00 p.m. MT/3:00 p.m. CT for Classes A and D.

Crowell will take on Patrick Dempsey of Friend in the first round. Matches will begin at 3:30 p.m.

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MT/4:30 p.m. CT.