

# you asked for a state CHAMP

photo by j. bishop

kenny sailas '21 wins the  
wrestling state tournament  
in the 106 pound division

## ALL ABOUT CONTROL.

Holding down Dillon Roman '22 from Monarch on the mat, Kenny Sailas '21 scores back points in one of his matches in the 106 pound division. "Facing someone different every match was difficult, but I was confident in myself and in my abilities that I was going to come out on top, no matter who I wrestled," Sailas said.

photo by s. demers

## JUST ANOTHER MATCH.

Kenneth Sailas '21 gets ready to take a shot against his opponent, Dillon Roman '22 on Friday, Feb. 22. Sailas won the match 5-1. "I knew I was going to have a tough road to the State finals but I knew I had to stick with the game plan," Sailas said. "I focused on my strength as well as my technique during every match because I knew my hard work would pay off."

photo by s. demers

## TOP OF THE

PODIUM. Posing for the cameras with the other State finalists, Kenneth Sailas '21 stands on top of the first place spot holding his bracket and his plaque.

photo by b. wadsworth



“WHEN I WON STATE, the first thing that went through my head is that I finally achieved the big GOAL I HAVE WANTED SINCE I WAS 8 YEARS OLD.”

photo by s. demers

Kenneth Sailas '21

## THE EARLY YEARS

Kenneth Sailas '21 had been wrestling for the past 10 years competing in hundreds of youth tournaments, state tournaments and national tournaments where he won honors including a three-time middle school champion.

"The awards I won before high school were all very important to me, but I'd have to say that winning the Middle School State Championships stood out more than the rest because it was a stepping stone leading up to high school State and it showed me that I could win high school State as well," Sailas said.

## FRESHMAN YEAR

Sailas was the number four ranked wrestler in the 106 pound division as a freshman. Before the State tournament, Sailas went 45-5 that season. Sailas placed third place in the Colorado 5A State Tournament in the 106 pound division.

"Placing third in the State tournament as a freshman was pretty awesome because I got to show that I was right there with the top kids in the state, but I knew I could take it all," Sailas said.

## ROAD TO STATE

Heading into the year, Sailas was the number one ranked wrestler in the 106 pound division and

his eyes were set on being State champion. Just two weeks before State, Sailas's perfect record was snapped when he lost to Eric Gerago from Pueblo County.

"Losing that match was nice for me because it took the pressure off of having a perfect record before the State tournament, and it showed me that I have to keep going hard the whole match and anything can happen," Sailas said. "I kept my preparations the same for State. I watched some of my opponent's matches just to know what to expect and how I could hit my attacks on them. I am a hardworking and a confident wrestler, so I have a general plan but I can adjust and take what was open."

## STATE CHAMPION

Sailas went on and beat every opponent he faced, at State to become the 106 pound Division State Champion.

"I expected to win State. I wasn't surprised by anything that happened. I knew that I worked too hard to not win. I wrestled the same as I always do and was able to come out on top," Sailas said.

Sailas became the first wrestler since 2004 to win a State title for the wrestling team and ended his season with a 43-1 record.

what has the Brighton wrestling team been asking for?