

On Feb. 22 at the 5A CHSAA State Wrestling Championship, Kenneth Sailas '21 became a TWO-TIME STATE CHAMP.

His road to this title wasn't easy after Sailas came in second the week before at the Regionals Tournament losing to Alec Beltran '20 from Horizon High School.

"I lost a close match at our Regionals Tournament and I had a problem getting my offense going during the match. I didn't let that stop me, so we worked on different ways to set some stuff up at practice before State," Sailas said.

The past two years Sailas competed in the 106 weight class, placing third his freshman year and first his sophomore year. He moved to the 113 weight class.

"It honestly felt the same wrestling in 113 because one way or another, it's just wrestling to be the best. It wasn't a drastic change so I didn't feel like it was more or less hard," Sailas said.

Sailas had spent months prior to State preparing at duals, tournaments and practices to help him come up with his game plan for his match. When Sailas made it to the finals at State,

he learned that to win the title, he would have to beat Beltran, who he lost to at Regionals.

"I wasn't intimidated. I didn't start off the best in my match against Alec. I gave up two points to him in the first period. I had to comeback and just work my way up to come out on the top. I had a game plan I was just trying to execute it," Sailas said. "As the clock hit zero, I realized I won. It was a really good feeling to beat Alec because it just showed me that I need to trust in my coaches and trust in my preparation and I'll be good."

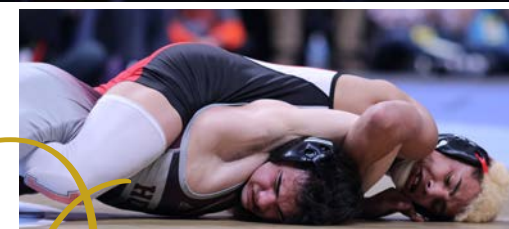
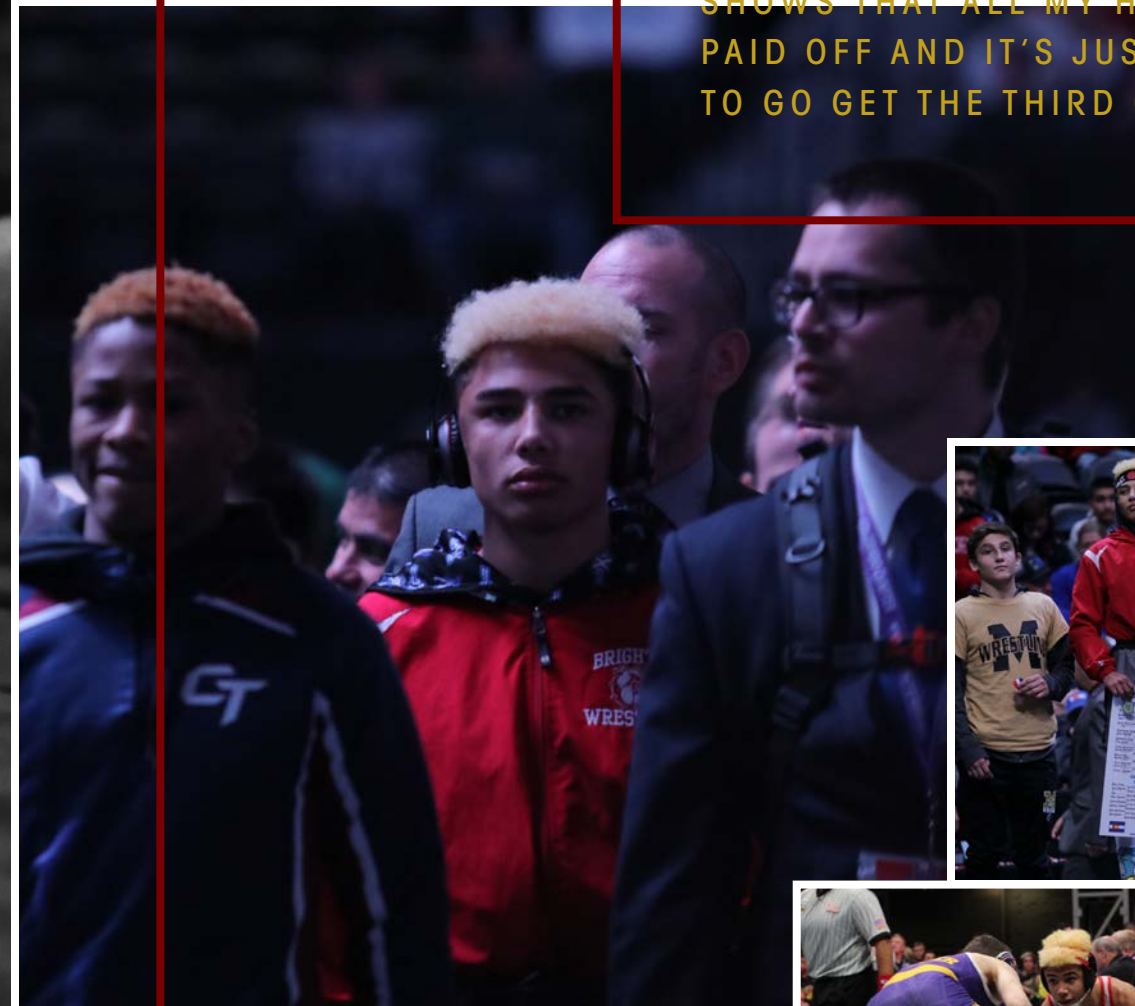
Sailas practiced wrestling outside of school for a club called Mile High Wrestling and wrestled year round.

"Right now, I'm planning on going to UNC and wrestling to study in zoology. I honestly didn't think about Coach (Tom) Wagner going there, I just considered it because of their wrestling and I could potentially get a good scholarship there," Sailas said. "I am honored to be a two-time state champ but I can't stop now. I am looking forward and going for a three-peat."

I DID IT. After winning his second state title in the 113 weight class for wrestling, Kenneth Sailas '21 embraces his coach, Tom Wagner. photos by a. stanis



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KENNETH SAILAS '21



taking pride
IN BEING A STATE
champ
Kenneth Sailas '21
becomes a two-time
state champ in February
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