

“WATCHING THE BOYS WRESTLE AT STATE WAS BIG. THEY WORKED THEIR BUTTS OFF EVERY DAY IN THAT MISERABLY HOT

ROOM. IT REALLY SHOWED AT STATE THAT WE ARE A REALLY GOOD WRESTLING PROGRAM OVERALL.” TAYLOR MADSEN '24



1. MOMENT OF SILENCE. Cristobal Gonzalez Zapien'25 and Ethan Mora '24 put their hands on their hearts as the room goes silent to listen to the national anthem before their duel at Riverdale Ridge on Jan. 24. *photo by r.doherty*
2. STANDING TALL. Keith Robinson '26 attempts to take down his opponent from Monarch on Jan. 26. *photo by r.doherty*
3. ON THE GROUND. In the heavyweight class, Taylor Hruby '25 holds his opponent from Monarch onto the mat to try to pin him. "I do everything I can to stay focused before a match," Hruby said. *photo by d.hunt*
4. BEAR HUG. Dominic Gonzales '25 pulls his opponent closer to him so he can roll him over to his back to attempt to pin him in the second period of the Monarch match. *photo by d.hunt*
5. THIS IS YOUR MOMENT. Head coach Eric Hienz kneels down to talk to Owyn Burns '27 before his exhibition match in the second round of State. "Teaching my boys and seeing them grow and accomplish so much has been the main reason as to why I coach," Hienz said. *photo by r.doherty*

WE'RE BUILT NOT RECRUITED

story & design by r.doherty

(and always have been)

Boys wrestling sends eight athletes to compete at Colorado High School Activities Association State Duel

AS THE EIGHT STATE WRESTLERS ENTERED BALL ARENA, THEY WORE THEIR SHIRTS that said, "We're Built, Not Recruited." Where some high school teams had been known to recruit athletes, Brighton prided itself that everyone on the team should be wrestling here, according to Braaden Heinz '25.

"I am proud to represent Brighton. My father is the coach and there have been so many good wrestlers to come from his school. I am proud to be built here," Heinz said.

The eight wrestlers that

competed at State included Heinz, Kaden Housego '24, Ethan Mora '25, Izaiah Schoepp '25, Owyn Burns '27, Ethyn Bravo-Packer '27, Josiah Gallegos '24 and Keagan D'Amico '25.

"Going to State as a freshman meant not only a lot to myself but a lot to my team and school because it was me, Ethyn and Tilly as the only freshmen," Burns said. "It showed all the hard work I've put into this sport and it is only my first year being here and I will try to get there every single year to get better and better."

According Housego, State

was different from any other tournament because you face tough opponents.

"State is tough and you have to mentally prepare. I had lots of friends on the team so traveling with them was always fun and I was motivated by the fact that it was my senior year," Housego said.

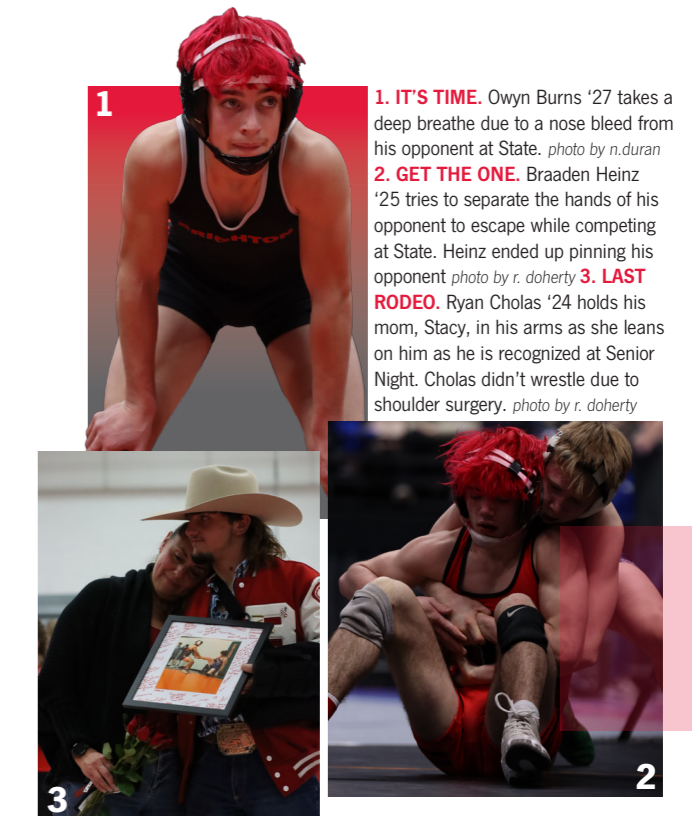
By the end of the three day tournament, Gallegos, Heinz and Schoepp all placed fifth in their weight classes.

"We all wanted to win, but it didn't happen. I am proud to represent Brighton," Schoepp said.



1. CLOSE TO A PIN. Izaiah Schoepp '24 grabs his Pine Creek opponent's shoulder as he gets him tired to roll him over to pin him at the State tournament. Schoepp won the match. "My last match against Pine Creek was my favorite because I left everything I had on the mat and had fun doing it," Schoepp said. *photo by r.doherty*
2. TAP OUT. Referee Mike White holds up Bryce Bravo-Packer's '25 arm after he defeats

his opponent from Prairie View on Jan. 3. "Every dual I had I made sure not to win based on points. I had always tried to get a pin, but during that match I got a lot of back points," Bravo-Packer said. **3. UNTANGLE.** Ethyn Bravo-Packer '27 attempts to pry away the hands of his opponent in order to regain control of the match while competing at State. *photos by r.doherty*

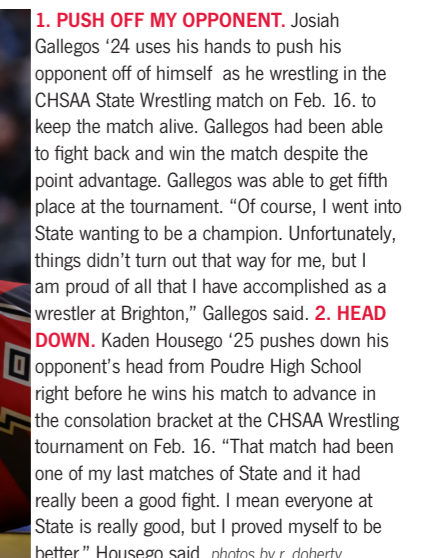


1. IT'S TIME. Owyn Burns '27 takes a deep breathe due to a nose bleed from his opponent at State. *photo by n.duran*
2. GET THE ONE. Braaden Heinz '25 tries to separate the hands of his opponent to escape while competing at State. Heinz ended up pinning his opponent *photo by r.doherty*
3. LAST RODEO. Ryan Cholas '24 holds his mom, Stacy, in his arms as she leans on him as he is recognized at Senior Night. Cholas didn't wrestle due to shoulder surgery. *photo by r.doherty*

photo by r.doherty



1.



2.

1. PUSH OFF MY OPPONENT. Josiah Gallegos '24 uses his hands to push his opponent off of himself as he wrestling in the CHSAA State Wrestling match on Feb. 16. to keep the match alive. Gallegos had been able to fight back and win the match despite the point advantage. Gallegos was able to get fifth place at the tournament. "Of course, I went into State wanting to be a champion. Unfortunately, things didn't turn out that way for me, but I am proud of all that I have accomplished as a wrestler at Brighton," Gallegos said. **2. HEAD DOWN.** Kaden Housego '25 pushes down his opponent's head from Poudre High School right before he wins his match to advance in the consolation bracket at the CHSAA Wrestling tournament on Feb. 16. "That match had been one of my last matches of State and it had really been a good fight. I mean everyone at State is really good, but I proved myself to be better," Housego said. *photos by r.doherty*

TAKE HIM OUT. Assistant coach James Garcia shouts toward Izaiah Schoepp '24 to do the crossface move as he competes in the CHSAA Wrestling State consolation bracket. Garcia was a 1990 wrestling State champ and graduate of Brighton. "I love coaching at BHS. It's something I have done for a long time. I feel like it is one way that I can give back to a school that has given me so much," Garcia said. *photo by r.doherty*



TAKE A BREAK. Keagan D'Amico '25 sits on his knees on the mat before his match at State is about to begin. "I was so anxious and it built up. I was considering that if I won this match, I would have a guaranteed place. I was also dealing with such bad fatigue due to cutting weight every night, so it was a lot," D'Amico said. *photo by r.doherty*

