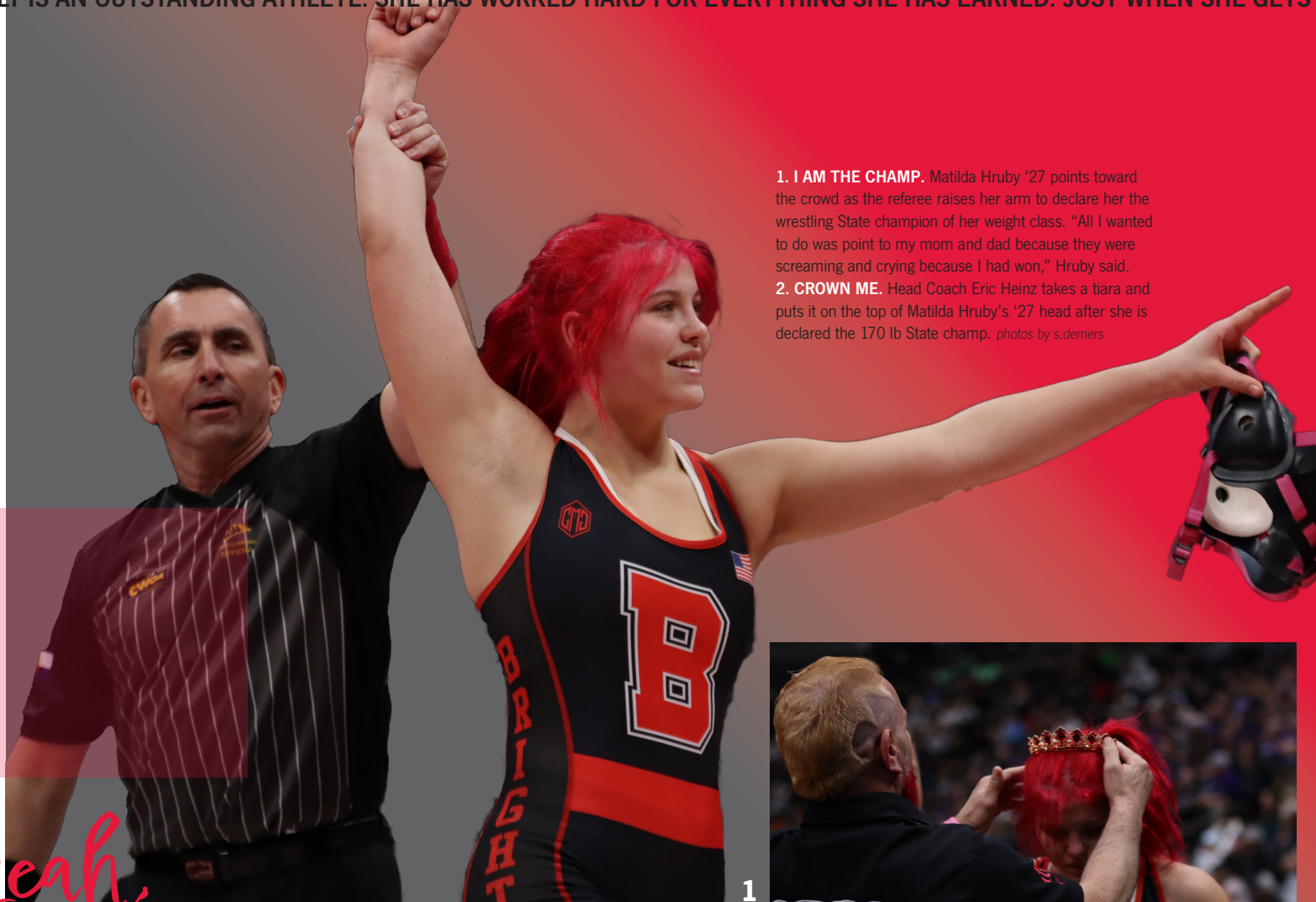


"TILLY IS AN OUTSTANDING ATHLETE. SHE HAS WORKED HARD FOR EVERYTHING SHE HAS EARNED. JUST WHEN SHE GETS

ONE OF HER GOALS, SHE'S HUNGRY TO TACKLE THE NEXT. IT'S WHY SHE IS A STATE CHAMP." **HEAD COACH ERIC HEINZ**



**1. I AM THE CHAMP.** Matilda Hruby '27 points toward the crowd as the referee raises her arm to declare her the wrestling State champion of her weight class. "All I wanted to do was point to my mom and dad because they were screaming and crying because I had won," Hruby said.  
**2. CROWN ME.** Head Coach Eric Heinz takes a tiara and puts it on the top of Matilda Hruby's '27 head after she is declared the 170 lb State champ. *photos by s.demers*



yeah,  
**YOU CAN CALL ME QUEEN OF THE MAT**

**Matilda 'Tilly' Hruby '27 makes Brighton history as girls State Wrestling Champ**

story & design by g.polliard

**MATILDA 'TILLY' HRUBY '27 STARTED WRESTLING IN KINDERGARTEN** because a PE teacher pulled her out of the cafeteria to tell her to do it.

"I figured I would try it since my brother was wrestling, and soon, all of my family was wrestling," Hruby said. "My biggest inspirations are Jazlynn Gallegos, who went to Brighton. She used to come in and help me, and also Adeline Gray, who is a silver medalist at the Olympics."

Hruby walked into Ball Arena on Feb. 15, knowing she had gone 43-0 over the season. There wasn't any girl she was scared to wrestle because she believed in her capabilities.

"A lot of things go into wrestling. Most people think it's a winter sport but for people who want to make big strides, we go all year round with maybe a month off. Last summer I really grinded out and wrestled all summer and I think that's the reason I had such a great season," Hruby said.

In the 170 lb bracket, Hruby beat her first three opponents in a combined time of three minutes and five seconds. When it came to the championship round, Hruby pinned Claris McCoy '24 in 23 seconds.

"After I won I threw my coach on the mat and we went up to the stands. My mom, family and friends were all there. My 3rd grade teacher surprised me and came to support me and then later that night we all had dinner and just went back to our house and

celebrated. The next day we had a party," Hruby said.

According to Hruby, she couldn't have done it without Head Coach Eric Heinz, Assistant Coach James Garcia, and her parents.

"This has been such a big goal from when I was little. This is what we were planning for and it was so exciting and I knew my mom and everyone was proud of me and hopefully, it's one of four," Hruby said.



**1. WATCHING EVERY MOVE.** Matilda Hruby '27 stares down Claris McCoy as she competes in the final round of the CHSAA State Wrestling Championship. **2. THANKS DAD.** Matilda Hruby '27 runs up to her father, Ronald Hruby, in the stands after winning the State championship. **3. I'M SO PROUD OF HER.** After Matilda Hruby '27 pins her final opponent, Janelle Hruby begins to cry and throws her hands in the air as her daughter is declared a State champion. "Seeing my mom and dad in the stands so happy for me made it all worth it," Matilda said. *photos by s.demers*



**1. SMILING FOR CAMERAS.** Matilda Hruby '27 stands on the podium holding her bracket and certificate as the 170 lb. State champ. **2. EXCITED FOR YOU.** Former Brighton High School wrestler Jazlynn Gallegos puts a medal around Matilda Hruby's neck as she is named the State champion. "I was so honored to have Jaz there to give me my medal. She is someone who I have looked up to forever. It almost came full circle for the both of us," Hruby said. *photos by s.demers*

yeah,  
**WE PLACED AT STATE**

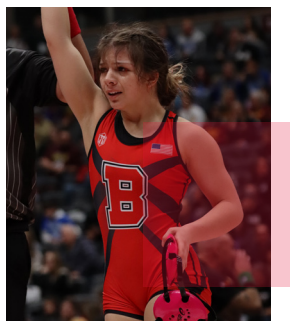
photos by r.doherty  
**Three wrestlers place in top five at CHSAA State Tournament**

**WHO:** Isabella Smouse '25

**PLACE:** 5th Place

**MY MINDSET:** "I really just had the main goal of placing and doing the best I could. I'm happy about where I placed because that was my main goal and hopefully next year I could be in the finals."

**FINAL REFLECTIONS:** "There's a sense of accomplishment coming from a wrestling family because I know it makes my family proud, and I would like to



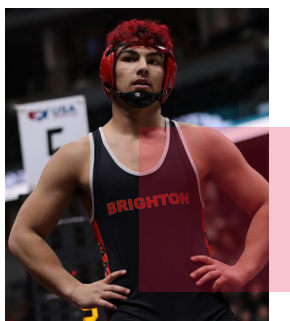
go to college for it. When I'm on the mat I just try to think the best and that I will do the best I can. I did that this year."

**WHO:** Izaiah Schoepp '24

**PLACE:** 5th Place

**MY MINDSET:** "State wrestling is for Dawgs only. You have to be hungry and want to make it as far as you can. You obviously want to make it to being a champion. I did my best, and even though I didn't make it to the end, I am happy with how I did."

**FINAL REFLECTIONS:** "The process was tough getting there, but I put all my blood, sweat and tears into this sport to finish strong and place top five in the



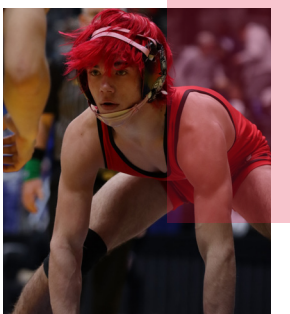
State at 165 lbs. I had a great time and was very blessed to place at State for the first time. I couldn't ask for a better ending for my high school wrestling career. I am proud of myself."

**WHO:** Braaden Heinz '25

**PLACE:** 5th Place

**MY MINDSET:** "My coaches make sure to give me advice on how I could have wrestled better and to make sure to do necessary recovery to be better the next time. What goes through my head is to analyze what I did wrong and make sure to work on that so I can do better next time. When I win I just try to keep that same mentality to get me through to the next match and keep on winning."

**FINAL REFLECTIONS:** "The



match I lost, it was a long journey to get the points and took a lot of of me. The match I won was cool because a couple weeks ago I lost to that kid so it felt good coming back and winning against him."