



INK L.I.N.G.S

State Champions

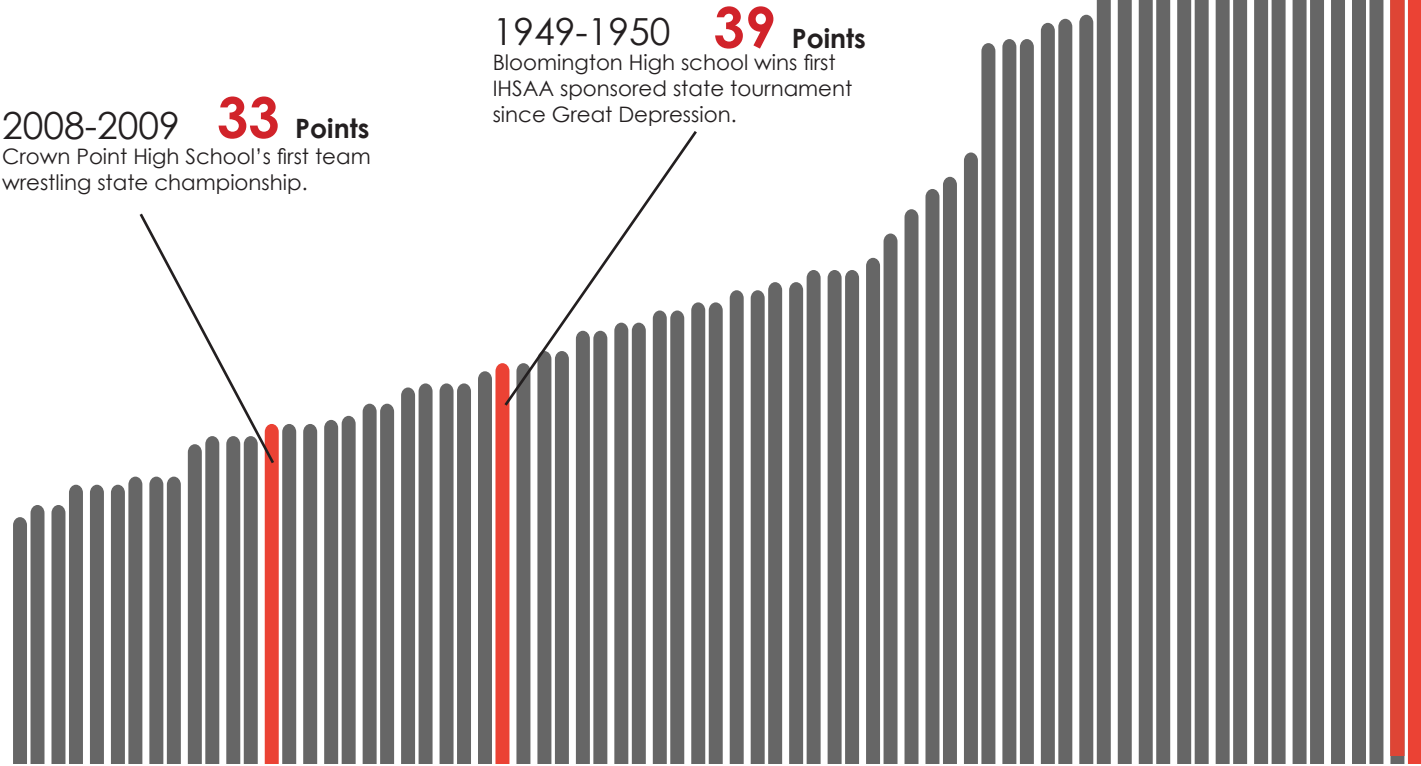
Wrestling



Gymnastics

Wrestlers set All Time HIGH

A graph of all state-winning wrestling team scores since the 1949-1950 season in order from least to greatest



COVER PHOTOS PROVIDED BY AMI PYSH AND NICK TATTINI

Wrestling team wins second state championship, shatters previous scoring record by over 60 points

BY SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

The boys wrestling team made history by winning the state championship for the second time in the school's history on Feb. 19. Not only that, but the team also scored more points than any other team in Indiana history. The team's score of 178 beat the previous record of 112 points set by Evansville Mater Dei last year.

The team was led by head coach Brandon Lorek, who won the 4A IndianaMat Coach of the Year Award for this season. According to Lorek, the team's ability was known from the start of the season.

"It was surreal. It has been a historic season, and myself, my coaches and my wrestlers all knew what we were capable of," Lorek said.

Of the 11 wrestlers who made it to the state meet, three wrestlers, senior Jesse Mendez, junior Logan Frazier and junior Sam Goin won individual state championships.

On that day, Mendez also made history by winning his fourth straight state title over all four years of high school. This makes him only the 10th person in Indiana high school history to win four individual state championships. Mendez took inspiration from his coach Alex Tsirtsis, who also won four high school state championships, which helped him work towards his goals from an early age.

"My personal coach Alex Tsirtsis was a four time champ. I started training with him when I was about seven. I set that goal wanting to be like him. Finally reaching one of those stepping stones in my career feels really good to get done," Mendez said.

Although it was his fourth individual win, it was the first time that Mendez was able to lift a state title with his team.

"It feels awesome getting to do it with my team. It was a special year having gotten fourth and second (in the last few years) and finally getting it done as a team is something that's a different kind of feeling," Mendez said.

Frazier's win was his first individual championship. After just missing out on the title for the last few years, Frazier felt it was a long time coming.

"It feels amazing because I took third my freshman year and second my sophomore year, and the kid I lost to was my training partner. It was pretty tough, but I bounced back and did pretty good this year," Frazier said.

Goin also went on to win his 152 pound weight class.

"I was ready to win; I've been thinking about it all year. I've been dreaming about it since I was little," Goin said.

Mendez believes that the team's dominant performance warranted them a place in the Indiana wrestling history books.



Senior Jesse Mendez squares up against an opponent in the state meet. Both he and the team won their respective tournaments.

PHOTO BY MADISON POER

"I think it's definitely a team that will get looked back on. We blew the team score out of the water. That might be a record forever, so it might go down as one of the best Indiana teams ever. I think we'll be talked about forever," Mendez said.

"Honestly, I think we're gonna be better next year. I think it's great for the younger kids. They're looking up to us, and we're gonna be really good for years to come."

- junior
Logan Frazier

While winning state is an amazing accomplishment, returning wrestlers are looking forward to next

year. Lorek is making it clear that the team is ready to start that work again.

"We cannot be satisfied with what we've done this year. It's a new season, 2022-2023 is a new team, a new season. We can't be looking back and patting ourselves on the back. We'll do it for a little bit, but, then, we're gonna move and get ready for the next year," Lorek said.

Frazier is ready to step up as a leader for the team next year.

"The other seniors and I are gonna need to step up and take the freshmen under our wings and just do the same thing we did this year and keep winning," Frazier said.

Even with the record crushing season the wrestling team accomplished this year, the mindset of the underclassmen is that the team can only improve.

"We're gonna look back 20 years from now and it's gonna be awesome, but, honestly, I think we're gonna be better next year," Frazier said. "I think it's great for the younger kids. They're looking up to us, and we're gonna be really good for years to come."



■ Senior Lilly Stoelb performs on floor at regionals on March 5. Stoelb scored a 9.325.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

History Making, Record Breaking

BY GILLIAN GATLEY [reporter]

At the end of a phenomenal season, the girls gymnastics team made history by winning the school's first gymnastics state championship. Along with the state title, the team also secured the DAC championship and their first sectional title.

With being the first gymnastics team in school history to win both sectionals and state, coach Ami Pysh attributes the success to the depth of the team and the leadership of the senior class that utilized it to their advantage.

"It never was about just one kid and the talent of one kid. The team is so deep that the strong leadership on Mickey's (Mikayla Neal) behalf, as well as all the other seniors we have, helped keep all the kids' heads in the game," Pysh said.

Pysh isn't the only believer in the depth of the team. Senior captain Lilli Anderson recalled the feeling of winning state and sectionals, highlighting the importance of the team working as a whole.

"It was amazing, and it was just a good feeling. Everyone was so happy that we finally did it, and we couldn't have done it without the whole team working together because our whole team is so deep," Ander-

son said.

Another ingredient in the formula for success, according to senior captain Lilly Stoelb, was the willingness of the team to focus on the bigger team goals in comparison to smaller personal goals.

"It was seriously like nothing I have ever experienced before, like knowing that we were in the lead going into each of the rotations, the team was buzzing."

- senior captain
Lilly Stoelb

"I wasn't as focused on my personal goals. I was more focused on the team winning. We all shared that same goal, so I just did the best that I could in each performance to make sure it happened," Stoelb said.

While the outcome of the state meet was ideal for

the team, the lead up to the competition was a challenge due to a change in preparations.

"What the commissioner decided to do for regionals and state was incorporate this new rotation, warm up type thing called 'capital cup,'" Pysh said. "Leading up to regionals and state, I ran my practices exactly like that. I warmed them up for 10 minutes and then they had to compete on the event."

Even with the change in the way they prepared, the team kept themselves in high spirits and continued to grow and prepare for the meet by working in practice to achieve their goals.

"I'm very proud of everyone. Everyone always works their hardest at practice. This is something that hasn't happened all my four years in high school," Anderson said.

At those practices, each gymnast worked on specific skills and areas, such as Stoelb on floor, in order to perfect their routines and earn every point possible.

"Sometimes the judges like to see the more dancey routines, and they want to see that you're having fun and definitely sticking every landing because every tenth counts," Stoelb said.

With the preparation for the postseason meets and the energy circulating through the team, Anderson reflected back on her gymnastics career and highlighted

the impact it has had on her.

"I'm sad that it's my senior year and my last year, but, throughout my whole life, I've been doing gymnastics. I've really liked it, and I'm glad that I did it," Anderson said.

Along with the feat of winning the sectional and state championships, the team also had an undefeated regular season that has helped bring together an amazing season, according to sophomore Alana Lockhart.

"I think it's so cool that we went the whole season being undefeated. We've never done that before, and this has been the best season ever," Lockhart said.

With the performance during the regular season carrying over into the postseason, the team placed first at every meet besides regionals. This led Pysh to believe the team was prepared early in the postseason for those bigger meets.

"When I look back, I think those kids were ready to go at conference. If that could have been state that day, they were ready to go," Pysh said.

According to Stoelb, during the state meet each gymnast's energy soared as they transitioned between events.

"It was seriously like nothing I have ever experienced before, knowing that we were in the lead going into each of the rotations. The team was buzzing," Stoelb said. "It was so fun to be a part of it."

Not only did the gymnasts experience unique emotions as their team dominated at state and sectionals, Pysh also began to get emotional as she watched her gymnasts compete and win titles.

"The girls came around me and hugged me be-

cause I teared up," Pysh said. "That was extremely meaningful to me after all these years of coaching."

During the last event at state, the beam event, the girls competing had to compete alone due to the other events being finished.

"It was beautiful and to see all the crowd looking at them, all the judges, all the other athletes, all the other coaches were watching my kids on a four inch wide beam, and they held it together. It was so triumphant you would not have believed it. It was just amazing," Pysh said.

Due to their performance, Stoelb hoped that the success will leave others wanting to join the team in order to continue the dominance.

"We might see some new people coming onto the team next year that didn't (this year) because they were afraid of losing, but, now, they see what we're capable of. It's a huge win for everyone," Stoelb said.

At the end of a successful season, the 2021-2022 gymnastics team has cemented itself into Crown Point history as the first team to win a sectional and state title, as well as going undefeated in their regular season.

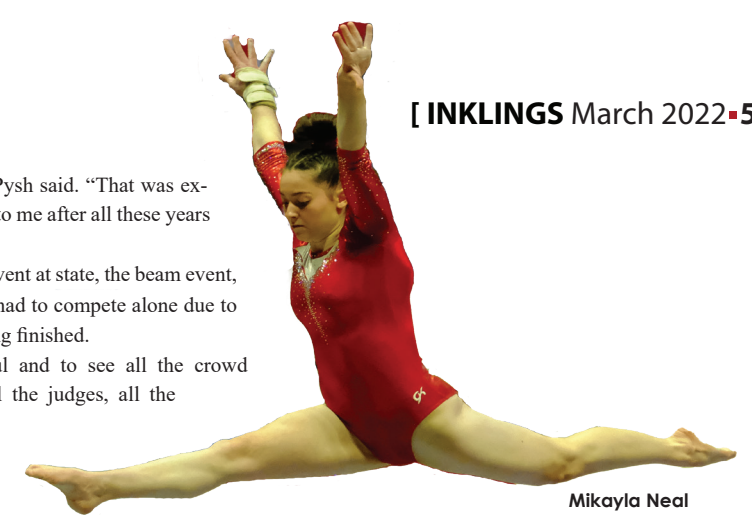
"I'm so happy for every single one of us. Even those that didn't compete postseason, still having them there and having all that energy going is crazy," Stoelb said. "It was the best senior season I could have asked for."



■ Freshman Leah Fenner throws a back handspring at the state championship on March 12. The team later won the state title.

PHOTO BY ABIGAIL GODSEN

[INKLINGS March 2022 • 5]



Mikayla Neal

Leaping to New Heights

The current record, set on Jan. 29, breaking the previous team record of 112.85 set on Jan. 24.

113.35

Senior Mikayla Neal breaks the previous beam record of 9.7 on Jan. 18.

9.75

Sophomore Elly Kiran breaks the previous all around record of 38.35 on Feb. 15.

38.45

The CP gymnasts won a sectional title for the first time in school history on Feb. 26.

#1

For the first time in school history, the CP gymnasts won a state title on March 12.

State Champs



■ Jessica Carrothers, center, tries to find a path through Noblesville's Ashlynn Shade, left, and Kaitlyn Shoemaker on Saturday during a Class 4A semistate game at Logansport.

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION BY KALE WILK, Times of Northwest Indiana

Girls basketball falls to Noblesville in semistate match 62-41, finishes season with regional title

BY SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

After reaching the semistate game, the girls basketball team fell to eventual state champions Noblesville 62-41. It marks the end of the seniors' high school basketball careers, a group who helped bring four sectional championships home, three regional championships, one semistate championship and one state title in their time playing for the team.

One of those seniors was Lilly Stoddard, who looked back at her time after the defeat.

"After the game, I was grateful for all the memories I had throughout those four years with my teammates," Stod-

dard said.

Especially after a state win the year before, it can feel odd not ending the season with the same feelings.

"I didn't want it to be over. We went to state last year so that was such a different feeling," junior Emily Phillips said.

Head coach Chris Seibert felt it was a bittersweet moment seeing both the end of the player's time at Crown Point along with remembering what they have accomplished.

"(We're) definitely disappointed that we came up one game short of our ultimate goal, but were incredibly proud of our kids and what they've been able to accomplish these last four years. We're just blessed to have tremendous kids, tremendous coaching



■ From left, Lilly Stoddard, Brooke Lindsmith and Ava Ziolkowski react on the bench after being subbed out for the last time Saturday during a Class 4A semistate game at Logansport.

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION BY KALE WILK, Times of Northwest Indiana

staff, and we're very thankful for that," Seibert said.

With the long streak of success the team has attained over the past few years, Seibert has seen a rebirth of notoriety for the team.

"I think that the excitement for girls basketball in this community that was here in the 80's and 90's with coach May is back. There are a lot of elementary, middle school aged kids that want to be the next Lilly Stoddard, that want to be the next Jessica Carrothers," Seibert said.

Seibert believes that the seniors have helped shaped the way the team is viewed.

"I think that these five seniors, as well as the senior groups that have come before them over these past four years and even before, have established a culture of pride, a culture of community and a culture of winning within the girls basketball program," Seibert said.

Even with the accolades that Stoddard has accomplished, her favorite high school memory won't just be holding up the state trophy her junior year.

"I think one of the most memorable parts of my high school career was playing with my sister, Abby, who plays basketball at Butler right now. We had so much fun playing together, and she's such a good role model and leader on and off the court," Stoddard said.

Phillips will also miss more than just the time they spent on the court.

"I'd just say going out to dinner with the team after all our games was really fun," Phillips said.

With the end of the season, coaches and players are looking forward to the next season. According to Seibert, the juniors are ready to take the lead.

"Every single one of them is going to be in a different role, but we're also in a situation where they've paid their dues, they've been here, they've worked hard and they've been tremendous teammates even when they weren't playing major minutes. I think the talent is there, and I think the work ethic is there. It's just going to be interesting how it all shapes up," Seibert said.

Phillips is also ready to lead the team into whatever the next season holds.

"Us juniors who are gonna be seniors next year are really gonna need to step up in leadership roles and just figure out how to go on," Phillips said.

Boys basketball season ends in sectional semifinal loss

BY SAMUEL BREWER [sports editor]

After a close game in the sectional semifinals, the boys basketball team had their season ended by Portage after a 52-51 loss.

The team surged in the last few minutes, just missing out on a 10 point comeback. According to head coach Clint Swan, the team played some of their best in those moments.

"Those last few possessions, we really couldn't have executed much better than what we were doing. We got great looks, they just didn't go down," Swan said.

Dealing with such a difficult loss can be tough on both a team and a coach, but Swan feels the team's effort at the end is representative of the team's season.

"It's tough. You go back and watch the film. You go back over what you could have done. I think I would've felt a lot worse there in the third or fourth quarter and just wilted and lost by 15 or 20, but there's something to be said for being encouraged by the comeback there at the end and the chance to win it," Swan said.

This game proved to be the last for senior Matthew Zdanowicz. As the game clock was counting down, he remembered all of the times he spent with the team.

"The last four years were just flashing through my mind," Zdanowicz said. "I thought about all of the good times. I was thinking about what I could have done better to put us in a better position to win. It was kind of sad."

For Zdanowicz, the team's personal connections are something he will look back on in the future.

"I think my favorite memory is probably all the bus rides that I got to spend with all my friends, all the times in the locker room, practices, team meals, just all the time we got to spend together outside of basketball where we could just really bond," Zdanowicz said.

Although the team did not win the



■ Crown Point's Carter Delich gets a shot off against Portage's Terrell Craft in the second quarter Friday night during the Class 4A sectional semifinals at Portage.

PHOTO USED WITH PERMISSION BY JEFFERY D. NICHOLLS, Times of Northwest Indiana

sectional, they still had the most wins since the 2017-2018 season, picking up 17 wins overall. Swan made sure to emphasize the team's successes after the loss.

"You sometimes have to remind everybody that we had a good year, and don't let one moment or one game change that in your minds."

- head coach
Clint Swan

"You sometimes have to remind everybody that we had a good year and don't let one moment or one game

change that in your minds," Swan said.

For junior Connor Cotton, the team has the ability to improve on this number next year, especially if they can improve on defense.

"Offensively we're fine, we shoot the ball well, but, defensively, we need to pick it up a little bit. Nothing can really stop us if we're hitting shots," Cotton said.

With Cotton, the team has a solid core coming back next year, and Swan feels that will be important in the team's success.

"We have a few juniors who now have a couple years of varsity experience under their belt, and they've all been in our program now for three years. They know what to expect, they know what the workouts should look like, what they should sound like and what needs to be done," Swan said.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Carrothers *senior*

Q. What was your favorite memory about the season this year?

A. My favorite memory from this year was rooming with Zoey Wells and Abbi Foster after beating Penn for the regional semifinal.

Q. What advice would you give to the juniors who will be the leaders of the team next year?

A. I'd tell them to play, to have fun and enjoy the last year that they have. Keep the girls together and don't let the hype of the big stage get to them.

Q. How did you feel when you knew you were in the running for Miss Basketball, and how does it feel that you were the runner up?

A. I was excited and surprised to be in the running for Miss Basketball. Being runner up is such an honor knowing I competed with so many high level athletes.

Q. What are your plans for college?

A. I plan on attending IUPUI in Indianapolis and majoring in Criminal Justice. I'm very excited to continue my academic and athletic career there. I feel like it's the right place for me.

Q. Outside of basketball, what do you do with your free time?

A. Outside of basketball, I spend the majority of my time hanging out with my cousins and friends. In addition to this, I like fishing, watching different TV series and sleeping.



MOMENTS ■ OF THE ■ MONTH

■ **3-12** The girls gymnastics team wins the state meet at Ball State University. **This is the first gymnastics state title in the team's history.**

■ **2-19** The wrestling team wins their second ever state title. **They won the tournament by the largest margin in state history.**

■ **2-12** The girls basketball team wins regionals over Lake Central. **They won the game 59-38.**

■ **3-12** Senior Jessica Carrothers is announced **as runner up as Indiana's Miss Basketball.**

■ **2-25** The boys basketball team wins their final regular season game against Lowell **65-17. It was the second largest victory the team had all year.**