FM places 9 of 10 at Southern classic

FMHS Head Coach Ryan Smith said that wasn’t an expectation going into the last tournament before districts.

“Obviously that’s not a situation we wanted to encounter, but I think he’s gonna be ok.”

-Ryan Smith

FMHS Head Coach

A classic

FMHS sophomore Sam Hayes tries to get a foothold on Washington’s Karlton Skubal Saturday at the Southern Iowa Classic in Fairfield. Skubal slammed Hayes too hard into the mat causing Hayes an injury to his back and giving Hayes the win. But Hayes had to forfeit his chance at the title at 195 lbs. due to the injury.

Junior Ryan Steffensmeier (24-10) wrestled just two matches before securing the title at 113 lbs. After receiving a bye in the first two minutes and then faced 38-10 Tyler Landgrebe of Eddyville/Blakesburg/Freemont. Steffensmeier got on the board quick in the first two minutes and then was able to hold off Landgrebe for a 7-6 decision. Smith said Ryan drew the No. 1 seed in the bracket, but the top three in the bracket were equal caliber.

“I expected a tough match there and it was a tough match. He did a good job of getting the first take down and getting some back points, but (his opponent) was really bringing the heat in that third period. That was a good win for Ryan against a tough kid.”

Junior Harlan Steffensmeier won the title in the 138 lb. bracket when he pinned Andrew Waite of Washington at the 2:57 mark. Steffensmeier pinned all four opponents he faced, the first three of which didn’t get out of the first two-minute period.

Junior Sam Hayes captured a 2nd place finish at 195 lbs., but injured his back in the semifinals when he was lifted and slammed to the mat, which is an illegal move. Hayes couldn’t finish the match due to back spasms as a result of the slam but was awarded the win because of the move. But the injury prevented Hayes from wrestling in the 1st place match.

Smith said he thinks Hayes, who’s wrestling for only the third time since returning from an injury...you expect Harlan...you know they can do it, but you don’t really expect it.”

Saying good-bye

Outgoing ISP Warden Nick Ludwick, center, speaks with several of the throngs of people packed into the ISP conference room on Friday afternoon. Ludwick is retiring after 6.5 years at Fort Madison and more than 40 years in the Iowa and Michigan prison systems. He was congratulated by family, historians, ISP staff and administration and local, county and state officials for more than two hours Friday afternoon.

“I’ll return home to my family and I may write. My only regret is not coming to Iowa sooner,” Ludwick said in an earlier interview.

Ludwick ushered in the brand new state-of-the-art ISP facility on 330th Avenue and the transferring of the offenders to the new site, as well as overseeing cultural and internal modernization of the maximum security facility. Ludwick is in a stage 4 battle with cancer, a battle he’s been waging for close to 12 years.

“It’s been a positive experience,” Ludwick said of his time in Fort Madison. “To see the staff interactions and interactions with offenders. It’s just been great to have been a part of that culture change. I would like to thank the people of Iowa and my staff. Everyone has known I’ve been battling a medical situation, but I’ve had an open book about it. The biggest thing for me is thanking citizens of Fort Madison for the support they’ve given me. I leave with head held high, sooner than I would have preferred, but knowing full well that I have a capable replacement who is also a personal friend. My work is complete.”

Patti Wachtendorf, will launch a campaign.

SUPPORT YOU’VE GIVEN ME. I LEAVE WITH HEAD HELD HIGH, SOONER THAN I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED, BUT KNOWING FULL WELL THAT I HAVE A CAPABLE REPLACEMENT WHO IS ALSO A PERSONAL FRIEND. MY WORK IS COMPLETE.”
For the Record

Fort Madison
Police Report
01/25/17 – 8:04 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 1100 block of Avenue E.
01/25/17 – 9:59 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 600 block of 8th Street (in the Police Department lobby).
01/25/17 – 11:31 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2400 block of Avenue G.
01/25/17 – 11:32 a.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.
01/25/17 – 2:38 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of vandalism in the 2700 block of Avenue M at the 1900 block of Avenue J.
01/25/17 – 7:28 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 1400 block of Avenue E.
01/26/17 – 1:56 p.m. – Fort Madison police arrested James Allen Moore, 33, of Fort Madison in the 1900 block of Avenue E on charges of driving while barred, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of stolen property. He was taken to the Lee County jail and held.
01/26/17 – 4:42 p.m. – Fort Madison police responded to a report of burglary in the 1800 block of Avenue I.

Lee County
Sheriff Report
01/25/17 – 12:09 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a one-vehicle accident at the 2800 block of Hwy 27. A vehicle driven by Nathaniel David Everhart slid on an icy overpass causing his semi-trailer to jackknife and enter the east ditch. No injuries or citations were reported at the scene.
01/25/17 – 11:33 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Jonathan Ray Forquer, 30, of Keokuk at the Lee County Sheriff’s office on a charge of fugitive from justice. He was jailed.

Fort Madison
Fire Report
01/25/17 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to 5 medical calls.
01/26/17 – Fort Madison firefighters responded to 2 medical calls and 1 fire alarm (no fire).

It should be noted a criminal charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

New business welcome

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Club welcomed Pen City Current to the Fort Madison business community on Friday in the Fort Madison Partners office. Co-founders Chuck and Lee Vandenberg are pictured here with club members. The Vandenburgs launched the digital news products Pen City Current and pencitycurrent.com in December.

FMAAA is #ChamberStrong

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce launched a new #ChamberStrong program last week. Their first stop was to Brian Riggs and the Fort Madison Area Artists Association. Read more about the program on page 3.

Call us for all your real estate needs.

Click or Call now
(366)263-4640
Boulders* Inn & Suites Fort Madison
Stay in elevated comfort.

People are looking for you. Let us help them find you.

78% of local mobile searches result in offline purchases.

(319)371-1919

Lee Rung, (319)371-1919
Lee K. Vandenberg, (319)371-4125

All Are Welcome Sundays 9am
Burlington Spring Grove United Methodist Church
4502 Summer Street, South of Burlington
Pastor Sara “Jan” Garza
Cell (319)371-1902
Small but Mighty • Casual dress but full on worship
0 days ago, will be okay.

"Obviously that’s not a situation we wanted to encounter, but I think he’s gonna be okay," he said.

Other highlights included a fourth-place finish for Aaron Steffensmeier who won 2-of-2 on the day with two pins but ended up losing a 3-2 decision to Zach Barnes in third place.

Freshman Danen Settles captured a sixth-place finish after going 2-of-3 on the day not including a bye win in the 1st consolation round. Settles won a major decision 10-2 and a decision 11-10 before suffering back-to-back pins in the consolation semis and the 5th place match.

Smith said Settles gives up a lot to his opponents and is always battling to the end.

"Considering he’s a freshman giving up 30 pounds to most of these kids he did very well. He is not over a defeated wrestler and you’re always going to get his best effort."

Other places for the meet were Elton Kruse 5th at 106 lbs., Nathan Steffensmeier 6th at 120 lbs., Dalton Wooley 6th at 145 lbs., and Diego Lozano 5th at 182 lbs.

Complete results are below:

106 - Elton Kruse (14-19) placed 5th and scored 15.00 team points. Quarterfinal - Elton Kruse (Fort Madison) 14-19 won by fall over Chris Bow in 1st Round vs. Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 10-21 (Fall 2:19) 3rd Round vs. Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 won by decision over Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 (Fall 2:00) 5th Place Match - Jaden Davis (Mount Pleasant) 14-21 (Fall 2:34)

113 - Ryan Steffensmeier (24-10) placed 1st and scored 22.00 team points. Quarterfinal - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 24-10 won by decision over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Dec 7-4) 5th Place Match - Ryan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 24-10 won by decision over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Dec 7-4)

120 - Nathan Steffensmeier (11-23) placed 1st and scored 15.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Parker Hardy (Clarke) 25-14 won by decision over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 1 - Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 won by decision over Elton Kruse (Fort Madison) 11-23 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 won by decision over Dalton Wooley (Fort Madison) 11-23 (Fall 2:00)

126 - Skyler Schau (6-27) placed 1st and scored 15.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Kyle Anderson (Washington) 23-11 won by fall over Skyler Schau (Fort Madison) 6-27 (Fall 1:27) Cons. Round 1 - Skyler Schau (Fort Madison) 6-27 won by decision over Aaron Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 12-11 (Fall 1:33) Cons. Round 2 - Dallas Peakeer (Fairfield) 13-14 won by fall over Skyler Schau (Fort Madison) 6-27 (Fall 1:27) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 placed 4th and scored 9.00 team points. Quarterfinal - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over EAST Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-23 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over Nathan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 2 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over Dalton Wooley (Fort Madison) 11-12 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by decision over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 won by fall over Tyler Langrehr (Edlysville-Blairstown-Fremont) 38-10 (Fall 2:00) Cons. Round 3 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points. Champ. Round 1 - Harlan Steffensmeier (Fort Madison) 11-12 placed 3rd and scored 9.00 team points.
Crusaders run out of steam in loss to Danville

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With the end of the regular season looming for the Holy Trinity boys varsity team, the road seems to be getting just a bit steeper.

After winning five of six from Jan. 10 - Jan. 23, the Crusaders have dropped two in a row and have likely lost starting point guard Connor Conrad for the rest of the regular season. Holy Trinity fell 75-50 on Friday to visiting Danville in Southeast Iowa Superconference boys basketball action.

They are also looking toward 11-5 Wapello on Tuesday, a team averaging close to 69 points per game which is tops in the Southeast Iowa Superconference North. Then face Southeast Iowa Superconference North. Then face

The game started quick-paced with the Bears holding a two-point lead after the first quarter but then the Bears used their quickness and ball control to move to a 36-27 halftime lead. The third quarter saw Danville ratchet up their press and take the energy from the Crusaders. Holy Trinity Head Coach John Hellige said being one person down has not only hurt in some games, but is taking a toll in practice as well.

"We're one less in our rotation so I think their press kinda wore us down there," he said. "The energy we were exerting there...we just had some tired legs."

The fatigue sat in fully in the third period as the Crusaders only managed nine points to Danville's 15 and could only get as close at 10 points with three minutes remaining. A usually sure-handed Crusader's ball club committed a plethora of turnovers and Danville runs a fairly deep and quick Danville team.

"We didn't have the best of hands and we missed a couple guys this week in practice with sore legs," Hellige said. "Our practices Wednesday and Thursday were good, but we didn't have the whole team there. We tried to do a walk-through today before the JV game but it's not quite the same as the speed of practice."

Hellige also pointed out that his squad only converted 15 of 29 from the free-throw line and six of those were on the front end of one-and-ones which could have resulted in six more attempts. "(Danville's) tough," Hellige said. "We committed 32 turnovers on the night, "Hellige also pointed out that his squad only converted 15 of 29 from the free-throw line and six of those were on the front end of one-and-ones which could have resulted in six more attempts.

Cut off

HTC senior Cory Hopper looks for a passing lane to get the ball inside to Bailey Merschman. The Crusaders dropped a 75-50 loss to Danville on Friday night.

HTC girls fall to Danville

LTE Madison - The Holy Trinity girls varsity team looked like they were on their way to a fourth win in a row and building momentum going into the post-season, but then they had to play a 2nd half.

The Lady Crusaders were coming off their biggest win of the year over Southeast Iowa Superconference South leader Central Lee on Tuesday before dropping a 47-40 loss to Danville at home Friday.

It was the third game in eight days, highlighted by the 55-45 win over the Lady Hawks but Head Coach Tony Johnson's squad pushed their way to 7-7 tie at the end of the first quarter and then out-scored the visiting Bears 10-7 in the second period for a 17-14 lead headed into the lockerroom.

But turnovers in the third period allowed Danville to get back in the game and closed the gap to within a bucket at the end of the third period. "We committed 32 turnovers on the night," Johnson said after game. "We just couldn't keep the ball in our hands."

HTC only managed to score seven points in the last period, six in the final four minutes while Danville continued to capitalize on turnovers and tied the game up with about six minutes remaining. Buckets kept coming in transition and off turnovers for Danville and HTC couldn't keep up the pace to the end of the game.

Ali Randolph led HTC with 12 points followed by Emily Box with 10. Brette Schneider and Ashlyn Haas finished with four points, while Samantha Hoonig and Taylor Bonding each added three.

Mya Lavolver and Madison Mohrfield each had two points.

The Lady Crusaders now stand at 9-9 on the season with two regular season games left. One at home vs. 9-8 Wapello and the other on the road at 9-8 New London on Friday before districts start.

Follow Us
@pencitycurrent

WHAT THIS PLACE NEEDS IS ACTIVE PLAY EVERY DAY.

Thanks to our work with NFL PLAY 60, we’ve brought fun fitness programs to more than 35,000 kids. And it can happen here too.

To donate or volunteer, go to UNITEDWAY.ORG. BECAUSE GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE LIVE UNITED.