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# Sports

## Golden Eagles make it into school's wrestling history book

By Sean Douglas

Over the last 35 years, Andrew King has molded the Oak Hill wrestling program into one of the best small-school programs in the state of Indiana.

And on Saturday, the Golden Eagles made history.

At the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Oak Hill, behind a pair of semi-state champions and four total state qualifiers, took home the semi-state team champion trophy for the first time ever, totaling 76.5 points, nine more than arch-rival and defending champion Western. Additionally, Oak Hill's four state qualifiers are the most in program history.

Aidan Hardcastle, who came into the semi-state with an undefeated record, remained unblemished on Saturday, becoming Oak Hill's first two-time semi-state champion at 152. Oak Hill's all-time win leader pinned South Adams' AJ



Aidan Hardcastle won his second straight semi-state title at 152, becoming the first-ever two-time semi-state champion in Oak Hill history. **Photo by Eric Christiansen**

Dull in his first-round matchup, before defeating Huntington North's Julius Fletcher in the second round by major decision, 13-2. In the semi-final round, Hardcastle came away with a thrilling 2-1 triumph over No. 1 ranked Alex Currie of

Adams Central, and capped up his day with a 5-2 victory over Carroll's Evan Ulrick.

Brody Arthur won his first individual semi-state championship at 138, with all his victories coming via pinfall. He pinned Fort Wayne Carroll's Jared Landez in 3:13,



Brody Arthur won his first semi-state title at 138, becoming the third Golden Eagle since 2016 to win a semi-state title.

**Photo by Eric Christiansen**  
Lakeland's Ben Miller in 2:37, and Columbia City's Jarrett Forrester in 2:58, before dispatching Daleville's Julius Gerencser in 1:38 to earn his semi-state crown.

Arthur became the third Golden Eagle since 2016 to win a semi-state title, joining Hardcastle and Owen Perkins.

Jett Thompson finished as the runner-up at 182, defeating Daleville's Jackson Ingenito, 11-5, in the first

round, before defeating Fort Wayne Dwenger's Austin Farris, 6-1, in the ticket round. Thompson went on to secure a 5-0 victory over Marion's Je'kwan Williams in the semi-final, before being pinned by New Haven's Jacob Saylor in the championship round. Williams came away with a fourth-place finish, guaranteeing him a spot in the state finals next weekend in Indianapolis.

Finally, at 126, Harper Dedman punched his ticket to Bankers Life for the second time in his career. After defeating Daleville's Brandon Kinnick, 5-0, in the opening round, and Zac Pica of Fremont in the second round via tech fall, Dedman lost a 7-3 decision to Goshen's Nick Olson in the semi-finals and a 7-5 overtime decision to No. 2 ranked Logan Uhlman of Adams Central.

The 2021 IHSAA Wrestling State Finals will begin on Friday, Feb. 19. First round matches will begin at 11 am for those in the 106-145 weight classes, while the 152-285 weight classes will begin their first-round matchups at 7 pm.

The quarterfinal and semi-final rounds will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, consolations will begin at 5 p.m., and championships bouts will follow at 7:30 p.m.

## Brown reaches 1,000 point milestone, Argylls win CIC title

By Sean Douglas

Scoring 1,000 points in the game of basketball is a tremendous accomplishment.

Reaching the milestone in a conference championship clinching triumph is even sweeter.

Grant Brown eclipsed the 1,000-point plateau midway through the fourth quarter on his way to a career-high 29-point performance, as the Madison-Grant Argylls captured the Central Indiana Conference championship with a 60-37 rout of the Alexandria Tigers on Friday evening.

With the win, Madison-Grant won their first conference title since 2012, and their first outright title in program history.

"That was one of the goals we set at the very beginning of the season," Brown said. "We knew coming in it wasn't going to be easy either way. From



**Grant Brown**

the first game to the last game, we were going to have to work for every single game. We didn't want to share first place with any-

body. We wanted to come in here, take care of our work, and own it."

Brown, the Argylls' multi-faceted, gifted point

guard, played a major role in the historic victory, taking over the contest in the second half. Twenty-two of his 29 points came after halftime, and he missed just one shot – a free throw – in the final two quarters of action.

Additionally, Brown became the second Argyll this season to reach the 1,000-point threshold, joining fellow backcourt mate Kaden Howell.

"I love Grant Brown. I love all of our guys, but Grant is a special student athlete," Madison-Grant Head Coach Kevin Cherry said. "He's got a 4.0 GPA. He's a high academic achiever. He's a really, really good basketball player. I can't say enough good things about him. He is a special young man."

A four-year starter for the Argylls, Brown has flourished on the court throughout his high school career, making a plethora of big-

time shots and jaw-dropping passes. Under Head Coach Kevin Cherry's leadership and guidance, Brown has taken his game to a different level in his senior campaign, and on Friday, all of his hard work paid off.

"It's special. That's all I can say about it," Brown said. "It just means a whole lot to be on that board, but I couldn't do it without my teammates."

While Brown's remarkable second-half performance led to an eventual comfortable victory, there was not much scoring from either side in the contest's early stages. Alexandria tried to run a ball-control type offense in the first half in an attempt to slow down Madison-Grant's high-octane attack as well as force the Argylls into defensive miscues.

However, the Argylls dominated on the defensive end of the floor, forcing 10 Alexandria turnovers in the

first half and holding the Tigers to just 12 points on five made field goals. In the second quarter alone, Madison-Grant held Alexandria to just three shots.

"We knew we were [going to] have [limited] possessions [because] Alexandria was trying to hold it a little bit and slow things down for us," Brown said. "We knew every possession mattered. Back on defense, we knew we had to work for it and get stops to be able to go down and execute on offense."

Madison-Grant trailed 8-5 after the first quarter and 12-10 midway through the second. But for the next quarter-and-a-half, the Argylls thoroughly dominated the contest. The Argylls ended the first half on an 8-0 run and held the Tigers off the scoreboard for the final 4:31 of the period.

"Defensively, I thought we were really, really good

*See Argylls, Page 8*