

# CITY LEAGUE CONQUERORS

CRUSADERS TAKE FIRST-PLACE REVENGE OVER CROSS-TOWN RIVALS

Determined to win City League and revenge a Jan. 16 regular-season loss of six points to its cross-town rivals, coach Jacob Klein pushed his team to work harder by posting Bishop Carroll articles on the walls of the wrestling room leading up to the team's final regular-season meet Feb. 9 at North.

"Carroll kept getting a lot of love in the paper and many were picking them to run away with the City League title," Jacob Klein said. "A couple days before the City League Tournament I posted all the Carroll articles on the wall in the room and a ranking article from the beginning of the year that had Kapaun way down the list. I reminded the team that there weren't any articles on Kapaun wrestling and how everyone expects Carroll to win City League. The team really showed up for each other at the City League Tournament and dominated. It was incredible to be a part of that environment."

Jacob Klein's plan worked, as 13 of the 14 wrestlers placed and the team became City League champions. As the Crusaders took first overall with 222 points, 51.5 points ahead of Carroll, who took second place. Freshman Bubba Wright (106 pounds), sophomores Parker McMahon (138 pounds) and Karter Riley (120 pounds), juniors Brecken Phipps (145 pounds) and Joe Walter (126 pounds) and senior Junior Steiner (113 pounds) all took first. Senior Brogan Klein (182 pounds) took second.

"The most exciting meet was City League," Wright said. "The buildup to it was awesome and [so was] supporting my team through all the matches. Mostly, all of us got first or second place and winning

with my teammates was great. We earned it."

At regionals Feb. 15-16 at Arkansas City, the Crusaders took 11th place as a team. Individually, Wright and Steiner both took second in their weight classes. Brogan Klein, Phipps and Walter each took seventh place, while juniors Charlie Frisch and Ayden Jimenez both placed eighth. With their Top 10 finishes, the seven wrestlers qualified for state.

"Regionals was the most exciting part," Brogan Klein said. "There were so many close matches... Preparing for regionals was hard. You just have to focus on what's right in front you and block everything else out."

The Crusaders did not place as a team at state but individually had two Top 5 finishes. Wright lost to Lansing's Camden Maestras in the consolation match, placing fourth in the 106-pound weight class, and Steiner beat Maize's Junior Camacho in his final match, placing fifth in 113 pounds.

"Individually, the first two kids deserving praise would be Bubba Wright, freshman at 106 pounds," Jacob Klein said. "He finished fourth at the state championships. Placing in the state tournament is hard enough and Bubba made it happen his freshman year. Damon (Junior) Steiner, senior at 113 pounds, finished fifth at the state championships."

Wright said he is happy with his state placement.

"Being able to qualify and place at state felt awesome," Wright said. "I just wanted to work as hard as I could this season and win with my team. Coming to high school wrestling from kids club is a lot different with the attitudes, atmosphere, people and competition, and I am happy I could take on the challenge and win."

THE TEAM REALLY SHOWED UP FOR EACH OTHER AT THE CITY LEAGUE TOURNAMENT AND DOMINATED. IT WAS INCREDIBLE TO BE A PART OF THAT ENVIRONMENT

-COACH JACOB KLEIN



**ATTEMPTING A PIN,** senior Brogan Klein wrestles Logan Tajchman from Bishop Carroll at Carroll Jan. 16. Klein lost the match but, took second at City League and seventh at regionals.

**FLIPPING HIS OPPONENT,** sophomore Parker McMahon throws Bishop Carroll's Jaleb Gann in the air Jan. 16 at Carroll. McMahon won this match in the 138-pound weight class by pinning Gann. The Crusaders lost their regular-season match but avenged their loss at City League. "Personally I think I did really well this season, I ended with a winning streak. The team performed to the best of our abilities. I'm proud of everyone and how hard we worked," McMahon said. photos by Connor Bullock



## STATE SUCCESS



**1. LOOKING AT HIS OPPONENT,** freshman Bubba Wright wrestles Jordan Habbenfrom from St. Thomas Aquinas Feb. 23 at Hartman Arena. Wright first at City League and second at regionals and placed fourth at state in the 106-pound weight class.

**2. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE STATE TOURNAMENT,** senior Junior Steiner wrestles Vaughn-Trey Dean from Heights in the 113-pound weight class Feb. 22 at Hartman Arena. Steiner won this match to move on to the second day at state. Steiner placed fifth at state after beating Junior Camacho from Maize. Steiner said his favorite memory of the season was being able to stand on the podium after state. photos by Julia Hagen