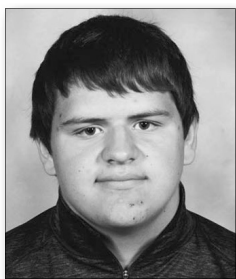


Noah Stafursky

Senior, **York**

York senior Noah Stafursky did not step onto the wrestling mat until the last meet of the 2018 portion of the season. He demonstrated his status in Class B at the state championships by grinding out three wins, two of them in the quarterfinals and semifinals that included an ultimate tie-breaker and overtime win. York head coach Chad Mattox said that Stafursky, a Nebraska football walk-on commit, flipped a switch his sophomore year and became both a dominant wrestler and football player. "Noah was an outstanding 285-pound wrestler for us. To me, he is one of the best I've ever coached," Mattox said. "He's got the capabilities of doing so many special things as an athlete in college and I believe he will get there." Stafursky was second at state and in conference, finished with a record of 39-3, had 27 pins and 33 takedowns, and has a career mark of 134-29.



Thomas Ivey

Sophomore, **York**

York sophomore Thomas Ivey is on pace to record 176 wins at York High School and he picked up 49 of them this year against just 10 losses. Ivey took home the fifth-place medal at the Class B state tournament and was a runner-up at districts. Ivey has already rolled up 89 wins in his two years and could have a chance to break a slew of records before he's done. "Thomas has done so many good things early on in his career," York head coach Chad Mattox said. "He's a great example of what a multi-sport athlete can be and the best is yet to come with him. Thomas has set himself up to be in rare company with earning a state medal as a sophomore and he looks to obtain more in the future." Ivey had 89 takedowns, four major decisions and 21 pins this season.



Douglas Lazo

Senior, **York**

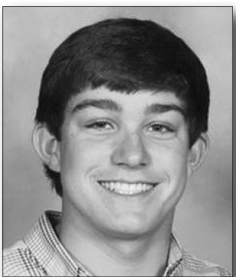
Several times during the course of the year, York head coach Chad Mattox sang the praises of his 220-pounder Douglas Lazo, and commented on his never-say-die attitude. Lazo was late getting to the mat this past season as injuries from the football season pushed back his starting date. "Out of all our wrestlers I feel that Doug exemplifies the best what we do in York," Mattox said. "Doug overcame adversity due to injury and he didn't over-think things in matches and just tried to do what he does best. Every match with Doug was exciting because there was a great chance he or his opponent would be on their backs within 20 seconds. Doug deserved his state medal and is a great example of perseverance in our program." Lazo was 32-8 this year and ended with a career record of 85-43. He took fifth at state, was third in districts, and had 28 pins and 44 takedowns.



Chase Cotton

Sophomore, **York**

York sophomore Chase Cotton qualified for the Class B state tournament in the 170-pound weight class. He finished with a record of 37-15, had 25 pins and 47 takedowns and placed second at the district meet. Cotton is among a strong group of sophomores at York and has already started to turn heads with his ability on the mat. "Chase had a wonderful season for our squad," York head coach Chad Mattox said. "Chase has a lot of experience in club wrestling, but is only really starting to show what he can do. As Chase gets stronger it wouldn't surprise me to see him in the finals someday. He has emerged as a leader and his role and importance will only grow the next two seasons." Cotton's career record to date is 52-29.



Kobe Lyons

Sophomore, **York**

York sophomore Kobe Lyons started the season rated at No. 5 in the 195-pound weight class according to the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association. He moved down to 182 pounds and picked up right where he left off at 195. Lyons finished the season with a 52-8 record and now sits at 83-23 for his career. He was first at the district meet and had 109 takedowns this year along with 28 pins. "Kobe has put in a ton of time to get better and was the true catalyst to our season going in the right direction by going to a different weight class for the benefit of the team," York head coach Chad Mattox said. "He's a great kid that will end up winning a title someday. Kobe statistically had one of the best seasons a sophomore has ever had at York. The incredible amount of wins and takedowns he amassed is hard to beat regardless of year. The only thing that held him back from a state medal was a horrible draw that had him face the second- and third-place wrestlers in his weight class."

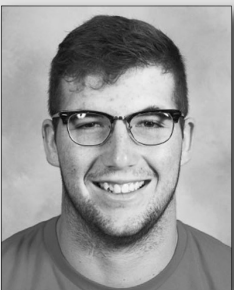


2018-19 York News-Times All-Area Wrestling Team Co-Captains

Riley Moses

Senior, **Fillmore Central**

The road for Fillmore Central senior Riley Moses to the Class C 285-pound state championship was just the way Moses wanted it. The senior, who ended his final year with a record of 44-2, had to go through the No. 2-, No. 3- and No. 6-rated wrestlers as he claimed the school's third-ever individual state championship. Fillmore Central head coach Ryan Komenda said Moses' work ethic was the key. "Riley's work ethic was what enabled him to become the school's third-ever state champion," Komenda said. "His 175 wins places him third on the all-time wins list, behind Luke DeLong and two behind Trevor Adams. Riley did a tremendous job throughout his career and it was an honor to be his coach." Moses, who is a Nebraska football walk-on commit, had 36 pins this past season and finished with a career total of 132. He also had 48 takedowns.



Harrison Gocke

Senior, **York**

According to York head coach Chad Mattox, Harrison Gocke's success started with his dedication to his work in the weight room. "He simply worked hard each day in the weight and practice room in order to get better," Mattox said. "He had a fantastic senior year in a loaded weight class and is one of the best wrestlers at that weight regardless of class. He has come such a long way from when he was a youth wrestler. Our youth can look to Harrison as an example of perseverance and work ethic they can model. He will be missed." Gocke put together a record of 57-2 in his senior season, was the district and conference champion, rang up 38 pins and 89 takedowns, had six major decisions and has a career record of 179-55.



Logan Russell

Senior, **High Plains**

The 2018-2019 wrestling season did not end the way that High Plains Storm senior Logan Russell would have liked it to, but there is no question that the senior will go down as one of the area's best wrestlers of all-time in his career at High Plains High School. Russell posted a record of 41-1 his senior season, won two state championships in his career and finished second this past season. He scored 256 team points this season, which led the Storm, and he won 26 of his 41 wins by pin. "Logan Russell does all of the little things right both on the mat, practice room and in school and has always been very easy to coach," High Plains head coach Norm Manstedt said. "An athlete like Logan does not come along very often and to have the privilege to coach him is a memory that will remain with me forever. Logan will become very successful in whatever profession he chooses because he already knows what it takes to become successful."



Honorable Mention

York: Brayan Rodriguez, Kaleb Elikier, Kaden Lyons, Oren Krumrei; **Centennial:** Gaven Schernikau; **Cross County/Osceola:** Kyle Sterup, Bryce Reed; **Fillmore Central:** Aidan Trowbridge, Dillon Fushia, Tanner Klin; **High Plains:** Clay Chruch



Wyatt Schoepf

Senior, **Centennial**

Centennial head coach Phil Payne said senior Wyatt Schoepf not only got better every year he wrestled, but also made those around him better was well. "Great kid to have in the room and a real hard worker," Payne said of Schoepf. "He went 2-2 at state this year and was just one win away from placing. Probably the best thing about Wyatt is that he was a great teammate who made the other kids around him better. He only weighed about 85 pounds as a freshman, but grew in to the weight. He consistently got better every year. His win percentage and pin percentage increased every season." Schoepf ended his Bronco career on the mats at 106 pounds with a career mark of 133-70, which included this year's 37-9 record. He had 19 pins, 42 takedowns and recorded one major decision.



Cameron Graham

Freshman,
Cross County/Osceola

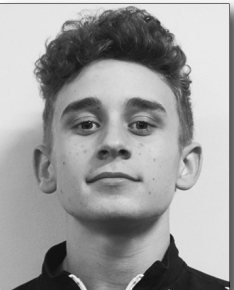
With 51 wins his freshman year, Cross County/Osceola freshman Cameron Graham is on pace to finish his career with better than 200 wins, putting him in elite company in Nebraska wrestling history. He was also the first freshman at Cross County/Osceola since the reintroduction of the co-op to place at the state tournament. "He has a bright future in the sport, look for this kid to be standing on the top of the state podium before his career is finished," Cross County/Osceola head coach Matt Carroll said. "At 51 wins, he tied the most wins in a season for any CCO wrestler. I never thought I would ever see Garrett Davidson's pin-record get broken, but Cam smashed it with 38 pins in a season." Graham finished 51-5, had 60 takedowns to go with the 38 pins and was district champion. He also took fifth at state in Class C 132 pounds.



Dylan Soule

Junior, **High Plains**

Wrestling at 160 pounds, which is always considered one of the toughest weight classes, High Plains' junior Dylan Soule finished third in the Class D state tournament in Omaha and ended his season with a record of 43-10. Soule met up with some of the state's best early in the season as the Storm's schedule, especially in December and early January, matched him against a lot of Class A, B and C opponents. Soule scored 247 points, registered 26 pins and had 82 takedowns. "This season Dylan has stepped up his workouts and also in the classroom," High Plains head coach Norm Manstedt said. "Dylan is a very dedicated athlete and has taken himself to the next level by the way he prepares for meets, his training, nutrition program and his positive attitude. He will be a great senior leader in every sport that he is in and I'm looking forward to watching him achieve many goals that he has set for himself."



Ryan Payne

Sophomore, **Centennial**

A loss in the opening round at the state tournament did not deter Centennial sophomore Ryan Payne from earning a spot on the 120-pound Class C medal stand on championship Saturday. Payne won three matches in a row that Friday and ended up with a sixth-place finish. He was 33-17 on the year and raised his career record to 64-32. "His positive attitude is infectious. He and Wyatt (Schoepf) really made each other better," Centennial head coach Phil Payne said. "During conditioning nobody out-works him. Ryan is starting to turn the corner as seen at state. He needed to win three matches in a row against three opponents that he was a combined 2-5 against, two of which he had never beat. He looks forward to tough competition and I think this is just the tip of the iceberg for Ryan if he is willing to push himself and his teammates in the offseason." Payne was third at districts and had 17 pins and 54 takedowns this season.



Kalten Bauers

Senior, **Centennial**

Centennial's Kalten Bauers qualified for state twice over his career, and both times he brought home a medal. Centennial head coach Phil Payne said Bauers' leadership has really been a huge plus for the younger wrestlers. "Kalten is a very athletic 220-pounder," Payne said. "He had a lot of success in wrestling, on the football field and in the classroom. He's also a three-time academic all-state selection so far with a chance to do it all four years. Kalten is a two-time state placer, placing both times he qualified. Kalten also started to mentor some of our younger upper weights in the room and I really believe that leadership will help those younger wrestlers develop." Bauers finished his senior season with a record of 37-7, was a district champion and placed fourth at state. He had 32 pins and 37 takedowns, and ended his career with a record of 130-53 with 92 pins.



Gavin Hinrichs

Junior, **Fillmore Central**

Fillmore Central Panthers' junior Gavin Hinrichs got a taste of the state wrestling tournament after qualifying at 160 pounds in Class C. He had a tough draw as he lost his first match to the eventual fifth-place finisher, and after a win in the consolation round lost to the eventual third-place finisher. "Gavin had a tremendous year qualifying for the state tournament," Fillmore Central head coach Ryan Komenda said. "He's just a junior, so he'll be eying the medal stand going into next year." Hinrichs was a third-place finisher at districts and was fourth at the conference meet. He finished with a record of 33-12 and had 42 takedowns and 20 pins.