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Sports

Gustie women advance
to MIAC title game



MINNESOTA STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



John Cross

Mankato East's Cody Adams flips Brooklyn Center's Cou Yang during their 112 pound match at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Adams defeated Yang 9-2, and then went on to defeat Thief River Falls' Jordan Engen 11-2 to advance to the semifinals.

POSITION: Gauker, Carriveau alive for today's wrestleback

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the 5-4 win by riding his opponent out the rest of the way.

When asked if he was confident he could ride Ignaszewski out for 10 seconds, he replied with a decisive no.

"That's not my strength, I'm not a very good rider," Perez admitted. "He got up on me but I dropped down and took the leg and was able to hold on."

"It feels great to reach the semifinals. It feels like all the blood and sweat and all the extra work was worth it. Now I have to get to the finals and try to win it."

Mankato West sophomore Kyle Gauker remains alive in today's Class AAA wrestlebacks at 125 pounds. He lost a 14-2 major decision to Matt Mincey of Apple Valley but dropped down to the consol-

ation bracket when Mincey won his quarterfinal bout. Gauker will meet Dan Rysavy of Austin in the first round of wrestlebacks at 8 a.m.

Back in Class AA, East's Kyle Carriveau will get a chance to compete in today's consolation round after going 0-1 at 135 pounds. He lost to third-ranked Brian Bullerman of Adrian and dropped down to the wrestlebacks when Bullerman won his quarterfinal.

Carriveau takes on Troy Biermaier of Little Falls today while Davis meets Thomas Olin of DeLaSalle. Both matches take place in the 10 a.m. session.

The Cougars' only other wrestler, Logan Sheppard at 119, was eliminated right away. He was pinned by Brandon Henrich of Watertown-Mayer in 2:33 and then Henrich lost in the quarterfinals.

Good position

By Jim Rueda
Free Press Sports Editor

East's Adams, West's Perez reach semifinals



Mankato West wrestler Chris Perez guaranteed himself a place in the top six at state for the first time in his career.

ST. PAUL — For one, it was business as usual. For the other, it was a visit to uncharted territory.

East's Cody Adams and West's Chris Perez were the lone Mankato entrants to reach the semifinals of the state wrestling tournament Thursday at Xcel Energy Center.

Adams, competing at 112 pounds in Class A, had two easy victories. The junior, who is the defending state 103-pound champion and ranked No. 1 at 112, opened with a 9-2 victory over Cou Yang of Brooklyn Center. He closed out the day with an 11-2 triumph over Jordan Engen of Thief River Falls.

"I thought I was a little sloppy at the start of my first match," Adams said. "It's a big meet and I had a few butterflies, but they disappeared right away."

In the quarterfinals, Adams got the first takedown against Engen but then tried to turn him over early and got caught with a reversal to tie the score at 2.

"I've done a thousand arm bars,

and I guess I tried to rush that one," Adams said. "I didn't have it good and tight and he got out of it. After that I stayed aggressive but I tried to take a safer approach."

Adams did not give up the rest of the way and rolled to the 11-2 triumph.

East's Michael Davis made a bid to join Adams in the semifinals but came up short. He won his opening match at 140 pounds 16-5 over Ethan Lundberg of Marshall and then got caught against Watertown-Mayer's Matt Burns and was pinned in 1:15.

West senior Perez guaranteed himself a place in the top six at state for the first time in his career. He reached the semifinals at 160 pounds in Class AAA by relying on one of his weaknesses instead of one of his strengths.

The third-ranked Perez won by for-

feit in the first round when fifth-rated Jay Thoreson was ruled ineligible due to a skin infection. In the quarterfinals, Perez tangled with second-ranked Taylor Ignaszewski of Albert Lea.

The duo wrestled to a 2-2 tie after two periods before Perez escaped to go up 3-2 early in the third.

Ignaszewski managed a takedown with about a minute left but Perez came back with a reversal with about 20 seconds left.

"I knew I had to go," Perez said. "He was a good defensive wrestler but I had to get out of there."

The match was stopped when the wrestlers went out of bounds with 10 seconds left and then Perez pulled out

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