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# Sports

NBA, PAGE D3

Garnett tossed from  
game in Wolves win



## MSU wrestlers place third at North Regional

**OMAHA, NEB.** — The Minnesota State University wrestling team qualified nine of its 10 starting wrestlers to the national tournament Sunday as the Mavericks placed third in the NCAA Division II North Regional at the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Sapp Fieldhouse.

Host UNO, the No. 1-ranked team in Division II, won the regional with 139.5 points. Augustana was second with 119 points and MSU was right behind in third place with 118.5

MSU was led by fourth-seeded Andy Pickar, who knocked off the tournament's top two seeds on the way to the 165-pound championship. In the semifinals Pickar defeated top seed Nathan Baker of MSU-Moorhead 3-1 and, in the championship, he downed No. 2 seed Ross Taplin of UNO 4-2. Pickar was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the Meet for his efforts.

MSU's only other champion was John Koons at 184 pounds. Koons cruised through the field with a technical fall, a forfeit vic-

tory and a 5-1 decision over Augustana's Nate Buys in the finals.

Minnesota State also had two runners-up in 157-pound Mathias Bitz and 174-pound Travis Krinkle. Bitz fell to top seed Patrick Allibone of UNO 1-0 in the championship match while Krinkle dropped a 6-4 decision to UNO's top-seeded J.D. Naig in the final round.

MSU's other national qualifiers were Jeff Pfaffinger (133 pounds), Zach Stevens (141) and Brandon Girtz (149), who

each finished third, and Nick Smith (125) and Ben Janike (197), who both placed fourth. Tim Kraemer was the only MSU wrestler who did not qualify, placing sixth at heavyweight.

Pfaffinger earned his third-place medal with a forfeit victory over Moorhead's Troy Macfarland in the final round. Stevens had to work a little harder for his bronze, edging Shane Walton of Moorhead 9-8 in the 141-pound final round.

Girtz toppled Moorhead's Peter Hayes 6-3 for his third-

place finish. Smith was defeated 2-1 by Augustana's Chris Trampe in his third-place bout, and Janike dropped a 3-2 decision to Southwest Minnesota State's Joel Wipperturth in his third-place match.

The Division II national tournament takes place March 10-11 in Findlay, Ohio.

MSU, the second-ranked team, will be looking for its first national championship under head coach Jim Makovsky. MSU finished second in 1994 and placed third in 2005.



Minnesota State's 165-pound Andy Pickar (left) and 184-pound John Koons won individual championships Sunday at the NCAA Division II North Regional. Pickar was named the Outstanding Wrestler of the Meet.