

Noah Warren wins state, Schoettle's first champion

By Fabian Contreras Rodriguez

After achieving state runner-up in the 152-pound-weight class last year, **Noah Warren** stormed back this year as a senior to win the state title in the 170-pound-weight class at Bankers Life Fieldhouse Saturday.

He defeated Jordan Rader from Peru High School, during a hardfought match where near the end Noah get medical attention from the staff available, after the attention gave to Noah he returned to the mat and defeat his rival. "I feel like I finally accomplished something," Noah said.

Noah was **Matthew Schoettle's** first champion wrestler as Perry's new head coach this year. He was an assistant Perry coach for several previous years.

"It was very gratifying see him accomplish his goal," Schoettle said, adding that he's known Warren since he was five years old. "He was built for this."

The 19-year-old credits Schoettle for helping him win. He said the coach knows everyone's potential and how hard to make them work. "He's really tough on guys."

Including Noah's "little" brother Aiden, a Perry freshman, who wrestles in the 152-pound weight class. "He knows how to push us really hard," Aiden agreed. "But he knows how to joke around with the team outside."

Watching his brother win a state title was "one of the best feelings," Aiden said, adding that the two have been practice partners. He ended his freshman season during the state preliminary match on Friday to Donnell Washington, Jr. of Portage.

But now the 16-year-old feels the pressure to follow his brother's lead and become a champion next year. Noah is confident that Aiden will be a champion, too, especially with three years left in high school. With Schoettle as coach, Noah predicts that his brother will be a repeat winner.

Overall at the state finals, close matches and controversial calls by the officials kept fans and coaches on to the edge of their seats as coaches screamed instructions up until the last seconds of the final wrestling match.

The fieldhouse stands were packed with fans from around the state Friday

and Saturday.

Some of Perry's fiercest rivals at the tournament were from Penn, Floyd Central, Portage, Chesterton, Columbus North and toughest opponent Brownsburg High Schools.

Senior **Daniel Below**, with a record of 37-7 in the 182-pound weight class, lost in the Friday preliminaries to Brownsburg senior Nathan Walton whose record was 41-1.

After Friday's matches, three Falcons, in addition to Noah, continued to Saturday's quarterfinals. Junior **Brooks Davis** (160 pounds) was then defeated by Center Grove senior Gleason Mappes.

Junior **Samuel Fair** finished as a state runner up after facing and defeating Brownsburg and Avon 120-pound weight class rivals. In the final match, Fair lost to Jimtown Junior Hunter Watts.

Freshman **Alexander Cottey** (106 pounds) ended up as the highest freshman finisher in the history of PMHS as the state runner up, losing to junior Jacob Moran from Portage. Cottey's mind in to the next season "I hope to win state individually and as a team."



After winning an intense match in his semifinal match against Cody Cray from Munster 10-3, Noah Warren won state (Photo by Fabian Contreras).

Osborne leads girls' tennis

By Payton Romans

Sometimes a leader is quiet, devoting time behind the scenes to build her team's motivation. At least, that's how to describe senior **Anna Osborne** as she formulates Spotify playlists to accompany her fellow tennis players' training.

Since 5th grade, Osborne has been competing on school tennis teams and going out of her way to train and improve, in many summer tennis camps and workshops.

In elementary school, she tried sports like basketball and swimming, and gave up on tennis after playing once. However, she soon

went back.

"I wasn't good at it right away, but I kept working at it and accepting my defeats until I started being able to tell myself that I'm pretty good at it," Osborne said.

Since first joining Perry's team her freshman year, she has excelled.

"Anna has been our best singles player for four years," said **Nathan Orme**, assistant coach of the girls tennis team. "She's played against the best player from each opposing team for four years, and she has held her head high throughout. She is a great example of a resilient player." Playing singles, which Osborne

prefers over doubles, involves two players on the court going head to head.

"I like playing by myself because it's easy to tell how I am doing and how I need to improve, and that kind of pressure makes me work even harder."

The PMHS tennis team has started their pre-season conditioning, will have their first practice on March 12. Their first match is April 2. The season will end May 12. The team will consist of around 20 girls, with seven playing varsity.

Osborne's laid back style and silent determination is noted among her team and coaches as her defining factor, setting her apart from past players and making her a leader.

"Anna is perhaps the most unselfish player I've coached. In fact, there are times I wish she would be a little more selfish about her competitiveness. She is very team-oriented and is a great asset to the team-building dynamic," head coach **Daniel Schoch** said.

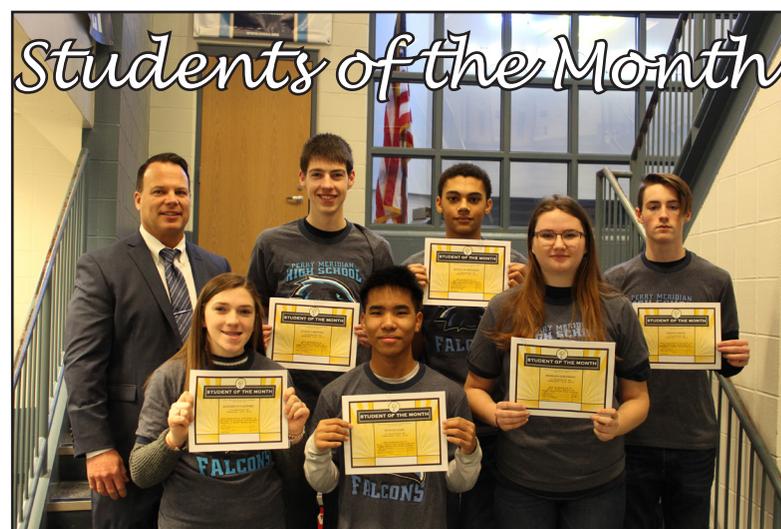
Besides her love for the mechanics of the sport, Osborne prizes the team bonding.

"The atmosphere during practice is overall very friendly because we are a little family. We cheer each other on and have a lot of fun together," the 18-year-old said.

"She's a great role model and is always trying to help other players on the court," said senior **Nay Mi Chele**, another varsity tennis player. "She's generally quiet but everyone knows she has a drive that spreads to everyone else on the court."



Senior Anna Osborne preps for dynamic stretching (Photo by Jess Hess).



Principal Kert Boedicker with top students. Seniors Elijah Gardner; Jacob McKinney, juniors Morgan Goldman, Elizabeth Gaedtke, Dakota Smith, sophomore Nun Za Lian, and freshman Dacen Pendergrass (Photo by Diane Turpen).

TWEET OF THE WEEK

 Taylor Parks 🍵
@tea_parks

Cute date idea- you and your significant other go to Mr. Falcon this Saturday at 7pm and support your school AND go on a nice date #mrfalcon18