

*Articles published on websites of New Ulm Daily Journal or occasionally in other newspapers.*

## Brinkman finishes in fifth

*POSTED: March 7, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

Staff photo by Steve Muscatello

New Ulm Heavy weight Pat Brinkman placed fifth in the Class AA State Tournament after defeating Derek Carlson of Mora Saturday in St. Paul.

ST. PAUL It was a medal, just not the medal that New Ulm heavyweight Pat Brinkman wanted. But it was a medal nonetheless.

Brinkman closed out one of the most successful careers in New Ulm wrestling history with a 9-7 victory over Derek Carlson of Mora in the fifth-place match of Class AA State Wrestling Tournament at the Xcel Energy Center.

"Probably one of the most important things is winning your last high school match," Brinkman said. "It just shows that even when I go through bad times I can still pull off a good win."

With the win, Brinkman finishes the season 22-3 and is now in second place on the New Ulm win career win list with 142 wins.

Adam Hoffmann is first with 181 wins and Neal Wenninger is now third with 135 wins.

Brinkman also moved into more select company with his fifth-place medal. He is just the second New Ulm wrestler to place three times at state in his career.

Brinkman placed fifth as a sophomore and was second last year. The other wrestler to accomplish the feat was Pete Zangl who placed in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

In the fifth-place match, Brinkman took a 5-4 lead after the first period. He led 7-5 after two. Brinkman got an early escape in the third and Carlson got a takedown late in the third to pull the score to 8-7 but Brinkman was able to escape and he held on for the 9-7 win.

Brinkman already beat Carlson in the quarterfinal round 7-3. It also happened to be his last win in the tournament prior to Saturday's final.

"It made me feel more confident going out there," he said. "I know what he does and what to look for. It played a big role."

Brinkman tore his MCL in his first match of the tournament, a 9-5 victory over Donaldo Martinez of Melrose Area. He said that it hurt in his losses on Friday but is getting better.

"It's getting better every day and it doesn't hurt as much today as it did [Friday]," Brinkman said. "It hurts when they bend it but nothing really dramatic."

Next up for Brinkman is college where he will take his wrestling talent to South Dakota State and wrestle Division I.

"I am just going to have to work on getting bigger and piling on the weights," he said. "I should match up pretty good maybe not my freshman year but years to come after that. Not a whole bunch of New Ulm wrestlers have done that."



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**

New Ulm Heavy weight Pat Brinkman placed fifth in the Class AA State Tournament after defeating Derek Carlson of Mora Saturday in St. Paul.

Also going in the Class AA tournament was Wabasso/Red Rock Central's Cody Welch at 189. He dropped a 5-1 decision to Anthony Gullickson of Totino-Grace for fifth place.



Staff photo by Steve Muscatello  
New Ulm heavyweight Pat Brinkman was pinned by Austin Goergen of Caledonia/Houston Friday during the Class AA State Wrestling Tournament in St. Paul.

## **Brinkman, Welch fall in semis**

*POSTED: March 6, 2010*

By Michael Gassett

Journal Sports Writer

ST. PAUL Wow. Nobody saw that coming. New Ulm's Pat Brinkman won't have a chance to avenge his loss in the state championship match after all.

The best he can do now is wrestle for fifth.

Brinkman, the top heavyweight in Class AA was pinned by Caledonia/Houston's Austin Goergen in 3:05.

Brinkman tore his MCL in his opening-round match on Wednesday but he said the knee was fine before the semifinal match Friday.

With a heavy bandage on his knee, he struggled to get much power with his legs and was taken down by Goergen early. Brinkman got a quick reversal but another takedown by Goergen made it 4-2 after the first.

Brinkman took the down position to start the second and struggled to get out of Goergen's grasp. Goergen eventually was able to wrap up both legs and rolled Brinkman to his back for the pin.

The loss was just the second on the season for Brinkman and sent him to the consolation round where he faced Casey Johnson of Kasson-Mantorville.

Both got escapes when they were in the down position and that sent the match to overtime. In the sudden-death period no one scored sending it to two, 30-second ride-it-out periods.

Both earned escapes in those sending it to a final overtime. Since Johnson earned the first points of the match, that gave him the choice of position and he chose down. Brinkman couldn't hold, Johnson got a quick escape for the 4-3 win.

That means Brinkman will wrestle for fifth place today. He will get a rematch with Mora's Derek Carlson. Brinkman beat Carlson 7-3 in the quarterfinals.

It wasn't a good day all around for area wrestlers in Class AA. At 215, New Ulm's Jacob Schmidt suffered his second loss in two days when he was beat by Carter Brandt of Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/Kingsland 8-2. The loss ends Schmidt's season at 33-6.

Also losing was Cody Welch of Wabasso/Red Rock Central. He dropped a 7-1 decision in his semifinal match with Michael Kroells of Scott West.

That dropped Welch down to the consolation bracket where he wrestled Kody Kalkbrenner of Litchfield. He lost that match 5-4 and will now wrestle Anthony Gullickson of Totino-Grace in the fifth-place match today.

At 130, Cody Schunk was eliminated when he dropped a 10-2 decision to Waterville-Elysian-Morristown/Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's Thomas Goldberg. The senior ends his high school career with a 32-5 record.

The Class AA consolation finals start at noon today.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**  
New Ulm heavyweight Pat Brinkman defeated Derek Carlson of Mora Thursday at the Class AA State Tournament in St. Paul.

## Haven't got time for the pain

By Michael Gassett

*POSTED: March 5, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

ST. PAUL In Pat Brinkman's first-round match with Donaldo Martinez on Wednesday, he heard something pop.

"I pretty much wrestled from the second period on, on one leg," Brinkman said. "I didn't really think it was that big of a deal. We went to the hospital this morning and they looked at it and said that I tore my MCL. They advised me not to wrestle, but as if that is going to stop me."

Even a one-legged Pat Brinkman is still pretty darn good. He beat Martinez 9-5 to advance to Thursday's quarterfinals where he dispatched of Derek Carlson of Mora, the second-ranked wrestler in the state 7-3.

"I like getting it done right away," Brinkman said about wrestling a high-ranked wrestler early. "Then you kind of know who you are and everything. It looks pretty good for me after taking down the No. 2 guy."

Brinkman was able to go takedowns early in the match to build the lead and he was able to hold on from there.

"Getting those early takedowns kind of helped a little bit," he said. "I felt pretty good going further in the match with those extra points on the board."

Brinkman has been here before, he advanced to the semifinals at 215 pounds last year and made it all the way to the state championship.

"I expected to make it this far obviously and win it all," he said. "Even if I have a little disadvantage going into the match."

Brinkman will now wrestle Caledonia/Houston's Austin Goergen in the semifinals. Goergen pinned Nick Cervantes of Thief River Fall/Goodridge in 5:25.

And he says the sore knee shouldn't be that much of an issue.

"I might be a little slower," Brinkman said, "but if I can get the points earlier in the match than that will help with my confidence later in the match."

At 215, Jake Schmidt dropped a 3-2 decision to Tyler Lewandowski of Foley, the third-ranked wrestler in the state.

Schmidt, ranked fourth, dropped down to the consolation bracket and wrestled Justin Bergerson of North Branch.

Bergerson held a 2-1 advantage after the first period and built it to 3-1 on an early escape in the second. Schmidt then got a takedown with 10 seconds left in the second period to tie it at three. He was in the down position to start the third and got an escape with about a minute to go. With 10 seconds left, he fought off one last takedown attempt by Bergerson to hold on for the win.

"It was just good conditioning," Schmidt said. "We are taught that if you start to feel the match take a turn, just hand fight and neutralize the guy so he can't do much. I was doing my best to do that. I was still trying to keep moving but I was just trying to make sure I put myself in a position where he couldn't score on me."

Schmidt is still alive and he will wrestle Carter Brandt of Grand Meadow/LeRoy-Ostrander/Kingsland. Brandt pinned Travis Radke of Fulda/Murray County Central in 2:57.

"Three rounds into the tournament now and this is a big deal for me," Schmidt said. "Hopefully I can just keep going here, wrestle as hard as I can and finish out the last few matches of my career in a good way here."

New Ulm's other wrestler, Luke Schmit at 140 pounds was eliminated when the person he lost to in the opener lost in the quarterfinals.



**Photos by Steve Muscatello**

Jake Schmidt of New Ulm defeated Joe Gomez of Totino-Grace at 215pounds in the opening round of the Class AA State Tournament Wednesday at the Xcel Center in St. Paul.

## Two Eagles pick up wins

By Michael Gasset

*POSTED: March 4, 2010* New Ulm Journal

ST. PAUL - Jake Schmidt said he was nervous before his match Wednesday in the Class AA state wrestling tournament.

"It was good nervous energy that helped me wrestle here," he said. "It was a new experience, but it was a good experience."

The New Ulm senior is making his first-ever appearance at the state wrestling meet and if he was nervous, it didn't show on the mat.

Schmidt had little trouble in his 215-pound match as he easily handled Joe Gomez of Totino-Grace 7-0 to advance to today's quarterfinals.

"I felt good, I felt like I had a lot of power and I felt like I wrestled a smart match," Schmidt said. "I took the kid down and I rode him pretty good. I wasn't able to turn him but I was able to ride him pretty hard and that helped a lot."

Schmidt will now wrestle Tyler Lewandowski of Foley, a 6-3 winner in his first match. It should be a very competitive bout as Lewandowski is ranked third and Schmidt is ranked fourth at 215.

"The wrestlers are just going to continue to get better," Schmidt said. "But I feel I can go out and compete with anyone. I just gotta go out there and bring my stuff and bring my stuff and get them out of their game plan right away."

Schmidt was happy to get the first match out of the way.

"People always say it's the hardest one, nerves-wise," Schmidt said. "Now I think I can get more focused on what I need to do the rest of the tournament."

New Ulm wrestlers went 2-for-3 on the day. In addition to Schmidt, Pat Brinkman won his opener at heavyweight.

But at 140, Luke Schmit had a rough time in his first-ever state wrestling tournament appearance as he dropped a 11-1 decision to Jason Cirksena of Kasson-Mantorville. It will probably be his only match of the tournament as Cirksena has Andrew Youngblom of Mora in the quarterfinals. Youngblom came into the meet 38-1 and the top-ranked wrestler in the state at 140.

As for Brinkman, the Class AA runner-up at 215 last year, he struggled a little bit in his opener Wednesday.

Wrestling Melrose Area's Donaldo Martinez it was close throughout but Brinkman still was able to hold on for the the 9-5 victory.

"He was just well balanced and I couldn't get my offense going right away," Brinkman said. "But then I learned what his weakness was and I took advantage of it."

This is Brinkman's third trip to state, so he says he didn't have the same nervousness as Schmidt did.

"Being nervous is kind of the past, now I just go out there and wrestle," he said. "This is my last year and I am just going to go out there and do the best they can."

Brinkman, who came into the tournament as the top-rated wrestler in the state, is now 20-1 on the season. He will wrestle Derek Carlson of Mora in the quarterfinals. Carlson, just happens to be the second-rated wrestler in the state. He beat Matt Kadrluk of Simley 7-6 in his first match.

## **Eagles ready in Class AA meet**

By Michael Gassett, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: March 2, 2010*

NEW ULM New Ulm 215-pound wrestler Jake Schmidt has been waiting for this moment for a very long time.

"I've been at this sport since seventh grade," Schmidt said. "I've just been putting in my time, this is a nice reward to finally make it to the big leagues."

His goal from the start of the season was to win the Section 2AA title and make it to his first-ever state tournament.

He did just that by beating New Prague's Jay Reinke 13-2 in the section championship on Saturday. Now he and three other New Ulm wrestlers, Pat Brinkman at heavyweight and Luke Schmit at 140, will open up the Class AA State Wrestling Tournament Wednesday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

"This is the highest level I have gone in sports," he said. "I have never made it to state in anything else. It's just been kind of unreal after winning the section."

Last year, Schmidt wrestled heavyweight and he was out-weighted by nearly every opponent each time he stepped out on the mat. This year, he switched places with Brinkman, who was the Class AA runner-up at 215 last year. It seems like it was a good switch for both parties.

"The first couple of cuts were pretty tough for me," Schmidt said. "But after Christmas it wasn't so hard to cut weight. I feel stronger at 215, a little bit quicker. Just overall it was a better weight class for me."

Does he think he could have made it to state as a heavyweight?

"I don't think so," he said. "I probably wouldn't have the energy. And at 215, guys don't weigh 50 pounds more than me."

Schmidt enters the tournament as the fourth-ranked wrestler at 215 and is 31-4 on the season. He will face Joe Gomez of Totino Grace in the first round. Gomez is 29-12 on the season and was the runner-up in Section 5AA.

The switch didn't seem to bother Brinkman either as he advanced to his third straight state tournament.

Brinkman, the top-ranked wrestler in the state at heavyweight, won the Section 2AA title with a 17-7 victory over Travis Hentges of Scott West.

Brinkman, who enters the meet at 19-1, will wrestle Donaldo Martinez of Melrose Area in the first round. If he wins that, he will have a possible matchup with the No. 2-ranked wrestler in the state, Derek Carlson of Mora in the quarterfinals.

Also making his first trip to state this year is Luke Schmit. Schmit, who enters the tournament at 19-14, was the runner-up at 140 in the section meet dropping a 7-2 decision to Kody Dolezal of New Prague.

He will face Kasson-Mantorville's Jason Cirksena in the first round. Cirksena is 31-5 on the season and ranked fifth at 140 pounds.

Schmidt gives both his teammates high praise for making it to state.

"He is probably one of the hardest workers on our team," Schmidt said, of Luke Schmit. "It's really great to see him go as a sophomore. And Pat is a great wrestler. I have to throw a shout out to [head coach] Dan Kurth and Pat. Without that combination of Dan coaching me and Pat as a drill partner, I don't know if I would be this caliber of wrestler now."

## **Eagles send three wrestlers to state meet**

By Michael Gasset, Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: February 28, 2010*

DELANO - New Ulm wrestling coach Dan Kurth was hoping for more, but when it's all said and done he should be happy with how the Eagles performed at the Section 2AA individual meet Saturday.

New Ulm sent eight wrestlers to the semifinals, four to the finals and advanced three wrestlers to Class AA State Wrestling meet that starts Wednesday at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

Heading to state for the Eagles are Luke Schmit at 140, Jake Schmidt at 215 pounds and heavyweight Pat Brinkman, the class AA runner-up last year at 215.

"It's big we were seeded to have three go to state and we have three going to state," Kurth said. "It just might not be the three we expected to go. Last year we had one, the year before we had two so it's nice to have three. We would have liked to have four or five but it was still a good day."

Schmidt and Brinkman were the two that most expected to advance to state but Schmit might be considered a surprise entry for the Eagles. The sophomore came into the tournament with a 17-13 record.

"It's been my goal since the beginning of the season and it feels good to accomplish that finally," Schmit said. "As a sophomore it's kind of unexpected but it was my goal."

Schmit opened the meet with an 8-2 decision over Patrick Dvorak of Scott West. He then beat Stephen Delwiche of Glencoe-Silver Lake/Lester Prairie 12-6 to advance to the finals. There he dropped a 7-2 decision to New Prague's Kody Dolezal.

New Ulm could have had two more wrestlers advance to state as well.

At 130, Luke Derksen wrestled his way back into contention and won his third-place bout over Nick Assmussen of Waconia 7-4.

That set up a true second match with Jake Siegle of Scott West, which he lost 9-0.

"That was a tough way coming back and he proved that for sure he is the third best kid in the section," Kurth said.

At 152, Jamie Gieseke lost in the final to Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran's Max Poikonen 5-2. He then lost to Paul Dvorak of Scott West 3-1 in the true second match.

Ethan Orr at 112 finished fourth after he was pinned by Matt Elsenpeter of Watertown-Mayer/Mayer Lutheran in 1:21.

Cole Cihak finished fourth at 135 after he lost to Waconia's Sam Braunhaussen 7-0.

Also for New Ulm Sam Sletta took fifth with a 4-3 victory over Anthony Settergren of Hutchinson at 145. It was the second time the two met as Sletta won the first bout as well 10-5.

At 160 Jordan Lilleodden finished fifth with a 4-1 victory over Miles Hammerlund of Delano. It was a little bit of revenge for Lilleodden as Hammerlund is the one that sent him to the consolation bracket with a 10-2 major decision.

But this day was for Schmidt and Brinkman.

Schmidt, a senior, is making his first trip to state and he didn't have much trouble advancing. He came into the meet as the fourth-rated 215 pounder in the state with a 28-4 record.

He pinned Martin Martinez of GSL/LP in 51 seconds. He then pinned Andrew Peltz of Scott West in 3:35 to advance to the championship where he beat Jay Reinke of New Prague 13-2.

"I felt like most of the year I have wrestled good, smart matches," Schmidt said. "I didn't give up any points and I just kind of pounded on guys."

Schmidt held a 2-0 lead after the first period but exploded for an 11-3 advantage after the second period.

"Everything started clicking," Schmidt said. "The whole tournament, I tried to think back to Fargo [for the Rumble on the Red tournament] I got third place there and I felt I wrestled my best up there. I just tried to get that energy back and in the last match it all clicked."

Brinkman, the top-ranked wrestler in the state, will be making his third trip to state. He finished fifth as a sophomore and was the state runner-up last year.

"It tells me that I have to work hard for myself," he said. "People are expecting a lot out of me and I have to go out and do my best each and every time I wrestle."

This year he entered the section meet 15-1 and his lone loss of the season came to the No. 1-ranked wrestler in Class AAA at the Rumble on the Red in Fargo.

He didn't have much trouble on Saturday as he pinned Kurtis Lindee of GSL/LP in 41 seconds, then pinned Chris Jindra of Montgomery-Lonsdale/LeCenter in 15 seconds. He had to go the distance against Brandon Swoboda of New Prague before winning 7-0 to advance to the finals. There he beat Travis Hentges of Scott West 17-7 for the championship.

"I just need to get my mental focus together," Brinkman said about wrestling at state. "There is so much stuff going on up there. I can do it physically, I just need work on the mental part of it."

## **Eagle wrestlers move on at Section 2AA meet**

*POSTED: February 27, 2010*

DELANO - The New Ulm wrestling team competed in the Section 2AA individual finals in Delano Friday and had eight of the team's 10 wrestlers advancing into the second round set to take place in Delano Saturday.

At 112 pounds, Ethan Orr defeated New Prague's Natalie Rutt in a 7-5 decision advancing himself into the next round.

Adolf Lechunga was pinned at 1:57 by Morgan Parriot of New Prague at 125 pounds and will compete in wrestle-backs.

At 130 pounds, Luke Derksen will advance after he won his first match of the night with an 11-1 decision against Joe Reinert from Watertown-Mayer and defeated Dakota Cole of New Prague with an 8-1 decision in his second match.

Luke Schmit won at 140 pounds against Patrick Dvorak from Scott West in an 8-2 decision.

Sam Sletta defeated Hutchinson's Anthony Settergren in a 10-6 decision at 145 pounds.

At 152 pounds, Jamie Gieseke won in an 11-3 decision against Dalton Clouse from Glencoe-Silver Lake.

Jordan Lilleodden (160) will compete in wrestle-backs Saturday after he lost his first match in a 6-2 decision against Miles Hammerland from Delano but won his second match by fall at 1:07 over Jared Nelson from Mankato East.

Jake Schmidt defeated Martin Martinez of Glencoe-Silver Lake by fall at 50 seconds in a 215-pound match-up.

At heavyweight, Pat Brinkman won his first match by fall at 41 seconds against Kurtis Lindee from Glencoe-Silver Lake and also won his second match defeating Chris Jindra of Montgomery-Lonsdale by fall at 15 seconds.

## **New Ulm ends season with loss**

*POSTED: February 19, 2010 New Ulm Journal*

**(NUSC Note – The season ended as a team. However, individuals will continue to compete in the sectional later. )  
Wrestling box scores of the two matches were published in New Ulm Journal Feb. 19, 2010 but were not posted on the Journal website.**

WATERTOWN - The New Ulm wrestling team ended its season Thursday in the Section 2AA quarterfinals in Watertown.

The No. 7 seeded Eagles opened the night with a 36-27 comeback victory over No. 11 Montgomery-Lonsdale/LeCenter/Cleveland before falling to No. 2 Watertown-Mayer 51-19 in the quarterfinals.

The evening couldn't have started out much better for New Ulm as Luke Cihak opened things up with a pin in 21 seconds for a quick 6-0 New Ulm advantage.

ML/LC/C won the next three matches, two by pins to go ahead 15-6, before New Ulm slowly made its comeback.

At 130, Luke Derksen pinned Derek Traxler in 29 seconds to make it 15-12. The two teams traded decisions at 135 and 140 when Ryan Hoffmann made his comeback to the mat in a big way.

Hoffmann, who typically wrestled at 125 before an injury sidelined him for a few weeks earlier this season, comeback to beat Wes Burninghaus 6-1 at 145 to tie the match at 18. Jamie Geiseke got a pin in 1:43 to put New Ulm back on top 24-18 for the first time since the first bout and the Eagles never trailed again.

After Jordan Lilleodden earned an 8-2 decision at 160, the Eagles forfeited Zach Rutt at 171 making it 27-24 with three matches to go.

At 189, Nick Meidl all but sealed the victory for New Ulm with a 13-6 victory over Cody Heitner to make it 30-24.

Mario Arroyo then upset No. 4 ranked Jake Schmidt 5-3 at 215 but Pat Brinkman, the top ranked heavyweight in the state pinned Chriss Jindr in 32 seconds to give New Ulm the victory.

In the match against Watertown-Mayer, New Ulm fell behind right away as the Royals posted extra-point victories in the first two matches for an early 11-0 lead.

At 119, Henry Thoreson held on to beat Nathaniel Hillmann 11-7. Watertown-Mayer had a pin and a major decision at 125 and 130 respectively before Cole Cihak pinned Joe Jobe in 54 seconds to make it 21-9.

Watertown-Mayer won the next two bouts before one of the best bouts of the night at 152. Jamie Gieseke took No. 5 ranked Max Poikonen to the wire before dropping the decision 4-3. Watertown-Mayer won the next three matches to build its lead to 51-9 before Jake Schmidt finally stopped the bleeding at 215.

Schmidt picked up his 27th win with a 16-6 major decision over Matt Raines. Brinkman wrapped up the match by pinning Nick Burns in 52 seconds to make the final score 51-19.

With the win, Watertown-Mayer advances to face Delano Saturday. Delano beat New Prague 48-29 in the other quarterfinal.

## New Ulm wrestlers take fourth at SCC

*POSTED: February 14, 2010*

WASECA - New Ulm had two wrestlers take first place at the South Central Conference meet Saturday.

St. James finished first at the tournament and Blue Earth Area was second. Waseca took third and New Ulm finished fourth at the meet. St. Peter and Fairmont rounded out the competition. Point totals were not available.

At 152, Jamie Gieseke took first. New Ulm's other first-place wrestler was Jake Schmidt at 215 pounds.

Sam Sletta was second at 145 pounds and Luke Derksen was second at 130 pounds.

Cole Cihak was third at 135 pounds and Luke Schmit was third at 140 pounds.

At 160 pounds, Jordan Lilleodden finished fourth and Nick Meidl finished fourth at 171 pounds.

Luke Cihak finished fifth at 103 and Micah Armstrong was fifth at 189 pounds. Andy Bregel finished fifth at heavyweight.

At 125 pounds, Adolph Lechuga finished sixth.

## Waseca pins New Ulm

*POSTED: February 5, 2010*

By Michael Gasset  
Journal Sports Writer

NEW ULM -With four regulars out of the starting for the New Ulm wrestling team, the Eagles new it would be tough trying to hang with Waseca.

*(Ed. Note: details of the absence of the four regulars were not reported. However, coach Kurth explained three seniors at 140, 171 and 189 plus a sophomore at 125 are lost for the season because of injuries.*

*The wrestlers at 171 and 189 had no back-up so the team will forfeit those weights for the balance of the season. )*

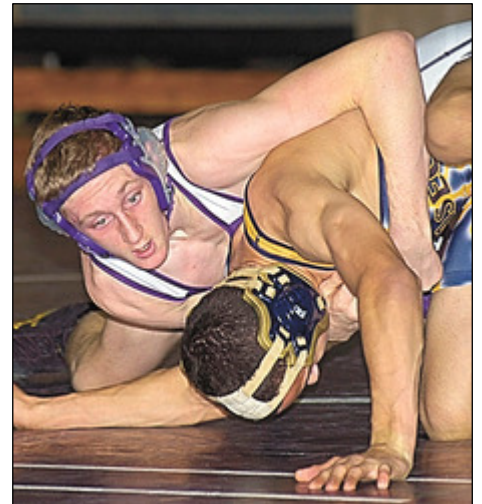
And with a share of the South Central Conference title on the line, New Ulm hung in as best it could before falling to the Bluejays 36-28.

"We knew that with the guys we had out there we just had to try our best and do our job," senior 160 pounder Jordan Lilleodden said. "I think for the most part we did a pretty good job tonight."

New Ulm got put in a hole early when pins by Waseca's Tanner Pehrson (119) and Hunter Pehrson (125) put the Bluejays up 15-6.

Things started to turn around for the Eagles as Luke Derksen came back with with a 14-3 major decision over Nathon Krohn at 130 pounds to make it 15-10.

The two teams flipped decisions at 135 and 140 before Sam Sletta closed the gap at 145 pounds.



**Staff photo by Steve Muscatello**  
New Ulm's Luke Schmit wrestles Mikal McDaniel of Waseca at 140 pounds Thursday at New Ulm High School. For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

Sletta took a 2-0 lead over Bruce Harguth after one period and built it to 4-0 after the second. Another take down in the third period gave Sletta the 6-0 win. That got the Eagles close at 18-16.

Jamie Gieseke received a forfeit at 152 to put New Ulm back in front 22-18, before what turned out to be the match of the night at 160.

After a scoreless first period, Cooper Tenney got a quick escape from Lilleodden early in the second period for a 1-0 lead. And for the next three minutes that score looked like it would hold.

But with about 30 seconds left in the final period, Lilleodden found his opening. In the down position for the first minute-and-a-half, Lilleodden found a hole, flipped Tenney over for a reverse and threw him on his back. Then all he had to do was hold on for the 5-1 win.

"I knew the match wasn't over yet and that anything could happen," Lilleodden said. "I just kept going and going until I saw some space on the back end and swung my leg over. There was a move that he tried to do right before that and he got his hips up high, when he tried that again, I swung my legs up and got the best of it."

He nearly turned it into a pin but his arm was out of position.

"I wish I could have done it," Lilleodden said. "But my arm was underneath, if I would have gotten out a little bit more to the side, it would have been a good position. I was just a little too even with him."

He said that it's rare to pull off a move like that late in a bout.

"It has happened before but it doesn't happen too often," Lilleodden said. "I just got the best of it and luck was on my side."

New Ulm forfeited at 171 and 189 to give Waseca a 30-25 advantage. At 215, Jake Schmidt made easy work of Jamal McDaniel for the 9-2 win to make it 30-28, but that was as close as the Eagles got.

At heavyweight, Michael Hayes pinned Andy Bregel in 32 seconds to seal the 36-28 win.

New Ulm gets back on the mats with a quad Monday against Glencoe-Silver Lake, River Valley and Madelia/Truman starting at 5 p.m.

### **Waseca 36, New Ulm 28**

**103-Tristen Hoy (W) dec. Luke Cihak 7-4, 112-Ethan Orr (NU) forfeit, 119-Tanner Pehrson (W) pinned Henry Thoreson 1:06, 125-Hunter Pehrson (W) pinned Adolf Lechuga :40, 130-Luke Derksen (NU) major dec. Nathon Krohn 14-3, 135-Zach Gehloff (W) dec. Cole Cihak 8-3, 140-Luke Schmit (NU) dec. Mikal McDaniel 7-6, 145-Sam Sletta (NU) dec. Bruce Harguth 6-0, 152-Jamie Gieseke (NU) forfeit, 160-Jordan Lilleodden (NU) dec. Cooper Tenney 5-1, 171-Brandon Pederson (W) forfeit, 189-Jacob Claybaugh (W) forfeit, 215-Jacob Schmidt (NU) dec. Jamal McDaniel 9-2, HWT-Michael Hayes (W) pinned Andy Bregel :32.**

## **New Ulm edges St. Peter**

*POSTED: January 29, 2010*

*NEW ULM JOURNAL*

ST. PETER - The New Ulm wrestling team pulled together to get a close 35-33 South Central Conference win over St. Peter Thursday night.

New Ulm started the night off slow. Out of its first five matches, only Ethan Orr (112) was able to come up with a victory, winning by a 17-5 major decision.

The Eagles picked up towards the middle with Cole Cihak (135), Luke Schmit (140), and Sam Sletta (145) all won by decisions. They were followed by Jamie Gieseke (152) who won by fall in 1:27, and Jordan Lilleodden (160) who won by a 16-5 major decision.

Though St. Peter had the next two match wins, New Ulm finished strong with Jake Schmidt (215) pinning his opponent in 34 seconds while Andy Bregel (Hwt.) pinned his in 2:20.

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## **Brinkman takes second at Rumble on the Red**

*POSTED: December 31, 2009*

FARGO - Pat Brinkman took second place in the heavyweight class at the Rumble on the Red Tournament in Fargo Wednesday.

Brinkman dropped a 3-2 decision to Don Longendyke of White Bear Lake in the championship match.

The other wrestler to place for the Eagles was Jake Schmidt at 215. He finished third after defeating Drew Iddings of Rapid City Stevens, 11-4.

Two other wrestlers advanced to the second day of competition as Sam Sletta finished 3-2 at 152 and Jamie Gieseke was 2-2 at 160.

## **Eagles win Maple River Tourney**

*POSTED: December 20, 2009 New Ulm Journal*

MAPLETON - The New Ulm wrestling team won the Maple River Invitational Saturday with 218 points.

The Eagles finished ahead of Staples-Motley (168 points), Medford (145), Martin County West (99.5), Mankato West (84), Maple River (77) and Madelia-Truman/Martin Luther (75).

Ryan Hoffmann (125), Jake Schmidt (215) and Pat Brinkman (Hwt.) all took home first-place finishes for New Ulm.

Finishing second for the Eagles were Luke Derksen (130), Jamie Gieseke (160) and Anthony Mathiowetz (171). Henry Thoreson (119), Cole Cihak (135), Luke Schmit (140), Eric Ellanson (145) and Sam Sletta all finished third for New Ulm. Connor Rouse (103) and Adam Dauer (189) took fourth.

New Ulm competes in the 64-team Rumble on the Red Tournament at the Fargodome December 29 and 30.

## **St. James defeats New Ulm, 43-27**

*POSTED: December 18, 2009 New Ulm Journal*

ST. JAMES - The St. James wrestling team defeated New Ulm on Thursday night 43 -27.

The night started out rough for New Ulm as only Ethan Orr (112) and Luke Derksen (130) came up with wins in the first seven matches. But the Eagles came back as Sam Sletta (152) and Anthony Mathiowetz (171) won by decisions, and Jake Schmidt (215) won by a fall (4:36). The event ended with Pat Brinkman (285), who is ranked No. 1 in the state for Class AA, winning by fall in 45 seconds.

## **Eagles go 1-2 at Mankato East quad**

*POSTED: December 13, 2009 New Ulm Journal*

MANKATO - The New Ulm Wrestling team went 1-2 at the Mankato East quad Friday night.

The Eagles beat Mankato East 38-15 then lost to Scott West 33-31 and Hutchinson 49-24. All the teams were from Section 2AA.

The big winners for New Ulm were Ryan Hoffmann at 125 and Jamie Gieseke at 160, who each went 3-0.

Other wrestlers with multiple wins were: Luke Derksen (130), Luke Schmit (140), Eric Ellanson (145), Sam Sletta (152), Anthony Mathiowetz (171), Adam Dauer (189) and Jake Schmidt (215). All went 2-1 on the night.

## ***Eagles 0-5 at Monticello***

*POSTED: December 6, 2009 New Ulm Journal*

MONTICELLO - The New Ulm wrestling team dropped all five of its matches at the Monticello Tournament Saturday.

New Ulm fell to St. Francis 52-10, St. Cloud Apollo 54-12 and Orono 45-34. The Eagles also dropped matches to Annandale/Maple Lake 46-27 and North Branch 36-34.

Ethan Orr was the big winner for the Eagles as he went 4-1 on the day at 112. Luke Schmit (140), Sam Sletta (152), Jamie Gieseke (160) and Jake Schmidt (215) all went 3-2. Ryan Hoffmann (125) and Luke Derksen (135) and Connor Rouse (103) went 2-3.

## **New Ulm Eagle Wrestlers Lose Twice**

**LCWM 47, New Ulm18, LSH 42, New Ulm 28**

### **New Ulm Eagle Wrestlers Lose Twice**

**LCWM 47, New Ulm18** *(See Box Score Below)*

**LSH 42, New Ulm 28** *(Details not available)*

LAKE CRYSTAL - New Ulm lost both matches in a non-conference wrestling triangular against Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial and Le Sueur-Henderson Friday night.

At 112, New Ulm's Ethan Orr defeated LCWM's Cole Bohnert in a 10-6 decision and then won by forfeit.

Ryan Hoffmann pinned LCWM's Ryan Roberts in 1:23 and defeated LSH's Cody Wiese in an 8-2 decision at 125.

Luke Derksen defeated both LCWM's Spencer Yackel in a 7-1 decision and LSH's Jacob Burt in a 9-2 decision at 135.

Jamie Gieseke defeated LCWM's Aaron Hutchins in a 6-4 decision and LSH's Joe Willart by fall at 3:06 at 160 pounds.

New Ulm's Jake Schmitt defeated LCWM's Nate Meixl in a 5-1 decision and LSH's Aaron Bruinler with a 9-0 decision at 215.

### **WRESTLING BOX SCORE (FROM MANKATO FREE PRESS)**

#### **Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial 47, New Ulm 18**

103—Dylan Keck maj. dec. Connor Rouse 14-2; 112—Ethan Orr (NU) def. Cole Bohnert 10-6; 119—Brandon Schultz (LCWM) pinned Henry Thorson :52; 125—Ryan Hoffmann (NU) pinned Ryan Roberts 1:23; 130—Dakota Yarger (LCWM) won by forfeit; 135—Luke Derksen (NU) dec. Spencer Yackel 7-1; 140—Paul Norgren (LCWM) maj. dec. Luke Schmidt 15-3; 145—Davonte Corey (LCWM) won by forfeit; 152—Eric Hood (LCWM) pinned Maurice Kimball :18; 160—Jamie Gieseke (NU) dec. Aaron Hutchens 6-4; 171—Cody Tibbetts (LCWM) won by forfeit; 189—Thomas Sandt (LCWM) def. Adam Dauer 9-4; 215—Jake Schmidt (NU) dec. Nate Meixell 5-1; 275—Matt Johnston (LCWM) won by forfeit.

#### **LeSueur-Henderson 41, New Ulm 28**

*(No details provided)*

## **Nine seniors return for New Ulm Eagles Co-op Wrestling This season**

By Michael Gassett — Journal Sports Writer

*POSTED: December 3, 2009*



NEW ULM-With one senior and a rash of injuries to the rest of the team, last year was a rebuilding year for the

*Staff photo by Steve Muscatello*

New Ulm senior Jamie Gieseke (white shirt yellow shorts) wrestles fellow senior Adam Dauer in practice this week. Gieseke and Dauer are two of nine seniors that return to the Eagles this season.

For more photos of this event, go to <http://cu.nujournal.com>

New Ulm wrestling program.

This season, the Eagles have nine seniors and New Ulm coach Dan Kurth is expecting a lot out of them.

"I am hoping for leadership to really kick in this year," Kurth said. "It's always more important to seniors than it is to an underclassmen. Having that many more guys in the room that it is more important to, brings the other guys around because seniors make sure it's more important to the other guys too."

The most decorated wrestler back is senior Pat Brinkman. Brinkman, the 2009 All-Journal Co-Wrestler of the Year, finished with a 40-3 record and was the Class AA runner-up at 215 pounds.

He recently signed on to wrestle at South Dakota State and to prepare for that, Brinkman will be making the jump to heavyweight.

"It was either continue to wrestle at 215 now and go to heavyweight right after the season or go to heavyweight right now," Kurth said. "College coaches don't come out and say it but they don't like 215 pounders - you're a tweener, he isn't small enough to be a 197 pounder. They would rather see him wrestle heavyweight and be a heavyweight right now."

Last year's heavyweight, Jacob Schmidt will now drop down and wrestle at 215.

"I will face a lot of faster guys and there will be a lot of good athletes in the 215- pound weight class," Schmidt said. "I will be able to work a bit more with the legs and that is a style of wrestling that I like better. I think that I should be stronger at that weight class and I won't be out-weighted by 50 pounds by a lot of guys. But it will still be a tough weight class and I think that I will be able to transition pretty good."

Kurth thinks both should shine in their new roles.

"Pat should do well at heavyweight," Kurth said. "He can misdirect the weight, so with the bigger guys he can misdirect the weight and get them out of position. I think he will do just fine but he has got to learn to do that any way if he is going to be a college heavyweight."

And Schmidt should do just fine in his new role at 215.

"Jake's only losses last year were to kids that were a lot bigger than him," he said. "The match that cost him going to the state tournament he got rolled with three seconds left to lose that match. He was beating the kind the whole time but he had 50 pounds on him. He is really the ideal size to 215."

The toughest part for Schmidt might be cutting the weight. He was at 240 pounds during the football season and is down to about 220 now.

"It's different having a year off with cutting weight and having to get back to it but I will be OK with it," he said. "As long as I am exercising enough I shouldn't have to diet too much. A lot of it is mental. Starving your body a bit, you have to work past it, but really your body has a lot more energy than you think."

Joining Brinkman and Schmidt in the lineup will be seniors Jamie Gieseke, Sam Sletta (152), Adam Dauer (189), Eric Ellanson (140) and Maurice Kimball (145). Jordan Lilleodden (171) will miss the start of the season with an ankle injury and Anthony Mathiowetz (171) is also nursing an injury to his shoulder.

"Last year we had a lot of injuries," Gieseke said. "If we all focus together and have one goal in mind we should do well."

Staying healthy will be the main key to the success for the Eagles.

"With us its a matter of keeping guys healthy," Kurth said. "The first match of the year was the only time all year that we put our full team on the mat. If we can get everyone where they are supposed to be, I think we could really have a tough lineup up and down. There really won't be spot that we are weak at."

The rest of the lineup could look like this: 103-Luke Cihak, 112-Ethan Orr, 119-Henry Thoreson and at 125 is Ryan Hoffmann. At 130 is Luke Derksen, 135-Adolf Lechuga, 140- Luke Schmit. Other wrestlers in those weights are Eric Ellanson (140) and Cole Cihak (135).

The Eagles open the season Friday at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial. The Knights made it to state last year and expect to be one of the top teams in Class A again this season.

New Ulm will wrestle in a quad with section opponents Hutchinson, Scott West and Mankato East Dec. 11 and Kurth says that match will be a good barometer about where the team is at.

"We will see how we do against those three teams," he said. "We will know a week from Friday kind of where we are. I think we are kind of an unknown. We are coming back with a full team and a bunch of seniors."