

## Ten things to know about sectional wrestling

**Jonah Rosenblum** 

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

1. Last season, Shane Michael went on a run like veteran Ravenna coach Matt Damsa has never seen. The then-sophomore was unseeded entering the district meet and lost his first match, only to win four straight in the consolation bracket, knocking off the number one seed en route to a fourth-place finish and qualifying for state. Oh, and with that miracle run, Michael was the Ravens' first sophomore to qualify for state since 2006. Of course, Damsa wouldn't mind a slightly less dramatic route to state this year for Michael, who brings a 24-7 record into the postseason.

"I really have never been involved in that kind of scenario in my coaching career," Damsa said. "So, we are looking for him to do well at the sectional tournament at Painesville Harvey and hopefully carry some of last year's magic back to the district tournament in

2. Also in Division II. a couple of Streetsboro wrestlers chase their first trips to state. Senior Tyler Bodovetz came as close as one could come last year, losing a semifinal 3-1 and a consolation semifinal 5-3 to fall one spot shy of a state tournament that ultimately didn't happen due to COVID-19.

Expect the senior to challenge for state again as he is currently 31-0 at 170 pounds and "looking to improve on his state alternate finish from last season," per coach Josh Zupancic.

Also, watch for another Metro Athletic Conference and Portage County Tournament champ in Donovan Paes, who is 28-3 at 132 pounds with his only losses coming to some of the top-ranked wrestlers in the

See WRESTLING, Page 4B

# Cleveland relieved Rosario no longer an enemy

**Ryan Lewis** 

Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

It isn't just that Cleveland is happy to welcome top free-agent acquisition Eddie Rosario to the lineup. It's also that many in the organization are just glad they no longer have to face him.

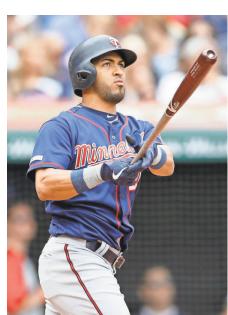
Cleveland signed Rosario to a oneyear, \$8 million deal this offseason after he was non-tendered by the division rival Minnesota Twins. He is expected to handle everyday duties in left field and will hit somewhere in the middle of Cleveland's lineup.

But for Cleveland, it also means Rosario, for at least one year, can no longer torment its pitchers.

"I told him, we had our one-on-one [meeting] with him [Tuesday] morning and I told him, 'It is so nice not to hate you anymore,'" Cleveland manager Terry Francona said with a laugh on a Zoom call. "He just seemed to wreak havoc, and now go ahead and wreak it all you want. We'll cheer for you and pat you on the back. We got a good laugh out of that. He seems like a really good kid. He seems excited to be here.'

Rosario said on Thursday through a team translator that he felt comfortable coming to Cleveland. It didn't hurt that he couldn't have been more comfortable facing Cleveland pithing the past several years.

See ROSARIO, Page 4B



**Outfielder Eddie Rosario watches a** home run ball he hit at Progressive Field. After signing with Cleveland as a free agent, Rosario will now call one of his favorite parks home. AP

# MAC announces tourney format, policies

**Allen Moff** 

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

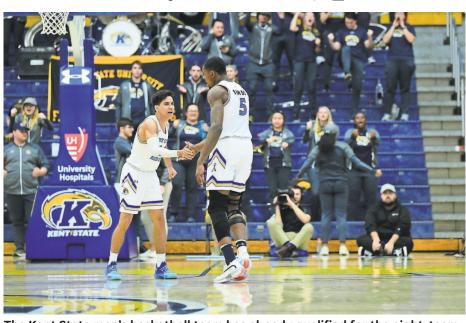
The Mid-American Conference announced the policies and procedures for the upcoming 2021 men's and women's basketball tournaments, which will be held at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland March 10-13.

Several elements have been changed due to issues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament champion will receive the MAC's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament per usual unless the conference is unable to crown a tourney champ. If that's the case, the regular season champion will receive the automatic bid. If the regular season champion is unable to accept the NCAA bid due to COVID-19 issues, then the secondteam will receive the bid and so on.

Tournament seeding will be based on winning percentage in regular-season conference games, since several teams will not be able to play every MAC contest that was originally scheduled. Only eight teams will make the tournament. If a team is forced out due to COVID-19 issues, the No. 9 seed will join the field and so on.

After the 48-hour deadline has



The Kent State men's basketball team has already qualified for the eight-team Mid-American Conference Tournament, which will begin March 11 in Cleveland. The Golden Flashes women's squad has also made the tourney field.

bracket is unable to compete, their opponent will advance to the next round via the no-contest rule. No re-seeding will occur.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KENT STATE ATHLETICS

The men's tournament bracket will

passed, if a team in the tournament be announced on March 5, followed by the women's bracket on March 6. Both Kent State teams have clinched tournament berths. The men's team (14-6, 11-5) is currently third, while the women's squad (10-6, 9-4) is second.

**KSU SPORTS REPORT** 

## Flashes honor Bachna with impressive win

**Allen Moff** 

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kent State gymnastics team posted a season-high score of 196.375 to defeat Central Michigan on Sunday at the annual Pink Meet held at the M.A.C.

The Golden Flashes set new season highs on vault, bars and beam while competing with heavy hearts after the loss of former gymnastics coach and program co-founder Rudy Bachna, who passed away on Saturday.

"Today was an emotional day for a lot of us, with Rudy along with the breast cancer awareness [Pink Meet]," said KSU coach Brice Biggin, a gymnast and assistant coach under Bachna who took over the women's program when the former retired in 1991. "For the girls to come out, compete like they did and stay strong as a team was huge for us.

See KSU, Page 2B

# Roosevelt falls at Madison

#### **From Staff Reports**

Ravenna Record-Courier | USA TODAY NETWORK

#### **Division I First Round: Madison 53, Kent Roosevelt 36**

Kristian Daetwyler scored 12 points but the Rough Riders were limited to just 10 first-half points in a Division I, Northeast 1 sectional semifinal.

Desmeal Leigh added six points and Donovan Daetwyler scored five for Roosevelt, which trailed 17-10 at the intermission.

J.P. Dragas scored 16 points and Dimitri Dragas tossed in 13 for Madison, the No. 28 seed which advances to play at No. 4 Brush on Saturday night.

#### **Division I First Round: Dover 48, Aurora 30**

DOVER — No. 11 seed Dover shut down No. 27 Aurora in the second hall as the Crimson Tornadoes allowed just nine second-half points.

The Crimson Tornadoes (15-4) will play host to No. 23 Nordonia for a sectional crown Saturday at 7 p.m.

Dover led just 23-21 at the half, but outscored Aurora 25-9 (10-5 in the third quarter and 15-4 in the fourth quarter) to win going away. The Greenmen went 0 for 14 in the final frame from the field to help seal their doom.

"I thought we played excellent defense in the second half," said Dover coach Bob Von Kaenel. "You have to be pleased when you only give up nine points in the second half."

Dover made 18 of 41 field goals for 44% while holding Aurora to just 29% shooting on 11 of 38 from the field.

Aurora head coach Greg Rodi said it was disappointing after playing so well in the first half.

"Offensively, we didn't have a good second half," he said. "Defensively, I thought we played well in holding a very good team to under 50 points. Our shots just didn't fall in the second half."

"We got good looks, but they knocked their shots down and we didn't," he added. "Ultimately, that was the difference in the ball game."

Still, Rodi was happy with the way his team that ended up 4-16 in a CO-VID-19 pandemic season conducted themselves against the Crimson Torna-

"I'm proud of the way they fought tonight," said Rodi. "This was not an easy team to play, being the No. 11 seed in our bracket. That's a good basketball program and I thought we played really, really hard."

Junior guard John Ugran led Aurora with eight points and senior guard Mason Bizak added six, while senior guard Gabe Elsawy posted five.

### **KENT STATE SCOREBOARD**

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

BALL STATE 90, KENT STATE 71
KENT STATE: Pippen 2-12 0-0 6, Hamilton
4-8 0-0 8, Beck 3-5 2-2 9, Jacobs 9-14 5-8 23, Santiago 4-8 2-2 11, Hernandez 1-3 2-2 4, Jordan 0-4 2-2 2, O'Neal 0-2 3-6 3, O'Neal 0-2 3-6 3, Davis 1-2 0-2 2, Bainbridge 1-2 0-0 3, DiGiulio 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-60 16-24 71.

BALL STATE: Hazen 3-7 5-6 12. Thomas 3-4 0-0 9, El-Amin 6-11 2-2 16, Coleman 8-11 5-6 26, Walton 8-13 0-1 16, Bumbalough 2-5 0-0 6, Acree 0-2 3-3 3, Huggins 1-1 0-0 2, Gunn 0-2 0-0 0, Bryan 0-0 0-0 0, Hendriks 0-0 0-2 0, Suokas 0-0 0-0 0. Windham 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 31-57 15-20 90.

Halftime: Ball State 57-31. 3-Point Goals: Kent State 5-24 (Pippen 2-7 Hamilton 0-1, Beck 1-3, Jacobs 0-2, Santiago 1-4, Hernandez 0-1, Jordan 0-4, Bainbridge 1-2), Ball State 13-26 (Hazen 1-2, Thomas 3-3, El-Amin 2-5, Coleman 5-8, Bumbalough 2-5, Acree 0-2, Gunn 0-1). Rebounds: Kent State 35 (Jacobs 7), Ball State 34 (Walton 7). Assists: Kent State 9 (Beck, Santiago 3), Ball State 15 (Coleman 6). Total fouls: Ball State 22-21. MAC STANDINGS Toledo - 13-3 - 18-6

Akron - 12-4 - 14-5 Kent State - 11-5 - 14-6 Ohio - 8-4 - 12-6 Buffalo - 8-5 - 10-7 Bowling Green - 9-7 - 13-9 Miami - 7-7 - 10-9 Ball State - 6-8 - 8-11 Western Michigan - 3-9 - 4-13 Central Michigan - 2-10 - 6-13 Eastern Michigan - 1-9 - 4-10 Northern Illinois - 1-10 - 2-14

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

KENT STATE 65, BUFFALO 62 BUFFALO: Adeyeye 3-4 0-0 6, Gaba 1-2 0-0 2, Fair 9-21 4-6 23, McEvans 4-10 6-8 14, Hall 1-2 0-0 2, Walters 6-8 1-2 13, Young 1-6 0-0 2, Hemphill 0-2 0-0 0, Schiffer 0-0 0-0 0, Elias 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 25-55

KENT STATE: Blackford 9-18 0-2 18, Thal 3-8 2-2 10. Shumate 5-12 4-6 17. Kelly 2-9 1-2 6, Modkins 4-7 0-0 10, Santoro 1-4 0-0 3, Jackson 0-1 0-0 0, Young 0-2 1-2 1, Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 24-61 8-14 65 **Ball State - 16 - 16 - 14 - 16 - 62** 

Kent State - 13 - 17 - 17 - 18 - 65 3-Point Goals: Ball State 1-8 (Fair 1-5, McEvans 0-1, Hall 0-1, Young 0-1), Kent State 9-26 (Thall 2-7, Shumate 3-7, Kelly 1-5, Modkins 2-4, Santoro 1-2, Young 0-1). Rebounds: Ball State 37 (Walters 8), Kent State 31 (Blackford 9), Assists: Ball State 5 (Hall, Young 2), Kent State 13 (Santoro 4). Total fouls: Ball State 18-17. Fouled out:

MAC STANDINGS Bowling Green - 12-3 - 16-4 Kent State - 9-4 - 10-6 Ohio - 10-5 - 12-6 Central Michigan - 11-6 - 13-8 Buffalo - 9-6 - 12-8 Northern Illinois - 9-6 - 11-9 Ball State - 10-7 - 12-9

Eastern Michigan - 7-5 - 10-7 Toledo - 6-11 - 10-11 Western Michigan - 4-12 - 5-13 Akron - 3-12 - 6-12

Miami - 2-15 - 3-18

#### **HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD**

#### **GIRLS BASKETBALL** DIVISION III, NORTHEAST 2 GARFIELD 59, ROOTSTOWN 37

ROOTSTOWN (12-7): Karlie Duvall 7 2-3 20. Abby White 10-0 3, Lindsay Smith 10-0 2, Kyale Schoepe 1 2-4 4, Kylie McColloch 1 0-0 2, Erica Moore 2 0-0 4, Aubrey Kline 1

0-0 2, Erica Mode 2 0-0 4, Audrey Kilne 1 0-1 2. Totals 14 4-8 37. GARFIELD: Sydney Seaman 1 0-0 3, Trinity Williamson 3 1-2 7, Grace Mills 10 1-2 24, Catilin Lutz 10-0 2, Madeline Shirkey 4 3-4 12, Sarah Seaman 2 0-0 5, Jenna Smith 2 2-2 6. Totals 23 7-10 59.

### Rootstown - 12 - 10 - 7 - 8 - 37 Garfield - 11 - 11 - 19 - 18 - 59

3-Point Goals: Rootstown 5 (Duvall 4) White 1), Garfield 6 (Sydney Seaman 1, Mills 3, Shirkey 1, Sarah Seaman 1). Total fouls: Rootstown 8-7. Total rebounds: Garfield 31, Rootstown 29 (Kline 8). Total turnovers: Rootstown 21-15 **BOYS BASKETBALL** 

#### **DIVISION I. NORTHEAST 1** MADISON 53, KENT ROOSEVELT 36

KENT ROOSEVELT: Jayden Triplett 10-02, Kevin Ina 10-03, Kristian Daetwyler 35-10 12, Poole 10-02, Donovan Daetwyler 20-0 5. Javden Revnolds 10-0 2. Desmeal Leigh 3 0-0 6, Seth Bowser 1 0-0 2, Gavin Leslie 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 5-10 36. MADISON: Shane Gibson 2 4-8 8. Noah

Tweedy 1 2-4 4, Dimitri Dragas 5 2-3 13, Jesse Martin 3 0-0 6, J.P. Dragas 5 4-5 16, Eli Klimko 10-0 3, Michael O'Brien 10-0 3, Totals 18 12-20 53

Madison - 8 - 9 - 16 - 20 - 53 3-Point Goals: Kent Roosevelt 3 (Ina, K. Daetwyler, D. Daetwyler), Madison 5 (J.P.

Dragas 2, D. Dragas, Klimko, O'Brien), Total fouls: Kent Roosevelt 19-14. Fouled out: K.

CALENDAR FRIDAY BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

DIVISION II, NORTHEAST 1
Streetsboro at Canton South, 7 p.m.
DIVISION III, NORTHEAST 1 Champion at Southeast, 7 p.m. South Range at Garfield, 7 p.m **DIVISION III. NORTHEAST 2 DIVISION IV, NORTHEAST 2** 

Windham at Valley Christian, 7 p.m. SATURDAY GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT DIVISION III, NORTHEAST 2 Champion at Garfield, 1 p.m.

REGULAR SEASON Fairport Harding at Windham, 1 p.m. WRESTLING Start times listed where provided by host

Austintown Fitch, 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Ravenna at Division II sectional at Painesville Harvey, 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Streetsboro at Division II sectional at

Mentor Lake Catholic Field at Division II sectional at West Branch, 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Aurora at Division II sectional at Beachwood, 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Rootstown, Waterloo at Division III sectional at Rootstown

Mogadore, Southeast, Garfield at Division III sectional at Independence Crestwood at Division III sectional at West Salem Northwestern

#### **IN BRIEF**

#### **AG: Olympics gymnastics coach** dies by suicide after charges

LANSING, Mich. - A former U.S. Olympics gymnastics coach with ties to disgraced sport doctor Larry Nassar died by suicide Thursday after being charged with two dozen crimes, including forms of human trafficking, the state attorney general said. The announcement from Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel came about three hours after a news conference where Nessel announced that John Geddert was charged with crimes, including sexual assault, human trafficking and running a criminal enterprise. The charges were the latest fallout from the sexual abuse scandal involving Nassar, a former Michigan State University sports doctor. Nessel said at a news conference that it was her understanding he had turned himself in to law enforcement and would appear at a court arraignment about an hour later. The arraignment never happened.

Geddert was head coach of the 2012 U.S. women's Olympic gymnastics team, which won a gold medal. Nassar was the team's doctor and also treated injured gymnasts at Twistars, Geddert's Lansing-area gym for elite athletes. He has insisted he had "zero knowledge" of Nassar's crimes, although some gymnasts said he forced them to see Nassar and was physically abusive. Nassar, who was a doctor at Michigan State University, has been sentenced to decades in prison for sexually assaulting gymnasts at the school and elsewhere as well as possessing child pornography.

#### Official injured after buzzer of **Rutgers-Michigan State game**

EAST LANSING, Mich. - Official Angie Enlund was hurt at the end of the Rutgers-Michigan State women's basketball game Wednesday and taken to a hospital. After the final buzzer, Rutgers player Tekia Mack was heading back to the Scarlet Knights bench when she inadvertently ran over Enlund at center court, hitting her hard.

Enlund was on the ground for a few

minutes and taken off on a stretcher. She did have mobility and movement of her extremities and went to a hospital to be further evaluated. A Michigan State spokeswoman said Enlund would be kept overnight at the hospital with a concussion but that she had no fractures.

"I know she was unconscious for a period of time," Michigan State coach Suzy Merchant said. "They took her in an ambulance, but it's a very scary and serious thing. She hit very, very hard. She hit her head really hard, so I would just pray for her and her family and hope that she is going to be OK." Rutgers players huddled in front of their bench holding hands in a circle praying for Enlund. The 25thranked Scarlet Knights won 63-53.

### **KSU**

Continued from Page 1B

This was the best I have seen them compete as a team in a long time. I am just extremely proud of the way they handled themselves and got a win today against a very good Central Michigan team."

The Flashes posted a season-best 49.175 on bars led by Rachel DeCavitch, who scored a career-high 9.900 to win the event. Kent State eclipsed 49 on beam for the first time this season (49.050) led by a pair of newcomers in Sarah Haxton, who tied for first with a score of 9.875, and third-place Jackie Harker (9.850).

DeCavitch posted a career-high 9.900 on floor to claim her second individual event title of the afternoon.

### **Specialist of the Week**

Senior Jade Brown was named the Mid-American Conference Specialist of the Week. She set a new career high on bars while winning the individual title against Western Michigan with a score of 9.900, and also tied a career high while claiming the floor exercise title with a 9.925 on Feb. 18.

On Sunday she posted a 9.825 on both bars and floor to finish tied for fourth and fifth place, respectively.

### Volleyball

Kent State moved to 8-1 on the season by recording a pair of 3-0 victories over host Toledo last weekend.

On Sunday the Flashes held the Rockets to a season-low .074 hitting percentage while winning 25-14, 25-19, 25-22. Juniors Lana Strejcek and Danie Tyson led the defensive effort at the net with five total blocks each, while junior Erin Gardner anchored the floor defense with 17 digs.

Sophomore Savannah Matthews finished with 16 digs and a match-high 17 kills. Sophomore Taylor Heberle added eight kills, while junior Alex Haffner totaled 32 assists and nine digs.

Kent State won Saturday's match 25-12, 25-23, 25-20. The Flashes posted a season-high .350 hitting percentage led by Matthews, who finished with 17 kills and registered a career-high .536 hitting percentage while sharing the match lead with 13 digs for her third double-double

of the season. Heberle and sophomore Morgan



**Kent State sophomore Jackie Harker** celebrates a successful routine during **Sunday's victory over Central** Michigan at the M.A.C. Center. MIKE COOK/SPECIAL FOR THE R-C

Copley added 10 and nine kills, respectively. Haffner totaled 40 assists, while Gardner had 13 digs.

Haffner, who ranks third in the nation in assists per set (12.09), was named MAC Setter of the Week for the third time and Matthews was chosen Offensive Player of the Week for the second time this season.

Kent State will host MAC East Division leader Bowling Green (9-0) Thursday and Friday.

### **Softball**

Freshman pitcher Jessica LeBeau was thrown into the fire and fared well during Kent State's opening weekend at the Georgia Classic.

LeBeau struck out five in two innings to earn the save in Sunday's 9-7 win over Longwood. She then allowed just one hit through the first 5.2 innings before No. 16 Georgia rallied with four runs in the sixth to claim a 4-1 victory.

After allowing a home run to the second batter she faced on Saturday, Le-Beau (1-1) tossed 11 scoreless innings before surrendering four hits with two outs in the bottom of the sixth against the Bulldogs (5-2).

The Flashes led 1-0 after scoring an unearned run in the fifth, but managed just four singles against Georgia — two by Alexis Taube.

Kent State scored nine runs in the first two innings, then held on to defeat Longwood for the second time on Sunday. Brenna Brownfield, Olivia Sborlini and Autumn Acord each doubled and drove in two runs, Carlee Selle also drove in two runs with a pair of singles, while Brooklyn Whitt went 3-for-4 with a dou-



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# Rootstown, Garfield bowlers headed for state

#### **Susan Jenior**

Special to Ravenna Record-Courier USA TODAY NETWORK

Athletes often talk about their seasons, their solid statistics and the accomplishments of their team.

But at the end of the season, every high school athlete wants to be able to make one statement: "I'm going to state."

No further explanation is needed. It doesn't matter that COVID-19 has caused a change in venue, few spectators are permitted or photos with qualifying athletes always include masks.

A berth at the state championship in any sport is an accomplishment that remains with any high school student the rest of their life.

This weekend, at the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Division II bowling championships, 12 bowlers representing two teams in Portage County and the Portage Trail Conference will forever be state qualifiers: the Garfield G-Men and the Rootstown Rovers.

### **Division II girls**

For the G-Men of Garrettsville, it has almost become expected that a team or individual will advance to the state tournament.

Garfield has always been one of those bowling teams that simply reload each season. Coaches don't often claim it's a rebuilding year. Girls are expected to step-up and carry-on the tradition that is Garfield bowling.

This year is no different.

In his 20th season as the coach of Garfield bowling, Howie Moore welcomed his daughter, Chelsi Moore Phelps as his assistant this season.

"Anything less than a trip to Columbus will be a disappointment for most of these girls," said Moore at the beginning of the season.

It is a bold statement but the longtime coach would have never said that without knowing his talent that included five returning letter-winners and a freshman that he expects to be another solid bowler for the Garfield program.

Garfield gave notice they are a team to beat when they won the Division II district title at Rebman Rec in Lorain, earning one of the four team spots advancing to Columbus this Friday.

Their victory by 45 pins over Triway,

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The Garfield varsity bowling team celebrates following its Division II district championship. SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Rootstown boys bowling team qualified for the Division II state tournament. SUBMITTED PHOTO

topping the second-place teams by 52 pins in the six Baker games to grab the trophy. Three of the Garfield girls finished in the top 20 including sophomore Dezaray Mcle (third place - 263-672), sophomore Peyton Sledz (9th place -245-605) and senior Taylor Cressman (11th place - 209-604).

Rounding out the district championship team are: senior Ryleigh Gough (181-502), junior Hannah Fortney (157-454) and sophomore substitute Kaitlynn Thompson.

Garfield has an impressive resume this season, winning the Portage Trail Conference and the Division II district championship.

The G-Men will begin their quest for a state championship when bowling begins at 10:45 a.m. on Friday at Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl.

#### **Division II boys**

The Garfield girls may have their reservations for the state tournament completed a year in advance but this is new for the Rootstown Rovers.

Two individuals previously qualified for the state tournament from Rootstown: Josh Flachbart in 2019 and Drew Mason in 2020.

At the beginning of this season, now senior Drew Mason told his coach, second-year mentor Thom Butcher, he wanted to go back to state and take his

That goal came to fruition at the Division II district tournament as the Rovers grabbed one of four qualifying spots to advance to the state tournament.

Earning second place the Rovers were only one pin away from the Woodridge Bulldogs, champions of the Div. II district tournament. Perennial state powerhouse, Fairport Harding finished in

Rootstown's Zach Jenkins had one of his best efforts of the season, earning fourth place at the district, bowling a 273-705.

The team's scoring included: sophomore Nick Neiswanger (247-684), senior Drake Mason (204-590), junior Logan Furry (254-573), senior Jake Girtz (234-564) and substitute, senior Nathan McIntire.

The Rover boys begin their quest for the state championship on Saturday at 10:45 a.m.

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