

Wrestling at region: Brockman qualifies for state

CLEVIS JEFFRIES
STAFF WRITER

The Green County Lady Dragon Wrestling team competed in the KHSAA Region 4 Wrestling Tournament Saturday, February 14, at Ashland Paul Blazer High School.

Scout Brockman, runner-up in her weight class at region, qualified to compete for a state title the last of February at Alltech Arena in Lexington.

Lady Dragon results by weight class: 120 - Aubrey Ferguson - Champ. Round 1 - received a bye; Champ. Round 2 - defeated by Allissa Chinas-Rodriguez, McCreary Central, by fall; Cons. Round 2 - defeated by Rhyalynn Johnson, Campbellsville, by fall; 126 - Jardyn Darnell - Champ. Round 1 - received a bye; Champ. Round 2 - defeated by

Kennedy Maynard, Martin County, by fall; Cons. Round 2 - received a bye; Cons. Round 3 - defeated by Keylin Bergin, Adair County, by fall; 132 - Lizeth Diaz - Champ. Round 1 - defeated by Allie Singhoffer, Southwestern, by fall; Cons. Round 1 - received a bye; Cons. Round 2 - defeated by Isabell Martinez, Perry County Central, by fall; Cons. Round 3 - defeated by Kaylee Lester, Bell County, by decision (Dec 8-2); 145 - Kylee Hargan - Champ. Round 1 - defeated Brianna Stone, Perry County Central, by fall; Quarterfinal - defeated by Nastaja Cooper, Taylor County, by fall; Cons. Round 2 - defeated by Jersey Davis, Southwestern, by fall; Cons. Round 3 - defeated by Allison Neeley, Corbin, by technical fall (TF 19-3); 152 - Scout Brockman - Champ.

Round 1 - received a bye; Quarterfinal - defeated Kennedy Burger, Boyle County, by fall; Semifinal - defeated Chelsea Pelayo, Danville, by fall; 1st Place Match - defeated by Bralyn Maynard, Prestonsburg, by fall; 185 - Emma Marcum - Champ. Round 1 - defeated by Mariah Travis, Campbellsville, by fall; Cons. Round 1 - received a bye; Cons. Round 2 - defeated by Amoni Hutchinson, Ashland Blazer, by decision (Dec 8-6).

Boyle County was the team winner, tallying 225 points.

"During the Region 4 event, we sent six wrestlers of which four were brand new to the sport! This was the first major regional event for five of them as well! I am very proud of all of their efforts and the fight they showed throughout the day," said Coach Shaffer. "Scout set out



Photo submitted

Scout Brockman, with her second-place finish in her weight class at region, qualified to compete in the state tournament the latter part of February at Alltech Arena in Lexington.

to punch her ticket to Alltech again, and we are extremely proud of her performance and the drive she showed all day. Her finals match

was a rematch from last year, and her growth from then to now is something she should be extremely proud of. We're excited to see her

take the same determination to state, and we're excited to see the continued growth of these girls and our girls' program!"

GCHS Archery finishes runner-up in Cupid Classic

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The Green County High School Archery Team placed second overall in the Taylor County Cupid Archery Classic Saturday, February 14, at Taylor County Middle School in Campbellsville.

GCHS scored 3,247 points to first place winner Bethlehem High School's score of 3,296.

Green County individual scores: Brayden Rayburn 292, Hunter Pierce 289, Brody Price 277, Gavin Rayburn 271, Akela Davis 270, Kylie Turcotte 270, Drew Judd 270, Daniel Manning 268, Maddie Underwood 266, Kari Warren 264, Kayden Stearman 262, Caleb Rayburn 261, Samantha Wilhoit 258, Josh Koster 243, Lilly Tay-

lor 241, Dalton Zeissig 236, Sean Welch 226, Ben Lord 221, Isabelle Rouse 217, Dylan Curry 214, John-Connor Pannell 199, Audrey Arnett 186, Aubrey Smith 176, and Autumn Arnett 136.

The overall top high school female archer was Logan Smith, of Campbellsville High, shooting a score of 284.

The overall top high school male archer was Wesley Denney, of Wayne County High, shooting a score of 293.

Green County High School archers Brayden Rayburn and Hunter Pierce both received plaques for placing in the top five.

The Green County Middle School Archery Team placed sixth at the Cupid Classic, scoring 2,850 points. Taylor County Middle finished first with

3,158.

Green County individual scores: Remington Ray 281, Dakota Milby 255, Victoria Jones 243, Nic Curry 242, Allen Thompson 238, Jozlyn Coldsmith 234, Alex Johnson 229, Kieran Tucker 227, Cynthia Welch 227, Alice Russell 227, Trip Miranda 225, Matthew Estes 222, Nevaeh Sexton 211, C.J. Sexton 211, Allen Murphy 196, MaKyna Herbert 190, Jase Bonta 186, Madelyn Curry 185, Emma Clark 184, and Know Walker 177.

The overall top middle school female archer was Taryn Dolen, of Wayne County Middle, shooting a score of 279.

The overall top middle school male archer was Westin Whittle, of Taylor County Middle, shooting a score of 288.

Green County Middle School archer Remington Ray received a plaque for placing in the top five.

Several Green County High School archers competed in the Taylor County Cupid 3D Archery Classic Saturday, February 14, at Taylor County Intermediate School in Campbellsville.

The GCHS team placed third, scoring 1,585 points.

Barren County High finished first, scoring 1,647 points and Wayne County High was second with 1,594.

Green County individual scores: Kylie Turcotte 272, Brody Price 273, Hunter Pierce 270, Daniel Manning 267, Gavin Rayburn 252, Akela Davis 250, Caleb Rayburn 244, Kari Warren 241, Brayden Rayburn

233, and Samantha Wilhoit 196.

The overall top high school female archer was Kathryn Doolley, of Barren County High, shooting a score of 279.

The overall top high school male archer was Michael Pedigo, of Barren County High, shooting a score of 284.

Green County High School archers Kylie Turcotte and Brody Price both received plaques for placing in the top five.

A number of Green County Middle School archers also competed in the Taylor County Cupid 3D Archery Classic Saturday, February 14, at Taylor County Intermediate School.

The Green County Middle School Archery Team placed sixth, scoring 1,280 points.

Taylor County Middle finished first with 1,555.

Green County individual scores: Matthew Estes 229, Alex Johnson 223, Dakota Milby 221, Remington Ray 218, Cynthia Welch 198, Allen Murphy 197, MaKyna Herbert 191, and Knox Walker 186.

The overall top middle school female archer was Taryn Dooley, of Wayne County Middle, shooting a score of 258.

The overall top middle school male archer was Eli Perdue, of Wayne County Middle, shooting a score of 278.

"The Green County Archery teams had a great tournament at Taylor County. We had several archers shoot their personal best," said Coach Chris Penick.

NBA potential? Or will Malachi Moreno be back at UK



Vaught's Views
Larry Vaught

Could Kentucky freshman Malachi Moreno be a one-and-done player with his stock rising with NBA scouts because of his recent play?

NBA draftroom.com calls Moreno a "fast rising center prospect who looks the part of a future NBA draft pick with first round potential" in the 2026 or 2027 draft. The site praises his "solid frame, coordination, strength, timing as a shot blocker, and length" while noting he is not the most explosive player.

Respected NBA draft analyst Matt Babcock believes Moreno already checks a lot of NBA boxes for a big man. "Although he has some limitations, his size and mobility allow him to be effective, especially on the defensive end. Adding strength and continuing to develop offensively will be key. He's a prospect to continue monitoring," Babcock posted on babcockhoops.com.

Krysten Peek, a NBA.com contributor and analyst, has not heard a lot of

buzz about the 7-foot Moreno among NBA executives and scouts.

"I think his best path will be testing the NBA draft waters, getting feedback about his game and coming back to college to help his draft status in a weaker (draft) class (in 2027)," Peek said. "The guaranteed money stops at the beginning of the second round. If you are drafted anywhere from 33 to 60, you are probably going to sign a two-way contract and fight for a roster spot and only make \$500,000 in the G League.

"You are seeing more players return to college because they can make more NIL money than they can in the G League. That is making college basketball older and making NBA play better because the plug and play players are all older."

Peek doesn't think one-and-done players will go away because the "NBA will always bet on youth and upside" for elite players.

"But the value for more experienced players is always way better now," Peek said.

Peek believes the best thing that happened to Moreno was not making the USA U19 team that won a gold medal last summer. "He went back to



Freshman Malachi Moreno has NBA potential but NBA analyst Krysten Peek believes he will be back at Kentucky next season. (Vicky Graff Photo)

campus with a chip on shoulder and ready to go to work," she said. "It's exactly what we have seen with Chris Cenac at Houston. Sometimes players going through adversity is the best thing ever for them."

ESPN analyst Jimmy Dykes liked that

Moreno leads all SEC freshman in offensive rebounds but also knows he has work to do to play in the NBA.

"He needs an off-season to work on his outside shot to get ready for the next level," Dykes said. Peek understands

that Moreno - who had 11 points and 11 rebounds in UK's loss at Florida - has benefited from projected first-round draft pick Jayden Quaintance being out for all but four games this season as he recovers from a knee injury suffered last season.

"It was the next man up philosophy and Malachi took advantage of his opportunity," Peek said. "Jayden will still be a first-round pick (in the 2026 NBA Draft) because of his upside. We have seen glimpses of it."

"He just has a special skill set. He can put the ball on the ground and NBA executives believe his skill set translates well to the NBA. He may not play immediately but he's young and talented with such a high upside that he will be a first round pick."

Junior center Clara Strack consistently draws double coverage from opponents and seems to get knocked to the floor at least five times every game. However, Strack - last year's SEC Defensive Player of the Year - also can dish out the physical play.

"I think I have always had that instinct in me. I don't really back down from things. That's not in my nature," Strack

said. "I am not going to go in swinging, but if somebody does that first, I am not gonna back down from that. That's not me."

"I don't want that. I don't want other people to think that's what I'll do. I am not going to back down. If someone does something first, I am going to do it back just as hard as I can."

Strack averages 31 minutes per game but it is not unusual for her to play 35 or more minutes in key games if she's not in foul trouble without seeming to wear down.

"I honestly think that a lot of that is mental. Obviously we do all the prep work at the beginning of the season, but then once you get to the season, and once you get through all this stuff, I think it ends up just being a mindset," Strack said. "If I don't tell myself I'm tired, then I'm not tired. I can push through anything."

"When a game is on the line and there's adrenaline going through my body, I don't really feel it. But then another big thing is just resting when you can. You can't keep doing it every night with no rest. I think remembering to have a good balance is important. But I think when the adrenaline is flowing, you don't think about being tired at all."