

Grant County archery teams advance to Eastern National tournament

BY JACKSON UTTER
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Over March 13-14, the Grant County Braves had several teams compete at the NASP State Bullseye Tournament and NASP 3D State Tournament.

At the elementary level, the teams scored high enough to qualify for the Eastern National Conference Bullseye Tournament later in the year.

The middle school team secured a qualifying score in both the Bullseye Tournament and the 3D Eastern National.

Although the high school team was unable to likewise qualify for the Bullseye competition, they still advanced in the 3D tournament in the first week of May.

Dry Ridge Elementary had two

teams compete this weekend, with scores of 2809 and 2262. This saw the first team earn 27th place and score high enough to advance in the postseason.

Emily Brann marked the highest score for the Dry Ridge first place team with 257. Levi Ginn was the next closest shot for Grant, with 253, and the highest boys' placement.

Carrie Stone and Jamison Saxton, furthermore, marked top shots for the team as both finished above the 240 mark.

Despite the other Dry Ridge team's postseason meeting an early end, they still had several Braves shoot well. From the second team, Greta York and Tristan Jimenez-Neidigh secured the best scores at 223 and 207. Tyler Pettit and Ryleigh Schlarman both contributed over 200 points at the state tournament.

The third elementary team from Grant to compete at the state tournament was Mason-Corinth. Coming in 86th, the team advanced to the Eastern National tournament with a final score of 2584.

Leading the team was Payten Hyden with a personal best of 239. Also leading the charge for Mason-Corinth were Deaven Wright and Ziggie Carter. Contributing over 225 a piece, they helped the team continue a strong season as the team earned an all-season high in scoring and number of tens.

In the 3D tournament, the high school team finished in 64th place and had a score of 1516. Elijah Vargas, Logan Huber, and Evan Vargas secured the top three scores for the Braves. At the conclusion of the tournament, these three all had personal bests and hit scores of 262,

257 and 255.

In the Bullseye tournament, the high school team faced much tougher difficulty despite earning a score of 2976. Shooting a score of 281, Corbin Jones was the team's best shot, placing 107th in the boys' group. At 269, Clayton Chapman followed behind Jones while Gracie Kendall finished with a personal best of 267.

Finally, the middle school team came in 41st place at the 3D state meet. The Braves managed to once again qualify for the Eastern National tournament after shooting a 1510.

After some solid performances, Bentley Webster, Austin Courtney, and Saretta Harrison secured the top scores. As all three Braves shot over 250, the team survived to carry on to the next tournament of the season.

The middle school Braves also

qualified for the Eastern National Bullseye meet. Ranking in 63rd place, the team hit 77 tens and finished with a score of 3079.

Performing well at the state competition, several of the Braves shot over the 250 mark. Foremost of the archers was Saretta Harrison with 278 points and 12 tens on Friday.

Cooper Ammerman and Braelynn Dunn sat not far behind, hitting scores of 263 and 261 as Dunn hit a season best. Likewise, finishing well at the tournament were Bentley Webster and Colton Ahlbrand, who finished with 260 and 255 points to close out the team's top five shots.

Grant will now continue its season at the Eastern National tournament, which takes place in the first week of May at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

Williamstown archers advance to Eastern National tournament

BY JACKSON UTTER
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

After qualifying earlier in the season, the Williamstown Demons High School, Middle School, and Elementary School archery teams all competed at the 2026 KY NASP State Bullseye Tournament in Louisville on March 13 and 14. All three age groups qualified to compete in the Eastern National Bullseye Tournament in May.

Starting with the elementary group, the team shot a total score of 2765. After hitting 54 tens, the young Demons secured 35th place out of the 105 teams.

The highest scorer for the elementary team was Barrett Setter with 260 points and seven tens, a personal best.

Following Setter's high score were Gentry Pierson and Brandon Patton at 251 and 250.

Also hitting a personal best and securing the fourth-highest score for Williamstown was Brook Jones at 249 with five total tens.

The middle school Demons narrowly beat the minimum score to advance. With a team score of 3010, they came in 10 points above the required minimum score and ranked 91st.

Earning a team all-season high in points, the Demons hit 68 tens at the state tournament.

Shooting a score of 262,

Matthew Collins secured the highest score for Williamstown. Right on Collins' heels were Jacob Monson and Carlie Asher, who both shot 261.

Bailey Lester and Annie Bachmann trailed behind; both archers shot a personal best of 258 and 255, respectively.

Finally, at the high school level, the Demons earned their third-highest score this season with a 3176. Hitting 115 tens, the team finished with a final rank of 92nd.

Shooting a personal best of 287 and securing an impressive 18 tens, Landen Donaldson earned the highest score for his team and additionally qualified at the individual level.

Donaldson was trailed by Grace Wood, who hit nine 10s. Wood's cumulative score of 273 placed her firmly as the second-highest shooter for the team.

Coming in at third and fourth on the team's roster were Issabella Asher and Lettie King. While both hit nine 10s, Asher earned 268 points, whereas King earned 266.

Rounding out the fifth-highest score on the team was Shaye Partin at 265.

The strong performance from all three teams will see their postseason continue as they prepare for the Eastern National tournament in May.

LADY

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second with a bunt.

The Wildcats rang up their first kill before quickly ending the Lady Braves' attack as they picked off Alexander stealing third.

Grant returned the favor, though, preventing a base hit in the bottom of the inning. For the first out, McQueen earned another catch in the outfield. Hammons then rang up a second strikeout while Gosney fielded the ball to Utter at first to end the bottom of the second.

During the third inning, Gosney was the only batter to earn a base as both defenses fought hard. While Pendleton earned three strikeouts, the Lady Braves responded with two of their own and a groundout.

Heading into the final varsity inning, Grant's first at bat was another strikeout.

Hammons was then walked and was replaced by designated runner Payton Pelfrey. Alexander was then likewise walked on a full count duel between her and the pitcher. Despite a passball allowing both runners to advance to dangerous positions, a strikeout and a lineout ended the Lady Braves' chances.

In the bottom of the fourth Emery Hull took over



Jackson Utter

Calleigh Hammons swings at a pitch in the Lady Braves' game against Pendleton County on March 10.

pitching and had an early walk. Grant then allowed its first run of the night as a single batted the runner in. The Lady Braves quickly closed the inning, but the damage was already done.

The JV team then came out to play, but would struggle to compete with Pendleton. After three at-bats, the top of the inning met a quick end with two strikeouts and a forceout. Whereas the Varsity only

allowed a single run, the JV would prove unable to slow the attack. Over the course of a single inning, the Wildcats extended their lead to 7-0. This brought the combined scrimmage to a close on Tuesday night.



Nick Wass / AP Photos

George Mason guard Jahari Long (2) goes to the basket past Saint Louis guard Amari McCottry (4) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Saturday, March 7, in Fairfax, Va.

NCAA warns schools of travel issues ahead of March Madness

BY WILL GRAVES
AP NATIONAL WRITER

PITTSBURGH — Atlantic 10 commissioner Bernadette McGlade skimmed through the 12-page memo the NCAA sent out last month that highlighted potential travel issues ahead of the men's and women's basketball tournaments and couldn't help but feel a bit of déjà vu.

McGlade spent time on both the men's and women's selection committees earlier in her career, including a stint as the tournament director for women's March Madness. What she read in that memo was nothing new. "We had the same conversations, 'Oh, these charters are hired (away). We might

not be able to travel all the teams the way we want to travel," McGlade said Friday ahead of the A-10 quarterfinals at PPG Paints Arena. "It is a very real reality."

One that, through the years, has avoided any sort of real nightmare scenario. The NCAA is hoping to do the same this time around, even if the headwinds working against them might be a little stronger than they've been in the past.

The ongoing partial government shutdown that is forcing some federal airport employees to work without getting paid — leading to massive lines at security checkpoints in some places — the conflict in the Middle East

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HAYHOES

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which ranged from ages of 18 to 19. In the 174-pound weight class, Asher earned a bronze medal overall. This placement came on the heels of a silver medal in the snatch and bronze in the clean and jerk.

With a 267-pound snatch and 324-pound clean and jerk, the young athlete solidified a top place in the national meet.

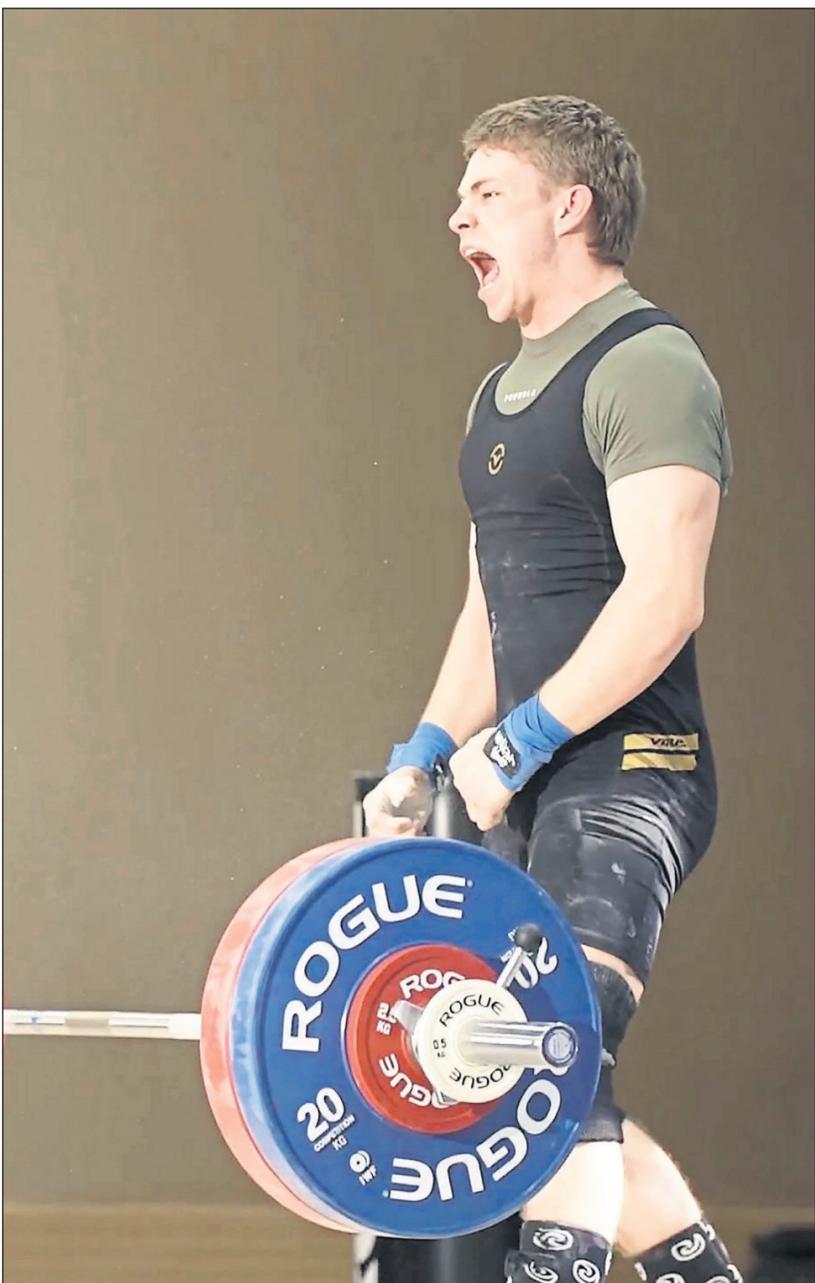
Meanwhile, Sadie competed in the under-17 category in the 128-pound weight class. Opening the elite meet with her record-breaking performance, she earned gold in the snatch.

The younger Hayhoe followed this up with a gold medal in clean and jerk. Combining the 205 clean and jerk with her record snatch, Sadie earned the overall gold medal.

With both Hayhoes having outstanding performances against some of the top competitors throughout the nation, they continued their successful careers. The athletes' progress has been supported by several coaches over the years with Dylan Scott, Ciro Ibanez, and Abigail Guerrero all contributing to their training.

Their mother, Tami Hayhoe, commented that Asher and Sadie have been training two to four hours a day, five to six days a week for the past six years.

This extreme commitment by the Hayhoes comes from a drive to succeed at the highest level. Tami Hayhoe who was also influential in coaching the kids, further stated that, "The siblings' hard work is fueled by big



Courtesy of Tami Hayhoe

goals. Both athletes are aiming to continue progressing through the national ranks with hopes of competing at the World Championships andulti-

mately representing the United States at the Olympic Games."

As the weightlifters continue to perform at an impressive level, this pursuit

draws ever closer. On the heels of the record lift and strong momentum over the past several meets, expect big things from the standout athletes.