

Wrestling turns toward state tournament

By Josie Rother

The Shamrock wrestling program has sped off to a busy start this year having already competed in 14 out of their 16 competitions. After placing 6th as a team at the Raymond Central Dual Tournament on December 12th, the Shamrocks turned around and earned 1st place at the Fort Calhoun Invitational the next day. Senior Carter Sucha placed 1st at the Fort Calhoun Invitational. “Winning the Fort Calhoun Invite was significant to many of the guys who have struggled, stepped up, and made their way to the podium,” Sucha said. “We had 5 championships at [the Fort Calhoun] meet, and it shows everyone that we have a strong core group with many hungry young guys.” The following week, after their first day of semester tests on December 18th, the Shamrock wrestlers traveled to Aquinas Catholic High School to compete in a triangular. The Shamrocks prevailed against Central City, but were defeated by the Aquinas Monarchs. Two days later, on December

20th, the Shamrocks traveled to Logan View High School, where they placed 8th out of 16 teams. Junior Parker Newman wrestles in the 157 weight class. “Beating Central City got us ranked pretty high since they were ranked 4th [in the state] at the time,” Newman said. “Although we lost to Aquinas, it was a close dual and was very fun to be a part of.” After a rejuvenating moratorium, also known as “dead week”, the wrestlers hit the mat again on January 3rd at Shelby-Rising City High School, where the team placed 1st out of 16 teams, and 9 of their wrestlers took home a placement of 6th or above. Junior Aiden Zegar wrestles in the 175 weight class and placed 5th at the Shelby-Rising City Invite. “We were all excited to see our hard work start to pay off, celebrate the wins of our teammates, and help them through their losses,” Zegar said. The team’s success at the Shelby-Rising City Invitational led them into the next 3

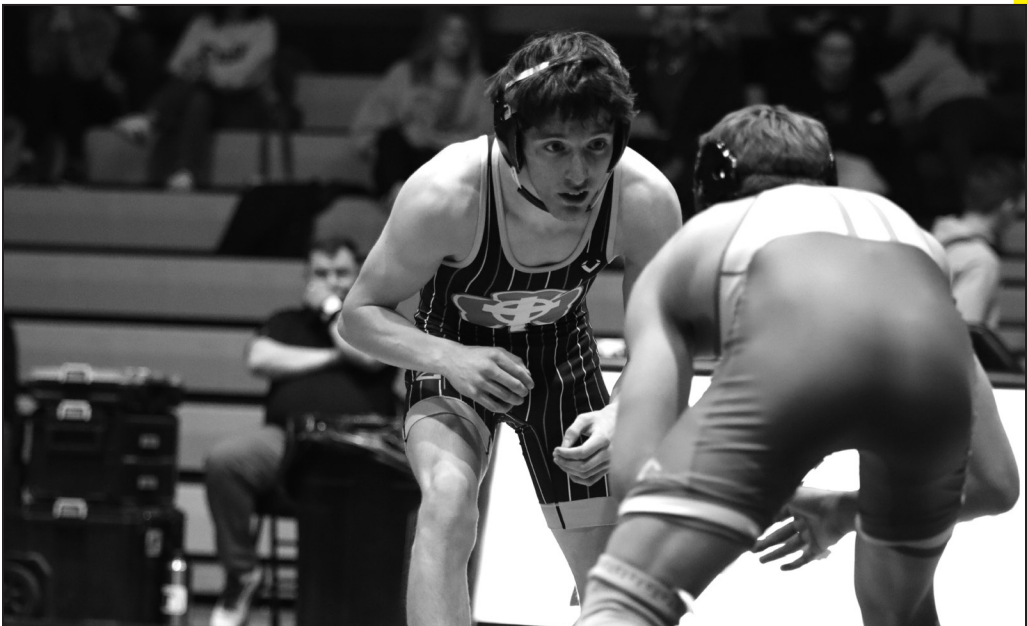
competitions before the conference tournament. The first two were duals hosted by the Shamrocks, who bested both the Archbishop Bergan Knights on January 6th and the Schuyler Warriors on January 8th. The final competition leading up to the conference tournament was the Schuyler Central High School Invitational on January 17th where the Shamrocks secured 4th place as a team out of 16 teams. Sucha was a state qualifier last year along with 6 of his teammates. “[The Bergan Knights] are a good competitive team in our conference, so competing with them gave our guys good momentum going into the conference tournament,” Sucha said. At the conference tournament on January 24th, the Shamrocks wrestled their way to a 2nd place team finish. Senior Kobe Micek placed 1st at the conference tournament in the 132 weight class. The Shamrocks had three other conference champions: Favio Rivero Rubio (144), Carter Sucha (138), and Parker Newman (157).

“We had some good wins and some kids stepped up, but I think we have a team that is good enough to win the conference,” Micek said. “[Our success at conference] will be a good confidence boost going into districts.” On January 27th the Shamrocks took the win against Lincoln Christian in a dual at home. Two days later, the Shamrocks beat Lakeview in a dual before competing at the invitational held by Boone Central on January 31st. The Shamrocks did not place as a team at the Boone Central Invitational but had a few individuals place. The Shamrocks only have the Grand Island Central Catholic Invitational on February 7th standing between them and the district tournament on February 14th. Rivero Rubio, who wrestles in the 144 weight class, has individually placed 1st 5 times this season. “The goal for the team is that we can wrestle at the State Dual and have more than 7 state qualifiers this year,” Rivero Rubio concluded.



Jillian Rusher / Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Carter Sucha, junior Parker Newman, senior Favio Rivero Rubio, and freshman Bode Roberts cheer for their teammate with the rest of the team at a triangular hosted by Aquinas Catholic High School on December 18th. The Shamrocks lost to the Monarchs but beat their other opponent, Central City.



Jillian Rusher / Rock Bottom Staff

Senior Carter Sucha faces off with a Central City wrestler at the Aquinas Catholic High School Triangular on December 18th. Sucha was one of 6 state qualifiers on last year’s wrestling team.

Cheerleaders set tone for state

By Kennedy Krueger

Even though cheerleading is a year round sport, the busiest time for cheerleaders is the winter. During this time, not only does the cheer team continue supporting the school’s activities, but they also perform their routines at competitions and state. The Scotus cheerleaders are laying the groundwork for state after becoming class champions for the C1 division at the Heartland Competition on January 11th. They earned this title from their score on their first place Non-Tumbling routine, meaning they had the highest scoring routine out of any C1 performance. The cheerleaders also performed a Game Day routine and placed fifth. They earned a special award from the judges for their usage of props in their routines. Using feedback from the competition, the Shamrocks are continuing to prepare for state. Senior Kate Hendricks, along with the other four seniors, captains the cheer team. “Heartland and Jam the Gym give us so much insight on the things we need to fix or improve on, and having those under our belt before state gives us a lot more confidence with routines. Confidence comes from preparation, and it shows after all the work we put in through practices and competitions,” Hendricks said. Experiencing the feeling of performing in front of crowds is an important aspect of preparing for state. Not only do the cheerleaders get to show off what they have been working on, but they can get over performance nerves as well. “My favorite parts of being a cheerleader

are the friendships with the cheer team and performing our routines. We all get an adrenaline rush right before we are about to perform, and it is such an amazing feeling after we perform, and everything went well,” senior Eva Foreman said. The cheerleaders have been practicing and perfecting their routines for months with the help of head coach Sarah Langan and assistant coach Liz Gonka. This is their second year coaching the cheer team. “We have had many full-on two to three hour practices where we go over even the smallest critiques that can help so much. We also have the best coaches who have helped us improve throughout this season,” freshman Makynley Paitz said. The cheerleaders have been up to more than performing, though. They put on a prep clinic on January 26th for those interested in trying out for the cheer team this spring or in the future. It was open to all girls from sixth to twelfth grade. It was an opportunity for girls to learn more about what cheerleading involves and to help them decide if they wanted to try out for the team. “For me, [the prep clinic] benefited me a lot for tryouts because I already knew the fight song, and it let me experience performing in front of a crowd,” freshman Evy Kluever said. On January 28th, the Scotus cheerleaders went to the Columbus Catholic elementary schools to visit the students there. The following weekend, they performed their state dance at Jam the Gym on February 1st. At halftime

of the girls game on February 3rd, the cheerleaders performed their annual guy/girl dance. The Shamrocks will finally wrap up their season on February 20th at state cheer. Freshman Mya Langan concluded, “Throughout the year, the team has only

grown. In the summer, we went from dropping our flyers in stunts to getting them up with ease. Our routines have had some ups and downs, but we have grown as a team and overcome challenges.”

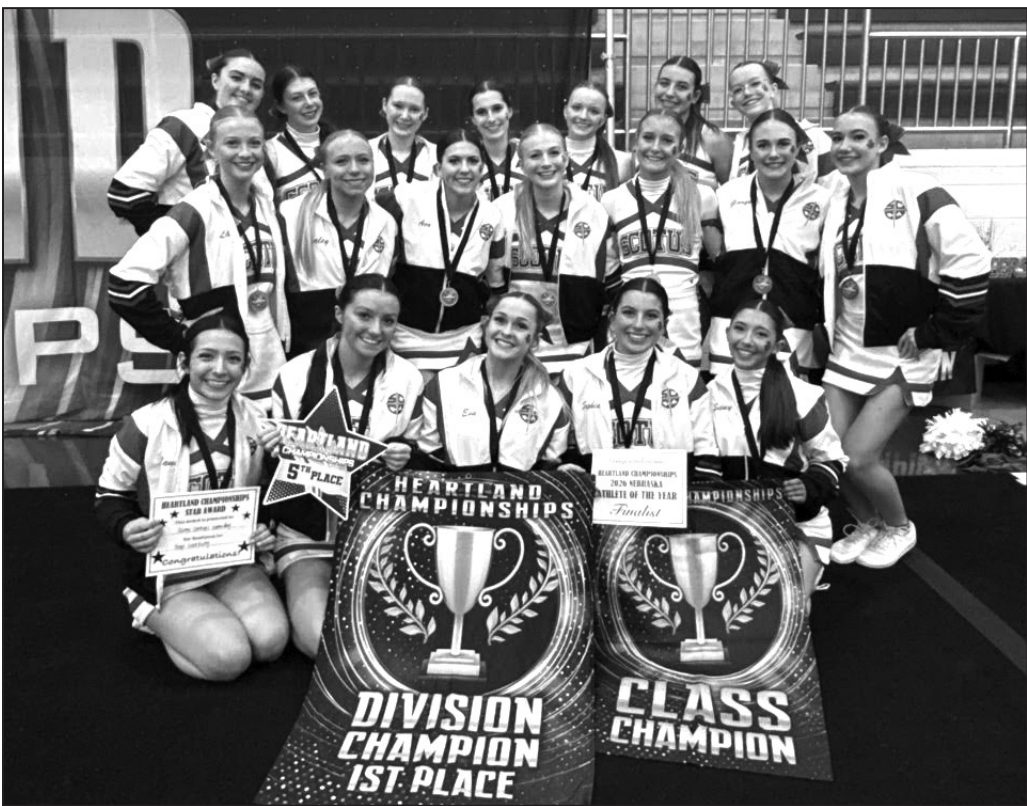
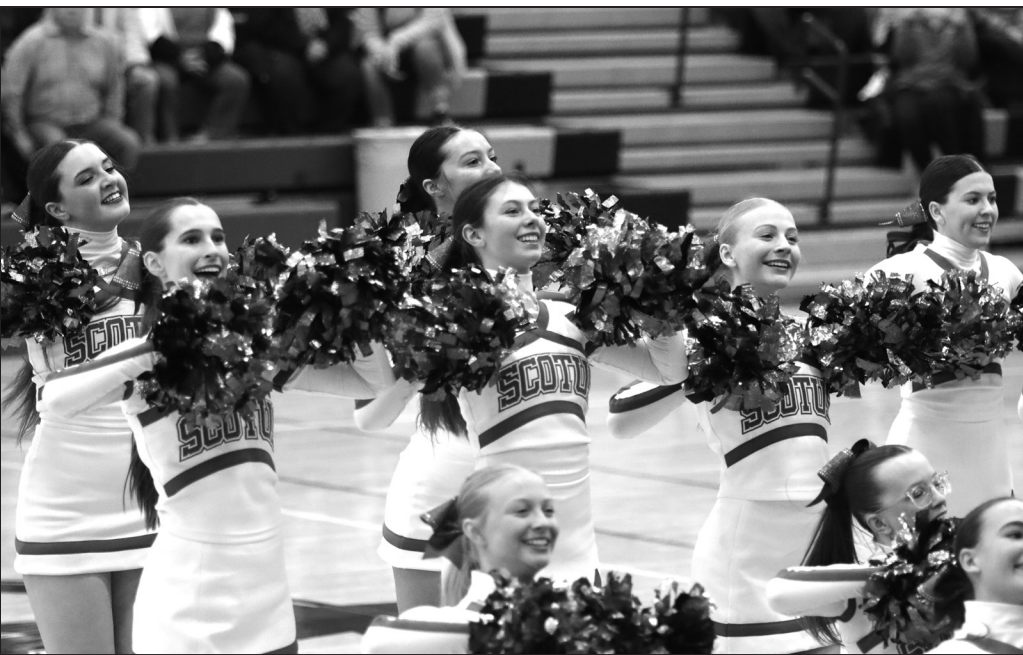


Photo Courtesy Sarah Langan

The Scotus cheer team celebrates with their awards following the Heartland Competition on January 11th. The cheerleaders were class champions, and they scored 1st and 5th on their Non-Tumbling and Gameday routines, respectively.



Sydney Stuart / Rock Bottom Staff

Sophomore Karsyn Bridger and juniors Naomi Robertson and Kennedy Krueger hit a move at the end of their dance during Jam the Gym on February 1st. They performed the same routine that earned first place at the Heartland Competition.



Kate Hoffman / Yearbook Staff

Senior Camila Carrizales strikes a motion in the cheerleaders’ Non-Tumbling Dance at Jam the Gym on February 1st. The Shamrocks are preparing for state cheer in Grand Island on February 20th.