All good things come in threes

(Left to Right) Tayden Dake, Tierani Lennyn, and Tyce Sanderson Thiem. When they were born, Tayden weighed 6.0 lbs and was 19", Tierani was 5 lbs 4 ounces and 18.5", and Tyce weighed 4 lbs 15 ounces and measured 18”.

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On Jan. 11, 2017, Tahner and Traci Thiem of David City became parents not once, not twice, but three times over. Just before noon at the Methodist Women's Hospital, Traci underwent a caesarean section to give birth to healthy triplets: Tayden, Tyce, and Tierani Thiem.

Traci had been in the hospital being closely monitored since Thanksgiving. She was strictly put on bedrest and stayed at the hospital up until the day she gave birth. After spending such a significant amount of time in the hospital, Traci even admits to missing the staff there.

"Honestly, I look back and wonder how I stayed sane for seven weeks being there, but all I can say is God helped me get through it. There is no other way I could have done it," Traci said. “I also have to say that my nurses were amazing! They ended up being good friends of mine throughout my stay. One of my night nurses even did my nails the night before my c-section.”

When having triplets, it’s very rare for them to go the full 36 weeks. Tahner admits that some days it was tough going
back and forth from practice to the hospital. However, he stated, “At the end of the day, when you have three healthy kids that didn’t need any NICU time, it’s worth it.”

Planning for the triplets was a whole new concept that took some serious preparation. Being not only a teacher, but also a head wrestling coach, triplets made Tahner question what he could handle and what was best for his family.

“Early on, the numbers showed that it was twins. But then she [Traci] went to the next appointment, and they found triplets. When she told me, I thought she was messing with me. My first reaction was ‘No way. She’s lying.’ After getting over the shock, I went into this overwhelmed period for about two weeks,” Tahner said.

It was then he sought out the advice of another wrestling coach from Scribner-Snyder, Justin McDuffee, who also had triplets the previous October. McDuffee explained that although some private time may be given up, being a father, husband, and coach was very doable.

The Thiems also received support from many other unsuspecting places. Tahner explained that lots of people in the community reached out to them, letting them know they were there if they needed any help. However, one of the biggest forms of assistance came from Atlanta, Georgia. Tahner’s sister, McKehna Thiem, decided to make the move back to Nebraska this last summer to help out her older brother and sister-in-law during their transition.

“McKehna moved back here in the middle of October and moved into our guest bedroom. We were able to finish the basement for her as she has her own area down there to make her feel at home,” Traci explains. “She has been great help as her and I take care of the babies during the day with Tahner at school. She has also helped with night feedings to help him get through wrestling season and get some sleep.”

The couple admits they are enjoying every minute. Through the feeding schedule, growing pile of laundry, and three times as many diapers, the Thiems are happy with what Traci calls ‘their miracle.’ She further shares they have pretty good babies, saying they feed well and usually only cry one at a time. With the Thiem name spreading throughout the David City community and beyond, there’s no doubt the triplets will have lots of support behind them.

“This situation has made me very thankful for many things, especially the coaching staff that I have here at David City. They took on about a week and a half of tournaments and practices where I couldn’t communicate with them, and I don’t feel we missed a beat,” Tahner said.

Traci, too, spoke out on her thanks. “I want to say thank you to the community of David City. We have been so thankful for the support from everyone! I truly believe we ended up with three very healthy babies because of the amount of people who had been praying for them and us. God has definitely shown his work through them. Tahner and I are just lucky to be apart of such an amazing story and miracle!”
David City High School hosted their annual wrestling meet on Fri., Jan. 20., with 14 teams, 3 mats, and 9 Scout medalists, all in one action-packed day.

The mania began right when the clock struck 11. The Scouts made themselves known early, as many wins led the wrestlers to climb higher in each bracket. The team admits this tournament is often one of the more challenging competitions of the season.

“I think that we started off a little sluggish, but as the day went on we wrestled better and more aggressive,” senior Ryan Worm said. “I usually get myself ready by walking around and getting my muscles loose three weight classes before. As my name pops up on the screen to be in the hole, I start working up a sweat. Then, right before I go out there, I give two high fives to coach Bates.”

By the lunch break, the Scouts were seated in third, following Millard West and Gretna.

The tournament began to heat up in the early afternoon. Each match became more intense and the pairings almost equal in skill. The audience grew in size, and some wrestlers celebrated their 100th or even 150th win. So far this season, both Worm and junior Melvin Hernandez of the Scouts have earned their 100th win title.

“It’s great to wrestle and represent our team in front of the home crowd at least once a year,” junior Seth Styskal said. “We put in the work, now we just have to prove to everyone what we have in us to win.”

Just shortly after five o’clock, finals began. Lots of great wrestlers were competing for that top spot. From three-time State champions to nationally ranked wrestlers, the gym held lots of talent. The Scouts fought their way through and ended up earning their third place spot as a team. Final scores of the invite displayed Gretna in first with 261 points, Millard West in second with 163 points, David City in third with 114 points, followed by Crete with 111 points.

“The rest of the season is for us to just go out and get what we want and show them who we really are. The overall goal is to get State champs in the end. For sure individuals, if not as a team as well,” Styskal said.

Those who earned the hardware were as follows:

113 Seth Styskal- 2nd
120 Noah Styskal- 3rd
126 Justin White- 3rd
132 Lee Betzen- 4th
138 Melvin Hernandez- 2nd
145 Jacson Valentine- 8th
160 Spencer Allen- 7th
195 Ryan Worm- 3rd
Adding to the competition: Mathletes to UNL

Olivia Couch, Co-Editor
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Since 1989, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has sponsored a day where high school students from all over Nebraska come together to take a math test. Yes, a math test. With over 1,500 students gathered on a nice November day, you may be wondering what brings these students together.

The students who choose to participate in the exam undergo what UNL calls the PROBE test. The top 40 scoring students, under three percent of those who attend, are called to then take the PROBE II test. If a student were to score in the top ten of all students participating, UNL will award them with a total of $32,000 in four-year scholarships at the college. Those who don’t move on to the PROBE II test have a chance at redemption during a double-elimination Math Bowl competition. The teams are broken into six sections, and each team consists of three people. The top three teams in each section, for math purposes we’ll conclude 18 teams and 54 students, will be awarded with a trophy.

“Math Day, for me, was an interesting experience. There were students of all sorts who attended,” senior Evan Forney said. “The other part about math day I really enjoyed was the free time. With breaks between jeopardy rounds, we were able to explore plenty of the UNL campus.”

On the Thurs., Nov. 17, David City High School sent nine students to participate in this year’s Math Day competition at UNL. Those students consisted of seniors Matthew Lewis, Evan Forney, Kylie Hascall, and Ross Kirby; juniors Renee Backstrom, Seth Styskal, Olivia Couch, and Angel Sweeney; and sophomore Allie Daro.

After completing the hour-long test, the math bowl session was set into action. The team consisted of Lewis, Couch, and Forney. At the end of the day, the team had participated in three competitions before heading home. Overall—through the test, free lunch, math bowl, and Dairy Queen stop afterwards—most students seemed to enjoy the trip.

“I do find it useful, because it’s a good test to see how well I know my math,” Lewis said. “I would recommend them [other students] to go, because it’s a good experience and gets you a break from school for a day.”