

2022 State Journalism Championship



#12 Yearbook Sports Feature Writing **Time Limit – 1:15**

Directions: Using the background information, facts and quotes, write a sports feature story that would appear in the sports section of the yearbook. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. Entries will be evaluated on accuracy and quality of writing.

When you are finished:

1. **Type you first and last name at the top of the document.**
2. **When you are finished save your document as a PDF with the filename: yourfirstlastname_YBsportsfeature_Class (For example: SusieSmith_YBsportsfeature_ClassA).**
3. **Notify the proctor when you are finished.**

Pearson High School has won the inaugural Midwest Conference (MWC) Girls Wrestling Championship. The Oilers prevailed by four team points (125 – 121) over Richmond Central High School.

This year's MWC girls wrestling meet was held on Saturday, January 29th in Richmond. A crowd of about 1,200 fans attended the event, held in the Richmond Gymnasium. The gym had three wrestling mats set up. The meet had 12 weight classes: 100, 107, 114, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 165, 185, 235. The first session of the meet began with the 1st round and then quarterfinals in each weight class, followed by the first and second round consolation matches. After a 30-minute break, the meet resumed with a second session, which included the Semifinals and 3rd round consolation matches. Following an additional 30-minute break, the Consolation Semifinals, 3rd and 5th place matches and the championship finals took place.

Two of the Oilers' best wrestlers – seniors Stella Smith (120) and Brenda Bonds (165) – wrestling for the championship in their weight class. Both Smith and Bonds went on to win propelling Pearson High School to capture the first ever MWC girls wrestling championship.

Pearson coach Dominique Moeckel wrestled when she was in elementary school, but this is her first year as the girls wrestling coach.

Stella Smith, Pearson athlete

“Wow, I can't believe I'm the first ever conference champ. And what means the most to me is those little girls (will) be like, 'Wow, if she can do it, I can do it, too.' “

Vicki Cole, Pearson athletic director

“At Pearson High School we are always looking to provide athletic opportunities for all our students. But being the first conference champion in girls wrestling in the same year as the 50th anniversary of Title IX makes it

extra special. We need to continue to find opportunities for Pearson High students to participate in extracurricular activities.”

Dominique Moeckel, Pearson coach

“Once Stella and Brenda advanced to the championship matches, I thought we could win it. This year has been such an awesome experience for these girls and for our school. I’m so thankful our school decided to sponsor a girls wrestling program this year. The MWC put on a great event and to be the conference champions in our first year is a true testament to the teamwork of these girls. I’m just so proud to be their coach.”

Ally Williams, Pearson freshman

“I’m just so happy to have a girls wrestling team. I wasn’t planning to go out for wrestling this year, but I’m so glad I did. I’ve made a lot of friends and can’t wait for next year.”