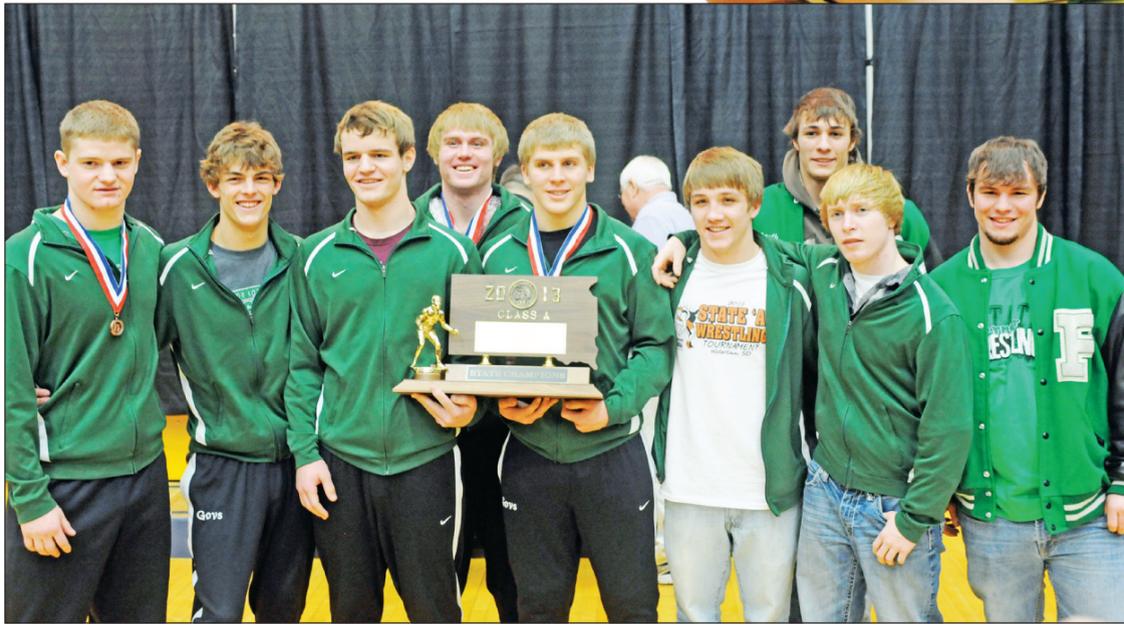




HARDWARE FOR OUR HEADGEAR

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Clockwise from top: The Pierre Governors pose with their championship after securing their second consecutive State A Wrestling title this weekend in Watertown. • Pierre's Caleb Stoltenburg wrestles during his 138-pound championship match at the State A Wrestling Tournament. • A special class of seniors pose together one final time after winning the State A championship Saturday. Front row, from left: Lane Lettau, Caleb Stoltenburg, Kyle Sarringar, Seth Scott, AJ Dorschner, Aaron O'Day and Wylin Baker. Second row: Trey Maier and Sayth Jacobsen. • Seth Scott bounced back in a big way for the Governors in their championship run. Scott finished third despite losing his first match of the tournament.

Governors repeat as State A champions

WATERTOWN, S.D. — Rapid City Central may have dyed their hair gold in anticipation of winning a title but the Pierre Governors proved that gold is their natural color with a second-consecutive State A Wrestling Tournament championship.

A dominating outing in the wrestleback rounds made what was shaping up to be an instant classic a forgone conclusion for the Governors. Pierre secured its second consecutive state championship with a total score of 180.00. The Cobblers took second place with a tally of 159.50.

The showdown between the two teams appeared as if it would come down to the bitter end after a day, but the Governors showed what determination can do by completely overpowering the competition in Saturday's action. The Governors had 10 individual placers en route to another title.

"Our guys knew we had to pick it up a notch," Governors coach Ryan Noyes said. "These guys do a great job of not letting things get them down. We



Pierre sophomore Dawson Monfore has his hands raised after advancing to the championship match in the 170-pound weight class. (Wade LaRoche/Capital Journal)

tripped a little bit on the first day, but we just saw that as a little hurdle. The entire team picked it up and that's the definition of a true team."

One of the wrestlers who picked it up in a big way was senior Seth Scott. The 160-pounder was pinned in his first match of the tourna-

ment. Scott was at his best when facing elimination by winning his next three matches to advance to the third-place match.

Scott defeated Rapid City Central's Shane O'Connell in a 2-1 decision to grab third, a win that essentially clinched a state title for the Governors. To add insult to injury, O'Connell cost his team a point when he was hit with an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty after the match.

"I was upset after I lost in the first round," Scott said. "I just wanted to go out there and help my team, so I just looked to place as high as I could. It was amazing to win that final match, I was nervous going into it and I wasn't sure if I was going to win. I'm happy I pulled it off."

"Seth is one of those kids in which you're frustrated with early but you know he's going to kick it into another gear when he needs to," Noyes said. "His performance this weekend speaks volumes to the type of

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kid he is. He put it all on the line for us."

While Scott ran through the wrestlebacks, Jebben Keyes (113) took the easy approach in gaining his spot at the podium with an impressive run to a second-place finish. The freshman was defeated by Brady Burghardt of Watertown in his finals, but Keyes certainly has a bright future with the Governors.

"Jebben was against a three-time finalist and a senior in the championship match," Noyes said. "Somebody forgot to tell Jebben that he wasn't supposed to be competing against those kinds of kids, and he competed against them all weekend."

Keyes proved to be wise beyond his years as he knew the Governors needed a big-time performance. He delivered in a big way.

"We knew everybody needed to come up big for the team because we were only supposed to win by 2.5 points," Keyes said.

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