



# Team Quotes & Notes

Each year we ask the coaches to send us information about their teams and put some notes together as a summary for the fans. Using The Scoop (pages 15-17, the brackets (pages 27-54), the Tournament Outsider (page 4), the tournament placement histories (pages 20, 22, and 24), the WIAA placement histories (pages 62-64), and now the quotes, we hope you have a better idea on how to predict who might win individual match-ups you are watching, and how to cheer on your favorites. This is a tough tournament, and each weight class has plenty of great wrestlers to follow. Throw in the team dynamic of big and little schools against each other, and I think you have the best of wrestling competitions. There is a top five pick for each division at the end of this section. Write yours down and see how you do!

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**ADAMS-FRIENDSHIP:** This year's Adams-Friendship team is young, but don't think that means a lack of talent. The Green Devils are rebuilding the foundation for a competitive team with sophomores Trenton McManus, Cole Clark, and Rylan Burrows leading the way for the underclassmen team. The Bi-State Tournament will be a true test to see if the Green Devils can continue their streak of ten consecutive years of multiple state qualifiers.

**AQUINAS:** After graduating a big group of seniors from last year's squad, the Bluegolds are a much younger looking team than in years past. Though young, they have a small but solid group of seniors leading the way with state place winners Jordan Corcoran at 138 and Nick Burns at 106. Also looking to make some noise are seniors Scott Ring at 152, Charlie Fuchsel at 160, and Emil Walleser at 220.

**ARCADIA:** Arcadia moved to Division 2 this season. They have a young team this year and are still missing a couple of key wrestlers who are out with injuries, but they bring a solid group and look to make a push for the top five if they wrestle well. They hope to get experience here that will help them step it up in their big events as the year moves forward. Arcadia was the Coulee Conference Tournament Champion last year and should be in a tight race for a conference championship again this year.

**ATHENS:** Athens will have a young team at this year's Bi-State Tournament, with four returning members of last year's team. The Bluejays look to make some noise.

**AUBURNDALE:** Numbers are low this year for Auburndale, but they have good quality. Look for freshman Dylan Altmann at 106, juniors Paul Willfahrt at 138 and Wyatt Weiler at 152, and sophomore Kaleb Bolder at 285 to make some noise in their perspective weight classes.

**BARABOO:** Team did not provide information.

**BELMONT/PLATTEVILLE:** Graduate Vinny Anderson has been missed this year, as he was a great leader for the team. Seniors Lucas Stoney, John Hentrich, and Austin Loeffelholz have done a great job stepping up and filling in this year. These three have high hopes for themselves this season, and we look forward to finding out how they compare to the high caliber competition at the Bi-State Tournament.

**BLOOMINGTON KENNEDY:** The Eagles are very young in experience, with some wrestlers waiting to make their mark. Wrestlers to watch are seniors Orhan Azizi at 138, who finished 4th last year, and John Maiers at 126, who placed 11th last year. They are looking to better their placement in this year's Bi-State Tournament.

**BOSCOBEL:** Team did not provide information.

**BURLINGTON:** This is the first year at Bi-State for the Burlington Demons, and they hope to be a strong addition to the tournament. They enter the event with nine returning letterwinners including two state qualifiers (Greg Miller at 220 and Tyler Kirkeeng at 285) and 4<sup>th</sup> place finisher Ben Hornickle at 132. Although they are currently without returning state champion Josh Bird because of injury, the Demons return several sectional qualifiers from last year's team including Robbie Elsbury at 120, Lucas Shenkenberg at 138, Wes Gavin at 152, and Hegeman Tiedt at 182, as well as returning letterwinners Isaiah Brenner at 160 and Chris Marks at 195.

**CALEDONIA/HOUSTON/SPRING GROVE:** The CHSG Warriors are celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of their wrestling program from 1963 to 2013. This year's squad is looking for steady improvement throughout the season, with the goal of advancing several individuals (and maybe even the whole team) in the end-of-season tournaments. Caledonia has a history in the Bi-State Tournament from 1983 to 1986 with eight individual champions in those years, including current assistant coach Jeff Winjum. In 1983, Caledonia was the Bi-State Team Champion. The team returned as a co-op team in 2007, and in 2010 and 2011 Austin Goergen was the Bi-State Champ at 285. The current wrestlers who placed in last year's Bi-State are looking to move up in their place finish this year.

**CASHTON:** This year's Eagles are led by seniors Nathan Schmitz at 138, Brandon Schmitz at 170, and Tanner Von Ruden at 195. Cashton wrestlers are off to a good start with a tournament win at Black River Falls and a good showing at the Tomah Scramble. After graduating five quality seniors, this year's squad is extremely young -- they are starting four freshmen and six sophomores. The Eagles are still hoping to make a showing in the top five of Division 3.

**CUBA CITY/SOUTHWESTERN:** This year's team is led by five returning seniors. JJ Donar leads the lightweights, being a three-time state qualifier; Brett Wilson and Cal Grutz lead the top end of the line-up. The team is looking forward to a competitive Bi-State Tournament.

**D.C. EVEREST:** The Evergreens have some experienced wrestlers who have been here before and have the experience to place. Seniors Drew Stotmeister at 220 and Sean Luedtke at 152 have been wrestling well -- with a good tournament, they should be in the hunt to place. Juniors Manning Denk at 113, Joe Ziolkowski at 145, Don Veverka at 120, and Nolan White at 126 should also be looking to place this year. In addition, there are a few newcomers to the line-up that could place if they get a few breaks. Those include freshmen Kyle VanGalder at 106 and Nate White at 138, sophomores Mitch Veverka at 132 and Kain Huff at 285, and senior Josh Rieckhoff at 160.

# Team Quotes & Notes (cont'd)



**DE SOTO:** The Pirates are a very young team with a lot of potential and hopes of getting a few wrestlers into the second day of competition.

**DODGEVILLE:** Dodgeville is in a rebuilding year. They lost several outstanding seniors, but they have some other outstanding wrestlers including state qualifier Brady Wetter, sectional qualifiers Tyler Wunnicke and Sam Gollon, and outstanding sophomore Zach Nelson. The team is led by Sam Gollon, Jacob Recob, and Henry Schickel.

**EASTVIEW:** This will be the Lightning's eighth year of participating in the Bi-State Tournament. The team returns eight starters from last year including captains Jack Buck, Billy Marks, and Jacob Rukavina.

**ELLSWORTH:** Ellsworth returns the majority of its team from last year. This year's team is led by Jens Lantz, a three-time state champion; Gable Frandsen, a state champion; and 5th place finishers Logan Kemmerer and Tristen Mueller. All of these wrestlers are undefeated coming into the tournament.

**HILLSBORO:** Team numbers continue to rise in a rebuilding year for Hillsboro, with only one weight class not being filled. The team is fairly young and inexperienced but continues to improve and compete.

**HOLMEN:** The host Vikings are off to an 8-0 dual record start for this season. Currently the team is ranked 5th in Division 1. Holmen has seen many ranked opponents this season in both Minnesota and Wisconsin and still has some wrestlers with impressive records. Senior Hunter Hauser at 285 is 11-1 and currently ranked #1 in D1. He recently finished as the runner-up in the Minnesota Christmas Tournament. Senior Noah Risch at 195 is 18-2, coming off a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish at the Minnesota Christmas Tournament. Senior Ryan Stalsberg at 138, a two-time state qualifier, has a record of 14-4, while Junior Charles Serauskas at 220 is 14-3. Senior Duncan McKinney at 170, a 6<sup>th</sup> place state finisher last year, and sophomore Ryan Bennett at 113 will also be looking to make a mark on this year's tournament. The Vikings are excited to compete for a top finish at this year's Bi-State Classic with a line-up that features ten wrestlers with winning records. The host team has never won their own tournament and hopes to be in the running this year.

**HUDSON:** Hudson again brings a talented team to Bi-State. They are a very balanced team and should see a lot of action on the second day -- all 14 weight classes should score points, which is rare at this event. Although a trophy may not be possible, Hudson should be one of the top overall teams.

**INDEPENDENCE/GILMANTON:** The Indees' numbers are the best they have been in recent years, with five seniors on the roster -- four of which are in their fourth year on the team. Taylor Allen at 285 is one of those seniors and, at this writing, is 9-0 with nine pins -- he was 4th in last year's sectional. Christopher Warner also won a match at sectionals last year and made it to the second day of Bi-State. The Indees hope to have him joined by a few teammates on the second day this year.

**IOWA-GRANT/HIGHLAND:** After a pretty good season last year where Iowa-Grant had four state qualifiers (one being a state champion), went 5-1 in conference duals, and placed third at the SWAL/SWC Clash, they are in a bit of a "down" year this season. They are very thin in the middle, as they have been unable to fill four weights. The team is led by junior Luke Nowak, who qualified for state last year as a sophomore at 145. Other wrestlers to watch will be Cody Rider at 182, Brian Halverson at 152, and Shania Sarbacker at 106.

**KICKAPOO/LA FARGE:** The Predators have a very small team with little experience, but they have a very good work ethic and a lot of determination to win. The team has one returning sectional qualifier and hoping to have possibly two or three more this year. They hope to make a few upsets during this year's Bi-State Tournament.

**LA CROSSE CENTRAL:** La Crosse Central is led by three-time Bi-State champion and three-time state finalist Ben Thornton. Also hoping for a strong showing is sectional qualifier Josh Kuhs. Three freshmen who have had a lot of success early in the season (Jaden Van Maanen at 106, Jake Obert at 126, and Connor Williams at 145) look forward to testing themselves against the strong field the Bi-State provides.

**LA CROSSE LOGAN:** The Logan Rangers continue to rebuild their program. With improved numbers over the past two seasons, they look to move up in their conference with improved dual meet results. The Rangers recently won their own invitational and hope to get strong Bi-State finishes from returning place winner senior Calvin Wright at 220, as well as senior Tristin Groleau at 138 and up-and-coming juniors Nick Houlihan at 120 and Dylan Smith at 132.

**LAKEVILLE SOUTH:** With only one senior on the team, Lakeville South looks to make an impression with their young team. They are led by returning place winner Dalton Peterson, who took 7th place at 138 last year.

**LANCASTER:** The returning Division 3 State Champions come in to this tournament, attempting to get some momentum for this season. They have had a tough start dealing with injuries, but they will still be able to bring a team that could potentially compete for a top three finish in Division 3 with the help of returning state champion Trenton Cornell and returning place winners David Chadd (3rd) and Kyle Mezera (5th).

**LUXEMBURG-CASCO:** The Spartans have a younger team than in past years, but they will grow to an experienced team by years' end.

**MARSHFIELD:** The Marshfield Tigers are a well-balanced squad this year when they are at full strength. Injuries have been a big factor early in the season. Led by returning state place winner Mitch Hertel at 152, look to see some new names come to life in this year's tournament, as a number of wrestlers from this team have a legitimate shot at placing. As a team, a top 5 finish is within reach if they can avoid injuries.



# Team Quotes & Notes (cont'd)

**MAUSTON:** Mauston wrestling revolves around one simple word -- PRIDE. Last year, the team finished second in the Division 2 Team State Tournament, and they have started the 2013 season running with the momentum from last year. They return many great leaders including seniors Spencer Davies at 126 and Justin Dolata at 170, junior Jake Schiller at 160, and sophomores Chris Ruf at 106 and John Maki at 132. The team is also surrounded by outstanding young talented wrestlers, waiting to make their mark in the Mauston wrestling program. The 2013-14 season is shaping up to be another season to remember.

**MIDDLETON:** The Cardinals are defending Big Eight conference champions.

**MONROE:** The Cheesemakers are a very young wrestling team this year, but their wrestlers fight and scrap every time they step on the mat.

**MOUNT HOREB/BARNEVELD:** The Vikings are bringing a younger team this year and are hoping to see medal rounds for Dalton Frakes at 106, Chase Zimpel at 132, Cole Syrud at 138, and Matt Blome at 160.

**MUSKEGO:** Muskego returns nine starters from last year's team. The leaders of this year's team are returning state qualifiers Austin Quartullo and Connor Price. Both are looking to improve on their 3rd place performances from a year ago. The team also looks to juniors Brady McFarland, Cameron Rygiewicz, and Ryan Borton to improve from last season. McFarland was a sectional place winner in 2013, while Rygiewicz was one match away from placing in the 2012 Bi-State. Freshmen Jorin McGuire and Mason Alioto are promising newcomers who have tasted some early season success and look to build on that in this year's tournament.

**NEKOOSA/PORT EDWARDS:** The Papermakers are a fairly young team and lacking some numbers, but they have some great wrestlers returning. Seniors Dylan Bauer and Tristin Holden both placed at the Bi-State Tournament last year and are 8-1. Clay Lieber, Sam Tuttle, and Keaton Kotek are all looking to place higher than last year and help this team post a good showing.

**NEW LISBON:** Led by a core group of seniors, the Rockets have matured into a solid team. Still a young team, they are looking to improve on their 9th place finish from 2012 and have multiple wrestlers competing on day two.

**NEW RICHMOND:** The Tigers will bring a young team to the tournament this year, with four freshmen and four sophomores in the starting lineup. But lack of experience doesn't mean they won't give you a battle for six minutes. Leading the team will be Derek Dowd, Garret Hildebrandt, and Dominic Ficociello. Derek, a junior, is a two-time medalist at the Bi-State Classic, taking 7th in 2012 and 10th in 2011. Garret has won his share of tournaments his first two years but found himself behind a three-time state qualifier. As a junior this year, he has found his spot in the lineup and looks to take the next step. Dominic is a Middle Border conference champion from last season and hopes to use that momentum to finish his senior season strong.

**NORTH CRAWFORD/SENECA:** Noah Brown leads North Crawford/Seneca with a 12th place finish last year -- he is hoping to improve on that finish this year. Other wrestlers to watch include Kaleb Davenport, Zach Stluka, and Tyler Finnell as they try to make a second day appearance this year. The team has a mix of veterans and rookies that push each other in the practice room.

**PORTAGE:** Portage enters this year's tournament, looking to improve on last year's disappointing last place finish in Division 1. After dropping down a division this year, returning state qualifier Hunter Hayes at 120 and 11th place Bi-State finisher Jacob Poches at 145 will look to lead the Warriors toward the middle of the pack in Division 2. Portage is also looking to have strong performances from seniors David Gunderson at 195 and David Rusher at 182, as well as junior Mitchell Golke at 126.

**PRAIRIE DU CHIEN/WAUZEKA-STEUBEN:** The Blackhawks will bring anywhere from a full line-up to ten wrestlers to this year's Bi-State Classic. They are led by senior Taylor Elliott, a returning Bi-State champion and state runner-up, and sophomore Clayton Beers, a returning 3rd place Bi-State finisher and 6th place finisher at the State Tournament last year. Seniors Tyler Rieck, Drew Yeomans, Alex Chandler, Jack Feye, and Alex Wasechek will make their final Bi-State appearance and hope to end on high notes. The goal is simple for this squad at Bi-State, "Win the matches we are supposed to and win one match that we weren't supposed to for each individual."

**RICHLAND CENTER:** Coach Darren Gunderson has coached for 13 years and has returned to the varsity level. The team is young and improving each week. This will be a rebuilding year with only one senior.

**RIVER VALLEY:** River Valley has good leadership from the three seniors on the team including Jacob Heiser, Joe Crook, and Zach Koch. Crook placed 6th at Bi-State and the State Tournament last year, while Koch placed 5th at Bi-State and 6th at State. Both are looking to improve on their finishes for both tournaments. The team may be young but look to continually improve throughout the year. Dustin Hatfield at 106, Gavin Wipperfurth at 113, and Elijah Alt at 132 are freshmen that have started out the year on a strong note.

**RIVERDALE:** The Chieftains are led by sophomore Riley Lull at 106, junior Jared Roen at 145, and senior Tyler Wanek at 285. We look for them to capitalize and get to the podium for the team. We also look for seniors Travis Louis at 138, Matt Koch at 152, Mike Hanson at 195, and Brady Conner at 220 to score points for the team, as well as juniors Nolan Garoutte at 132 and Tyrell Anderson at 160, sophomore Trevor Troxel at 170, and freshmen Hunter Wordell at 113 and Bradon Roen at 120. They all need to push for a podium spot in order for the team to meet its goal of finishing in the top three of the tournament and taking home a trophy.

**ROYALL:** Royall comes into this year's Bi-State Tournament with some experience. Senior Dalton Lunde is looking to have a big tournament after qualifying for the State Tournament last year. Junior Trenton Pasch returns at 145 after placing 9th at Bi-State a year ago. Look for Royall to have a couple other chances at medals from seniors Donnie Robson at 160 and Landon Robertson at 285.

# Team Quotes & Notes (cont'd)



**SOUTH SAINT PAUL:** South St. Paul is always excited to hop in the vans and head to La Crosse in December! This year the Packers are led by captains Jose Brito, Mike Mason, Jon Rankin, Marcos Perez, and Curt Palodichuk. SSP has been ranked in the top 25 AA teams in Minnesota for the first month and a half of the 2013 season. The team hopes to continue to be competitive again amongst the Division 2 teams at the Bi-State this year.

**STRATFORD:** The Stratford Tigers have a nice blend of youth and experience and are looking to improve on last year's Division 3 second place team finish. Many younger wrestlers gained valuable experience at the Bi-State last year. This squad has had good team success and chemistry to start off the season. The 2013 Bi-State Classic, THE premier holiday tournament in Wisconsin, will offer a great test to see where the Tigers are at individually and as a team, as they set their sights on the second half of the season.

**TOMAH:** Tomah is an inexperienced squad looking to get better. They are led by seniors Jordan Reisinger, Logan Pollack, and Ryan Sutherland, as well as junior Ben Linzmeier. There are many freshmen in the line-up who are looking to win some matches. Quality mat time is important this week.

**TWO RIVERS:** The Two Rivers team is led by a very talented group of juniors and seniors, which also includes three returning state place winners. Sophomore Paul Bianchi at 106, who placed 5th at State last year, leads the charge with a 13-0 record. The team's two 3rd place finishers at State last year, seniors Ty Pelot at 120 and Scott Skornicka at 195, are right behind him at 12-1. Also joining the 12-1 group is senior Bobby Geiger at 182, a sectional qualifier from last year. This team is coming off of three undefeated conference titles after a 27-year drought and has compiled a 55-3 dual record from the 2009-10 season up to this point. The team is excited about their opportunities this year, both as a team and individually, and are glad to be a part of the Bi-State Classic.

**VERONA:** Along with two-time place winner and on-stage wrestler Eric Schmid, Verona Area, with 14 other returning letter winners, looks to place high as a team and have multiple second day place winner wrestlers.

**VIROQUA:** The Blackhawks are a young team building for the future with good numbers. They expect to have three to five wrestlers competing on day two of the Bi-State Tournament.

**WAUSAU WEST:** This year, Wausau West is defending their 2012-2013 Team State championship, as well as their 201 Bi-State championship. They are a well-balanced team led by senior captains Travis Hettinga at 160 and Ben Kostroski at 170.

**WEST SALEM/BANGOR:** West Salem/Bangor has won two consecutive Coulee Conference titles and returns eight starters from last year. With five seniors and a good group of young wrestlers, the W-Bee's are looking to improve on the 129 points they scored in last year's Bi-State Tournament. The team will be led by two returning Bi-State place winners in Nick Buisman, who placed 4th at 195, and Brandon Bahr, who placed 10th at 160, as well as freshman Devin Bahr, who is currently 9-0 at 132.

**WESTBY:** For the Norsemen, seniors Wesley Oldenburg at 152 and Chase Nottestad at 220 should do well this year. Others to watch this weekend include freshman Riley Cade at 106 and juniors Brett Cade at 126, Ross Withington at 138, and Brock Leum at 160.

**WESTON ITHACA:** The team from Weston/Ithaca comes to this year's tournament looking to remain competitive and continue to build on the success the co-op has built in its first four years. Leading the way for Weston/Ithaca will be 2012 Bi-State place winners Hunter Dischler, Stetson Clary, and Cody Willis. Along with seniors Nick Bennett and Mason McCauley, these wrestlers are working hard to lead the younger, inexperienced wrestlers on the team, hoping to compete for a top three finish in the tournament.

## Tournament Director's Top 5 Picks by Division (Not in any particular order but potential to be in Top 5)

Division I	Division II	Division III
Holmen	Ellsworth	Stratford
Hudson	Two Rivers	Lancaster
Burlington	Luxemburg-Casco	Weston/Ithaca
Wausau West	West Salem/Bangor	New Lisbon
D.C. Everest	South Saint Paul	Riverdale
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