

Five wrestlers end historic season at state

SUBMITTED BY NORTH SHORE EDGE WRESTLING CLUB

Five future Central Suburban League athletes made history when they competed at their respective state championships.

North Shore Edge Wrestling Club's Will Collins, Liam Cummins and Parker Spritz all made it to their first Illinois Kids Wrestling Federation state tournament by way of top-three finishes at the North Chicago Sectional, held March 5 at Glenbrook South.

The Edge's Michael Stringer, who goes to Wilmette Junior High, and Massey Odiotti, who attends Shabonee School, also competed in the Illinois Elementary School Association state tournament. At the qualifying sectional tournament in Wheeling, Stringer took second at 135 pounds and Odiotti was runner-up at 65 pounds.

The five qualifiers were the most the Edge has ever sent to state in a single season.

"We're very proud of our state qualifiers," Edge coach Marc Tadelman said. "These young men showed not just physical toughness, but mental toughness to get to state. They've put a lot of hard work into improving, and that showed in the state series."

Collins (39-5), a Christian Heritage Academy sixth-grader and Glenview resident, took second at the sectional in the 10- to 12-year-old Novice 89-pound weight class. At the state tournament, he lost in the first round to an opponent who subsequently lost to the eventual state champion, eliminating Collins from the tournament. Collins is the youngest Edge wrestler to ever advance to the IKWF state tournament.

Cummins placed third in



Kenilworth's Liam Cummins took third at his sectional in the senior 95-pound weight class. PHOTO SUBMITTED

the 12- to 14-year-old Senior 95-pound bracket at the sectional to make it to the state tournament, where he lost in his first-round match. A seventh-grader at Joseph Sears School, he has been wrestling since the first grade.

Northbrook Junior High seventh-grader Parker Spritz took third in his Senior 84-pound bracket to advance to state, where he dropped his first-round match.

Wilmette resident Matthew Boyer fell just short in the sectional's Novice 79-pound division in his first year eligible for the IKWF state series. The Highcrest middle-schooler pinned his first opponent in 1 minute, 12 seconds before losing to the eventual sectional champion from Fox Lake Wrestling Club. He came back in the consolation bracket with a 16-second pin to make it to the third-place match, where he dropped a tight decision to the top-seeded Phillip Chapa of Barrington Broncos.

In addition to the six aforementioned grapplers, the Edge also had five other sectional qualifiers — four more in the IKWF and another in the IESA.

Winnetka's Conrad Cramer and Michael Miralles, Northfield's Will Morrison, Northbrook's Dylan Bass



Parker Spritz (left) qualified for state and Wilmette's Matthew Boyer was fourth at the sectional.

and Wilmette's John-Anthony Loumbas all qualified for the sectional. Cramer wrestled in the 8- to 10-year-old Intermediate Division and took second at 84 pounds. Intermediate wrestlers are not eligible for the state tournament.

The North Shore Edge Wrestling Club is a feeder program for New Trier and other area high schools. For more information visit www.northshoreedgewrestling.com.