

Kodiak Grapplers 8th at State

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Erik Wander/KMXT

Kodiak High School took 10 wrestlers to the 4 A state championship meet at Chugiak High School over the weekend. All 10 Kodiak wrestlers were dropped to the losers' bracket in the opening round Friday.

In final results, Colony finished first at the meet with 264.6 total points, followed by North Pole with 163 and Lathrop with 148.5. Kodiak finished with 79 points, third best from the region and eighth in the state overall. Kodiak wrestling coach Pat Costello said the showing at the state tournament was anything but a disappointment for the Bears.

-- (Wrestling 1 33 sec "It's always a little disappointing ... it was a really good tournament for us.")

Kodiak's Nick VanMatre defeated Chugiak's Parker Lennihan, 6 to 5, to take third place in the 140-pound weight class, and heavyweight Anthony Atonio, a first-year wrestler, won his third-place state match by forfeit, for the Bears' best finishes at the meet.

-- (Wrestling 2 34 sec "Nick Van Matre at 135 ... an exciting finish for the kids.")

Costello said that despite the end to the high school season, there is more wrestling to come with the girls' state championship match coming up in January. He also said he hopes to see the boys' brief two-month wrestling season changed to better match up with the end of the football season. He encourages anyone who wishes to donate to the girls' trip to the state championships or with interest in changing the wrestling season to contact Kodiak High School.

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