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Wrestling: McKinney brothers place at state

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BY JUSTIN THOMAS, JThomas@acnpapers.com

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Friday and Saturday in Austin, the top high school wrestlers in Texas took to the mat, competing in the UIL State Wrestling Tournament at the Delco Center.

And while Allen won the team championship, District 6 was also well represented, with four teams finishing in the top 20 on the boys' side.

The Eagles took first with 136.5 points, while Flower Mound finished second (100).

Randall, meanwhile, took third (90) with Coppell in fourth (86) and Arlington Martin (79) rounding out the top five. Southlake Carroll took 13th (32), with Lewisville tied for 18th (24), Creekview in 22nd (18), Turner finishing 25th (14), Newman Smith taking 30th (10) and The Colony placing 38th (3).

In girls action, Caprock finished first (90) with Katy in second (69) and Hereford placing third (68). Coppell, meanwhile, took 20th (25).

Leading the charge for the Jaguars was Scott Akers, who wrestled at 112 pounds and was one of four Jaguars to win silver. Akers won his first three matches before falling in a tightly-contested battle in the finals, 7-6, to Alex Gilpin of Reagan.

Flower Mound's Dylan Akers (103), meanwhile, went 2-2, winning his first match in both the main draw and consolation bracket.

Austin Riddle (125) of the Jaguars also won silver after losing by decision in the finals, 7-5, to John Pacheco of Westside.

Brady Speckles (140) grabbed second for Flower Mound, losing in the finals, 13-3, to Allen's Oliver Pierce. Coppell's Matt Robinson dropped his first match at 140, but won two matches in the consolation draw before being eliminated by Colton Thomas of Klein Collins.

Yet another silver medal winner from Flower Mound was Drake Dudley (145), who won three consecutive decisions before running into Eastwood's Andy Pico in the finals. Coppell's Duncan Dominguez was also eliminated by Rico, falling by pin in the semifinals before defeating Clear Lake's Chase Cobb in the consolation finals.

At 152 pounds, Lewisville's Michael McKinney finished fifth. He won his first two matches Friday to guarantee a place, but had a tougher time Saturday, losing in the semifinals of the main draw and in his first match in the consolation draw. McKinney finished on a positive, though, topping Martin's Jeff Baker in the fifth place match by pin. Carroll's Dillon Swacker also

competed, going 1-2.

Michael's brother Conner (160) also qualified for state and earned a fourth-place finish.

Like Michael, Conner won each of his matches Friday but lost Saturday in the semifinals. In the consolation bracket, Conner won his first match by decision, 8-3, but dropped the third place match to Westlake's Sawyer Morris.

The top finisher on the boys side for Coppell was Trevor Ward (189), who finished second but had his undefeated season snapped. Ward was competing in the toughest weight class, featuring three other previously undefeated wrestlers and the highest winning percentage of any weight class.

Ward won three matches, two by pin, before falling in the finals to McAllen's Sam Mangum by decision, 3-2. Carroll's Dominic Cruciani, meanwhile, took sixth and was the Dragon's top finisher. Cruciani lost in the first round but battled back to win three consecutive matches in the consolation draw before settling for sixth.

Coppell's Teddy Johnson (215) also performed well, earning bronze. Johnson lost in the semifinals to state champion Cody Davis of The Woodlands, before defeating Lake Highlands Ebrima Nije in the third-place match by decision, 3-1.

Carroll's Kody Weaver (285), who had to battle through the consolation draw to even qualify for state, continued to perform well finishing third. Like in the regional tourney, Weaver again made his way through the bottom bracket. Weaver won his first match by pin but lost in the second round.

However, he rallied to win four consecutive matches and finish third. One of those wins came in the third-place match, where Weaver topped Flower Mound's Alex Wranik.

Wranik's fourth place featured one win in the main draw and three victories on the consolation side.

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