

Warriors wrestlers finish in top 16 at state

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Two Del Norte High School seniors finished their prep wrestling careers with impressive runs at the CIF State Wrestling Tournament last weekend in Bakersfield.

“I’m pretty excited about that,” said Warrior’s head coach Clinton Schaad.

Senior Danika Scott, in just her second year of wrestling and coming off a section championship, finished in the top 12 at the state tournament with a 3-2 record in the 235-pound weight class.

Scott split her two day-one matches, then won twice on Friday, pinning Alissia Hernandez of Brawley, and then defeated Valeria Rocha of El Cajon Valley to advance to the consolation medal round Saturday.

Scott had her tournament ended by Cassidy Curtiss, of Lodi, who went on to finish seventh in the state.

“It’s difficult to qualify for state in of itself,” Schaad said. “Danika has definitely been the program’s top female performer. She had just five losses all year.”

Schaad said Scott is looking to continue her wrestling career at the next level.

Senior Skyler Moore also finished with a 3-2 overall record at the state tournament in the 145-pound bracket. Moore dropped his first match of the tournament before reeling off three consecutive victories in the consolation bracket Friday. Moore defeated Antonio Navarro of Vista, 12-5, then posted an 11-2 victory over Alex Rudkin, of Chico. Moore's third win came over Dante Lopez, of Gilroy, 8-4, before running out of steam against the state's No. 9 finisher Garrett Fletcher, of Frontier, by a final of 16-3.

Schaad said Moore could point to a small, overall victory of not getting pinned in his run through the brackets, with wins over San Diego Section's No. 4 wrestler and the North Section's No. 2 wrestler. Only the top eight win medals at state.

"He wrestled really well. There's 2,000 programs in the state, not counting JVs trying to make it, and to take it top 16 in the state is quite the achievement," Schaap said.

He added that Moore is also hoping to continue wrestling on into college, and is currently checking into his different scholarship options available.

Schaap said it will be hard to replace Scott and Moore next year, including three seniors who placed at the girls section finals. But he hopes their finishes create a buzz for next year's wrestlers.

"We have quite a few girls in the youth club. Plus next year we'll have solid returners coming back. We've got great JV kids coming into their own. So on paper, we have a big bundle youth, about five to eight freshmen, stepping in. We'll be just fine next year," Schaap said.