

# ONE INCREDIBLE CAREER

Senior Gabe Ruepke has gone to state wrestling for four straight years

Mark Illyenko

Staff Writer

On Saturday, February 17th, senior Gabe Ruepke closed his career as a Charger wrestler by winning 3rd place in the 2A state wrestling tournament at 132 pounds. Ruepke is the first Charger wrestler since Avery Fuhs in 2008 to place in the top three at the Well and is the only Charger wrestler in school history to place at the state tournament for four consecutive years. In 2015 and 2016 he placed 8th, he improved in 2017 placing 4th, and now in his senior season he placed 3rd. "It feels pretty good to get third, but it wasn't how I wanted to end the season. #stayhungry," said Ruepke.

Ruepke won his first round match against junior Max Babcock

from New Hampton (9-1) but lost his second match to senior Matt Roberson from Davenport to a pin who went to win the class 2A 132 pound championship. Although he lost that match, Ruepke managed to come back and win the rest of his matches which was an incredible feat. "It was the hardest thing I came across in my whole career. I didn't even want to be there after I lost, but my coaches were there for me and helped me move on and get the next best thing," said Ruepke. Head coach Jamie Cochran has helped push and motivate Gabe during his senior year. "He is doing a great job as head coach, this season has been the most fun and my most successful year," said Ruepke.

Ruepke's teammates and the town of Chariton couldn't be

more proud of him and his wrestling career. "Gabe's body of work over the past four years has been a positive reflection of the wrestling program," said CHS athletic director Tim Milledge. "As we look to continue moving forward, this accomplishment helps motivate our current and future wrestlers. With hard work and dedication, they can do it too!"

Ruepke worked extremely hard in the season and off season, attending many camps and tournaments to improve each year but he isn't done yet with his wrestling career. During the summer, Gabe will compete in the nationals in Fargo.. "I've had some schools talk to me, but I'm waiting to see what I get after Fargo nationals this year," said Ruepke.

## Tui's Top 5

Isaiah Tuigong

Sports Editor

Senior Gabe Ruepke's top five favorite wrestlers



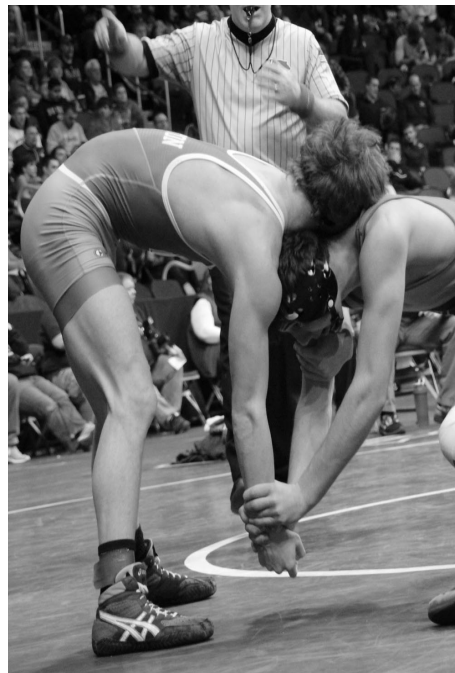
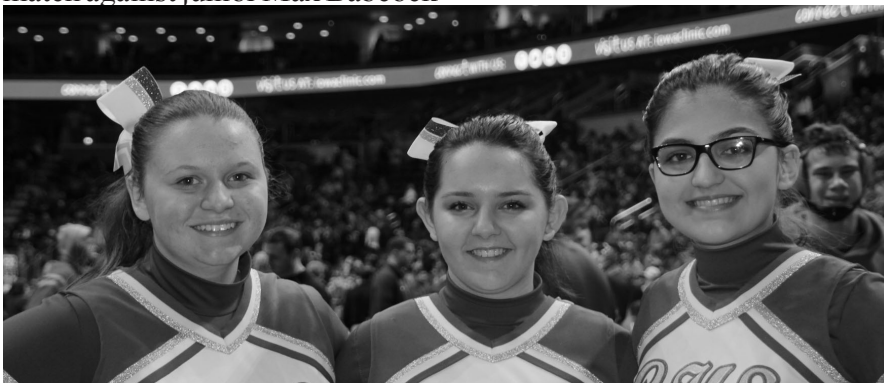
1 "Dylin Harberts"

2 "Aden Reeves"

3 "Dan Gable"

4 "Alex Thomsen"

5 "Jade Spencer"



Top Left: Wrestling Cheerleaders pose for a picture at the Well.

Bottom Left: Senior Gabe Ruepke in the referee's position.

Top Right: Senior Gabe Ruepke wrestling at the state wrestling meet. Photos by Ashley Gress.