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151

DaDaDa DaDaDa

January 5, 2025



151



#23sports1team

The last few days of 2024/first few days of 2025 were action-packed for Brickie sports as our girls hoopsters ran up & down the court while our wrestlers honored a legend, recognized some outstanding seniors and hosted the first EVER IHSA Sectional for girls! In fact, American singer, songwriter, guitarist & actor **Jon Bon Jovi** might say they closed out 2024 & started 2025 in a *Blaze of Glory*! The flipping of the calendar also marks the midpoint of the winter sports season ... or as Bon Jovi might say, "Woosooooooooooooaaaaahhhh, we're half way there"!!

These next two months should provide Brickie fans plenty to cheer about, so let's make the most of it! After all ...

It's my lllllllllife

It's now or never

But I ain't gonna live forever

I just wanna live while I'm alllllllllive ... it's time for BricksCenter!



151

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2025



Wrestling

Girls

After spe
Wrestling



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151

, Girls

privilege of hosting one of the 16 sectionals in the FIRST EVER girls state tournament!

On Friday morning, it was GAME ON! Competing in 16-girl brackets, the top 4 finishers in each weight class would advance to next week's IHSAA Regional @ Goshen ... and OUR GIRLS SHINED!!! Out of 14 weight classes, the Brickies advanced 11 competitors, had 7 girls wrestling in the finals and secured *twowwoooooooo* individual champions!! Juniors **Joanna Cantu** and **Lena Raygoza** each WON their weight class to secure a top seed in next week's regional! It was an absolutely AWESOME day for our girls!!

Well ... what about the team standings?? With competitors in the finals in half the weight classes and 4 others earning a regional nod, the Brickies amassed a whopping 234 team points to become the 2025 IHSAA SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS!!! YOU CAN PUT IT ON THE BOOOOOOOOOAAARRDD ... YESSSS!!! UNBELIEVABLE!! Hobart not only served as host for the FIRST EVER sectional round, but our girls WON!!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Tomas Westberg, Coach Erin Swafford, Coach Josh Mehay, Coach Frankie DeBusk and ALL of our girls on the sectional VICTORY!! WHAT AN AMAZING ACCOMPLISHMENT!!!

The following Brickies advanced to next week:

- 100 - freshman **Layla Gutierrez** - 2nd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 105 - junior **Joanna Cantu** - SECTIONAL CHAMPION, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 110 - sophomore **Ashley DeBusk** - 3rd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 115 - sophomore **Nora Hornak** - 3rd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 120 - junior **Maddie Lams** - 3rd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 125 - junior **Olivia McIntire** - 2nd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 135 - freshman **Hayden Lane** - 3rd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 140 - senior **Alicia Salamanca** - 2nd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 155 - freshman **Bailey Varella** - 2nd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 190 - freshman **Cheyenne Campos** - 2nd place, REGIONAL QUALIFIER
- 235 - junior **Lena Raygoza** - SECTIONAL CHAMPION, REGIONAL QUALIFIER

The "magnificent 11" will compete next Friday @ Goshen High School with a chance to punch their ticket to the IHSAA State Finals in Indianapolis on January 17! GOOD LUCK LADIES!!! WE WE BELIEVE ... WE BELIEVE THAT ... you know the rest :)

#BRICKIESTRONG

Boys

On Thursday night, the Bricks welcomed Kankakee Valley for an NCC showdown! It was a special night to be a Brickie for a number of reasons. First, it was SENIOR NIGHT! Prior to the start of competition, Hobart recognized seniors **Seth Aubin, Deacon Caesar, Aidan Costello, Luke Juris, Malcolm Manuel, Daniel Mata, Daniel McGill, Dominic Rivera & Cole Weber** (...and their families)

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placers ... not to mention multiple NCC Champions and 3 grapplers who surpassed the 100-win barrier! WOW - WHAT A GROUP!! Once senior night festivities concluded, the HHS Athletic Dept - in conjunction with the SCOH & Board of School Trustees, officially dedicated our practice area as the "Steve Balash Wrestling Room" to honor a wonderful man who truly personified everything it means to be a Hobart Brickie ... selflessly giving of his time and energy to serve others. The dedication ceremony welcomed Jeannie, Stef & Heather - along with a large group of family and friends - to celebrate this memorable night. Artist Pete Cortese was on hand to officially sign the beautiful mural he crafted outside the room. Like I said ... a special night to be a Brickie. Once the wrestling started, it was ALL HOBART!! Our boys won 12 of 14 matches and completely CAGED UP the Kougars 69-12 for the Northwest Crossroads Conference win!!

Saturday morning saw Hobart hop on the bus for Illinois to battle against some of the top teams in the Chicagoland area! The Bricks were at Wheaton Academy to face the host Warriors as well as the Marmion Academy Cadets from Aurora. In back-to-back TOUGH bouts, Hobart earned a split with a 50-23 VICTORY over Wheaton Academy and a 50-24 loss to Marmion.

The Bricks are now 11-5 on the year in duals and will lace them up again next Saturday at IHSWCA Team State! GO GET 'EM GUYS!!

#WORKWORKWORK

THANK YOU Becky Williams for these GREAT pics of our girls!

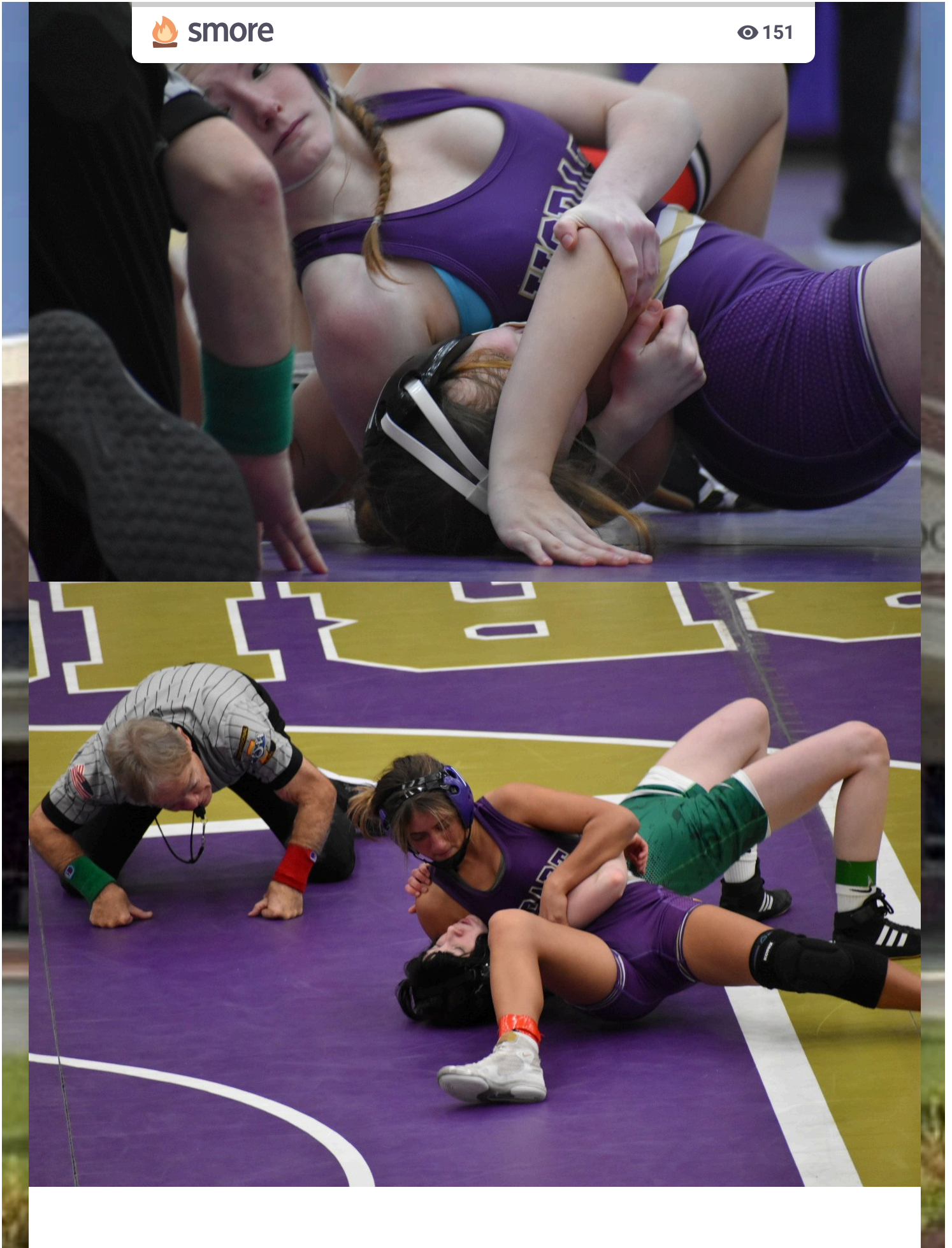


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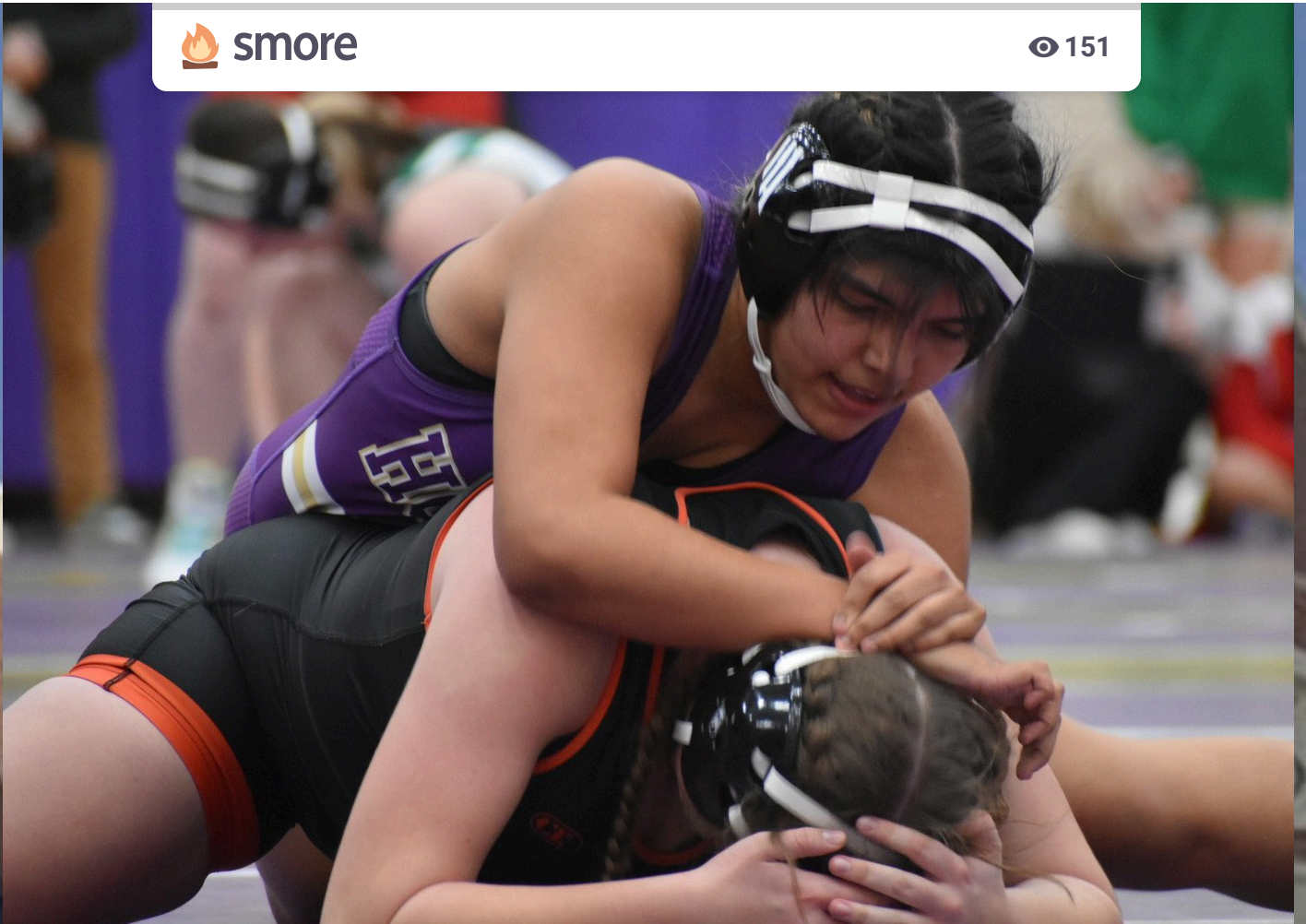


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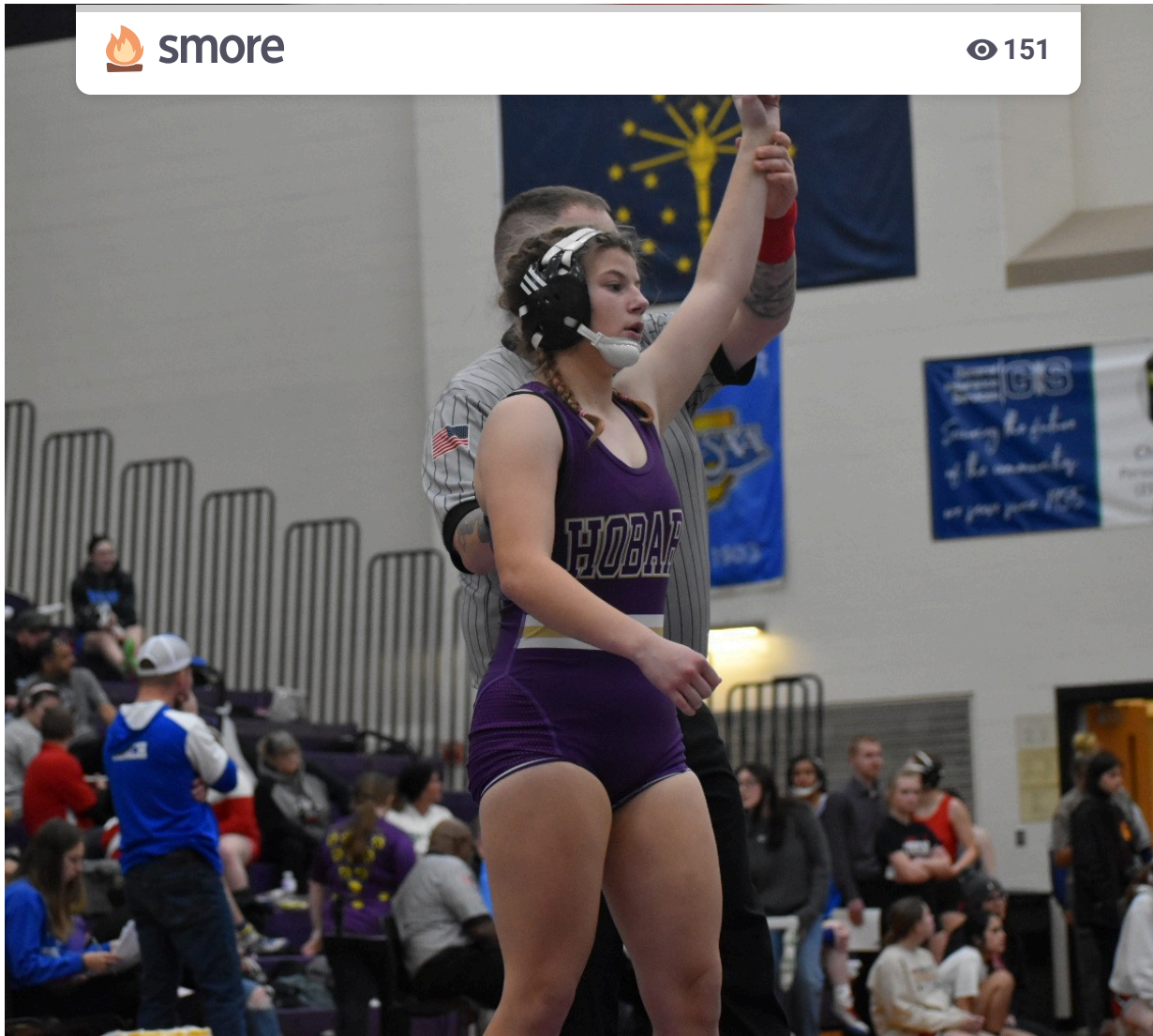


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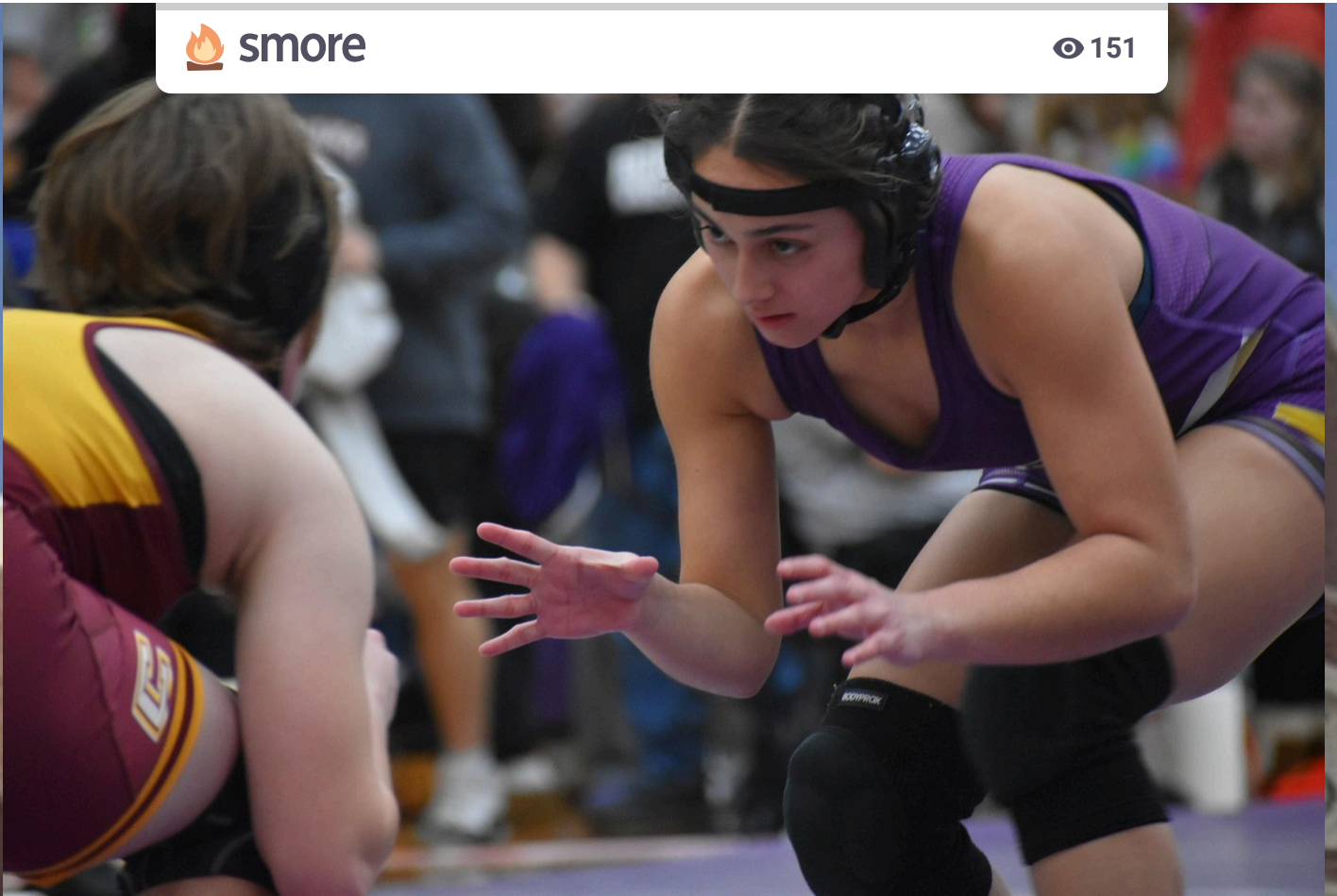


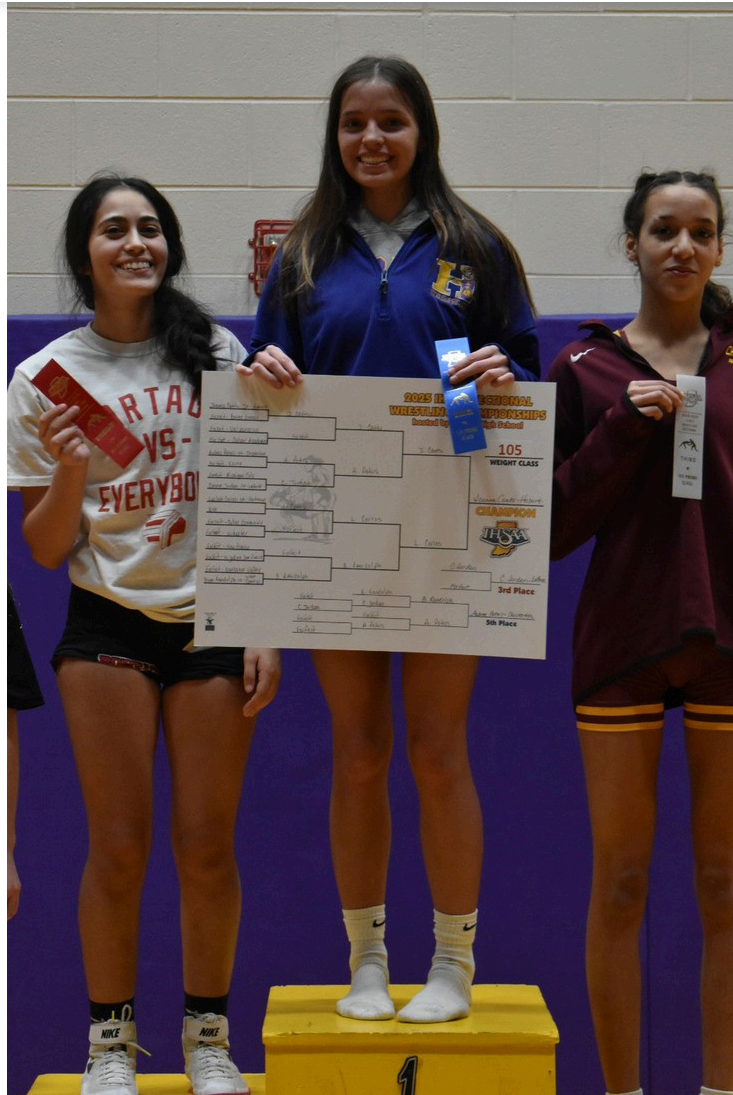
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Lena Raygoza - SECTIONAL CHAMPION!



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2025 IHSA SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS!!



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BOYS WRESTLING SENIOR NIGHT!



THANK YOU Becky Williams for sharing so many GREAT SHOTS of our boys!



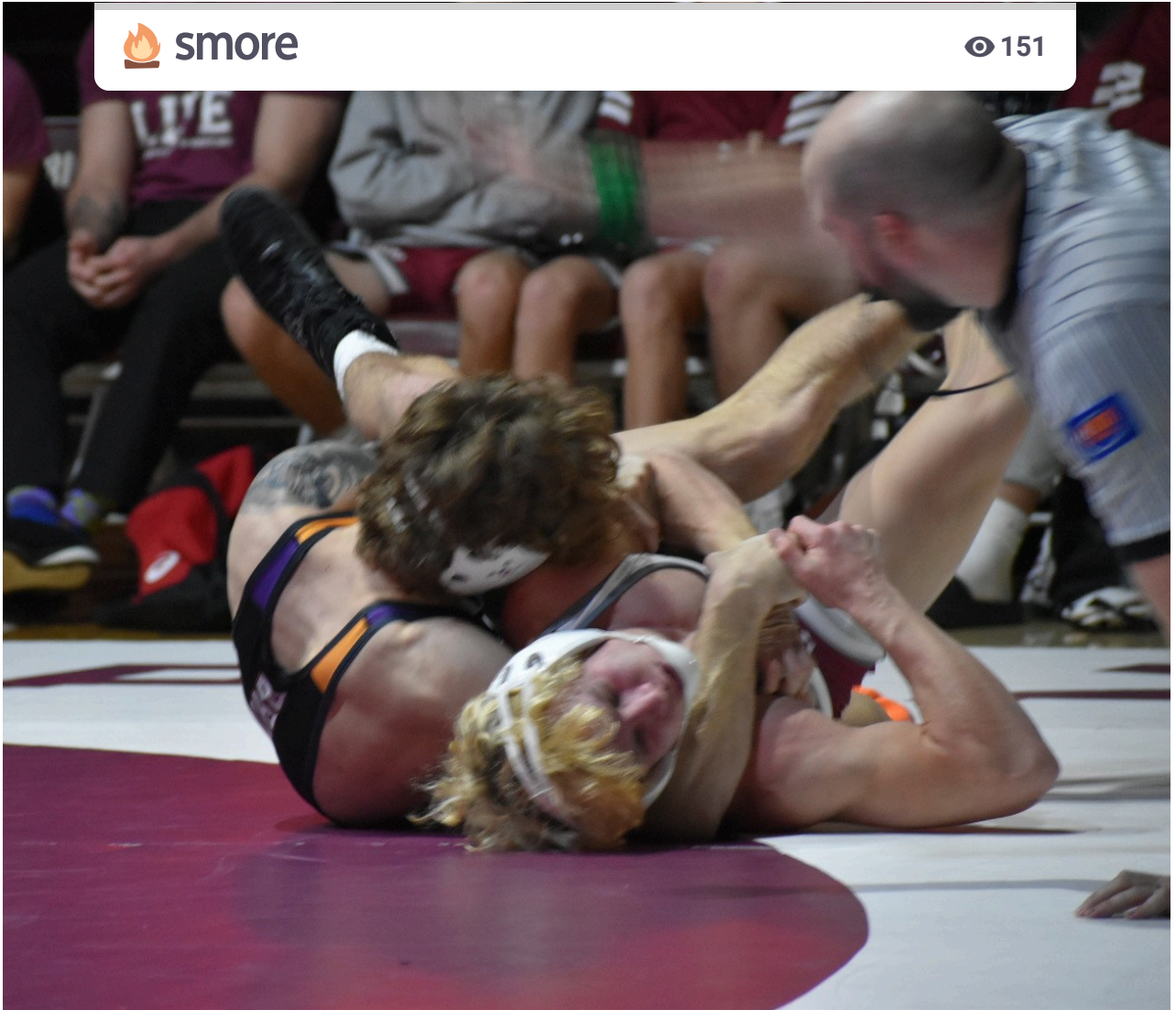
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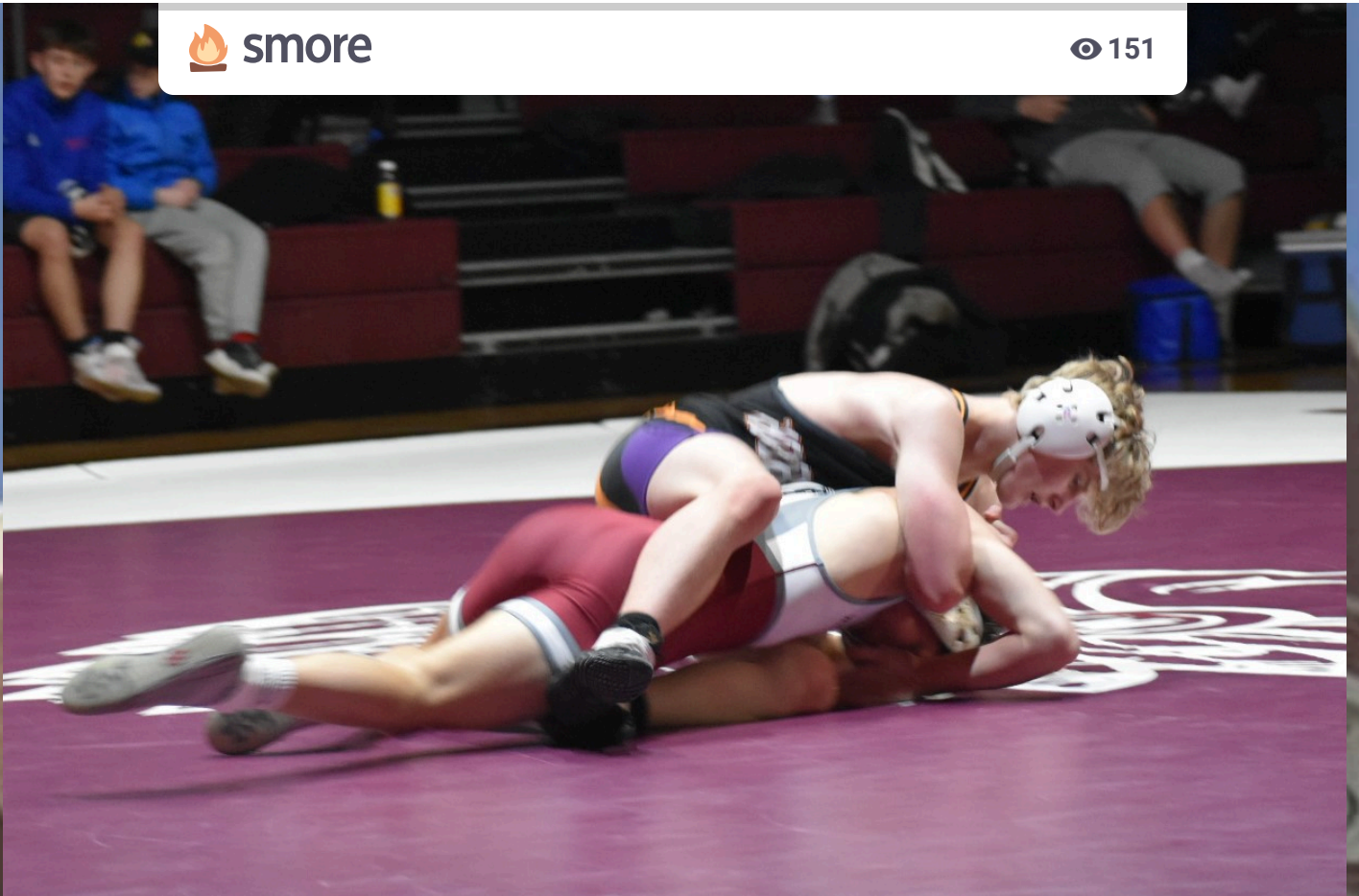
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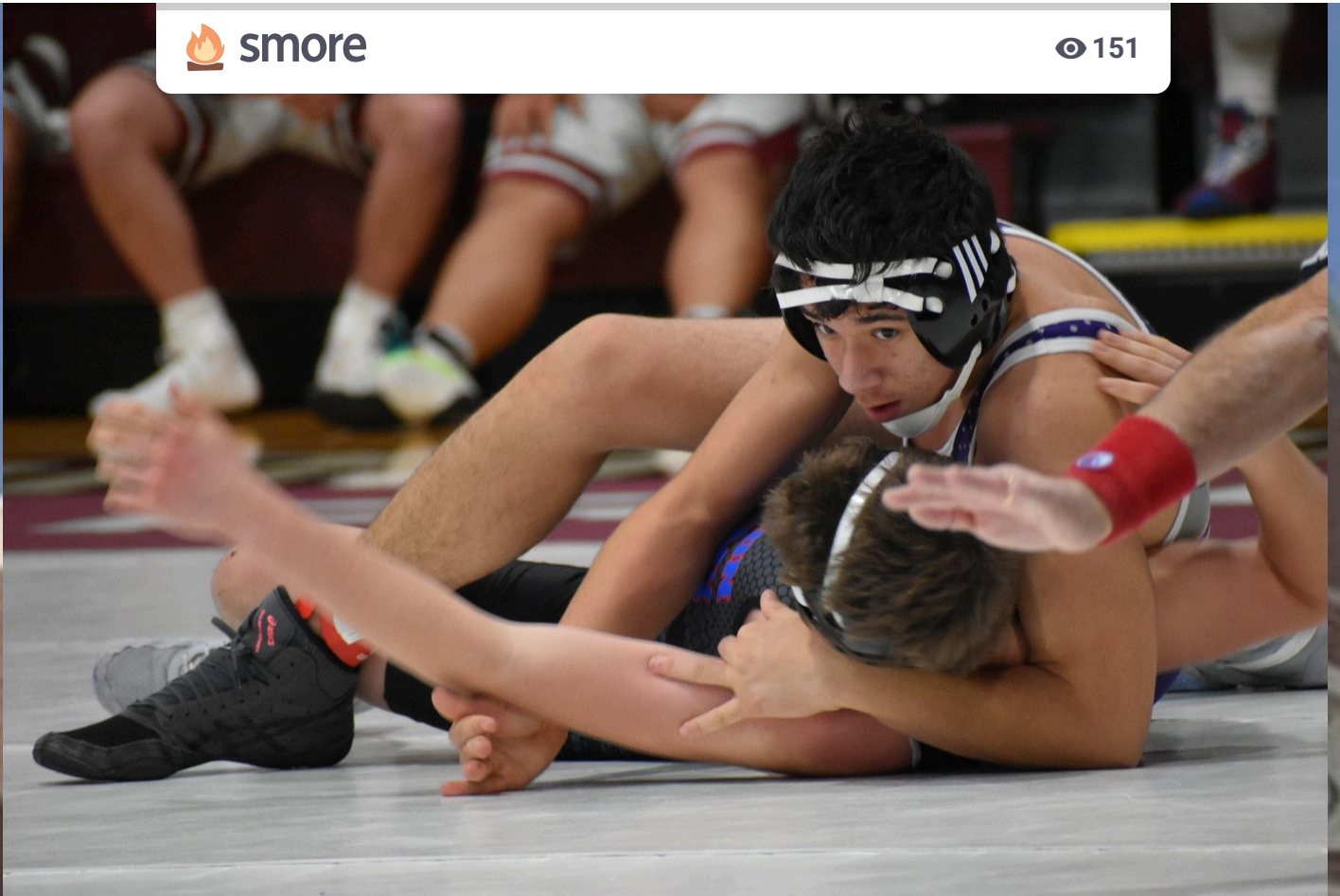
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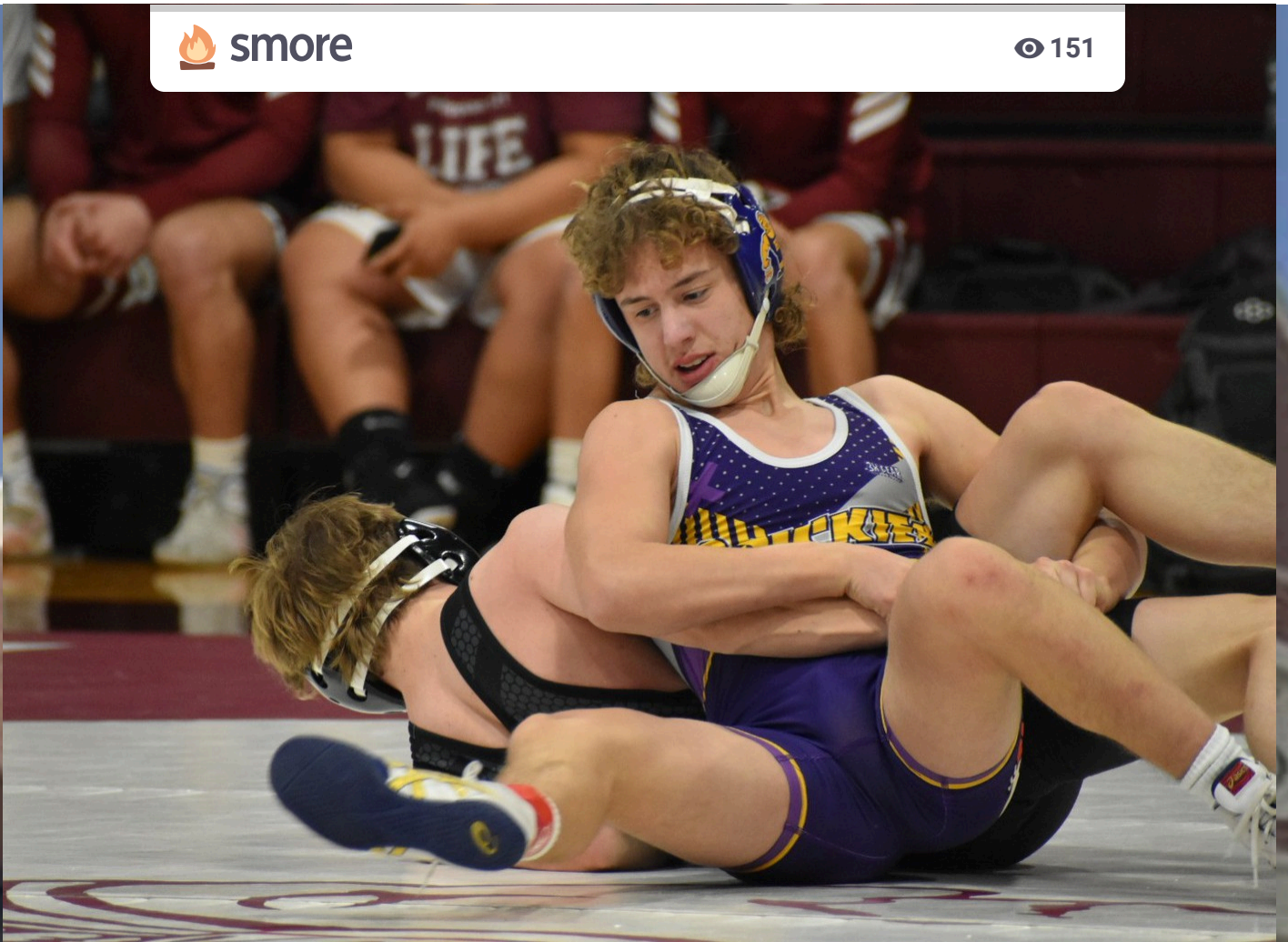


151





151



Dedication of the Steve Balash Wrestling Room!





This wrestling room is named in honor of Coach Steve Balash, whose presence in Hobart made a lasting impact on the school and entire community.

Steve Balash graduated from Hobart High School in 1968 where he was an outstanding three sport athlete for the Brickies. In 1972, after earning his degree from Indiana State, he returned to Hobart as an educator for the School City. For nearly 50 years, Coach Balash served as football coach, wrestling coach and track coach. In addition to his coaching responsibilities, he taught metal shop, wood shop, health and physical education.

Remembered as one of the most respected individuals of his time, Coach Balash was a gentle giant who led by example, spoke from the heart, and was never too busy to lend an ear or a hand. He was admired universally for his roughness as well as his care for others. A gentle smile could always be found underneath his trademark mustache.

Beyond being a teacher and coach, Steve was a mentor and friend to many and unselfishly gave of his time and energy to educate both students and colleagues to be the very best they could be. He proudly bled purple and gold, taught boys how to become men and kids how to become adults.

During his nearly 50-year career in education, Steve taught roughly 10,000 students and coached 150 seasons (football, wrestling & track) all at Hobart.

He coached in 55 state championship events spanning all 3 sports. In wrestling alone, his teams won 305 matches and saw 64 individuals advance to the state finals ... 12 of those went on to win titles. Among Coach Balash's personal honors were his induction into the Hobart High School Athletic Hall of Fame, Indiana Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, and Indiana Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

The Steve Balash Wrestling Room is a permanent anchor in the School City of Hobart and a fitting tribute to the memory of a wonderful man who was larger than life. He truly personified everything it means to be a Hobart Brickie.







Basketball

Girls

On Saturday afternoon, South Central visited The Friendly City for some non-conference action on the hardwood! The first 7 minutes were as even as could be with Hobart trailing just 7-8 a minute before the buzzer. South Central took full advantage of that final minute with a 6-0 flurry to take a 14-7 lead into the 2nd stanza. Over the next two quarters, the Satellite lead would grow to 30-17 as the Bricks just couldn't find any rhythm on offense against the pesky 1-3-1 zone defense put on by South Central. The 4th quarter was a DIFFERENT STORY as our girls BATTLED with every ounce of effort they had!! A basket by senior **Hallie Pendleton** with 1:45 remaining cut the deficit to just 6 points at 27-33 ... but South Central was able to score on their next possession to keep the scoreboard cushion just out of reach and eventually the visitors held on for a 38-30 win.

Hobart is now 3-10 overall and 0-3 in NCC play. The Bricks will be @ Hammond Morton on Wednesday and be back home on Friday to host Highland for SENIOR NIGHT KEEP WORK WORK WORKING LADIES!! WE BELIEVE IN YOU!!

#SHEGOTGAME

Boys



151

Over the break, our boys cagers were in action at Lafayette Harrison High School in their Holiday Tournament. During the 2-day event, the Brickies lost tough games to the host Raiders, Connersville and South Bend Washington. Against eventual tournament champion SB Washington, ranked #5 in Class 3A, junior **Ryan Basham** poured in a career high 25 points & 8 rebounds ...sophomore **Paxson Hicko** added 11 points & 4 assists and freshman **Miles White** corralled a team-high 9 rebounds.

The Brickies are now 4-5 on the year and will travel to Westville on Friday for a non-conference game against the Blackhawks!! GOOD LUCK GUYS!!

#BALLISLIFE

Coaches vs Cancer for Girls Hoops vs South Central!







151





151



Sports Schedule This Week

Monday

9th Girls Basketball @ Marquette Catholic

Tuesday

Girls Swimming & Diving @ Portage

Boys Swimming & Diving @ Portage

Wednesday

Girls Basketball @ Morton

9th Boys Basketball @ Highland *

Thursday

Girls Swimming & Diving vs. Wheeler/Boone Grove (SENIOR NIGHT)

Boys Swimming & Diving vs. Wheeler/Boone Grove (SENIOR NIGHT)

Friday

Girls Wrestling

Girls Basketball

Boys Basketball @ Westville



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151

Saturday

Boys Wrestling @ IHSWCA Team State (Hosted by Franklin Community High School)

Girls & Boys Divers @ Hobart Invite

* = NCC Opponent

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Mike Black

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