

**SPORTSDAY****High Schools:
Wrestling****It's not easy to be the perfect wrestler**

Added pressure comes with the territory for unbeaten wrestlers

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The most anticipated match of the recent Region 2 wrestling tournament was the 189-pound final between Coppell's Spencer Covey and Southlake Carroll's Robert Prigmore.

It wasn't the 51 victories between them that had the crowd buzzing with excitement. It was the two zeroes at the end of their win-loss record – two undefeated wrestlers going head-to-head.

Covey won the match, 6-2, and now will put his 32-0 mark on the line this weekend at the UIL state championships in Austin. In all, 13 area wrestlers will bring undefeated records into the final tournament of the season.

For some wrestlers, an undefeated record can be used to intimidate other competitors. However, at the state meet, where nearly all the competitors have gaudy records, an undefeated record can be extra baggage.

"It puts a target on you when you go down to the state tournament," Colleyville Heritage coach David Traver said. Traver's 130-pounder, Jeremy Sandoval, is 22-0.

"And it puts a little bit of extra pressure on the kids, too," Traver said.

Covey has had the target on his back for two years. He has won his last 82 matches. His last loss was at the state tournament two years ago, when he was a sophomore.

"Everyone's out for you, gunning for you," Covey said. "People know who's undefeated and who's not. I know my sophomore year, when I had losses, I knew who were the top guys, the undefeated guys, and I always strived to beat the best."

Like Covey, Arlington Bowie's Brent Rogers is undefeated (38-0) and a reigning state champion. However, this will be Rogers' first time wrestling at state without a loss.

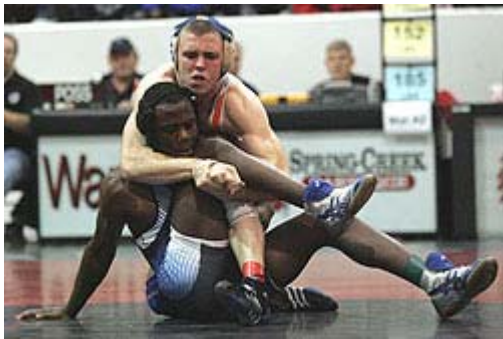
Last year, Rogers lost in the regional tournament but came back to win state.

"Everyone's going to wrestle just as hard, no matter who they wrestle," Rogers said. "It doesn't matter if you're undefeated or not, just how you finish at the end."

Rogers has been beaten this year. Twice, in fact, to nationally ranked wrestlers at an open tournament in Oklahoma that doesn't count toward his record.

Besides the 13 unbeaten area wrestlers, there are 29 others who will enter the weekend with a chance to finish the season unbeaten.

"It's tough to do," Frisco Centennial coach Mike Eaton said. "Sometimes you wrestle not to lose, and that can kind of endanger you. For someone to go undefeated and win a state title, that's pretty special."



RICKY MOON / Special to DMN
Arlington Bowie's Brent Rogers, one of 13 area wrestlers with a perfect record, takes down Hebron's Chris Brown.

Frisco senior Vanessa Epps, who hasn't lost since the state championship match her sophomore year, is one of 19 undefeated girls wrestlers at state. Top girls wrestlers sometimes struggle to find quality competition at the local level.

"I've always thought if you have an undefeated record, you haven't wrestled enough," Eaton said. "We want to find people that will beat us. It makes you better."

In two years, Eaton hasn't found anyone who can beat senior Lené Wood, who hasn't lost since her sophomore year, when she took third at state. She has won 62 matches in a row.

Last year, Wood met a fellow undefeated wrestler, El Paso Chapin's Blue Montoya, in the 95-pound final. Wood won, 8-6, to claim the gold medal.

This year's final could feature undefeated wrestlers, as well: Wood, 25-0, is on the opposite side of the bracket from PSJA Memorial's Jennifer Gonzalez, who is 30-0.

"Someone always leaves with that one on their record," Wood said. "I'm just hoping it's not me."

THE UNDEFEATED

The area's unbeaten wrestlers heading into this weekend's UIL State Meet:

BOYS

Name	School	Wt.	W-L
Erik Simons	Allen	103	38-0

Danny Luttrell	Arlington	112	46-0
Chris Wilcox	Hebron	119	41-0
Jeremy Sandoval	Colleyville Heritage	130	22-0
Chris Lomas	Carrollton Creekview	145	38-0
Martin Dick	Azle	152	25-0
Brent Rogers	Arlington Bowie	152	38-0
Kyle Anderson	Highland Park	171	42-0
Spencer Covey	Coppell	189	32-0

GIRLS

Name	School	Wt.	W-L
Lené Wood	Frisco Centennial	95	25-0
Vanessa Epps	Frisco	138	25-0
Erica McClendon	Arlington Seguin	165	30-0
Trisha Jenkins	Keller Central	185	18-0

UIL STATE WRESTLING MEET

Friday and Saturday at the Delco Center, Austin. Friday's first round matches: boys at 9 a.m., girls at noon. Saturday's finals: girls at 3 p.m., boys at 6 p.m. [Area qualifiers](#)