

■ BYE From Page 1A

Three straight titles like his father – Vermillion coach Hazen Bye – Regan Bye was made more than just a great wrestler by his family's patriarch and others close to him.

"They will still always be my family and at the next level they will be there for everything that's how my family is," Regan said. "We will probably call each other every day to be honest."

"It kind of stinks knowing my dad won't be my coach anymore, but at least I had the opportunity for him to be my coach. Once he was my coach we started seeing results, and started winning."

Regan may have been a heck of a wrestler, but he gives plenty of credit to his father for making him an even better man.

"I grew up a lot with him being around and pushing us so hard," Regan said. "He and my sisters – they taught me how to be a gentleman and how to treat people with respect. On the mat it's a different story, because I want to win. Off the mat you can be the nicest guy in the world."

The 'different story' showed itself on the mat as Regan toyed with Klapprodt - who seemed to have more than just his leg hurt - from start to finish.

Bye earned his place in the semifinal with a massive pin of Matt Larson (Mitchell) at 3:52 when leading 3-0.

This was his final weekend as a Tanager wrestler battling with his dad, Brett, and the program.

"I am definitely going to remember my dad being such a great coach and the assistants helping me become so successful," Regan said. "What I am also going to miss the most is competing against Brett. Now maybe one day in our future we will compete against each other (in college)."

"We have a really close relationship. It's close because when we wrestle in the room we can be really physical with each other, really big jerks to each other. When we get off the mat we are cousins again, we are brothers, we are best friends."

Regan will also miss the warmth of being a Vermillion High School Tanager.

"I am glad I did it in Vermillion," Regan said. "I bet there are 50, 75, 100 kids out there. The kids we have are so thoughtful and I am proud to be doing this for them and not someone else."

And he did it for his father...for one last time. "We had a lot of last

things we've been doing: the last practice together, the last trip together," Hazen said of Regan. "He's ready to move on. He had to finish business first. Now he has bigger goals."

"He's definitely a better person all around than I was. I am very proud of the man he turned out to be. Because wrestling is great, but in the real world you have to do it right."

BRETT BYE (champion, 170-pounds)

It appeared that Pierre's Dawson Monfroe knew he was in over his head when he stood across from Brett Bye as the two prepared to go at it for a state title.

In moments, Bye had established his dominance and after building a 2-0 lead, it was evident he knew that this momentum was his.

That mojo led to a sixth state medal and with that, immortality as Bye will forever be the "first" to ever accomplish that feat as a Tanager.

More like him may come, but he will always be the young man who set the standard.

"That was kind of plan, that was the goal," Brett said. "I did what I had to do and then kids can look up to me and set their actions after mine and have someone to look up to."

Bye got to the finals with an 18-8 demolition of Colin Simons (Huron) in a high-scoring, wild ride affair.

It was all part of a great career that included the opportunity to wrestle with Regan.

"It was great and it made it easier to have someone to go through things with instead of just by myself," Brett said. "We are different in wrestling where Regan is more sneaky and slick and I am straight forward. But as a teammate he is great, he supports everyone."

What Brett Bye did for his team was to illustrate the characteristic of resilience.

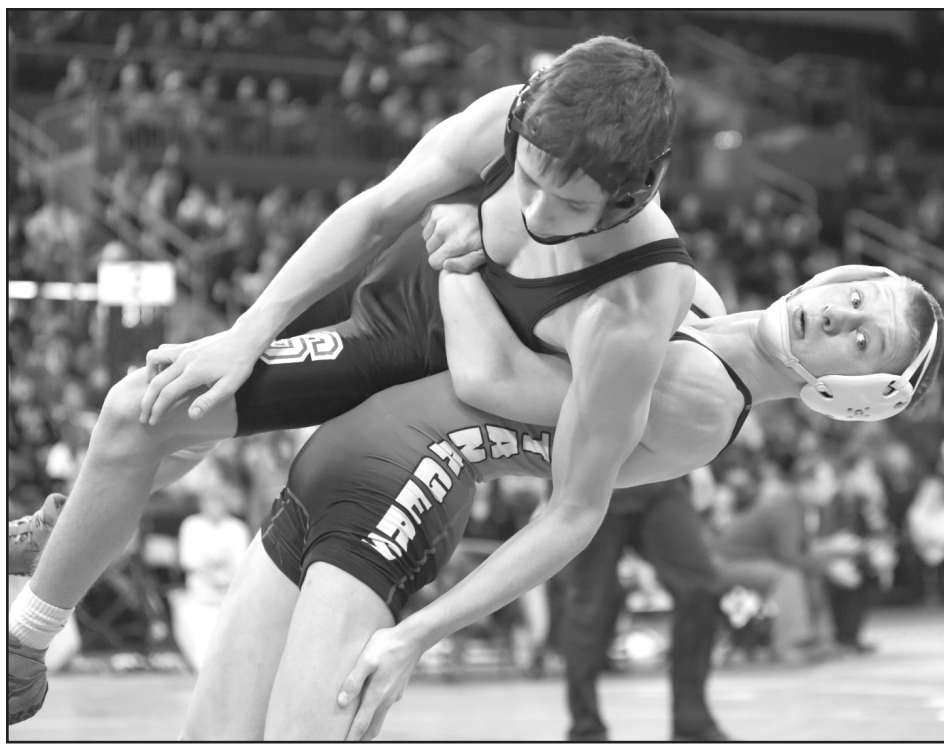
"I never gave up, ever," he said. "Even after I lost coming into state ranked first two years in a row. It's not easy to do."

Bye believes he is just as good young man as he is a wrestler.

His uncle Hazen would echo that sentiment.

"Brett is very awesome and he decided two years ago when he lost in the semifinals that he would make that loss a positive," coach Bye said. "He went to work the next day. He took it as a positive and kept moving forward."

"I told him after that loss that no matter what, he will be a six-time place winner and there was only one five-time place winner and 'that guy is talking to you right now.' He got through that hurdle and



Trey Hage, right, rolled to third-place in the 120-pound weight class at last weekend's Class A State Wrestling Finals in Sioux Falls.

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took it the right way. He's pretty much (like a son). It was a perfect scenario for Brett and Regan. They have the same last names and two different personalities and wrestling styles. It was great to have that in the room."

TREY HAGE (3rd-place, 120-pounds)

As an eighth-grader Hage took fourth-place at state.

This year, he completed a third-place season with a thrilling 2-1 double

Hage. "You have to be mentally tough," Hage said. "You can't be like 'oh I didn't win it.' You have to come back and win."

Now as Hage matures he will have to stay on top of the art to stay in tune with human nature and the nature of wrestling.

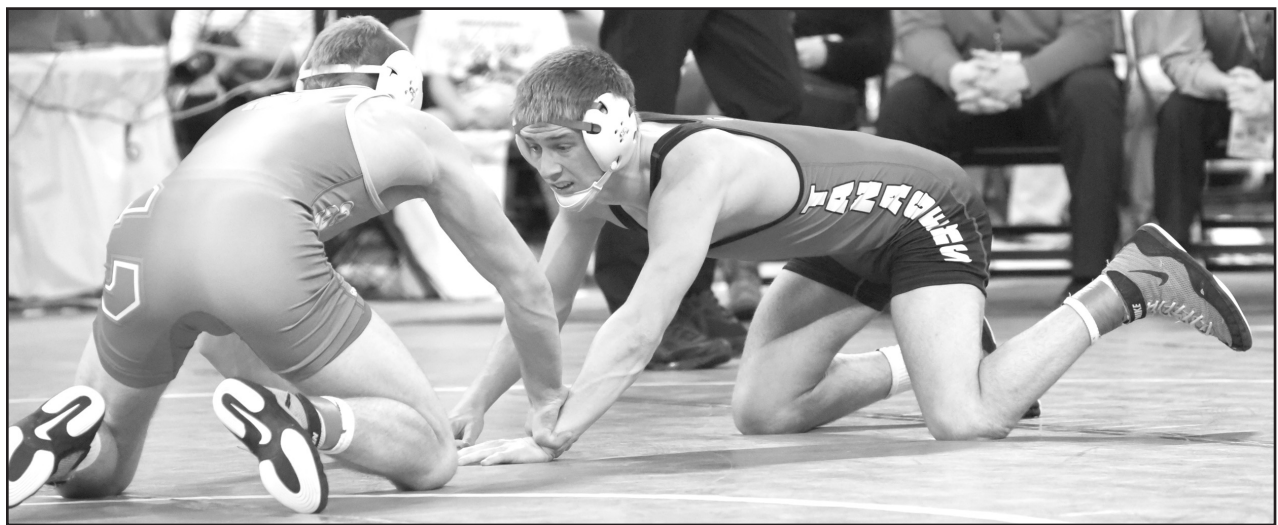
That includes taking a step up in leadership after the Byes' void becomes reality.

"I just have to keep on working, working in the offseason, and wrestle in

Kratz showed the grit he has displayed since coming on as a starting quarterback late in the year for the Tanager football team.

In the semifinals, he dropped a grueling 3-2 decision to West Central Josh Mettler but bounced back in the consolation bracket with a 7-3 win over Collin Haar (Aberdeen Central).

Then in the third-place match against No. 1 seed Hayden Hansen of Rapid City Central, Kratz fell 8-5



Carter Kratz (right) ended up in 4th-Place in the 145-pound weight class at last weekend's Class A State Wrestling Finals.

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overtime win over Bailey Brengle Sturgis Brown).

Tyler Waterson of Spearfish had knocked Hage out, 10-5, in the semifinals, but the Tanager rolled to two more wins by taking out Kahlen Morris (Sioux Falls Roosevelt) 6-1, before slipping past Brengle.

Not a bad next step in Hage's progression as a wrestler.

"I would rate my year as nine, nine-in-a-half maybe," Hage said. "I won two matches in the wrestleback rounds and moving up one place from last year...I'd say that's progress."

Moving through the consolation round takes a lot of determination especially after a title dream ends according to

the summer at camps," Hage said. "It's going to be big change (when Byes are gone). Every day Regan and Brett are showing something new and we are going to have to find some new team leaders."

"We grew up looking up to those guys and now we have to be that guy."

That shouldn't be a problem according to Hazen Bye.

"He wrestles in a match like he practices: all out and if you don't come to practice to wrestle he will embarrass you," Hazen Bye said of Hage. "He's got a great motor. He's a kid that does everything right."

"He takes care of business."

CARTER KRATZ (4th-place, 145-pounds)

but not before showing his trademark grit as he never gave up until the final whistle.

"It's been awesome this year placing my first time really means a lot to me," Kratz said. "It just set the bar for next year and to keep improving."

Kratz embraces the moment and doesn't shy away from it and that may explain why he improved so much this season.

"I really like to rise up to the occasion," Kratz said. "Being in football really put me in those pressure situations. When you get used to it you make accommodations and you react better when you get in more situations like these."

One thing he will react to is the value set he earned from working around his team's two senior champions.

"Regan and Brett pushed me every day, I love those guys," Kratz said. "They are going to do some good things in college. It's been fun."

"They really left their mark on Vermillion and set the bar high. They definitely taught me, Husby, and Trey to work hard every day and it will get you places. They definitely set the tone."

Kratz is known for his strong demeanor according to coach Bye.

"He's a very mature kid and this is the fourth time he's been to state," Hazen Bye said. "He's like Brett and Regan where not a lot of words are spoken but we understand each other."

JACOB HUSBY (7th-place, 113-pounds)

Husby dropped a 10-5 decision to Blut Htoo (Huron) in the third-round wrestlebacks before bouncing back for the big win in his final match of the season.

Husby battled Austin Chihak of Aberdeen Central to a scoreless draw through three periods before the Tanager finally broke through with a takedown 36 seconds into the extra period to claim 7th place in his weight class.

"I feel good since I didn't place last year," Husby said. "My team supported me all year especially moving down from 126. It was a good decision because I was wrestling light at 126."

Husby wants to continue to grow his talents and in order to do that he has decided to not participate in any other sport so he can dedicate his time to wrestling and taking lessons learned from the Byes.

"I plan on going up to Legends of Gold (in Beresford) and working hard," Husby said. "(The Byes taught him) to be humble. If you are a 3-time state champion, 2-time state champion, you don't have to be cocky. Brett and Regan were undefeated and they were humble when they won."

Husby's coach was pleased with the effort.

CLASS A STATE WRESTLING FINAL RESULTS

Saturday, Feb. 28
At Denny Sanford
Premier Center
Sioux Falls
Team Final Standings
1. Pierre, 161.5; 2. Aberdeen Central, 159.5; 3. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 151; 4. Rapid City Central, 112.5; 5. Sturgis Brown, 98; 6. Spearfish, 92; 7. VERMILLION, 89.5; 8. West Central, 85; 9. Brandon Valley 81.5; 10. Rapid City Stevens 79.

Individual Results MEDAL ROUNDS

170-pounds
CHAMPIONSHIP:
Brett Bye (Vermillion) def. Dawson Monfore (Pierre) 3-0.

160-pounds
CHAMPIONSHIP
Regan Bye (Vermillion) def. Kasey Klapprodt (Rapid City Stevens) injury forfeit at 3:06.

145-pounds
3rd/4th Place: Hayden Hansen (Rapid City Central) def. Carter Kratz (Vermillion) 8-5.

120-pounds:
3rd/4th Place: Trey Hage (Vermillion) def. Bailey Brengle (Sturgis Brown), 2-1 in double overtime

113-pounds:
7th/8th Place: Jacob Husby (Vermillion) def. Austin Chihak (Aberdeen Central), 2-0 in overtime.



Jacob Husby, top, finished in 7th-place in the 113-pound weight class at last weekend's Class A State Wrestling Finals in Sioux Falls. The Tanagers finished in 7th place as a team to secure their best result at the finals under head coach Hazen Bye.

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