

# Outlaws wrestler Darst takes first at Madras

By Rongi Yost  
Correspondent

The Outlaws wrestling squad finished fifth (165 points) out of 10 teams who competed at the Madras Invitational on Saturday, January 23. Mt. View took first place (212 points), Summit was runner-up (184 points) and Bend took third with 176.5 points.

"I was very excited with our finish," said Coach John Downs. "One of our goals was to score over 100 team points, and we accomplished that plus more. We were only 5.5 points away from La Pine, and being that close to a program at that skill level speaks well for us." Sisters wrestling program keeps improving, and gets better each year. Last year, the Outlaws took 13th out of 14 teams at the Madras Invitational. This year finished in the middle of the pack.

The Outlaws had nine wrestlers place at the tournament. Senior Clayton Darst led the charge with a first-place finish in the 170-pound weight class.

Darst pinned his way through the championships. Clayton won by a fall over Jacob Rorschach from The

Dalles in 1:07, and in the semi-finals pinned Marshall Davis from Bend in 3:36. In the championship match, Darst used his signature stack move, and pinned Luke Schulz from Mt. View in 1:17.

"I was so impressed with how Clayton wrestled," said Downs. "He had taken second at the tournament last year, and was determined to redeem his loss in the finals. I am proud of how he is progressing this year, and he is peaking just at the right time — just before the end of the season, when he will need to be his best."

Seniors Zach Reid (132 pounds) and Dyut Fetrow (138 pounds) took third, as did sophomore Brady Wessel (220 pounds).

Reid had to fight back through the consolation rounds after a first-round loss. Zach won his next four matches with three falls, and then won in a 13-9 decision in the consolation semis.

Fetrow won by a fall in his first match, and then had a difficult time against Cyrus Tadjiki from Bend. Dyut was not able to counter Tadjiki's moves, and lost in a 19-5 major decision. Fetrow pinned his next two opponents and earned a third-place medal.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Outlaws wrestlers placed in competition in Madras.

Wessel was the Outlaws' biggest surprise of the tournament. Brady had not won a varsity match all season, but wrestled with heart and determination to earn a third-place medal at 220 pounds. Wessel was able to earn three pins on his way to his third-place finish.

"The 220-weight class can be a tough class for even a senior, not to mention a sophomore, and Brady had dealt with that all season," said Downs. "He has had some shoulder tightness and soreness since the beginning of the season, and this last week we noticed he was moving

better and working harder in practice. It really showed this weekend. It was the best day of wrestling in his whole career so far."

Freshman Dalton Ford (113 pounds) finished fourth, and sophomores Spencer Kemp (120 pounds) and Jake Stevens (145 pounds) finished at fifth place. Sophomore Casey Warburton rounded out the placers with a sixth-place finish in the 195-pound weight class.

The Outlaws will wrestle at home against Cottage Grove on Thursday, January 28. The dual meet will begin at 6 p.m.

# Nordic skiers take on XC Oregon challenge

By Charlie Kanzig  
Correspondent

The second race of the 2016 Nordic ski season brought noticeable improvement among the members of the Outlaw team at the XC Oregon Invitational at Mt. Bachelor on Saturday, January 23.

The race featured more than 100 racers in each division, and the Outlaws approached the meet very relaxed and in good spirits, according to Coach Kelly Crowther.

"The boys took an

extended warm-up before the race to take advantage of the excellent classic snow conditions and it appeared to be advantageous as they did perform quite respectfully," said Crowther.

T.J. Hooks put his outstanding aerobic fitness to good use again to lead the team, while Jordan Pollard kept close.

Hooks covered the course in 20:37, good enough for 46th place, while Pollard placed 52nd in 21:08.

The winner, Erik Ingham, cruised through the course in 14:23.

"These two have improved dramatically since last year, and with continued time on the snow they will continue to move up in the field," he said.

Serena Salisbury, Anna Bartlett, and Engracia Diez showed increased strength as all three were able to double pole significantly more than ever before, which is the key technique to faster skiing, according to Crowther.

Salisbury placed 34th (25:13), followed by Bartlett in 52nd (27:08), and Diez in 57th (27:42).

Liv Downing of Summit

won the race, among 105 finishers, in 18:07.

Crowther reported that the five-kilometer course conditions were quite challenging since a collegiate-level race took place prior to the high school event, but his athletes handled it in stride.

The next race, a pursuit contest, is scheduled at Mt. Hood Meadows. In pursuit, racers ski in the classic style for the first half of the race and then switch to skate equipment to finish. At 7 kilometers, it is likely to be the longest race of the season.

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