

WRESTLERS: Squad has had a strong season on the mats

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home a second place finish,” Downs said.

Junior Landon Nothiger was only one match away from the fifth-place match. Freshman Ben Cooper had a knee injury in the beginning of the regular season, but attended practices helping Downs coach. Finally cleared, he was ready to wrestle in a brace.

“His first match went by quickly with Ben winning by fall in 27 seconds,” Downs reported. “Then the wins continued for Ben as he won by decision over Bronson of Hood River 11-6. Ben then had to face the second-seeded wrestler Kallenbach of Madras. This was Ben’s really first test and he did amazing by pinning the seeded wrestler in just 37 seconds into the second round.

Cooper then faced the first-seeded wrestler Wynn from Molalla.

“Wynn is a senior and ranked 10th in the state with a record of 22-10, but none of this effected Ben’s mindset,” Downs said.” Ben was not intimidated and wrestled very hard versus the experienced

senior for all three rounds. In the last seconds of the final round the Molalla wrestler was ahead 4 to 2 and knew there was not much time left and so he let Ben up giving Ben one point and the Molalla wrestler was just going to keep way for the last few seconds but Ben was able to grab around Wynn, lift and throw him to the mat and earn the two-point takedown in the last second, giving Ben the win with a 5-4 victory. It was an amazing day for Ben. Being a freshman, just getting to live wrestle for the first time three quarters through the season and earning a first-place finish. You just don’t see that every day.”

The next couple wrestlers were also in the same weight class at 152 pounds. Sophomore Jared Miller was finally able to compete in this weight class. He had been at the 160-pound class all season and now was able to compete with smaller wrestlers.

“Jared only had a couple matches, but he felt a lot better in the smaller weight class and hopes to stay down for the rest of the season and compete at districts at the same weight,” Downs said.

Senior Dillon King went 2-2 on the day, earning a fifth-place finish over Comingore of The Dalles with a fall in 1:36 in the first round.



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The Outlaws sent Daisy Patterson to the Girls Southern Regional Tournament.

The 195-pound weight class was represented by Senior Ethan Martin, who had a great day, winning two matches in a row by fall and then he ended that day in the first-place match against the number-one seeded Zemke of Madras. “Zemke has a record of 21-5 and is a pretty good wrestler at 220 pounds, and it seemed he decided to drop down to the 195 weight class,” Downs said. “We knew that if Ethan had a good day he would meet Zemke in the finals and Ethan knew he would have to work very hard

to earn a win. I was impressed with Ethan’s go-get-them attitude and not being intimidated, but in the end Zemke was able to get the better of Ethan and win by fall. I reminded Ethan that he still earned two pins today and took home second place. If he wants that first place, then he is going have to continue to work hard in practice and he will get there.”

Sophomore Jacob Washington and senior Damien King had a good day. Jacob was able to earn a fifth-place finish and Damien had a

couple great matches earning himself a shot in the first-place match against Yanez of Hood River. “Both Yanez and King where pretty evenly matched, and I knew this would be a tough final match,” Downs said. “The match went into the second round where Yanez was able to catch Damien with a hip toss and get Damien on his back for the pin. I told Damien that sometimes the best wrestler can get caught off guard, and that is what happened to him and that he should not feel bad for going home with second place.”



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