

SPORTS

Dodge and Preston each take firsts at White Buffalo Invite

TD duo combines for six wins, five by pin, to earn their top status

■ **Ray Rodriguez**
The Dalles Chronicle

Everything appears to be clicking for The Dalles boys wrestling team.

Dusty Dodge and Steven Preston took home championships, Taylor Morehouse grabbed third, Conor Blair placed fifth and Quinn Wilson added a sixth-place output at Saturday's White Buffalo Invite in Madras.

On the day, Dodge needed two minutes and 45 seconds to rack up three pinfall wins for his fourth tournament crown. Preston did not allow a point against him in three bouts and Morehouse, Blair and Wilson had their best finishes of the year.

"The boys wrestled exceptionally well this weekend," assistant coach Ryan Manciu said. "I think this is the best wrestling they've done so far this year and they are looking really good going into districts next week. They continue to work hard and improve in practice every single day, and all of them are determined to wrestle well at districts."

Dodge extended his winning streak to 17-0 and,

he made his run through the 170-pound classification look like an absolute cakewalk.

After a first-round bye, Dodge pinned Amin Qouchbane (Corbett) in 49 seconds and followed that up with a 17-second pin against Timothy Fletcher (Hood River Valley) to jump into the title round against the 4A's fifth-ranked grappler, Reece White, of Madras (23-4 record).

Dodge took control early and made his shots count, before dropping White at the 1:39 mark.

As easy as Dodge made his run look, Preston, 11th ranked in the 5A 160-pound class, was surgical in three matches, two victories coming by way of pin.

Preston vaulted to the quarterfinals after an opening-round bye, where he promptly dispatched his teammate Isaac Baker in 25 seconds.

In the semifinals, Preston, a senior, went the distance versus Marshall Rodenbeck (Wilsonville) and rattled off an 11-0 major decision.

With his first tournament title on the line, Preston took care of Molalla's Hunter Beck (22-14 record) in the second round at the 3:08 mark.

All season, Morehouse was thought to be a darkhorse state-qualifying candidate at 170 pounds, and he showed why Saturday in his 3-1 effort. Morehouse (15-14) started



The Dalles had five placers at Saturday's White Buffalo Invite in Madras, led by Steven Preston and Dusty Dodge, who each posted three wins each, five by pin, to score first-place awards. In the photo are, from left to right, Ryan Manciu (assistant coach), Dusty Dodge, Steven Preston, Taylor Morehouse, Quinn Wilson and Kevin Marx (assistant coach). Contributed photo

out by pinning Zachary Sutherland (Wilsonville) in the opening round (1:13), and then he added a dramatic overtime quarterfinal win over Maverick Geller (Hood River Valley).

Both wrestlers battled to 2-all tie through three rounds, and Morehouse responded with a takedown to score the final two tiebreaker points.

Looking to clinch third place, Morehouse breezed to a first-round pin in his match against Hood River Valley's Timothy Fletcher (19-14 record) in 47 seconds.

Blair (120 pounds) lost his only match, 7-3, to Martin Pacheco (North Marion), and had back-to-back byes, as he chalked up fifth place.

The Dalles had four

wrestlers in the 160-pound bracket, and Wilson went 3-2 and tallied eight team points on the day.

After being dropped to the consolation rounds after his first-match loss, Wilson strung together three straight close wins, the first two by decisions.

Wilson secured a 6-5 decision against Josh Olney (Madras) and had a 7-4 decision over Leander Smith (Madras) in the second consolation match.

Up next in the consolation semifinals, Wilson dominated TD's Baker in 1:26 to earn the chance to place fifth or sixth.

The senior would settle for sixth place, as he suffered an 11-5 decision loss versus

William Lindsay (Molalla).

Baker (3-7 record), at 160 pounds, ended up taking his first match by third-round pin at 4:49 versus Alex Arreola (Madras).

He lost back-to-back matches with Preston and Wilson to end his tournament.

Young up-and-comer Aiden Marx (7-12 record) took a stab at the loaded 160-pound division and wrapped up his day at 1-2 with his only win coming by pin at the 5:47 mark of the final round against Arreola (Madras).

Before the IMC Tournament, The Dalles has a final district-seeding tune-up double dual against Redmond and Ridgeview at

Ridgeview slated for 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

More importantly though, Head Coach Paul Beasley wants his athletes to rest, regroup and work on restoring intensity in the wrestling room ahead of the district action Feb. 22 at Ridgeview High School.

"This is a crucial time for our wrestlers," Beasley said. "We want the team to get healthy and get their heads right for the challenge ahead of them. Our district is so incredibly competitive that if they qualify, they should be successful at the state tournament. It is time for our senior-heavy team to put the doubts away and seize the moment, and lead by example and get busy in the room."

TD cheerleaders put forth their highest score to date

Hawks earn second after 165.5-point effort at Oregon Elite Classic

■ **Ray Rodriguez**
The Dalles Chronicle

It was five in the morning on the day of The Dalles cheer squads' final regular-season prep event.

The bus departed campus at 5:45 a.m. and the trek lasted two and a half hours for their destination—Salem.

Once the group arrived, they were groggy and exhausted.

When the bright lights came on, however, The Dalles cheerleaders had one of their best performances of the competitive season with first place in the band dance/situational/fight song division and claimed runner-up honors in the small coed division by .7 points (165.5), losing out to 6A Westview (166.2) at the Oregon Elite Classic Tournament.

"We were all so tired, and not feeling our best and I was really questioning if we were going to be able to bring everything together for our performance," senior Karla Hernandez

said. "Nonetheless, the team pulled it off and left their hearts on the mat once again."

Of the three areas they were judged, TD posted the second-highest totals in the small coed division, scoring 49 points in overall, tumbling (56.6) and a 60.9 in building with one deduction to get its final count.

Westview scored 50, 56.9 and 61.3 with a pair of deductions in its winning performance. After The Dalles, Crescent Valley (154), Redmond (137) and Forest Grove (131) represented the final order of finish.

Last year, TD showed similar progress, going from third to first to not placing in three prep events, before racking up a season-high 193.3 points to take runner-up honors at state.

In three competitions so far the Riverhawks have averaged 158.2 points per event and have claimed two seconds and a first, but they have improved by 15.7 points total, a 5.2-point average, so their season-high total Saturday comes at the perfect time, especially with state coming up this Saturday in Portland.

"Moving into state, we are really just trying to stay focused on ourselves and our goals," TD head coach

Kelsey Sugg-Wallace said. "Yes, we know we have some strong competition, but my kids already know what it's going to take. We have to put out the strongest routine of the season. It's going to come down to who hits their stunts and who has the cleanest routine. We will be grinding our stunt technique this week and cleaning up our routine like crazy. Some minor tumbling changes will be added to hopefully raise our difficulty some."

Another aspect of state week is Sugg-Wallace and her five seniors, Alexa Baldy, Giselle Schwartz, Sophia Pullen, Stephanie Flores and Hernandez, savoring every second they have together, as this is the last week of practices before they hang up their high school uniforms.

"Every year, state week is an exciting and emotional week for all us," Sugg-Wallace said. "Some have been with us for only a year, some for three and some all four years. As a coach, it is so rewarding to see them pull the team together and push the team to its best potential. I get emotional just thinking that they won't be a part of my program next year."

The Riverhawks are looking to claim the program's 13th state title, first since



The Dalles cheer squad placed first in the band dance/situational/fight song division and claimed runner-up honors in the small coed division at Saturday's Oregon Elite Classic Tournament in Salem. In the photo are, from left to right, starting in the back row, Leslie Morales, Stephanie Flores, Karla Hernandez, Giselle Schwartz, Ellie Cardosi, Ari Acevedo, and Caleb Parsons. In the middle row are, from left, Arlet Villa, Sophia Pullen, Emily Adams, Alexa Baldy, Meli Avila, Brooke Abrams and Lilly Hamm. Kneeling in the front row are, Amy Hernandez, Natalie Wollam, Mikiyle Brantner, Gabbe Haskins and Giselle Ortega. Kelsey Sugg-Wallace photo

2008, and have come close in Sugg-Wallace's previous four years with three seconds and a sixth-place outcome.

Sugg-Wallace could barely contain her level of excitement ahead of Saturday's big day.

The coaches and cheer members spend as much as 18 hours a week together during competition season.

This group is a family and a melding of 20 personalities who have one goal in mind.

They have built bonds to last a lifetime.

Now it is time for them to put out their best performance to date and the flurry of excitement, anticipation and nerves has given Hernandez and the seniors some extra motivation to

make their last state appearance one for the record books.

"In the three years I have done cheer, I have never felt more confident in the skills and the overall routine that we have ready," Hernandez said. "Everyone has put so much into this season, and I can't wait to leave it all on the mat for the final time on Saturday."

TD girls help pave road to future success

Wrestling trio ended the winter season with four wins at North Regional Tournament

■ **Ray Rodriguez**
The Dalles Chronicle

The Dalles girls wrestlers, Elejah Sutton-Lott, Megan Lenardson and Karen Villa have been a steady trio all season for head coach Paul Beasley.

Given the amount of work put in and the solid results they posted, Beasley is hopeful that the example they have set will draw more participants in the future.

Sutton-Lott garnered three wins, Lenardson went 1-2 and Villa ended up 0-2 at the OSAA Girls North Regional Tournament held Friday and Saturday at Century High School in Hillsboro.

"I cannot say enough about how these young ladies made each other and our program better," Beasley said. "I thoroughly enjoyed watching them improve, regardless of the outcome of the



Karen Villa

contest. I am so incredibly proud of the effort they put forth, the way they supported each other and by the way they represented our program."

Wrestling at 125 pounds, Sutton-Lott (11-5 record) defeated Asma Noor (Parkrose) by pin at 42 seconds, but she then lost by third-round pin (5:53) to Katelin Eder (Hillsboro).

Sutton-Lott bounced back in her first two consolation matches with a forfeit and a pinfall versus Ashleigh O'Tierney (Scappoose) in 4:04.

Sutton-Lott had her tournament abruptly ended by Joss Pember (Clatskanie), who scored a 10-0 major decision.

"Elejah improved on her performance from last year, which I am proud of," Beasley said. "Her improvement this year has been huge, but it was all due to her commitment to wrestling and sheer hard work and determination."

Lenardson (6-5 record) went to work in the 135-pound weight class and delivered a pinfall victory in her bout versus Candace



The Dalles girls wrestling trio made their marks during the 2019-2020 campaign and are linked as a trio that help lay the foundation for the future. In the photo are, from left to right, Megan Lenardson, Elejah Sutton-Lott and Paul Beasley (head coach). Sutton-Lott and Lenardson combined for four wins at the OSAA Girls North Regional Tournament held Friday and Saturday at Century High School in Hillsboro. Contributed photo

Silva (Tigard) at the four-minute mark of the second round.

She then suffered back-to-back second-round pinfall losses to Forest Grove's Jasmine Hopkins (2:33) and Clatskanie's Annemarie Davis (2:48).

Villa (8-4 record) wrestled at 125 pounds, and lost both of her matches, the first coming against Anna Monk (Rainier), by pin at 4:42 of the third round, and the second to Sarahy Guerrero (Nyssa), a 5-2 decision.

Beasley said that Villa and

Lenardson both embraced the challenge of being a first-year wrestler and worked through the season.

He feels that the future of the girls program is indeed bright, led by Sutton-Lott's work ethic and fierceness.

"Karen wrestled tough as she has all season," Beasley said. "Megan fought hard and won a match, and Elejah took her shot at state with all the intensity and heart she brings to every practice and match, but in the end, their lack of experience caught up to them."

TD boys and girls take flight at HRV dual

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At Hood River, The Dalles swim team totaled three wins and 10 seconds last Thursday.

Kendall Webber won the 200 (2:28.11) and 400 (5:14.50) freestyle, Lydia DiGennaro scored first in the 50 freestyle (29.18), and Hannah Haight was tops in the 100 breaststroke (1:30.73).

The 200 relay team of Webber, Kennedy Abbas, DiGennaro and Bree Webber had a top mark of 2:03.10.

Of the 10 seconds, Bryce Harris had his in the 50 (27.33) and 100 freestyle (1:01.01), Will Evans in the 200 freestyle (2:17.48), Jacob Comini in

the 100 backstroke (1:25.24), and Skyler Coburn in the 100 breaststroke (1:32.00).

Coburn, William Hoover, Xander Kirby and Jonathan Snodgrass were second in the 200 medley relay (2:23.05), and Harris, Coburn, Michael Cole and Evans hit for a 4:19.85 to get second in the 400 freestyle.

Harris, Kirby, Cole and Evans placed second 200 freestyle relay (1:53.05), and in the 200 the relay group of Kendall Webber, Haight, Maisie Bandel-Ramirez and DiGennaro got second (2:19.47), and DiGennaro motored to second in the 100 backstroke (1:21.19).

Districts begin 8 a.m. Saturday in Madras.

Dr. Cullen's Student of the week

Zoe Dunn for Physical Education:

Zoe Dunn is always great in Physical education class, always participating and working hard during work out time. Zoe is also great to all her classmates being positive each day.



Zoe Dunn, TDHS

Congratulations



Victor Cullen, DDS

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