

SPORTS

Dodge's impressive run puts him on brink of history

Junior grappler goes undefeated to earn district title and runs season record to 22-0, 21 by pin

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

In his career, wrestling has taken Dusty Dodge from The Dalles to Goldendale and now back to The Dalles. Life has been a whirlwind, but he takes so much more away from his experiences that will last him through the test of time. The two-time state placer at Goldendale (third place in 2018, and second last season at 160 pounds) won all three of his 170-pound matches by pin to take first place at the OSAA 5A Special District 4 Championships Saturday at Ridgeview High School in Redmond. Dodge is on the verge of school history, as he ran his overall record to 22-0, 21 by pinfall. "I think my whole journey through wrestling has taught me a lot about myself and helped me become a better practice partner, a better teammate and it also made me a better wrestler through

some ups and downs, losing tournaments and not doing too good throughout the year. It has made my mindset tougher and gave me the motivation to get more out of myself every day." Dodge had an opening-round bye, then polished off three straight opponents in a combined six minutes and 39 seconds. The first win came at 21 seconds versus Jubal Brumble (Crook County), and the junior dropped Carlos Corrales-Bazan (Ridgeview) via third-round pin (4:28) to vault into the championship finale, where he would meet up with teammate Taylor Morehouse. Dodge earned the first-round pin of Morehouse with 11 seconds to go in the first round (1:49). For Dodge, the district victory was his fifth tournament title of the season, and he added an Outstanding Wrestler of the IMC District Award as voted on by all the head coaches. "Dusty's undefeated run this year is not all about the 21 pins, but about his superb technique," The Dalles head coach Paul Beasley said. "Pinning is a product of superior wrestling, not strength alone. Assistant coaches Ryan Manciu and Jake Abrams devised a practice plan to take advantage of his skills and it has paid off with a No. 1 seed at state." Joining Dodge at this weekend's 5A state tournament at

Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland are Taylor Morehouse (second place), Steven Preston (third place), Ian Preston (fourth place) and Mauricio Carrera (fourth place). While there are five state qualifiers, freshmen Marquies Sagapolutele (160) and Miguel Torres (220) each placed fifth and have an outside shot at earning state invites as wild card. Morehouse continued his upward trend in the 5A Special District 4 landscape after a second-place outcome, Steven Preston showed resolve in picking up third place, and both Ian Preston and Carrera had to fight through tough brackets to solidify their fourth-place outcomes. Entering districts, Morehouse had a losing record, but had been on an upwards swing over the last three weeks and had several facets to his craft dialed in. Just like Dodge, Morehouse (13-16 record) had byes in the first three rounds and jumped into the semifinals to grapple against Hood River Valley's Maverick Geller (23-16 record). In that match, Geller and Morehouse fought for six minutes to a 3-all tie, so a championship berth had to be decided in overtime. Morehouse pulled off the two-point takedown at the buzzer in the extra session for a 5-3 sudden victory to advance.



The Dalles wrestling team put up 116 points to get sixth place at the OSAA 5A Special District 4 Championships Saturday at Ridgeview High School in Redmond. In the photo are, from left to right, starting in the back row, Ryan Manciu (assistant coach), Mauricio Carrera, Kevin Marx (assistant coach), Taylor Morehouse and Paul Beasley (head coach). In the front row are, from left, Dusty Dodge, Steven Preston and Ian Preston. Dodge ran his record to 22-0 on the year and claimed a 170-pound district title, Morehouse placed second, Steven Preston was third and both Carrera and Ian Preston clinched fourth place to secure state berths. Contributed photo

Steven Preston (20-5 record), a two-time state qualifier, hit the mats at 160 pounds and scored 20 team points after posting a 3-1 record. The Riverhawk senior moved into the quarterfinals, where he battled with Redmond's Logan Willett (8-10 record), and Steven Preston used just 33 seconds to get a pin and advance to the semifinals. After a semifinal pinfall loss (4:32) at the hands of Gavin McLean (Crook County), Preston rebounded



The Dalles' Dusty Dodge takes down his Hood River Valley opponent in a dual this season at Kurtz Gym in The Dalles. With his undefeated record and district championship in tow, Dodge is the No. 1 seed going into this weekend's state tournament. Ray Rodriguez photo

See **DODGE**, page A10

Swimmers make final leap ahead at state championship meet

DiGennaro and Kendall Webber each ring up personal records in their respective events

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

Looking back at the 2019-2020 swim season, The Dalles head coach Derek Shortt cannot be any prouder of everything his athletes gave him on a day-to-day basis. Friday at the Tualatin Hills Aquatic Center in Beaverton, the Riverhawks had 13 swimmers compete in five events for OSAA OnPoint Community Credit Union 5A Swimming State Championship action. "To have that many swimmers at state, in and of itself, was a milestone for the program, as it hasn't been since the winter of 2009-2010 that so many swimmers have

worn maroon and gold at a state swim meet," coach Shortt said. On the individual side, Lydia DiGennaro qualified in both the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races, finishing her 50-yard freestyle in 26.04 seconds, which placed her 10th in the state. She tacked on a time of 57.87 in the 100-yard freestyle to lock down ninth place. At last weekend's Intermountain Conference District Championships held in Madras, Kendall Webber served out a 6:00.00 for her district championship and went into the state preliminary race with a personal record of 5:55.77, but blew those times out of the water by nine seconds with a new personal-record time of 5:50.80, which gave her eighth place in state. The girls 200-yard freestyle relay quartet of DiGennaro, Kennedy Abbas, Kendall Webber and Bree Webber dropped one second from

their district performance to finish with a time of 1:49.16 to secure eighth place in the field. The boys 200-yard freestyle relay, led by seniors Will Evans and Bryce Harris along with freshman Michael Cole and sophomore Xander Kirby, put in a valiant effort for a finals position and a Saturday qualification. Unfortunately, an early start off the blocks ended the boys wild card quest, although they did finish with a time of 1:37.62, which would have been another personal record. "We told the kids after the meet that this is the point in the season where they need to focus on what they achieved rather than what they didn't," Shortt said. "At the beginning of our last practice on Wednesday, we told the kids that in two days they would be swimming against the elite swimmers in the state of Oregon. Then we told them that this was



The Dalles swim team added some more personal records and respectable finishes to their records at this past weekend's OSAA OnPoint Community Credit Union 5A Swimming State Championship action. Pat Shortt/Contributed photo

because they were now elite swimmers themselves. When they heard that, they all started clapping for themselves. That was pretty cool to see them recognize where they were and what they had

accomplished." The swim team had plenty of highlights, team wins and standout performances during the regular season, and will bring back a good chunk of those state

qualifiers for another deep run next year, so coach Shortt is feeling like the best efforts are coming sooner rather than later. See **SWIM**, page A10

Unicorn style vaults Dufur to first district title since 2005

Defensive philosophy is catalyst in frenzied style of basketball

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

It has been 15 long years since the Dufur girls basketball program has been relevant in the Big Sky Conference's upper echelon. After Saturday's 50-44 victory over Echo in the district championship game, this young core could be on the top of the heap for many years to come. The Rangers led 22-19 at the half, and 33-31 entering the final quarter. Ahead 48-44 with less than 20 seconds left and Echo in possession of the ball, Ranger senior Katie Beal blocked a shot, and was fouled for the 1-and-1, but missed the front end, grabbed her own rebound ahead of four Cougar players and got the putback layup, which gave Dufur its 50-44 victory. With the boundless energy, the baseline-to-baseline defensive tenacity and balanced scoring brought in by first-year head coach Nathan Morris and his assistants,



The Dufur Rangers captured their first district championship since the 2005 season after beating Echo by a 50-44 margin Saturday in Madras. Ray Rodriguez photo

Tony White and Heather Walters, there is a system in place that every player loves and the passion exudes on the hardwood on a nightly basis. Following a 10-win season and a district exit, the Lady Rangers went 17-8, 9-3 in league and allowed 82 points fewer in two less games played. "We had a goal set at the beginning of the year of going to districts and I told them, 'let's see if we can amp it up a little bit and get out of districts, because I think we can win districts,'" Morris said. "I always knew we had the potential, but I don't think that I have ever been a part of team that has seen this much growth from the beginning of

the year to where we are now. Just the confidence, playing poised and under control and buying in to what we are doing defensively are the biggest differences. It has been really impressive and fun to be a part of." On any given night Dufur's leading scorer changes, so opposing teams have difficult singling out one player to try to stop. Defensively, Morris swaps his starters for his bench to keep players fresh and energized enough to chase ball handlers, force mistakes and transition baskets in what is dynamic defensive formation that forced 16 Echo turnovers. "We made a change about five or six games in, where

we did the rotation thing," Morris said. "I think we went about eight deep before that, and we started going five-in and five-out. The change you see most with the girls is that everybody knows that they are part of something, that they are in this together. I think that is the biggest thing." "We were very intentional about the philosophy we wanted as far as the style of play and what we wanted to do. "We kind of branded ourselves in that style. We got unicorns everywhere and that's who we are, and they buy in to that." Dufur hosts a team to be announced Friday at the Ranger Dome.

SWC loses to Ione

■ Ray Rodriguez
The Dalles Chronicle

The Ione/Arlington Cardinals shot 66 percent for the game on 31 of 47 from the floor and hit a torrid 16 of 20 second-half shots in Saturday's 74-68 win over the Redsides. In the fourth quarter, Ione/Arlington led 60-54 with 4:19 left and 68-63 at the 1:34 mark. Oscar Thomas drained two free throws to inch the Redsides to within 68-65, and on the Cardinals next possession, Wesley Goad hit 1 of 2 free throws, but on his miss, Ione got the offensive rebound. SWC got a steal and missed its shot attempt, and Carson Eynetich hit a layup to give Ione a 71-65 lead. Ben Birman answered with a 3-pointer at the 33-second mark, and after two missed lone free throws, they got the

offensive rebounded, but turned the ball over. SWC had 27.8 seconds to get a basket, down 71-68, and Hull called a timeout to set up a play. Jace Troutman, however, stole the inbounds pass, was fouled and sank both free throws, which put the Cards in front, 73-68. After another inbounds pass turnover, Troutman made 1 of 2 free throws, and SWC missed its final shot attempt. Goad had 22 points, Eynetich added 17, Hunter Padberg dropped 16 and Troutman tacked on 13 points. SWC made 27 of 52 from the field, 8 of 16 threes, and went 6 of 15 from the line. Thomas scored 24 points, Garrett Olson notched 21 points and went 3 of 10 from the line, Tanner Davis and Remington Sheer had seven points each. SWC hosts Elgin at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Dr. Cullen's Student of the week

Shane Squires for the Perseverance Award at the Learning Center:

Shane is a kind, hardworking and helpful student. Shane is polite to those around him and is always willing to work hard. He will stick with a task until completion.

Congratulations

Shane Squires, TDHS

Columbia View Dental

1915 E. 19th Street | The Dalles

541-296-5677 | Se habla español