

Silverton freshman wins state title

BILL POEHLER AND PETE MARTINI
STATESMAN JOURNAL

PORTLAND - Kaden Kuenzi wasn't an unknown coming into the OSAA Class 5A state wrestling tournament, but when Silverton High School's freshman won the state championship Saturday night, it was still a stunning accomplishment.

Kuenzi pinned Redmond sophomore Landon Robinson in 2:56 to win the 5A state championship at 106 pounds at the Memorial Coliseum.

He took down Robinson seconds into the match, let him up, took him down again, turned him for a near fall and had a huge 7-1 point lead.

The No. 4 seed for the tournament understood the immediacy of the situation. "In my head I want to go out there and put points on the board and whatever happens at the end happens," Kuenzi said. "I just knew if I put pressure on him I'm going to break him."

Kuenzi understood the significance of his accomplishment.

He became the second wrestler from Silverton to win a state championship in as many years and the first freshman from the school to win a state champion-



ALEX MILAN TRACY/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silverton freshman Kaden Kuenzi accepts his state championship medal at the OSAA State Wrestling Championships at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, Ore.

ship in decades.

"Grinding out practices every day, just wanting to be the best in the state, working out with my great partner Jacob Whitehead, he really pushed me and so did my coaches to get to where I am now," Kuenzi said.

Whitehead, a junior, lost a 10-0 major decision to Mountain View's Beau Olsen in the 113 pound final.

Also placing for Silverton was Robert

Guenther (sixth at 120). And Madison Shockley placed third at girls exhibition 113 pound class.

Placing for Dallas were Ryan Bibler (fourth at 106), Dawson Barcroft (fifth at 113), Jacob Jones (third at 126), Joseph Foster (sixth at 126) and Joseph English (sixth at 138).

For Central, Noah Worthington (sixth at 106), Sam Crow (fourth at 195) and Caleb Sedlacek (sixth at 285).

For Woodburn, Giovanni Bravo placed fourth at 138, Rafael Vasquez placed fourth at 145 and Karson Christiansen placed third at 170.

In the 6A state meet, Sprague sophomore Daniel McClung lost a heartbreaking 5-4 decision to Lakeridge's Quinn Brink in the 6A 120 pound state championship match.

McClung, the No. 1 seed in the bracket, took Brink down in the opening seconds of the match and scored a quick near fall, but Brink came back with a reversal and scored a takedown in the second period to win.

Also placing for Sprague were Bollong Joklur (fourth at 106), Evan Spragg (fourth at 126), Michael Murphy (third at 138), Landon Davis (sixth at 152), Dane McKinney (fifth at 160), Spencer Nofziger (sixth at 170) and Tanner Sorensen (fifth at 220).

West Salem's Luke Ferschweiler placed fifth at 106 and Brenton Reddy was fifth at 182. North Salem's Brandon Quezada was third at 113. McNary's Enrique Vincent was third at 120.

South Salem senior Abigail Whitney placed second in the exhibition girls 132 pound weight class, losing to Central Linn's Sarah Conner.

N. Marion, Cascade, Dayton, Scio, Willamina wrestlers win state titles

PETE MARTINI
STATESMAN JOURNAL

PORTLAND — North Marion's Russel Stigall now has a state championship to match his father and brothers.

Stigall beat Scappoose's Tyler Cooper 4-3 in the 120-pound final Saturday at the OSAA Class 4A wrestling state championships at Memorial Coliseum, joining his father, Ford, and brothers, Jake, Tyler and Lane as state champions.

"It's awesome, man. Now I really know what my brothers are talking about. It's the best feeling in the world," Stigall said. "All the hard work for 11-plus years and getting a state title is just amazing."

Stigall said that he felt family pressure to do well in wrestling, and he didn't handle it well at a young age.

"In the younger years, I had some troubles," Stigall said. "I wasn't the best wrestler, didn't like it at all. I would cry, I would scream, 'I don't want to go to practice.' But now, I know what they're talking about. The hard work really does pay off."

The pressure Stigall felt early on made Saturday's championship just that much sweeter.

"The pressure was on me, I'm the youngest, and I did it," Stigall said. "It's so awesome, I can't believe it. It's awesome to be able to say you're a state champ just like all your older brothers."

Stigall's brother, Lane, won his third state championship, taking the 152-pound title match 17-6.

"It feels really good," Lane Stigall said. "I'm just out there to get better."

Lane Stigall said he is proud of his younger brother, Russel, as well as his entire family.

"The greatest part was having a chance to win a title with my little brother, that was awesome. I think I get five times more nervous for his matches than mine," Lane Stigall said. "It's really awesome to have all those people to motivate you and push you."

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152: The 152-pound final between North Marion's Lane Stigall and Henny's Martin Sierra started after press time Saturday night.

160: North Marion's Gregory Wing lost 9-6 to Banks' Trevor Thiessen in the 160-pound final at the OSAA Class 4A state championships, as Thiessen rallied to win.

220: Cascade's Louie Sanchez beat McLoughlin's Spencer Wells 10-4 in the 220-pound final of the OSAA Class 4A state championships.

"It was tough at first, it was very physical, I just got the upper hand," said Sanchez, who admitted to being a little nervous before the match. "It means so much to me, I've worked so hard for this."

TEAM SCORES: 1. Sweet Home 181.0; 2. Crook County 180.5; 3. North Marion 165.0; 4. Marshfield 157.0.

MID-VALLEY ROUNDUP — CLASS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

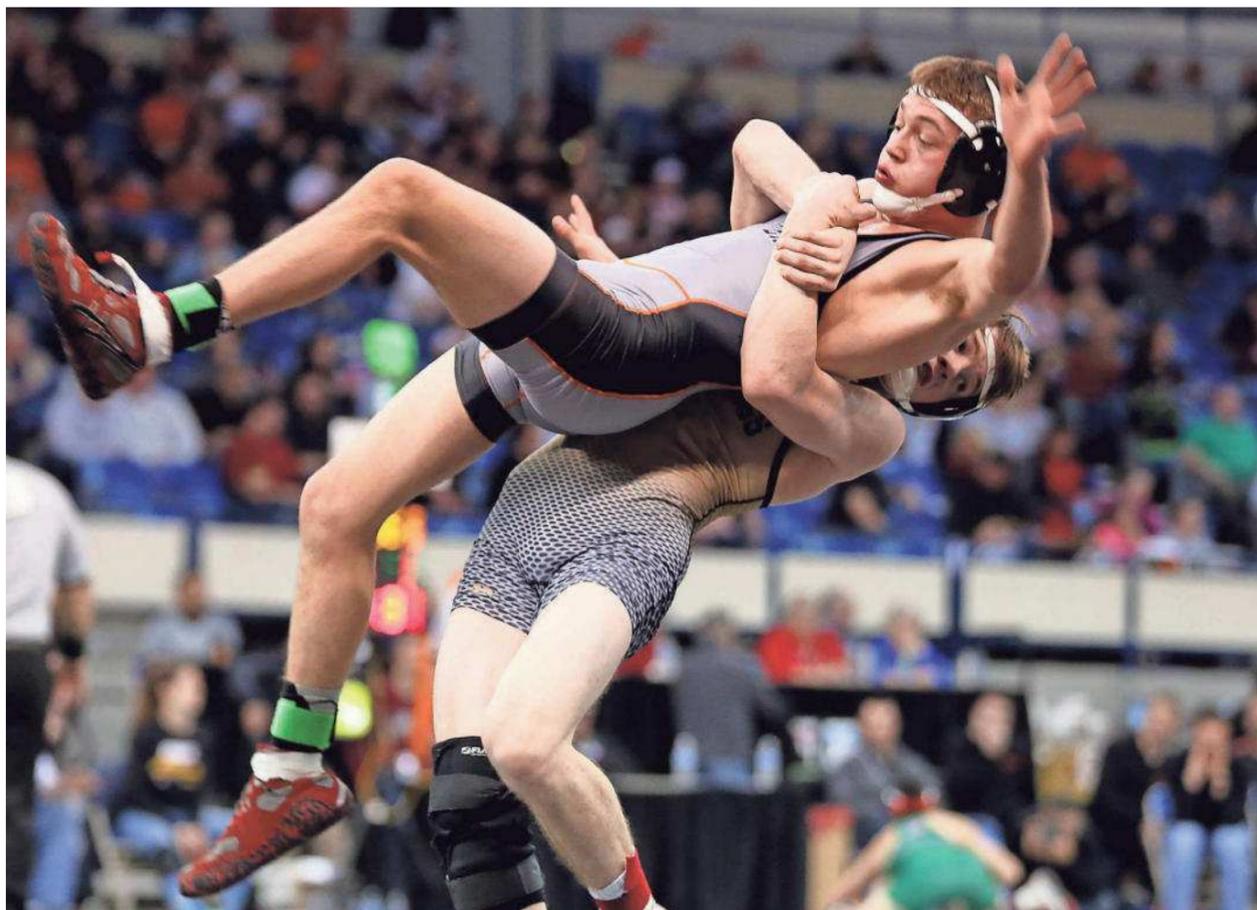
106: Willamina's Jordan Reyes was pinned in the second period by La Pine's Derrick Kerr in the 106-pound final at the OSAA Class 3A state championships.

Reyes had a 5-4 lead before the pin. As a sophomore, Reyes will have a couple more chances to capture a state championship.

113: Willamina's Remigio Tapia-Bravo lost 1-0 to Harrisburg's Chance Hendrickson in the 113-pound final at the OSAA Class 3A state championships.

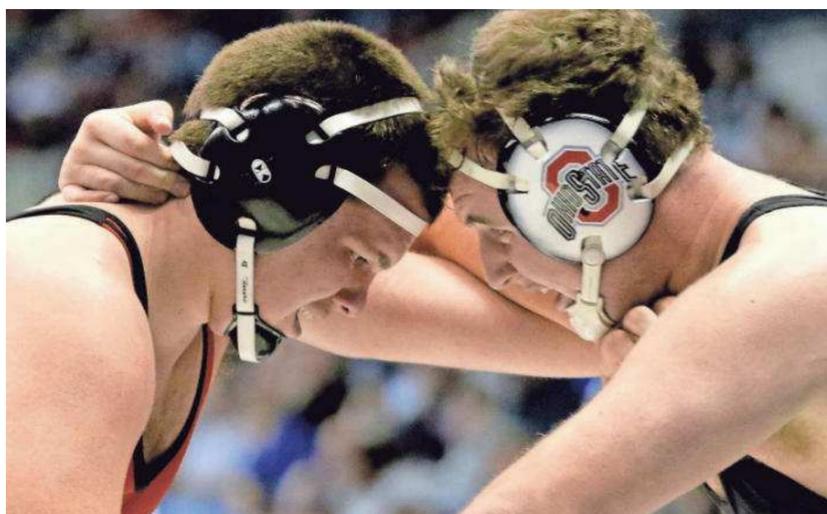
Hendrickson scored his point on an escape in the third period.

126: Willamina's Justin Fasana lost 17-6 on Saturday to La Pine's David Kerr in the 126-pound final at the OSAA Class 3A state championships.



PHOTOS BY ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Silverton's Tristan Lanier, top, competes against Milwaukie's Bryant Smith in the OSAA Wrestling State Championships Class 5A quarterfinals for weight 126 at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland on Friday, Feb. 24.



Scio's Ryan Mask, left, competes against Willamina's Chase Onstot in the OSAA Wrestling State Championships Class 3A quarterfinals for weight 220.

138: Dayton's Jared Henry beat Nyssa's Ryan Vineyard 8-3 to win the 138-pound Class 3A state championship, the second state title of his career.

"I knew it was a kid I never wrestled before, never even seen the kid wrestle," Henry said. "I knew at the start of the match to just take it slow and figure him out."

Henry said that winning a second state championship has been tougher than winning the first.

"It's been a little bit tougher," Henry said. "People come in swinging for the fences. Just stay calm, keep my composure. That's the only thing you can do."

160: In the 160-pound final, Dayton's Cody Stahl lost 6-5 to Coquille's Wyatt McCarthy at the OSAA Class 3A state championships.

170: Willamina's Chandler Allen beat Harrisburg's Layten Briggs 5-4 to capture the 170-pound Class 3A state championship.

"There was a lot of stuff going on

through my head, you know," Allen said. "I placed third last year, and I took a hard loss in the semis. I just wanted to be a state champ so bad. I worked so hard over the season. At the end of the day, I got it done."

220: Scio's Ryan Mask pinned Dayton's Josue Martinez in overtime of the 220-pound final at the Class 3A state championships.

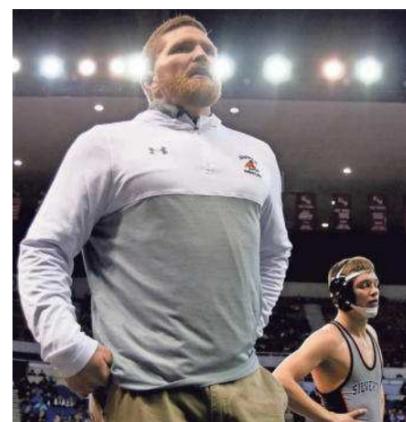
"I really don't know what to say," Mask said. "I feel awesome, I just won state."

285: Scio's Jacob Lowther was pinned by Nyssa's Osiris Tapia in the first period of the Class 3A 285-pound final.

TEAM SCORES: 1. Nyssa 287.0; 2. Willamina/Falls City 167.0; 3. Dayton 134.0; 4. Glide 122.0

MID-VALLEY CONSOLATION ROUNDUP

Also placing for North Marion were Brandon Gibson (fourth at 132), Derek Estrada (fifth at 132), Avidan Sanchez (fourth at 138), Matt Carrillo (fourth at



Silverton coach Stryder Davis, left, stands on the side as Tristan Lanier competes in the OSAA Wrestling State Championships Class 5A quarterfinals for weight 126.

182) and Ramon Organiz (sixth at 195).

For Cascade, Kane Nixon placed third at 113, Kade VanDeHey (fifth at 152) and James Van Agtmael (fifth at 195).

Stayton's Ryan Ninman placed fourth at 120.

Also placing for Willamina were Ethan Howard (fifth at 120), David Elwood (sixth at 138), Noah Sickles (fifth at 145), Jordan Mode (sixth at 182) and Chase Onstot (fifth at 220).

Also placing for Dayton were Ryan Penrose (sixth at 106), Zach Russell (sixth at 152), Legin Engle (third at 182), Blake Larsen (fourth at 195) and Aaron Hiatt (third at 285).

Also placing for Scio were Hunter Robinson (fifth at 126), Brandon Zeiher (fourth at 145) and Dru Cook (third at 170).

Placing for Jefferson were Mitch Garcia (sixth at 113), Cody Adams (sixth at 160) and Riley Davis (fifth at 182), Santiam Christian's Luke Janssen placed sixth at 126, Jason Manzi placed fifth at 138, Caleb Beck placed fourth at 182 and Amity's Aaron Runion was fourth at 126).