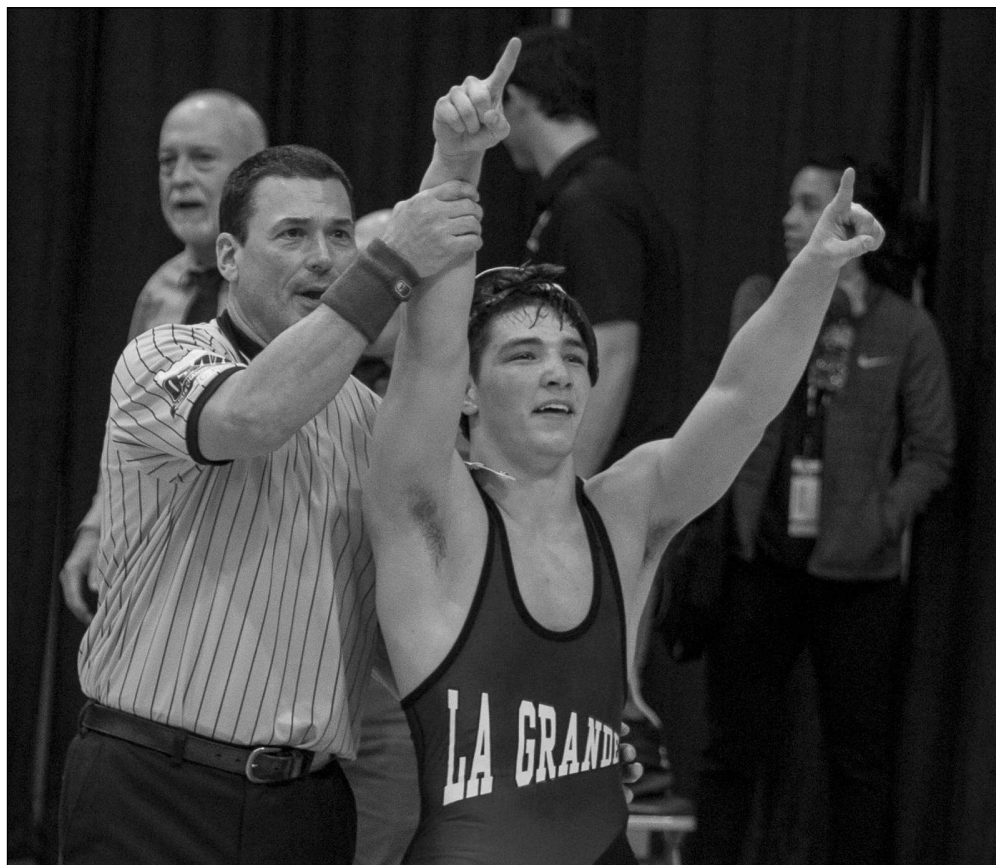


## Returning home as champions



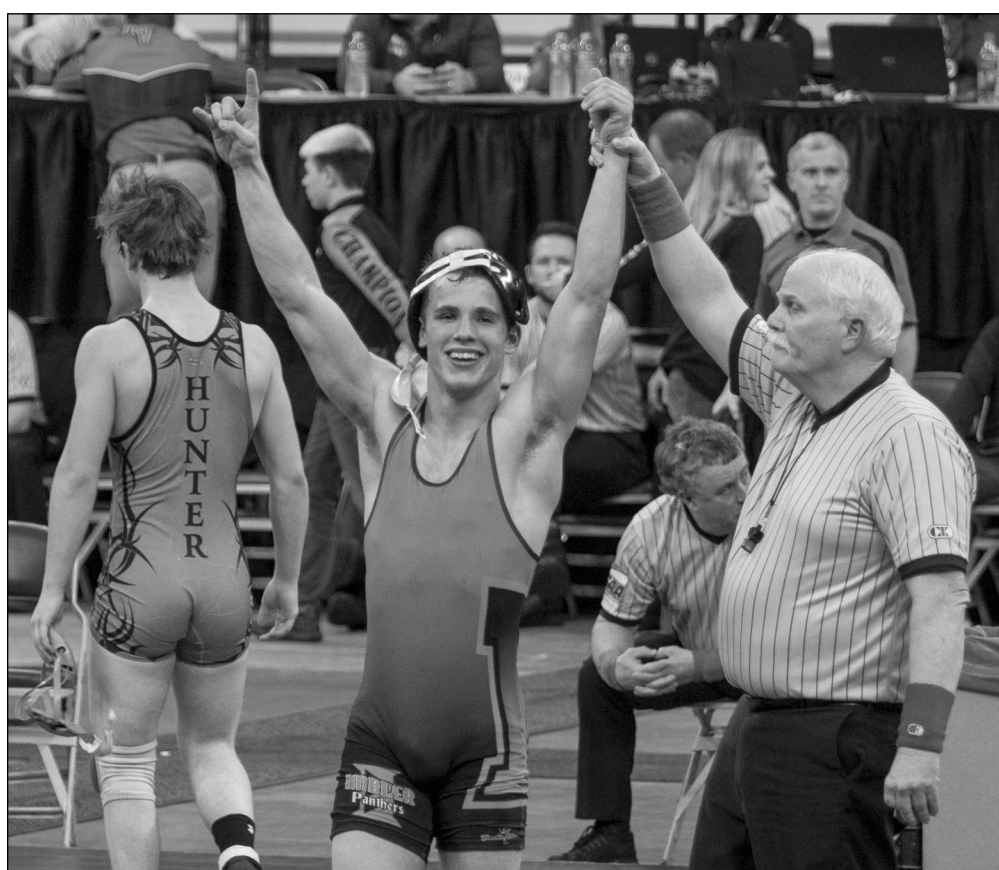
Ron Osterloh photo

Joseph/Wallowa's Steven Beckman, top, claimed his third straight state title.



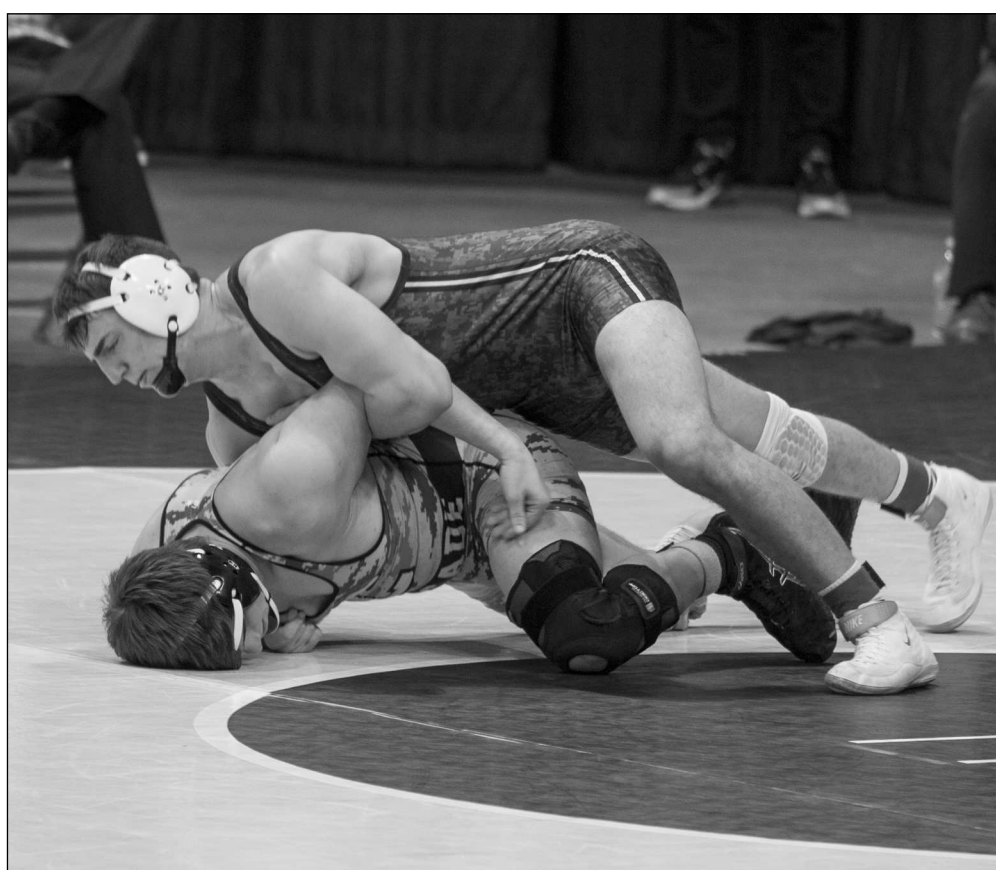
Ron Osterloh photo

La Grande's Parker Robinson, who was second a year ago, won his first championship.



Garrett Burns photo

Logan Butcher won the first state championship for Imbler since the 2010 season.



Ron Osterloh photo

ChristopherWoodworth, top, won the state title at 195 after placing third last season.

### Beckman, Butcher claim state championships

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Steven Beckman has put himself among the best to ever don a wrestling singlet in the state of Oregon.

The senior on the Joseph/Wallowa Eagles wrestling team clinched his third consecutive Class 2A/1A state title Friday and Saturday in Portland, finishing off the championship with a dominant 12-0 major decision over Reedsport's

Christian Solomon in the finale at 113 pounds.

And he did so despite suffering an injury early in the season that left the hopes of the three-peat in peril.

"We went to Culver the second week of the season. He was in a big match and he dislocated his elbow," Joseph/Wallowa Head Coach Tim Kiesecker said. "We didn't even know if he was

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### Robinson, Woodworth lead Tigers to third

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Just like they were at the district tournament, the expectations of La Grande Tigers wrestling Head Coach Klel Carson were again exceeded.

Parker Robinson and Christopher Woodworth both claimed state championships and four more Tigers took second, leading La Grande to its best finish in a decade as it claimed third in the 4A

state tournament Friday and Saturday in Portland.

"To have six make it into the finals, that's unprecedented," Carson said.

The coach said the most to make it to the finals previously was four during the Tigers' state championship season in 1996.

"That semifinal round was something for the ages," he said.

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### Eastern holds on in 2OT thriller

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Eastern Oregon women's basketball Head Coach Anji Weissenfluh said even in the midst of what was a tense, tight, thrilling battle Friday against College of Idaho, she was able to find a moment to pause and enjoy the game and the scene.

"When the clock goes off and your transitioning into the overtimes, that's when you're (saying to the team) 'Are you ready? This is fun. This is (the) playoffs,'" she said. "But during, I don't know if you have a time to relax."

There was little time for anyone in Quinn Coliseum to breathe until the Mountaineers, buoyed by a 42-point night from Maya Ah You-Dias, managed to pull away in the second overtime for a 96-87 win over the rival Coyotes in the Cascade Collegiate Conference Tournament semifinals.

"All I can say is anything can happen in (the) playoffs. Both teams are playing for something, and I give respect to C of I," Weissenfluh said. "They played tough. They played strong. Mackenzie Royce, their point guard, played her



Ronald Bond/The Observer

Maya AhYou-Dias, left, reacts after scoring in the first overtime Friday night.

heart out."

The Yotes almost sprung a major upset over their Interstate 84 rivals, but big plays from EOU down the

stretch, including from Ah You-Dias and freshman Beverly Slater, helped EOU reach tonight's championship

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### Badgers, Eagles, Outlaws all bound for quarterfinals

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Defense has been the calling card for the Powder Valley Badgers girls basketball team this season.

It was again Saturday night, and it propelled the Badgers back to the state quarterfinals.

Megan Bingham scored a game-high 17 points and Powder Valley forced 27 turnovers and never trailed in a 49-28 home win over the Southwest Christian Wildcats in the second round of the 1A state playoffs.

"As a team we have good lockdown defense, so we know that a lot of teams can't really play with us if we play really tight and

gressive defense," Bingham said.

The defense has been stout of late, holding eight opponents to 30 points or less during Powder Valley's current 10-game winning streak.

"We talked about defense in the locker room before, that (if) we play great defense, everything else will take care of itself, and it does," Head Coach Allen Bingham said.

The defense, highlighted by its full-court press, harassed the Wildcats early and often. Nineteen of Southwest Christian's turnovers came in the first half, many against the press. It helped the

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