

## Forever enshrined in glory

By Ronald Bond  
The Observer

Two standouts from previous glory days of the Eastern Oregon wrestling program will have one of the top accolades in sports placed next to their names forever: Hall of Famers.

Craig Woodward and Norm Berney will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in a May 4 ceremony in Tigar, according to a press release from Hall of Fame Board Officer and Secretary Bob Allen. Woodward is being enshrined as an Outstanding American, and Berney is being recognized for a lifetime of service to the sport of wrestling.

"It's really a nice thing to get honored like that," said Berney, who is currently the head track and cross country coach at Corban University in Salem, and a Hall of Fame head wrestling coach from his days leading Clackamas Community College. "This is just the capping moment for me to be honored in the Oregon chapter of the Hall of Fame."

Berney was a solid wrestler during his time with the Mountaineers in the 1960s, but he made his name in coaching. He was a five-time state coach of



Photo courtesy of Norm Berney

Former Eastern Oregon wrestlers Norm Berney, second from left, and Craig Woodward, second from right, will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in May — Berney for a lifetime of service to the sport and Woodward as an Outstanding American.

the year while at CCC and was named the national coach of the year in 1987.

He also played a key role in saving what has since become a powerhouse program when wrestling faced the potential of being cut at Clackamas in 1984. He said at the time it was the

last community college in Oregon to sponsor the sport, and he helped drum up the support of the wrestling community to back keeping wrestling at CCC — including Woodward.

"The one thing I'm honored (about) through this is (being able) to hang in

there with good support from people like Craig and (assistant coach) Larry Owings," he said. "Getting the support of those guys to keep the program going is probably my (best) contribution to wrestling."

Wrestling, which has endured cuts in programs throughout the country,

is seeing a resurgence, including in the Northwest. Berney is part of that comeback: He helped save CCC's program, and he most recently was instrumental in establishing a new wrestling program at Corban.

Berney feels it's important to keep the sport

around because of what it teaches those who compete in it, and because it's a sport "everyone can be involved in," regardless of size — and, now, regardless of gender, with women's wrestling gaining popularity.

"(It) really teaches you competitive skills, survival skills in the world that have been lost," he said. "It prepared me for life."

Woodward, of Prineville, whose contribution to the sport has been in more of a philanthropic and supportive role, said he was humbled by his nomination.

"I can't put myself in the same category as other recipients — others like Norm (who have coached the sport)," he said. "Those guys are in the Hall of Fame (because) they dedicated their whole life to the sport."

Woodward, who wrestled as a Mountie in the 1960s, played a part in the movement to bring wrestling back to Eastern Oregon three years ago after a 3-1/2 decade hiatus. He was one of the main drivers to raise the funds to help get the program restarted.

"The president (Tom Insko) was really supportive See **Hall of Fame** / Page 8A

### PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

## Tiger boys second, girls third at Crook County Relays

Observer staff

The La Grande Tigers boys track and field team scored 92 points to take second at the Crook County Relays Thursday in Prineville, while the LHS girls scored 51 points to finish third.

The LHS boys earned victories from Nick Tsiatsos in the triple jump (42-foot-1-3/4) and Owen Kreutz in the javelin (150-foot-9). La Grande also grabbed second-place finishes from Bennett Welch in the 1,500 (4:28.14) and the 4x400 relay team of Hunter Youngblood, Sajun White, Luke Bloodgood and Josh Zollman (3:37.64), as well as a handful of third-place efforts: Jarom Huntsman in the javelin (142-foot-5) and triple jump (38-foot-4-1/2), Tsiatsos in the long jump (20-foot-9-1/4) and Terence Clay in the high jump (5-foot-6). Rounding out in fourth place were Cristian Mendoza in the 1,500 (4:33.39), Zach Wiggins in the high jump (5-foot-6) and Youngblood in the long jump (20-foot-3-1/4).

The LHS girls were led by a victory in the 4x400 relay from Katie Brown Kenzie Williams, Cecelia Aguilera and Jacki Martini in 4:27.43. The Tigers' also placed second in the 4x100 relay with Aguilera, Brown, Kenzie Williams and Karsen Williams finishing in 54.40 seconds.

Martini and Rachael Keniry finished 3-4 in the 1,500 in 5:16.36 and 5:21.67, respectively. Also in fourth were Anna Green in the discus (92-foot-5) and a second 4x400 relay team of Lara Insko, Madison Hanson, Alexyss Chamberlain and Jenna Ault (4:42.19).

La Grande is back in action April 5 at the Carnival of Speed in Milton-Freewater.

### COVE, UNION AND IMBLER COMPETE IN HERMISTON

The Cove Leopards girls track and field team scored 26.5 points to place seventh and lead the local efforts at the Bulldog Invite Thursday in Hermiston.

Cove scored three top-four finishes, with Sophie Pettit leading the way by taking second in the long jump at 15-foot-11-1/2. Mykiah Overton placed third in the javelin (103-foot-2), and Allie Best was fourth in the high jump (4-foot-8).

The Union Bobcats girls, which took 10th with 13 points, had a pair of third-place finishes from Abriel O'Reilly in the 800 (2:34.84) and Audrey Wells in the

3,200 (13:10.00).

The Imbler Panthers took 14th, with all five of their points coming from Erin Coston's fourth-place finish in the pole vault (7-foot-6).

On the boys side, Cove finished with 20 points in eighth place, with 18 of those points coming from Tim Stevens, who won the 800 (2:00.62) and was second in the 1,600 (4:26.46).

Imbler scored five points to take 15th, with Calvin Martin posting the top finish, taking sixth in the javelin (131-foot-6). Union scored 1.5 points for 17th, with Andrew Lackey's eighth-place finish in the 3,200 in 11:11.15 the top effort.

Cove and Union next head to the Carnival of Speed April 5, while Imbler travels to the Prairie City Invite on April 5.

### LHS BASEBALL CAN'T OVERCOME DEFICIT

The La Grande Tigers baseball team surrendered five early runs and were unable to dig out of the hole in a 7-4 road loss to the Pendleton Buckaroos Thursday.

Pendleton scored twice in the second inning for the early lead, then scored three more runs in the third to go up 5-0 after a Tanner Sweek sacrifice fly and a Tucker Zander RBI single.

La Grande inched within 5-1 when Brody Kincade scored on a passed ball in the fourth, then took advantage of more Pendleton wildness to get close to 5-4 in the sixth. With two outs, Isaac Zamora was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to force in a run, and both Justin Frederick and Parker Robinson scored on passed balls to make it a one-run game. Pendleton, though, added two late runs for some breathing room.

La Grande was held to just three hits and took advantage of 10 walks, but left 13 runners on base.

Zamora took the loss on the mound, allowing two run on four hits in two innings.

The Tigers (2-2 overall) travel to the Pride Classic in Arizona Monday.

### BOBCATS FALL TO LA GRANDE JV

The Union/Cove Bobcats baseball team dropped its season-opener Wednesday, falling to the La Grande Tigers JV at home, 15-4.

Union/Cove fell in an early 5-0 hole and never recovered. The Bobcats got on the board in the bottom of the first on a Keegan Glenn RBI double, then cut a 7-1 deficit

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