

BASKETBALL

Oregon's 4A state tourney brackets are set

La Grande boys host Banks, girls travel to face Cascade

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The OSAA Class 4A brackets are set — and La Grande High School is well represented.

The first round of the state tournament will be hosted by the higher seed, with the quarterfinals slated to start on Thursday, March 10. The on-site tournament will be moved to Coos Bay, hosted by Marshfield High School and North Bend High School.

The finals are scheduled for March 12.

Girls earn No. 15 seed to tournament

The Tigers open the state tournament as the No. 15 seed and will face Cascade on Saturday, March 5. The two teams met in the first round of the 2020 state tournament, with the Tigers, the No. 5 seed, posting a 52-46 win.

La Grande (13-9 overall) won a state play-in game on Saturday, Feb. 26, 58-35, over Valley Catholic. Kayle Collman dominated with 30 points to pace the Tigers, who raced out to a 30-13 lead at halftime and never looked back. Makenna Shorts added eight points and Grace Neer had six.

Cascade enters the state tournament with an 18-3 record and a six-game winning streak, after ending the regular season with a 46-45 win over Sweet Home. The Cougars finished behind top-seeded Philomath in the Oregon West Conference.

Baker, the Greater Oregon League champion, is seeded No. 3 and will host Marshfield at 4 p.m. on March 5.

Boys to host tournament opener

After posting a 16-2 record in the regular season and winning the Greater Oregon League tournament crown, the Tigers will open the state tournament at home.

La Grande, the No. 6 seed, will host 11th-seeded Banks at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 4.

The Tigers enter the tournament on a six-game winning streak, including a 69-52 drubbing of Baker for the league championship on Feb. 19. La Grande's Devin

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HIGH SCHOOL STATE WRESTLING



Abigail Dollins/Salem Statesman Journal

La Grande's Braden Carson is declared the winner in the 145-pound weight class of the OSAA Class 4A state wrestling championship on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Cascade High School in Turner.

'Amazing team effort'

By JEFF BUDLONG
For The Observer

TURNER — The La Grande wrestling team is back on top.

A year after finishing as the runner-up to Sweet Home, the Tigers returned the favor, winning the OSAA Class 4A State Wrestling Championship with 275.5 points and 14 place-winners, the most in school history. Sweet Home was second with 250.5.

"It was an amazing team effort," Tigers coach Klel Carson said. "We have never had 14 placers at state, and everyone contributed and had a part in it. It really shows how deep and talented this team is and all the hard work that was put in."

The Tigers crowned three individual champions and had two runners-up to help secure the team victory, a feat it also achieved in 2020. It is the fourth state team title in program history. The Tigers' other state titles came in in 1978 and 1996.

Braden Carson claimed his third individual title — a first for the Tiger program — with a major decision over Baker/Powder Valley's Gavin Stone 10-0 in the finals at 145 pounds. He wrapped up his season with a 39-1 record and had three pins en route to the championship match.

Braden Carson finished second as a freshman and went out with a dominating

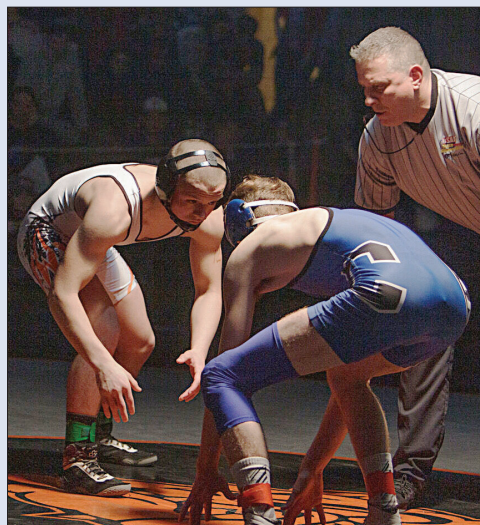
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Abigail Dollins/Salem Statesman Journal

La Grande's Mason Wolcott, left, leverages his position against Sweet Home's Kyle Sieminski in the 106-pound weight class on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at the OSAA 4A state wrestling championship at Cascade High School in Turner.

Imbler's Burns is Union County's 1st three-time champ



Ronald Osterloh/Contributed Photo

Imbler's Garrett Burns, left, faces off with Crane's John Otley in the finals of the 126-pound weight class at the OSAA Class 2A/1A State Wrestling Championship on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022. Burns went on to win his third state championship.

By JEFF BUDLONG
For The Observer

CULVER — Imbler's Garrett Burns completed his run to a third OSAA Class 2A/1A State Wrestling Championship with a dominating performance at 126 pounds on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Burns became Union County's first three-time state champion, joined later in the night by La Grande's Braden Carson in Class 4A.

The Imbler senior opened up with a 15-0 technical fall over Neah-Kah-Nie's Mikal Hunter before pinning Riddle/Kays Creek's Blair Doud in 22 seconds in the quarterfinals. Burns recorded a second technical fall in the semifinals with a 17-1 win over Nestucca's Zakai Chatelain.

The championship match was the closest contest, but Burns was still decisive with a 7-2 decision over Crane's John Otley.

"Burns had a bad ankle and he was

not 100%, and he had three points scored against him in the state tournament," Imbler coach Doug Hislop said. "His work ethic, determination and heart is the key. I know this is something that has been on his mind."

Burns injured his ankle at the district tournament, which hampered his preparation for state but did not derail him. He concluded the season with a 42-3 record.

The wrestler also made history at the 2021 state championship tournament when he became the first Imbler wrestler to win multiple individual state championship titles.

Elgin saw three of its five state wrestlers place, led by Joe Lathrop's runner-up finish at 160. He recorded a 10-3 decision over Regis' Lucas Bishchoff in the quarterfinals, and downed Central Linn's Cole Goracke with a 13-1 major decision to reach the finals. Culver's Isaiah Toomey

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Badgers will face a familiar foe, Nixyaawii, in state quarterfinals

North Powder to meet league rival Nixyaawii in 1A quarterfinals in Baker City

The Observer

NORTH POWDER — A pair of familiar faces will square off one more time.

Powder Valley and Nixyaawii, both of the 1A Old Oregon League, will open the on-site portion of the OSAA Class 1A boys state basketball tournament in Baker City on Wednesday, March 2.

The quarterfinal contest

is scheduled for an 8:15 p.m. tipoff at Baker High School.

This will be the rubber match between the two teams, with both splitting the first two games. Powder Valley picked up a 76-64 win in North Powder on Jan. 29. Nixyaawii returned the favor in the OOL District Tournament, posting a 59-51 victory on Feb. 19 to win the district tournament title.

The second-ranked Badgers (23-2) punched their ticket to Baker City with a 68-63 win over Trinity Lutheran on Feb. 25 in the second round of the tournament. Powder Valley opened the state tournament with a 80-63 win over Condon.

Bobcats draw Faith Bible in quarterfinals

Union's push for a state title continues Thursday, March 3, with a quarterfinal matchup with Faith Bible at the OSAA Class 2A girls state basketball tournament in Pendleton.

The Bobcats (22-3 overall) earned a spot in the on-site portion of the tournament with a 35-30 win over Oakland on Feb. 26.

Faith Bible (25-3) finished second in the Northwest League, dropping a 40-39 decision to Vernonia for the league title on Feb. 19. The Falcons opened the 2A state tournament with a 33-30 win over Colton on Feb. 26.



Davis Carbaugh/The Observer, File

Powder Valley's Kaiden Dalke dribbles at the high post during the Old Oregon League championship game against Nixyaawii at Baker High School on Friday, Feb. 19, 2022. The two teams meet for the third time this season in the Class 1A quarterfinals at Baker High School on March 2.