

Sports

Berney hopes third time will be the charm North Idaho blocks path to regional title

By Rob Conner
Of The Print

Norm Berney's wrestling team is good enough to win this week's regional championships in Rexberg, ID.

After all, they finished the dual meet season with a 10-3 record. They also placed first, second and third in tournament competition. Furthermore, they just cracked the top 20 in the national rankings at number 17. There is one small problem, however.

Namely, John Owens' North Idaho Cardinals.

The Cardinals have wholluped Clackamas in their two previous meetings 31-13 and 34-10, and are currently ranked fifth in the national polls. So much for a cake-walk at regionals.

It is no secret that Berney's squad has its work cut out. The Cougar mentor must have big matches from John Wachsmith, Randy Barkhurst, Blaine Schutzler, and Dave Duncan, all of

whom are seeded second, behind Cardinals.

"If we are going to win the regionals, we have to have those four matches. That's the whole point," Berney said.

The only sure money for Clackamas seems to be on the big fellas, Scott Ames and Bob Young. Ames, at 29-4 on the season, is the top seed in the 190-pound class, while Young, 17-4, at heavyweight will be atop his class.

Ames and Young are the only Cougars who have not lost to their North Idaho counterparts in the two previous meetings.

"They (North Idaho) are pretty strong," Berney said. "They have state champions available in every weight. We've got kids that can place just as high at nationals, though."

Berney knows it is going to take a team effort to knock off North Idaho and win the regional title. "Our whole team is going to have to get together as a unit. You've got



CARDINAL IN CONTROL—Randy Barkhurst can't escape North Idaho foe.

to place at every weight," he said.

Clackamas tuned up for the regional tournament last weekend at Simon Fraser University. The Cougs turned back Eastern Washington

University 30-15 and the Canadian junior national team 40-12. Simon Fraser, ranked seventh in the NAIA polls, was too tough for the young Clackamas team, 26-17.

"I felt that we could take all three if things worked out. We had a couple of let downs," Berney said. "Simon Fraser rotated their team, so they were a little stronger. We just wrestled average."

In the loss to the Simon Fraser, freshmen John Wachsmith was the lone Cougar to record a fall, as he dropped Kevin Chace at 5:20. Bob Young also posted a big win 20-0 over Ron Lepper.

Berney was more pleased with his team's performances against EWU and the junior nationals. "I was satisfied with this weekend," he said.

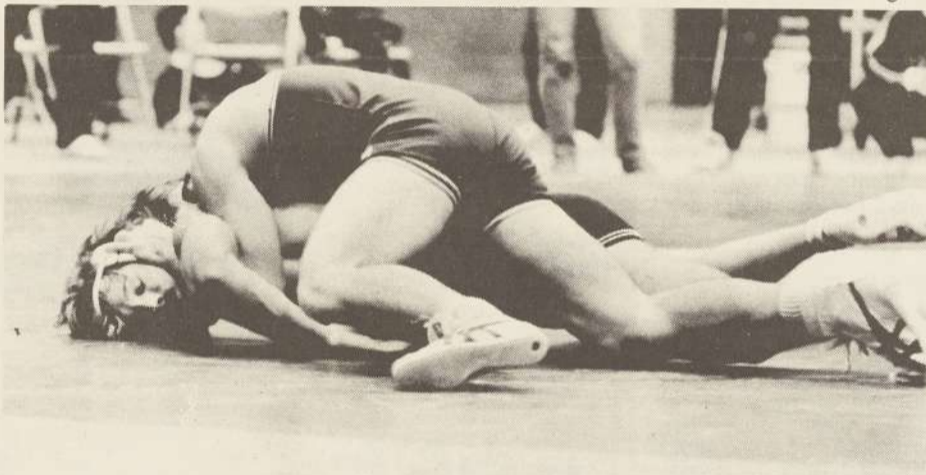
One bright spot for Clackamas in its match with

EWU was the performance of Lyle Dodd, in the 142-pound class. Dodd picked up a fall at the 5:22 mark over Darren Bowerman. Dodd made weight for the first time this season and figures to be instrumental in Clackamas' bid for the regional title. "He did a real good job, he's a sleeper," Berney said.

Dave Duncan also picked up a fall, his coming at the 1:28 mark over Mike Ogle.

The Cougars had a relatively easy time with the British Columbia junior national team, Wachsmith, Barkhurst, Duncan, and Ames all collected falls. Bob Young also posted a big 25-0 win over Brian Stanley.

Berney knows it will take still more in order to beat North Idaho. "Every match I watched we could have done better in," he said.



THE UPPER HAND—Blaine Schutzler renders North Idaho foe helpless.



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