

Wrestlers perform strong at tournaments

by Staci Beard
Sports Editor

Although the Cougar wrestling season has yet to have officially started a number of open tournaments have been taking place.

The first one for the Cougars was the Takedown Tournament that took place on Nov. 11 at Clackamas.

"This tournament is used as a fundraiser so we can send wrestlers to open tournaments and the National Tournament in Chicago. This was a learning experience for me; we were a bit unorganized but it was a financial success," explained

Coach Jim Jackson.

A total of 311 wrestlers took part ranging from elementary to college age competitors.

No team scores were kept since the only way to score points was on takedowns but a number of Cougars did well.

Finishing second and third in 125 weight was James Mardock and Rob Reed. Placing second at 132 was Craig Morris. Ty Woods took fifth at 148. Capturing third at 156 was Matt Lindland. Dave Sturbelle and Abe Al Khalisi tied for fifth in the 173 division. Taking second at 183 was Lance Hobson; finishing fifth in the same

weight was Steve Teeney. Rounding out the top finishers was Kelly Reichner who took fifth at 198.

"We try to look at this as a fundraiser and a practice tournament. The wrestlers were expected to do a lot of things like helping to officiate and keep score besides wrestling," commented Jackson.

The second open tournament for the Cougars was a free style type one at Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma, Washington.

Free style wrestling is different from the regular collegiate wrestling in the scoring and in some of the techniques.

Thirteen members of the team

were sent and five were among the top finishers.

Taking first in his weight division was Lloyd Martindale at 138. Placing a strong third was Lindland in 162 weight. Placing fourth in their perspective weights were Sturbelle at 162, Craig Morris at 130 and Hobson at 181.

"We again tried to see this as a practice session. Everyone who went there was able to wrestle at least 2 matches in a strong tournament. It wasn't important that they placed that they got to practice," stated Jackson.

Three members of the team also traveled over the Thanksgiving weekend to Vancouver, Canada to participate in the Clansman International Open.

Among those in the competition were wrestlers from all over Canada and the Northwest. The tournament also was host to the Canadian and Bulgarian National Teams.

Those competing from Clackamas were Reichner at 190, Lindland at 161 and Dave Moore at 153. Lindland was the only one able to place finishing sixth in his field.

"This was another free style competition which we don't do all the time. There was a lot of tough competition but the guys wrestled real well," explained Jackson.

On Dec. 2 the Pacific Open will take place at Pacific University in Forest Grove it will be the first tournament the whole team will participate in.

"It will be in the collegiate style. It still is a training tournament but I expect us to do better this time. It is time we start showing our stuff," stated Jackson.

From the other side by Staci Beard

Another Thanksgiving has come and gone with people once again filling themselves with all the good things that are associated with the holiday. But while they are anxious to sit down to their huge meals, for some that meal better not interfere with the annual Thanksgiving day football games.

This year we were exposed to the Detroit Lions versus the Cleveland Browns for the early game and Philadelphia Eagles fought it out with the Dallas Cowboys in what will be remembered as the Bounty Game. Although the Lions were able to come up with a surprise victory against the Browns it could have been one big boring blowout. Now these games were not on because of the enormous talent or their winning ways. They were on because there has always been football games on Thanksgiving since TV has been around.

Then there is New Years Day how can anyone recover from the parties the night before without watching a day of college bowls.

Who can even think of Fourth of July without thinking of going to the ballpark and watching the hometown team be it minor or major league team compete on this most American of holidays.

This raises a interesting question, at least to me. Why have some holidays and sports so intertwined and what would happen if we suddenly didn't have those sports.

Maybe part of it has to do with the audience and how the TV sponsors can get so many people at home. Most people will be at someone's house on Thanksgiving in front of some TV. How many people are going to continue to party all of New Year's day when any more would kill off some people? Then for Fourth of July it is back to the American thing.

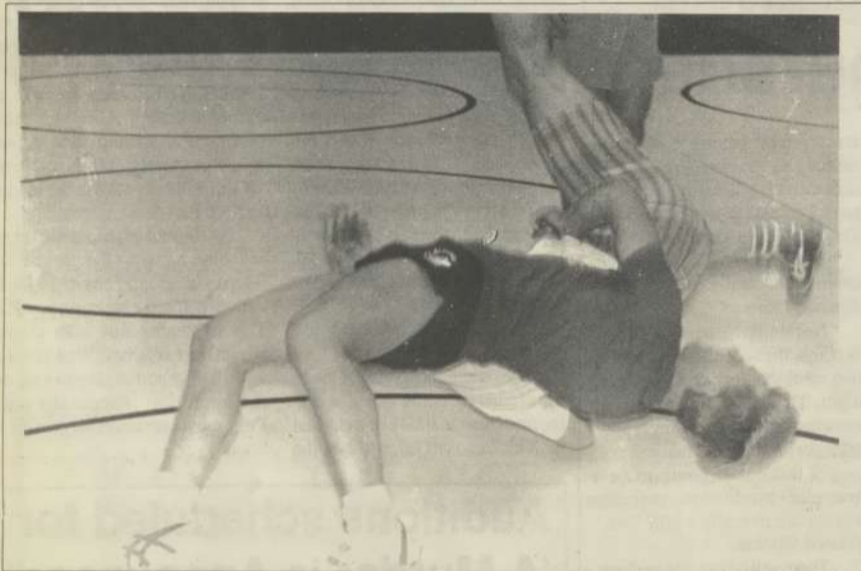
Others probably just love sports so much that extra days filled with it are happy occasions.

Although these sports activities are loved by some, others would probably celebrate the day when no more sports will ever be broadcast again not just on those holidays.

I won't probably come up with the answer to this question; I just thought I would bring it up. Until anything changes (which I doubt) some will just have to bear it while the rest of us enjoy it.

Ducks bowl bound

The Ducks after a twenty some year drought are going to the Independence Bowl. While it may not be the Orange Bowl, it is a bowl game. It is a step in the right direction. Besides boosting fan support, it should help recruiting. To the new recruits Oregon can not only show academics, it can also show a winning team. Which looks like it has no where to go but up.



Cougar grapplers perfect their takedowns in a recent sparring session. The fourth open tournament of the year takes place Dec. 2. Photo by Jillian Porter

High goals set by Lindland for season

by Staci Beard
Sports Editor

While some athletes don't have their exact goals either athletically or academically wrestler Matt Lindland isn't one of them.

Last year he red shirted and didn't compete in any meets. But this year his goals are clear.

"I want to win Nationals in Chicago this year," stated Lindland.

In the three tournaments Lindland has placed third twice and sixth once.

Jackson feels that if Lindland keeps going the way he is going there are no limits to what he can accomplish.

"There have been few guys who work as hard as Matt does. I am glad he has now come into a position of leadership which he seems to be handling very well. I would not put limits on what he can accomplish this year or in the future if he keeps on working like he does," stated Jackson.

During high school, wrestling was the only sport he participated in and one of the reasons he likes it is the outcome depends on him.

"I wasn't big enough to play football and I wanted to play in a

sport I could excel in. I also like the aspect of it being more of a single sport rather than a team one," explained Lindland.

Wrestling has only been a part of Lindland's life for six years; he was able to post a very successful high school career. In his junior year at Gladstone High School he placed second in state at the 130 weight. During his senior year he moved up a couple of weights and placed third at 141.

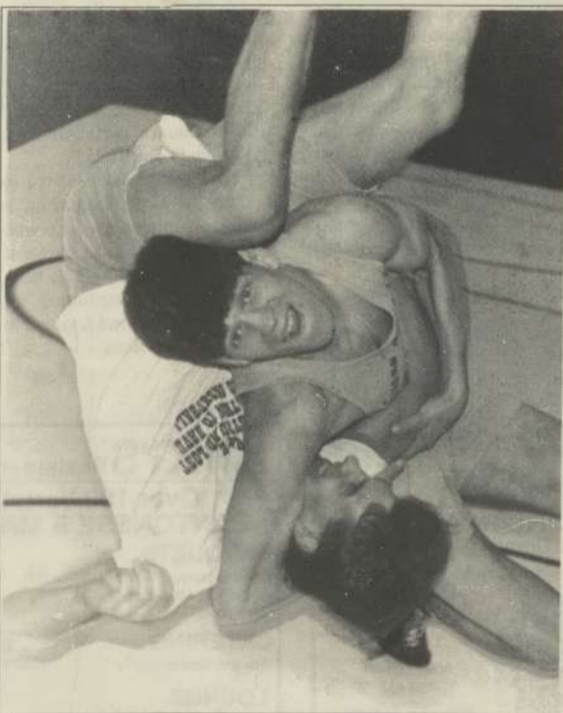
Besides the regular wrestling season he also participated in Greco and free style tournaments. In 1987 he was a All-American in Greco style. In 1988 he made it on to the Cultural Exchange team that went to Cuba.

As for his academic goals Lindland wants to work in the special education department.

"I want to work mostly with the mentally handicapped. I was an aid in high school and I decided that is what I want to do," stated Lindland.

Lindland would like to keep wrestling at a four year school.

"If I could win nationals then I could hopefully get recruited because I would like to keep wrestling," explained Lindland.



Matt Lindland applies a classic headlock to Jim Beddingfield. Lindland's goal for the season is to win nationals. Photo by Jillian Porter

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