

Eggert wins region; wrestlers advance to nationals

Brendon Neal
Sports Editor

Four Cougars will represent Clackamas at the National Junior Colleges Athletic Association championships.

"I was real happy with the way everybody wrestled. They wrestled their best. There were a lot of one point [difference] matches," said Head Coach Mike Haluska.

Clackamas finished fifth with 35 points behind first place North Idaho (115), Ricks (70.5), Highline (57) and Colorado Northwestern (40.5).

Lonnie Eggert won the 177 pound division, beating Brian Donahue (Highline) 5-1 in the finals.

After not scoring in the first period, Eggert jumped out to a 3-0 lead with an escape and a take down.

Eggert placed fourth at state in high school and placed third last year at the NWAACC regionals.

Tyler Anderson and Damion Martindale won their first matches but fell in the second round. Glenn Garrison (142 pounds) and Martindale (heavyweight) placed third in the tournament.

Haluska noted "Glen Garrison's performance -- he is arguably one of the top three in the nation -- he just didn't have a good day. Hopefully, in the next two weeks" he can get ready.

"I thought all of our wrestlers wrestled real well, played hard all year, put it on the line and gave it their best shot," said Haluska.

The top three in each division automatically go to state. Tyler Bransford (126 pounds), fourth place, was chosen for one of five wild card spots from the region. The wild-card wrestlers are chosen by the region's coaches.

"Our region coaches vote on five other [wrestlers] to go to the nationals," said Haluska. "I think Tyler Bransford being picked for a wild card is well-deserved and all the coaches in the region have

followed him through the year and seen how hard he has worked and how much he has improved. It is a pretty big honor to be picked, not just by me, but by the rest of the coaches in the region."

Clackamas is a member of Region 18. The region is one of the strongest regions every year.

"[There won't be] many kids tougher than we faced in regionals. Our region will be well-represented by qualifiers in the nationals," said Haluska.

The Cougars will travel to Bismark, N.D. in two weeks. In the meantime, Haluska hopes to keep the wrestlers healthy and make a few small adjustments.

"We will fine tune. I couldn't ask for anymore from the ten that were there and the rest of the team that wasn't on the regional team," said Haluska. "They did their best at the regional tournament and did their best all year. It didn't pay off the way they had planned for this year. But, someday, it will pay off for them," said Haluska.

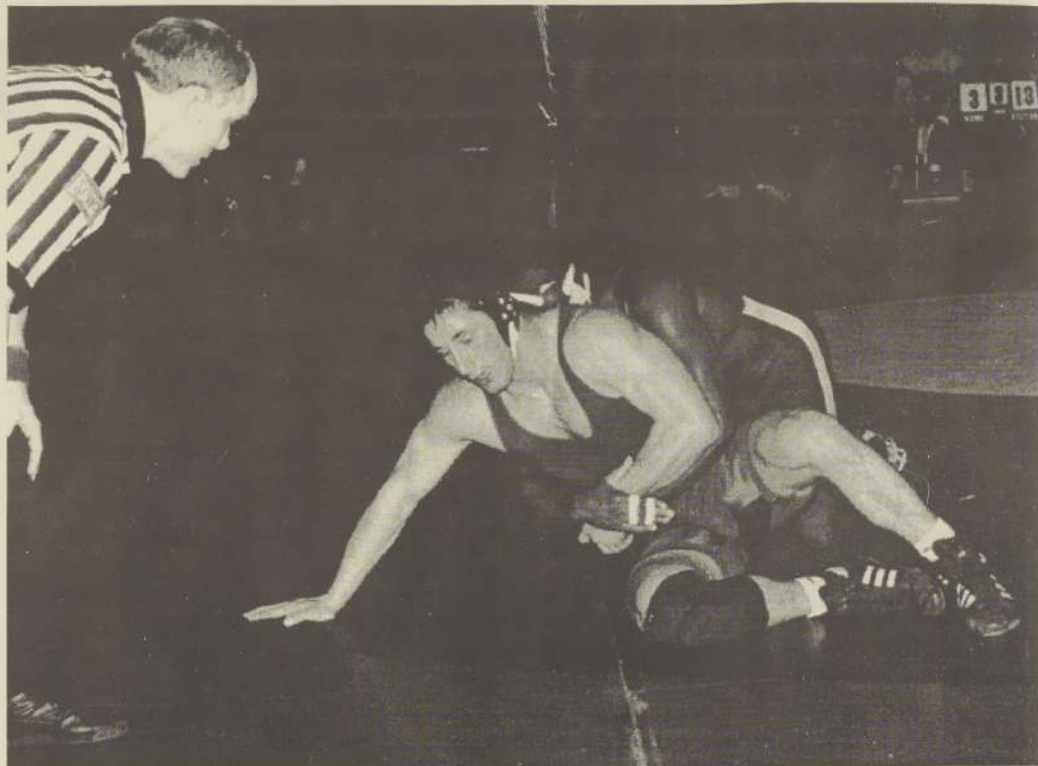


Photo by Brendon Neal

Four Cougars will go to Bismark, N.D. and compete in the NJCAA national championships.

Track results

Clackamas participated in the McDonald's Invitational over the weekend.

Shawn Davis broke his own school record in the 35 pound weight throw at 48 ft., 10.25 in. Aaron Stacey came within one inch of Davis' old record with a throw of 43 ft., 1 in.

Davis threw discuss 134 ft., 6 in. and Brannon Tyler threw 131 ft., 9 in.

Nateisha Flanigan threw the discus 107 ft., 8 in. and Kristi Chamberlen threw 115 ft., 1 in., less than one foot off her personal record. Chamberlen also threw the shotput, 37 ft. 11.25 in. Stacey also contributed a 43 ft., 10.5 in. throw.

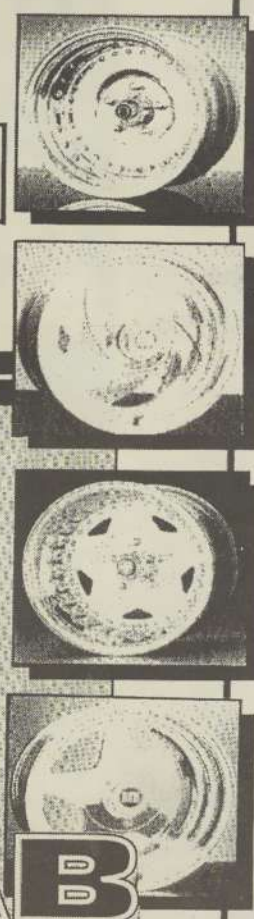
Clackamas will start the outdoor season on March 1 at the University of Washington Open.



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