

# ★ THE CLACKAMAS PRINT ★

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## Wrestlers battle to second place at regionals; 8 advance to nationals

**Tina Tate**  
Staff Writer

Clackamas hosted the Region 18 Wrestling Championship on Friday and took second place behind North Idaho College.

North Idaho finished with 115 points. Clackamas scored 66.5. Southwestern Oregon CC and Yakima Valley CC tied for third with 50.5 points. Highline CC finished with 12.5 points.

Clackamas advanced eight wrestlers to the national tournament, which will be held the weekend of Feb. 28 in Rochester, Minn. The Cougars will be represented in every weight class except 149 and 174 pounds.

The day's highlighted match was between Clackamas' Bridger Sacher (197) and North Idaho College's Tucker Downey for the championship title. Having lost twice to Downey this season, this was a matchup that Sacher was training to win — and he did it with a flourish. Countering an attempted double-leg by Downey,

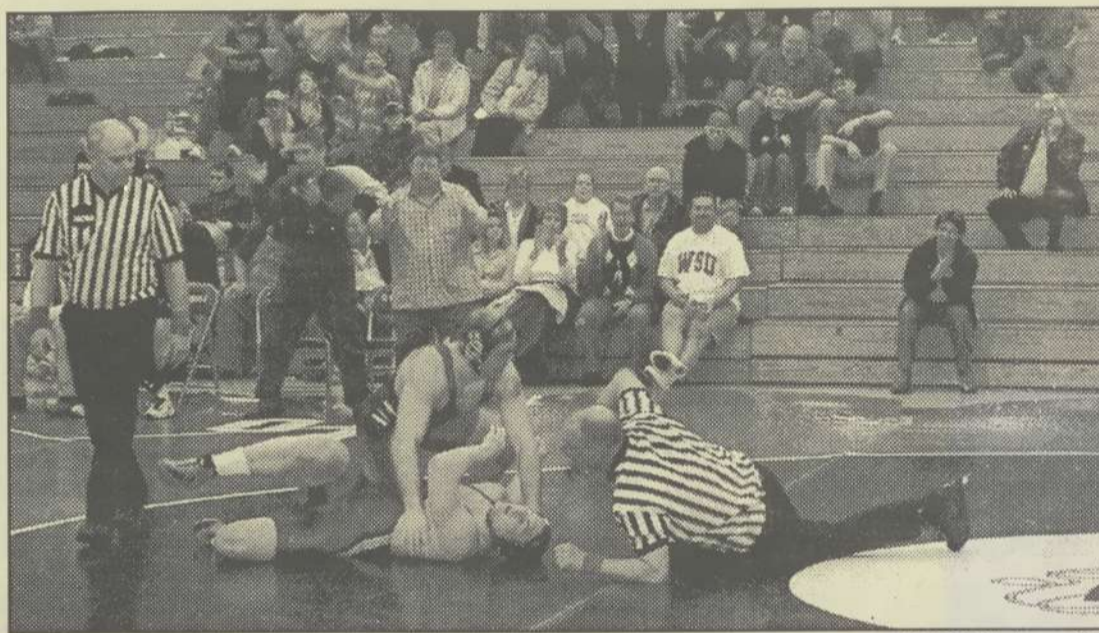
Sacher threw Downey to his back and pinned him — in just a minute and a half. Sacher also won the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler award.

"(Sacher) pinned his way through the tournament," said Head Coach Lloyd Martindale. "He did today what we knew he had in him."

Another crowd-favorite came when Ben Sevigny (125) rode out Highline's Francisco Gonzalez in double overtime for third place.

"Ben did a great job," said Martindale. "Statistically, about 85 percent of the time that you pick bottom you're going to win. So the opponent picked bottom and we were able to ride him out, which is an amazing feat. It's so rare, you almost never see it."

Unseeded Jimmy Crisman (133) secured an unexpected bid to the national tournament when, after winning third place, he came back to capture "true second" in an 8-5 decision over Southwestern Oregon's James Mitchell. This round-robin competition took place because there were only four



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*Bridger Sacher (top) gets the crowd riled up with a dramatic pin over North Idaho's Tucker Downey for a first-place victory. Downey was named the tournament's Outstanding Wrestler and is one of eight Clackamas wrestlers going to the national tournament.*

wrestlers at 133 pounds (instead of five).

"(Crisman) wrestled better than he had all year. He was using all his moves and was hitting everything," said teammate Dan Pownall.

Sean Bolen (141) took second after losing by technical fall to North Idaho's Chris Nedens, who Martindale predicts will win the national title.

"I wrestled him up at North Idaho and he stuck me up there, and I was hoping I could get him here in the finals. I didn't get off to a good start," said Bolen. "[But] I feel good going into nationals. I want to be an All-American this year."

Third-seeded Michael Fisher (157) also emerged with a second place finish after losing a 6-2 decision to North Idaho's Stryder Davis.

"It's always disappointing when

you work so hard and then you lose, but he was training to beat me, and I was training to beat him," said Fisher.

Derrick Bollier (165) placed

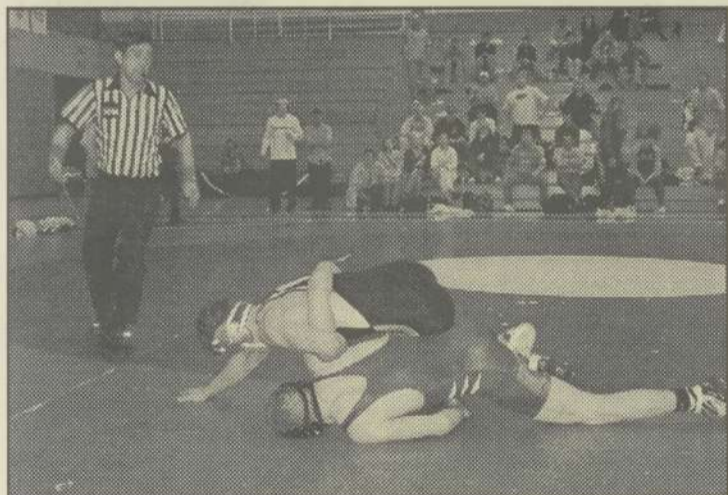
be close."

Heavyweight Chris Henry won a 2-0 decision over Southwestern Oregon's Steve Seratos for third place.

"I had a couple tough matches, but I think I did all right," said Henry. "I'm feeling pretty good about going to nationals. It's kinda scary wrestling for third and fourth — you win the match, you go; you lose, you don't. And I won."

Austin Lawrence (184) took third by technical fall over Yakima Valley's Pat Walsh in a weight class that automatically qualified only two for the national tournament. However, he was one of five wildcard selections chosen by the coaches and will advance.

"The guys have really had to buckle down to get where they're at right now, and I'm proud that they did," said Martindale. "They earned what they got today — they did a good job."



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*Ben Sevigny (bottom) overpowered Highline's Francisco Gonzalez in double overtime to secure a national bid.*

## Johnson proposes solutions to decreased budget

• Increasing tuition is one of many proposed strategies to offset fiscal crisis

**Pete Ford**  
News Editor

On top of an \$8 per credit hour tuition increase recommendation, a number of budget strategy proposals have been added to compensate for this year's projected financial shortfall.

The first proposal, if passed, will transfer \$200,000 from

Clackamas' Utility Training Alliance funds (a reserve account to repay the bond funds that were used for construction in Wilsonville) into the general college fund as revenue in this "period of fiscal crisis," according to President Joe Johnson's February 2003 Budget Update Proposal.

Secondly, "the three employee associations have been asked to begin discussions about achieving a \$200,000 salary savings by increasing the 2003-04 salary schedule by 2.5 percent to cover the 2.1 percent cost of living figures and eliminate the one percent additional increase for 2003-04,"

according to Johnson's proposal.

Changes will affect several open positions, such as eliminating a vacant custodial position. The duties of the president's executive assistant, the deans' assistants and the Human Resources staff will also all be reorganized to achieve more savings.

"In addition, one classified support staff will be transferred from the ELC (Environmental Learning Center) to cover some of the reorganized functions," according to the proposal.

For more added help, the Clackamas Community College Foundation will fund \$44,000 in

tuition waivers that were previously funded by the college.

Finally, in an upcoming Board meeting this March, President Joe Johnson said he will recommend that the current number of exempt staff be reduced by eliminating four administrative positions.

The four people occupying these positions are: Director of the Environmental Learning Center, John LeCavalier, Director of Marketing and Community Relations, Geoff Knapp, the Grant Administrator/Coordinator for Customized Training and Development Services, Lisa Tomlin and Director of Software

Development, George Coombes. Services provided by the affected areas will be reorganized and delivered in alternate ways, while certain duties will be reassigned to those remaining on staff.

"If there are additional 2002-03 state funding reductions, we will offset those losses by reducing maintenance expenditures in the general fund and paying for them out of the bond or tapping Bookstore or Utility Training Alliance reserves," Johnson wrote in the budget proposal. All areas are encouraged to save and spend wisely while alternative funding is sought.