

Three Cougars will wrestle at nationals

Frank Jordan

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas wrestling team made the trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, for the Region 18 Championships last weekend and qualified three athletes for the national championships to be held next week in Rochester, Minn.

Shawn Siefke at 165 pounds, Chris Kidby at 184 and Bridger Sacher at 197 all qualified by finishing in the top four in their respective brackets at the regional. Sacher led the Cougar matmen with a regional championship, while Siefke took second, losing a tough

final against a North Idaho College wrestler, and Kidby finished third in his class, coming back after a tough semifinal to win the third-place match to go to nationals.

"Bridger by far was in the toughest weight class at the tournament, so tough, that in addition to the four wrestlers who qualified on the mat in that class, the tournament was allowed two wild card wrestlers from any bracket at the tourney to go to nationals, so they took the fifth and sixth-place guys from the 197 lb. class," said Head Coach Mike Haluska.

"Bridger had a great tournament and he needs to keep it up at the national meet. He has an outstanding chance to become a national champion; he just needs to

keep his focus."

Terence Huntley finished in sixth after getting caught in a pin by his opponent in the third place match. Huntley had a great tournament, but made just one mistake and it cost him a chance at nationals.

Coach Haluska praised true freshman Tim Cook from Reynolds High School, who had three great matches at the regional in a tough weight class at 125 pounds.

"Tim has come a long, long way from the beginning of the season. He has improved his conditioning and his technique throughout the year and it almost paid off with a trip to Minnesota," said Haluska. "He was just 10 seconds away from going, but his opponent escaped on him and defeated him in the fourth place match. This kid has an outstanding future."

Cook beat Ben Sevigny in a wrestle-off to fill the 125 pound bracket, so Sevigny wrestled up a weight at 136.

"Ben thought he could qualify at the higher weight, so we gave him a shot," said Haluska. "I think that the competitors that he was facing were a little too big for him."

Mike Maginn had a good tournament, but the coach thought that he may have run out of gas by the time he wrestled for a shot at nationals. Maginn finished fifth in his class, but could go to nationals as an alternative, because the fourth

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Mike Haluska
Head Wrestling Coach



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Clackamas wrestlers Luis Cisneros (left) and Shawn Siefkie get ready for regionals during a recent practice. Siefkie, Chris Kidby and Bridger Sacher performed well at regionals, qualifying for the national championships next weekend in Rochester, Minn.

place wrestler from Lassen College separated his shoulder in the fourth place match and may not be able to go to nationals. If the Lassen wrestler can't go, then Maginn will take his place.

Lucas Buyas moved up in weight to wrestle in the heavy-weight bracket, where he met some larger competition.

"Lucas lost two matches that he could have won, but his opponent in each match was considerably heavier than Lucas and that may have been the turning point," said

Haluska. "He made a couple of mistakes that cost him in each match, but Lucas only weighs about 195, so he may have been giving up 60-80 pounds in each match. It was tough, but Lucas never gave up and wrestled tough."

North Idaho College won the team race with 94.5 points, with Lassen College finishing second. Clackamas finished sixth in the team race with 24.5 points. North Idaho qualified all 10 of its wrestlers for the national tourney, while Lassen qualified eight of

theirs. Haluska believes that either one of these schools has a legitimate shot at winning the national championship.

"North Idaho is loaded, but Lassen will do all right," he said. "When it comes to the national tournament, whoever isn't sick, whoever isn't sore, whoever trains right that particular day is going to win their match. It is that simple. Our wrestlers each have a great shot at being national champions. I think that we will do all right next week."

All-Star game, A-Rod and Sheed: Just CTC for me, Mr. Editor

Frank Jordan

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Now that a meaningless argument has fueled my outrage at the world in general, I have a few things that I want to get off of my chest, before it explodes and causes a bloody mess.

Sunday, many people around the country watched the spectacle better known as the NBA All-Star game. The game itself is just a way for the Association to celebrate its stars and it does a fine job. It is a nice break from the hum-drum of the long NBA season (except for us Blazer fans).

The beef with the All-Star game is this: Why has the city of Portland, with its long-standing franchise in the Association (33 years and counting), NEVER hosted the NBA All-Star game? This franchise has won an NBA championship, made two other appearances in the NBA Finals, and has a passionate love of the game and its fans.

The biggest knock on P-town has been (1) the current reputation of the franchise, a.k.a. the Jail Blazers, and (2) that there is not enough hotel space in and around the Rose Garden arena.

This is a bunch of B.S. and the NBA knows it. They just want an excuse to leave the game in the big media markets so they can make more money.

The association needs to make this happen and soon, or it might inspire a serious letter-writing campaign to the league offices in New York. C'mon, Nic, we need to get going on this.

Okay. Time for another chest-exploding rant. Alex Rodriguez (A-Rod), the quarter-billion dollar shortstop of the Texas Rangers, has been traded to the New York Yankees for Alfonso Soriano, a few minor leaguers and some cash. I'll say, some \$46 million in cash.

If I were a Boston Red Sox fan, I would be so mad that I might want to take Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig

hostage and demand that this man be thrown out of baseball for good. Boston and Texas had a perfectly good trade worked out two months ago, but the commissioner's office turned it down.

Why? Because Yankees owner George Steinbrenner has Major League Baseball wrapped around his little finger and can get away with anything he wants. New York has all of the tradition and it seems that whatever is good for the Yankees is good for the game.

That is a load of crap. The Florida Marlins proved that last season, and other clubs are doing

well with less. I would go on about this more, and it might turn into profanity, and our little paper has enough problems already.

Finally, about the trade. Great trade. Glad to see the Blazers do it. I will admit, I loved Rasheed Wallace and his game. But for \$17 million per season, I would have expected more. When he told the media that all the team had to do was "CTC" or "cut the check" at the end of the day, I lost all respect for him as a person.

Rasheed should go out and work for a living like 99.9 percent of his fans have to do, then maybe he would have a new realization

about his life. He plays a game for a living, something that this writer has dreamed about since he was a wee lad.

Unfortunately, the Blazers may have to kiss this season goodbye. They are 5 1/2 games out of a playoff berth with 31 games left. They still have to play the Lakers three times, the T-Wolves twice and the Spurs twice.

Another trade may be in the offering before tomorrow's trade deadline, but it would have to be a good deal to pull the Blazers up to a 22nd consecutive playoff berth. Good luck to my team and, win or lose, I will be pulling for them.



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