

# Wrestlers tear it up at nationals

## Cougars bring home three All-Americans from Nationals

Frank Jordan

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

The Clackamas wrestling team finished in 14<sup>th</sup> place at the National Junior College Athletic Association national championships Feb. 26-28 in Rochester, Minn. and three Cougar grapplers took home All-American honors.

"It was a good tournament all around, we couldn't have wrestled any better than what we did," said Head Coach Mike Haluska. "The four guys competed as hard as anyone there and all performed very well. I am very proud of them and their efforts."

Shawn Siefke at 165 pounds, Chris Kidby at 174, Mike Maginn at 184 and Bridger Sacher at 197 competed for the Cougars at nationals. Sacher followed up his sixth-place finish of last year with a fourth place in his weight class for a second All-American honor.

"Bridger had a great tournament. There were eight great wrestlers in his class and any one of those eight could have been champion on any given day. This past weekend just wasn't Bridger's weekend."

Kidby finished up a superb season with an eighth place finish at nationals.

"Chris is one of those kids that are a coach's dream. He comes to work every single day. He also had a great tournament. He just had a couple of bad breaks," said Haluska. "He is not only a great athlete, but is also a good student. He is being recruited heavily by four-year schools. Yes, I would love to see him come back, but if he moves on,

I will be behind him all the way. The most solid wrestler that we had all season."

Maginn lost early in the tournament, but battled back through the consolation rounds to take home an eighth-place finish and achieve All-American status.

"Mike had a rough go of it, he had to wrestle three tough matches on Friday to finish where he did and he showed just plain old-fashioned guts. He was really tired and bruised and battered, but he hung tough," said Haluska. "He just absolutely refused to lose, plain and simple. It was a really impressive performance by Mike."

Siefke also lost early; he had won a match in the consolation round but didn't finish because he took an injury default in his next match.

"I really don't know what happened to Shawn. He seemed fine one minute, then all of the sudden,

he started to complain of chest pain and dizziness," said Haluska. "The Mayo Clinic was just down the street from us and doctors there looked at him and gave him a clean bill of health. Whether it was something medical, or maybe a little anxiety, I just don't know. Shawn is a

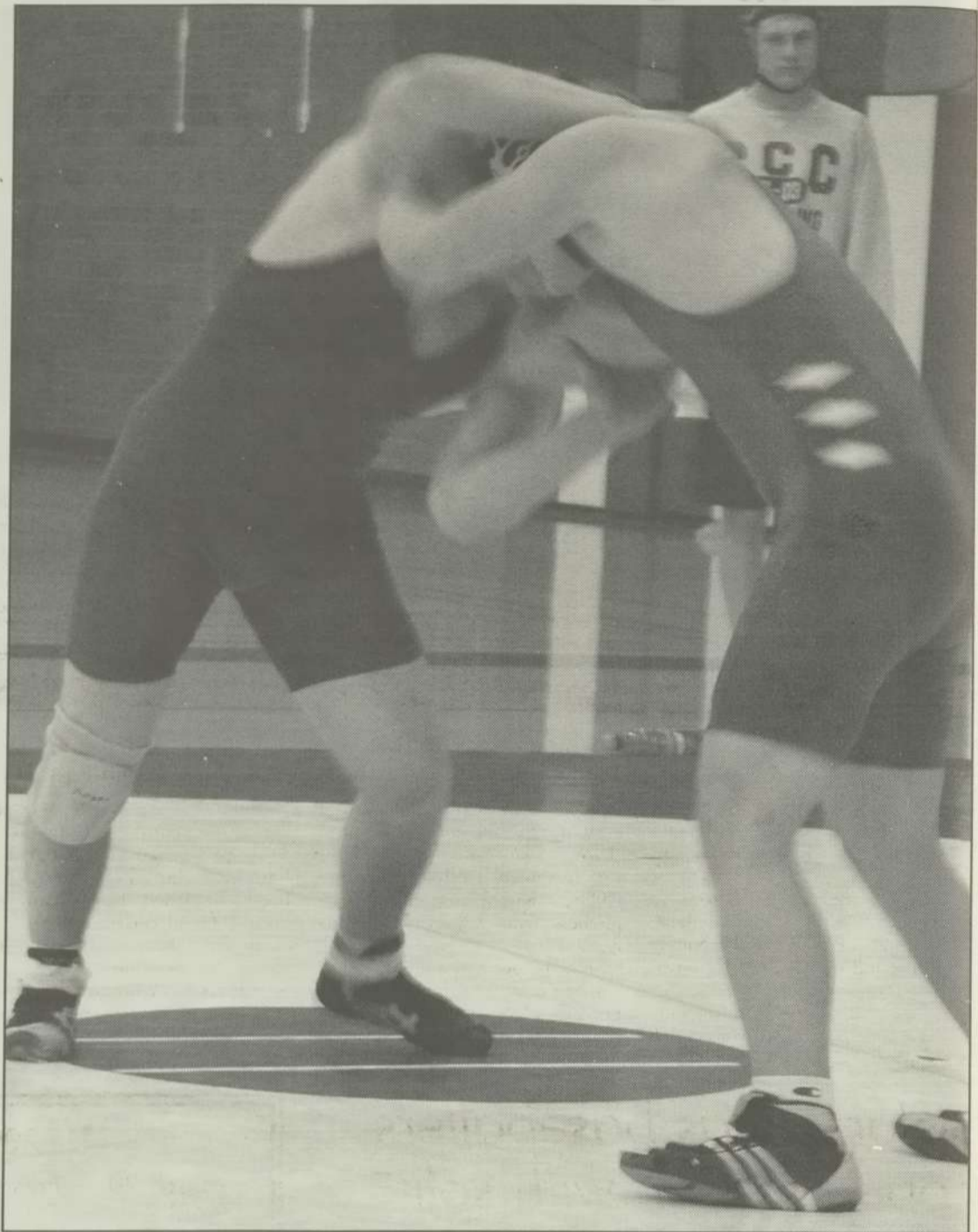
tough kid, and he will be back to go to war again. He was having a great tournament, but sometimes things happen."

The Cougars return several wrestlers for next year, while the status of some may continue to be up in the air, Haluska is glad with this year's results.

"It has been a long season. We had a lot of injuries, but we fought through them together. But I will tell you this, if these kids wrestle the way we have through the regionals and nationals, then I can take the long seasons, because the results are worth it. Nationals were really a great way to end the season."

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Mike Haluska  
Head Wrestling Coach



EARL ENGLAND CONTRIBUTED

A Clackamas wrestler grapples with his competition earlier this year during the CCC Open on Jan. 17. Three wrestlers placed at nationals, each earning All-American honors.

## Track runs competition into ground at Willamette, Chico State



KEONI MCHONE CONTRIBUTED

Clackamas men's relay runner Ryan Richards starts off the men's 4 X 400 Meter Relay at the Willamette Four-Way.

Nic Delzell  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Clackamas track team had a stellar week, qualifying 27 athletes for NWAACCs between the Willamette Four-Way and the Chico State Multi-Event meets.

"I think we have a very talented group," Head Coach Jack Kegg said. "They sometimes don't know how good they really are. We have a young team and they need to find where they stand."

The men's and women's team had a good showing on March 6 at the Willamette Four-Way meet in Salem.

On the women's side, Elise Megale qualified in the 800 meter run and Leslie Bartell qualified in the 5000 meter run. Jenna Bird finished first overall in the 400 meter hurdles and also qualified for NWAACCs. Erin Shafer won the women's pole vault and Kerby Boshee won the women's discus throw.

The men qualified Eli Nevarez in the 1500 meter run. Troy

Sexton was victorious in the 110 meter hurdles and as a team Clackamas placed first over all in the 4x100 meter relay. Ryan Brandel, Ryan Richards and Stewart Powell all qualified in the javelin throw; they finished first through third, respectively.

In the triple jump, Kreig Holland placed first. Holland participated unattached in the Willamette Four-Way, but will run for Clackamas during spring term.

"I thought Willamette was a good first meet," Kegg said. "Some good things happened."

At the Chico State meet last Thursday in Chico, Calif., Brian Bernard placed first overall in the decathlon with a score of 6,792. His score was good for fourth-best in Clackamas history. Bernard won six events and accomplished personal records in eight decathlon events.

On the women's side, Kacie Gillespie placed sixth out of 17 participants in the heptathlon.

"Overall, we had a pretty good showing at Chico," Kegg said.



KEONI MCHONE CONTRIBUTED

Clackamas relay runner Chelsey Fuller anchors the 4 x 400 Meter Relay at the Willamette Four-Way on March 6. The women were victorious in this event with a time of 4:19.41.

2003-04 CLACKAMAS TRACK SCHEDULE

(March and April)

- March 13 Mt. Hood Open @ Gresham
- March 20 Oregon Preview @ Eugene
- March 26 Stanford Invite @ Palo Alto, Calif.
- April 2 Willamette Invite @ Salem
- April 10 Mt Hood Relays @ Gresham
- April 17 Cougar Invite @ Home
- April 23 Western Twilight @ Monmouth