

# Men's Wrestling shows what it takes to be No. 1 in N.

**Larissa Figley**

*The Clackamas Print*

The main door of the wrestling gym reads, "BE A CHAMPION TODAY!" Those are the words that this year's team has taken to heart and to the mat.

"Wrestling rocks," says team member Josh Miller, who is currently ranked fourth in his weight class in the nation.

The team as a whole has ranked third in the nation, the highest ranking since 1989 when the Cougars were runners up.

In the press release dated Feb. 4, head Coach Josh Rhoden had this to say, "If we can even be in the same sentence as the 1989 and 1971 teams, then we are on the right track here."

The 1971 team that Rhoden refers to was the last time the Clackamas wrestling team were national champions.

Thursdays practice starts off with a rock-infused warm-up session as the team listens to AC/DC classics such as "Immigrant Song," as they run around their cramped, matted room. Some team members show off with some back handsprings, and it is easy to see how thrilled they are after last week's meet in North Wyoming.

With both Regional and National matches coming up in just a couple weeks, Rhoden, as well as the whole team, has high hopes. Currently, the Cougars have seven wrestlers that are nationally ranked in their respective weight divisions.

Tyrell Fortune, a tank of a young man and freshman, currently has the highest rank in his weight class of 285 pounds. He is second in the nation, just behind Nassau wrestler Brandon Williamson. He hopes that by the end of the Regional on Feb. 14, his team will have at least one representative in every weight class.

The whole team, in fact, has confidence that this will happen, and they hope that their efforts will be rewarded by the Champion title.

Other than Fortune, Kyle Wirkuty (141), Josh Miller (174), and Caleb Kociemba (184) are all ranked fourth in their weight classes. Anthony Weerheim



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Nick Dumolt-157/165 goes for the take down against 184 pound TJ Calloway during practice at Randall Hall earlier this week. The college wrestling team is ranked third in the NJCAA Division 18.

(149) is fifth in his class, while George Mendez (133) is eighth and Kris Spencer (165) is ninth in their respective classes.

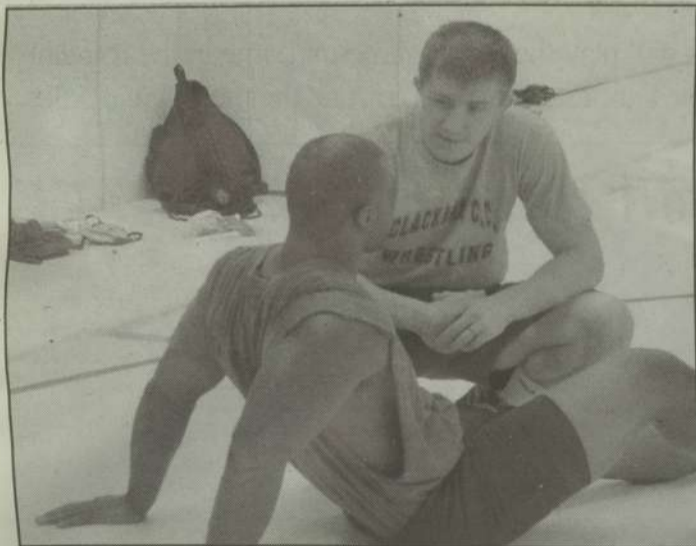
So what is the key to such a successful season? Most of the teammates credit the close, family-like team that they have. Even the coaches participate in the practices.

Their T-shirts read "We Will Win," their shorts read "Intensity," and you can feel their drive in the air, as you watch them wrestle each other.

"You can't make fun of us," says Fortune and laugh before he pairs up and begins the intensity of "live" matches.

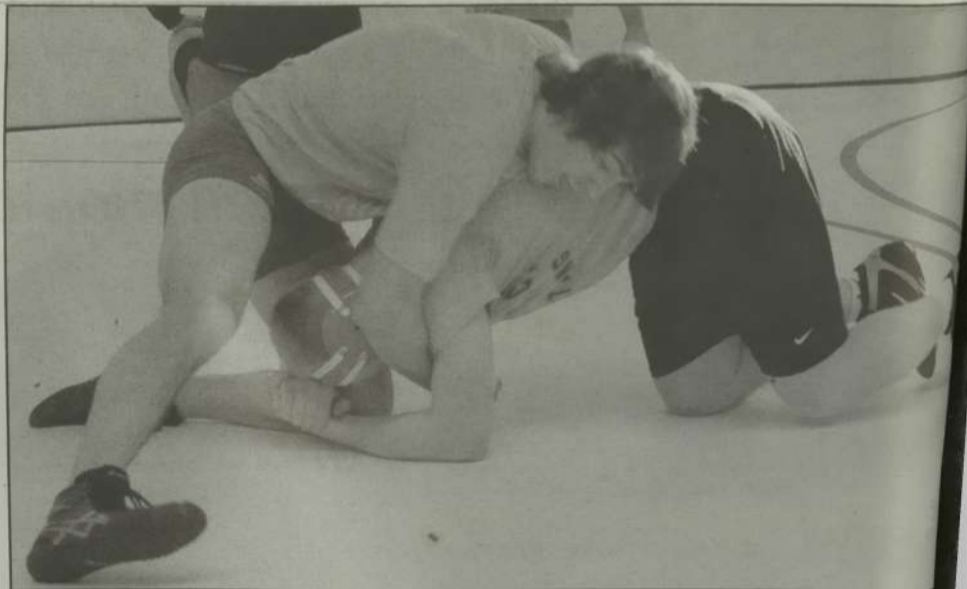
And indeed, you can't watch them without being awestruck. The amount of force behind every grab and the strength that it takes to pin the wrestler down is amazing to watch.

Nationals will be held in Minnesota this year on Feb. 27 and 28 of this month. The wrestling team will be there to watch.



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Coach Josh Rhoden gives feedback to the # 2 ranked NJCAA Division 18 Tyrell Fortune. The 285 pound Fortune is ranked number two in the nation in his weight class.



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Anthony Weerheim-141/144lb Wrestles against 141 pound Kyle Wirkuty during practice at Randall Hall. Kyle Wirkuty is currently ranked fourth in his weight class in the NJCAA.



Jed Bellefeville, left, and Trevor Williams, right, do some practice sprints getting ready for Track and Field starting at the end of Winter term 2009. CCC's first track and field event will be Feb. 14 at the college. The team will

be split into Red Team and Blue Team. League competition starts on Feb. 14 at the Pacific Lutheran University Invitational. Both men's and women's teams were ranked fourth at the 2008 NWAACC Track and Field Meet.

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