

# Wrestling wins season, Region title

By Robert Morrison  
Sports Editor

They might have been all over the rankings this year but they are always No. 1 in our hearts; the Clackamas Cougars have fought hard all year to stay atop the National Junior College Athletic Association rankings. This year the team saw some big wins in competitive matches and some hard fought losses on the way. The team finished with a very stout 11-3 record that gave them the No. 2 rank, improving on their 7-4-1 record from last year, heading into Region 18 Championships.

"Our biggest win this year I would have to say (was) National Duals in Iowa," said Matt Melendrez, a freshman that wrestles at 157 lbs. for the Cougars. "We all set goals at the tournament prior to that and we all met our goals."

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*(I'll miss) being with the team all the time. We have all become really good friends.*

Bill Goldsberry  
CCC wrestler

The Cougars won three matches at nationals to bring home another National Duals title to Clackamas. The team went an impressive 3-0 during the duals, beating No. 8 Iowa Central, No. 5 Labette and then top ranked Harper. The team won in dominant fashion, outscoring their opponents 81-32 in the duals. Both Iowa Central and Labette finished ahead of the Cougars in

last year's NJCAA championships.

As a team, the Cougars only lost three times this year. The team started off rough, losing their first two matches to North Idaho College and Simon Fraser University, but then they pulled off seven straight wins before their third loss to a tough North Idaho team.

"Our biggest loss had to have been this last time we lost to North Idaho because we didn't have a full lineup, we had some forfeits," said Kegan Handlovic.

Handlovic is a freshman who wrestles in the 125 lb. weight class for the Cougars. Handlovic moved across the country from Easton, Penn. to wrestle at CCC. He said that he uses that and the distance away from his daughter as motivation for his own personal improvement.

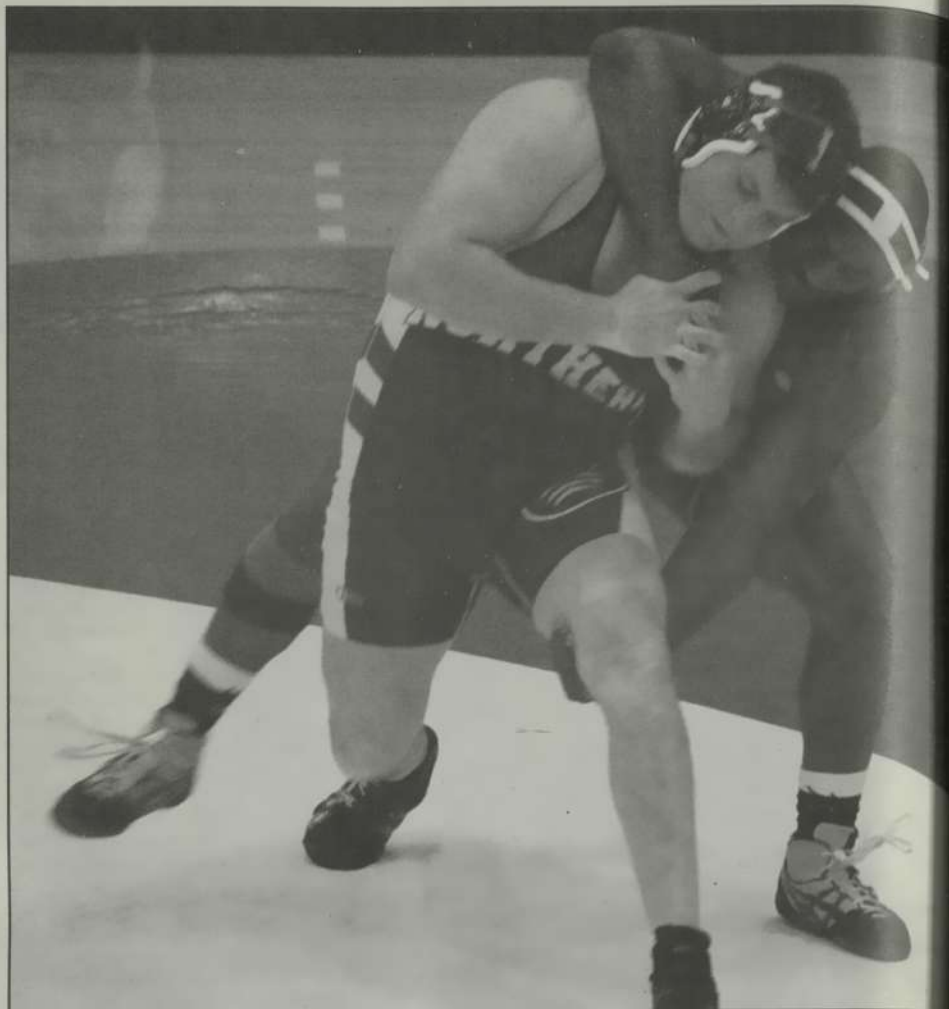
Many of the wrestlers hate to see the season come to an end soon and will miss the team.

"(I'll miss) being with the team all the time. We have all become really good friends," said Billy Goldsberry, a freshman in the 149 lb. weight class from Albany, Ore.

The distance the wrestlers will spread will soon become even greater, with Goldsberry moving onto Southern Oregon University to continue wrestling, Handlovic getting offers from many schools, as well as many other wrestlers receiving offers to wrestle after CCC. Among the others is All-American Terrence Williams who received an offer from Oregon State University.

The team has improved over the course of the season, losing to just one team in their last 11 matches. Many players have improved and a lot of them agree that they have a great coaching staff that has helped the whole team do better.

The team showed this mindset as it entered their Region 18 Championships. The Cougars entered as the



Clackamas' Tyrell Fortune tries to take down Montana State-Northern's Rudy Schaffroth in Randall gym on Jan. 14. Clackamas won 22-20.

All photos by Brad Heineke Clackamas

second best team out of junior colleges in the nation. After years of being runners-up, the Cougars got some satisfaction by going head-to-head with top ranked North Idaho College.

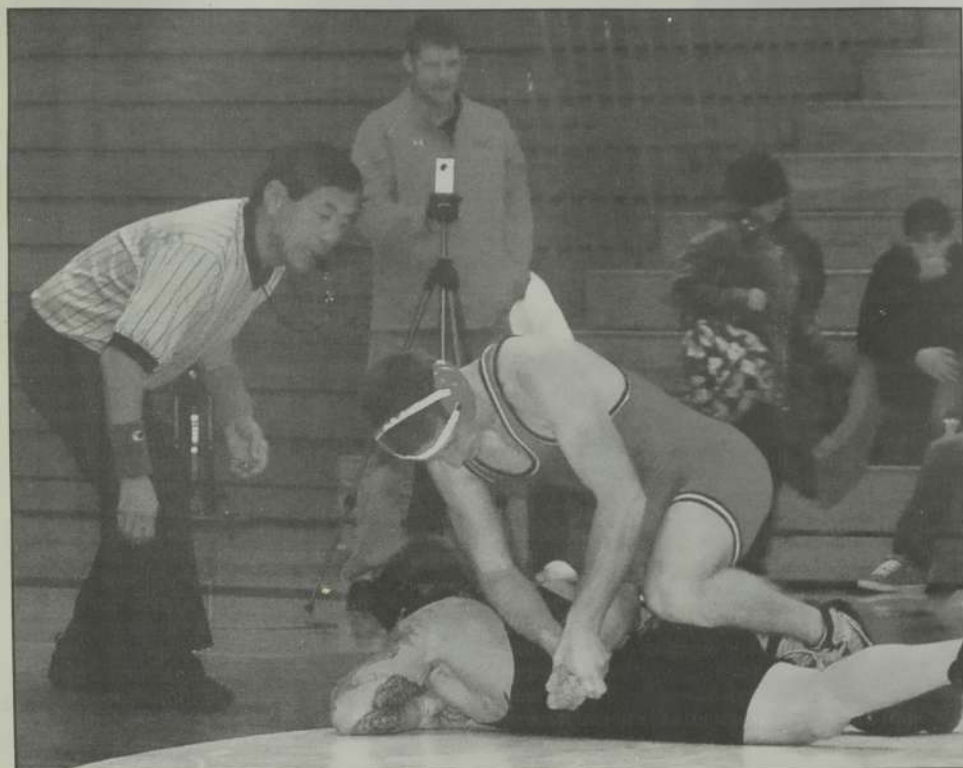
Clackamas had seven wrestlers representing them entering the finals of the championships with more than half of them wrestling against North Idaho. Martin Gonzalez, Cody Randall, Derek Mestrovich, Terrence Williams, Brett Sanchez and Tyrell Fortune all won indi-

vidual championships for their weight classes while Billy Goldsberry earned second place in the 149 weight class. Matt Melendrez finished third and both Kegan Handlovic and Brett Fredickson finished fourth. Clackamas ended up beating North Idaho by 12 team points.

OSU's wrestling coach Jim Zalesky led many four-year school coaches that were at the championships. OSU has already received commitments from both Williams and Fortune to wrestle for them

next year. After a great show Regionals the Cougars' wrestling team looks to move on to the No. 1 spot in NJCAA rankings heading to Nationals.

Catch the Clackamas wrestling team at Nationals in Spokane, Wash. on Feb. 25-26 at 10 a.m.



Clackamas takes on Yakima Valley on Jan. 20 in the Randall Gym. Clackamas dominated 38-7.

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