

WRESTLING: Cougars dominate nation's strongest region

Continued from Page 1

It was then, in the 157 lb division, that Clackamas had their first stumble. No. 9 Nikko Veltri and SW Oregon's Craig Trask remained locked at 0-0 entering the third round. With time winding down, Trask took Veltri to the mat and was awarded two points. Veltri would give it his all, but lost the match, giving SW Oregon their first three team points of the meet.

The 165 lb match brought the first and only match with two nationally ranked wrestlers. Clackamas' No. 5 Eric Hensel and SW Oregon's No. 12 Saul Soto made things interesting from the start, with Soto jumping out to a 1-4 lead before Hensel brought it back to 3-4 at the end of the first round. In the second, Soto extended his lead to 3-7. With under a minute left in the third and final round, and with his whole bench on its feet, Hensel made a valiant effort, scoring a quick pair of points and giving the crowd hope of a comeback. Hensel's efforts, however, would fall short, and the match ended in a 5-8 decision for Soto.

SW Oregon wouldn't score any more team points the rest of the evening. Clackamas came out with a vengeance, getting four pins in a row for No. 7 Trent Noon (174), No. 1 Austin Morehead (184), No. 2 Rudi Burttschi (197) and No. 11 Jake Laden (285). The 42-6 win was the most complete of the season and the best since the opening match against Highline, something that bodes well for the upcoming regional tournament on Feb. 11.

"It gives these guys a lot of con-

fidence that what we're doing in the room, the training we're doing ... [the victories] make it worth it," said Clackamas head coach Josh Rhoden. "They see 'OK, I'm making gains' and that's the biggest thing. That gives them confidence maybe more than the victories themselves."

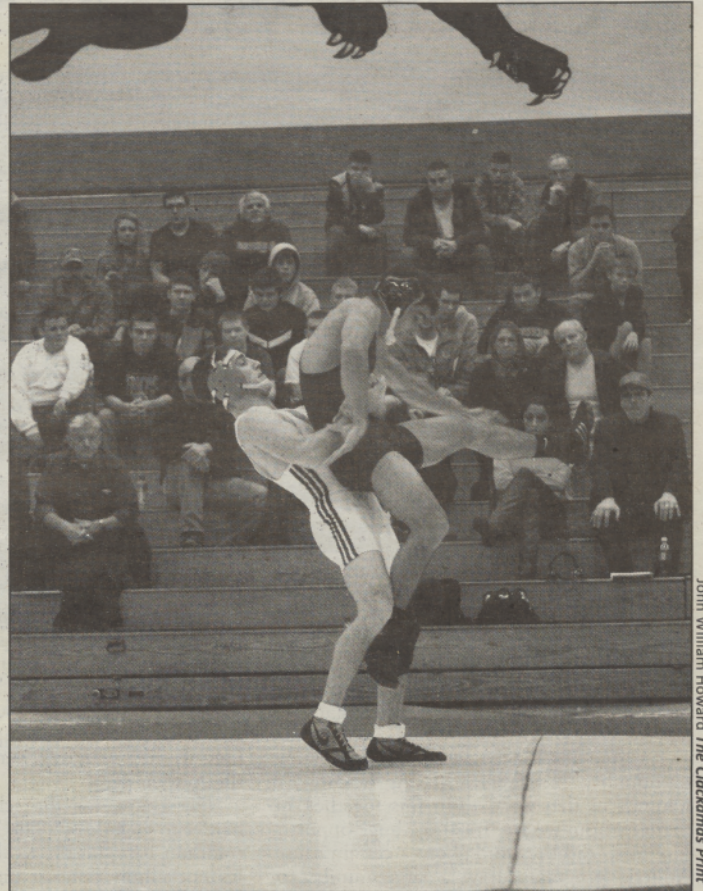
The fact that Clackamas has come out and dominated arguably the strongest region in NJCAA wrestling means two things; one, Clackamas will be incredibly well prepared going into nationals, and two, there will be a lot of good wrestlers who won't make the cut.

"It's fun, but it sucks because you know that someone good is going to stay home," said Lopez, who wrestled at SW Oregon for two years and made nationals both times. "Especially this year, it's just like high school. There's always someone who deserves to go that doesn't go. You just hope that you've got your guys prepared well enough that when regions come that they can take care of business."

While the toughness of the region and the upcoming tournament may have many of the teams flustered, things are the same as always at Clackamas, where the national spotlight has become an every day thing.

"We still work out hard every day," said McAlister. "As long as we work out every day and keep our conditioning up we should be fine for regionals and nationals."

"We're pretty confident. We should be able to walk out of there no problem with it. Nationals is where the test will be."



John William Howard The Clackamas Print

Cody Randall picks up his opponent to wrestle him down. Randall is ranked first in his weight class nationally. He won this match by technical fall in the third round earning an additional five points.

Clackamas Wrestlers


I	H	N	W	I	T	E	R	E	L	N	I	N	B	E	S
W	C	G	S	O	T	F	H	U	A	N	R	D	T	R	E
W	N	H	U	I	Z	E	N	G	A	M	T	S	L	W	S
M	O	R	E	H	E	A	D	R	A	L	L	A	B	W	R
K	S	A	A	R	R	E	C	E	B	N	E	H	H	E	O
O	N	T	R	E	D	O	L	C	A	N	V	I	A	N	B
O	H	O	B	R	N	F	U	M	O	W	T	H	Z	D	E
C	O	R	U	N	E	D	D	O	I	A	N	E	H	H	R
A	J	N	R	Y	L	I	N	L	K	T	L	E	U	S	T
W	O	E	T	R	E	T	S	E	L	A	C	M	G	M	S
A	S	L	S	H	M	O	R	S	Z	I	P	H	H	A	R
N	H	A	C	E	N	S	A	N	C	H	E	Z	E	I	E
N	U	S	H	N	G	O	O	D	R	I	C	H	S	L	G
R	A	O	I	S	O	G	N	E	R	A	N	D	A	L	L
N	O	S	L	E	N	T	Y	A	C	U	T	A	C	I	A
N	E	D	A	L	T	N	S	A	R	A	R	R	G	W	A

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Alger | Hughes | Mitchell | Sierra |
| Ballard | Huizenga | Morehead | Veltri |
| Becerra | Humphrey | Nelson | Whitaker |
| Burttschi | Johnson | Noon | Williams |
| Conn | Joshua | ONeal | Wilson |
| Cook | Laden | Ornelas | Yacuta |
| Dahl | Luna | Randall | |
| Gonzalez | Maelfeyt | Roberts | |
| Goodrich | McAlester | Sanchez | |
| Hensel | Melendrez | Scheidman | |

Look for all of the CCC Cougar wrestlers in this word search. Names are horizontal, vertical, and diagonally. Good luck!

Scott Bonsignore
R.M.B.

OREGON CITY



Barber Shop


19376 Molalla Ave #150
behind Lil' Cooperstown


\$3.00 DISCOUNT!
WITH STUDENT I.D.

Where satisfaction is more than a word.

503-518-2665
OregonCityBarberShop.com

Tues - Fri 9:30 to 6
Saturday 9:30 to 4

WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE 



A new possibility
changes everything.

WARNERPACIFIC.EDU

■ PORTLAND, OR