



Contributed by Clackamas Community College Wrestling

The Clackamas wrestling team celebrates their crushing victory at regionals on Feb. 11. The regional championship is their second in as many years, and the team looks to take their second consecutive national championship. Clackamas has been ranked near the top of the coaches' polls in the NJCAA the entire season and is a strong favorite entering the tournament.

Wrestling repeats as regional champions, takes another trip to National Championship tournament

By John William Howard
Sports Editor

National Championships here we come. Again. Over the past several years, Clackamas Community College wrestling has built themselves into a dominant powerhouse program and for the second year in a row, they will be advancing to the National Championships, kings of Region 18.

Clackamas didn't simply squeeze by and squeak into Nationals, they barged in and took the region title with authority, racking up 142 points and leading the runners up by more than 50 points.

The Cougars crowned five individual champions out of seven finalists en route to their impressive victory, which saw wrestlers from each of the 10 weight classes make Nationals for Clackamas.

The regional championship only adds to Clackamas' transcendent regular season run, a season featuring four matches in which Clackamas scored over 40 points and 10 matches where they held their opponents to 12 points or less. Clackamas finished 9-0 in the regular season and 12-2 overall, their only losses coming to Southern Oregon University and Labette Community College.

"We went in to this tournament knowing that all we wanted to do was qualify all 10 wrestlers for the Nationals as that gives these kids the opportunity to achieve their individual, as well as team goals," head coach Josh Rhoden told Clackamas' website. "This is simply a step in our process and our guys know that. We are very excited for them and at the same time realize we have work to do."

Clackamas, which won the Team of the Year distinction at the Oregon Sports Awards on Feb. 12, will be traveling to Rochester, Minn. on Feb. 23 to compete in the NJCAA wrestling championships, looking to repeat as national champions.

Upcoming Events



	Women's Basketball	Time/date
	Clackamas @ Mt Hood CC	5:30 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 15
	Clackamas vs. Lane CC	4 p.m. Saturday Feb. 18
	Men's Basketball	Time/date
	Clackamas @ Mt. Hood CC	7:30 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 15
	Clackamas vs. Lane CC	6 p.m. Saturday Feb. 18
	Wrestling	Time/date
	NJCAA Championships	Feb. 23-25

Region 18 Placings:

WEIGHT	NAME	PLACE
125	Sage Ornelas	Runner Up
133	Martin Gonzalez	Region Champion
141	Cody Randall	Region Champion
149	Clinton McAlester	3 rd
157	Nikko Veltri	4 th
165	Nick Sierra	3 rd
174	Trent Noon	Runner Up
184	Austin Morehead	Region Champion
197	Rudi Burtschi	Region Champion
285	Jake Laden	Region Champion

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