

CHAMPS ...

Continued from A-1

Then, Culver’s wrestler at 132 pounds was upset by an unseeded wrestler from Toledo, so no change in the Culver/IVHS scores. At 138 pounds, top-seeded senior Ryon Martinho pinned his opponent in 1:15 to score 6 points for the I.V., making the score IVHS 150-Culver 145.5. This was Ryon’s fourth trip to state. He has placed in the top three every year, but this was his first championship! He was so excited that he tossed coach Jesse Clark on his shoulder and carried him the length of the mat!

But the excitement was not over - there was another upset. Culver’s No. 1 seed at 145 pounds was defeated by the No. 3 seed from Colton in overtime. You could hear the I.V. crowd cheering loudly for Colton. The score stayed the same. That brought them to the 152-pound match, pitting No. 2 seeded, undefeated IVHS junior Ryan Griffin against the No.1 seed from

Culver Kelin Abbas. (Abbas defeated Griffin in last year’s championship match.) During the tournament, it was widely known that if Griffin defeated Abbas that the Cougars were going to be the state champions. In a very hard-fought battle, Griffin won 2-1 and IVHS won their first state championship in any sport in the 70-plus years of its history! After 14 hours of competition, the championship trophy was presented to a very thrilled group of young men and their coaches.

Highlights of the tournament: 1) A very nice memorable tribute, during the Parade of Champions ceremony, honoring Jay Miller for over 40 years of dedication to wrestling; 2) The outstanding athlete award was presented to 106-pound wrestler Mike Miller, who won his third straight championship; and 3) Last, but certainly not least, head coach Jesse Clark was voted Oregon State Coach of the Year by his peers - an award well deserved!

Final wrestler achievements:
*Mike Miller (26-5) 3-time State Champion
*Micah Martinho (36-1) 2-time State Champion
*Ryon Martinho (40-4) State Champion
*Ryan Griffin (25-0) State Champion
*James Conn (28-8) State runner-up
*Jozia Williams (31-12) Fourth Place
*Ebyan Lyndsey (33-10) State Participant
*Talen Shaffer (28-14) State Participant
*Ethan Green (23-14) State Participant
*Kaiden Green (19-18) State Participant
*Jahsiah Demuth (17-15) State Participant
*Alex Aiassa (5-6) State Participant
With nine of the above, for a total of 19 wrestlers returning next year, it should be another exciting wrestling season in the I.V.

Writer Dusty Fiske and his wife Helene reported having a lot of fun going to the events and trying to pass on information about the IVHS wrestling team to the Illinois Valley News and hoped you have enjoyed his columns. His contributions were much appreciated from the IVN staff. The Fiskes are already looking forward to next year!



(Top left clockwise) Coach Jesse Clark (center) with his Coach of the Year award along with two of his champs; the Illinois Valley Fire District supervised the fireworks for the Welcome Home Champions Celebration; and the IVHS, 2022/2023 1A/2A Oregon State Wrestling Champions.

Bret Davis

turns

60

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Love, Mom

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