

## OREGON WRESTLING CLASSIC

## CULVER, LA PINE CAPTURE TITLES

Redmond takes consolation prize over Scappoose

BY BRIAN RATHBONE

REDMOND — Hopes were already high for both the Culver and La Pine wrestling programs, and Saturday both teams cleared important checkpoints in their quests for state titles come late February.

Over the weekend at the Oregon Classic in Redmond, the Bulldogs won the Class 2A/1A tournament and the Hawks won the Class 3A tournament.

It was the first Oregon Classic title for La Pine, which has won two team state championships since 2019. As for Culver, it continued its dominance, winning its 16th consecutive Oregon Classic, and 18th in the 20-year history of the annual dual-meet tournament at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center.

“The cup has stayed with us and we are really proud of that,” said Culver coach J.D. Alley.

En route to the 2A/1A title, Culver secured wins over Lowell (75-6) and Elgin (65-18) before defeating Illinois Valley in the finals, 54-24.

La Pine took down Rainier (77-0), Burns (52-4) and beat Harrisburg in the finals, 43-30, to capture its first Classic.

“To bring that back to La Pine is really exciting,” said La Pine coach Aaron Flack. “It was one of our big goals this year. We have won state titles, but we never won the Classic. Great way for seniors to go out, for them to win the Classic their last year is really awesome.”

In all, Central Oregon teams performed well at the Classic, as six teams finished fourth place or higher.

The La Pine girls team, with only six wrestlers in its lineup, placed sixth in the girls division.

Redmond, after losing in the semifinals to 5A-winner Thurston, responded with a 51-25 win over Scappoose in the consolation final.

Both Crook County (5A)



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin photos

Teams compete during the Oregon Wrestling Classic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond on Friday.

and Mountain View (6A) advanced to the final round, however, both teams would fall short of a team title.

While the Cougars picked up a 49-27 win over Mountain Valley Conference-foe Sprague in the semifinals, they were no match for Newberg, which will be the heavy favorite come state tournament time. The Tigers defeated Mountain View 62-9 in the final round, and outscored their opponents 199-33 in their three matches.

The 5A finals between Crook County and Thurston had the most thrilling finish of the tournament. Leading by 11 going into the final two matches, the Cowboys fell victim to what ultimately wins in dual-meets: bonus points.

Thurston's 220-pounder Vaun Halstead and 285-pounder Keannan Bowditch each pinned their opponent in the final two matches to score 12 points and give the Colts a come-from-behind 38-37 win.

With nearly all of the state's top teams in one location, the Oregon Classic allowed for coaches to gauge many other teams and begin the strategizing for the best way to succeed in both district tournaments and state tournaments.

“They saw what they have to do in their training next month,” Flack said. “What really matters is at the end of the year.”

■ Reporter: 541-383-0307, brathbone@bendbulletin.com



Redmond's Billy Jackson wrestles against Kyle Schertenleib in the 106-pound match against Hillsboro during the Oregon Classic at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center in Redmond on Friday.

## Volunteers

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### Focus on children

Maybe kids tug at your heart. The list of not-for-profits focused on making the lives of children better is long. Reach Redmond is a youth development organization providing activities for youth K-12 during non-school hours, before school, after school, no school days and vacations.

Or maybe Aspire fits you better. Administered by the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, ASPIRE (Access to Student assistance Programs In Reach of Everyone) is Oregon's official mentoring program to help students access education and training beyond high school.

Possibly Redmond Community Child Care is more in line with how you can or want to make an impact.

What if you worry about the homeless or houseless? NeighborImpact's purpose is to represent and serve the economically disadvantaged of Central Oregon through advocacy, community education and delivery of services.

As expected, numbers of booster clubs and youth sports could take every minute of your time. It might be hard to pick from such an extensive list. Basically find your passion and match it to well over 100 organizations in Redmond that will greet you with open arms.

Several and visible organizations such as Habitat for Humanity — Redmond are part of a regional or national group with chapters or affiliates in Redmond. That is another lengthy list.

### United Way

What you won't find is a single source to list or screen your options. Gone are the days many remember when United



Bill Bartlett/submitted

Feeding programs are among the most popular volunteer efforts.

Way served as a clearing house for a majority of charities. United Way of Central Oregon still exists though and covers — as the name implies — a region beyond Redmond's borders.

### Volunteering by the numbers

The value of a volunteer's hour in Oregon is \$28.22 per hour about the same as the national rate of \$28.54. According to Non Profits Source approximately 63 million Americans — 25% of the adult population — volunteer their time, talents, and energy to making a difference. In other words, Americans contribute over \$200 billion of their time to our communities.

Women volunteer at higher rates (27.8%) than men (21.8%). People aged 35-54 are most likely to volunteer (28.4%) while 20-24 year olds have the lowest rates (18.4%). On average, adults spend an average of 52 hours per year

volunteering their time.

About 72% of volunteers are involved with only one organization, while 18.3% are involved with two. The top four national volunteer activities are food collection or distribution (24.2%), fundraising or selling items to raise money (23.9%), general labor or transportation (18.8%), and tutoring or teaching (17.9%).

The top four volunteer areas are for religious (34.1%), educational (26%), social service (14.9%), and health (7.3%) organizations. It said 42.1% of people became volunteers with their main organization after being asked to volunteer.

Applying those percentages to Redmond, citizens here gave 1.37 million hours of their time last year with a donated value

of \$38.6 million. Those hours would dwarf the employment of an employer with 500 full-time workers.

### Volunteers role critical to Redmond

Urgency is at the heart of NeighborImpact and while not a clearinghouse or charity navigator per se, they are a good source for services provided throughout central Oregon not just Redmond where they headquarter on SW First Street.

Executive Director Scott Cooper said, “We would never have made it during the pandemic without our volunteers who give 24,000 hours a year. Volunteers are critical to our mission.”

Tess Conley who runs the organization's food bank and co-ordinates an impressive list of volunteers describes her job: “Food, funds and fun.” She rolled out the numbers for The Spokesman: 1,500 volunteers, 182 in the food bank alone. It takes 250 full-time staff to run several facets of community service.

“What we look for in volunteers,” Conley said, “are sustainable, regular participants so that we do not have to constantly be training.” Conley noted that volunteering, not only at NeighborImpact, but in general, is not only about work. There is an aspect of fun, or should be, she enthuses.

“It's also a great way to make friends,” she added.

That was the same take-away when we dropped in at St. Charles Redmond where volunteers told us of lasting friendships made that extend beyond the campus, everything from bowling teams to skiing.

### Unexpected rewards

Employers across all industries say that employees who volunteer in the community make better workers. Volunteering is often a consideration in career advancement human resource professionals point out.

If you are new to Redmond, then volunteering may be just the ice breaker in helping you make new friends and going home with a feeling of personal satisfaction.



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