



Hood River's Jason Shaner sixth at World of Wrestling Championships

Competing for Elite Edge Wrestling Academy, Shaner is beating the best

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

Still fresh off his sixth-place finish at the OSAA state wrestling championships in late February, Hood River Valley High School freshman Jason Shaner has added another notch in his wrestling belt: standing on the podium at a national wrestling championship.

Last weekend, Shaner, competing for Hood River's Elite Edge Wrestling Academy, placed sixth out of a bracket of 117 wrestlers in the 115-pound 13-15 age group at the World of Wrestling Championships in Reno, Nev., and was named All-American due to his win at a national championship. With well over 3,000 competitors representing 46 states and three countries, the event is considered the largest youth wrestling tournament in the nation, according to Shaner's coach at Elite Edge Wrestling Academy, Sean Baker.

Over the course of three days, Shaner wrestled in 12 matches — sometimes wrestling in matches back to back — and was victorious in nine of them. And despite entering the tournament unseeded, Shaner still took down a wrestler from Utah who was ranked No. 7 in the nation, and another whom he had seen before — Hillsboro's Peyton Bell, who won the 113-pound weight class at the state championships this year.

And unlike many other wrestlers he competes against, Shaner, who also plays football at the high school, has only been wrestling since the seventh grade.

"The most amazing thing is that this is only his third year wrestling," Baker says. "It sometimes takes kids 10, 11 years to place in this tournament."

Shaner had been to the championship last year, where he

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'The most amazing thing is that this is only his third year wrestling'

COACH SEAN BAKER

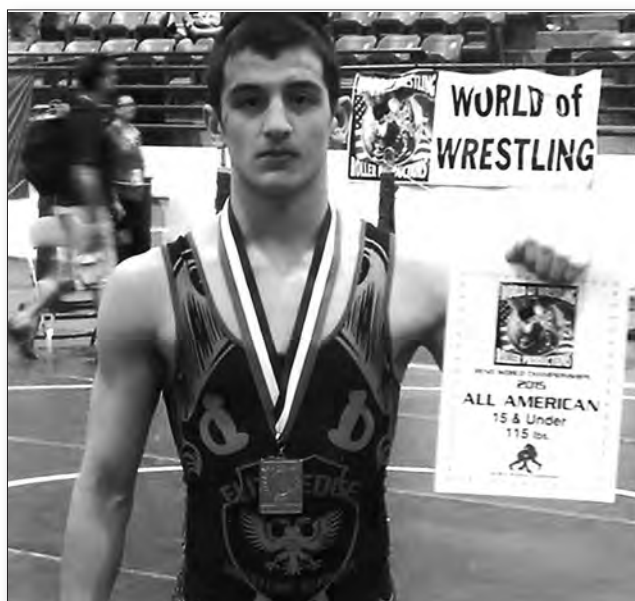


Photo courtesy of the Shaner family

JASON SHANER poses with his sixth-place medal from last weekend's World of Wrestling Championships, as well as a certificate showing his status as an All American, awarded to those who are able to place in a national championship.



Photos by Ben Mitchell

LAX ON A ROLL

The HRV boys lacrosse team enjoyed two wins in a row this week and are now 5-2 on the season heading into divisional games that start next week. On Tuesday, the team soundly defeated the Century Jaguars 22-3, and then headed to Rex Putnam High School on Thursday to defeat the Kingsmen by a score of 8-5. In Tuesday's game, Cody Wheat and Torsenn Brown led the team with four goals apiece, Jackson Lebsack chipped in with three, and Henry Barton led the team in assists. "It was good to see the boys really start sharing the ball and looking for the extra pass," coach Matt Luchsinger said. "I think that we did a really great job with controlling the ball and moving it down field after a ground ball." The Eagles next play Lincoln in Hood River on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Clockwise from top, Jackson Lebsack makes a cut around a Century defender in Tuesday's game; Cody Wheat passes the ball to a teammate, and Torsenn Brown scores a goal during the first half.



Another rally for HRV softball team

Eagles have 7-7 overall record heading into league games

By **BEN MITCHELL**
News staff writer

Call them the comeback kids. For the second game in a row, HRV softball has overcome a six-run deficit in the third inning to defeat their opponents, thanks to some productive bats and equally productive gloves in late innings.

After rallying to defeat La Salle, 9-6, on Monday, the Eagles torched the Redmond Panthers, 16-7, on Wednesday, to sit at .500 on the season through 14 games.

HRV got down early in the away game, giving up two runs in the first and four more in the second without being able to respond with any of their own.

That changed in the top of the third, when the Eagles erupted with a seven-run inning that was kicked off by a right-field fly-ball triple from Jessica DeHart that allowed Jessica Hardy to score. On the very next play, Zoe Munn did the same thing, sending a fly ball to right field and advancing to third base, which sent DeHart home. Hits from JoJo Karr, Jessie Karr, and Jenni Packer helped send more runners

'It's fun to watch them battle and enter league (play) on a solid streak of games'

ERIC KELLER

home that inning, with the cherry on top coming from Kaylin Winans, who smashed one to center field for a two-run homer that ended the scoring for HRV in the third. After down 6-0, HRV had a 7-6 lead.

The Eagles continued to pour it on in the fourth and fifth innings, scoring three runs and two runs, respectively, to double up on Redmond's score, 12-6. The Panthers finally responded in the bottom of the fifth with what would be the team's last run of the game to make it 12-7. HRV added another four runs in the top of the sixth, and Redmond was unable to respond in the bottom of the sixth.

Not every player on the HRV roster had a hit Wednesday afternoon, but every runner scored at least once. Leading HRV was Munn with three (three hits in four at bats, double, double, triple), followed by DeHart (2, 2 for 2, single, triple), Packer (2, 2 for 2, single, single), Jessica Hardy (2, 1 for 3, single), Wells (1, 2 for 4, single, double), Jessie Karr (1, 1 for 3, single), Breanna Weekly (1, 0 for 4), Hannah Mc Nerney (1), Makena Zeller (1, 1 for 2, single), Winans (1, 1 for 4, HR), and JoJo Karr (1, 3 for 4, single, single, double), who also led the team with five RBI.

Wianans pitched the entirety of the game for HRV, giving up nine hits. Weekly led the team

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BARAJAS BREAKS ANOTHER RECORD

Junior Sebastian Barajas is continuing on his quest to become what HRV track and field coach Donnie Herniesen calls "the most dominant thrower in the history of HRVHS," after breaking yet another school record, this time in shot put.

During Tuesday's dual meet at Hermiston, Barajas threw the 51 feet, 10 inches, breaking the previous record set in 2013 by Eli Fults of 51-2. Before that, the shot record hadn't been broken in over 30 years. After breaking the school's discus record a couple weeks ago, Barajas now holds both the shot and discus records.

In general, Herniesen said the meet produced weather that "was really not conducive to great marks for most of our athletes," noting that the "kids were frozen and wind blasted." He noted that short sprinters Jestena Mattson on the girls team and Parker Irusta on the boys team, "continue to lead our sprints group and rank at or near the top of the 5A sprinters in Oregon."

Mattson had a season-best time of 12.26 seconds in the 100 meter, which was good for first place, and helped lead the team to wins in both the 4x100 meter and 4x400 meter relays along with teammates Emily Viuhkola, Cassidy Davidson, Maya Anderson (4x100), and Audrey Marble (4x400).

Parker Irusta also had a good day in the 100 meter, setting a personal record of 11.34 and placing second. He placed first in the 200 with a time of 23.49 and competed in the 4x100 with Irvin Castillo, Tyrone Stintzi, and Irusta; the team placed second with a time of 44.72.

After hosting the annual Blossom Invitational Friday (meet had not been run by press time), HRV travels to The Dalles to face The Dalles and Dufur at 3:30 p.m.



SEBASTIAN BARAJAS

Riverside Gymnastics Academy heads to state

Local athletes with Riverside Gymnastics Academy competed last week at the Precision Elite Spring Invitational in Clackamas, leading up to the Oregon State Spring Championship, which is being held at Athletic Edge Gymnastics in Salem, April 24-26.

All of Riverside Gymnastics Academy's compulsory team girls qualified for state (20 girls). A minimum score of 32.0 was required to qualify. Six of the girls representing RGA are from Hood River.

Results from the invitational are as follows:

Level 3 Team: third place with a score of 111.1 (arrived at from taking the top 3 scores on each individual event).

Audrey Fuentes: first on floor with a 9.475 and third all-around in the senior division with a 37.3.

Ava Krentz: first on vault with a 9.5; second on bars with a 9.075, and second all-around with a 36.35 in the junior division.

Level 4 Team: second with a 111.25.

Regina Sanchez Macias: first on bars with a 9.5, floor with a 9.3, and the all-around title with a 36.725 in the junior division.

Jacy Johnston: first on bars with a 9.5, (her personal best in this event), first on floor with a 9.3, second on vault with a 8.825, and second place all-around with a 36.35 in the Children C division.

Coach Jacque Johnston said, "The girls are in a great place to peak at the State Championship (next week). They've been working hard in the gym, which is paying off at the competitions. I'm super proud of all of them."

Gorge Gymnastics members qualify for State

Eight members of the Gorge Gymnastics team competed in Clackamas at the Spring Invitational on April 11th. In their first competition as Level 3's, the gymnasts earned a sixth-place overall finish as a team. The highlight of the meet in the Child Division came from a second-place finish in vault by Poppy Clegg with a score of 9.525. She also placed eighth all-around with a score of 33.1.

Also competing in the Child Division was Dylan Vaivoda-Kerr who earned a fifth-place finish on uneven bars with an 8.4, sixth place on the floor exercise with a 8.725, and sixth all-around with a score of 34.025.

In the Junior A Division, Bailey Jenkinson wowed the judges with her floor routine earning her a third place finish with a score of 9.425. She also tied for sixth on vault with a 9.15 and sixth all-around with a 35. Also competing was Eva Horst who placed fourth, right behind Jenkinson on floor exercise with a score of 9.375. She also placed seventh on balance beam with an 8.45 and was seventh all-around with a score of 34.975.

Competing in the Junior C Division was Carrie Walker, who scored an 8.675 on floor exercise to place seventh, and she also placed seventh all-around with a score of 33.725. Competing alongside Walker was Luci Stevenson, who placed fourth on uneven bars with a score of 8.45 and placed eighth all-around with a score of 32.65.

Competing in the Senior A Division was Sara Campbell, who tied for seventh on floor exercise with a score of 8.95 and placed 10th all-around with a score of 33.7. Also competing as a senior was Saige Brennan, who led the team with a third-place finish on uneven bars with a score of 8.85, fourth on floor exercise with a 9.175, seventh on vault with a 9.3, and fifth all-around with a 35.875.

All eight members of the team earned scores high enough to qualify them for the Oregon State Championships to be held at The Athletic Edge in Salem during the last weekend of April. The girls train at Hood River Sports Club under coaches Steve Roney, Amy Hay, and Cynthia Wells.



Contributed photo

MEMBERS OF THE GORGE GYMNASTICS TEAM display their medals after receiving high marks at the Spring Invitational in Clackamas last weekend. All eight members of the team have earned the right to compete at state next week.