

SPORTS

Eagle wrestlers compete in state tournament

By **GABRIEL BRAVO**
News staff writer

Eight Hood River Valley wrestlers competed in last weekend's OSAA State Wrestling Championships at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Lauraine Smith had the team's best finish as she placed fourth in the 145 class.

"She's just tougher than nails," Tony Rolen, head coach

for the Eagles, said. "She does everything her coaches ask of her. She had a successful high school football season this year. She's told me she's planning on running track. So, she's a three-sport athlete. She works hard. A lot of the teachers here at Hood River Middle School are excited and proud of her because they know her when she went to middle school here. She's just an awesome athlete and we're

super excited for her."

Smith won by decision over Thurston's Gabi Gillbert and moved on to the third-place match. There, Smith met and fell to Jasmine Pedersen from Summit.

"We were pleasantly surprised with how many wrestlers qualified," Rolen said. "We were hopeful that we would have a lot of our wrestlers perform well and they did. A lot of them finished the season really strong and they were really excited to qualify for the state tournament."

In the lightest class for HRV,

Carson Farlow, 106, lost to Eagle Point's Luke Callahan by decision in the second consolation round on Friday. Farlow ended the season with a 27-12 record.

Like Farlow, Jaime Rodriguez, in the 113 class, fell to Cash Wells from Crook County in the second consolation round. Rodriguez closes the season with a solid 13-5 record.

Chad Muenzer, for the 138 class, placed sixth. Muenzer would have made it into finals but suffered an ankle injury and had to pull out. Crater's Kellen Kerrigan won

over Muenzer by forfeit for fifth place.

In the 152 class, Javier Galvez, lost by fall against Crook County's Alexander Vail in the first consolation round.

Maverick Geller, 170, only made it to the second consolation round as Everett Chandler, from North Eugene, won by decision.

For the 195 class, Abraham Tinajero fell to Crater's Joseph Jordahl. Tinajero ended his season with a 20-15 record.

Cody Durham fell to Ulises Aguilar-Soto from Milwaukie by decision in the 285 first

round.

"I'm super proud of the team and how hard they worked," Rolen said. "I think it's a reflection of the wonderful coaching staff, support from the parents and community and the work that the kids have done. I wish I could take the credit, but the kids do all the work and we just get to coach them. It's an honor to get to coach these kids, young men and women. They're not really kids anymore, they on their own, most of them."



Photos by Gabriel Bravo

HOOD RIVER VALLEY wrestler Lauraine Smith triumphantly raising her hand after winning a match Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.



HOOD RIVER VALLEY wrestler Lauraine Smith attempting to pin Thurston's Gabi Gillbert Saturday, Feb. 29 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Hood River Valley honors seniors at their final home game

By **GABRIEL BRAVO**
News staff writer

Hood River Valley's girls basketball team wrapped up their home games Friday, Feb. 21 as they were defeated by Redmond 52-38. The team also honored their senior players in a pre-game ceremony.

Players who were honored were Lucrezia Orlandelli, Hanayo Sato, Samantha Herring, Sydney Balzer, Grace Meyers and Kaitlyn McNerney.

"We had a competitive game against Redmond," Steve Noteboom, head coach for the Eagles, said. "We got to within eight points with around three minutes to go. We had to press and foul to get possession of the ball, and they were able to get some easy baskets and ended up winning by 14."

Leading scorers for the home team were senior Grace Meyers with 16 points, junior Morgan Baker at 10 and junior Karla Barajas with six.

Top scorers for the Panthers were senior Ellie Corwin with 14, sophomore Alyssa McConnell scoring 12 and sophomore Skyla Gonzales netting 10.

"We did improve throughout the year, especially on the defensive end," Noteboom said. "I felt like our greatest strength was half-court defense. We also became a much better rebounding team. In the off season we have to improve our shooting and ball handling. I like the phrase that Tom Ames, the varsity assistant,

uses, 'Players are made in the summer and teams are made in the winter.'"

Sato, Meyers and McNerney expressed gratitude for their high school basketball season. Meyers said it was a surreal to be in her final home game. It was special being part of the basketball program since freshman year, Meyers said.

As an exchange student, Sato said she was worried she wouldn't get along with her teammates. The team dynamic, however, helped Sato create great relationships with the team.

For those wanting to join the team, or any other sport, McNerney said to jump in feet first and give it a shot.

"We did improve throughout the year, especially on the defensive end."

Steve Noteboom
Head coach

"Put yourself out there," McNerney said. "Try something new and stick with it. Whether you choose basketball or something else, work at it and don't quit even when it gets hard."



Photo submitted by Steve Noteboom

HRV SENIORS Lucrezia Orlandelli, Hanayo Sato, Samantha Herring, Sydney Balzer, Grace Meyers, Kaitlyn McNerney and their parents/ host families before the game Friday, Feb. 21 at Vannet Court in Hood River.



Photo by Gabriel Bravo

HRV SENIOR Kaitlyn McNerney (right) maneuvers around a Redmond player as Hannayo Sato (middle) and Emma Kroll (left) tries to get open.

Four skiers to compete in Junior Olympics

Cooper Spur Alpine Team racers Kai Shay, Hanni Sreenan, Izzy Bielen and Sutton

Lefevre qualified to represent the Pacific Northwest Ski Association at the Western Region

Junior Olympic in Mammoth Mountain, Calif., March 18-21. More than 200 12- and

13-year-old skiers from Oregon, Idaho and Washington competed in six races to identify nine boys and eight girls to represent PNSA at the 2020 WRJO. The first qualifier was held at Mount Spokane in January, where Lefevre took first in the slalom.

In the giant slalom, Hanni Sreenan took first while Bielen took second.

The final qualifier, held Feb. 22-23 in Stevenson Pass, Wash., resulted in Shays qualifying in second and third in the super giant slalom. Lucas Garcia finished seventh and 11th.

CSAT's girls followed up on their strong Spokane slalom and slalom results with super giant slalom podiums: Lefevre in second, Sreenan in third and Bielen in fourth, with Victoria Martin coming in at 23rd and 36th in her first-ever super giant slalom.

The WRJO brings the fastest ski racers from California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington together to compete at a national level.

This will be the second time attending the junior Olympics for Sreenan, Lefevre and Bielen. The first time for Shays.

"I'm super excited to get to go to the Western Region Junior Olympics again," Nahanni said. "I'm looking forward to hanging out with my PNSA teammates and having the opportunity to race at Mammoth Mountain."

Bielen said she too is excited to compete against athletes she met last year and new ones she'll meet in March.

CSAT's head coach and executive director, Shana Sweitzer, said all of CSAT's U14 athletes have been working towards these goals for the last

10 months.

"Starting last summer, the entire team attended lifting, interval and agility training four times a week. Then once the snow flew they did five days a week, six hours a day," Sweitzer said. "I am really proud of their dedication, focus and team camaraderie. For example, at last weekend's qualifier Kai got sick the night prior to the race so the rest of the team sent him to bed and as a group they tuned, waxed and brushed his skis for him. The level of support for one another is really impressive."

Shana Sweitzer contributed to this article.



Photo submitted by Shana Sweitzer

CSAT MEMBERS Izzy Bielen, Hanni Sreenan, Victoria Martin, Kai Shay and Sutton Lefevre at Stevens Pass in Skykomish, Wash., on Feb. 23.