

HERMISTON

Community comes out to celebrate wrestling championship

By **SAM BARBEE**
EO Media Group

After the Hermiston wrestling team won its team eighth title in nine years, Hermiston High School honored its state participants with an assembly Thursday afternoon.

The Dawghouse was full of students and community members and had one side of the gym entirely filled. After each coach and wrestler were introduced to rousing applause, head coach Shaun Williams took the microphone and addressed the crowd, thanking the student body for their support as well as the community.

"I don't have too much to say," he said to the crowd. "Other than thanks for all your support — the community, the school district, the students. Thanks for every-

thing you have done — your support throughout the season. Without you guys, I don't think we could have done it, and I'm happy to bring back another state title."

Since Williams has been in Hermiston, he knows no better. He's won three state championships in his three years in Hermiston after being hand-picked by Hermiston coaching legend Curt Berger. During those three years, Hermiston has placed 26 wrestlers and has produced seven individual champions. He was named 5A Wrestling Coach of the Year for the 2014-15 season.

For him, state championships aren't the most important thing. It's wrestling to one's potential.

"The state championship is probably the most important event on the calendar

for you," he said Thursday. "Hands down. I don't care what happened the rest of the season. So everything that we do during the season culminates at the state tournament. So there's no doubt about that. But, in terms of winning and losing, like I tell my kids: if the best that we can do is second, is fifth, we better take second for fifth. That's our goal. We need to live up to our potential."

That potential has consistently brought in state title after state title. There almost isn't enough room on the north wall of the Dawghouse because of all the wrestling banners that hang there.

Bob Coleman, who was the runner-up at 170 pounds this weekend, says it meant a lot to him and his team that so many peers and community members showed up to

congratulate the Bulldogs on their successful season.

But he wouldn't go so far as to say that the Hermiston wrestling team solely represents the town of Hermiston. Sure, he said, the wrestling team has been dominant — and the eight titles in nine years agrees with that observation — but he said Hermiston athletics as a whole are just an indication of where Hermiston is as a community.

"I think the athletics at Hermiston ... I would put it more on the athletics of Hermiston than just wrestling," he said. "With wrestling, we've found a little niche, like watermelons and Hermiston. Where it's known everywhere and pretty frickin' amazing. I mean, everyone loves Hermiston watermelons. Hermiston wrestling — my freshman year we were

25th in the nation in rankings. It's not all of Hermiston, but it's a good side of it."

Coleman mentioned the boys cross country team which is known statewide. He mentioned the girls basketball team which is the top seed heading into the state tournament. Then there's the football team that won its first state title in November in convincing and dominating fashion. He mentioned the speech and debate program which, in just its third year, already has state champions. He mentioned the chess club which is growing and quickly becoming successful.

"It's just showing that Hermiston's on the rise," Coleman said. "We have new schools in Hermiston. It's showing through the community's support. It's showing through the athletic pro-

grams."

In Coleman's mind, not only does the full gym Thursday afternoon speak to the level of support for the wrestling team and athletics as a whole, but it speaks to the level of growth in the town. As the town has grown, so has the high school to the point where a new, big gym was warranted and now filled at a school assembly and celebration.

"We won (a title) in football and everyone's behind us," the junior finished. "We win it here, and, as you can tell, everyone's behind us. It shows even through the community members, the school administration help us get this assembly done. The student body was here supporting us. It's a pyramid and everyone is behind and they get behind every sport in Hermiston."

MILTON-FREEWATER
Pioneers recognized by league

Two Mac-Hi players named to first team

East Oregonian

A pair of Pioneer boys basketball players were recognized for their play on the hardwood this winter.

Senior Carlos Angel and junior Hunter Yensen were two of five players voted to the Greater Oregon League first-team Thursday.

Mac-Hi won just one league game, but were the only school in the four-team GOL with two representatives on the top team. The Pioneers won their first GOL contest in two seasons this year, beating Ontario on Feb. 7 behind two Hunter Yenson foul shots at the end of regulation.

Junior guard Adrian Zaragoza received honorable mention honors.

League champion La Grande swept the major awards. Senior Brandon Dall was named Player of the Year and Mark Carollo was named the top coach.

GOL All-League 2014-15
Player of the Year — Brandon Dall, sr., La Grande
Coach of the Year — Mark Carollo, La Grande

First Team
Carlos Angel, sr., Mac-Hi
Derek Yohannon, sr., La Grande
Logan Sand, jr., Baker
Shawn Hart, soph., Ontario
Hunter Yensen, jr., Mac-Hi

Second team
Kurt Boyd, sr., La Grane
Zaroin Bruce, sr., Baker
Jake Powell, sr., La Grande
Aiden Hayes, sr., Baker
Isiah Cranford, jr., La Grane

Honorable Mention
Jack Collins, sr., Ontario
Taylor Gulick, sr., Baker
Brandon Stairs, jr., Baker
Adrian Zaragoza, jr., Mac-Hi

Girls Basketball

Mac-Hi sophomore Sydne Richwine and junior Samantha Tveidt were honored by

Greater Oregon League coaches.

Richwine was voted to the league's second team, while Tveidt received honorable mention accolades.

The Pioneers went winless in GOL play.

La Grande junior Avery Albrecht was voted Player of the Year and Jenny Mowe was Coach of the Year.

GOL All-League 2014-15
Player of the Year — Avery Albrecht, jr., La Grande
Coach of the Year — Jenny Mowe, Baker

First Team
Michellee Freese, sr., Baker
Riley Helmick, sr., Ontario
Brie Sand, jr., Baker
Kali Avila, jr., La Grande
Kylin Collman, jr., La Grande

Second Team
Sydney Richwine, soph., Mac-Hi
Austin McDaniel-Perrin, sr., La Grande

Honorable Mention
Summer Phillips, jr., Baker
Carly Martin, sr., Ontario
Rachel Alexander, sr., La Grande
Honorable Mention
Madison Wilcox, jr., La Grande
Whitney Lemmon, sr., Baker
Emily Tatlock, sr., Baker
Lacey Miles, soph., La Grande
Amber Miles, sr., Ontario
Kylie Jones, sr., Ontario
Samantha Tveidt, jr., Mac-Hi

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Today
Nixyaavii vs. Horizon Christian (Baker HS), 3:15 p.m.
Irrigon vs. Regis (Pendleton Convention Center), 3:15 p.m.
Pendleton vs Corvallis (5A first round), 6 p.m.
Heppner vs. Toledo (Pendleton Convention Center), 8:15 p.m.

PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

Today
Condon/Wheeler vs. damascus Christian (Baker HS), 1:30 p.m.
Saturday
No. 1 Hermiston vs. No. 16 Crescent Valley (5A first round), 3 p.m.
No. 9 Pendleton vs. No. 8 Summit (5A first round), TBD

COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Saturday
Blue Mountain vs. Lower Columbia (Toyota Center, Kennewick, WA), 2 p.m.
Sunday
Blue Mountain vs. TBD (Toyota Center, Kennewick, WA), TBD

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Friday
Blue Mountain at Eastern Oregon (DH, scrimmage), TBD

NBA

Thursday's Games
Chicago 108, Oklahoma City 105
Portland 94, Dallas 75
Friday's Games
Utah at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 4 p.m.
Sacramento at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Chicago at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Toronto at Charlotte, 4 p.m.
Cleveland at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
Boston at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Detroit at Houston, 5 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 5 p.m.
Phoenix at Brooklyn, 5 p.m.
Denver at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Dallas at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

Men
Top 25
Thursday
No. 9 Arizona 99, California 60
No. 6 Wisconsin 76, Minnesota 63
No. 13 Utah 67, Washington State 59
No. 18 Arkansas 78, South Carolina 74
Friday
No. 8 Wichita State vs. Southern Illinois, 11 a.m. (ESPN3)
No. 11 Northern Iowa vs. Bradley, 4:05 p.m.
No. 25 Murray State vs. Morehead State, 4:30 p.m. (ESPNUI)
No. 14 Baylor vs. Texas Tech, 6 p.m. (ESPN2)
Pac-12
Thursday's Games
Colorado 64, Washington 47
Arizona State 67, Stanford 62
Women
Pac-12 Tournament
Thursday's Games
Washington State 66, Oregon 64
UCLA 80, Arizona 62
Colorado 75, USC 63
Washington 75, Utah 64

NCAA

Hockey

NHL
Thursday's Games
Calgary 4, Boston 3, SO
Dallas 4, Florida 3, SO
Arizona 3, Vancouver 2, SO
Los Angeles 4, Montreal 3, SO
Philadelphia 3, St. Louis 1
Minnesota 2, Washington 1
Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 2
N.Y. Islanders 4, Nashville 3
Friday's Games
Columbus at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Buffalo at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m.
Calgary at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Chicago, 5:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Anaheim, 7 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

Thursday's Games
St. Louis 4, Miami 1
N.Y. Yankees 2, Pittsburgh 1
Baltimore (ss) 3, Tampa Bay 2
Houston 6, Philadelphia 3
Atlanta 6, Detroit 4
Chicago Cubs (ss) 2, Oakland 2, tie
Cleveland 9, Cincinnati 3
Kansas City 5, Texas 4
Seattle 9, San Diego 4
San Francisco 8, Chicago Cubs (ss) 6
L.A. Dodgers 6, Chicago White Sox 1
L.A. Angels 3, Milwaukee 2
Arizona 4, Colorado 3
Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 4
Minnesota 9, Boston 8
Baltimore (ss) 5, Toronto 0
Friday's Games
Miami vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
Minnesota vs. Tampa Bay at Port Charlotte, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
N.Y. Yankees (ss) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
Washington vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla., 10:05 a.m.
Baltimore vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla., 10:07 a.m.
Detroit vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 10:10 a.m.
Cincinnati vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 12:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 12:05 p.m.

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