



Hermiston's Sam Colbray (top) and John-Henry Line tumble to the mat during the 5A 195-pound state championship match Saturday at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

College Basketball Timberwolves close out season

BMCC men win, women lose in final game

East Oregonian

ONTARIO — The Blue Mountain men's basketball team finished its season on an upswing with a 77-68 win over Treasure Valley on Saturday.

It was BMCC's fourth win in its last five games, but the Timberwolves finished in fifth place and two games out of the playoff race.

Men's Hoops



Blue Mtn 77



Treasure Valley 68

with 16 points.

BMCC (14-15, 5-9) 29 48 — 77
TVCC (5-20, 3-11) 28 40 — 68
BLUE MOUNTAIN — J. Mathews 20, L. Meyers 18, J. Schultz 14, I. Harris 10, R. Ball 4, L. Hawkins 4, Q. George 3, T. Thomas 3, D. Crockett 1, T. Thurman, A. Dean, G. Blankenship, (25-56)
TREASURE VALLEY — A. Alip 16, D. Robertson 12, T. Hooper 11, S. Ingram 11, J. Dwyer 8, S. Ziegler 5, J. Schetzle 5, M. Penneck, J. Carter, (27-56)
 3-pointers — BMCC 4-10, TVCC 9-22.
 Free throws — BMCC 23-27, TVCC 5-8.
 Fouls — BMCC 14, TVCC 21. Fouled out — S. Ingram (TVCC).

Women's Basketball

TREASURE VALLEY 70, BLUE MOUNTAIN 60 — At Ontario, the Chukars got 31 points off the bench to close out the Timberwolves on Saturday in their regular season finale.

The loss ended the season for BMCC (11-17, 5-9 NWAC East), which finished in sixth place and four games outside the playoff cut.

Sophomore post Savannah Heugly scored 28 points to lead the Timberwolves, but TVCC (18-10, 9-5) opened with a 15-6 lead after one quarter and extended it to 54-40 by the end of the third quarter.

Heather Waldemar scored 17 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead the Chukars, which out-rebounded BMCC 56-38.

Heugly finished with a team-high seven rebounds and sophomore Kayla Reyna added 11 points and four rebounds in her final game for BMCC.

BMCC (11-17, 5-9) 6 20 14 20 — 60
TVCC (18-10, 9-5) 15 23 16 16 — 70
BLUE MOUNTAIN — S. Heugly 28, K. Reyna 11, S. McHone 8, K. Collins 8, W. Fredrickson 2, E. Bowers 2, L. Cagle 1, B. Haringa, B. Gregory, (21-75)
TREASURE VALLEY — H. Waldemar 17, M. Stockett 10, R. Helmick 9, M. Kimball 8, S. Keele 6, K. Murphy 6, T. Vernon 4, K. Haley 4, G. Oldham 2, S. Davis 2, J. Praegitzer 2, S. Higley, (23-56)
 3-pointers — BMCC 5-19, TVCC 4-21.
 Free throws — BMCC 13-18, TVCC 20-26.
 Fouls — BMCC 22, TVCC 16. Fouled out — S. Heugly (BMCC).

TITLE X: Dawgs feel responsibility to continue winning

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had just three.

Valen Wyse, who earned his first state title at 152 pounds with a well-wrestled match against Tanner Earhart of Dallas, said there's a legacy set forth by the teams of his coach, Kyle Larson, and, in a sense, its his team's responsibility to continue it.

That continued success of Hermiston's wrestlers isn't an accident and it isn't assumed. Though Hermiston has been confident in its abilities all season, it proved to be justified. The Bulldogs scored more than 200 points on the weekend, and beat Crater by nearly 70 in team points.

For Wagner, it's as sweet as the first one.

"No matter how many times you win, it always feels good, because if you don't put in the time, the effort, the sacrifice, the blood sweat and tears, you're not gonna be on top," he said. "And so, it just feels that much better to



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Hermiston's Andy Wagner wrestles Brawley Lamer, of Crescent Valley, on his way to a state 5A wrestling title Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in the 126-pound weight class.

know all your work paid off."

As an individual, this is his first one. The senior 126-pounder cruised through his state tournament, pinning his first three opponents until Brawley Lamer of Crescent Valley provided the only real challenge, which Wagner won anyway 2-0. Smiling and not really knowing what to say, Wagner was understandably elated.

"It's just so overwhelming, so exciting," he said. "It feels good to be on top, to know you're on top, and everyone else to know you're on top."

Wyse said earlier this week he wanted to "bully" people and "make it entertaining." He certainly did that, pinning his first three opponents and never wrestled more than half a match. He faced Earhart at the Reser's

Tournament of Champions in January, and knew the Dallas coaches would have a specific gameplan. They did — single leg take downs and movement — but Wyse stood firm, even while trailing.

"It was very physical and just a matter of who was going to break first," he said. "I knew that after the first takedown. I wasn't going to break first"

But despite however much success the Bulldogs have, the past never falls too far behind. Many Bulldogs talked about the legacy left by alumni, including Larson. A word kept popping up, too: responsibility.

"The state tournament and being competitive at Hermiston is holding the standard up," Coleman said. "They set a culture and not letting that culture die is our duty."

Hermiston Champions: 126, Andy Wagner; 152, Valen Wyse; 180, Bob Coleman; 195, Sam Colbray
Hermiston placers: 138, CJ Hendon, 3rd; 113, Liam Tarvin, 2nd; 170, Brock McDonough, 2nd; 195, John-Henry Line, 2nd

STATE WRESTLING: Rockwell wins bracket for Riverside; Heppner has two in finals

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wrestler at 145 pounds in the 5A division.

"It's a lot of joy for placing third, because you're third out of the state, you know?" he said. "It takes off a whole bunch of pressure. After my loss in the semis, I was angry. I was mad at myself ... There was a lot of stress on that loss. Then my fellas said, 'You know what? Use that anger and get to third.' And I did."

"I'm disappointed Morgan ended up third and we're not wrestling (in the finals)," Pendleton coach Fred Phillips said. "But a lot of times for a good kid like that who had some goals set on the state championship, it's hard to come back and win matches after you've lost and you're dream's been crushed."

As a whole, Pendleton's youth suggested there is reason for excitement not far on the horizon for the Bucks. Though Buckaroos wrestlers only won one match outside of Holcomb — a first-round consolation bout by freshman 126-pounder Alex Rendon — Pendleton coach Fred Phillips was happy with the way his young guys handled themselves.

"The kids who were here competed hard," Phillips said. "They've seen it now. We get 'em all back. They're ready to get back at it."

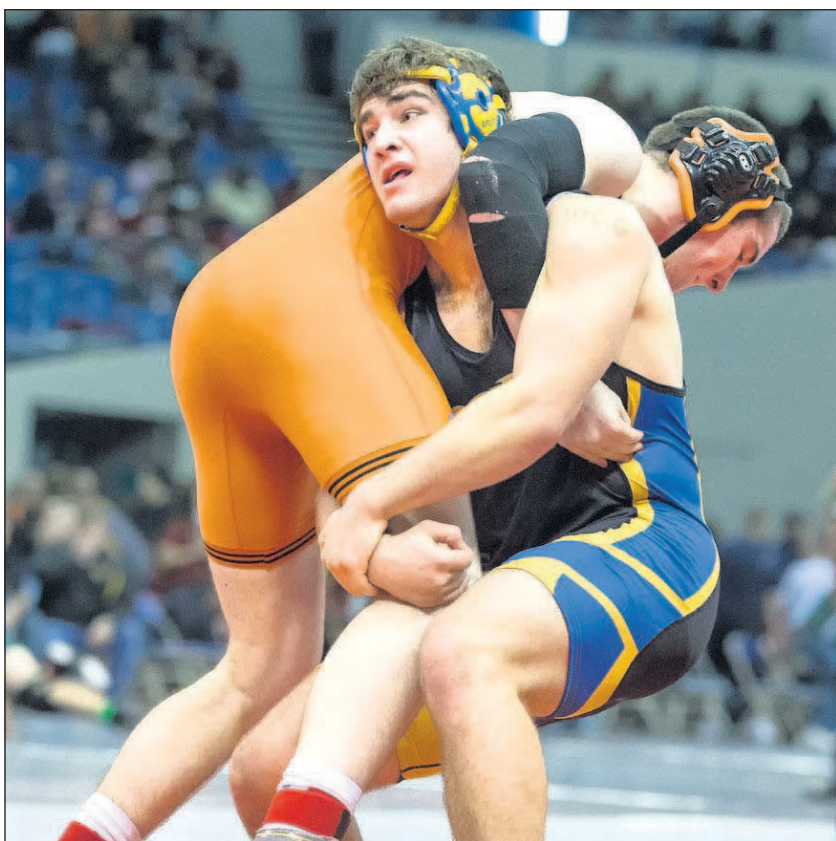
In the 3A bracket, Riverside Pirates coach Richard Rockwell said his team "overperformed," but that's not a bad thing. He said the Pirates started the season with 22 kids, but was down to nine by districts. From there, eight qualified for state, and five of those placed at the state tournament, led by high finisher Aristotle Rockwell at 126 pounds.

Aristotle — whose brother Hans was a four-time state champion and father, Richard, who took over the Riverside program before this season — had a chance to win state at the same time as his brother last year, but suffered what Richard called a heart-



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Riverside's Aristotle Rockwell shares a hug with his father and coach, Richard Rockwell, after winning the championship match at the 3A state wrestling championships at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland in the 126-pound weight class.



Heppner's Cord Flynn (in blue) wrestles Nestucca's Chase Cook to a semifinal victory Saturday in the 2A 195-pound weight class during the state wrestling championships at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

breaking loss in the final and used the motivation to claim the 3A 126-pound championship this year.

"I knew he wanted this moment," Aristotle said of his father. "I could've

shared it with my brother last year, but I messed up. This was definitely for everyone I let down last year.

"All I want to do now is go have some Red Robin."

Ricardo Mendoza, who started the season at 195 pounds, injured his shoulder in the finals at Riverside's first tournament at Mac-Hi,

and returned in time to make a final at the Pirates'



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton's Morgan Holcomb (in green) wrestles to third place in the 145-pound weight class Saturday at the state wrestling championships at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

final tourney in Heppner. Then Rockwell and his staff agreed to bump him up to 220 pounds for districts, based on the field of guys at 195. It paid off, with the junior placing third.

Overall, the Pirates placed five of its eight participants, which would certainly bode well for the Riverside program.

"All of them come back except for one," he said. "We got some youth and we're building. So, when I'm driving back (to Boardman), I think we're feeling pretty good."

In 2A/1A action, the Heppner Mustangs brought two wrestlers and advanced both to their respective finals. Ryan Smith, who was the two-time defending state champ at 113 pounds, lost his first match of the year to Derrick Hargraves, the top-seeded 113-pounder from Riddle. Wrestling in his first state tournament, 195-pounder Cord Flynn had the top seed, but lost Culver's Jaiden Jones by pin.

Flynn was holding his own against the superbly athletic Jones, but a slight mistake and crazy scramble ended his season. He was very emotional afterwards, and Heppner coach Mark Lemmon said he reminded the junior of how much he actually accomplished.

"If I were to say I wasn't disappointed, I'd be lying," he said. "...It's hard tonight, but it's really something to be proud of. Silver's not

that bad. Being in the final, being in the spotlight is an accomplishment."

Lemmon had nothing but good things to say about Smith, who improved immensely in his career at Heppner.

"Ryan is a kid to be really proud of" Lemmon said. "He's come a long way. He's matured a lot. He's been a leader on the team. I was concerned with who would be the leader on the team, and he stepped right up."

Echo/Stamfield, in its second year as a program, qualified two for state, but just one — Kyle Ranger — made it to Saturday. Ranger was pinned by Dillion St. Onge in the first round, but coach Monte Toombs was happy with how the weekend went for his Cougars.

Irrigon's Kasey Kroske was one match away from placing, but came up short, being pinned by Neah-Kah-Nie's Anthony Ramirez. Ramirez went on to finish third.

TEAM FINISHES:
 1A/2A: 7. Heppner, 36.0; 27. Irrigon, 4.0
 3A: 7. Riverside, 91.5; 25. Echo/Stamfield, 3.0
 4A: 6. McLoughlin, 83.0
 5A: 24. Pendleton, 21.5
CHAMPIONS:
 3A: 126, Aristotle Rockwell (Riverside)
 4A: 285, Gregory Moreno (McLoughlin)
PLACERS:
 5A: 145, Morgan Holcomb (Pendleton), 3rd
 4A: 132, Riley Chester (McLoughlin), 5th; 152, Cole Skramstad (McLoughlin), 5th; 170, Alexander Shaw (McLoughlin), 5th; 220, Spencer Shaw (McLoughlin), 5th
 3A: 113, Silvestre Vazquez (Riverside), 5th; 132, Tyler Hancock (Riverside), 4th; 220, Ricardo Mendoza (Riverside), 3rd; 3A 220, Anthony Kern (Riverside), 6th
 2A/1A: 113, Ryan Smith (Heppner), 2nd; Cord Flynn (Heppner), 2nd