HERMISTON

Colbray becomes Cyclone

Hermiston senior finalizes college wrestling plans

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Flanked by parents Delta (left) and Leroy (right), Sam Colbray signs his National Letter of Intent to declare his intention to wrestle collegiately at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Staff photo by Sam Barbee

In November Sam Colbray announced he would wrestle at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Wednesday he made it official, signing his National Letter of Intent to wrestle for the Cyclones, where he'll get a chance to learn from coach Kevin Jackson, a world champion and Olympic gold-medal winning wrestler, and coach to Olympic gold medalists, NCAA champions and world champions.

"(It was the) best fit, everything between education, family life, weather," Colbray said. "People say, 'Oh you should go to this college because of wrestling or schooling here or whatnot there.' "But when it comes down to me being in the classroom, on the mat, the human that's going through everything, it's the best fit for me."

Colbray joins a highly touted recruiting class at Iowa State with four top-100 recruits including Colbray, who is listed by FloWrestling.org as the second-ranked high schooler at 195 pounds and is the No. 10 high school recruit in the Class of 2016.

The four-time Oregon state champion is also an NHSCA Junior Folkstyle national champion, a 2015 Junior Freestyle runner-up, and was the 2014 runner-up in both Greco-Roman and freestyle.

Jackson has been at the helm at Iowa State since 2010, and under his guidance the Cyclones have placed at least one wrestler on top of the podium each year at their conference tournament. Jackson has coached four NCAA champions, as well, eight All-Americans and six Big 12 champs.

Before taking over at ISU, Jackson was the National Freestyle coach for USA wrestling for eight years. He took two teams to the Olympics resulting in two gold medals: Cael Sanderson in 2004 (an Iowa State alum) and Henry Cejudo in 2008.

As a wrestler, Jackson was one of the country's best, winning gold at Barelona in 1992, and gold at the World Championships in 1991 (Varna, Bulgaria) and 1995 in Atlanta.

Jackson's experience in domestic amateur and international wrestling set him apart in the Colbrays' minds as someone who would benefit Colbray and his career.

Jackson was on hand to watch Colbray win his fourth state title last weekend in Portland, and came to the Colbrays' attention through family friend Travis Ayers, who lives in Kennewick, Washington, and helped train Colbray from a young age.

"(Jackson is) a man in the right spot and has come from a similar position as (Sam)," Colbray's father Leroy said. "A silver spoon wasn't put in his mouth. He had to work. And I saw a parallel between (Jackson) and Sam."

The decision came down to Iowa State or Cornell, both renowned wrestling programs.

Ultimately, Jackson's strong track record, the commitment he and his coaching staff showed to Colbray, and the simple fact the Cyclones could offer an athletic scholarship while the Big Red could not, swayed the Colbrays.

Delta, Colbray's mother, explained that they'd essentially been paying college tuition since Colbray was "7 years old" in terms of travel costs and tournament fees.

It was important to them that their financial burden be relieved in some way, and ISU provided that relief. They made their decision days before the fall deadline.

"There was kind of a period of three, four months where we thought about our decisions and finished our decisions from start to end," Colbray said. "It wasn't really like, 'Hey we've been thinking about attending this school, we have lineage with this school.' We knew our Ivy League schools and what they could do for us, and we knew Kevin Jackson, of course, was at Iowa State."

He plans to study medicine with the goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Ultimately, Colbray is excited to perform for such an accomplished coach, but also felt welcome and appreciated.

"When we were looking at the slate, the family plays a big part," Colbray said. "I talked to a bunch of other coaches and they thought kids were disposable, expendable, they can get another kid next year, they'll get a tougher kid the next year after that.

"But the time and investment is what you're gonna do now with a kid. And Kevin Jackson, I feel, is into his kids a lot more than a lot of other coaches I spoke to."

MISSION

Golden Eagles, Lions know each other well

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

Boys Hoops

#11 Hosanna Lions (25-4) vs. #3 Nixyaawii Golden Eagles (25-1)

- Today, 6:30 p.m.
- at Baker High School

The quarterfinal round of the 1A boys basketball tournament will have a familiar feel when No. 3 Nixyaawii and No. 11 Hosanna Christian square off tonight in Baker City.

Not only is the game a rematch from last year's quarterfinals, eight of the starters will be the same a season removed from the Golden Eagles' 51-46 win — a game they led for more than 29 minutes.

With that in mind, Nixyaawii knows where its focus will be when the game tips off at 6:30 p.m. at Baker High School. Hosanna Christian senior Nicco Bustamante was the only reason the Lions were in the game last year and finished with highs of 25 points and 20 rebounds.

"He's really active and he gives teams fits trying to keep him off the glass," said Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera. "We've got to keep a body on him at all times."

Hosanna Christian returns its entire starting lineup and will be looking for a little payback as well, but Rivera said he likes the way his team matches up with the Lions.

"They're athletic, but they're small," he said of a roster that has only one player taller than 6-foot-2. "Honestly, I believe if we play up to our capabilities we should be able to get it done."

The Golden Eagles, which return starters Hunter Melton, Ira Ashley and Fredy Campos to this year's final bracket, started their state postseason slow before heating up to knock off Triad 56-38 in the first round last Saturday.

Rivera said he doesn't anticipate another slow start, but he knows his veteran roster will be able to weather it again should that be the case.

"No one was antsy," he said of that win over Triad. "It's a senior-heavy team and they've got a lot of miles on the road. It's a lot of experience and they know how to win."

The one thing that could derail the Golden Eagles, Rivera said, would be turnovers.

Hosanna Christian doesn't press, but it plays a very good man-to-man defense and Rivera said his players will need to keep their heads and not try to force the action.

"If we turn it over it's because we're trying too hard," he said.

Fans unable to attend can follow the action online at OSAA.org.

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UMATILLA

Vikings ready for clash with top-seed Pirates

East Oregonian

Girls Hoops

#8 Umatilla Vikings (21-5) vs. #1 Dayton Pirates (24-3)

- Thursday, 1:30 p.m.
- at North Bend HS

Thursday afternoon's 3A quarterfinal match-up between No. 8 Umatilla and No. 1 Dayton feature two teams playing its best basketball of the season.

The No. 8 seed Vikings roll in as winners of 12 of their last 13 games, most recently a 47-43 win over Blanchet Catholic in the first round of the tournament last Friday. On the other side, the No. 1 seed Pirates come in as winners of 16 of their last 17 games.

The Vikings come in with an offense that averages 46 points per game and a defense that limits teams to just 33 points per game. The Pirates counter with an offense that averages 52.7 points per game and a defense that allows only 31.2 points per game.

The Vikings success will key on big games again from senior guard Sidney Webb and junior post Brenda Campos as the duo combined for 34 points in the Vikings first round win.

Each team has a nice measuring stick on the other as Dayton and Umatilla share three common opponents for the regular season — Amity, Creswell, and Salem Academy. The Vikings lost all four games against the three teams, and Dayton won three of its five games against the trio.

Prep Basketball

In this Dec. 7, 2015 file photo, Nixyaawii's Mary Stewart puts up a running jumper over Sherman's Emily Poirier in the Golden Eagles' 62-6 win against the Huskies in Mission.

EO file photo/E.J. Harris

Stewart takes OOL by storm

Nixyaawii sophomore named Player of the Year

(Editor's note: The Old Oregon League boys and Big Sky League girls all-league teams were printed in previous editions. They are online at www.eastoregonian.com.)

East Oregonian

MISSION — It would be hard not to notice Mary Stewart on a basketball court.

The Nixyaawii sophomore Mary Stewart took the Old Oregon League by storm in her first season of high school basketball, and the double-double machine clearly caught the attention of her opposing coaches.

Stewart was voted as the OOL Player of the Year recently, and Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said he believes it's her prescient passing that earned her the nod over the league's other top scorers.

"The first thing that sticks out with her is just her ability to see up the court and make passes that most kids can't, he said. "All the scoring she does is impressive, but anybody that watches basketball and knows anything about basketball knows those (passes) are just gifts. I haven't seen anybody in 20 years that can pass like she does."

Maddern said the award couldn't have gone to a better representative of what high school sports are about.

"The other thing that sticks out for me is she's such a team player," he said. "The kids love playing with her and she's just such a good person."

Stewart was one of four all-league selections for the OOL champion Golden Eagles.

She was joined on the first team by junior Sunshine Fuentes. The 5-foot-11 post may not show up much in the box scores, but her presence in the lane was a big part of Nixyaawii's success.

"You put her in the middle of our zone and she's probably getting five or six blocks a game, and that really changes what teams can do," Maddern said. "When kids can change the game like that with their defense that's something coaches take notice of."

Nixyaawii's other all-league nods went to senior forwards Desiree Maddern (second team) and Alyssa Farrow (honorable mention).

Helix, Powder Valley and Joseph each followed Nixyaawii with three all-league players.

Helix's selections were junior guard Macey Tullis (first team), sophomore post Sadie Wilson (second team) and senior forward Paden Flerchinger (second team).

Echo had two all-league selections in junior forward Hannah McCarty (second team) and senior guard Kelsey Ranger (honorable mention).

Only six seniors league-wide garnered all-league honors this season.

Old Oregon League
Girls All-League
Player of the Year: Mary Stewart, soph., Nixyaawii
First Team
Mary Stewart, soph., Nixyaawii
Hallie Feik, jr., Powder Valley
Satori Albee, sr., Joseph
Macy Tullis, jr., Helix
Sunshine Fuentes, jr., Nixyaawii
Second Team
Sadie Wilson, soph., Helix
Sam Kerns, soph., Powder Valley
Hannah McCarty, jr., Echo
Paden Flerchinger, sr., Helix
Desiree Maddern, sr., Nixyaawii
Savannah Stephens, jr., Powder Valley
Honorable Mention
Kelsey Ranger, sr., Echo
Alexis Sykora, soph., Joseph
Alyssa Farrow, sr., Nixyaawii
Hannah Tanaka, jr., Pine Eagle
Emma Hite, fr., Joseph
Marybeth Hulse, sr., Wallowa

Big Sky League

Sherman junior Max Martin was named Player of the Year by Big Sky League boys basketball coaches, and the BSL champion Huskies led all teams with four overall selections — three on the first team.

No local teams were able to get a player on the first team, but Condon/Wheeler senior Cade MacInnes capped his Knights career with a second-team nod.

Ione senior Jason Juarez and junior Austin Carter were both honorable mention selections, and Arlington junior Anthony Valdez joined them as his team's only all-league player.

Big Sky League
Boys All-League
Player of the Year: Max Martin, jr., Sherman
First Team
Max Martin, jr., Sherman
Bailey Keever, jr., Dufur
Jacob Justesen, soph., Sherman
Travis Hayes, sr., South Wasco
Isaiah Coles, jr., Sherman
Second Team
Cade MacInnes, sr., Condon/Wheeler
Ian Walker, jr., Horizon Christian
Ellis Rager, sr., South Wasco
Connor Uhalde, jr., Dufur
Brody Myers, sr., South Wasco
Honorable Mention
Treve Martin, soph., Sherman
Mickey Galanda, jr., Mitchell/Spray
Anthony Valdez, jr., Arlington
Jared Bryan, sr., Horizon Christian
Jason Juarez, sr., Ione
Bryce Harrison, soph., Condon/Wheeler
Austin Carter, jr., Ione

SCOREBOARD

Local Slate

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL
Today
1A Quarterfinals: Nixyaawii vs. Hosanna Christian (at Baker HS), 6:30 p.m.
2A Quarterfinals: Heppner vs. Bandon (at Pendleton Convention Center), 6:30 p.m.
Friday
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker HS), TBD
Heppner vs. TBD (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD
Saturday
5A first round: Springfield at Pendleton, TBD
5A first round: Hermiston at Wilsonville, TBD
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker HS), TBD
Heppner vs. TBD (at Pendleton Convention Center), TBD

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL
Today
1A Quarterfinals: Nixyaawii vs. Adrian (at Baker HS), 3:15 p.m.
1A Quarterfinals: Condon/Wheeler vs. North Douglas (at Baker HS), 6:30 p.m.
Thursday
1A consolation: Condon/Wheeler vs. Rogue Valley (at Baker HS), 10:45 a.m.
3A Quarterfinals: Umatilla vs. Dayton (at North Bend HS), 1:30 p.m.
Friday
5A first round: Liberty at Hermiston, 6 p.m.
1A Semifinals: Nixyaawii vs. Country Christian (at Baker HS), 6:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker High School), TBD
Condon/Wheeler vs. TBD (at Baker HS), TBD
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Marshfield HS), TBD
Saturday
Nixyaawii vs. TBD (at Baker HS), TBD
Condon/Wheeler vs. TBD (at Baker HS), TBD
Umatilla vs. TBD (at Marshfield HS), TBD

Basketball

OSAA
2A state tournament schedules (at Pendleton Convention Center/Pendleton HS)
BOYS
Today
G1: #5 Imber vs. #4 Western Mennonite, 1:30 p.m.
G2: #9 Kennedy vs. #1 Regis, 3:15 p.m.
G3: #6 Bandon vs. #3 Heppner, 6:30 p.m.
G4: #7 Burns vs. #2 Vernonia, 8:15 p.m.
Friday
G5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser (at Pendleton HS), 9 a.m.
G6: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser (at Pendleton HS), 10:45 a.m.
G7: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3:15 p.m.
G8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 8:15 p.m.
Saturday
G9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 10:45 a.m.
G10: Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 3:15 p.m.
G11: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 8:30 p.m.

GIRLS
Today **(at Pendleton HS)**
G1: #9 Bonanza vs. #1 Kennedy, 1:30 p.m.
G2: #12 Imbler vs. #4 Western Mennonite, 3:15 p.m.
G3: #6 Grant Union vs. #3 Burns, 6:30 p.m.
G4: #7 Lost River vs. #2 Monroe, 8:15 p.m.
Friday
G5: Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser, 9 a.m.
G6: Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser, 10:45 a.m.
G7: Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 1:30 p.m.
G8: Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday
G9: Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 winner, 9 a.m.
G10: Game 7 loser vs. Game 8 loser, 1:30 p.m.
G11: Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 winner, 6:30 p.m.

NCAA
Men's Top 25
Wednesday's Games
No. 2 Michigan St. 97, Rutgers 66
No. 7 Miami 68, Notre Dame 50
No. 9 Oregon 76, UCLA 68
No. 10 West Virginia 90, Texas Tech 68
Today's Games
Illinois at No. 14 Maryland, 4 p.m.
Connecticut at No. 24 SMU, 6 p.m.
No. 25 Cal at No. 18 Arizona, 6 p.m.

Women's Top 25
No games Wednesday
Today's Games
Pittsburgh at No. 21 Miami, 8 a.m.
LSU at No. 13 Kentucky, 11 a.m.
Arizona at Oregon, 2 p.m.

NBA
Wednesday's Games
Charlotte 119, Philadelphia 99
Orlando 102, Chicago 89
Toronto 104, Utah 94
Boston 116, Portland 93
Washington 104, Minnesota 98
Indiana 104, Milwaukee 99
San Antonio 97, Detroit 81
Memphis 104, Sacramento 98
Houston 100, New Orleans 95
Denver 117, L.A. Lakers 107
Clippers 103, Thunder 98
Thursday's Games
Phoenix at Miami, 4:30 p.m.
San Antonio at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey

NHL
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	63	36	19	8	80	174	148
Tampa Bay	63	37	22	4	78	175	151
Boston	64	35	23	6	76	197	176
Detroit	64	32	21	11	75	163	168
Ottawa	64	30	27	7	67	188	200
Montreal	64	30	28	6	66	175	178
Buffalo	64	25	31	8	58	148	172
Toronto	62	21	31	10	52	149	185

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	63	47	12	4	98	208	146
N.Y. Rangers	63	37	20	6	80	180	159
N.Y. Islanders	61	34	20	7	75	174	151
Pittsburgh	62	32	22	8	72	167	160
Philadelphia	62	29	22	11	69	157	168
Carolina	65	29	26	10	68	158	174
New Jersey	64	30	27	7	67	140	156
Columbus	64	26	30	8	60	167	196

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	65	40	20	5	85	185	155
Dallas	65	38	20	7	83	209	189
St. Louis	66	37	20	9	83	166	162
Nashville	64	32	21	11	75	172	161
Minnesota	64	29	25	10	68	170	162
Colorado	65	32	29	4	68	175	187
Winnipeg	62	26	32	4	56	161	186

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	62	37	21	4	78	165	143
Anaheim	62	35	19	8	78	156	146
San Jose	62	34	22	6	74	188	167
Vancouver	62	24	26	12	60	150	178
Arizona	63	27	30	6	60	168	198
Calgary	63	26	33	4	56	170	197
Edmonton	65	24	34	7	55	158	194

Wednesday's Games
Washington 3, Toronto 2
Chicago 5, Detroit 2
Anaheim 3, Montreal 2 (SO)
Today's Games
Chicago at Boston, 4 p.m.
Calgary at Buffalo, 4 p.m.
Edmonton at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
Minnesota at Toronto, 4:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 4:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Nashville, 5 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
Florida at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 6 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.