

# BULLDOGS:

Continued from 1B

four championships in a row and eight of the last nine at the Class 5A level with the exception of 2012, all while undergoing three different coaching changes.

“Once you kind of build a reputation in your city and people start to hear about it you want to keep the talk up and prove yourself going back every year,” said Valen Wyse, a senior and qualifier at 170 pounds. “So once we got a name for ourself, I think the coaching staff has done a good job of pushing us to keep up that tradition.”

Hermiston will be gunning for its 11th state championship starting this Friday at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland, though the road won't be easy. Just seven of the 16 state qualifiers for the 2016 team returned this season, and Hermiston qualified 14 total wrestlers this year — third most in 5A behind Crater (21) and Sandy (16). Those numbers mean that Hermiston already has its hands full before the tournament even starts, and will need exceptional performances from all 14 wrestlers in the championship bracket and in the consolation rounds to earn those precious bonus points to boost their march towards the title.

“Some guys are going to have to wrestle over their head at the state tournament,” Wyse said, “but that's what we're here for.”

Hermiston head coach Kyle Larson said that he's not necessarily worried about the numbers game, as much as he's focused on making sure his guys wrestle hard and wrestle well.

“Some years it makes a difference, some years it doesn't. We've taken 18 to the tournament and won state titles, and we've had 11 and won state titles,” Larson said. “We just have to worry about the things we can control and score as many points as we can, and that's how we're going to win this tournament.”

Leading the charge for the Bulldogs will be seniors Valen Wyse and C.J. Hendon, who are the lone two returning state placers from 2016. Wyse, the defending 152-pound state champion, moved up to 170 pounds this season and comes into the tournament off a second consecutive district title which helped him earn the No. 1 seed in the state bracket. Meanwhile, Hendon earned a third place finish last season and comes into the state tournament with the No. 1 seed at 138 pounds.

Other returners with state experience include Adrian Tuia (No. 2 seed at 145), Julio Leiva (No. 7 at 170), Joey Gutierrez (No. 3 at 182), Kenny Bevan (No. 5 at 220) and Beau Blake (No. 5 at 285). All five wrestlers come in following top-2 finishes at districts and are determined to turn in a much better performance at state this time around and Wyse said that the key to victory starts with those five.

“When we had to pull it together as a team we did it at the Oregon Classic Tournament last month,” Wyse said. “So if we can get that mojo going again at the state tournament and put it together, beat up on people wrestle like bullies, it's definitely going to pay off for us.”

Hermiston will finish up their week of practice with a light workout on Thursday afternoon before packing up and making the trek to Portland. Larson said that after a real hard week of workouts last week, this week has been more focused on fine-tuning techniques and making sure the guys stay fresh enough to wrestle at their best come Friday.

“We talked (Monday) about just getting on mat and wrestling guy in front of you,” Larson said. “It doesn't matter if he's a Crater guy or a kid from Bend or wherever, you step on mat and wrestle as hard as you can and give all effort you have and the outcome will be there at the end of the six minutes or the end of the tournament with the team points.

“I really feel the guys are fired up and excited to get there so I think we're going to roll in there and guys will compete and give best effort for sure.”

Contact Eric at [esinger@eastoregonian.com](mailto:esinger@eastoregonian.com) or 541-966-0839. Follow him on Twitter @ByEricSinger.

# Men's College Basketball

# Syracuse knocks off Duke

Associated Press



SYRACUSE, N.Y. — John Gillon hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key at the buzzer, and Syracuse upset No. 10 Duke 78-75 on Wednesday night as the Orange kept alive their postseason hopes.

Syracuse (17-12, 9-7 Atlantic Coast Conference) had lost three straight and needed another signature victory to go with its two top-10

wins to bolster its resume for a berth in the NCAA Tournament. The Orange have two games remaining, at Louisville on Sunday and at home to Georgia Tech on March 4.

Duke (22-6, 10-5 ACC) had won seven straight and entered the

game tied for second in the ACC with Louisville, a game behind North Carolina, which hosted the Cardinals later Wednesday night.

Gillon finished with 26 points and Tyus Battle had 18 for Syracuse in a game that featured 11 ties, half of them in the closing minutes.

Luke Kennard led Duke with 23 points, Jayson Tatum had 19 points and 13 rebounds.

# WRESTLING: Holcomb heads Pendleton's five competitors

Continued from 1B

Also going for Riverside are senior Ruben Villa (285), juniors Andrew Barker (120), Kevin Altamirano (126), and freshmen Fernando Ortega (106) and Jordy Mendoza (220). Barker qualified last season at 113 pounds but did not place.

**First round match-ups**  
**106** - Fernando Ortega (R) vs. Ryan Penrose (Dayton); **120** - Andrew Barker (R) vs. No. 2 Isaiah Vazquez (Rainier); **126** - Kevin Altamirano (Riv.) vs. No. 1 David Kerr (La Pine); **132** - No. 1 Aristotle Rockwell (Riv.) vs. David Katon (Rainier); **220** - Anthony Kernal (Riv.) advances with bye; **220** - Jordy Mendoza (Riv.) vs. No. 2 Chase Onstot (Willamina); **285** - Ruben Villa (Riv.) vs. Beau Reynolds (Warrenton).

## Pendleton Buckaroos

Morgan Holcomb has been arguably the best wrestler for the Pendleton Buckaroos in recent years, qualifying for the state tournament in each of his four years at the school.

But as good as he has been, Holcomb has not yet been able to get over the hump at state. He turned in a third place finish as a freshman at 120 pounds, failed to place as a sophomore, and then another third place finish as a junior at 145 pounds. Holcomb slots into the 160 pound bracket as the No. 2 seed this year, hungry for the elusive state championship after a dominant 37-3 campaign that included 23 victories by pin this year.

Also going at 160 pounds for Pendleton is senior Scott Chambers, who qualified for the second-straight season with a third place finish at districts. Chambers is unseeded in the bracket, though he is determined to turn in a much better performance this year after failing to place last season.

Alex Rendon has had a breakout sophomore season for Pendleton, going 32-2 at 132 pounds and claiming the district title. Rendon qualified for state as a freshman last season, but did not place, and is back this season as the No. 4 seed



EO file photo

Pendleton's Morgan Holcomb, wrestling here at the 2016 state tournament, is the No. 2 seed in the 5A 160 pound bracket.

in his bracket.

Jeff Kovach made the most of his lone season as a Buckaroo, as the transfer from Ontario came one spot away from a district title and earned his second career state tournament berth. Kovach turned in a 31-6 season, and will start the 138 pound bracket as the No. 6 seed. And the final competitor for Pendleton is senior Josh Mendoza (17-20), who is a replacement for of Summit, making his first career appearance at state.

**First round match-ups**  
**132** - No. 4 Alex Rendon (P) vs. Taylor Giltner (Sandy); **138** - No. 6 Jeff Kovach (P) vs. Evan Powell (Churchill); **160** - No. 2 Morgan Holcomb (P) vs. Kyle Hendrix (North Eugene); Scott Chambers (P) vs. No. 8 Cameron Savage (Crater); **182** - Josh Mendoza (P) vs. Tanner Saliee (Lebanon).

## Mac-Hi Pioneers

The Pioneers fell short of matching last year's competitor total of 12, but they still have an impressive total of eight wrestlers that will be in Portland competing for state championships this weekend.

Five of those wrestlers were a part of the Pioneers' sixth-place team finish last season, including Riley Chester (No. 1 seed at 138 pounds), Kaden Kilburg (No. 4 at 170), Joshua Torres (No. 4 at 195),

Brandyn Chaney (No. 7 at 195), and Spencer Wells (No. 2 at 220).

Chester is the team's lone returning placer with a fifth place finish in his pocket, and as the No. 1 seed and a 22-7 record going into the championships he is set up for an even better finish. Also earning a Top 2 seed in his class is heavy-weight Donnie Clark, who rolled to a 19-9 record and a district title to earn his placing.

One wrestler to keep an eye on is Jesse Jones at 106 pounds, who compiled a 13-5 record and a No. 4 seed in his freshman season.

**First round match-ups**  
**106** - Jesse Jones (M) vs. David Villegas (Cascade); **138** - Riley Chester (M) vs. Cameron Greshaw (South Umpqua); **170** - No. 4 Kaden Kilburg (M) vs. Jarett Gago (Molalla); **182** - Patton Wright (M) vs. Justin Seif (Henley); **195** - No. 4 Joshua Torres (M) vs. Zachary Lepre (Sutherlin); No. 7 Brandyn Chaney (M) vs. Dawson McKibbin (Tillamook); **220** - No. 2 Spencer Wells (M) vs. Mario Hanson (Crook County); **285** - No. 2 Donnie Clark (M) vs. Philip Hernandez (Marshfield).

## Irrigon Knights

The move up to Class 3A did wonders for the Irrigon Knights, as a team that had just two state qualifiers one year ago is sending seven competitors this year following a third place team finish at the district tournament.

None of the Knights earned seedings due to the 3A seeding

only the top four in each weight class, though that does not mean the Knights lack any firepower with its seven. Senior Jose Romero compiled a 23-5 record this season and finished third at districts as did senior Franco Sanchez (18-9 at 160), while sophomore Brady Harrington (13-7 at 170) and junior Tucker McAllister (11-15 at 195) earned second place finishes to earn their spots.

Four Knights already find themselves in the quarterfinals before the tournament even starts because of byes, including Romero (138), Aguilera (145), Sanchez (160) and McAllister (195).

**First round match-ups**  
**138** - Jose Romero (I) bye to quarterfinals; **145** - Josh Aguilera (I) bye to quarterfinals; **160** - Franco Sanchez (I) bye to quarterfinals; **170** - Brady Harrington (I) vs. Maxwell Castillo (De La Salle North Cath.); Colby Krogh (I) vs. Sabino Corona (Dayton); **195** - Tucker McAllister (I) bye to quarterfinals; **285** - Luke Meyers (I) vs. Aaron Hiatt (Dayton).

## HEPPNER/IONE

Heppner lost its dominant lightweight wrestler to graduation last year (Ryan Smith), but got a surprising season from sophomore Trevor Antonucci who turned in a 20-10 season and a state qualification at 106 pounds in his first season in the blue-and-gold. Antonucci will start the state tournament unseeded, where he will first face No. 3 seed Kailia Jackson of Vernonia for a spot in the quarterfinals.

Heppner's best chance at state championship success lies in the 195 pound bracket with Cord Flynn. The senior was a state runner-up a season ago, and steam-rolled through his season to go 33-1 and won a district title to help earn himself the No. 1 seed at state.

Flynn will start his journey through the bracket against Culver's unseeded Cylus Hoke. Flynn and Hoke met once prior this season, where Flynn defeated Hoke by 19-3 tech fall at the Jo-Hi Invite semifinals on Jan. 6.

# WIESE: Played a big part in the turnaround of women's program

Continued from 1B

ment the following week, Oregon State will likely host first-round NCAA Tournament games as the team looks to improve on last season's Final Four run.

When Oregon State hired Rueck in 2010, the Beavers had seen a mass exodus of players from a team that dropped 17 straight games the previous season. He was left to build a Division I roster nearly from scratch and held open tryouts with the promise of walk-on status and a chance at earning a scholarship down the road.

The Beavers' climb was steady and in 2014 — Wiese's sophomore year — the team reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 18 years. After finishing a then-school record 13-5 in Pac-12 play, the Beavers were runners-up in the conference tournament and advanced to the second round in the Big Dance.

The next season, Oregon State popped into the AP Top 25 for

the first time since 1996, won the Pac-12 regular-season title to end Stanford's string of 14 seasons with at least a share of it, and again advanced to the second round in the NCAAs.

Last year, the Beavers collected a first-ever conference tournament championship, and, of course, that first Final Four appearance.

Wiese grabbed Rueck's attention at Pinnacle High School in Phoenix. She fell in love with Corvallis and started as a freshman. The next year, it became clear to her that Rueck's "vision" was turning into reality.

“I think my favorite moment was the first time we won the Pac-12 regular-season championship. It was on our home floor, it was my sophomore year and it was senior day for Ali Gibson, who was the lone senior at the time,” she said. “Just to be able to get that win on our floor in front of our amazing fans — it was crazy and it was loud. There were balloons and confetti, and it really felt like we

were on track.”

The Beavers' progress has been incremental but striking. When Wiese was a freshman, the team was more likely to be rattled by little things. Now they are much more consistent.

“We've had to learn these lessons throughout the years — that you stay composed, you stay poised, and you stick to what the game plan is. You do that, and you'll be put in position to be successful,” she said. “You might not win every game, but you'll be in control.”

Behind the scenes, probably the thing that stands out most is that they're all good friends. Last season they binge-watched the TV series “Grey's Anatomy.” This season they have gone to the movies together a few times a month. Two summers ago, Wiese held the hand of teammate Breanna Brown as she was baptized.

The Beavers lost two key players from their Final Four team — Ruth Hamblin and Jamie Weisner —

and expectations weren't as high this season. But Oregon State has proven any doubters wrong.

“Sydney has really developed into a bona fide All-American player. Her 3-point shooting, her passing, size, poise, IQ, leadership and defense,” said Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer, who has watched Wiese develop over four seasons. “She is the heart and soul of the OSU team. This year she is more impressive without Weisner and Hamblin.”

Wiese said the team is using the loss of Hamblin and Weisner as motivation, showing that Oregon State has enough pieces and enough depth to be just as good — not just this season but going forward.

Likewise, Wiese said she hopes she leaves the team in a better place than when she arrived.

“This place has become my home,” she said. “This is family to me. I am so thankful and blessed that this is the foundation for my life going forward.”

# SCOREBOARD

Local slate	COLLEGE BASEBALL	COLLEGE SOFTBALL	PREP BOYS BASKETBALL	PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL	PREP WRESTLING	COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL																																																																						
<p><b>Today</b> Pendleton at Hood River, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> #9 Horizon Christian, Tualatin at #8 Umatilla (Class 3A first round), 6 p.m. #15 Oakland at #2 Stanfield (Class 2A first round), 6 p.m. #13 Irrigon at #4 Salem Academy (Class 3A first round), 7 p.m. #13 Weston-McEwen at #4 Santiam (Class 2A first round), 7 p.m. Hermiston at Hood River, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Today</b> Hood River at Pendleton, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Hood River at Hermiston, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> #11 Grant Union at #6 Pilot Rock (Class 2A first round), 5 p.m. #13 Weston-McEwen at #4 Faith Bible (Class 2A first round), TBD Nixyaawii vs. TBD (Class 1A second round), TBD Arlington vs. TBD (Class 1A second round), TBD</p> <p><b>Friday-Saturday</b> Hermiston, Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Irrigon, Riverside, Heppner/Ione at OSAA State Championships, 8:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m. Corban at Eastern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b></p>	<p>Oregon Tech at Eastern Oregon (CCC Tournament), 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Columbia Basin at Blue Mountain, 11 a.m./2 p.m. <b>Sunday</b> Blue Mountain at Columbia Basin, 11 a.m./2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwestern Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 1/3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 12/2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, Noon/2 p.m. Sunday Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, Noon/2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwestern Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 1/3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 12/2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, Noon/2 p.m. Sunday Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, Noon/2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwestern Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 1/3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 12/2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, Noon/2 p.m. Sunday Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, Noon/2 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwestern Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 1/3 p.m.</p> <p><b>Saturday</b> Eastern Oregon vs. Northwest Nazarene (at Nampa, ID), 12/2 p.m. Blue Mountain at Walla Walla, Noon/2 p.m. Sunday Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, Noon/2 p.m.</p>	<p>Elkton 53, Alosea 41 Willamette Valley Christian 73, Siletz Valley 49 Country Christian 54, Perrydale 32</p> <p><b>Class 5A</b> Dallas 80, Woodburn 9 Silverton 55, Crescent Valley 14 Corvallis 59, Central 44</p> <p><b>Class 6A</b> Madison 50, Wilson 28 Forest Grove 46, Liberty 31</p> <p><b>NBA</b></p> <p><b>EASTERN CONFERENCE</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct</th> <th>GB</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1. 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Lakers 19, 39.328 29 Phoenix 18, 39.316 29½</p> <p><b>Monday-Wednesday</b> No games scheduled.</p> <p><b>Today's Games</b> Portland at Orlando, 4 p.m. Charlotte at Detroit, 4:30 p.m. Houston at New Orleans, 5 p.m. New York at Cleveland, 5 p.m. Denver at Sacramento, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday's Games</b> Memphis at Indiana, 4 p.m. Washington at Philadelphia, 4 p.m. Boston at Toronto, 5 p.m. Dallas at Minnesota, 5 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m. Miami at Atlanta, 5 p.m. Phoenix at Chicago, 5 p.m. Utah at Milwaukee, 5 p.m. Brooklyn at Denver, 6 p.m. San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Men's Top 25 Wednesday's Games</b> No. 22 Butler 74, No. 2 Villanova 66 No. 3 Kansas 87, TCU 68 No. 6 Oregon 68, California 65 No. 8 North Carolina 74, No. 7 Louisville 63 Syracuse 78, No. 10 Duke 75 Providence 68, No. 23 Creighton 66 Minnesota 89, No. 24 Maryland 75</p> <p><b>Thursday's Games</b> No. 1 Gonzaga at San Diego, 7 p.m. No. 4 Arizona vs. Southern Cal., 7 p.m. No. 5 UCLA at Arizona State, 6 p.m. No. 15 Cincinnati vs. Memphis, 4 p.m. No. 16 Wisconsin at Ohio State, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>No. 20 Saint Mary's at Pepperdine, 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Women's Top 25 Wednesday's Game</b> No. 1 UConn 90, No. 23 Temple 45</p> <p><b>Thursday's Games</b> No. 3 Mississippi State at No. 22 Kentucky, 4 p.m. No. 5 Notre Dame vs. Boston College, 4 p.m. No. 7 South Carolina at Texas A&amp;M, 6 p.m. No. 8 Stanford at No. 10 Oregon State, 8 p.m. No. 8 Florida State vs. Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. No. 11 Washington vs. Colorado, 8 p.m. No. 14 Louisville vs. Virginia, 4 p.m. No. 17 Miami at Virginia Tech, 4 p.m. No. 18 N.C. State vs. Wake Forest, 4 p.m. No. 20 Syracuse vs. North Carolina, 4 p.m. No. 24 Missouri vs. Mississippi, 5 p.m. No. 25 Michigan vs. Nebraska, 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Hockey</b></p> <p><b>NHL</b> <b>Wednesday's Games</b> Edmonton 4, Florida 3 Washington 4, Philadelphia 1 Anaheim 5, Boston 3</p> <p><b>Thursday's Games</b> N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 4:30 p.m. Calgary at Tampa Bay, 4:30 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Toronto, 4:30 p.m. Colorado at Nashville, 5 p.m. Arizona at Chicago, 5:30 p.m. Boston at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday's Games</b> Edmonton at Washington, 4 p.m. Calgary at Florida, 4:30 p.m. Ottawa at Carolina, 4:30 p.m. Arizona at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.</p>
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