

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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1B



## STATE CHAMPIONS!!!!



TOP LEFT: Hermiston's Valen Wyse throws Milwaukie's Mikel Bremner in his 170-pound class 5A state championship match win Saturday in Portland. TOP RIGHT: Hermiston's C.J. Hendon throws Sandy's Brody Diaz de Leon in his 138-pound class 5A state championship match win Saturday in Portland. BOTTOM LEFT: Heppner's Cord Flynn attempts to pin Culver's Jaiden Jones in his 195-pound class 2A state championship match win Saturday in Portland. BOTTOM RIGHT: Riverside's Aristotle Rockwell pick up Glide's Kasey Collier in his 132-pound class 3A state championship match win Saturday in Portland.

Staff photos by E.J. Harris

## Four local wrestlers victorious at OSAA finals

Wyse, Rockwell win second titles; first for Hendon, Flynn

East Oregonian

The Bulldogs' hope for another team state title may not have come to fruition, but two Bulldogs, a Pirate and a Mustang all still ended their high school wrestling careers as champions on Saturday

at Veteran's Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Hermiston's C.J. Hendon and Valen Wyse each won their weight class in the 5A OSAA State Championships, Riverside's Aristotle Rockwell brought back his second 3A title, and Heppner/Ione's Cord Flynn secured his first title at the 2A/1A level.

Wyse improved to 8-0 at the state meet and won his second championship. Just one of his matches in the 170-pound bracket went the

distance, and that one wasn't close either.

Coming off a pair of first-round pins on the tournament's first day, Wyse started his second day in the semifinals against St. Helens's Colton Beisley, made Wyse go the full six minutes for a 22-9 major decision victory.

That matched him up against Milwaukie's Mikel Bremner in the championship, where Wyse would get his quickest victory of the tournament and pinned Bremner in

1:29.

Hendon, at 138 pounds, had a much more tense final earlier in the day going against Brody Diaz de Leon of Sandy.

After nearly getting pinned at the end of the first round, Hendon was able to score a reversal in the second that tied the score at 4-4.

Neither scored in the third round as Hendon was unable to get any hold to stick from the top position, and the wrestlers stood back up to start the sudden victory round.

Hendon immediately shot in for a single leg takedown, and although he landed his shot, Diaz de Leon was also quick with a headlock and when Wyse drove forward the two wrestlers tumbled to the mat in a tangle.

Hendon's momentum briefly carried him onto his shoulders, drawing an eruption of cheers from the Sandy fan section, but Diaz de Leon's hold was too high and

See WRESTLING/3B

### Prep Basketball

## Back to Baker: Golden Eagles begin final countdown

Nixyaawii, Arlington advance to final bracket; Weston-McEwen stuns Faith Bible

By MATT ENTRUP  
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — And then there were three.

Just three more games stand between the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles girls basketball team and its ultimate goal of a 1A state championship after another blowout victory on Saturday at Sunridge Middle School.

Hosting No. 16 seed New Hope Christian for a second-round game, No. 1 Nixyaawii showed no signs of slowing up now and remained undefeated with a 57-34 rout that

Girls: 1A Round 2

  
New Hope  
34

  
Nixyaawii  
57

game-high 20 points in the opening frame as the Golden Eagles (24-0) jumped out to a 21-6 advantage.

A defensive shift by the Warriors (18-9) was able to slow the Eagles down in the second quarter, but another run after halftime quickly

put the score out of reach.

It was yet another lopsided win for a team that has averaged a 16-point margin of victory this season, but after the game the Golden Eagles were more concerned with how they could get better.

"Blocking out was one of our things that we want to work on. We didn't really block out too great today, but we'll get to it. I'm sure we'll be running for it later," Melton said. "We're always looking for improvement, watching tape,

looking for what we can do better." Nixyaawii coach Jeremy Maddern said that's an attitude the coaching staff hasn't had to work hard to develop.

"With the way we're winning I think it comes with a lot of self-motivation so we just talk about improvement every day in practice both as an individual and as a team," he said. "I like that this group is looking to get better and not satisfied. Just like today, we're happy to be going to Baker again,

See BASKETBALL/2B

### Sports shorts

#### Joey Delgado qualifies for NCAAs

CORVALLIS — Joey Delgado was one of five Oregon State wrestlers to qualify for the NCAA Championships on Sunday at the Pac-12 Conference Championships at Stanford.

It is the third time the 149-pound Hermiston product has reached the NCAAs, and he did so with a third-place finish when he beat Joshy Cortez of Cal Poly 3-1.

He had already beaten him once, 10-0 in the first round. He went 3-1 and his other victory was 12-5 over Dakata Wall of Boise State. Delgado is 1-4 overall in his previous two NCAAs.

Joey Palmer (133) and Corey Griego (197) won Pac-12 titles for the Beavers, and Jack Hathaway (141) and Cody Crawford (Hwt.) also qualified for the NCAAs.

Freshman Bob Coleman (174), also of Hermiston, placed fifth in the Pac-12.



Delgado

"It was not necessarily the most fun situation, but there were so many things I learned. Everything happens for a reason; that situation happened for a reason. I learned from it. I'm grateful for it. I can honestly say that."

— Tim Tebow

Former NFL quarterback on his season with the New York Jets. Tebow is attempting catch on with the New York Mets in spring training, and hit nine home runs in batting practice Monday in his first workout.

#### OSU women win regular season

CORVALLIS (AP) — Sydney Wiese scored 19 points and No. 10 Oregon State clinched the Pac-12 regular season title outright with a 71-56 win over California on Sunday.

Marie Gulich added 14 points while Kolbie Orum had 11 for the Beavers (27-3, 16-2 Pac-12).

Jaelyn Brown came off the bench to score 21 points and Kristine Anigwe had 15 points and eight rebounds for the Golden Bears (18-12, 6-12).

Oregon State took control of the game with a 10-2 run after halftime that made the score 51-36. Gulich scored six points during the stretch.

California never got closer the nine points the rest of the way and trailed by as many as 19 in the second half.

The Beavers outrebounded California 39-22 and had 20 assists on 25 field goals.



#### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**1922** — In the first formal college conference basketball tournament, North Carolina beats Mercer 40-26 to win the Southern Intercollegiate Conference championship. The 13-team conference keeps standings in its second season.

**1981** — Houston's Calvin Murphy makes the last of his 78 consecutive free throws in a game against San Diego, setting what was then an NBA record.

**1987** — Los Angeles Lakers broadcaster Chick Hearn calls his 2,000th consecutive game for the club, a streak spanning 22 years. Contact us at 541-966-0838 or sports@eastoregonian.com