

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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## DISTRICT WRESTLING



Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Chris Chambers, of Pendleton, wrestles Redmond's Junior Downing in the finals of the 138-pound weight class Saturday during the IMC District Wrestling Championships.

## Chambers locks down IMC title

Pendleton will send 14 athletes to the Class 5A state tournament Feb. 22-23 in Portland

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

The Pendleton wrestling team sent five boys to the finals of the 5A Intermountain Conference district tournament, but only one came out with a gold medal.

Senior Chris Chambers registered a 9-1 major decision over Junior Downing of Redmond on Saturday afternoon to win the 138-pound title.

"Overall, I was pleased," said Bucks coach Fred Phillips, whose team hosted the tournament.

"We came out and competed today, which was something I didn't think we did a great job of last night," Phillips said.

The Bucks will send 14 to the 5A state tournament Feb. 22-23 at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

It is the fourth time they have advanced 14 wrestlers, but it is the first time since 2012.

After Chambers, Pendleton had four wrestlers place second, seven place third and two finish fourth.

Eight guys will be making their first trip to state.

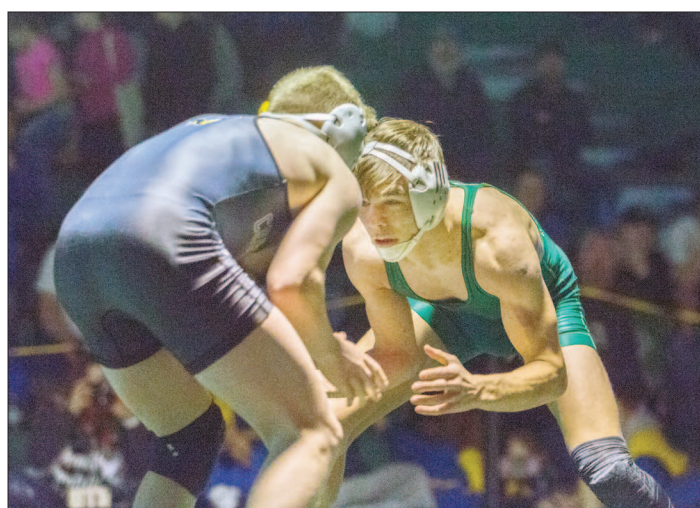
"We wrestled tough and hard," Phillips said. "Our guys in the finals went the way they were probably going to go. Most of the kids wrestling for third and fourth came back and got third."

Crook County ran away with the team title, rolling up an impressive 408 points.

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Staff photo by Kathy Aney  
Pendleton's Alex Rendon, right, wrestles Crook County's Hunter Mode in the finals of the 126-pound weight class Saturday during the IMC District Wrestling Championships.



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Pendleton's Blake Davis, right, wrestles Redmond's Brayden Duke in the finals of the 145-pound weight class Saturday during the IMC District Wrestling Championships.

## Stanfield ends season with losses to Grant Union

By BRETT KANE  
East Oregonian

Before the Tigers hit the court to send off their regular season, coach Devin Bailey had one question for them:

"Are you nervous?"

Saturday's battle against the visiting Grant Union Prospectors would determine whether Stanfield would claim the No. 3 or 4 spot in the Blue Mountain Conference.

"I told them, 'If you're not nervous, there's something wrong. You just gotta get past it. Get those nerves out and play how you always play,'" Bailey said.

And Stanfield, who didn't let the Prospectors out of reach until the fourth quarter, ended their season with a 56-42 loss. But they didn't go down easy, and made Grant Union fight for the win.

"That's what I liked about it — they never gave up," Bailey said of his team. "They could've rolled over, but they didn't."

The Prospectors ran out to a 7-0 lead in the first 2 1/2 minutes before senior Elias Esquivel and junior Mario Sanchez poured in 10 points for the Tigers, leaving them down 13-10 going into the second quarter.

Esquivel brought the Tigers within one point at the start of the second quarter, and Sanchez scored from outside the arc for a brief 15-14 Stanfield lead. A five-point run from Prospectors senior Jacob Vaughan and junior Tristan Morris sealed their 23-18 halftime advantage.

"They're long and athletic," Esquivel said his opponents. "And it helps that they're all decent players. They can all shoot the ball, and they don't foul."

The Prospectors sunk two more buckets to start the second half, but the Tigers outscored them 10-6 in the third quarter to pull within one point of the lead once again.

"We had a lapse at the beginning of the game, but we came together and figured it out in the third quarter," Esquivel said. "But then we just ran out of gas."

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## Pendleton sends 11 swimmers to state meet

Ryan Barnard sets school records on way to three golds

By MIKE WEBER  
For the East Oregonian

In a phenomenal performance, the Pendleton High Buckaroos boys and girls swim teams combined to win a total of nine first place gold medals Friday at the Intermountain Conference District Swimming Championships at the Hood River Aquatic Center.

Led by boys' three-time district champion senior Ryan Barnard and girls' three-time district champion Landry Huth, the Buckaroos swimmers peaked at the right time of the season, swimming faster and stronger than they have all year.

Barnard and Huth earned four medals each, with both earning three gold and three silver medals.

"It's pretty exciting to win three district titles," said Barnard, who transferred to Pendleton this year after attending Hermiston the previous three years. "This is by far the best performance that I've had at districts and I'm very happy with the results today ... My goal is to finish in the top-three of the individual events (200 IM, 100 breast)."

Barnard swam to first place in the 200-yard individual medley with a Pendleton record time of 2:04.32. Barnard also broke a 29-year-old PHS record with a personal record time in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:02.04) and combined with teammates Matthew Milten-

berger, Cahill Robinson and Tyler Spratling to help lead the Buckaroos to victory in the 200-yard medley relay (1:49.62).

"I did OK, it wasn't my best performance though and I could've done better but it was cool," said Miltenberger. "I enjoyed competing with a lot of my friends from Hood River and I'm very glad that the RAC (Roundup Athletic Club) gave us the opportunity to swim at their pool for our practice. It's feels good to qualify for state for the first time ever."

Barnard will compete in four events at state, including the 200 medley relay and the 200 free relay. The state qualifying Bucks girl swimmers include Huth, Melinda

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Photo by Mike Weber for the East Oregonian  
Hunter Reynolds (left) and Tyler Spratling celebrate Friday after Spratling won the 500-yard freestyle race at the Intermountain Conference district swim meet in Hood River.