

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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A10

Bulldogs earn MCC wrestling honors

Hermiston has 4 boys named to the first team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs placed four wrestlers on the first team, and three on the second as the Mid-Columbia Conference honors were released last week.

Junior Aiden Favorite (120 pounds), freshman Jaysen Rodriguez (126), sophomore Ben Larson (160) and senior Jesse Vassey (220) were named to the first team by the conference coaches, while senior Hunter Dyer (138), junior Jaxson Gribskov (182) and senior Sam Cadenas (285) were selected to the second team.

Freshman Carlos Cervantes (106) and sophomore Daniel Garza (132) were named to the honorable mention team.

The Bulldogs had an outstanding season placing second at the 3A state tournament, and crowning two champions.

Gribskov, who placed third at regionals, became the first Hermiston wrestler to win a Washington state title when he won by a 12-4 major decision over Deklen Agloinga of Mead at 182 pounds.

Cadenas, who pinned his first three opponents at state, was pushed in the 285-pound championship match before he came away with a 5-4 decision over Burak Bowers of Bonney Lake.

Cadenas, who also won district and regional titles, finished the season 36-3.

Also placing at state for the Bulldogs were Vassey (3rd), Larson (5th), Rodriguez (5th), Favorite (5th), Daniel Garza (6th, 132) and Dyer (7th, 138).

Jake Hubby (138) of Hanford was named the Lower Weight Wrestler of the Year, while Chiawana's Darion Johnson



East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Jesse Vassey, top, wrestles Dallin Bowman, of Southridge, in the 220-pound first place match Feb. 5, 2022, at the Mid-Columbia Conference 3A District wrestling tournament in Hermiston. Vassey won the match, and Mid-Columbia Conference coaches in April selected him for first-team honors.



Cadenas



Dyer



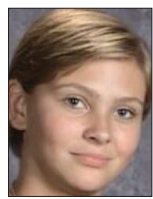
Favorite



Gribskov



Larson



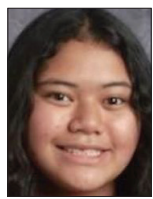
Payne



Rodriguez



E. Sepeni



T. Sepeni



Vassey

(182) was the Upper Weight Wrestler of the Year. Chiawana's Jack Anderson was named Coach of the Year.

The Hermiston girls had three wrestlers earn honors, led by senior Eseta Sepeni who was named to the first team at 235 pounds.

Junior Parys Payne (145) and freshman Tutaitaga Sepeni (235) were selected to the second team.

Eseta Sepeni, in just her second year of wrestling, became the first female

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SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Hermiston's Young wins shot put at Oregon Relays

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

EUGENE — Throwers know when they unleash a monster throw.

Hermiston's Bailey Young knew when the shot put hit the 14-meter line Saturday, April 23, at the Oregon Relays at Hayward Field that she had broken the school record.

Young opened the competition with a throw of 44-1 1/2 feet, which would have won her the title, but she closed out her four throws with a heave of 46-1 1/2 to not only win the title by almost 3 feet, but she also shattered the school record in the process.

Young's top throw surpassed Mykael Botham's school record of 44-10, set on April 22, 2005, at the Moscow Invite.

"I started off the season not throwing my best, but I have been moving up a couple of inches every meet," Young said. "It still hasn't hit me that I threw a 46. I knew as soon as I hit that mark. I had three PRs in that series."

One thing driving Young was the prize at the end of the rainbow.

"You win at the Oregon Relays and you get a backpack," Young said. "I told (coach Emilee) Strot, I wanted a backpack. I was

hoping to come out with a really good first throw. When I started off with a 44, that was a really good throw. I wanted to get the school record, no matter when or where. This is such a huge meet. I thought, 'Let's get it here.' "

Oregon Relay patches are handed out to the top eight in each event. Young also has patches for the discus and the hammer throw.

Young, who is headed to Eastern Washington University, finished fourth in the discus

with a personal record of 121-6, which came on her third throw.

Young also finished fourth in the hammer throw with a distance of 116-3, which came on her second throw. She fouled her other three throws. She is the first Hermiston girl to throw the hammer in a high school meet.

Caden Hottman on April 25 finished second in the hammer throw with a mark of 203 feet, 4 inches — a personal best that also broke his own school record. He also was third in the shot put with a mark of 54-9 1/4, which came on his final throw.

As a team (boys and girls combined), the Bulldogs placed 10th with 51 points.

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Young



2021 Sisters Folk Festival, Photo Credit: Rob Kerr

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