

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Sandstone Middle School wrestler brings home two state titles

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Several local athletes placed Friday through Sunday, April 22-24, at the Oregon Wrestling Association Freestyle and Greco-Roman State Tournament at the Jackson County Expo Center in Central Point.

Aiden Larson, a seventh grader at Sandstone Middle School, won the freestyle and Greco titles in the 14U 114-pound division to go with his folk style win in January in Redmond, for the triple crown.

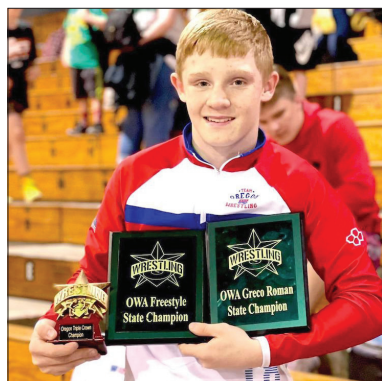
In freestyle, Larson beat his first opponent 10-0, then pinned Aiden Baker of Nyssa in 15 seconds. In the final round, he earned a 12-0

victory over Jacoby Jones of Philomath.

In the Greco portion of the tournament, Larson pinned Elijah Bischoff of Silverton in 18 seconds, then beat Jones 8-0 in the finals.

“That’s how I approach our parents with spring and summer wrestling,” Hermiston High School coach Kyle Larson said. “Kids will go to these tournaments and place and qualify for Fargo. This is what is offered this time of year. If you want to wrestle, prepare and get better, this is how you do it.”

Ben Larson, a sophomore at Hermiston High, placed second at 170 pounds in each discipline, and has qualified for the national tournament in Fargo, North Dakota.



Daylee Lathim/Contributed photo
Aiden Larson of Hermiston recently won titles at the Oregon Wrestling Association Freestyle and Greco-Roman State Tournament April 22-24, 2022, at the Jackson County Expo Center in Central Point.

Competing in the 16U bracket for Greco, Larson won his first match 10-2, then picked up a forfeit before beating Logan Sunnell of Tualatin 8-0 in the semifinals. Liam Byrne of Mountain View High School beat Larson in the finals 7-0.

In freestyle, Larson lost to Byrne 6-0 in the semifinals, then beat Sunnell 10-0 in the second-place match.

Jaxson Gribskov, a junior at Hermiston, placed fifth in Greco and sixth in freestyle in the 18U division at 182 pounds.

Ami Tuia, a sophomore at Hermiston finished sixth in freestyle and Greco in the 16U 170-pound weight class.

Jeshaiah Tejada-Garza, a fresh-

man at Hermiston, finished sixth in Greco in the 16U 132-pound division. He previously qualified for Fargo at the Northwest Regionals for greco at 138 pounds.

Also competing in the Hermiston group were Drayson Lathim (12U, 78 pounds), who placed fourth in Greco and fifth in freestyle, and Draxson Lathim (10U, 67 pounds), who was fourth in freestyle.

Kyle Larson said the program holds practices through July and wrestlers are welcome.

“It’s an opportunity to continue to come to practice, train and sharpen their wrestling skills,” he said. “Some are wanting to win national titles at Fargo.”

Heppner’s Doherty earns state coaching award

He has coached the middle school football team since 2009

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HEPPNER — There’s a lot to be said for sports programs whose athletes come into high school with the necessary skills to contribute from the start.

The Heppner football program has benefited greatly over the years from the work Chad Doherty has put in at the lower level, and his work and dedication have not gone unnoticed.

Doherty recently was named the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association Middle School Coach of the Year. This includes coaches from all sports and classifications.

“I’m honored and I’m excited for this,” Doherty said. “I never expected to win any award. I never gave it a thought.”

Greg Grant, Heppner athletic director and football coach, nominated Doherty for the award.

“You can’t overstate the value of a good feeder program and a coach who is as dedicated as Chad,” Grant said. “He does our high school stats. He makes all the varsity games and sets our kids up for success. They know how to behave, how to practice. He has been a really big part of our success. I am happy to see him recognized.”

Doherty will be honored for his achievement at the OACA award banquet May 21 in the Club Level at the Autzen Stadium, Eugene.

Doherty has coached the



Chad Doherty/Contributed Photo
Heppner Middle School football coach Chad Doherty recently was named the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association Middle School Coach of the Year.

Heppner Middle School football team since 2009. He’s had such players as Caden Clark, CJ Kindle, Jayden Wilson, all the Lehman brothers (Payton, Mason, Jackson) and Landon Mitchell come through his program.

“That class with Caden Clark and CJ Kindle was so good,” said Doherty, who is the first Heppner Middle

School coach to win the award.

Doherty started coaching youth football in Heppner in 2005, and continued through 2008 when he got the job at the middle school. He has been doing stats for the Mustangs since 2005.

“I feel privileged that Greg

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HIGH SCHOOL RODEO

Mahoney and Goodrich win titles

Local cowboys top the field at Oregon Trail High School Rodeo

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Blane Mahoney of Heppner and Gator Goodrich of Stanfield won events Friday and Saturday, April 22-23, at the Oregon Trail High School Rodeo at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

Mahoney had a two-run time of 13.77 seconds to win the steer wrestling. After a time of 8.24 on his first run, he turned in a 5.53 in the

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Nicole Mahoney/Contributed Photos
Blane Mahoney, left, of Heppner won the steer wrestling title and Gator Goodrich, right, of Stanfield won the tie-down title Friday through Saturday, April 22-23, 2022, at the Oregon Trail High School Rodeo at the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center in Hermiston.

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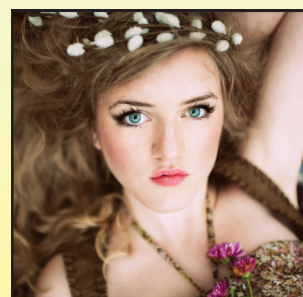
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