

ARCHER: Gomes earns arrow money selling candy

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Shooting a total of 120 arrows over a two-day period at targets 20 yards distant, Gomes scored 511 points out of a possible perfect score of 600.

In addition to becoming a skilled bow hunter and having bagged his first buck with an arrow last fall, the 13-year-old who maintains a 3.72 GPA has a reputation of being an entrepreneur. Currently, Gomes has as many as three candy machines placed at different locales in the county, earnings from which are used to purchase arrows.

In fact, Gomes' history as an entrepreneur began years ago. In 2008, when in the first grade, he launched a lucrative business of selling frogs that earned him front-page coverage in the Chieftain, followed by a mandated halt to his operation one week later courtesy of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. According to ODFW, the type of frog the 6-year-old was selling was listed on that agency's threatened list, and selling such an amphibian violated state statute.

Although brought to tears by a decision he could not understand, the young entrepreneur regrouped by purchasing a different, legal variety of



Enterprise 7th grader Cole Gomes placed second in freestyle at the Oregon Bowhunters State Indoor Archery Championships held Feb. 20-22 in Bend. Gomes competed in the age 12-14 classification.

Courtesy photo

frog in La Grande and resumed his frog sales in Wallowa County.

Attending and competing in last week's meet in Bend along with Gomes were his

sister and her husband, Casey and Clayton Lowe, who live in La Grande. Clayton and Casey



Courtesy photo

Winning first place along with husband Clayton in the Husband & Wife Bowhunter Freestyle Division and placing second in the Adult Female Bowhunter classification was Casey Lowe. Casey, now a La Grande resident, graduated from Enterprise High School in 2005 under her maiden name of Casey Montgomery-Gomes.

both graduated in 2005. Clayton from Joseph High School and Casey (Montgomery-Gomes) from Enterprise High.

Clayton, competing in the Adult Male Bowhunter Freestyle classification, notched the only perfect score of 600 during the entire three-day state level event and won that division.

Competing in the Husband & Wife Bowhunter Freestyle

class, Clayton and Casey also garnered state champion honors, registering a score of 1,172 out of a perfect score of 1,200.

Among Adult Female Bowhunter Freestyle competitors last weekend in Bend, Casey notched an overall score of 572, including a personal best of 289 out of 300 on Sunday, and won second place in that category.

RIBICH: Miler runs personal best

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The time, which qualifies Ribich for future races including runners from Division I schools, was a personal best for Ribich, and within five seconds of the WOU school record.

On Feb. 14, Ribich ran

the 3,000 meters in 8:36, which was also a personal best.

The Feb. 14 meet was also held at Seattle's Dempsey Stadium.

Ribich, a freshman majoring in communications, posted a 3.36 GPA for the fall term at WOU.

FULLER: WHS senior wins state

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In a consolation match to earn a third-place medal, Wilcox narrowly was outpointed 7-4 by Levi Vincent, of Culver. Even in that match, said JoHi Coach Tim Kiesecker, Wilcox was seconds away from pinning Vincent when the horn blew to end the match and Wilcox's high school career.

Team scores: Culver 147.5; Lowell 127; Monroe 98; Gold Beach 74; Crane 69; Oakridge 48; Hepner 39; Burns 38.5; Central Linn 36; Elgin 32; Knappa 27; Myrtle Point 26; Wallowa 24; Riddle 23; Union 22; Pine Eagle 18; Grant Union 14; Chilquin 14; Nestucca 14; North Lake 9; Imbler 8; Reedsport 7; Bonanza 4; Crow 3; Neah-Hah-Nie 3; Oakland 2; Joseph 2; Siletz Valley 1; Adrian 0; Glendale 0; Hosanna Christian 0; Vernonia 0.

CORAK: Long-time coach honored

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In summary, for 25 years Corak participated as a certified wrestling official for schools of all sizes in Oregon, spent 15 years as a head high school wrestling coach, assisted in high school wrestling programs for five years, was a youth wrestling coach for 14 years, and wrestled himself in high school and college.

Following coaching stints in La Grande and at Pine Eagle High School in Halfway, Corak moved to Enterprise in 1976, where he still lives, and coached wrestling and football off-and-on through 2012.

Corak, 69, says his highest coaching achievements for wrestling were three third places at season-ending state meets, one coaching at Pine Eagle and two at Enterprise. Corak was also head coach for the Enterprise High School football team that won the state championship in 1984.

Enterprise did win state wrestling titles in 1973 under the tutelage of Corak's predecessor Mel Schuldt and in 1998 under the helm of Ron Osterloh and Dan Moody, but not under Corak.

After launching his coach-

ing career for two years at La Grande Middle School as a wrestling and football coach, Corak moved to Pine Eagle in 1969 where he coached football and inaugurated a new wrestling program. "We had 17 kids out the first year (for wrestling) and took a beating," he said. And yet, by the time Corak was lured to Enterprise in 1976, PE's wrestling program was 33 wrestlers strong and rolling.

The bait that brought Corak to Enterprise was the opportunity to expand his vocational horizons by becoming Enterprise Elementary School's K-8 principal. Yet that experiment lasted merely two years before Corak decided it was either administration or coaching, not both, and, with little hesitation, coaching was his choice.

An oddity about Corak's coaching career in Enterprise was an 11-year hiatus after retiring in 1999 to archery hunt, fish, and follow the wrestling coaching success of one of his sons, Brant, whose teams won six successive state championships in Lowrie, Nev., before falling to second in 2015. Asked to come back and coach both wrestling and football at EHS, Corak did so in 2010-2012. One valuable lesson

learned during that stretch came in 2011 when, while exhibiting wrestling moves to high school mat men at age 65, Corak seriously injured a knee and retired as a hands-on wrestling coach. He returned to coach one more year.

Never one to claim glory for himself, Corak, among others, is quick to give thanks to Doyle Connall and Duff Pace who performed valuable assistant coaching during his tenure in Enterprise. Too, he praises administrator Larry Christman who, he says, put wrestling on a par with football and basketball.

But Corak's highest accolades go to his high school sweetheart, Carol, who became his wife 49 years ago. Like the man destined to become her husband, Carol always has had wrestling in her bloodlines as a brother became Nyssa High School's first-ever state wrestling champion. Always a Chuck Corak supporter, Carol had his teams over to the couple's home for taco and spaghetti feeds every Thursday during wrestling and football seasons for 40 years.

Among many memories most cherished by Corak is his 1995 wrestling team where three brothers were front-line performers at the same time. They were Josh Wishart at 100 pounds, Gabe Wishart at 126 pounds, and Sean Wishart at 145 pounds.

Corak coached at least a dozen individual state champions at EHS.

A graduate of Nyssa High School, Corak earned his bachelor's degree from Eastern Oregon State College in 1968 and his master's degree in Education from that same school in 1973.

The May 2 induction ceremony, at a time when possibly four others also will be honored, will be held at the Embassy Suite Hotel, in Tigard.

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