



Fuller pins all, sweeps to state title

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

Wallowa senior Micah Fuller completed a clean sweep of pins through the district and state OSAA 2A/1A wrestling tournaments Saturday in Portland en route to claiming the first individual state wrestling championship during the 20-plus Wallowa High School coaching career of Mel Byers.

The only other qualifier from Wallowa County competing at the

two-day tournament held in Veterans Memorial Coliseum was another senior, Jared Wilcox of Joseph, who won one of three close decisions and did not place.

Fuller, whose immediate plans after high school are to attend West Coast Baptist College, in Lancaster, Calif., then transfer to Treasure Val-



Fuller

ley Community College to resume his sports career in track, concluded his season with a 33-3 won-loss record. Two of those losses came against Vale senior Sage Delong who pinned four opponents during first rounds of the OSAA 3A State Tournament while claiming that title at that same 195-pound classification. Fuller's only other loss came during the season's opening tournament in Enterprise against John Propher, of Heppner, whom Fuller defeated twice in subsequent matches.

Seeded No. 2 in the state tournament, Fuller pinned Bryan Corbett of Glendale in 4:38, Nathan Truax of Knappa in 4:23, and pinned No. 1 seeded Thomas Keeler of Gold Beach at 3:06 into the championship match.

The only time the eventual victor from Wallowa said he felt threatened during the state meet came during the first round of his opening match against Corbett when he got thrown on his back.

"This definitely is the peak of my wrestling career," said Fuller.

Wilcox, wrestling with a tight brace to protect a knee that will require surgery, was highly competitive in all three of his matches, even during his second round loss by decision to the tournament's No. 1-seeded 152-pound competitor, Cale Edmunds of Oakridge. After deciding No. 4-seeded Chris Ralston, of Monroe, by a 7-5 score in the first round, Wilcox lost a narrow 4-2 decision to Edmunds.

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Local named to wrestling HALL OF FAME



Courtesy photo

As a member of Eastern Oregon State College's NAIA powerhouse 1966-1967 wrestling team that defeated most larger schools in the Pacific Northwest, Corak (back row, second from right) wrestled at 191 pounds.

Corak to be inducted May 2

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Chuck Corak, an unassuming man who touched many lives during a wrestling and football coaching career that began in 1967, will be inducted into the 39-year-old National Wrestling Hall of Fame on May 2.

Among a handful of honors that the Stillwater, Oklahoma-based organization hands out, Corak will receive a Distinguished Lifetime Award for the 44 years of service he's provided to the sport.

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Rocky Wilson/Chieftain

Soon to be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, former longtime Enterprise coach Chuck Corak and wife Carol have been a team for 49 years.

Dufur ousts Joseph boys

By Rich Rautenstrauch
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Joseph boys' basketball team made it into the state playoffs for the second straight year, but the Eagles were eliminated by the Dufur Rangers, 63-42, in the playoffs' first round, Tuesday evening, Feb. 24.

Joseph kept it close until the middle of the third quarter when Dufur went on a shooting spree, hardly missing a shot, and sank the Eagles' hopes to continue their season.

Joseph coach Olan Fulfer observed, "Dufur played a near-perfect second half. I told the boys if they're not missing their shots and we lost, then that's basketball."

Joseph was down by only one point at the end of the first period, 14-13, and that was still the margin going into halftime with the score 24-23.

Things really started to heat up in the third quarter with Dufur coming out and hitting three treys in a row. Joseph senior Noah DeLury answered Dufur's call and sank three three-point shots of his own. With 3:40 left in the eight-minute period, the score was tied 35-35. With two minutes left in period Dufur was already up by seven points, however, which shows how quickly the Rangers were heating up on offense. All Joseph could do for the remainder of the game was to watch that separation between the teams grow.

"It kind of reminded me of the Nixyaawii game," Fulfer reflected. "We came out strong and were playing



Rich Rautenstrauch/Chieftain

Joseph's Aaron Borgerding prepares to shoot over two Dufur players during what would be the Eagles' final game of the season, Feb. 24 in Joseph.

well on both sides of the court. Dufur started hitting their shots and the boys lost their confidence and swagger. Dufur is a really good team. I give my boys credit. They played with pride ... and they never quit."

Fulfer said he had enjoyed watching his team improve during the course of the season, and he thought the players had enjoyed it too. "It wasn't a chore. The boys love the game."

Joseph will be working hard during the off-season with college coaches coming in again to offer the kids some pointers, and the players will continue on in summer league. Fulfer says the outlook for next year's team is a positive one. "We have a lot of returners and some freshmen coming up in the ranks. Our future looks bright," The Eagles coach said.

Young archer hits the mark

By Rocky Wilson
Wallowa County Chieftain

A 13-year-old seventh grader from Enterprise Middle School, Cole Gomes, in only his second year of shooting a bow and arrow, placed second at the three-day Oregon Bowhunters State Indoor Archery Championships held Feb. 20-22 in Bend.

It marked the first time Gomes had competed at the state level. Including all competition categories, more than 400 archers participated.

A self-taught marksman with a bow, the son of Ed and Julie Gomes plans to compete in two additional Oregon Bowhunter-sponsored competitions in the upcoming months in hopes of claiming the "State Triple Crown Award" for his 12-14 age group's Youth Male Bowhunter Freestyle Division. Those meets will be held in Sherwood in June, and in La Grande in mid-July.

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Ribich runs mile in 4:13

David Ribich, a 2014 Enterprise High School grad whose distinguished high school track and cross-country career included perennial appearances on the winners' stand at state championship meets, has qualified to compete in collegiate invitations for Division I schools.

Ribich, who runs the mile and 3,000 meters for Western Oregon University, ran the mile in 4:13.84 in the Seattle Pacific Meet at Dempsey Stadium in Seattle on Saturday, Feb. 28.



Courtesy photo/Rachel Gosney

David Ribich (No. 311, middle of the pack), runs the mile at a Feb. 28 meet in Seattle. His time of 4:13 was a personal best and five seconds shy of the school record.

Wallowa County sunrise and sunset March 5 - March 11 (from the U.S. Naval Observatory)

Thursday, March 5		Friday, March 6		Saturday, March 7		Sunday, March 8		Monday, March 9		Tuesday, March 10		Wednesday, March 11	
Rise	6:20	Rise	6:19	Rise	6:17	Rise	6:15	Rise	6:13	Rise	6:11	Rise	6:09
Set	5:41	Set	5:43	Set	5:44	Set	5:46	Set	5:47	Set	5:48	Set	5:50

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