



# Turning back the calendar to revisit the top sports stories, highlights and photographs from 2016

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Siuslaw News

## JANUARY

### THREE VIKS CLAIM TOURNAY TITLES

It may have been a new Far West League format for Siuslaw, but it was business as usual for three Viking wrestlers, Ricky Huff, Matthew Morales and Dylan Jennings — each of whom went undefeated to take the crown in their weight classes. “It was a new type of ‘dual meet’ format, run more like a tournament,” said Siuslaw coach Neil Wartnik. “We had all six Far West schools on the mats here, with all the varsity wrestlers pitted against each other.”

Because of that, some wrestlers had as many as five matches, depending on the number of participants in each bracket. Huff and Morales were among those who had a full night on the mats, taking on five wrestlers in the 113-pound and 106-pound divisions, respectively. Each went a perfect 5-0. Jennings, wrestling at 285 pounds, went 3-0 to sweep the heavyweight bracket.

### SAILORS LAND EAGLES, SECOND MWL WIN

Against visiting McKenzie, the Sailors owned the paint all night defensively, scooping up 21 steals and posting 12 blocked shots. In addition, sophomore forward Dominic Wells had his best game of the season, scoring 13 points off the glass and nabbing 15 rebounds to go with eight steals and six blocked shots. “It was a commanding win for us, and an outstanding performance from Dominic,” said Mapleton coach Will Crook. “It was without question the best game of his young career. Offensively, he was tough in the paint. “Defensively, he was a nightmare for McKenzie.” Junior guard Hunter Simington was just as much a nightmare from the 3-point range, sinking 3-of-4 shots from beyond the arc. Off the glass, Simington claimed 11 rebounds to go with his dou-

ble-double 11 points on the night. Off the bench, sophomore guard Gene Carnes provided another offensive spark, scoring eight points. Inside the paint, freshman Gabe Simington also had eight points, along with 11 boards and three blocked shots.

### VIKING BOWLERS ROLL ON TO STATE

After nine hours of bowling, both the Siuslaw boys and girls teams qualified for the annual Oregon State bowling championships during the District 4 competition at Firs Bowl in Eugene. The Lady Vikings qualified by finishing third behind North Bend and district champion Cottage Grove. The Viking boys became Siuslaw’s first District 4 championship team in the history of the program. In competition, the teams started with 20 qualifying Baker games, with the top six teams going on to the semi-finals. In qualifying, both teams held third place to get to the semifinals. Next, to advance to the finals round, the Vikings had to finish in the top three. Both Vikings teams held on to third place to reach the finals.

## FEBRUARY

### VIKS END SEASON STRONG

Despite their 19-2 record and ranking as the 4A’s No. 1 team in the state, the Pirates found the waters a little choppy against a scrappy Viking team that gave Marshfield trouble when they met earlier this season. In fact, of all the teams the Pirates faced this season, Siuslaw is the only team to stay within 12 points or less. And they did it twice. In Coos Bay, the Vikings proved that their near upset over the top-ranked Pirates the first time they met wasn’t a fluke. Which for a Viking team that is 1-18 overall and 1-6 in league, is an important moral victory that the Pirates surely would like to have squelched on their home court.

### LADY SAILORS REACH PLAYOFFS

The Lady Sailors finished the regular season by facing two of the Mountain West League’s toughest, beginning with league-leading Lowell (13-1) Tuesday night in Mapleton. “We were much improved from the last time we played them,” said Mapleton coach Jesika Crook. “Overall, the girls played very well against a tough opponent.” But a flat start and early foul trouble for junior post Josi Hays left the Sailors unable to gain the kind of momentum needed to keep

pace with a state-caliber team like the Red Devils. “We never quite got the spark we needed to capitalize on opportunities to score,” said Crook. “Having Hays in foul trouble so early was a big loss for us.” Lowell broke away midway through the second period and held a sizeable lead for the rest of the game before securing its 13th win, 46-23.

### LADY VIKS LOSE HARD-FOUGHT BATTLE TO PIRATES

With only four games remaining in the league season and a narrow one-game advantage of North Bend, the Lady Pirates came into Tuesday’s game taking no chances against a scrappy Viking team capable of threatening Marshfield’s grip on second place in the Far West. The Vikings began to make good on that threat after remaining within 1 point of the Pirates with 3 minutes to go before the half. But an 11-point run by Marshfield in those final 3 minutes left Siuslaw trailing 25-13 by halftime — and with a deficit the Vikings would carry for the remainder of the game.

### JENNINGS LEADS VIK GRAPPLERS TO REGIONALS

Siuslaw wrestler Dylan Jennings is a shadow of his former self, and that may make him a hard man to beat this weekend and next. He and 17 of his fellow Vikings head to Klamath Falls this week for the Oregon School Activities Association’s 4A Special District 3 regional championships at Henley High School. Jennings was Siuslaw’s lone No. 1 seed, and a hungry one at that in the 220-pound weight class he hopes to dominate. “I haven’t lost to anyone in our region this year, so I wasn’t surprised to be seeded No. 1,” he said. Targeting the weight class has meant serious sacrifice. Wrestling starts before Thanksgiving, carries through Christmas and well into the new year. “The hardest part is watching yourself at family parties and stuff,” Jennings said. “This is like the worst season to lose weight, ever.” The Vikings senior expects to start competition Friday at 215 pounds, down from the 255 pounds he weighed to start the season. Down from 270 much of his junior season. “I started the season at 255, now I’m an easy 220,” Jennings said. “I like to cut to like 215, so that it’s easier to stay on weight for the second day.” That would be Saturday, when he hopes to win a title.

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SIUSLAW NEWS Sports & Recreation VICTORY LAP Lady Sailors claim first district track title SHS TRACK NABS 16 STATE SLOTS On the Bite

SIUSLAW NEWS Sports & Recreation Leaving the huddle Dodson to head Viking football Champions! VIKS split final Far West matchups with Lancers On the Bite

SIUSLAW NEWS Sports & Recreation Champions! HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ANNOUNCED FOR 2016 VIKS sweep doubleheader at Brookings On the Bite

BLACK YELLOW MAGENTA CYAN

