



NED HICKSON/SIUSLAW NEWS

Mapleton freshman Trinity Peterson moves in to block the Lady Cruisers during Thursday night's home game.

Mapleton from 1B

However, coming back from the break, the Lady Sailors' defense put the pressure on Powers, holding the Lady

Cruisers to just 3 points in the third quarter — off of a freethrow and a bucket all in the last minute of the period.

Meanwhile, Michael and junior Heather McMaster-Wills each scored, bringing Mapleton

within 19 points to start the fourth quarter. Given the Lady Sailors' six-person roster, foul trouble is always a concern. Thursday night underscored that concern when Michael and Stevens fouled out at the end of

the third period, followed by the departure of McMaster-Wills to start the fourth quarter. That left freshman Trinity Peterson, sophomore Daleena Bender and junior Alyssa West on the court for 7 of the game's final 8 minutes.

With 4:44 remaining, West drained a short jumper to score the team's first basket of the quarter, followed by a freethrow and fastbreak from Peterson for 3 points in the final seconds. Despite the effort, it was well

short of overcoming the team's first-half deficit as the Lady Cruisers won it, 42-12.

Mapleton will be back on the hardwood on Friday, Dec. 29, beginning at 3 p.m., at home against Yoncalla.

Little from 1B

athletes to wrestle.

Successful sports programs are generally those with a continuity of coaching. For 38 years, Siuslaw High School has had only two wrestling coaches: Pat Zahner from 1979 until Neil Wartnik took over a little more than 20 years ago.

There is no state championship team painted on the wall

but there have been several individual state champions.

Knowing Coach Wartnik, state titles are goals he hopes occur. But equally as important are his goals of assisting his young men to have integrity, industriousness and good character.

During the down time between basketball and spring sports in 1967, I took the time to wrestle freestyle. A friend needed a wrestling opponent to

practice with and I wrestled for two weeks.

I entered two tournaments. The first was divided by experience. I had one week of experience, so I wrestled in the novice division. I was ahead in my first match with only seconds left in the match.

As my coach yelled to stay away, my aggressive and competitive instinct was to go on the offensive. My takedown attempt suddenly turned what I

knew would be certain victory into the agony of defeat.

I went on to wrestle in four matches in my career. And in each case, my strength and endurance lost out to superior skill.

Though I was only pinned once, it was by the 6A state champion from David Douglas High School, who made quick work of me with a pin just 1 minute into the match.

To put it plainly, wrestling is

a tough sport. I attended Pacific University, which was the Northwest Conference champions for more than 10 consecutive years.

Coach Clocks' teams won these with mostly freshmen and sophomore wrestlers.

Many wrestlers stopped wrestling after two years. They also proudly displayed their Northwest champion patches on their letter jackets.

Our Siuslaw wrestlers

deserve your support. Coach Wartnik and his assistants work year round to put a competitive team on the mat.

Their recent tournament results are the product of their hard work.

Mark your calendars for the Nick Lutz Invitational tournament set for Jan. 13.

The Vikings will be at their very best in memory of this former state champion.



Have a good time, this holiday season. But, if you know you're going to drink, choose a designated driver, take a cab, or arrange to stay over. Getting on the road after even one drink can impair your judgment and reaction time, opening the door to a holiday disaster.

Have a Happy and Safe Celebration!

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