

**MHS** from 1B

by only three points, 9-12. But a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Days Creek took the wind out of the Sailors sails, extending the Wolves' lead to 6 points.

"I felt like that gave them more momentum going into the second quarter," Wolgamott said. "We didn't play our best basketball in the first quarter, and I felt like if it was 12-9, it might have been a little bit different. But when I go back and see what could have been different, what could have changed the flow of the game — I felt like that was a big part of the first half."

Despite the sudden change of fortunes, the Sailors played hard in the second quarter.

"Defensively, we gave up a few threes when we probably shouldn't have," Wolgamott said. "Part of that was not being in the right place on the rotation, but give credit to Days Creek. They passed that ball pretty quickly and got that defense moving. That's the point when you play zone defense — to get open shots — and they were able to do that by rotating the ball and hitting the open guy."

Still, the defense could have held if the offense was strong, but that's where Mapleton struggled, Wolgamott said. "Days Creek pressed us almost all night long. We had a difficult time handling that. We were sped up by the press, and that was the goal of Days

Creek. They had a good game plan and executed it well."

So much so that, by halftime, the Sailors' deficit from the first period had doubled to 12.

"I told the boys at halftime, this game is far from over," Wolgamott recalled. "We've come too far to just give up and concede the victory to Days Creek. That's not who we are, and that's not who we've been all season long. We have to go out in the second half, we have to fight and give it the absolute best effort we have. We've got nothing to lose."

They came up with a plan: break the remaining quarters into small sections, two minutes at a time. Don't look for a triumphant comeback, but build the lead slowly, point by point.

"We started off the second half pretty well. We cut the lead down to nine and we had a chance to get even closer," Wolgamott said, "but the rebounds weren't coming out in our favor."

That was a little disheartening because we've been so good the past couple of games controlling the boards and owning the rebounds. But really, Days Creek rebounded us and a lot of it was second-chance opportunities for them, which led to points."

Whenever Days Creek missed a shot on their end, it was followed by an offensive rebound.

As the game wore on, the Sailors wore out, and the defi-

cit of nine gradually grew to 14 at the final buzzer, 46-32.

After the game, there was disappointment in the locker room.

"You obviously want to always play your best basketball," Wolgamott said. "When you don't, you shouldn't be satisfied if you're a player that cares about the game. If you don't play your best basketball, you shouldn't be satisfied with the performance, and I feel a lot of them weren't satisfied. The players felt like they let an opportunity slip. I told them, let it hurt for a little bit."

He told the players that dwelling on the loss when they got home was to be expected, but when they wake up in the morning, turn the page.

"We can't let one result cloud what we accomplished all year long," Wolgamott said. "I just wanted them to know that they had nothing to be ashamed of, because they made history at Mapleton. You guys accomplished that. Whatever the result was of that game, no one can take that away from you. That was what was achieved and that's not going to change."

The season began and ended with eight players, something that is rare for Mapleton.

"You always anticipate a player here or two maybe not sticking around for whatever reason," Wolgamott said. "When you have small numbers, keeping the players motivated and interested is key.

We were able to do that. That says a lot about the character of the players. They started something and they wanted to finish it — and they did a pretty damn good job along the way."

That's not to say that every member showed up for every game. Wolgamott pointed to a game at Elkton as a turning point for the team, where only five players were able to make the game and they still won, 46-37.

"No subs, and they never used that as an excuse," he said. "The way they battled with five guys playing the entire game, playing well, and actually getting the win was a moment that I won't forget this year or for years after this. I told them throughout the year because they made it difficult for themselves — because if you can win with five guys — you can win with eight."

The wins they had during league were also outstanding, winning 8 of 12 games.

"That's a long period of time to sustain that level of play, over a month playing well, that's something to be proud of," Wolgamott said.

And of course, there was

finishing out the year in the final spot for the playoffs.

"The league playoff game against Crow, that was probably the highlight of the year right there," Wolgamott said. "With everything on the line, the way they came out, the way they believed and the way they executed — and frankly the way they dominated that game and winning by 26 — I felt like that was a statement game. When that final buzzer sounded, it's something we won't forget anytime soon. Those are memories you'll never forget."

This will be the last year for two key players for Mapleton, Nate Neece and Justyce Weirchs.

"Those players won't be replaceable," Wolgamott said. "You always want to leave a legacy each year, and their legacy was that they were able to compete when stakes were high, and they brought Mapleton back to respectability. They brought Mapleton back to a very high level where we were a factor in every game we played. Because of their leadership and what they were able to play at, those seniors are leaving with two state playoff berths, one football,

one basketball. That will never be taken away from them.

I just wanted them to know how much they meant to the program and that without them, none of this would be possible."

As for the team as a whole, Wolgamott said it was one of the best he had ever coached.

"Just playing really good basketball when it mattered at the end of the year," he said. "Seeing the boys improve, being positive the whole time, even if we dropped a game. They always looked forward to the next game. In my three years of being the head coach, they're one of the most coachable groups I had."

As for next year, Wolgamott sees great possibilities.

"Everybody can make improvements over the off season, and we'll ultimately be a better team," he said. "It's going to be tough to do, but I like the attitude that the players have shown throughout this year. The way I feel, why not try and make another run at it next year, with maybe even more success? I'm excited to see what the future holds for these boys."

**Viks** from 1B

Jennings was dominant in his next match, pinning his opponent to secure a spot in the second day of competition. Jen-nings then lost a heartbreaker just before the placing rounds to fourth-place finisher Tanner Gibson of Junction City.

In that match, Jennings led Gibson in scoring the entire match until, in the last 15 seconds, Gibson scored a reversal for a 1-point victory.

The standout performances of the tournament came at 285 lbs. from Matthew Horrillo, and at 138 lbs. from Elijah La-Cosse.

On Friday, Horrillo squelched two opponents to make the semi-finals round, advancing to meet Christopher Woods of Hidden Valley on the mats. After a dead heat and scoreless first round, Woods caught Horrillo for a second-round pin. Horrillo went on to fight his way back through the consolation rounds, ending

the tournament with two very decisive victories to stand on the podium in third place.

LaCosse, meanwhile, suffered a disappointing first-round loss to Alex Kehr of La Grande — the team that went on to claim the team title. Kehr pulled ahead early and went on to pin LaCosse in the second round. But the Viking 138-pounder rose above the defeat, dominating and pinning five consecutive opponents to secure third place overall.

Along the way, LaCosse defeated two returning state-placers, eliminated No. 3 seed Keegan Hagerty of Tillamook from the tournament and also defeating Sweet Home's Tristan Spencer. LaCosse's final match of the tournament was a re-match against Kehr for third place — with LaCosse pinning Kehr in the first round to secure the win.

The eight-man team finished 13th out of 32 teams, with LaCosse scoring an impressive 23 team points — the most points that can be

scored by a third-place finisher at state.

In the girls' tournament, sophomores Bailey Overton and Hayden Muller endured difficult first-round matches against the No. 2 seeds in their brackets. Unlike the boys tournament, the girls compete against every Oregon division (1A-6A), making the competition especially tough.

Overton and Muller competed well, with each of them winning matches at state. Muller was matched against Haylee Davis, a regional champion from Banks. The Viking sophomore defeated Davis with a first-round pin to move into the semifinals. Though she suffered a loss in the next round, Muller dominated Jasmine Hopkins from Forrester Grove to place fourth in her weight class.

On the podium, Muller was flanked by three upper-classman (two seniors and one junior), two of whom were returning state champions.

**SHS** from 1B

The Bulldogs came out in the third and dominated, almost shutting out the Vikings completely, outscoring Siuslaw 21-2.

Going into the fourth, the Viks were down 49-31.

Siuslaw attempted a comeback and were able to gain an additional 8 points, but

Woodburn answered back with an additional 11, cinching the win.

Braydon Thornon led the Viks in scoring with 14.

Despite the loss, it was a strong finish for the relatively young team, which consists of only one senior, Kiger Johnson.

It was the first time the Viking's made it to the state playoffs since 2017, and the

experience this year could make Siuslaw a force to be reckoned with in next years season.

In Saturday's edition, Vikings coach Dylan Perry sits down with *Siuslaw News* for comments on Friday's game, as well as a reflection of the season's rollercoaster ride to success.

**Fishing** from 1B

TENMILE LAKES: Trout, warmwater species, large-mouth bass

Bass anglers will need to slow down their presentation

as the water temperatures continue to drop. Anglers are catching most of the bass along the deeper weedlines and submerged trees. Yellow perch are cruising on the deep-water mud flats. Most of the fish are under 10-inch-

es long but anglers are catching a few 12 inch-plus fish.

Trout anglers continue to troll for trout. A few trout have been caught on bait by anglers targeting yellow perch.



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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK** ▶▶

**ELIJAH LACOSSE**  
JUNIOR WRESTLING



**HIGHLIGHT:**  
The Sports Club, the Siuslaw News and Coast Radio Sports congratulate junior Elijah LaCosse as this week's Athlete of the Week. Elijah finished the State Wrestling Championship in third place. After losing in the first round he went on to score 5 consecutive pins including a rematch against his first round opponent. He was one of only two wrestlers in the tournament to do that and scored 23 points in the 138 pound weight bracket.

**Honorable Mention:** Hayden Muller - Siuslaw Girls Wrestling

**Highlight:**  
Honorable mention goes to another Viking Wrestler, sophomore Hayden Muller who placed 4th in the 135 pound girls division.

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