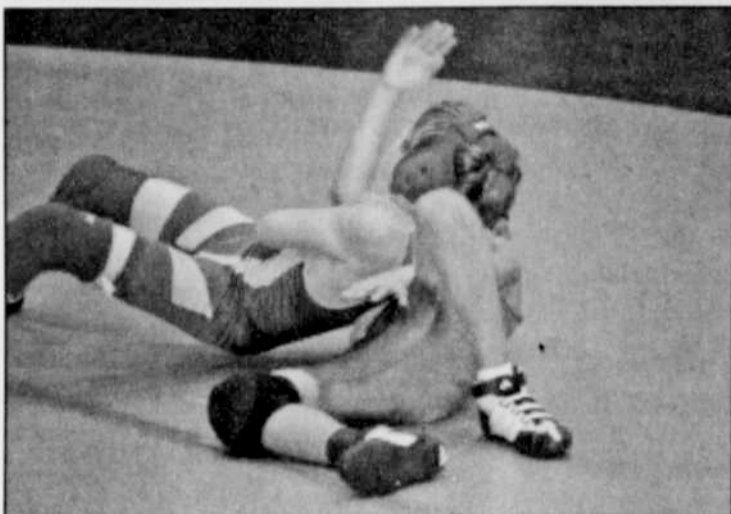
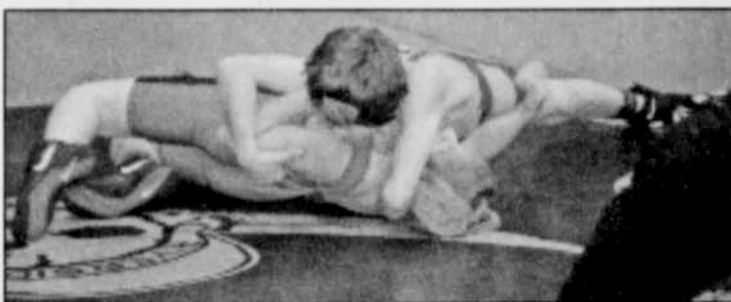


## Heppner Jr. High wrestlers qualify for state

By Mark Lemmon

The Heppner Jr. High Wrestling team traveled to Boardman on March 1 to compete in the Eastern Oregon Regional Qualifier. The tournament was a qualifier for the state wrestling tournament. Since there are no size classifications for middle school, all schools from the region with wrestling programs were present including teams from Baker, Hermiston, Pendleton, Hood River, The Dalles, Boardman, Milton Freewater, La Grande, Ontario, Joseph, Irrigon, Vale, North Powder and Union.

Austin Harris, Jarred Lemmon, Curtis Martin, John Nelson and Zech Hintz all made it to the championship semifinals. Josh Williams made it to the consolation semifinals. Under last year's criteria, where the top six placers advanced to state, all six would have qualified for the state tournament. This year the standards were changed to allow only the top four placers to advance to state, making it necessary for the six Mustangs to continue



Austin Harris (top photo) and Jarred Lemmon (bottom photo) qualified for the state competition this past weekend. -Photos by Alita Nelson

winning to qualify.

At the end of the day, Austin Harris, 75 pounds, and Jarred Lemmon, 80 pounds, stood on the podium to receive medals for fourth place and third place respectively in their

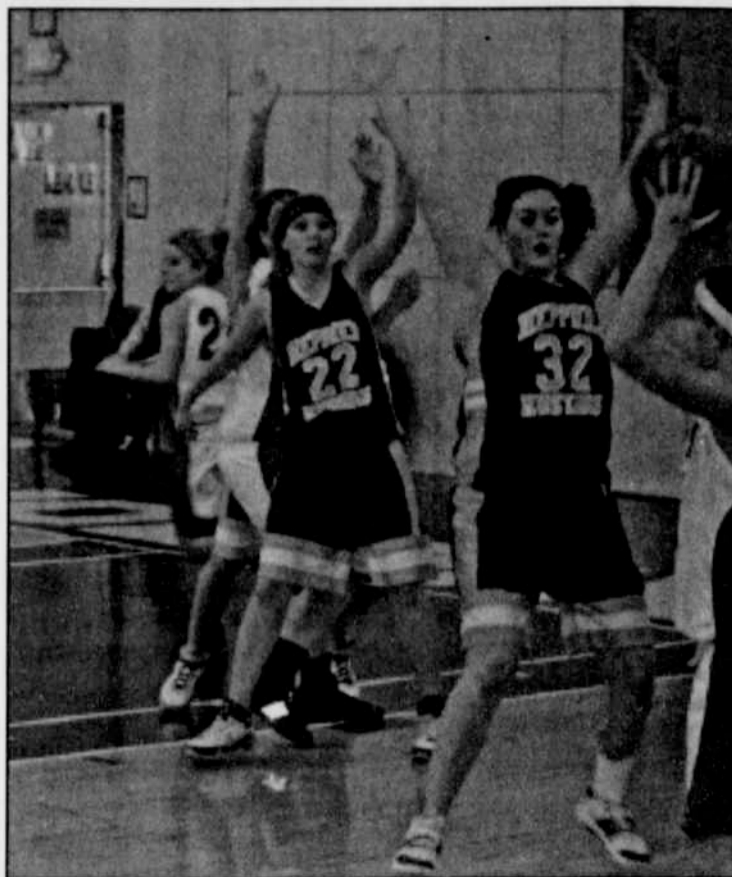
weight classes. Those two will travel to Woodburn to compete against the best middle school wrestlers in Oregon on March 8. Harris, 7th grade, and Lemmon, 6th grade, being close in size and age have been work out

partners all year and have pushed each other to become state caliber wrestlers.

They are only the second and third wrestlers ever from Heppner to qualify for the state tournament, but with the growth of the program and the progress of the young team, expect to see state qualifiers and state placers in the coming years from the high school. When the Jr. High wrestlers move up to the high school team, the experience they've gained at the middle school level will prepare them well to compete against other 2A schools. Besides the budding Jr. High and High School teams, Heppner has also been offering a Colt wrestling club for the past three years that includes kids from first through fifth grade.

Also competing in the tournament for the Mustangs were Aidan Wright, Cody Nelson, Alex Smith, Justyn Peck, Earl Prophet, Treston Maben, Justin Smith, Andrew Bara, Conner Pappas, Tim Nelson and Garrett Gibbs.

## Mustang girls take sixth place in state tournament



Katie Kilkenny (2nd Team All Tournament) and Aftan Betsinger defend the basket against the Glendale Pirates. The Heppner Mustangs were defeated 43-37 in a tight battled game. The Mustangs took home the 6th place State Trophy. -Photo by Sandy Matthews

-Glendale 43, Heppner 37  
Heppner (18-7)  
VanCleave, Kristen 5-8 1-6 11; Kilkenny, Katie 2-10 3-6 7; Orr, Megan 2-12 1-2 7; Betsinger, Aftan 3-8 0-0 6; McElligott, Catherine 2-2 0-2 4; Kempas, Taylor 1-10 0-2 2; Price, Erin 0-1 0-0 0; Doherty, Kylie 0-0 0-0 0; Hughes, Jessica 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 15-51 5-18 37.  
Glendale (22-4)

Owens, Gretchen 8-18 6-9 23; Marriott, Ashley 6-13 6-6 18; Lovemark, Rori 1-9 0-0 2; Phelps, Shelby 0-2 0-0 0; Brown, Zoe 0-4 0-0 0; Lovelady, Lexii 0-1 0-0 0; Prock, Samantha 0-0 0-0 0; Henry, Jenna 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 15-47 12-15 43.

Heppner..... 13 8 6 10 - 37  
Glendale..... 9 10 10 14 - 43  
3-point goals--Heppner 2-12 (Orr, Megan 2-8; Betsinger, Aftan 0-1; Kempas, Taylor 0-3), Glendale 1-9 (Owens, Gretchen 1-4; Lovemark, Rori 0-2; Phelps, Shelby 0-1; Brown, Zoe 0-2). Fouled out--Heppner-Orr, Megan, Glendale-None. Rebounds--Heppner 45 (VanCleave, Kristen 13), Glendale 33 (Owens, Gretchen 10). Assists--Heppner 8 (Kempas, Taylor 3; Orr, Megan 3), Glendale 8 (Owens, Gretchen 4; Brown, Zoe 4). Total fouls--Heppner 12, Glendale 15. Technical fouls--Heppner-None, Glendale-None.

2008 OSAA / U.S. Bank / Les Schwab Tires  
2A Girls Basketball State Championship  
Qwest Players of the Game: Gretchen Owens, Glendale  
Qwest Players of the Game: Kristine Van Cleave, Heppner

## Ione team travels watch WSU women's team

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ione Booster Club, players from the middle school girls' basketball team attended a Washington State University Women's basketball game in Pullman. The Cougs took on Stanford. "It was really fun getting to go to a college game," said eighth grader Jordan Peterson. "Everyone got along well and I hope to get to go again sometime."

The middle school girls team applied for a grant from the booster club and also did a bake raffle at one of the home basketball games to raise fund to go. The money earned paid



Standing: Becca Jepsen and Lacey Thompson  
Kneeling/Seated L-R: Shadow Kendrick, Jordan Peterson, Mary Rietmann and Lily Sandford

for t-shirts and beads for each player, game tickets, fuel, lunch and dinner. The team departed early Sunday morning for Pullman and got a behind the scenes tour from one of the WSU athletic departments personal trainers, attended the basketball game sitting in the third row and ate dinner together at Olive Garden in Tri-Cities on the way home. "It was a unique experience for many of these girls to set foot on a division one school campus," said coach Erin Heideman. "It was really enjoyable for me to have the opportunity to help provide this chance."

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