

Heppner wrestling team places two and finishes in top 10 at state

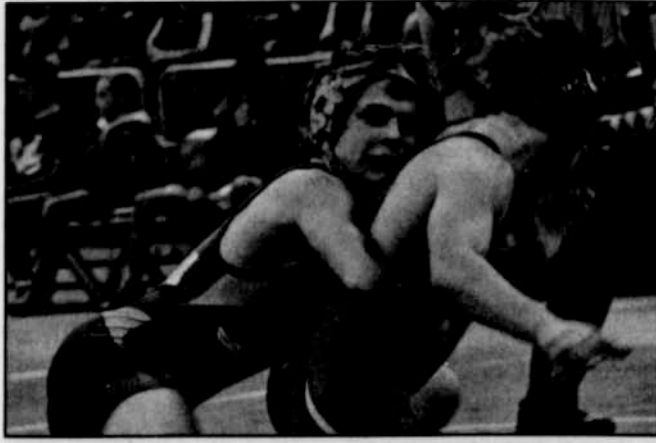
The Heppner wrestling team's two district champions, 112-pound Jared Lemmon and 130-pound Jarreid Miller, traveled to Portland to compete in the OSAA state championships on February 25 and 26.

The state championship tournament is held in Veteran's Memorial Coliseum on 12 mats with all classes from 2A/1A to 6A competing side by side. Memorial Coliseum is the home of the Winterhawks and formerly the home of the Trail Blazers. It seats nearly 13,000 and is on the National Register of Historic Places as a war memorial "to the memory of our veterans of all wars who made the supreme sacrifice."

The tournament resulted in some historical firsts for Heppner wrestling, first wins in the championship bracket, first state finalist, and first top-10 team finish.

Going into the tournament Lemmon was ranked second in the state and Miller was ranked fourth in their respective weight classes. Both wrestlers started strong, recording Heppner's first wins in the championship bracket. Neither match lasted long as Lemmon pinned his Culver opponent in 1:17 while Miller needed just 39 seconds to finish off his Central Linn challenger.

With the wins, the two Mustangs advanced to the semi finals Saturday morning and, combined with the bonus points from the pins, sent Heppner's name to a top-10 slot on the overhead marquis in the Coliseum. Heppner was on and off the leader board throughout the tournament and ultimately finished 10th. Four of the 10 teams from Heppner's district finished in the top-10 including Crane (6th), Irrigon (8th), Pine Eagle (9th), and Heppner (10th). Culver won the 2A/1A team state championship for the fourth year



Jared Lemmon (top photo) took second place and Jarreid Miller (bottom photo) took fourth place in the state wrestling tournament this past weekend -Photos by Jeremy Lanthorn

in a row. Lemmon kept the Mustangs going with a 6-2 decision in the semi finals, becoming the first Heppner wrestler to qualify for the state championship bout. Miller, however, lost his semi final match 3-9 to a Gold Beach opponent and dropped to the consolation bracket where he would need to win his next match to stay in the tournament.

"The consolation bracket at state is brutal for the loser of the semi finals," said Coach Mark Lemmon. "You go from the anticipation high of a possible state championship to the pressure of a win-or-go-home match. You face someone who lost the day before, had a night to regroup, and is already on the upswing of having won a consolation round. And you only get about an hour to prepare."

Miller was up for the challenge. He jumped to an early lead with a takedown, but then was caught out of position and nearly pinned. Determined

not to go home empty handed, Miller battled off his back to regain control of the match. He eventually pinned the Vernonia wrestler in the third round, scoring bonus points for the team and guaranteeing himself a medal and a place in the tournament's Parade of Champions. In the consolation championship, he lost to Culver's Ryan Kasch and finished fourth. Kasch was the number one seed and the older brother of Jared Kasch, whom Lemmon

later faced in the 112-pound championship.

For the state finals bouts, the Coliseum floor is reduced to five mats and each weight of all size classifications are wrestled simultaneously in front of the several thousand spectators. The 2A/1A mat was the center stage for the 2011 event. Lemmon entered the championship a heavy underdog to Jared Kasch from Culver, a 2010 state champion and runner up in the 2011 Reser's Tournament of Champions.

Kasch scored first on a takedown but Lemmon fended him off from scoring the remainder of the first round. Lemmon tied the score at 2-2 in the second period when he turned Kasch to his back for near-fall points. After that, it became a series of takedowns for Kasch. He scored three more takedowns and two escapes. Lemmon's only other score was a third period escape, but was never in danger of being pinned and did not allow any near-fall points. The final score was 10-3.

"Most of my life I've watched and pretty much idolized the guys in the state finals," Lemmon said. "It meant a lot to me to get that far. It really makes all the hard work worth it. Heppner finishing as a top-10 team in the state means we've earned some respect."

Class of 2015 to host dodge ball tournament

The Heppner High School class of 2015 is sponsoring a Battle of the Businesses dodge ball tournament on Thursday, March 10. The tournament will begin at 4 p.m.

Teams must have eight people. The cost to play is \$5 per person.

For more information contact Heppner High School at 541-676-9138.

Mustangs fall to Cobras 78-46

On February 25 the Heppner Mustangs played the Central Linn Cobras in the home team's Cobra Dome gym. A big crowd with lots of noise pushed Central Linn past Heppner for a final score of 78-46.

Both teams seemed nervous in the first quarter. The cobras started hitting from outside, putting the half time score at 33-18 Central Linn. The Mustangs could only score 10 points in the third frame as the Cobras continued their hot outside shooting.

The Mustangs fought hard through the entire game with elimination on the line. Heppner played their best in the fourth quarter but could not overtake the Cobras. Good job to the seniors for their successful season.

Heppner Nazarene Church to host global missionaries

Heppner Nazarene Church will host missionaries George and Nancy Miller on Friday, March 4, at 6 p.m. Fellowship will follow the presentation.

The Millers have served as missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene since 1989 when they were appointed and served one five year term as specialized assignment missionaries after which they were granted global missionary status in 1994. George is currently the district superintendent to the Solomon Islands district. Nancy is serving as principal of Zion Christian Academy, a Nazarene K-12 school operated by the Honiara, Zion Church of the Nazarene.

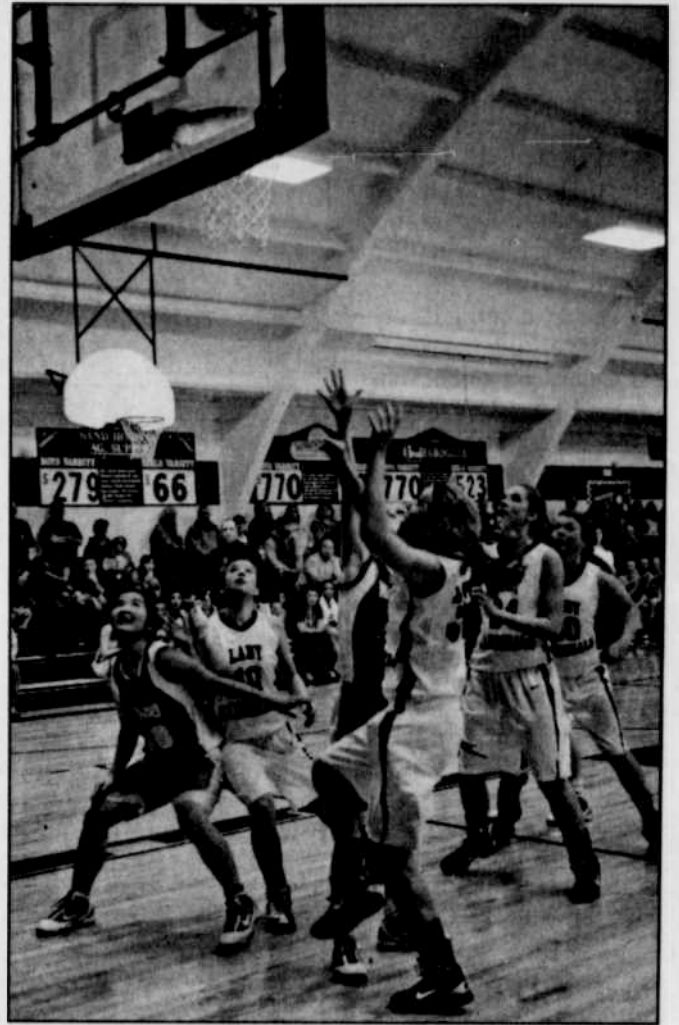
Spray Rodeo tryouts to be held

Tryouts for the 2011 Spray Rodeo will be held March 26 at 1 p.m. at the Spray Rodeo grounds.

Contestants do not have to be local or Wheeler County residents. They must be at least 15 years old, never been married, or have children.

The Spray Rodeo will be held May 28 and 29. For more information call 541-468-2442.

Lady Cardinals finish season with 20-7 record



Ione teammates back up Beth Morter's shot. -Photo by Paula Emmel

The Ione Lady Cardinals saw their 2010-11 campaign come to an abrupt and painful halt at the hot hands of two sharp-shooting sisters from Portland Waldorf in the first round of the OSAA State 1A playoffs on Wednesday, February 23. The loss bumped the Ione team from the playoffs. The team finished the year with a 20-7 record overall.

JoAnna Patton was the go-to gal in the first quarter as she put back two of her own offensive rebounds for scores and hit two free throws to score six of the team's 10 first quarter points. Portland Waldorf hit the second of what would be six three pointers with 25 seconds left in the first quarter to trail the Cardinals 10-8. The Wolfpack took the lead in the second quarter and stretched the lead to five points in the late going. Collette Cason hit the second of two free throws with 2.3 seconds left in the half to get the Lady Cards within four points, 19-23 at halftime.

Waldorf opened the third quarter with a 7-2 run to lead 30-21 with just three minutes gone in the quarter. The Lady Cardinals responded with six unanswered points to pull back within three but the Wolfpack came back with a 10-2 run to finish the third period with their biggest lead of the day 40-29.

With their season on the line, Ione battled back in the fourth quarter and outscored the Wolfpack 13-4 in the first six and half minutes of the quarter. When Beth Morter grabbed a steal and took it full court for a lay-in with 1:42 remaining, the Cards were as close as they had been since the second quarter, 44-42. The Wolfpack deliberately slowed the tempo and held the ball forcing the Cards to foul. In that last minute and half, Waldorf went to the line 11 times and swished nine. JoAnna Patton hit a shot with 29 seconds left and Shadow Kendrick hit a jumper with eight seconds left but the Lady Cards ran out of time and chances as the Wolfpack moved on in

the playoffs with a 53-46 win. Portland Waldorf's sister duo of Anya and Greta Conlon accounted for 45 of the team's 53 points. No other member of the team scored more than three points.

"It was a disappointing loss and one that will stay with us for awhile," said Coach Mike Garrett. "We had set some very high expectations for this year's team and when you don't meet those expectations it is a hard pill to swallow."

"We started the game out fairly well and were controlling the tempo," said Coach Garrett. "It was fairly obvious from the start who their main scorers were and I felt that we did a good job on them early in the game. They did a good job of pressuring our guards on the outside and we had a hard time getting into our offense. Even with the pressure we still shot the ball 61 times and that is always one of our objectives. Unfortunately most didn't fall and they couldn't miss in the second and third quarter. The girls made a big push in the fourth quarter and fought back to get within four but we could never quite climb all of the way back. Portland Waldorf did an outstanding job of making their free throws down the stretch and we were only able to create 10 steals during the game."

JoAnna Patton was the leading scorer for the Lady Cardinals with 16 points. She also had ten rebounds and five steals. Beth Morter had one last double-double in an Ione uniform, scoring 11 points and pulling down 10 rebounds. Rounding out the Ione scoring was Shadow Kendrick with eight, Collette Cason with five and Lacey Thompson, Mary Rietmann and Makenna Ramos with two each.

Although the loss hit him and team hard, Coach Garrett was quick to point out that the season was a very good one for the team. "Overall, it was a very successful year and one that I will look back on with fond memories. I couldn't have asked for a better group of kids for the 2011 season. They always worked hard, they represented their school, community, and coach in the highest standard, and were a joy to be around. The Senior class will truly be missed and hopefully we can continue to build on their success for next year."

Lady Mustangs fall to Loggers 64-57

On February 26, the Heppner Mustangs played the number two Scio Loggers in girls' basketball in a first round state playoff game. Although they lost 64-57, they played tough until the very end of the contest.

Down at the half 37-20, the Mustangs were not ready to quit. The Loggers continued their fast paced game into the third quarter as the lady Mustangs found themselves deeper in the hole, behind by 22.

Heppner responded with a 21-14 third quarter run which put them six points behind the Loggers going into the fourth quarter. With a no quit attitude they played hard the entire game. Senior leadership was evident in the game as Lindsay Cutsforth scored 13 and Taighler Dougherty added five rebounds, four steals, four assists and two points. Alana Wilson scored 18 points with two three-pointers and six rebounds. Bailey Bennett added 16 points and 15 rebounds in the game.

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First secretary of the Treasury

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