

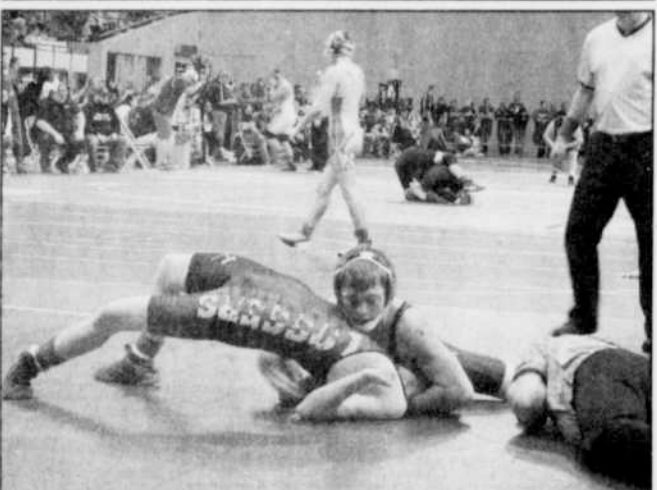
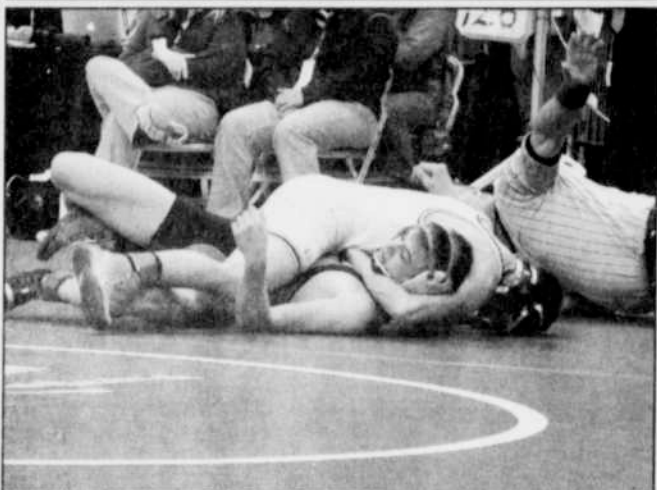
## Mustang wrestlers earn three medals, take fifth in state

Heppner had its first state champions in wrestling this last weekend in the OSAA 1A/2A State Championship at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Ryan Smith took first place at 106 pounds and

Jared Lemmon brought home the gold at 126 pounds. Treston Maben brought home a third-place medal.

The Mustangs finished fifth as a team at state, behind Culver, Lowell, Monroe and Crane.



Top: Ryan Smith took first in the 106-lb. class in the 1A/2A state championship. Middle: Jared Lemmon on the second day of the state tournament; he also took champion in his 126-lb. class. Bottom: Treston Maben placed third in the 152 lb. class. The Heppner team took fifth in the state tournament. -Photos by Kandy Boyd

## WRESTLING COACH

-Continued from PAGE ONE appears to have paid off, as the Mustangs took two first place and one third place individual medals to claim a team fifth place in the state tournament in Portland last week, the best the school as ever done.

Wrestling has always been part of Lemmon's life. "There were six boys in our family; we used to tear up the furniture wrestling with each other," he recalls.

He started wrestling in the first grade and later enrolled at Stanfield High School because there was a wrestling program. The program was later cancelled, however, because of Title IX, the federal law intended to bring equality to men's and women's athletics. From there he attended college in Idaho, where he wrestled in open tournaments.

After college Lemmon entered the world of business, and when he considered taking the job here in Heppner as the Bank of Eastern Oregon Chief Financial Officer, the first thing he asked was, "Does the school have a wrestling program?" Luckily for Heppner, Brian Harmon and Ken Bailey had started a program the previous year, so the answer was "Yes."

After Lemmon moved here Harmon and Bailey heard of his experience in

the sport and asked him to get involved in the program.

"I thought they would maybe say help out in the snack shack or something, but they asked me to coach," he says.

He spent two years as the junior high coach and then moved up to the high school five years ago.

His whole family is involved with wrestling, as his son Jared took first at state in the 126 lb. class and another son, Brian, is an assistant coach with the team. Many family members also traveled to the state tournament in Portland to watch. In addition Lemmon's brother-in-law Doug Tovey has coached for Roseburg and Hermiston wrestling programs.

Lemmon says he enjoys the sport because most anyone can become involved and their success is directly linked to how hard they work.

"I like to see the young men work hard and succeed," he says. "Your success is directly proportional to what you do. If you are willing to work you can see success."

Lemmon had to back up his vow to work as hard as his wrestlers, as some of them wanted to go down to the weight room and work out on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day.



(L-R): Champion Ryan Smith (106 lbs.), Coach Mark Lemmon, champion Jared Lemmon (126 lbs.) and Coach Brian Lemmon at the state tournament. -Photo by Kandy Boyd

"I was there with them," he says.

He also likes wrestling because people are matched up in equal categories. There are 14 weight categories and a match for everyone. Ryan Smith of Heppner was the other Mustang wrestler taking first in the state, his in the 106 lb. weight class, Lemmon points out.

In his office on the top floor of the BEO administrative building in Heppner, Lemmon shows a photo on the desktop of his computer he says is inspirational. It is a picture of a wrestler with only one leg winning a match.

On the future of Heppner wrestling Lemmon says there are some limitations at this point because of the number of students available at the school, pointing out that in order to win district more

numbers are needed. The Mustangs have only had 10 to 12 boys out to fill the 14 weight classes so it makes it more difficult to win team championships at meets.

"We have quality, we just don't have quantity," he says.

But things are apparently looking good in the lower grades with 37 kids out in the Colt program, which is necessary to get students prepared for high school competition.

Lemmon also praised the Heppner fans, saying they many times outnumber home team fans, and they show up with "totes of food" for the wrestlers to eat after they make weight.

"A lot of our tournaments are a long ways to travel and we really appreciate our fans," he says.

## Heppner athletes take charity on the road

Girls basketball teams joins other teams to help out North Powder family during an away game

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The Enterprise High School FCCLA chapter held a benefit for the Bingham family of North Powder.

The activities took place Feb. 14-15 at the home basketball games. Members of the visiting

teams (Heppner and Grant Union) took part in the fundraiser as well as the Enterprise home fans.

Activities included in the event were a quilt raffle, silent dessert auction, T-shirt sales and two nights of "Miracle Minutes." The clock was set for one minute and fans filled bags that were circulated around the stands with money.

The first night raised \$350, and the second night raised \$1,050. The Bingham family attended the games Saturday, and the two young girls who have received heart transplants as well as their mother spoke to the crowd.

Besides raising money for the family,

the importance of organ donation was also stressed and organ donor cards and brochures were available. The FCCLA said it has raised \$4,800 in total to donate to the Bingham family to help pay for medications that are not covered by insurance.

## Jordan Bailey named to East Shrine team; J.C. Putman alternate

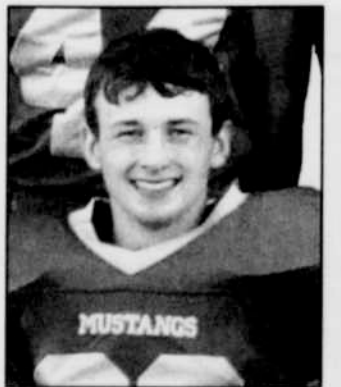
Jordan Bailey, a 5'9" 160 lb. Heppner High School senior was selected for the 2A Shrine East first team. Bailey was a running back, defensive back and wide receiver for Heppner.

J.C. Putman, a 6'3" 200 lb. HHS defensive end and offensive lineman, was selected to the alternate team.

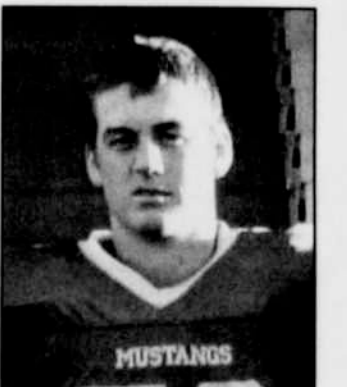
Bailey is the son of Jeff and Christine Bailey,

Putman is the son of Sandi Putman, Lexington, and Jim Putman, Clatskanie, OR.

Other 2A first team members include Colby Moll and Jeremiah Grieser, Regis; Dalton Reimers and Tucker Wright, Grant Union; Josue Avilez, Central Linn; Blake Traeger, Mt. Angel; and Thomas Nathan, Myrtle Point.



Jordan Bailey



J.C. Putman

## OSP seeks info on wolf pup shooting

Oregon State Police is seeking information and asking to speak to anyone with information on a male wolf pup that was found dead near Linton Mountain in Umatilla County.

On Dec. 5, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) relayed an anonymous complaint to the Oregon State Police regarding a wolf that had been shot and killed near

Milton-Freewater. The dead wolf was recovered and a genetic analysis of the carcass showed the wolf had been born into the Umatilla River pack.

Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call OSP Northern Command Center at 800-452-7888 or email Senior Trooper Dain Gardner at JDGardne@osp.state.or.us.

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