

MUSTANGS WRESTLING

-Continued from PAGE ONE

"Doyle is a tough opponent," said Smith. "I prepared for that match all season." "I am so grateful for all those who surround me and life me up so I can wrestle and represent Heppner Wrestling."

Heppner senior John Propheter wrestled most of the 2014-15 season at 195 pounds but made a strategic move up to the 285-pound heavyweight division for the district tournament. It paid off as he claimed the district championship by pinning everyone he faced.

As a district champion but with no criteria at 285 pounds, Propheter was given the last of the four seeds in the state bracket. He was also 45 to 80 pounds lighter than all of his opponents in the bracket. Propheter proved that technique and conditioning trumps size by pinning three of the four opponents he faced, bringing home a bronze medal for third place and the 285-pound consolation bracket championship. His only loss of the tournament came in the semi-finals to the eventual state champion.

Saturday afternoon Smith and Propheter joined the rest of the 2015 state placers in the March of Champions Parade led by the living inductees to the Oregon Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Team points are accumulated for individual



Ryan Smith of Heppner stands atop the podium as 106-pound 2A/1A state champion his second year running. -Photo by Kandy Boyd



John Propheter of Heppner brought home the bronze medal, taking third in a tough weight class at the state championship. -Photo by Kandy Boyd

wins, placements and bonus points for pins and major margins of victory. Despite having only two wrestlers at the state tournament and finishing eighth of 14 teams at the district tournament the previous week, Heppner placed seventh in the state at 2A/1A; that was half a point ahead of eighth-place Burns, the previous week's Special District 4 championship team, which had six wrestlers at state. The only team from the district to score more team points

at 2A/1A state was Crane, which finished fifth, also with six state qualifiers. Special District 4 was well represented with four of the top 10 teams.

Heppner has finished in the top 10 at state four of the last five years and has had wrestlers qualify for the state tournament seven years in a row. The Mustangs have had three individual state champions in two years and state placers each of the last six years.

MUSTANGS BASKETBALL

ADVANCES -Continued from PAGE ONE

and got many open looks at the basket. The Mustangs outscored the Falcons 21-6 in the quarter to take a 34-17 lead into halftime.

Both teams played well in the third quarter and they each scored 13 points. Heppner led at the end of three by a score of 47-30. The Falcons won the fourth quarter by a score of 15-13, but it wasn't enough, as the Mustangs recorded a 60-45 win.

Logan Grieb led the Mustangs with 20 points. He also had 7 rebounds and 3 assists in the game. Patrick Collins scored 9 points and hauled down 11 rebounds for the team. Ross Cutsforth also scored 9 points, and had 5 rebounds and 1 assist. CJ Kindle was next with 7 points, 4 rebounds and 7 big assists on the night. Kevin Murray hit for 6 points and had 3 rebounds while Caden Hedman scored 5 points and had 3 rebounds. Weston Putman scored 3 points and had 5 rebounds and 1 assist for the Mustangs. Jesse Corbin scored 2 points in the game. Kolby Currin recorded 1 rebound and Jake Lindsay and Jerimiah Petzoldt also gave the Mustangs some good play in the game.

Heppner shot 58 percent from the field and held Faith Bible to only 33 percent. The Mustangs outrebounded the Falcons by a 39-17 margin.



CJ Kindle (#24) and Patrick Collins block a Falcon during the Round One playoff game in Heppner last weekend while Kevin Murray (left) and Caden Hedman (#12) look to assist. -Photo by Sandra Putman

With the win, the Mustangs will now face off against the Knappa Loggers in their first game at the state tournament. Heppner faced Knappa in the first game of the season for both teams at a tournament in Warrenton. The Mustangs won that game by a score of 48-37. The Loggers are the first-place team from the Northwest League and have a record of 21-5. The game will be held at Pendleton High School on Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.



Caden Hedman ignores the attempted block by Faith Bible players on his way to the net Friday. -Photo by Sandra Putman

ALL NEWS AND ADVERTISEMENT DEADLINE: MONDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

GOOD LUCK MUSTANGS!



Front row: (l-r) Coach Jeremy Rosenmalm, Jake Lindsay, Caden Hedman, CJ Kindle, Weston Putman, Kevin Murray, Ross Cutsforth, Patrick Collins, Logan Grieb, Brian Rill, Jesse Corbin, Kolby Currin, Ken Grieb, Mike Ehrsam. Not Pictured Jerimiah Petzoldt

THE MUSTANGS WILL FACE THE KNAPPA LOGGERS IN STATE QUARTERFINALS MARCH 5TH AT PENDLETON HIGH SCHOOL AT 6:30 P.M.



THESE BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS CONGRATULATE THE HEPPNER MUSTANGS AND WISH THEM GOOD LUCK!

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