

Fourteen teams compete at BEO Invitational in Heppner



Jace Coe wrestling Dylan Julian from Lakeview in the championship. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

Saturday saw fourteen eastern Oregon high school wrestling teams descend on Heppner to compete in the annual Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational. The wrestlers hailed from Pine Eagle, Crane, Baker City/Powder Valley, Irrigon, Riverside, Pendleton, Echo/Stanfield, Enterprise, Elgin, Joseph/Wallowa, McLoughlin/Weston-McEwen/Griswold, Lakeview, Adrian and Heppner.

Crane won the team title and Jesse Jones from McLoughlin won the award for Most Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament. The Mustangs from Heppner acquitted themselves well in match competition.

Roan Waite competed at 113 pounds. He lost his first match by a tight decision to Dawson Tremper from Pendleton. And, un-

fortunately, the next match he lost by fall to River Clark from Baker City. Bryan Collins competed at 120 pounds and had two tough matches that both ended in falls to his adversaries from Pendleton and McLoughlin.

Saul Lopez was next up for Heppner at 132 pounds. His first opponent was Jack Lieuallen from Pendleton, the number five ranked wrestler in 5A at 132, and he battled hard but lost by tech fall. He then battled Dusty Melchoir from Pine Eagle and won by fall securing fifth place. At 145 pounds, Heppner's Edward Ellsworth competed and was successful in his first match by pinning Levi Roath from Crane. The next two matches saw Edward losing to a wrestler from Lakeview and Irrigon.

Jace Coe was next on



Suzy Cason wrestling Kaitlyn Lemmon in the championship. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

the weight scale to wrestle at 160 pounds. Jace had an outstanding tournament that would eventually end with him taking first in his weight class. His first match was against Harley Miller from Joseph/Wallowa and he won by tech fall. The next bout had him facing Seth Domann from Crane in a nail bitter with Jace winning by a slim decision of 4-2. The championship match pitted Jace against Dylan Julian from Lakeview. Dylan came into the meet ranked number four at 160 in 2A. Jace would dominate the match and end with a decision of 9-4.

Conor Brosnan was the final, male wrestler for Heppner as he competed at 170 pounds. Conor would face Clayton Hammond from Elgin, the number 10 ranked wrestler at 2A, and lose by fall. His second match was against Patrick Simpson from Pendleton. He would go on to pin Patrick in the first round and secure third place. Suzanneah Cason wrestled in the women's bracket at 132 pounds. She would have one match of the day against Kaitlyn Lemmon. Kaitlyn would go on to beat Cason by decision.

The Mustang's will be in action next Saturday at Pine Eagle (Halfway) starting at 10 a.m. This is the final tournament before Districts at Union the following Friday.



Conor Brosnan wrestling Patrick Simpson from Pendleton. -Photo by Kirsti Cason.

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Local wheat farmers selected for National Leadership Program

Clint Carlson, a Morrow County producer and currently the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) state president, Brent Cheyne, a producer in Klamath Falls and currently the National Wheat Growers secretary and Erin Heideman, a Morrow County producer and currently OWGL county president, just returned from the Syngenta Leadership at its Best Program in Raleigh, NC and Washington, D.C.

Now more than ever, public opinion, government policy, regulation, and even consumer attitudes have direct impact on the way farmers and agribusiness operate. As a result, the need for effective leadership and advocacy for agriculture has never been greater. To help meet this need, Syngenta sponsors Leadership at its Best program, partnering with ag organizations to develop and prepare their leaders with a robust ag advocacy conference.

Participants experienced refreshed modules based on today's leading thoughts, ideas and techniques while focusing on various aspects of leadership training and priority issues facing agriculture. The conference ended for the group on Capitol Hill with time spent using their recent training visiting with congressmen from around the nation. "As agriculturalists,



Members of the Oregon Wheat Growers League (OWGL) lobby for US Wheat on Capitol Hill as part of the Syngenta Leadership at its Best program. Pictured (L-R): Brent Cheyne (OWGL past president and current National Wheat Growers secretary from Klamath Falls), Clint Carlson (current OWGL president and wheat producer in Morrow/Gilliam counties) and Erin Heideman (Morrow County Wheat Growers president and wheat producers in Morrow/Gilliam counties).

we know we need to tell our story and be advocates of our industry," said Erin Heideman. "The Syngenta Leadership program helped give us the skills and confidence to actually do it."

In addition to the National Wheat Growers Association, other organizations represented included the Agriculture Retailer Association, National Soybean Growers, National Corn Growers Association and National Agricultural Aviation Association. For

over 90 years, after Oregon wheat producers first came together to work for the common interest, OWGL remains hard at work promoting wheat interests and providing a means for wheat growers to work together. From advocacy work in Salem to providing key input on federal farm legislation, the voice of Oregon grain producers is being heard through the efforts of their Oregon Wheat Growers League.

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Heppner Les Schwab would like to congratulate the Mustang Wrestlers on their great season!



Suzy Cason - Conor Brosnan - Saul Lopez
Jace Coe - Brian Collins
Edward Ellsworth - Roan Waite



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