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of the City of Heppner and the County of Morrow

Heppner

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Mustang wrestlers finish strong

The Mustangs traveled to Union on Friday to compete in the Special District 4 Wrestling tournament. The tournament is a two-day affair that determines which athletes will go on to compete in the state championships to be held in Portland on February 28. Heppner had six wrestlers competing this year: Roen Waite at 106 pounds, Saul Lopez at 132 pounds, Suzanneah Cason at 132 pounds, Edward Ellsworth at 152 pounds, Jace Coe at 160 pounds and Conor Brosnan at 170 pounds.

Waite entered the tournament as the number four seed. He wrestled Debren Sanabria, the number one seed from Culver, first and lost by pin late in the second round. His next opponent was Virginia Tolman, from Adrian, and Roen went on to win by pin in the first round. The next match for Waite was the finals for third/fourth place against Riddick Hutchison of Grant Union. He won this battle by pin in the second round thus securing third place but Waite was not done

for the day. Since 1A/2A Special Districts only automatically send the top two finishers to state, there is the ability to challenge the second-place finisher if he/she has not lost previously to that wrestler during the district tournament. Roen had not wrestled the second-place finisher, Jack Roath of Crane, so he challenged him for second place and a chance to secure a spot to state. Roen went on to win this crucial contest by major decision and punched his ticket for the state championships.

Saul Lopez started the tournament with a match against Isaiah Lemmon, Echo/Stanfield, which he won by fall in the third round. His next opponent was Cutter Huff from Pine Eagle, the number two seed. Saul lost this match by fall in the second round dropping him to the consolation rounds. Lopez's next opponent was Dusty Melchior, Pine Eagle, which he defeated by a pin in the second round. The third round of consolations pitted Saul against Riddick Hutchison of Grant Union. He pinned Hutchison in the second round. The consolation semifinals determined whether Lopez wrestled for three/four or five/six. He unfortunately lost the next match by fall to Glen Starbuck of Crane. This loss put Saul in the match for fifth place against Isaiah Lemmon of Echo/Stanfield. This rematch was a harder match for Lopez than the first contest but Saul went on to win by technical fall in the second round, securing fifth place and a spot on the podium.

Suzanneah Cason, wrestling in her final tournament as a Mustang, started the tournament by facing off against the number one seed, Joe Lathrop of Elgin. She lost by fall in the second round. The next match for Cason was against Riddick Hutchison of Grant Union. Suzanneah lost this match by fall in the first round.

Edward Ellsworth started the tournament with a match against Hunter Augustynovich, the number two seed from Culver. Edward



Saul Lopez wrestling Glen Starbuck of Crane. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

lost this battle by fall in the second round. The next match, in the consolation bracket, was against Tucker Adamson of Crane. Ellsworth won this match by fall in the first round. The next contest pitted Edward head to head versus Levi Hammond of Union. Levi prevailed against Ellsworth by fall in the second round.

Jace Coe came into the tournament seeded as the number two wrestler at 160 pounds. He started the tournament with victory by fall over Trevor Smith of Culver. This victory put Coe in the championship semifinals against Seth Doman of Crane, seeded number three. The match proved to be a nail biter going into overtime. Jace won the toss and chose the down position. All Coe had to do was score a point in the minute allowed to win, which he did and secured his right to battle for first place against the number one seed and number one ranked wrestler from Culver, Isaiah Toomey. The match was hard fought but, unfortunately, Coe lost to Toomey by fall in the third round. This loss did not secure second place for Jace since the wrestler in third, Damion Young of Grant Union, had not wrestled Jace during the tournament and challenged Coe for second place. The match had a trip to state championships resting on the outcome and Coe went on to prevail in the third round by fall. Jace secured his trip to the state championships with this gutsy win.

Damon Brosnan started the tournament as the number three seeded 170-pound

wrestler. His first opponent was Nicolas Navarro of Culver. Conor was upset in this match with a late pin by Navarro throwing Brosnan into the consolation bracket. His next bout was against Tucker Carpenter of Grant Union. Conor wasted no time in pinning Carpenter seventeen seconds into the first round securing a match in the consolation semifinals. Quinten Hallgarth, the number four seed from Grant Union, was his next opponent. Brosnan and Hallgarth battled back and forth in a tough match with Conor winning by decision in the third round. This victory put Brosnan into the match for third place against Navarro, the wrestler from Culver that upset him in the first match of the tournament. Conor went on to win redemption for his first loss by winning a tough match by decision in the third round, securing third place. But, Brosnan was not done for the day. The second-place wrestler, Clayton Hammond from Elgin, had not wrestled Conor during the tournament so he was open to be challenged for second place. This match also proved to be a long, tough bout with Hammond winning by one point at the buzzer. Conor had secured third place and might be awarded a trip to the state championships. This is due to a new rule allowing three, third place finishers from the four special districts to be awarded a trip to the championships. This creates an 11-man bracket for each weight class. Brosnan will find out next weekend if the he will be making the trip.

Senior basketball players and parents acknowledged



Heppner Mustang senior basketball players and their parents were honored at the home game last week.

Pictured (L-R): Sandy Hanna, Jorden Sweeney and parents Corey and Brandi, Casey Fletcher and parents Andy and Andrea, Mason Lehman and parents Andy and Jessica, Kannon Wilkins and parents Tim and Renee, Kellen Grant and parents Greg and Virginia, Gavin Hanna-Robinson and parents Justin and Jade.



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