

Mustangs wrestlers successful at state

Three Heppner Mustangs traveled to Portland Thursday to compete in the state wrestling championships at the Memorial Coliseum. They were Roen Waite at 106 pounds, Jace Coe at 160 pounds and Conor Brosnan competing at 170 pounds.

The tournament started at 9 a.m. on Friday morning with 12 mats of simultaneous wrestling. Waite earned a bye in the first round so Coe was the first Mustang to walk out on the mats. His draw was daunting. He was wrestling the number one seed from Monroe, Brody Ballard. Brody was the returning state champion at 152 pounds. The match would be a hard-fought battle with Ballard leading most of the match by a few points. The third round saw Jace take the lead with a nice takedown and finish the match winning 8-7.

Coe had started off with a bang and continued to excel with a quick victory, by fall, over Ricky Cook from Rogue River. This victory put Jace into the championship semifinals on Saturday.

Roen was up in the second round of competition. He would take on the number four seed, Agustín Cisneros. The bout was a tight match with multiple points scored by both wrestlers. Unfortunately, Waite was caught and pinned with four seconds left on the clock. This loss dropped Roen into the consolation bracket where he would next wrestle Jack Roath of Crane. Once again, Waite had a tough match with no score through two and a half rounds. Late in the third round, Waite was able to escape Roath earning him one point and the match



Roen Waite wrestling Agustin Cisneros. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.



Conor Brosnan wrestling in consolation semifinals vs Joseph Moore. -*Photo by Damon Brosnan.*



Jace Coe wrestling in championship match vs Trenton Hutchinson. -Photo by Damon Brosnan.

The third match was against Jose Martinez of Reedsport Charter. This proved to be the final match for Waite as he lost by pin in the first round, putting him out of the tournament.

The third Mustang to compete on Friday was Conor Brosnan. Conor came into the tournament as the number two seed and had Malachi Hansen of Central Linn in his first match. Brosnan went on to win this match by pin early in the second round. The next match pitted him against Hunter Lewis of Toledo. This match was a vicious battle with Lewis coming out on top with a 4-2 victory. This loss dropped Conor into the consolation brackets. His next opponent was Leon

Price, the number three seed from North Lake. The pair had wrestled earlier in the season with Brosnan prevailing and it would prove to be true again with Conor winning by fall early in the second round. The victory moved Conor into the consolation semifinals on Saturday.

Saturday started off with Jace wrestling his semifinal match against German Munoz of Nestucca. Munoz was the number four seed and the match went the full three rounds with Coe winning a hard-fought battle, 5-2. Jace then competed in the finals held later that night. Brosnan was up next against Joseph Moore from Colton, the number four seed. Conor controlled and led the match for 2 1/2 rounds be-

February warmer than normal

According to preliminary data received by NOAA's National Weather Service in Pendleton, temperatures at Heppner averaged warmer than normal during the month of February.

The average temperature was 40.9 degrees which was 3.1 degrees above normal. High temperatures averaged 51.2 degrees, which was 3.8 degrees above normal. The highest was 65 degrees on the 29th. Low temperatures averaged 30.7 degrees, which was 2.5 degrees above normal. The lowest was 21 degrees, on the 3rd. There were 17 days with the low temperature below 32 degrees.

Precipitation totaled 0.80 inches during February, which was 0.32 inches below normal. Measurable precipitation, at least .01 inch, was received on six days with the heaviest 0.41

Big towers start with a big base



The new Wheatridge Wind Project is well underway in Morrow County and there will be many more of these large windmill bases constructed before the project is completed.

By David Sykes

Construction of the new Wheatridge Wind Energy Facility is well underway in South Morrow County with the first of up to 292 wind towers under construction. Pictured above is the base of one of the towers. The base is a gravel pad up to 80 feet wide which is needed to support the 291-foot towers planned across the 14,624-acre project.

Locals will be seeing many of these large 204-foot blades and tower sections being trucked in over the next several months for assembly and construction. The project is in two areas, part in Morrow County starting 16 miles northeast of Heppner, and into part of Umatilla County. The project also includes a solar farm and battery storage

Some of the other details, to give an idea of the size of the wind project, include: Electrical collection system of 88 miles of mostly underground collector lines; three collector substations; thirty-two miles of up to two overhead transmission lines; twelve permanent meteorological (met) towers; two operations and maintenance (O&M) buildings; 73 miles of new or improved access roads; and additional temporary construction areas including staging areas and one or more temporary concrete batch plant areas.

While the hub height from the ground to the rotor hub will be 291 feet, the total height including the tower height plus the blade length will be just under 500 feet off the ground. From the ground to the tip of the blade when in the down position will be 70 feet. The wingspan or length from one blade tip to the other will be 416 feet.

The facility will produce up to 500 MW of electricity and much of it will

dition Center calls for near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation. Normal highs for Heppner rise from 51.0 degrees at the start of March to 58.0 degrees at the end of March. Normal lows rise from 30.0 degrees to 36.0 degrees. The 30-year normal precipitation is 1.52 inches.

be sold to Portland General Electric which is part owner of the project along with worldwide green energy giant NextEra Energy. The project will help Portland and PGE obtain over 52 percent of its electricity from renewable energy

Workers have been arriving in the county to construct the towers with a peak work force expected from mid-March through April with up to 300 people in the area. Blattner Energy is the construction company building the project.

While the useful life of the Wheatridge Wind Project was not spelled out in the State of Oregon permit, (many experts put the life a wind tower to be 20-25 years), included in the Wheatland permit is a requirement that NextEra do certain restorations of the property once the facility is no longer producing electricity. These restorations include: 1. Dismantle turbines, towers, pad mounted transformers, meteorological towers and related aboveground equipment, and remove concrete pads to a depth of at least three feet below the surface grade. 2. Remove under-

grade. 2. Remove underground collection and communication cables that are buried less than three feet in depth and are deemed by council to be a hazard or a source of interference with surface resource uses. 3. Remove gravel from areas surrounding turbine pads. 4. Remove and restore private access roads unless the landowners direct otherwise. 5. Following removal of facility components, grade disturbed areas as close as reasonably possible to the original contours and restore soils to a condition compatible with farm uses or other resource uses. 6. Revegetate disturbed areas in consultation with the landowner and in a manner consistent with the final Revegetation Plan.

Also ongoing currently, is a project to replace the blades on the Shepherds Flat windfarms in north Morrow and Gilliam Counties. That project is getting new longer blades, so motorists will be seeing many windmill parts on the road this spring.



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