

Mustang wrestlers claim top spots in Battle of the Blues



(L-R) Champs Keeley Nairns, Landon McMahon, Zachary Brown. - Contributed Photo



(R) Journey Cavan-Harris, 2nd place. - Contributed Photo



Loren Trujillo, 2nd place. - Contributed Photo



Keeley Nairns, 1st place. - Contributed Photo

The Heppner Mustangs wrestling teams traveled to College Place, WA, on Saturday, Jan. 18 to compete in the second annual Battle in the Blues. Both teams saw great success, with five boys and five girls placing in their respective weight categories.

Zachary Brown, Landon McMahon and Keeley Nairns each brought home the first-place trophy in their weight classes, while the girls' team secured its third second-place trophy of the year.

Coach Tyler Robinson expressed his pride online in seeing the girls consistently ranking at the top of the team points standings this season.

Full Mustang results are as follows:

Girls' Results:

The team placed second overall with 71 team points.

Loren Trujillo defeated Jayda Preston of Pendleton

by fall in the semifinal before losing by decision to Amber Goerge of Elgin in the finals match. She placed second, earning 16 team points.

Harlee Cotton lost by fall to Roxy Solis of Irrigon in the semifinal match. After receiving a bye in the consolation semifinal, she lost by decision to Evelyn Hein of Cle Elum-Roslyn. She placed fourth, earning four team points.

Denisse Bracamontes lost by fall to Kameil Splattstoesser of College Place and suffered another loss by fall to Jazmyne Castleberry (Cle Elum-Roslyn) in the consolation semi-final.

Journey Cavan-Harris defeated Skyler Olson of Cle Elum-Roslyn by fall in the quarterfinal, then went on to another victory by fall over Tatum Cram of River View. She met her match in Jacie Lathrop of Elgin in the first-place match, when she lost by fall. She claimed

second place and earned 18 team points.

Emilia Cavan-Harris won by fall over Stephanie Yanez-Perez of Highland in the quarterfinal before taking her own fall in the semifinal match against Bailey Hasbell of Elgin. She won by fall over Emery Blakeslee of Cle Elum-Roslyn before she suffered another loss to RoxAnn Evelyn Cisneros of Mabton in the third-place match. She took fourth place, earning 11 team points.

Sarah Munkers took a fall to Brooklyn Quigg of Walla Walla in the quarterfinal. She received a bye on the consolation round one but then lost to Kamryn Kauffman of Pendleton in the consolation semifinal.

Keeley Nairns was the star of the event, winning by fall over Noelia Lopez of College Place in the semifinal match and going on to defeat Cinthia Madrigal of Irrigon in the championship match, also by fall. Nairns took home the championship plaque for her class and earned 22 team points.

Boys' Results:

The team placed fourth overall with 122 Team Points.

Zachary Brown was another battle winner. He took down Brody Rill of Walla Walla in round one and Trenton Mulvaney of Highland in the quarterfinal. He won the semifinal by forfeit, but proved he had what it took in the championship match with Sawyer Evans of Cle Elum, winning by fall in 1:29. He took home the championship and earned 28 team points.

Conner Wilson had a rough start, losing to Thomas Sievertsen of Walla Walla by decision in round one. After receiving a bye in consolation round one, he went on to defeat Mateo Israel Marquez of Mabton by fall and Trenton Mulvaney of Highland by majority decision. His winning streak ended when he fell to Thomas Sievertsen of Walla Walla in the consolation semifinal. He earned six team points.

Kaden King fell to Diego Caso of Walla Walla in the quarterfinal, but turned it around in the consolation rounds. He won by fall over

James Fry of College Place and put down Chrystian Velasquez of Mabton in a quick 30-second match. He fell just short of placing when he lost to Masyn Lindsey of McLoughlin in the consolation semifinal. He earned six team points.

Nickolas Wenberg took a quick victory by fall over James Fry of College Place in round one, with another quick win by fall over Ignacio Cangas Iturbe of Highland in the quarterfinal. He took down Masyn Lindsey of McLoughlin in the semifinal, but his streak ended when he lost to Deigo Caso of Walla Walla in the championship match. He placed second and earned 22 team points.

Owen Guerra had a quick 38-second victory over Eduardo Urrutia of Highland in the quarterfinal, and a tough win over Jarod Hankins of Waitsburg in the semifinal. His hopes for a championship were dashed when Josiah Beiter of Cle Elum took the victory in the championship round. He placed second, earning 20 team points.

Jaime Cavan defeated Pablo Romero-Mora of River View in the quarterfinal and Adam Dalan of Walla Walla semifinal, both by fall. His winning streak ended when he had to forfeit the championship match to teammate Landon McMahon. Cavan took second place and earned 20 team points.

Landon McMahon also had back-to-back victories, taking down Emilio Gutierrez of College Place in the quarterfinal and David Hadley of Walla Walla in the semifinal. He claimed the championship when Cavan forfeited, earning 26 team points.

Christopher Humphreys won by fall over Antonio Urbina of Mabton in the quarterfinal but took a loss to Derrick Wheeler of White Swan in the semifinal. He missed his chance to place when he suffered another loss to RL Hudson of White Swan in the consolation semifinal. He earned six team points.

The Mustang wrestlers take to the mats again this Friday at the Grant Union Tournament in John Day.

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