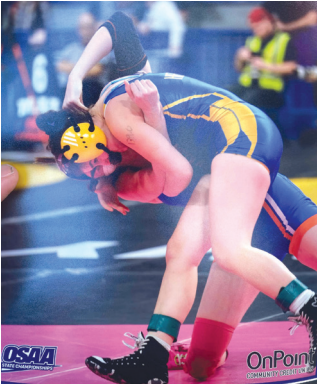


Mustang wrestling ends successful season at state



Keeley Nairns



Journey Cavan-Harris placed 6th at state meet.

-Continued from PAGE ONE

Capping off an already historic weekend, the boys’ team earned HHS’s first-ever team trophy at state, accumulating enough points to secure the fourth-place finish as a team.

Zachary Brown, a senior at HHS, completed a flawless season with an undefeated record of 40-0, bringing home a first-place win in the 157-pound weight class at the state tournament. Brown, who has been wrestling since he was in kindergarten, finished his high school career with an impressive all-time record of 144-29.

Jaime Cavan, another senior at HHS, finished his season with a strong 38-10 record, and placed fourth at state in the 190-pound weight class. Remarkably, Cavan has only been wrestling for three years, yet he leaves behind an all-time record of 104-31.

Landon McMahon, a junior at HHS, delivered an impressive performance with a 52-2 season record, taking first place in the 215-pound weight class at state. McMahon, now in his third year of wrestling, boasts a remarkable record of 115-29 as he looks ahead to his final season as a senior.

Wrestling has been a unique journey for female athletes at HHS, transitioning from a club sport to full recognition by OSAA just last year. While regional and state tournaments existed previously, it wasn’t until the 2023-2024 season that girls’ wrestling received official status as a high school sport.

The rapid growth of wrestling is undeniable, standing out as one of the fastest growing sports in Oregon and across the United States. Starting next year, it will achieve another milestone by becoming an NCAA Division I sport.

It is impossible to overlook the groundbreaking achievements of the female athletes at HHS this season, and to mention once more that Journey Cavan-Harris, a junior, has made history as the first female wrestler at HHS to secure a district title and earn placement at the state level. She ended her season with a record of 34-19, including an impressive sixth-place finish in the girls’ 140-pound weight class following her district championship victory.

Keeley Nairns, a senior, also made her mark as one of the first female wrestlers at HHS to place at districts and qualify for state. Despite not placing at state this year, Nairns completed her season with a record of 22-20. In just two years of wrestling, she has shown growth and solidified her place as a trailblazing Mustang athlete, paving the way for others to follow in her wake.

Although Mustang wrestling has been around for 19 years, its origins might feel like yesterday



Zachary Brown goes for a pin. -Contributed



Jaime Cavan faces off against an opponent. -Contributed



Landon McMahon struggles to keep an opponent down. -Contributed

to many. The program was founded in 2005 by Ken Bailey at HHS. In 2009, Mark Lemmon stepped into the role of head coach after spending two years as an assistant to Troy Morgan.

Establishing a wrestling program was a key condition for Lemmon to accept a job in the area, though he hadn’t anticipated leading the team himself. What started as a surprising challenge became a labor of love for Lemmon, who was determined to endure that the program endured. Motivated by his own experience of losing a wrestling program in high school, he was committed to building a lasting legacy for HHS athletes.

Over the years, the program has achieved significant milestones. The highest number of wrestlers that HHS has sent to state was six out of a team of nine. Before this year, the program boasted four state championships. In 2014, Ryan Smith and Jared Lemmon became the first Mustang wrestlers to claim state titles, with Smith later winning another championship along with Cord Flynn. Jared Lemmon’s victory followed an impressive streak of four district championships. Earlier in 2010, Chance Day and Wacy Coil had made history as the first Mustang wrestlers to place at the state level.

Despite skepticism each year about the program’s longevity, the dedication of the coaching staff, the determination of the athletes and the unwavering support of fans have ensured that Mustang wrestling continues to thrive and grow stronger.

Full Heppner results for the OSAA/OnPoint State Tournament in Portland were: **2A/1A Boys Results:**

The Heppner team placed fourth overall.

Zachary Brown (157) won first place, securing victories by fall in all his

matches. In the championship round, Brown defeated Justice Faville (Santiam) by fall in 0:50. In the quarter-final, he defeated Tanner Swearingen (Oakland) by fall in 0:55. In the semifinal, Brown defeated Carson Watson (Toledo) by fall in 2:34. In the 1st place match, he defeated Trevor Lasater (Gold Beach) by fall in 3:34. Brown scored 28.0 team points.

Landon McMahon (215) won first place, securing victories by fall in all his matches. He defeated Danile Lopez Sanchez (Kennedy) by fall in 0:51 in the championship round, Donovan McDermott (Oakland) by fall in 0:32 in the quarterfinals, Coby Holmes (Culver) by fall in 5:41 in the semifinal, and Jaxson Heckard (Illinois Valley) by fall in 4:27 in the 1st place match. McMahon scored 28.0 team points.

Jaime Cavan (190) placed fourth. After receiving a bye in the championship round, he won by decision 7-5 over Bryce Williardt (North Lake) in the quarterfinals. In the semifinal, Gunnar McDowell (Enterprise/Wallowa) defeated Cavan by decision 7-2. In the consolation semifinals, Cavan won by fall in 2:28 over Mason Bengé (Grant Union/Prairie City), but in the 3rd place match, Ben Imdicke (Colton) defeated Cavan by tech fall 24-7 in

6:00. Cavan scored 11.0 team points.

4A/3A/2A/1A Girls’ Results: Journey Cavan-Harris (140) finished sixth. She was defeated by Chloe Comerford (North Marion) by fall in 2:49 in the championship round. After a bye in the consolation round, Cavan-Harris won by fall in 0:43 over Seven Wernegreen (Hidden Valley) and by major decision 10-0 over Kenadee Hunter (Harrisburg) in the consolation rounds. Kaydence Johnson (Hidden Valley) defeated her by fall in 2:47 in the consolation semifinals, and Jacie Lathrop (Elgin) defeated Cavan-Harris by fall in 4:58 in the fifth-place match. Cavan-Harris scored 9.0 team points.

Keeley Nairns (235) did not place. After a bye in the championship round, Nairns was defeated by Katie Rehnert (Warrenton) by fall in 2:30 in the quarterfinals. She won by fall in 2:41 over Hannah Travis (Central Linn) in the consolation round but was defeated by Lillian Anderson (Sutherlin) by fall in 1:55 in the next round. Nairns scored 3.0 team points.



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9:00 AM - Closing, FRI - SUN
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Registration forms for **Irish Games** available at www.heppnerchamber.com, at the Chamber office, or at the Thomson Square Information Booth on the day-of the event.



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- Schedule of Events -

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Wee Bit O'Ireland Celebration

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ST. PADDY'S VENDOR MARKET

City Hall. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

O'DUCKY RACE

Ducks for sale at Bucknum's. Sponsored by HHS Softball. Race starts at 2:00 PM behind Dollar General. 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

IRISH COFFEE HOUR

Elks Club featuring "Whiskey for Breakfast". Grand Marshal Introduction - Greenup Family. 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

SHAMROCK SHENANIGANS

Inflatable fun, crafts & activities for kids on Willow Street. Hosted by Sage Garden Preschool. FREE. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FACE PAINTING

Face Painting. Hair I Am. FREE. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

COTTON CANDY

Bank of Eastern Oregon. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

WELLY TOSS

Willow Street. Team & Individual. FREE. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

CRUZ-IN CAR SHOW

Willow Street. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

GOLDEN NUGGET TREASURE HUNT

Main Street. Find a nugget, win a prize at Thomson Square Info Booth. FREE. 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

HERITAGE & AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

Open to the public. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

LEPRECHAUN RUN

Heppner Library. Grades K-6. FREE. Register at 11:00 AM.

BED RACE

Main Street Shamrock. FREE. 11:15 AM

O'PLANKY TEAM RELAY

Teams meet at Shamrock following Bed Race. FREE. 11:30 AM

THE GREAT GREEN PARADE

Main Street - 1:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE AT THE HUB

188 W Willow St. Live Entertainment by Boarding House (Doherty Family Band). Art activity at Art Center. Open to public. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

THE AMAZING BUBBLE MAN

Gilliam & Bisbee. FREE admission, family friendly. 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

OLD TIME FIDDLERS

St. Patrick's Apartments Dining Room. FREE Admission, family friendly. 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

KIDS' MOVIE NIGHT

Gilliam & Bisbee hosted by the HJSHS Cheerleaders. Snacks provided. FREE. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ELKS LODGE

ELKS IRISH BUFFET DINNER

Elks Lodge. 5:00 PM

LIVE IRISH MUSIC BY IRISH SENSATION, SINA THEIL. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC BY JOE LINSDAY. 8:00 PM

WEE HOURS OF THE MORNING BREAKFAST
Willow Street Hub. FREE!!!
9:00 PM - 1:00 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 16, 2025

FREE SUNDAY O'BRUNCH

St. Patrick's Senior Apartments Dining Hall. FREE. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ROAD BOWLING

Balm Fork Road. Sign up at Thomson Square Information Booth. Meet at 12:45 PM, park on Balm Fork Road. Start at 1:00 PM.