

# Herald Sports



## Power Rankings: March Edition

What a long weekend it was, complete with me forgetting my OSAA credential in Hermiston on Thursday and turning a four-hour drive back to Longview into a six-hour drive that only allowed me to get three hours of sleep before Friday's wrestling action.

Anyway, let's get into the March Power Rankings. A lot happened in the shortest month of the year. Let's jump right in. But first, let's look at the February rankings.

1. Hermiston girls basketball; 2. Hermiston wrestling; 3. Stanfield boys basketball; 4. Umatilla girls basketball; Stanfield girls basketball

Without further ado...  
1. Hermiston wrestling: 10th state championship, four individual champions, nine team titles in 10 years, four straight titles.

The accolades just keep coming for arguably the most dominant wrestling program in Oregon currently going. There's a bunch of sidebar info published in this week's paper, so I won't rehash all of it here. Just know that what Hermiston is currently doing as a wrestling program is historic, and when you realize that three coaches have been in charge as the Bulldogs romp through Oregon is even more impressive. It started with Curt Berger, who chose Shawn Williams as his replacement, who resigned this summer and opened the job for Kyle Larson, who hasn't missed a beat. It's really tough to gauge wrestling because the structure of the schedule is different, and the best indication of who the best wrestling team usually comes at the state tournament. Hermiston dominated and left no doubt. For the next month, they're the best here, too.



**Sam Barbee**  
FROM THE SIDELINES

2. Hermiston girls basketball: 21-3 (9-0), OSAA No. 5, unknown opponent in 1st round of state playoffs

It's really hard to drop the Bulldogs down. Really hard. But the wrestling season has completed, and the basketball teams still have jobs to do. And it's no different for these girls. They've won all 12 games in 2016 so far. They've averaged 66 points per game during the streak and have allowed just under 40 ppg during the same stretch, a difference of 26. They've scored 70 or more points five times and 80 once, and have allowed more 60 points or more just once during that time. Their game-opening press isn't fair, and their offense has only gotten more balanced as the year as gone on. Though Jansen Edmiston, Sara Ramirez and Maddy Juul are clearly the top three options, Hermiston hasn't relied on them as heavily as they did earlier in the season. That fact, more than any other, bodes well for the Bulldogs with the playoffs starting later this week.

3. Umatilla girls basketball: 21-5 (8-1), OSAA No. 9 district champs, plays Dayton at South Bend HS on Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

Perhaps this is my fault, but the Vikings have been under the radar all season. No, I take that back. It is my fault. Quietly, the Vikings made quick work of the 3A Eastern Oregon League, helped in part by a horde of returners in Umatilla, but also helped in part by the sudden and rapid decline of the Vale Vikings. Even so, Umatilla won 11 of its final 12 regular season games — all coming in the new calendar year — the only loss a surprising 50-37 defeat at Nyssa. Umatilla advanced to the state rounds with a 47-43 win over Blanchet Catholic on Friday, and will get No. 1 seed Dayton on Thursday. Umatilla's in-your-face defense will have to come to play, but the Vikings are a dangerous basketball team when firing on all cylinders.

4. Hermiston boys basketball: 12-12 (5-4), OSAA No. 20, hosts La Salle Prep in play-in round on Wednesday

At some level, continuing to play when the regular season ends is a goal of every team, so when it's achieved, recognition is deserved. Hermiston stumbled a bit at times, dropping three games — La Salle Prep, at Hood River and at The Dalles — that the Bulldogs probably should have won. They know that. They get another shot at the Falcons when they come calling today, and an 85-80 loss to Pendleton is the last time the Bulldogs took the court. Tre Neal has provided energy, strength, toughness and rebounding down low after missing some time with a broken finger. If Hermiston's defense doesn't let it down — which is has a tendency to do, at times — the Bulldogs should beat the Falcons and get into the state playoffs. I wasn't impressed with La Salle when they came Jan. 15, and Hermiston played better most of that game, and even led by double digits at one points. I expect Hermiston to win. But sports are magically unpredictable.

5. Stanfield boys basketball: 16-6 (8-2)

This is confusing. I watched Stanfield beat Irrigon in a really fun, well-played basketball game, then the Knights hammer the Tigers in the district playoffs. It's that unpredictability of sports, I suppose. Even so, Stanfield had a good season. There were some interesting results — a 15-point loss to Umatilla, an 18-point loss to Heppner — but also some really fun results — a one-point loss to Heppner, the five-point win over Irrigon recently. Stanfield's juniors — Dylan Grogan, Tony Flores, Ryan Bailey, Thyler Monkus and Co. — are one of the best high school classes in terms of athletics I've seen. Next year they should be great. But the word "should" always scares me.

## Hermiston dominates All-CRC selections

By **SAM BARBEE**  
Staff Writer

The Columbia River Conference announced its all-league teams Tuesday, and the Hermiston Bulldogs are strongly represented.

Of the 14 possible spots — six first-teamers, five second-teamers, coach of the

year, player of the year — Hermiston got seven spots. Head coach Steve Hoffert was named Coach of the Year after leading the Bulldogs to a 21-3 (9-0) record, sixth straight CRC title and fifth seed in the 5A girls basketball playoffs.

Seniors Sara Ramirez and Jansen Edmiston are the

co-Players of the Year after impressive seasons and crucial contributions.

The pair of guards also were first-team All-Columbia River Conference selections with sophomore teammate Maddy Juul. Kynzee Padilla was the other Bulldog selection, earning a second-team nomination.

**Coach of the Year:** Steve Hoffert (HHS)  
**Player of the Year:** Sara Ramirez, Jansen Edmiston (HHS)  
**1st Team:**  
Sara Ramirez (HHS)  
Jansen Edmiston (HHS)  
Maddy Juul (HHS)  
Brooke McCall (FD)  
Kalan McGlothlin (PHS)  
Iliana Telles (FD)  
**2nd Team:**  
Kynzee Padilla (HHS)  
Hailey Greb (PHS)  
Marlie Bloomster (HRV)  
Lori Cimmiyotti (FD)  
Lauren Richards (PHS)



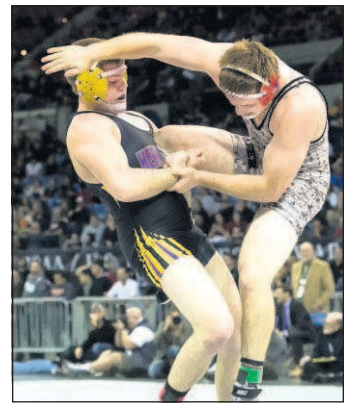
STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Brock McDonough (in black) pinned Oraslo Lopez, of Lebanon, Saturday in the semifinal round of the state wrestling championships in the 170-pound class at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Sam Colbray throws Jacob Thomson, of Summit, to the mat during the semifinal round Saturday of the state wrestling championship at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. The victory sent Colbray to the championship round in the 195-pound weight class.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Bob Coleman (left) wrestles Cavin Gilispie, of Crater, on his way to as 5A state wrestling title Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in the 182-pound weight class.



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Hermiston's Andy Wagner reacts after beating Brawley Lamer, of Crescent Valley, to win the 5A wrestling title for 126-pounders Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

## HERMISTON WINS 10TH STATE TITLE

By **SAM BARBEE**  
Staff Writer

The Hermiston Bulldogs wrestling team wrapped up their 10th team title, ninth in 10 years and fourth-straight team title at the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum this weekend in Portland.

Four Bulldogs — Sam Colbray (195), Andy Wagner (126), Bob Coleman (182) and Valen Wyse (152) — won state titles, and three other Bulldogs, Liam Tarvin (113), Brock McDonough (170) and John-Henry Line, each were runners-up.

"Long season. A lot of work put in. A lot of sweat, tears. A lot of wrestling," first-year head coach Kyle Larson said. "(The state title) is the goal at the beginning of the year, and you set goals, meet goals, meet expectations."

As ever, Colbray was humble in victory. He didn't pump his fist or raise four fingers. He was gracious and even-keeled.

"It's just another match, another day, another wrestling tournament, another consecutive year," he said. "Just going out there with an



STAFF PHOTO BY KATHY ANEY

Andy Wagner (right) faces off against Cade Ezell, of Churchill, Saturday in the semifinal round of the state wrestling championships in the 5A 126-pound class at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland. Wagner won the match to reach the finals.

arsenal and wrestling how you know how to wrestle." Coleman was equally humble.

"It feels like a lot of the stuff you've done is finally

paying off, like all the hard work finally has some value," he said. "It's pretty nice to know you won Reser's and the state tournament. Call it luck, call it whatever."

Day one started slowly for the Bulldogs, but ended in a crescendo of pins that rocketed the Bulldogs up the stand-

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