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FOUR LOCAL WRESTLERS VICTORIOUS AT STATE FINALS

Wyse, Rockwell win second titles; first for Hendon, Flynn

EO Media Group

The Bulldogs' hope for another team state title did not have come to fruition, but two Bulldogs, a Pirate and a Mustang all ended their high school wrestling careers as champions Saturday at Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Portland.

Hermiston's C.J. Hendon and Valen Wyse each won their weight class in the 5A OSAA State Championships.

Riverside's Aristotle Rockwell brought back his second 3A title, and Hep-pner/Ione's Cord Flynn secured his first title at the 2A/1A level.

Wyse improved to 8-0 at the state meet and won his second championship. Just one of his matches in the 170-pound bracket went the distance, and that one wasn't close.

Coming off a pair of first-round pins on the tournament's first day, Wyse started his second day in the semi-finals against St. Helens's Colton Beisley, who made Wyse go the full six minutes for a 22-9 major decision victory.

That matched him up against Milwaukie's Mikel Bremner in the championship, where Wyse would get his quickest victory of the tournament and pinned Bremner in 1:29.

Hendon, at 138 pounds, had a much more tense final earlier in the day going



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's Valen Wyse throws Milwaukie's Mikel Bremner in his 170-pound class 5A state championship match Saturday in Portland.



STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

Hermiston's C.J. Hendon throws Sandy's Brody Diaz de Leon in his 138-pound class 5A state championship match Saturday in Portland.

against Brody Diaz de Leon of Sandy.

After nearly getting pinned at the end of the first round, Hendon was able to score a reversal in the second that tied the score at 4-4.

Neither scored in the third round as Hendon was unable to get any hold to stick from the top position, and the wrestlers stood back up to start the sudden victory round.

Hendon immediately shot in for a single-leg takedown, and although he landed his shot, Diaz de Leon was also quick with a headlock and when Wyse drove forward the two wrestlers tumbled to the mat in a tangle.

Hendon's momentum briefly carried him onto his shoulders, drawing an eruption of cheers from the Sandy fan section, but Diaz de Leon's hold was too high

and he didn't have the control needed to score the winning points.

After rolling onto his side, Hendon got the opening he needed and popped his head out of the lock and quickly jumped on top of a prone Diaz de Leon for the winning points.

As Hendon acknowledged to his own cheering section, Diaz de Leon pleaded his own case for a take-down to the referees. After conferring with each other and the scorer's table, Hendon's hand was raised for the only state title of his career.

That was a moment Hep-pner/Ione's Cord Flynn had just missed out on his junior season when he was second at 195 pounds to Culver's Jaiden Jones.

The two met for the rematch on Saturday, and this time it was Flynn celebrating at the end when he beat Jones with a 7-3 score.

Jones scored first, though, and was up 3-0 in the second period before an escape an immediate takedown by Flynn knotted the score. Flynn took a 5-3 lead into the final period when he scored a two-point near-fall at the buzzer.

Flynn chose the bottom position to start, but was quickly back on top with a reversal in the first 10 seconds to make it 7-3, and he was able to ride out Jones for the win.

It was the second time Flynn had beaten Jones this season, and made him the fourth state champion the program has produced and the first wrestler from Ione to win a state title.

See **CHAMPS, A9**



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Umatilla's Kaden Webb (1) directs the offense during a 3A boys basketball first-round state playoff game against Horizon Christian of Tualatin on Friday in Umatilla. Horizon Christian won 66-40.

Vikings ousted by pesky Hawks

Umatilla's season ends in first round of playoffs

By **ERIC SINGER**

Staff Writer

When the Umatilla boys basketball team pulled off the last-second win over Irrigon to claim the district title, the Vikings did so with clutch shooting and stout defense.

But in Friday's first round playoff game against the No. 9 seed Horizon Christian Hawks, Umatilla shot a meager 20 percent from the floor (13-64) while Horizon Christian connected at an incredible 65 percent mark (24-37). The Hawks ran away with a 66-40 victory to oust the No. 8 seed Vikings from the postseason.

The shooting performance was very uncharacteristic for the Vikings (17-8). Following the game, Umatilla coach Derek Lete appeared perplexed as he tried to explain the team's performance.

"You know, I don't know if the stage was too big for them or if it was just one of those nights," he said. "But any time you shoot like that, you're not going to win a whole lot of ball games."

Umatilla started the game with a fast tempo and quick hands on defense, forcing three turnovers on Horizon Christian's first three possessions and taking a 3-0 lead over the Hawks at the 6:20 mark of the opening quarter. But once the Hawks took care of the basketball, they were too much for the Vikings to handle.

Horizon Christian (20-8) made 9 of 10 shots in the first quarter and finished the final six minutes on a 22-3 run, and then continued the hot shooting in the second half hitting 16-20 shots (80 percent) to lead 39-16 at the break.

"They (Horizon Christian) just couldn't miss," Lete said. "And anytime you dig yourself that big of a hole in a state playoff game, it's hard to dig yourself out."

The Hawks were able to use its size advantage across the board to work its offense to near perfection, led by 6-7 junior Anthony Sprauer inside who finished with a game-high 28 points, 18 of which came in the first half alone. Overall, the Hawks had just two of the eight players that saw the floor that checked in at 6-feet-1



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC SINGER

Umatilla's Sebastian Garcia prepares to take a shot during a 3A boys basketball playoff game against Horizon Christian of Tualatin on Friday in Umatilla.

or shorter, while Umatilla had seven.

"We knew they were bigger than us, we had scouted them pretty well," Lete said. "We knew them inside and out, and I still believe we do. It's just they shot well, they rebounded well and they're tough to defend. It just wasn't our night."

Umatilla did not hit its first 3-pointer of the game until the 3:44 mark of the third quarter when Moises Garcilazo swished one from the left wing, ending an 0-18 start. Sebastian Garcia then hit 3-4 attempts in the fourth quarter to help him finish with a team-high 12 points.

It was a disappointing way for Umatilla's three seniors in Justin Maret, Sean Miller and Tyrone Morris to go out, but Lete said as a coach he is proud of the effort those three and his team overall gave throughout the season.

"It's been fun, probably one of the best seasons I've had," Lete said. "All the kids are very coachable, they work hard day-in and day-out in practice and not just in game action. There's a lot of mixed emotions now, but we return a lot and hopefully we'll get after it in the offseason and see what next year brings."

HC 22 17 9 18 — 66
UHS 6 10 9 15 — 40
HORIZON CHRISTIAN — A. Sprauer 28, T. Schiele 10, C. Zralka 6, C. Wyatt 6, J. Belan 5, B. Egger 4, K. Free 3, H. Wakefield 2, T. Olson 2.
UMATILLA — S. Garcia 12, K. Webb 10, T. Durfley 6, S. Cranston 5, J. Maret 4, M. Garcilazo 3, G. Armenta, J. Garcia, U. Garcia.
3-pointers — HC 8, UHS 4. Free throws — HC 10-18, UHS 10-16. Fouls — HC 13, UHS 18.

Contact Eric at esinger@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0839.

Bulldogs hang on against Eagles

Hermiston boys finish regular season with win

EO Media Group

It may not have been the best game put together by the Hermiston boys basketball team on Friday night, but the Bulldogs still managed to end the regular season on the right foot.

Hermiston jumped to an early 15-2 lead over Hood River Valley on Friday, but were outscored 36-28 in the second half as the Bulldogs barely hung on for a 60-56 victory.

The win wraps up a 16-7 record and a 6-3 mark in the Columbia River Conference for the Bulldogs. Chance Flores led all scorers with 22 points on 10 total field goals, while Xavier

Rambo followed up with 14 points and Hunter Walls with 13 behind four 3-pointers. Trenton Hough led Hood River Valley (7-15, 1-8) with 17 points and Eric Siekinen had 10.

This week

Hermiston played in a Class 5A postseason play-in game against Parkrose (10-12, 7-7 Northwest Oregon Conference) on Tuesday at The Dawg House, but the game started too late for results to be included in this week's print edition of the Hermiston Herald. Look for result and coverage online at www.hermistonherald.com.

HHS 15 17 14 14 — 60
HRV 2 18 19 17 — 56
HERMISTON — C. Flores 22, X. Rambo 14, H. Walls 13, A. James 5, T. McCullough 4, R. Andreason 2, J. Ramirez.
HOOD RIVER — T. Hough 17, E. Siekinen 10, B. Wilson

7, D. Kurahara 6, JJ Mears 6, M. Williams 4, C. Orr 4, J. Tactay 2.
3-pointers — HHS 7, HRV 5. Free throws — HHS 3-13, HRV 7-12. Fouls — HHS 16, HRV 16.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

HERMISTON 59, HOOD RIVER VALLEY 17 — At Hermiston, the Bulldogs girls basketball team wrapped up its regular season slate with a 59-17 blowout victory over Hood River Valley on Friday night.

Up next

Hermiston (13-10, 7-2 CRC) will next host a Class 5A postseason play-in game, where it will take on the Sandy Pioneers (14-9, 7-7) who finished fifth in the Northwest Oregon Conference. The game will be played at 6 p.m. today, Wednesday, March 1, at The Dawg House.

Tigers roar into 2A tournament

Irrigon's first 3A season ends with loss to Salem Academy

EO Media Group

Playing their last game of the season on their home court, the No. 2 seed Stanfield Tigers weren't holding anything back as they jumped out to an early lead and never let it go to beat Oakland, 90-56, in the first round of the 2A boys basketball state playoffs on Friday.

Dylan Grogan scored 32 points, Jose Garcia added 16, and the Tigers really pulled away in the second half where they outscored the Oakers 55-27.

It was the 19th straight win for Stanfield (20-1), which hasn't lost to a 2A team all season.

"We just came out fast from the start," said first-year Tigers coach Jason Sperr. "They came out with the mindset, 'We're not going to lose in our

Players from Echo earn spots on all-league teams

EO Media Group

Two players from the girls and boys basketball teams in Echo earned recognition on the Old Oregon League All-League basketball teams the league announced Friday.

Earning recognition were senior Hannah McCarty on the first team and Echo senior Devin Tarvin with honorable mention.

Echo had two boys named to their second team in senior Klay Jensen and junior Morgan Marcum.

2017 All-Old Oregon League

Basketball Girls First team
Mary Stewart (Player of the year), jr., Nixyaawii

Milan Schimmel, jr., Nixyaawii
Alexis Sykora, jr., Joseph
Sam Kearns, jr., Powder Valley
Hallie Feik, sr., Powder Valley
Hannah McCarty, sr., Echo
Second Team
Macey Tullis, sr., Helix
Hannah Tanaka, sr., Pine Eagle
Kaitlyn Melton, jr., Nixyaawii
Sam Short, sr., Cove
Emma Hite, so., Joseph
Sadie Wilson, jr., Helix
Honorable Mention
Kim Williams, jr., Powder Valley
Hannah Duby, sr., Cove
Lauren Makin, sr., Joseph
Savannah Nobles, sr., Wallowa
Devin Tarvin, sr., Echo
Savannah Stephens, sr., Powder Valley

Boys First team
Mick Schimmel (Player of the Year), jr., Nixyaawii
Cayden DeLury, sr., Joseph
Isaac Colton, sr., Powder Valley
Christopher Nobles, so., Wallowa
Gus McGinn, sr., Powder Valley
Jake Chrisman, sr., Joseph
Second team
Klay Jensen, sr., Echo
Tanner Eubanks, jr., Powder Valley
Trent Taylor, sr., Cove
Morgan Marcum, jr., Echo
Jon Shaw, sr., Helix
Honorable Mention
Justin Williams, jr., Helix
Caevan Murray, jr., Joseph
Chandler Case, sr., Nixyaawii
Tucker Gulick, so., Pine Eagle
Ezekiel Elmer, sr., Cove

shots that could have broken it open a little sooner," Sperr said, "but the guys continued to battle getting offensive rebounds. We were sending as many guys as we could to the glass."

Sperr said overall, it was the best four quarters the team has played this season. The Tigers will look to maintain that high level of play next week at the state tournament's final site in Pendleton.

The Tigers are slated for a quarterfinals match-up with No. 7 seed Oakridge, which beat No. 10 Regis, 50-49, on Friday.

Stanfield will play Oakridge on Thursday at Pendleton High with an 8:30 p.m. tipoff.

OHS 14 15 16 11 — 56
SHS 20 15 23 22 — 90
OAKLAND — N. Freeman 11, N. Chastain 10, C. Benzel 8, B. Wimberly 6, S. Winn 6, A. Harrington 4, C. Brownson 4, J. Brooksby 3, A. Saddler 2, A. Brown 2, R. Carson.
STANFIELD — D. Grogan 32, J. Garcia 16, T. Monkus 7, T. Flores 7, R. Bailey 7, B. Woods 7, E. Esquivel 2, C. Hernandez, N. Sanchez, A. Gomez.
3-pointers — OHS 2; SHS 4. Free throws — OHS 12-23; SHS 15-26. Fouls — OHS 23; SHS 21. Fouled out — C. Benzel (OHS).

See **ROUNDUP, A9**

house.' They were going to outwork the opponent."

Sperr said No. 15 seed Oakland (17-10) was no

pushover though, and Stanfield (20-1) was up just 35-29 at halftime.

"We missed some open