

# Dawgs sending 7 to regional tournament

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

When you add up all the numbers, the Hermiston Bulldogs had a prosperous weekend at the District 8 Wrestling Tournament.

The host Bulldogs placed three in the finals (all freshmen), had 11 place in the top six, and will send seven wrestlers to the regional tournament.

"It's good to have kids make the finals and experience that," Hermiston coach Kyle Larson said. "We are excited. We have quite a young team. It's our first WIAA district competition. We need to find out as a team how to finish strong."

Mt. Spokane, the reigning 3A state champion, ran away with the team title, amassing 404.5 points, leaving the rest of the competition behind. Rogers (221.5) was second, while Kamiakin (204.5) was third, Southridge (193.5) fourth and Hermiston fifth with 184.5 points.

"It was good," Mt. Spokane coach Travis Hughes said. "We have a good team with some talented kids. Next weekend will be a better test. We were surprised by the scores. We were concerned about Kamiakin. Team-wise, it was low stress. To get that many kids through was nice."

The top four district placers advance to the regional tournament Feb. 9 at Yelm High School. From there, the top four will advance to the state tournament Feb. 15-16 at the Tacoma Dome.

The Bulldogs had Jon Lee (220 pounds), Sam Cadenas (195) and Hunter Dyer (120) in the finals, but did not come away with any champions.

Lee, the Mid-Columbia



Hermiston's Jon Lee wrestles Kamiakin's Ben Hollenberg in the 220-pound final on Saturday night during the 3A District 8 Wrestling Tournament.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Conference's top seed, was pinned by Kamiakin senior Ben Hollenberg in a time of 4 minutes, 50 seconds in the title match.

"I felt he was going to be hard to beat," Lee said. "Everyone I wrestled here, I had wrestled before. They were way harder this time. After my second match, I knew Hollenberg would be the real deal."

Lee (29-11) beat Mt. Spokane's Tyler Dallas 7-6 in the semifinals to advance.

In the championship bout, Hollenberg led 5-0 in the third before getting the pin.

"I'm a freshman and I'm proud of how far I've gotten," Lee said. "I could have

done way worse. It makes me excited for the future. I think as time goes on, we will grow as a team. By the time we freshmen are seniors, we will be winning tournaments."

Cardenas, who won the 220-pound title at the MCC JV championships last week, cut down to 195 for districts, and worked his way through the bracket before earning an 11-7 decision over Nate Smiler of Shadle Park in the semifinals.

In the finals, he encountered Kamiakin's Jacob Olson (31-5), who pinned the young Bulldog in 32 seconds. Olson won the 3A 170-pound state title last year.

"I was nervous," Cadenas said of his match with Olson. "I got caught in a head-and-arm and that got me off balance. This is my first year wrestling and it was fun. It's a whole new experience."

Dyer (20-16) pinned Jacob Williams of Southridge in 3:37 to reach the finals, where he met up with Kamiakin senior Xavier Zavala.

Zavala took Dyer down just 23 seconds into the first round, and registered the pin at 1:03 for his second consecutive district title.

"It was a great experience," Dyer said. "I drew a good seed in the bracket and took advantage of it. I went

in knowing the kid (Zavala) was three grades ahead of me. I was a little nervous. I'm going to regionals, and I'm really excited about that."

Larson was pleased with the performance of his youngsters.

"It's awesome for these freshmen," he said. "For Sam, this is the biggest tournament he has been in."

Also joining Lee, Cadenas and Dyer at regionals will be Jordan Franklin, who was third at 132, Trevor Wagner, who was third at 160, junior Dustyn Coughlin who was third at 285, and senior Gage Shipley, who finished fourth at 126.

Franklin left no doubt

who was in charge of his match against Matthew McGuire of Rogers. The Hermiston junior cruised to a 17-4 major decision to earn the third seed to regionals.

Wagner, a sophomore, picked up the third seed to regionals with a 9-5 victory over Ryan Stayrook of Southridge, while Coughlin beat Kingston Grey of Mt. Spokane 5-2.

Shipley was pinned by Riley Bonser of Mt. Spokane in the placing match in a time of 3:04.

## DISTRICT 8 TOURNAMENT

Top 4 advance to regionals Feb. 9 at Yelm High School

Team scores — Mt. Spokane 404.5, Rogers 221.5, Kamiakin 204.5, Southridge 193.5, Hermiston 184.5, North Central 129, Shadle Park 92.5, Kennewick 80.

Championship matches: 106 — Kenedyl Mobley (NC) won by injury default over Steven Zaragoza (NC). 113 — Jarret Sharp (MS) md. Jacob Carr (MS), 9-1. 120 — Xavier Zavala (Kam) p. Hunter Dyer (H), 1:03. 126 — Clayton Gilliam (NC) tr. Rila Buth (MS), 17-2. 132 — Austin Almaguer (Kam) d. Ky Haney (MS), 4-2 (OT). 138 — Blake Haney (MS) d. Casey Howerton (MS), 9-2. 145 — Klouse Albers (SP) p. Kevin Cornejo (Kam), 4:53. 152 — Kadin Shaw (NC) p. Carter Miethe (MS), 3:5. 160 — Mikael Failor (Sou) p. Drew House (MS), 5:1. 170 — Tre Phillips (R) md. Issiah Berluti (SP), 18-4. 182 — Mason Miethe (MS) p. Jevon Johnson (Sou), 2:45. 195 — Jacob Olson (Kam) p. Sam Cadenas (H), 3:2. 220 — Ben Hollenberg (Kam) p. Jon Lee (H), 4:50. 285 — Joshua Guzik (R) p. Gavin Johnson (Sou), 1:29.

Third/fourth: 106 — Luke Zwiesler (MS) p. Saw Thee (Sou), 5:32. 113 — Guillermo Ramirez (Kam) d. Kenny Phan (R), 5-0. 120 — Jacob Williams (Sou) d. Antonio Ramos (Ken), 8-6. 126 — Riley Bonser (MS) p. Gage Shipley (H), 3:04. 132 — Jordan Franklin (H) md. Matthew McGuire (R), 17-4. 138 — Yasir Ahmed (R) p. Jacoby Wieber (Ken), 5:43. 145 — Luca Paolino (MS) d. Isaac Sweeney (R), 7-3. 152 — Connor Singley (MS) d. Shawn Gegg (Sou), 3-1. 160 — Trevor Wagner (H) d. Ryan Stayrook (Sou), 12-5. 170 — Dylan Holt (Ken) d. Cody Hudson (Sou), 8-2. 182 — Grayson Bowles (MS) d. Gilbert Marquez (Kam), 5-4. 195 — Nick Dallas (MS) p. Lucas Martin (Sou), 2:22. 220 — Vadim Bobrounikov (R) p. Tyler Dallas (MS), 3:56. 285 — Dustyn Coughlin (H) d. Kingston Grey (MS), 5-2.

Other Hermiston placers — Adrian Delgado (5th, 106 pounds), Isaac Lambert (6th, 113), Cole Abbott (6th, 120), Sean Stewart (5th, 220), Chase Bradshaw (6th, 285).

# This young Dawg has a bite

By ANNIE FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

Jon Lee is a bit nervous about getting his permit to drive, but put the Hermiston freshman on the mat and he will take on all-comers.

Lee, who is ranked No. 5 at 220 pounds in the Class 3A Washington Wrestling Report, placed second at the District 8 Tournament on Saturday at Hermiston High School, earning a trip to the regional tournament this weekend in Yelm, Wash.

"It's awesome having a freshman come in and be at the level he is to compete," Bulldogs coach Kyle Larson said. "He is there. He is mature and athletic, and he uses his abilities in matches."

Lee knew he would have some tough competition at district, so he came prepared.

"I do my homework on my opponents, and that calms me down," Lee said.

Lee typically weighs in about 211 pounds, still light for his weight class, but it has not been a detriment to his season.

Lee is 29-11 on the year, and that includes taking some lumps at elite tournaments like Tri-State and Gut Check.

In the Mid-Columbia Conference, he lost twice — to Pasco's Damian Silva and Hanford's Jonathan Burt. Both are in the 4A division.

He won the Farm City Tournament, placed sixth at Gut Check and was fifth at the Tyrone Woods Memorial Tournament.

"Once I figured out high school wrestling wasn't as scary as I thought it would be, it has been a lot of fun, and I have liked going to different places. We have a lot more competition in Washington



Hermiston freshman Jon Lee will compete this weekend in the district tournament.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

than in Oregon."

All that said, Lee still admits there are a few nerves heading into the tournament.

Larson isn't too concerned.

"His edge is his will to win," Larson said. "He doesn't like to lose. Every match, he thinks he can win."

## Young pup

Lee did not grow up in the Hermiston youth wrestling program, but he started the sport in the third grade when his family lived in Gladstone. They moved to Hermiston when Lee was in the sixth grade.

"When I moved here, it was a totally different environment," Lee said. "It was intense. At that time,

Hermiston had a really good program. I took the seventh grade off."

Lee returned to the mat in the eighth grade, sorry that he skipped a year.

"I realized that my technique was rusty," he said. "When I was in the eighth grade, I realized in a year I would be wrestling juniors and seniors, and I was a little intimidated. Then I realized with my physical attributes, it put me ahead of others. I was 10 pounds when I was born, and I just kept getting bigger. I have been gifted with what I have, but I realize I don't work as hard as I should sometimes."

At 6-foot-3, Lee towers over some opponents who are shorter and stockier, but once he plants his

size 13 foot on the line, he's ready for business.

"His dad (James) had him in multiple clubs growing up," Larson said. "The work was done years ago. He has been to good tournaments. This isn't anything he hasn't seen before."

And now that he has put in the work, he's ready to reap the rewards.

"My goal is to be the first person from Oregon to place first at state in Washington," Lee said.

## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

**Friday**  
Action begins at 3:30 p.m.  
**Saturday**  
Action begins at 10 a.m.  
Finals at 5:30 p.m.

# Valentine's Massacre coming to Big River Golf

By HERMISTON HERALD

The Valentine's Massacre competition is coming to Umatilla's Big River Golf course.

Signups come with a warning: "We are setting up the course as difficult as possible. This tournament is not for the faint of heart."

Handicaps will be used for the 18-hole stroke play.

Entry fees are \$25 for annual course members, and \$35 for non-members.

Big River encourages participants to list teams they'd like to play with when registering.

If players do not have a team, they will be matched with other individuals. Individual scores will be used.

The deadline for signups is Wednesday, Feb. 6.

Email or call Big River to register at 541-922-3006, or [megan@golfgbriver.com](mailto:megan@golfgbriver.com).

The competition tees off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 9.

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT  
**Hermiston Herald.com**

Imagine The Difference You Can Make  
**DONATE YOUR CAR**  
**1-844-533-9173**  
FREE TOWING  
TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
Help Prevent Blindness  
Get A Vision Screening Annually  
**Heritage for the Blind**  
Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!!

Your Family Deserves The  
**BEST** Technology... Value... TV!...  
**\$69.99** MONTH for 24 months  
190 Channels America's Top 120  
Add High Speed Internet  
**\$14.95** /mo.  
CALL TODAY Save 20%  
**1-866-373-9175**

**EARTHLINK INTERNET**  
HIGH SPEED INTERNET  
Get Connected for as low as **14.95/mo.**  
Get Connected for as low as **49.99/mo.**  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED RETAILER  
**855-977-9436**