

STATE WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

State Wrestling Qualifiers

Class 5A

- Hermiston (17)**
106 — Liam Tarvin; Andy Wagner
113 — AJ Garica (3 seed)
120 — Isaac Aguilar (2)
126 — Wyatt Scribner
132 — Beau Gleed (2); Mason Ballew
138 — Tyler Berger (1)
152 — Bob Coleman
160 — Abraham Rodriguez (1); Jesee Rodelo
170 — Alec St. Hilaire
195 — Samuel Colbray (1)
220 — Caleb Batease (2); Michael Finn
285 — Jacob Batease; Armando Garcia

- Pendleton (7)**
106 — Tristan Holcomb
120 — Colton Skeen
126 — Ryan Skeen
132 — TJ Hancock
145 — Dylan Holcomb (2)
152 — Alex Ferder (4)
220 — Jack Ezell

Class 4A

- Mac-Hi (9)**
120 — Cole Skramstad
126 — Alyx Shaw
132 — Chandler Fortune
138 — Tavis Hodgen
145 — Jeffery Jones; Blake Yensen
152 — Vince Roff
160 — Jesus Saldana
170 — Brayden Moller (2)

Class 3A

- Riverside (9)**
106 — Gustavo Madrigal (1); Charlie Torres
113 — Hans Rockwell (1); Gilberto Silva
120 — Elijah Conlon
126 — Clay Miller
138 — Martin Herrera (4)
145 — Mario Sepulveda (4)
182 — Daniel Puerta (3)

Class 2A

- Heppner (6)**
126 — Jared Lemmon (2)
132 — Alex Smith
145 — Treston Maben (3)
160 — Earl Propheter (3)
195 — Tim Nelson
285 — John Propheter

- Irrigon (2)**
152 — Andy Aguilera (2)
182 — Jamie Thomas (3)

Area schools, wrestlers seeking titles

State tournaments begin this morning

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

PORTLAND — After three months of seasoned wrestling — and many, many more of off-season preparation — only two days of the journey toward a state championship remain. These teams are ready to go.

The Hermiston Bulldogs, Pendleton Buckaroos, Mac-Hi Pioneers, Riverside Pirates, Heppner Mustangs and Irrigon Knights will all be in action today from Portland's Veterans Memorial Coliseum. The first matches of the tournaments — all six classifications will compete simultaneously — begin at 8:30 a.m.

By Saturday night, five championship teams will be crowned with 70 individual winners along the way.

At the Class 5A level, Hermiston will be a front runner to bring back the most gold, along with last year's champions from Dallas. The Bulldogs have battered and bludgeoned the 5A ranks all season and qualified 17 wrestlers

to the state meet at last week's Special District 2 championships that were also contested in Portland.

Dallas, which edged Pendleton and Hermiston at the big tournament last February for a state title to break a string of five straight for the Dawgs, qualified

See STATE/2B



HERMISTON

Justice League of Hermiston



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston wrestlers Samuel Colbray, Beau Gleed, Abraham Rodriguez and Tyler Berger will lead the Hermiston wrestling team at the Class 5A State Wrestling Championships in Portland, starting today, in a drive to recapture the team title.

Bulldogs prepared for fight to reclaim state championship

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

From Gilgamesh to the Green Lantern, tales of superheroes and their fantastical deeds have produced best-sellers and box-office hits for centuries.

For mortal beings living in a dangerous world, the hero's abil-

ity to overcome limitations — most times through the acquisition of amazing powers — and elevate themselves to superhuman status is a fantasy that drew equal appeal in ancient Babylon as it does in modern New York City.

Perhaps that would explain the appeal of the Hermiston Bulldogs wrestling team. While

completely mortal until proven otherwise, the Hermiston wrestlers have become more than mere student-athletes.

They roam the halls of Hermiston High just like their peers, but after the final bell releases the hoards into the streets, the wrestlers retreat to their lair overlooking the school gymnasium.

It's within those four padded

walls that these relentless athletes sharpen their skills through daily combat.

And like any team of heroes, the Bulldogs have a mission — to right a wrong that occurred at the Class 5A OSAA State Championships last season.

Justice.

See HERMISTON/3B

PENDLETON

Back comes Holcomb



EO file photo

Dylan Holcomb pins Hood River Valley's Ian Rand in the 145-pound match during the Buck's dual with the Eagles in Pendleton this season. Holcomb is going for his second career state title this weekend after finishing third last year.

Buck put slow start to season behind him

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

Dylan Holcomb understood that after injury must come rest. He knew he had to take it slow after a major thigh contusion, the kind that turned his upper leg an unhealthy shade of purple and required drainage even before the wrestling season began.

But by the third week of the

schedule, as his teammates continued to train for tournament after tournament, Holcomb was starting to rethink the rest. His injury, a holdover from football season weeks before, was causing more emotional pain than physical.

"By the third tournament I'm missing and just watching, it

See HOLCOMB/2B

HERMISTON

New coach, no problem



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Hermiston head wrestling coach Shaun Williams practices with junior Beau Brock on Tuesday in Hermiston. Williams took over the program this year when former coach Curt Berger retired last season after 21 year with the team.

Williams stepped into big shoes, excelled

By AJ MAZZOLINI
East Oregonian

Even before Shaun Williams took over the head coaching position for the Hermiston wrestling team last May, he knew what kind of season the Bulldogs were going to have in 2012-13. He'd heard all about Hermiston's state championships, they're four-time individual winner and the cul-

ture the sport had groomed in the small Eastern Oregon town. He wanted in.

"Hermiston has always been the envy of most coaches," Williams said when the *East Oregonian* spoke with him after the school board approved his hire last year. And it hasn't taken long for the new coach to prove that sentiment correct.

See COACH/3B