

Ponderosa wrestler wins state title

Etzen takes 112-pound championship; Havens brings home 2nd at 215

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Ponderosa ended its wrestling season Saturday at the Pepsi Center with a state champion and a state runner-up.

After a close semifinal match that he won 3-1, Andy Etzen faced off against Tony Jones of Greeley West in the 112-pound championship match.

Ponderosa fans were nervous when Jones scored the first takedown, but Etzen kept his composure and was able to slip out of a tight half-nelson to get two rever-

sal points.

Etzen then flipped Jones on his back and held him there long enough to get three back-points.

Holding on to a three-point lead in the championship round can make the two minutes in the final period seem like a lifetime. But Etzen had patience and determination as he prevented Jones from escaping and walked off the mat with the state championship.

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In a matchup that almost everyone expected, Malcolm Havens

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met Dusty Hoffschneider of Columbine for the 215-pound championship match.

Hoffschneider, a two-time state champion at 189 pounds, didn't seem to intimidate Havens who shot in with 30 seconds left in the first period to get the first takedown, but was unable to hold on

and gave up one point when Hoffschneider escaped.

Havens followed suit, and 10 seconds into the second period escaped to make the score 3-1. Havens tried to throw Hoffschneider, who managed to slip behind Havens and get the takedown before Havens quickly

escaped to gain a one-point lead.

In the third period Hoffschneider escaped from Havens to tie the score 4-4, and the match looked like it would go into overtime. But with two seconds left, Hoffschneider shot in and was able to get a takedown and the state title.

Despite the loss, Ponderosa coach Tim Ottmann was very pleased with Havens' performance.

"It was a tough loss," Ottmann said. "But Malcolm wrestled well, and he made Hoffschneider wrestle. We would have liked to come out on top, but all you can do is your best, and that's what Malcolm did."