

# High School Leagues and Districts

When the Oregon High School Athletic Association, now called the Oregon School Activities Association, was formed in 1915, there already were several high school leagues in the state. One of these, the Portland Interscholastic League, is still in existence. The OSHAA has used the leagues as the basic component for that organization ever since.

The first district tournaments held in wrestling were in 1941 and 1942, before the OHSAA/OSAA took over sponsorship of the state tournament. The districts were special ones that followed, somewhat, geographic lines. The first year, two wrestlers per district qualified for state, the second year only one. That makes 1942 the only year only one wrestler per school could make it to the state tournament. In all other years, two wrestlers could conceivably make it to the finals of the state championships.

In 1950, two years after the OSAA took over jurisdiction of the state tournament, district tournaments were found to be necessary. Four special districts were formed, with four wrestlers per district qualifying for state. In 1952 and 1953, District Four was divided in two, a southern half and an eastern half, with two wrestlers from each qualifying for state.

In 1954, the OSAA expanded the competition to eight special districts, but limited the entries to two per weight, thus keeping the tournament at the same size. In 1956, the PIL entered wrestling competition en masse, and became the first league to also be a district.

Before the 1959 tournament, a major advancement in the state structure was made when the larger schools were broken off into their own state A-1 championships. All the A-1 leagues became districts, as well. At the A-2 & B level, the special districts continued, in most cases. Changes were made from year to year with a mixture of regular and special A-2 & B districts. In some cases, subdistricts were held that were league championships qualifying wrestlers for the district. Leagues known to have done this were the Sunset, Coast, Rogue Valley, Umpqua Valley and Trico.

By 1969, the small school tournament had become so large that it was split into separate divisions for A-1 and B schools. The A-2 leagues became districts for wrestling while the B schools

qualified through two separate special districts. Gradually, more and more B schools (now Single-A) have taken up the sport, and the district alignment has grown and changed from two districts to four.

In 1990-91, the names of the three classifications were changed from A, AA and AAA to 2A, 3A and 4A. Besides the name change, there was little effect on wrestling alignments.

The following is a short background study of the Class A-2\AAA high school leagues that have had wrestling. They are in the order of an overall strength rating since 1959. Also included is information on league competition and development since World War II but prior to 1959, when this information was available. There was some league competition prior to World War II, but this is not included.

## Coast-Valley League

The Coast-Valley championships were only in existence for the nine year period of 1971-1979, but the league proved itself to be the overall strongest district ever. Made up primarily of teams from the old Tualatin Yamhill Valley and Wilco Leagues, it was the top league in the state for three years, had two state championship teams, and thirty individual titlist.

In 1977, the district won six titles, three seconds, four thirds, two fourths and three fifths for the best district showing since 1953 when Special District Two, made up of many of the same schools, took eight firsts, four seconds and two thirds. The 1977 effort was led by state champion Estacada High School and their three individual champions: Chris Taylor, Terry Jones and Dana Dunn. Although not winning any individual championships, Sweet Home had a good showing and placed second. The C-V team champions that year, Newberg, followed in third place giving the league a 1-2-3 showing, the only league to ever do that on the Triple-A level.

Many outstanding wrestlers have come from C-V schools during the league's nine year history. Terry Jones was it's only three-time state champions and holds two of it's six Triple Crowns. Silverton's Larry Bielenberg and Molalla's John Olson were state champions who went on to win college national titles. Jeff Steubing, McMinnville,

went on to win a Pan American championship wrestling for Canada. Other outstanding wrestlers from this league include Randy Ohta, Molalla; Bill Anderson, Sweet Home; Chris Taylor and Rick McReynolds, Estacada; and John Waldrupe, Silverton.

## Pacific Seven League

The 1994-95 school year saw the birth of this new league. Composed of teams from just moved up from the 3A and of two 4A leagues, this district immediately became a power in 4A wrestling.

Newberg, coming over from the Metro, displayed its power by immediately defending its state championship. The Metro League, which Newberg had left, slipped from being one of the top districts in the state to last place.

Trent Rollins of Newberg won his second individual title this first year in the league. The Pacific 7 boasted four other titlists in 1995: Adam Trumbauer and Dax McMillan of Newberg; Bryan Garber of McMinnville; and Jacob Mathews of Dallas. Newberg's Dax McMillan became a three time champion in 1996.

Newberg won the state crown again in 1997. Canby won the individual honors, however. Three Canby wrestlers earned triple crowns: Brian Watson, David Watson and Mike Mathers. This was Brian Watson's second. Watson earned his third triple crown in 1998. Newberg had two, Isaac Weber and Andy Bowlby, to again give the league three triple crown winners.

## Timber Valley League

The Timber Valley League was only in existence for three years, but during this time had so many placers that it qualifies as the second strongest league to compete on the Triple-A level. It was born prior to the 1979-1980 school year, made up of parts of the Coast-Valley and Wilco Leagues after the OSAA decided a ninth AAA district was necessary. It went out of existence at the end of the 1981-1982 school year when the Metro area schools were again redistricted. Oregon City High School won all three district tournaments, and along with Canby, wrestled to high finishes in the state tournament during this period. The league claimed two individual crowns each of the three years, five runners-up during this

time, and had many other placers. As strong as the league was, it should be pointed out that in each of the three years, it finished second to the Inter-mountain League, the top district during this period.

## Wilco League

The Wilco League was one of the eight original A-1 districts at the first tournament in 1959, and had many outstanding teams and competitors during its 24 year tenure, which came to an end in 1982. Four teams and 48 individuals claimed top state honors. In 1971, Rex Putnam High School became the first Wilco school to take a state championship, although a week earlier, they had to settle for second place behind Oregon City in the district. Rex Putnam almost made it two in a row, but ended up a distant second to Silverton in 1972. Silverton had been a member of the Wilco League until 1970. Even without the team title, the 1972 Wilco League effort does rate as the second best among all districts since 1959. Six champions and five runners-up were from the league. The championship finals included three rematches of district finals. Interestingly, Roy Palm of Tigard was the only district champ that beat his runner-up in the state finals rematch. Besides Rex Putnam, Oregon City (3rd), Tigard (4th), The Dalles (6th), and Milwaukie (7th) all made the top ten teams at state.

In 1973, the state title return to the Wilco League, this time in the possession of Milwaukie High School. Milwaukie edged out Silverton for top honors. Their team effort was led by champion Tom Scott. The league effort in 1973 was also very formidable, with five champions, two runners-up and nine other placers.

The remaining two state team titles were won back-to-back by Sam Barlow High School in 1980 and 1981. Winning two titles is hard enough, but Sam Barlow did it both times without claiming an individual crown. Turning in excellent all-round performances, the Bruins had only two runners-up in 1980 and one in 1981, with the balance of the scoring done by a very strong team effort in the consolations.

Other Wilco League performances that deserve recognition are those of 1971 and 1979. In 1971, the league had five champions, and two seconds. In 1979, there were three champions, three runners-up and eleven other placers from the league.

Many outstanding wrestlers came from Wilco League schools. Larry Owings of Canby was a two-time state champion who went on to become an NCAA champion wrestling for the University of Washington. He is best remembered for his victory over Iowa State's Dan Gable in 1970. Roger Weigel of Molalla also became an NCAA champion while wrestling for Oregon State. Henk Schenk of Silverton is only the second Oregon wrestler, outside the PIL, to win a medal in senior world competition, and the first since 1924. (Chet Newton of Oregon City was the first.) Roy Palm, Tigard, was a two-time state champion as was Wade Baker, Milwaukie.

The league didn't have a Triple Crown winner until 1973, but that year the league did it big. Kevin Kramer, The Dalles, Scott and Palm all claimed Triple Crowns that year. Baker won a Triple Crown in 1978.

## Metro League

The member schools of the Metro League have changed several times since the first tournament in 1959. Hillsboro, Beaverton and Sunset have been in the league since the beginning. The geographic area stretched from Gresham and Milwaukie to Astoria at one time. Through several realignments, it has gradually been reduced in size (geographically) to its present membership which includes the Washington County schools. Prior to 1995, Newberg and McMinnville were also in the league. This made it similar to the old Tualatin Yamhill Valley boundaries of the early 1950's or Special District Three in the late 1950's. The league had dual meet championships as early as 1957.

During the early years of the league, the strongest teams were from David Douglas High School. The 1966 team was especially noteworthy. This team took the school and league's second state title. (The first was in 1961.) The school claimed two champions and two runners-up while winning top honors for Coach DeLance Duncan. Tim Wilmarth won his second state title at 191 pounds and Greg Morgan finished his high school career by winning his third state championship at the tournament.

The 1961 David Douglas team, although not as strong overall as the 1966 version, had three individual champions. Pete Russo was one of those, winning his first of two state titles for the team. One other wrestler has won two titles for David

Douglas. That was Jeff Scruggs, who would take them in 1976 and 1977.

Another state championship teams from the Metro League was the 1987 Newberg team. This school was new to the league, coming in from the Willamette Valley League, where it had won the state title the year before. Neil Russo won Newberg's only individual title, and while doing so, also won his fourth district championship, which included three in the WV League.

This was followed by another state championship performance by the 1990 Hillsboro team that won its first title since 1952, winning the crown without an individual champion, but well-balanced effort from the entire team.

Newberg won in the 1991 event. Under-rated all season, the Tigers easily out-distanced runner-up North Bend. Led by an outstanding effort from the light weights, This time they were guaranteed a champion before the finals started, as both 98 pounders were from Newberg.

Then in 1992, Newberg repeated, a seldom seen accomplishment at the 4A level, this time in a very close contest with several other teams.

Newberg again won the state title in 1994.

Four outstanding wrestlers not already mentioned include Ed Ritt, Sunset High School; Dave Nieradka of Tigard; Andy Foster, Travis Rollins, and Justin Klein of Newberg; Warren McPherson of Hillsboro; and Dan York of David Douglas. Ritt, Nieradka, Rollins, Klein and Foster have all won two individual titles as well as at least one Triple Crown.

## Southern Oregon Conference

The Southern League, or Southern Oregon Conference as it is also known, has had a long winning tradition starting with Klamath Union winning the first of five state championships in 1948 to Crater more recently winning titles in 1993, 1998, 1999 and 2000. In between, Grants Pass High School won three consecutive crowns during the 1960's; Roseburg took one in 1974; and Eagle Point won it in 1985, 1988, and 1989, bringing the total to 16 OSAA team titles since 1948. The league has also had 71 individual champions since 1959.

Of the three Grants Pass teams to take state, the 1962 version was the strongest with two cham-

pions. The following year, Grants Pass had to settle for a tie with Lebanon. Both teams had 43 points, the lowest point total to win the tournament since 1953, when the points given for placing were considerably less. Both teams had one champion and three other placers. Klamath Union was only one point behind the leaders with one champion and three other placers. In 1964, Grants Pass won the state championship one more time, but this time without an individual champion.

Roseburg won the 1974 state title in easy fashion, claiming two weights, a runner-up in another, and two consolation places.

Eagle Point joined the league for the 1980 tournament, coming up from the Double-A ranks. The team, coached by Bob Bergen, had taken top Double-A honors two years earlier, and was runner-up in 1979. By 1981, they had broken into the top ten in the Triple-A, and Robbie Bolf won an individual title for the school. Then in 1985, Eagle Point won the state championship, nudging past Sam Barlow High School by half a point. Although not winning a weight class, the team had six placers, including three finalists. The 1988 championship team had one champion, one second placer, and nine other placers in a very strong effort that set an OSAA record for most points scored in the tournament series. Crater set a record for points scored in 1998, but this was in the first year that eight wrestlers were placed in each weight.

Mike Grant was the first Triple Crown wrestler from the Southern League. This Grants Pass wrestler went on to win two national NCAA titles wrestling for the University of Oklahoma. Other league wrestlers to win Triple Crowns are Steve Lander of Roseburg who did it in 1986; Tony Champion of Eagle Point in 1988; Les Gutches (two-time winner) of South Medford in 1990; and Doug Lee of Crater in 1996.

Gutches became the league's first three time state champion when he won the 191 pound class in 1991. In 2001, Shane Webster of Crater also earned his third title. Two-time state champions have been Gary Bailey and Mark Rodriquez of Roseburg, Russell Smith and Henry Muller of Medford and Doug Lee of Crater. Rodriquez was also a four-time district champion.

## Valley League

The Valley League has produced six state championship teams and three runners-up since 1959. Three of those state championship teams (1960 Sweet Home, 1968 Lebanon and 1975 McNary) had to settle for second place in their qualifying Valley tournaments a week earlier, however, showing the relative strength and depth of the league.

The Salem and Corvallis areas have wrestling traditions stretching back to 1924. In that year, Corvallis High School was able to get Robin Reed (an Olympic champion later that summer) to coach their young team. Reed surprised the rest of the state by immediately winning the 1924 state championship and going on to win state again in 1925 and 1926.

Salem High, under Pat Hogue, won state titles in 1934 and 1935, and then under Vern Gilmore, won three more in 1937, 1940 and 1941. The state tournament was hosted by Salem High School as an annual event from 1932-1941. Salem and Corvallis had several strong schools in the area to give them competition during the thirties, including Albany, Chemawa Indian School and the Oregon School for the Blind.

World War II put a stop to most wrestling activity, but when it started up again in 1945, Salem High was immediately participating. In 1947, they went to Klamath Falls to give that future powerhouse its first competition (and its first loss). Salem won the Big Six League tournament in 1948, 1950 and 1953. Albany, the other power in the area, won the Big Six in 1949, 1951 and 1954.

When the OSAA started district tournaments in 1950, it was Salem winning early, taking the tournaments from 1950-1954. After the school was split, North Salem, coached by Al Gray, could only manage second place, while South Salem, coached by Hank Juran, the former Salem coach, finished third. Albany won the top honors that year. However, for the next decade, it would be Lebanon and Sweet Home to lead the area teams, not either of the Salem schools nor Albany. Besides winning five district titles, Lebanon also won state crowns in 1963 and 1968.

Finally, in 1964, North Salem won the district crown. Corvallis then took over control of the league, winning the next five district championships and also state titles in 1965 and 1967.

Power in the league moved around after that,

with Lebanon, McNary, Crescent Valley, South Albany, North Salem and West Albany all taking titles. McNary won the state crown in 1975 and placed second in 1976.

The Valley league has had a number of outstanding teams and wrestlers. Among the strongest teams ever in the state was the 1960 Sweet Home team. Although finishing second to Lebanon in the district meet, Sweet Home went on to win the state title with three champions, two seconds, a third and two fourths. This is the third best showing ever in the history of OSAA Triple-A wrestling. District rival Lebanon, however, had only one placer in 1960, a runner-up at 136 pounds. Dominating the lower weights, Sweet Home came home with double placers in three weight classes.

Two of the many outstanding wrestlers from this league were Nick Pasley, Corvallis; and Scott Glenn, West Albany who both were three-time state champions. Glenn was also a four-time district champion, as was Dave Payne of Sweet Home. Triple Crown winners were Jim Blackford, Bob Tomasovic and Mike Wyse, Corvallis; Mike R. Jones, Lebanon; and Howard Harris, McNary. Other outstanding wrestlers from the league included Leonard Kauffman, Jim Crumley, Manuel and Chomo Santana of Lebanon; Lynn Hays and Babak Mohammadi of North Salem.

## Portland Interscholastic League

No league in the state is older than the PIL. In fact, the PIL is older than the OSAA and was a charter member when the OHSAA was formed in 1915. The first high school match in the state was between Jefferson and Lincoln High Schools, two PIL schools. Before the OSAA Championships started in 1948, Benson won seven state titles under coach Al P. Gibson. Franklin also did very well in state competition during the time between the wars, and usually without an adult coach.

Wrestling in the PIL didn't start after World War II until the fall of 1955 when the entire PIL fielded teams. The league didn't manage a single placer that first year and it wasn't until 1958 that the rookie league managed a state champion. Then it was a wrestle-off between two Franklin wrestlers for the heavyweight title. From then on, performances by PIL wrestlers improved yearly until 1963 when the PIL proved itself the strongest

league in the state with four state champions and four more second placers. This was the senior year for Rick Sanders of Lincoln and Fred Fozzard of Marshall, both of whom were to become world champions six years later. This 1963 league delegation made the third strongest of all Triple-A district performances.

The PIL rose to the top again in 1968 and 1969. In 1968, the league captured five individual titles and seven other placers. Four of the PIL schools made the top ten in state that year. The 1969 effort brought two more individual titles to the PIL, as well as four runners-up.

It wasn't until 1982 that the PIL had an OSAA team championship. Then, it was Benson High that returned to the winners circle after forty-three years. Benson took three titles in 1982, and then returned in 1983 to take two more on it's way to a second state team title.

The PIL has had an abundance of outstanding wrestlers. One of the biggest names never entered a state tournament, however. Robin Reed started wrestling for Franklin in the fall of 1918. He was elected the captain and also served as the student coach for the next couple years. During this time, he also went over to the Multnomah Athletic Club for training. He would go back to his school later and teach them what he had learned. Later he wrestled for the Oregon Agricultural College and then in the 1924 Olympics. At the Olympics he won the gold medal, beating his club teammate, Chet Newton.

A very controversial wrestler, Reed has been at times called the best the country has ever had. Using his double-wristlock, he could beat everyone on the U.S. Olympic team except possibly Russ Vis whom he apparently never wrestled. He was even able to pin Henry Steele, the U.S. Olympic heavyweight champion that year. Vis was a former Washington High School wrestler who later moved to Los Angeles and wrestled there before making the 1924 Olympic team. Vis came back from Paris with the gold medal in the weight class up from Reed.

Another PIL wrestler often compared to the best in the United States is Rick Sanders. Sanders was a three-time state champion and later a world champion. Along the way, he won all the college and senior honors except one, the Olympic Gold. He came close, twice taking home the silver from the Olympics. Fred Fozzard went on to win an NCAA championship before taking the world gold

medal in 1969. Fozzard wrestled in college for Oklahoma State University.

Triple Crown winners from the PIL have been Bruce Nishikawa, Anthony Amado, John Borich and William Taylor of Benson; Jerry McGinnis and Broderick Lee of Marshall; Marc Sprague of Madison; and Bobby Janisse and Damon McPherson of Jefferson.

Three-time state champions have been Albert Gibson, Frank Berglund and Travis West of Benson; McPherson, Janisse, Sanders and Sprague. Two-time champions were Desmond Anderson and Ron Johnson of Franklin; Walter Sutherland, Cecil Hatchett, Mike Downer, Nishikawa and Taylor of Benson; Junior Johnson of Grant; Tivon Abel of Jefferson; Wayne Karney of Lincoln and Fozzard.

Benson's West and Amado later wrestled in the Olympic Games for the United States. One other wrestler deserves special recognition. That is John Miller from Wilson was a state champion who went on to take a national NCAA title for the University of Oregon.

Although not the strongest league overall, the PIL easily has a history longer than any other league in the state. It has had over twice as many state champions as any other league. Every world and Olympic championship earned by Oregon wrestlers has been won by a PIL wrestler. Of the rest of the world medalists, only two have not been from PIL schools. Other Olympic team members include Dan Mello (1980), Anthony Amado (1988), and Travis West (1992).

## Willamette Valley League

There have been two Willamette Valley leagues in Oregon wrestling. The member schools were somewhat similar, however, as the only school in the first not a member of the second was Sandy. The first tournament was held in 1946, when Oregon athletics was still recovering from the effects of World War II. The tournament, won by host Canby, also included Sandy, Molalla and Dallas. Ten wrestlers from these schools went on to win state titles in Salem two weeks later, although only four of them had also able to win league championships.

This tournament was held annually through 1951, and league dual meet championships were awarded from 1950 to 1958. Many outstanding wrestlers came from this league. Chief among those was Lee Allen, Oregon's second four-time

state champion. Allen went on to win numerous honors including wrestling on two Olympic teams. Three-time state champions were Dick Von and Art Keith of Canby. Two-time champs were Buzz Wheatley and George Krupicka of Molalla, and Clarence Connelly, Barry Schneider and Jerry Miles of Canby.

The Willamette League was reborn for the 1980-1981 school year, but didn't have a state champion until 1984 when Trent Stewart of Newberg won his first of two. His second title came in 1986 when the Newberg team also won the state Triple-A championship.

The Willamette League was disbanded again at the end of the 1985-1986 school year. Dallas and Silverton moved down to Double-A and the remaining schools were split between the Metro and Three Rivers Leagues, leaving the Class AAA with eight leagues, again.

## Mount Hood League

The Mt. Hood League came into existence because of the redistricting of the Metro area schools following the 1981-1982 school year. Composed of elements of the Wilco, Timber Valley and Metro Leagues, it has done exceptionally well.

In 1983, three teams placed in the top five at state. In 1986, Dan Russell became the first four-time AAA state champion since Lee Allen of Sandy who did in 34 years earlier. Dan's brother Joe was a two-time champion who might well have become a three-timer if not for an unfortunate motorcycle accident just before the start of his senior year. Chuck Kearney of Sandy was another outstanding two-time state champion from the league. Kearney also won two Triple Crowns. Other Triple Crown winners include Larry Topliff of Sandy, Oscar Wood (twice), Isaac Wood and Michael Pierce (twice) of Barlow and Sean Allison of Gresham, and Jim Donnelly of Hood River Valley. Sam Barlow High School, coached by Dennis Ingram and then later by Bruce Robinett, has won the district title every year since the league was formed, with Sandy, Gresham, David Douglas, Centennial and Reynolds sharing second place honors during this time.

Three Mt. Hood teams have captured second place state honors: Sandy in 1983, led by Topliff and Kearney, and Sam Barlow in 1985, led by Duane Dickey; in 1992, this time led by Isaac and Oscar Wood; and then Sam Barlow again in 1995.

Isaac and Oscar Wood both won three individual titles for the Bruins. Oscar Wood also went on to win Triple Crown honors in 1992.

## Intermountain Conference

Under the new format in 1959, Redmond became the first A-1 state championship team. Redmond also became the first team from eastern Oregon to win a state title. The team did it with three champions. Clarence Seal won his second of three titles in 1959. Marvin Gage and Jim Ricci also won individual championships.

There might have been four Redmond champions if Ken Stanton hadn't lost in the finals to Milt Fyre of Portland's Cleveland High. Stanton was a two-time state champion, having won titles as a 98 pound freshman and as a 123 pound junior. As a senior wrestling at 136 pounds, up two more weight classes from the year before, he had to settle for second place. Redmond's performance at the state tournament was the best any Intermountain team has had.

It was ten years before another eastern team won the state title. In 1969, Crook County of Prineville did it beating out rival Redmond for top honors at both the district and state meets. Both teams had a state champion, but Crook County had two runners-up. Redmond's state champion that year was Jerry Corwin who won his second state crown at 123 pounds. Crook County won another state title in 1975, but it was at the Double-A level.

In 1978, La Grande won the state crown, beating out defending champion Estacada 94.5-90.5. They did it with one champion, Dave Long, one other finalist, and three other placers. At this same tournament, Lance Wilson of Pendleton won his first of two state championships. La Grande again won the state tournament in 1996. This time they had three state champions.

From 1980-1982, the league was at its strongest in state competition. No state team titles were won during this time, though. Pendleton took a second and La Grande took third all three years. Two of those years, the league had four individual champions. The 1982 league showing was among the best ever among Triple-A schools. With four champions, a like number of seconds and ten others making the top six, the league had placers in every weight but one. Ed Woodburn of La Grande was one of the champions, taking his second crown at 98

pounds.

In 1988, the league was again the strongest in the state with six finalists, two of them champions.

When Hermiston won the state championship in 2001, they also led the Intermountain back to the top of the list of districts again. The 2001 Intermountain League was one of the top ten efforts amongst the 4A schools. Hermiston captured four of the individual crowns in 2001, and the first state championship in any sport at their school.

Triple Crown winners from this league have included heavyweights Richard Chandler, Redmond; Dave Maley, Crook County; and Dave Boor, Pendleton. Some outstanding wrestlers not previously mentioned have been Curt Berger, Crook County; Mark Woosley, Bend; and Miles Hancock and Randy Schimmel, Pendleton.

## Three Rivers League

Like the Mt. Hood League, Three Rivers came into existence before the 1982-1983 school year. The following year, a member school, Milwaukie, was able to capture a state team championship. Taking an individual title for them was their 191 pounder, Mike Blakey.

George Johnston of Oregon City and James Sisson of Milwaukie were not only state champions but four time district champions as well. Brian Watson, of Canby, won a Triple Crown in 1996.

Following the dissolution of the Willamette League, and the assigning of Canby and Molalla to Three Rivers, the league was designated District 4-AAA (now 4A). Previously, it had been District 9-AAA.

## Tualatin Yamhill Valley League

The TYV was deciding league championships as early as 1949 through dual meet results. IN 1951, the first TYV tournament was held at Hillsboro, with Newberg edging out Oregon City for the title while Hillsboro came in third. The following week, Oregon City had to again settle for second place, this time at the District One tournament, but it was Hillsboro that won the title. Newberg went to District Two and placed second to Canby.

In 1952, Hillsboro won the state championship, beating out Canby with a team rated in the top ten

overall in Triple-A history. the following year, league champion Newberg beat out Klamath Union, keeping the state crown in the league a second year. This team was even stronger than the Hillsboro team of the year before, rated as the second most dominating Triple-A team ever, and including four outstanding state champions. Doug Umfleet was a three-time state champion who might very well have become a four-timer if he had finished school. Ray Green was a two-time state champion who later wrestled for the Multnomah Athletic Club. Ralph Staley and Mike Clock both won Pacific Coast Intercollegiate titles wrestling for Lewis & Clark College.

Championships in the TYV were decided by dual meet record from 1954-1958, probably because having a league tournament followed by district and then state meant a great deal of wrestling in the last three weeks of the season.

In 1957, Newberg regained the state wrestling championship, beating out runner-up Sweet Home by a solid twenty-one points, 66-45. The team had two state champions, both of whom went on to achieve great success as college wrestlers and coaches. Ron Finley was a two-time state champion, Olympic wrestler and Olympic coach. He is now the University of Oregon coach. Don Conway also was a two-time state champion who went on to be an NCAA champion. He was the coach of the Portland State University Vikings for several years.

In 1959, the TYV tournament series resumed as District 4 A-1 under the new OSAA tournament format. During the next twelve years, the league added fourteen state champions to the twenty-five won in the previous eight years. The TYV went out of existence at the end of the 1969-1970 school year. Six of the teams were put in the new Coast-Valley League, the others in the Wilco.

Some TYV outstanding wrestlers not previously mentioned included Keith Schrock and Harry McAdams, Newberg; John Dustin, Tigard; Pat Clock, Newberg; Joe Markee and Art Makinster, Tillamook; and Brent Merrill, Tigard.

## Midwestern League

The Midwestern League was commonly known state-wide as District 5 A-1 even as late as 1977. While other districts had adopted league names, it remained "District 5 A-1" or later "District 5-AAA" for many years. From the beginning in 1959, the members schools have remained essentially the same: the Eugene area and the two coast teams of

North Bend and Marshfield. Roseburg was also a member of the district through the 1965-1966 school year, after which the school was assigned to the Southern League.

Roseburg was the early power in the district, winning the first four tournaments. In 1963, they placed second to North Eugene and never regained power in the league.

In 1964, the coast teams started a twenty-three year domination of the league. John Dustin's Marshfield Pirates won the tournament five consecutive years. For five more years, they placed second to North Bend. In 1974, Lynn Mathews coached the Pirates to the championship and defended the crown in 1975. Dave Abraham's North Bend Bulldogs came back in 1976, however, and reigned in the league for seven years, with his 1979 team also taking state.

In 1983, Marshfield took back the district title, with Thurston placing second, and North Bend falling down to third. Marshfield held the crown for three years before once again giving it up to North Bend. Finally, in 1987, the district championship returned to Eugene when Churchill, coached by Curt Sexton, beat North Bend for team honors.

North Bend brought the title back to the coast after the 1988 tournament with a team that included two wrestlers who would go on to claim state crowns, Pat Craig and Chris Wilson. The 1988 title was Craig's second. He was also a four time district champion, although one of those was in the Far West League.

Triple Crown winners have been Robin Richards, Kelly Cole, Eric Messner and Ralph Davis, North Bend; and John Flora, Dan Cook and Travis Harrison, Churchill. Two-time winners were Lane and Len Smith of Marshfield, Mark Booth of North Eugene, Eric Messner of North Bend, and Kenny Cox of Churchill. Dennis Emerson of Marshfield and Len Smith have both been four-time district champions.