

# Science Olympiad athletes shine

In a relatively short time period, the Camas High School Science Olympiad team has logged some pretty impressive accomplishments.

In its first year as a team, they surprised many by placing 10th in state in 2007. The following three years, the Papermakers continued to be a force with three third place state finishes. In 2011, all of the extra work paid off. During the April 16 state tournament at Clark College, CHS captured first place by 24 points. It was the largest margin of victory for a state championship team in five years.

This state win meant that Camas would get to hit the National Science Olympiad stage on May 20 and 21 in Wisconsin.

Coach Ron Wright describes this upcoming event as an incredible learning opportunity for his "Olympians."

Although not an "athletic" event by traditional standards, these highly successful students are competing intensely at a elite level, just as any top high school baseball, soccer, wrestling or tennis player would. There are the same requirements of dedication and perseverance, not to mention the hours upon hours of practice that must be completed.

As described in an article in today's Post-Record, on Sunday, May 15, the community will have a chance to show its support for these students' efforts during a fundraiser at Big Al's bowling alley in Vancouver. The effort will help start an endowment fund so that students participating in non-athletic extra-curricular activities like Science Olympiad will have financial help to attend special events and competitions.

The efforts of these students is beyond admirable. It is truly amazing, and deserves the support and recognition of our local community.

— Heather Acheson