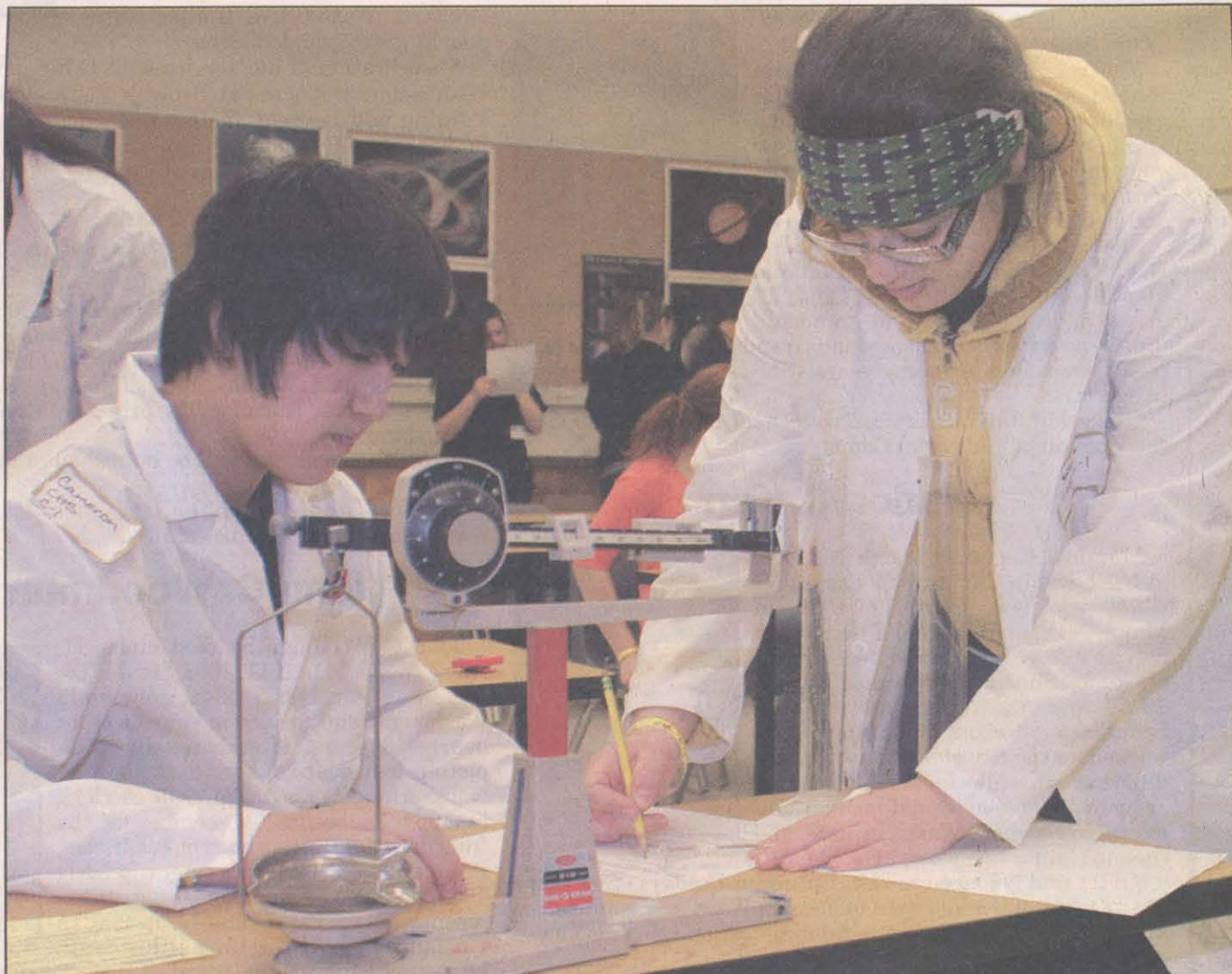


Science Olympiad competitors Cameron Suyematsu and Danielle Rahal, Camas High School students, get started on a timed event, in which all teams get the same equipment and must invent an experiment. Two of the three CHS teams competing qualified for state.

PHOTOS BY CLARICE KEATING/POST-RECORD



Minds for science

❑ Two CHS teams qualify for state at regional science competition

By Clarice Keating
Post-Record staff

These were events that got the blood pumping for Camas competitors — but not to the quadriceps or the biceps — all that hemoglobin went straight to the brain during Saturday's regional Science Olympiad competition.

A Camas High School team took first place out of 17 teams.

"It's nice to get recognized for something academic, if that's what you're good at," said senior Sarah Wolfe. "Usually it's sports that get all the recognition."

There were three CHS teams competing at Clark College. The teams earned first, sixth and 11th places. Two of the teams will advance to the state competition April 5, at Washington State University-Cheney.

The mission of the national competition is "to promote and improve student inter-

est in science and to improve the quality of K-12 science education throughout the nation."

Students also learn the value of teamwork, creative problem-solving and thinking outside the box.

Titles for the tests in 25 science and engineering subjects included "Disease Detective," "Science Crimebusters" and "Robot-Cross."

According to coach Ronald Wright, CHS medalled in 15 events and double-medalled in three.

Two students received medals in every event in which they competed. Paige Webberley received six wins; and Stephanie Nicholson landed five.

Other first-place finishers included Corwin Whitefield, Neil Gompertz, Hillary Knight, Wolfe, Katie Schmoltdt and Michael Szabo.

There will be 20 teams at the state competition, including the other high school qualifiers at Saturday's event: Excel (second), Mountain View (third), Union (fourth) and Prairie (fifth).

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Corwin Whitefield tests the strength of a boomilever he designed for the Science Olympiad regional competition Saturday at Clark College.

Science Olympiad

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This is Camas' second year with a Science Olympiad team. Liberty and Skyridge middle schools also competed Saturday.

Liberty and Skyridge earned eighth- and ninth-place standings, respectively,

out of the 13 middle school teams represented.

Liberty's "Oceanography" team, consisting of David Mishchuk and Keith Kuzis, placed second. Liberty also had two fourth-place ribbon winners, including Jimmy Connell and Ian Ulmer in "BioProcess Lab" and Cassidy

Hines and Eugene Hsu in "Crave the Wave" event.

Skyridge's results were not available as of press deadlines.

Event coordinator and Clark College Professor Priscila Martins-Read said there were nearly 100 volunteers assisting during the

"It's takes a village to do it," she said. "People from industry, schools, Clark College - there are a lot of volunteers. It's a work of love for a bunch of people."