

SPORTS

TD veterans wrap up regular season on a high note

Hawks honor nine seniors before 56-25 win against Hood River Valley

■ **Ray Rodriguez**
The Dalles Chronicle

The Dalles girls basketball players Kilee Hoylman, Rainie Coddling, Lauryn Belanger, Jenna Miller, Grace Schatz, Mercy l'aulualo, Pearl Guzman, Dalia Mondragon and foreign exchange student, Esther Ortiz, were showered with flowers, candy and balloons Tuesday night in an emotional pregame ceremony before action against Hood River Valley at Kurtz Gym.

gave praise to a group that he considers his daughters.

They have all gone through their share of battles over the years, and the fruits of that work have turned into a playoff berth.

"All of them are very special to me," Stevens said. "When we say family, we really mean family. These girls have formed a tight bond over the years. They have been through so much, and they keep battling, and they keep going after it. After being tied for second place and not making the playoffs last year, it would have been easy for them to quit, but they chose not to, and I love them for that. I love the battle and fight that they have."

Given the emotions of the night, The Dalles struggled early with a 21-13 halftime



The Dalles High School honored nine seniors before the start of Tuesday's Intermountain Conference game versus Hood River Valley, a 56-25 win, at Kurtz Gym. In the photo are, from left to right, Mercy l'aulualo, Jenna Miller, Kilee Hoylman, Rainie Coddling, Grace Schatz, Esther Ortiz, Dalia Mondragon, Pearl Guzman and Lauryn Belanger. Sprawled out in the front row is head coach Brian Stevens. Ray Rodriguez photo

Head coach Brian Stevens

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Resilient Rangers pull off road playoff shocker

Darden hits game-winner with 1.9 seconds left in overtime to give Dufur a 62-61 victory

■ **Ray Rodriguez**
The Dalles Chronicle

The moment was not too big for the Dufur Rangers.

Many of the players have been on the big stage before in football, but facing No. 3-ranked Life Christian in a hostile environment, on the road, was a new level of challenge.

Trey Darden scored a basket with 1.9 seconds left in overtime, and Max Morelli misfired on his three-quarter court desperation 3-pointer as time expired and the Rangers pulled off the upset, 62-61, in 1A state sub-round hoops action in Aloha.

"It was a pretty great win for us, and it really showed what we can do as a team if we put our minds to it," Darden said. "With this

momentum we have going for us, I don't think there's anything we can't do as a team."

With the win, Dufur advanced to a second sub-round contest versus No. 4 Crosshill Christian (24-2 overall) Saturday in Salem for the right to secure a Baker City berth.

On Wednesday, the Lions led 25-24 at halftime, but Dufur regained control with a 20-16 third-quarter spurt, as Cooper Bales exploded for 14 points and the trio of Caleb Olson, Darden and Jacob Peters tallied two points apiece.

Both teams were knotted at 49-all with three minutes left in the final frame, and at the 12-second mark, Life Christian (23-3) had possession and missed two potential game-winning attempts.

Dufur (16-11) managed just four fourth-quarter field goals, while Life Christian countered with two baskets and 8 of 10 from the line to tie the score, 54-54, at the end of regulation.

With less than a minute remaining in the extra session,

the Lions were up by a 58-56 margin, until freshman guard Josh Taylor drained two pressure free throws to tie the score.

Later, Bales sank 1 of 2 from the line, which moved Dufur ahead by a 60-59 score.

Following a timeout, Morelli had an isolation play called, and he made the basket and drew a foul to inch the Lions ahead, 61-60, but he missed his free throw, so the Rangers pulled down the rebound, pushed the ball downcourt and dished the ball to Darden, who sank the eventual game-winner with 1.9 seconds left.

"Going into the game, I knew our team had what it took, and I think it was just the confidence we went in with that pushed us over the top," Bales said. "We thought they were going to underestimate us because we were ranked low, which gave us a chip. Now, this makes us feel like we can beat anyone on any night as long as we show up and play hard."

Dufur totaled 23 field goals, five 3-pointers, and

went 11 of 22 from the line, 6 of 12 in overtime.

Bales scored 16 of his team-high 24 points in the second half and had two points in the fourth quarter and none in the extra period.

Peters finished with 12 points, Darden added 11, Taylor and Olson chipped in six each, and Gabe Petroff totaled three points.

"It was a big win, and I learned that we could push through and even push harder in overtime," Peters said. "The environment at the gym was so loud that it was cool that it didn't bother us, and we could just keep playing. Overall, this was a big win, and we needed it, and it gives us confidence going into our next game."

Life Christian hit 22 field goals, five 3-pointers, and drilled 12 of 18 free throws, 11 of 14 in the fourth quarter and overtime.

Morelli dropped 20 points, Blake Lambert ended up with 17, and Kobe Jenson, who was whistled for a technical foul in overtime after fouling out, netted 12 points.



Dufur post Trey Darden goes up for a paint shot in 1A basketball action this season. Wednesday in Aloha, Darden hit the eventual game-winning field goal with 1.9 seconds left in overtime to lift Dufur to a 62-61 triumph over No. 3-ranked Life Christian. The Rangers will be in Salem Saturday against No. 4 Crosshill Christian, where a Baker City berth is up for grabs. Ray Rodriguez photo

SWC girls can't sustain their edge in state sub-round loss

Redsides have early lead vanish in 69-52 loss to Country Christian

■ **By MIKE WEBER**
For The Dalles Chronicle

MOLALLA - It certainly appeared that the South Wasco County Redsides were on the verge of an upset in an OnPoint Community Credit Union/OSAA Class 1A girls basketball first round state playoff game.

The Lady Resides (7-5 Big Sky League, 12-13 overall) led by 10 points over the No. 7 ranked Country Christian Cougars (9-3 Valley 10 League, 19-9) and had all the momentum in their favor.

However, the Cougars showed that they were well deserving of their high recognition as they came back to get a 69-52 win over the Redsides ending their season on Tuesday at Country Christian High School in Molalla.

The Redsides, in the state playoffs for a third straight year, seemed quite comfortable in their role as a title contender.

Guided by second-year coach Carly Johnson, The Redsides, demonstrated that they were definitely familiar with the high-pressure atmosphere of the playoffs as they came out and played with a high-intensity level offensively and defensively in the first half.

"I'm so proud of the team, we had a super fun time all season and we worked so hard in the district tournament to get here," Johnson said. "Our entire season was building up to this point and we peaked at a good time. Our team came together at the end and gave us a good chance in the state playoffs. It was a tough loss, but all our

girls left everything out on the court, and they gave it everything that I could ask for."

Trailing 4-2 at the outset of the game, South Wasco sophomore Holly Miles (seven points) helped ignite an impressive 12-0 run, as she fired in a three-point jumper to make it 5-4.

South Wasco's duo of freshman Kylie Iverson (12 points) and junior post Destiny Mora-Lopez (seven points) each followed by sinking short jumpers, making it 9-4 and forcing a Cougar timeout with five minutes and 40 seconds left in the opening quarter.

"Early in the game, I think that we definitely felt like we had a chance to win the game," said Mora-Lopez, who earned a Big Sky First Team All League Award. "Things can change so fast though, and I knew that we had to be ready for them (Cougars). We all gave it our best shot, but it seemed like it hurt us when I couldn't play in the third quarter, and I felt bad that I couldn't help my team. I had trust in my teammates, and I knew that they would give it everything they've got, and I felt proud of them."

After the timeout, Mora-Lopez scored and Iverson capped the rally with a three-pointer, making it 14-4 midway through the first quarter. Country Christian responded with a rally, outscoring South Wasco 15-5 to knot it 19-19 at the end of the quarter.

"We did have a chance, but we just couldn't maintain our intensity level for the entire game," Johnson said.

The Redsides were determined to regain the momentum, and that's exactly what they did in the second quarter. Mora-Lopez, Jade McCoy (team-high 15 points), Iverson, and Hailey Ocacio (nine points) each scored baskets in an 8-0 Redside run that lifted South Wasco in front, 27-21, forcing

another Cougar timeout with 6:08 remaining until halftime.

"We all worked very hard all year to get here, and so I was very excited and very happy to help our team reach the state playoffs," said McCoy, who capped the year by earning a Big Sky Second Team All-League Award.

"It was fun to have the lead; we were playing with a high energy level, and at that point we felt like we had a chance, because anything can happen in the playoffs. They (Cougars) are a very good team, and they'll probably go far in the playoffs. I think the highlight of the season though was when we beat Lone (a 54-50 win on Feb. 22) to earn a playoff berth that enabled us to be here."

After the Cougars trimmed the margin to 27-26, South Wasco senior Laurynn Davis (two points) sank a jumper to put the Redsides up 29-26.

Davis, the only Redsides senior, was playing the final game of her South Wasco County High School career, and she definitely provided her team with a momentum boost at that point of the game.

"Laurynn had a little bit of a rough season with some injuries that limited the

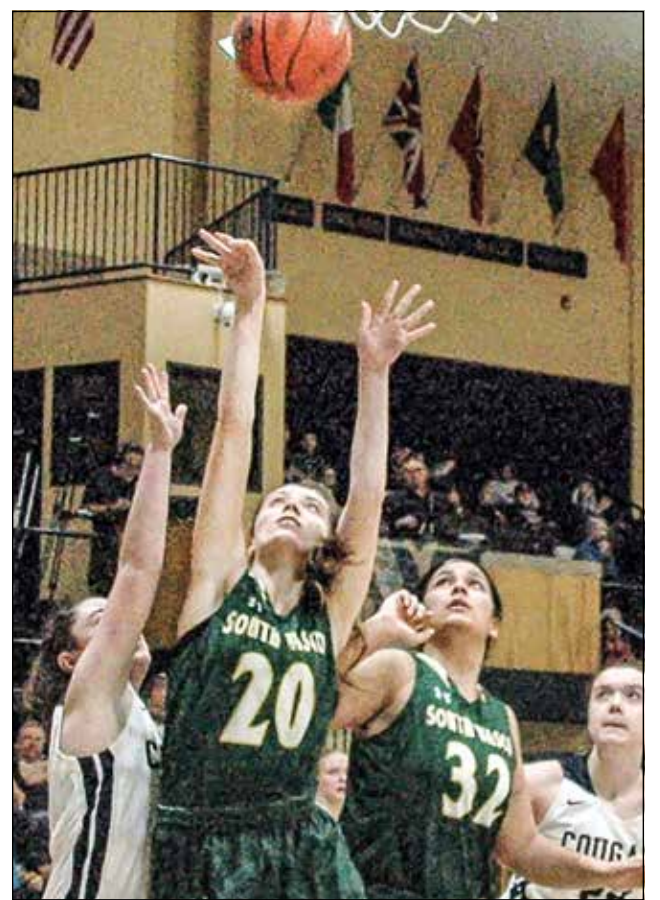
number of games that she was able to play," Johnson said. "She played in the last four games, and she helped us a lot with her leadership, and we're really going to miss her. She did a real good job of helping the younger girls stay focused all year and helping the team play together."

Country Christian again came back with a 14-3 run to take a 40-32 halftime lead and the Cougars never trailed again. The Redsides then had a rough start in the second half, as the Cougars took control of the game in the third quarter.

It was a tough situation for the Redsides when Mora-Lopez was whistled for a fourth foul just 17 seconds into the quarter and she had to sit on the bench and didn't return until the start of the fourth quarter.

Her absence hurt the Redsides as the Cougars capitalized with her out of the lineup and outscored the Redsides 18-10 to build a 58-42 lead after three.

The Cougars, led by Valley 10 Player-of-the-Year Lizzy Grandle (19 points) and freshman Annie Bafford (26 points) had the momentum in their favor and extended the margin to their largest



South Wasco sophomore Holly Miles (No. 20) shoots a jumper in the fourth quarter against Country Christian on Tuesday. The Lady Redsides had their season cut short by a 69-52 margin Tuesday in sub-round play in Molalla. Mike Weber/Contributed story

lead of the game at 69-46 late in the fourth. The Redsides

scored the final six points to trim the margin.

Dr. Cullen's Student of the week

Alma Garcia, Senior:

She is working very hard. She is sticking to getting her goal of graduating. She sits down, gets her work out and gets what she needs done. She has had pretty good attendance and will readily do make up work when she misses school.



Alma Garcia, TDHS

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Athlete of the Week



Katie Beal
Dufur High Senior

On any given night, the Dufur Rangers can have different players help the team. In last Saturday's Big Sky Conference championship, the Rangers were without injured post presence Brooke Beachamp, so senior Katie Beal rose to the challenge and put up seven points, six rebounds, three assists and a steal to boost her squad to its first district title since 2005. She had a steal and had a rebound and putback for the final basket to seal Dufur's 50-44 victory over Echo. In two district contests, Beal averaged 6.5 points, 4.5 rebounds, 1.5 assists and one steal a game.

The Athlete of the Week will receive a large 2 topping pizza from Papa Murphy's. Congratulations to our winner 2-29-20



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