

Sports

OSAA 5A BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Silverton teams stay strong



Silverton head coach Tal Wold, center, speaks to players before the second quarter of a quarterfinal game against Churchill on March 7, at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis. The No. 1 seed Silverton Foxes fell 51-53 to Churchill. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL



Silverton's Levi Nielsen looks for an open teammate during the quarterfinal game against Churchill. MOLLY J. SMITH/STATESMAN JOURNAL



Silverton's Ellie Schmitz, center, brings the ball downcourt between Marist Catholic's Sydney Johnson, left, and McKenna Williams, right, in the first half of the Silverton vs. Marist Catholic OSAA Class 5A semifinal girls basketball game at Oregon State University on March 8. Marist Catholic won the game 46-39. ANNA REED/STATESMAN JOURNAL

Ponds in Gervais offer platforms for disabled

Fishing
Henry Miller
Guest columnist

GERVAIS - Do you or your fishing companions need a little assist? St. Louis Ponds west of Gervais offers a wealth of fishing opportunities for the physically limited.

"I like it a lot, especially because it's easy access since I'm disabled," said Mark Cooley of Portland. "I can't get around too much. Hiking on rocks and stuff is not an option."

"It's one of our favorite spots early in the year," he added about the loose jigsaw of seven ponds covering about 22 acres of woods, brush and open spaces.

The pond complex, adjacent dog-training area and park are co-managed by Marion County Parks and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Since its primitive beginnings in the mid-1970s, St. Louis Ponds has undergone a series of improvements and upgrades. Those include the addition of

paved trails, multiple accessible fishing docks and fishing platforms, picnic tables, more signage, an ADA-accessible restroom and porta potties.

The fact that Cooley had a chunky 18-inch rainbow trout on his stringer definitely added to the ponds' appeal.

"I think we're going to have trout for dinner. And I could catch five of these and still be legal," he added with a laugh about the restriction allowing just one trout 20 inches or longer in the daily bag.

"It fought really good until I got it up into the weed bed up in here and it got a bunch of weeds in its mouth, and it basically went belly-up."

The entrance gate on the road to the parking areas first opened on March 1 for the recreation season. But the ponds were stocked several times during the winter after the gate closed Oct. 1 with walk-in access allowed during the off-season. And there was a delivery of another 850 rainbows scheduled to arrive early in the week.

John Seeley of Salem said he has



"I think we're going to have trout for dinner," said Mark Cooley of Portland after landing this beauty at St. Louis Ponds. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL TO THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

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