

Enterprise boys punch ticket to state tourney

■ Boone Harrod takes second individually with 169; Outlaws place third overall

Observer staff

Boone Harrod shot a two-day score of 169 to take second overall and lead the Enterprise Outlaws boys golf team to third place at the 3A/2A/1A Special District 3 Tournament Monday and Tuesday in Pendleton and a berth in next week's state tournament in Creswell.

"I'm honestly pretty blown away with how the team did this season," head coach Kyle Crawford said. "I wasn't quite sure what to expect. Boone stepped up as the leader and shot his best two rounds of the season. As a team we're stoked to go to Emerald Valley next week and see what we can do there."

Harrod, who was edged only by Heppner's Kellen Grant who shot 161, opened with a score of 83 Monday and followed with a score of 86 Tuesday. The senior was the lone Outlaw to break 100 both days, and his effort lifted the team to a two-day total of 823 — 416 Monday and 407 Tuesday — to give the Outlaws third place. "Boone has stepped up so much as a senior. I always knew he was capable of shooting the numbers he did, but he has blossomed," Crawford said.

Tyler Gray was the most consistent Outlaw aside from Harrod, opening with a score of 106 Monday and following with 108 Tues-

day for a two-day score of 214, which placed him in 17th. Jacob Amaro finished one stroke behind Gray in 18th with a score of 215. Amaro carded a 113 in the opening round, but improved to a score of 102 in the final round.

Zion Mark, who shot a 114 Monday and followed with a score of 111, had an overall total of 225 for 26th to round out Enterprise's top four.

Alex Albanez, Enterprise's No. 5, rebounded from a score of 141 Monday to shoot 115 on Tuesday and finish at 256.

Enterprise travels to Creswell for the state tournament Monday and Tuesday. ■



Cally Goss photo

The La Grande girls golf team took second at the district tournament to earn its third straight state berth.

GIRLS

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Meanwhile, the La Grande Tigers finished second overall behind Heppner to earn a berth to the state tournament for the third year in a row.

"They pulled through. They fought hard in this district tournament, and Pendleton Country Club played pretty difficult," head coach Cally Goss said. "I felt they played fantastic and handled the

pressure extremely well."

The Tigers turned in an overall score of 805 after shooting a total of 405 Monday and following with a score of 400 Tuesday.

Heppner finished with a score of 753.

Individually, LHS junior Katie Williams led the Tigers, placing third with a score of 180. Williams was the lone Tiger to break 100 each day, opening with a score of 93 on Monday, then improving to a total of

87 Tuesday, which was the third-best round of the day.

"Really thrilled for Katie and how well she played both days," Goss said. "She was just consistent throughout the whole district tournament.... Her goal was to get in the top five, and for her to get into third was the highlight of her career."

Baylee McNeil placed seventh with a total score of 200 and was a model of consistency, as the senior had a score of 100 both days.

Morgan Tussey, who opened with a round of 107 on Monday, followed with a score of 102 Tuesday for a two-day score of 209 and a 10th-place finish. Tori Bowen rounded out the Tigers scoring with a 216 after posting a 105 on Monday and a 111 Tuesday.

Suto as an individual, and LHS as a team, will compete at the 4A/3A/2A/1A state tournament Monday and Tuesday in Redmond. ■

LHS

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Long had a two-stroke lead over Bell entering the final round, but the Tiger senior, in the final prep round on his home course, shot the low round of the tournament to edge the defending two-time district champion.

"It was really cool to go out my senior year and win individually and as a team," Bell said. "I'm ecstatic right now to be able to pull it off after being behind the first day."

Bell's score helped La Grande reach the team title with a two-day score of 707, which included a

round of 349 Monday and a score of 358 Tuesday.

"(It was) a really good district. I'm so happy that everything went so well," Evans said. "It was nice to see them show their ability."

Baker, which finished second as a team, had a score of 736 — 370 Monday and 366 Tuesday.

La Grande had three additional top-five finishes and a fourth top-10 finish on its way to the top spot in the district. Freshman Tristen Shepherd posted a two-day score of 177, including an opening round of 87 and a second-day score of 90, to place fourth overall. Junior Cruz

Gallegos finished one stroke behind Shepherd in fifth with 178, rebounding from a 93 on Monday to shoot 85 on Tuesday. Bradon McCall rounded out the top four on La Grande with a total of 186. The senior opened strong with a round of 84 to lead the team — and sit in second overall — after Monday, then followed the effort with a score of 102 Tuesday.

"The team has made huge improvements over the course of the year. It's been fun to watch them grow," Bell said.

Anton Evans rounded out the Tigers' top five by shoot 208, posting scores of 104 both days.

The Tigers wrap up the season Monday and Tuesday at the Class 4A state championship tournament in Creswell.

"I think it's going to be huge," Ron Evans said of what the district title will do for team morale headed to state. "They didn't play well down there (at the last tournament in Creswell) and still shot a 385. I think they're going to have a lot of confidence going down there again." ■

Nuggets dismantle Blazers, lead series

By Amie Stapleton
The Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic scored 25 points and tied a team playoff high with 19 rebounds, and Paul Millsap injected some experience into a series dominated by youth, sparking the Nuggets' 124-98 blowout of the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday night that gave Denver a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

The Nuggets can secure their first trip to the Western Conference Finals in a decade with a win in Game 6 on Thursday night in Portland.

Millsap scored 19 of his 24 points in the first half of the first lopsided game in a series that was so evenly matched coming in that Denver held a cumulative scoring advantage of 464-462.

"Thirteen-year vet, a lot of games under his belt and he is stepping up when he need him to step up," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "I think the best thing about Paul Millsap: He's true to himself; he never tries to be something he's not. And he's not a rah-rah guy. He's not a guy that's going to be screaming and yelling."

"But I think his calm nature, his calm nature, has an effect on our group. A young team going through all this for the first time and when you can look to a four-time All-Star with 90 playoff games under his belt, that's

reassuring. He is kind of the calm for our team and I think that has a tremendous impact for all of our young players."

The Nuggets never trailed and stretched a six-point lead after one quarter to 18 at the half and 28 heading into the fourth quarter. They led by as many as 31 before a parade of backups gave the starters some much-needed breathers.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 22 points but again struggled from the arc, going 2 of 9 on 3-pointers.

Coming off a resounding Game 4 win that followed that epic quadruple-overtime loss, the Nuggets were focused and efficient just as Malone promised when he said Denver wouldn't dare let up and exhale at home after reclaiming the home-court advantage.

Millsap came out hot, scoring a dozen points in the first quarter. Just before halftime, he gathered a behind-the-back pass from Jamal Murray (18 points) and swished a 3-pointer while being knocked to the floor by Rodney Hood.

His subsequent free throw gave him a four-point play and 19 first-half points as the Nuggets took a 20-point lead. Lillard, who had 18 points at the break, scored an uncontested basket just before the end of the half to pull the Trail Blazers to 65-47 heading into the locker room. ■

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