

Carollo, Fulfer are top coaches in their leagues

By Ronald Bond
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The La Grande boys basketball team landed four players on the all-Greater Oregon League award list and saw head coach Mark Carollo named GOL coach of the year after the Tigers' turnaround from a 1-10 start to a state playoff berth.

La Grande appeared to be headed nowhere after a rough beginning to the season that included a seven-game losing streak, but Carollo helped engineer the turnaround to get the Tigers into the playoffs for the sixth time in the last seven years. The team followed the seven-game skid by winning nine of its next 11 games and had a six-game winning streak which culminated in a 57-50 victory at Baker in the GOL's district championship game before the season ended with a 52-33 loss at Marist in the first round of the playoffs to finish 10-13. LHS won all eight of its games in which it held the opposition to less than 50 points.

La Grande senior guard Kaleb Myer and junior guard Cristian Mendoza were selected to the GOL first team, while senior post Justin Jenner and sophomore guard Devin Bell were second-team award winners. Mendoza and Myer were key down the stretch for the Tigers. Mendoza scored 18 points in a win over McLoughlin late in the season to lock up a playoff berth then scored 13 in the title-game win over Baker, while Myer had 12 in that championship game and 14 in the playoff contest at Marist.

Fulfer named OOL boys coach of the year

Olan Fulfer led the Joseph boys basketball team to a second-place finish in the Old Oregon League and a berth in the 1A state tournament, and as a result was honored as the OOL coach of the year.

The Eagles reached the state tournament for the second time in three years and posted their best record



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Joseph head coach Olan Fulfer was named the Old Oregon League coach of the year.

in the seven years Fulfer has been the head coach. They finished with a record of 22-9 overall. The state tourney run was cut short by dropping two games at the final site in Baker, but the second of those games was a three-overtime thriller against Prairie City, which ended with a 51-46 win by the Panthers.

The Eagles landed three players on the all-OOL squad, two of which were named to the first team — junior guards Chase Murray and Mason Ferre. Hadley Miller, a senior post, claimed honorable mention.

Powder Valley also logged three all-league accolades, led by sophomore guard Reece Dixon, who was a first-team all-league honoree for the high-scoring Badgers.

Senior post Roper Bingham was named to the second team, and Moziss Nesser, another senior post, was tapped honorable mention. The Badgers finished with a record of 18-8 but missed the playoffs by one game after a 68-59 loss to

Elgin in the OOL third-place game.

Elgin, which went 15-11 and used the win over Powder Valley to reach the playoffs for the second time in three years before being knocked out by South Wasco County, also had three all-league selections. Junior guard Kaden McClure landed a spot on the second team, and junior guard Gage McKay and senior post Tristan Simpson were both honorable mention.

Imbler senior guard Jayce Burnette was a second-team selection, as was Wallowa junior guard Tristin Bales.

Glenn among three BMC first teamers

Union landed three all-league selections, paced by junior guard Keegan Glenn, who was among three players unanimously selected to the first team. Glenn was a consistent threat to score 20 points or more points in a game, a fact enforced when he went off for 33 points in a win

earlier in the season.

Junior guard Jace Phillips was named to the second team, and junior post Cole McLean earned honorable mention.

The Bobcats finished with a record of 17-10 in coach Odin Miller's first season, but just missed out on garnering an at-large bid to the state playoffs.

Enterprise, which went 6-13 on the season, placed Cason Kirkland on the all-BMC second team, while Devin Greer was honorable mention.



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

La Grande junior Cristian Mendoza was one of two Tigers who were named first team all-Greater Oregon League.



Staff photo by Ronald Bond

Union's Keegan Glenn was a unanimous first-team all-Blue Mountain Conference selection.

Coronavirus moves Olympic Games to 2021

By Eddie Pells
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Not even the Summer Olympics could withstand the force of the coronavirus. After weeks of hedging, the IOC took the unprecedented step of postponing the world's biggest sporting event, a global extravaganza that's been cemented into the calendar for more than a century.

The Tokyo Games, slated for 11,000 athletes from more than 200 countries and at a reported cost of \$28 billion, had been scheduled to start July 24. They will now be pushed into 2021 on dates to be determined.

They will still be called the 2020 Olympics — a symbolic gesture that the International Olympic Committee hopes will allow the games to “stand as a beacon of hope,” as it stated in delivering the news Tuesday.

“I don't think anybody was really prepared for this virus happening,” said American sprinter Noah Lyles, who had been primed to be one of the world's breakout stars in Tokyo. “You look over the history of the Olympics and see

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Now, a microscopic virus that is wreaking havoc with daily life around the planet, to say nothing of its sports schedule, has accomplished what no other virus (Zika in 2016), act of terrorism (the killing of Israelis in Munich in 1972), boycott (1980 and 1984), threat of war (frequent) or actual world war itself has managed to do: postpone the games and push them into an odd-numbered year.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three

weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia and death. The global pandemic has sickened at least 420,000 people and killed more than 18,000 worldwide, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Four-time Olympic hockey champion Hayley Wickenheiser, the first IOC member to criticize the body's long-held, dug-in refusal to change the dates, called the postponement the “message athletes deserved to hear.”

Major sports organizations, including World Athletics and the gymnastics, track and swimming federations in the United States, were calling for a delay. So were major countries, including Canada, Brazil and Australia.



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