

# SPORTS

## Lady Riverhawks get win on Senior Night

By Mike Weber  
For Columbia Gorge News

The Dalles High Riverhawks girls basketball team last week won one of three Class 5A Intermountain Conference games — a Senior Night victory over Gorge rival Hood River Valley.

The Riverhawks (2-6 IMC, 2-6 overall) won their second game of the season 57-33 over HRV (0-7 IMC, 0-9 overall) on Senior Night June 10 at The Dalles High School. In a pregame ceremony, the trio of Hawk seniors, Cadence Snyder, Hanna Ziegenhagen and Keisha Oregon, were honored while accompanied by their parents, for their successful careers on The Dalles High basketball team.

"It's definitely weird knowing that we won't play another game in this gym, which seems kind of crazy and it's sad," said Oregon. "It's going to be even more emotional for us when we actually play our last game of the season and it will also be sad for the other girls too, because we're so close to them. I feel like the larger crowd here on Thursday is what really kept us going and since it was senior night, we really felt motivated to play with a higher energy level against Hood River."

Snyder led the Hawks in scoring with 14 points and junior Monica Rojas scored a career-high 12. The 57 points scored by the Hawks was their highest scoring total of the season and the 33 points scored by Hood River was the fewest by a Hawk opponent this season.

"It was kind of bitter-sweet, but I didn't even cry,

surprisingly," said Snyder. "Some of the younger girls cried because we're definitely so close with them. The Hood River game was a lot of fun, we all hustled well, and everyone played really good. It seems like Hood River is the only team we can beat this year."

On June 8 the Hawks traveled to Central Oregon and lost 43-28 to the defending (2019) IMC champion Redmond Panthers (3-5 IMC, 3-5) at Redmond High School. In this second match-up between the two squads, the Hawks had a much better effort than what they had in a May 25 season opening 50-22 loss to Redmond at home.

Oregon led the Hawks in scoring with seven points and freshman Jeilane Stewart and Ziegenhagen each scored six. The 15-point loss to Redmond was also the smallest margin of the Hawks' six defeats and nearly half of the 28-point deficit in the first game.

The Hawks, guided by Coach Keith Howe, faced the Crook County Cowgirls (5-3, IMC, 5-5) June 11 and lost 45-25. Playing for the second consecutive day, the Hawks had a strong first half, while trailing just 21-17 at halftime.

"This loss was definitely due to the game on Thursday (versus Hood River) because the girls went full out, playing so hard from start-to-finish and giving 100 percent effort," said Howe. "Everything went our way and we had the fewest turnovers of any game this season, so that was a good victory. We were right in the game tonight (versus Crook County) we were down two after one and down just four at halftime. Everyone put



Natasha Muzechenko, far right, shoots a three-point jumper. The Riverhawks won their last home game against Hood River Valley. Mike Weber photo

out so much effort the night before and they were all just too tired in the second half."

The physically exhausted Hawks started feeling the effects of fatigue in the second half and were outscored 13-1 in the third quarter and 11-7 in the fourth.

"In the first half, it definitely felt like we had a chance to beat them and it would've been great if we could've kept going our momentum going, but I think we were all pretty exhausted," said Ziegenhagen.

In a seesaw first half that included five ties and five lead changes, the Hawks took their first lead of the game when sophomore Natasha Muzechenko (12 points) fired in a three-point field goal, putting The Dalles in front 11-9 with 1:52 left in the

first quarter. Crook County responded with a 4-0 run to take a 13-11 advantage at the end of the quarter.

Muzechenko sank consecutive three-pointers at the outset of the second quarter, propelling the Hawks in front with their largest lead of the game at 17-13 with 5:21 left until halftime. The Cowgirls came back to knot it 17-17, forcing a Hawk timeout with 3:28 on the clock. Crook County took a 19-17 advantage with 1:50 left and never trailed again.

"I couldn't be more proud of their effort, but they had nothing left and they were physically drained after playing so hard against Hood River," said Howe. "As a coach, nothing makes you prouder than seeing a full effort like that. We have two

more tough games against the top two teams in our conference. We were in both games against those teams the last time we played them, but the turnovers hurt us. We've improved in that regard and we're making less turnovers now. Our goal was to get one win this year and we got two and we're hoping to sneak in and get maybe one more win."

Utilizing an effective defensive full-court press to create Hawk turnovers, the Cowgirls scored some fast-break baskets to help extend their lead to 34-18 after three quarters and they maintained their momentum for the remainder of the contest to get their second straight win.

"We're playing against teams that have way more

experience than us, so I'm proud of what we've accomplished this season," said Howe.

The Hawks played without Jeilane Stewart in the second half, because she injured a finger in the first half and was unable to play after that.

"We just ran out of gas and we were exhausted from yesterday's game (versus Hood River)," said Snyder. "We started letting up on our defense and we were getting tired and then we all started hanging our heads a little bit. We started making bad passes and we just were not boxing out well enough, and they (Cowgirls) were getting a lot of offensive boards. Having a few days off to rest is going to help us and I think we're going to play better in our last two games and maybe have a chance to win one more game."

The Hawks played the Pendleton High Buckaroos (5-1 IMC, 5-1) Tuesday (results came after the printed edition deadline) and their final regular season contest is Thursday against the league leading Ridgeview Ravens (6-0 IMC, 8-1) at 6:30 p.m. at Ridgeview High in Redmond.

The Hawks will conclude this short 10-game spring season on the road with a matchup probably against Redmond during the IMC District Playoffs June 21-26. The Hawks are currently the No. 5 seeded team, and they'll face likely No. 4 seed Redmond in a quarterfinal contest Monday at 6 p.m. at Redmond High School. If the Hawks win that contest, they will advance to the June 23 semifinals and play top-seeded Ridgeview.

## IMC swim teams converge on HR Aquatic Center for 2021 district championships

By Brandon Risley  
Columbia Gorge News

In the sport of swimming, the journey and process of a season is just as important as each individual competition. In the season of COVID, the journey has been cut short while the process has risen in difficulty for swimmers across the state.

Going into 2020, The Dalles Riverhawk swim team was coming off one of its best years in recent memory, qualifying two individual swimmers for state and a couple relays, as well. Looking to duplicate or improve on those results was not out of the realm of possibilities, but the pandemic has since altered those dreams with no state meet this year. The high school season ends for IMC swimmers at Saturday's district meet in Hood River.

"We have had the same challenges other teams have been dealing with, having to go through all the COVID restrictions," said Coach Derek Shortt.

With pools being some of the last buildings to reopen during the pandemic, the challenge has not only been to find times to train but also finding teams to compete against.

"We have had to get creative finding all the pool time we can so we can get all our swimmers in," said Shortt. "Also, with the changing and different schedule, it has been harder to find meets."

The Riverhawks were able to secure two competition dates before heading to Hood River for district on June 19. Their first meet was June 3 against Hood River Valley.

Despite a lack of training time, Shortt was impressed with his team's performance. "I think we swam super well!" he said. "Lydia (Digenarro) and Micheal (Cole) had some impressive wins. We were outnumbered 16 to 33 but had a ton of close races and a couple of wins."

"We had a couple of highlights. Lydia Digenarro and Micheal Cole both won their 50 free races. Our boys 200 free relay (Skyler Coburn, Carter Randall, Wes Parker, Cole) also won their race. We also had a few PRs: Micheal cut time in both his 100 fly and 50 free; Quinn Raffensperger and Kennedy Abbas also cut time in their 100 free. Both Hanna Haight and William Hoover dropped time in their 100 breaststroke."

After a couple more days of training the team headed to Madras for its last tune-up meet before district.

"I think we're getting closer to the goals we set before the beginning of the season," said Shortt. "I'm proud of everyone on this team for dealing with adversity and showing that they want to be here and improve. We have a really young team this year and so we're hoping to continue to build towards the future."

While the journey may have been cut short, the process of getting swimmers ready for the end of the season remains the same. Shortt and his staff are focused on getting their team prepared for what is to come.

"I think we will be; it will be more difficult with the short season," said Shortt about this week's district meet. "In a normal year we would still be building but we are already at the end of the season. I think the kids are excited for a big meet."

The IMC district championship meet begins at noon June 19 at Hood River Aquatics Center.

## IMC regular season ends this week for Eagle girls

By Joe Petshow  
For Columbia Gorge News

The scoreboard doesn't necessarily show it, and it's not evident in the win-loss column, but Coach Steve Noteboom can see the improvement his young Hood River Valley girls basketball team has made this 2021 season.

The Eagles (0-9 overall, 0-7 league) complete their regular season with three games this week and then will play an Intermountain Conference district playoff game Monday at Crook County.

"I knew going into the season it was going to be difficult," Noteboom said. "With some of our seniors not returning for various reasons and having to rely on so many freshmen. It was really unfair to put the freshmen in the difficult position of having to compete with girls who are 3-4 years older and more experienced."

That said: "They have had great attitudes and have gone out and competed every night and have gained

valuable experience," the coach added.

The Eagles lost two IMC games last week — 57-27 June 8 to co-league leading Ridgeview, and 57-33 June 10 to Gorge rival The Dalles. In the latter game, frosh Marina Castaneda scored 14 points and grabbed five rebounds for HRV. Teammate Mallory McNeerney, a sophomore, added nine points and six rebounds, and Molly Routson scored six points.

HRV could not overcome cold shooting and its inability to take care of the basketball. "Our Achilles heel all year has been too many turnovers and poor shooting, and it was no different on Friday vs. The Dalles," Noteboom said. "We were able to get some good shots but could not connect."

Two days prior, Noteboom got glimpses of what should be a positive future for his team against Redmond's Ridgeview.

"We have had moments of exciting basketball this season where everything seemed to click, and we got a look at what the future could

be like," he said. "The first quarter against Ridgeview was like that. We moved the ball, got excellent looks at the basket and made shots and took care of the basketball."

The game marked the return of HRV's lone senior, Routson, and junior Reese Leiblein. "This made us stronger, especially on the defensive end," Noteboom said.

Castaneda again led the way with 15 points and six rebounds. Ryann Rosselle grabbed eight boards to go along with her four points; Routson also scored four.

Hood River was scheduled to play Redmond at home on Tuesday (results were after the print edition deadline). The Eagles host Crook County on Thursday and travel to Pendleton on Friday. All those games are scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Hood River is the No. 6 seed in the IMC and travels to No. 3 seed Crook County for a first-round district playoff game Monday. Monday's winners advance to the Wednesday semifinals.

HOOD RIVER | THE DALLES | WHITE SALMON

Columbia Gorge News

ColumbiaGorgeNews.com



**Historic GRANADA THEATRE**  
Dinner, Trivia, Entertainment at the Historic Granada Theatre.  
Upcoming events include:  
June 18 Pillow Talk! Doris Day, Rock Hudson  
June 19 Bodhi Mojo Band/520  
June 25-26 The Thing! 1951 Movie  
July 2 National Act Concert!  
Love & Theft w/band!

Only \$60 tix! Also a dinner option!  
July 3 John Wayne, North To Alaska!!!  
And for all info crosscheck @ GranadaTheatredalles.com.

## CHANGE THE WORLD With a Gift for the Future

Take your charitable giving to the next level.

Passionate and forward-thinking visionaries like you help us continue OHSU's tradition of health care excellence. Transform human health — and change the world — with a planned gift to OHSU. Whether it's a scholarship, annuity, endowment, IRA charitable gift, or other ideas, we'll work with you to make a difference.

Call us or visit us online. Learn how you can reach important financial goals while building a better tomorrow.

OFFICE OF GIFT PLANNING

503-228-1730

giftplanning.ohsufoundation.org



Oregon Health & Science University FOUNDATION

