

## SPORTS

# Dufur boys finish first in Big Sky, advance to state playoffs

■ By Mike Weber  
For Columbia Gorge News

Utilizing their No. 2 ranked offense, the Big Sky League Champion Dufur Rangers are hoping that this will help them achieve their goal of winning the Oregon Class 1A boys basketball state championship.

The Rangers (7-1 Big Sky, 8-2 overall) average 63 points per game, second only to the Nixyaawii Golden Eagles (11-1) at 71 points per game. Dufur is one of 16 teams competing in the state playoffs this week at Baker High School and at Powder Valley High School.

The Rangers, guided by Coach Hollie Darden, have won three straight and are in the playoffs for a fifth straight year. The No. 4-seeded Rangers are hoping their win streak will continue as they seek to advance to Thursday's championship game. Last year, Dufur advanced to the second round of state before losing 78-64 to the Crosshill Christian Eagles on Feb. 29, 2020.

"We're excited about this tournament, and we feel like we have a chance to win the championship and that's our goal," said Darden. "The kids are doing some good things and we've had pretty

balanced scoring, which is what I prefer to see, because that makes us more difficult to defend. That's kind of the way we've played all season, which makes it kind of nice. Nixyaawii is considered as one of the favorites to win it too. Their kids play basketball all the time on the reservation, so they're pretty strong."

Dufur played a first-round game June 21 against North Clackamas Christian, quarterfinals followed June 22 (results came after the print edition deadline), with semifinals on Wednesday.

Dufur came into the playoffs with momentum from winning its final two games of the short 10-game spring season. The Rangers won 69-56 over the Ione/Arlington Cardinals (6-2) in their final league matchup June 14 at Ione High School.

"Cooper Bales, Josh Taylor, Jacob Peters and Caleb Olson have all stepped up and played really well, along with everyone else on our team, because they're all doing a nice job for us," said Darden.

The Rangers jumped in front 20-4 after one quarter, before the Cardinals came back trimming the margin to 32-26 at halftime. The Rangers then regained the momentum in the third,



Dufur senior Cooper Bales (23) takes a shot as senior Jacob Peters follows him into the key during action earlier this season in Dufur. Mark B. Gibson photo

outscored the Cardinals 24-11 to take a 56-37 advantage after three.

The Rangers had a

balanced offense with five players scoring in double figures, including a team-high 14 points by senior Cooper

Bales. Sophomore Josh Taylor and senior Caleb Olson both had 13 points. Senior Jacob Peters and freshman Henry Begay each scored 10 and senior Alex Barrett added eight points.

A day later, Dufur added a 63-47 nonleague win over the visiting Trinity Lutheran Saints (8-4) of Bend. After falling behind 17-15 after the first quarter, the Rangers displayed their highly prolific offense in the second, utilizing rock solid defense, as well.

Dufur outscored Trinity Lutheran 16-5 in the second to grab a 31-22 halftime advantage. The Rangers' momentum continued in the second half as they outscored the Saints 16-11 in the third and 16-14 in the fourth. Peters led Dufur with 18 points, Olson had 16 and Bales scored 13. A total of eight Rangers scored in the contest.

The South Wasco County High Redsidies boys basketball team finished in second place to Dufur in the league standings and also qualified for the state playoffs for a second straight year. Last year the Redsidies reached the second round of the playoffs before losing 43-40 to the Joseph High Eagles on Feb. 29, 2020.

South Wasco, guided by Coach Jim Hull, won its final home game 62-54 over the Country Christian Cougars (6-8) in a nonleague matchup June 14 and then lost 57-55 to Ione in its final Big Sky contest Friday at Dufur High School.

"We led for a majority of the game (versus Ione) and we had a nine-point lead at the end of the first quarter, so it really was a very disappointing and tough loss," said Hull. "We had too many turnovers (14) and in order for us to win, we have to have fewer than 10, especially in a big game like this against a good team. You can survive having 15-20 turnovers against bad teams, but you can't do that against good teams. We also shot poorly from the free throw line (11-for-23), which really hurt us too down the stretch, when we missed some key free throws late in the game."

South Wasco played a first-round state playoff game June 21 versus Trinity Lutheran. Quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final were scheduled June 22-24.

## South Wasco girls qualify for state playoffs

■ By Mike Weber  
For Columbia Gorge News

The South Wasco County High girls basketball team advanced to the 16-team, 1A state playoffs this week at Baker High School. The Redsidies played the North Douglas High Warriors (7-0) in a first-round playoff game Monday at Powder Valley High School (results came after the printed edition deadline).

Monday's winner advances to Tuesday's quarterfinals; the semifinals are Wednesday, and the championship game is scheduled for Thursday.

It marks the fifth straight season that South Wasco has qualified for the state playoffs.

The Lady Redsidies concluded the short 10-game spring season with a 61-40 loss to the Valley 10 League Champion Country Christian Cougars (12-1) June 14 at Country Christian High in Molalla. That contest was a rematch of a first-round playoff game from last year, which the Cougars won 69-52 on Feb. 25, 2020 in Molalla. Sophomore Kylie Iverson led the Redsidies in scoring with 18 points, senior Jade McCoy had 17 and senior post Destiny Mora-Lopez added eight.

The Lady Redsidies, guided by the husband/wife coaching duo of Carly and Codey Johnson, took fourth place in the 10-team Big Sky League with 4-2 league mark and 5-3 overall record. Trout Lake (6-0 Big Sky, 9-0 overall) won the league title, followed by Dufur (5-3 Big Sky,

6-4) and Ione (4-0 Big Sky, 4-2). Ione also is competing in the state tournament.

"It's an honor always to be able to go to the state tournament and play against the best teams in Oregon," said Codey Johnson. "I believe our girls are going to try their best and I think they're going to continue to get better, and they realize that this is an opportunity to enjoy a successful conclusion to the season. We have a young team with only two seniors, so this will be a great experience for our team."

Led by the trio of Mora-Lopez, McCoy and Iverson, the Redsidies have a highly proficient and No. 3 ranked Class 1A offense, averaging 47 points per game. McCoy's sister, Sadie, freshman Julie Hull and junior Holly Miles are also capable of making key contributions to the Redside offensive attack.

"Destiny can really lock down the middle for us and she is really a big force for us offensively and defensively," said Codey Johnson. "Carly and I started coaching this team four years ago when Destiny and Jade were freshmen. So, to be able to help these girls reach the state tournament is really a blessing and it's always a goal as a coach to get a team to this tournament. The fact that we were able to reach the tournament and have our team playing here is really all that I can ask for as a coach and we're very proud of them."

Dufur concluded its season with a split of its final two



South Wasco senior Destiny Mora-Lopez (32) steals the ball from Sherman senior Haideen Perez during a game in Maupin earlier this season. Mark B. Gibson photo

games. The Lady Rangers lost on the road 42-40 at Ione June 14. Dufur won its last game of the season 49-38 over the Trinity Lutheran Saints June 15 at Dufur High School. The Rangers decided that they wouldn't compete in the state

tournament. Trout Lake also elected to forego the tournament even though they won the Big Sky League with an undefeated record.

## Gorge Sports Schedule

June 22 - June 30

**American Legion baseball**

Friday, June 25: Columbia Gorge Hustlers at Pendleton Tournament

Saturday, June 26: Columbia Gorge Hustlers at Pendleton Tournament

Sunday, June 27: Columbia Gorge Hustlers at Pendleton Tournament

Tuesday, June 28: Columbia Gorge Hustlers at Yakima

Wednesday, June 28: Columbia Gorge Hustlers at Yakima

**Little League baseball**

Friday-Friday, June 18-25: District 5 Little League baseball tournaments, Umatilla Sports Complex, Redmond

**Boys basketball**

Tuesday-Thursday, June 21-24: Class 1A state basketball tournament, Baker City, North Powder

Wednesday, June 23: IMC district playoff semifinals: Monday's No. 3 Hood River vs. No. 6 Pendleton winner at No. 2 Redmond; Monday's No. 4 The Dalles vs. No. 5 Ridgeview winner at No. 1 Crook County

Friday, June 25: IMC district championship, Wednesday winners play at site of higher seeded team

**Girls basketball**

Tuesday-Thursday, June 21-24: Class 1A state basketball tournament, Baker City, North Powder

Wednesday, June 23: IMC district playoff semifinals: Monday's No. 5 Hood River at No. 4 Redmond winner at IMC No. 1 seed

Friday, June 25: IMC district championship, Wednesday winners play at site of higher seeded team

**Boys Wrestling**

Friday, June 25, Saturday, June 26: Class 5A boys state tournament, Cottage Grove High School

**Girls wrestling**

Thursday, June 24: State tournament, Cottage Grove High School

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**TRASH TALK**

**Q.** We need help with event recycling.  
Any ideas? Heather, Hood River

**A.** Heather, our program does offer free basic assistance to event managers to help them plan for event waste reduction and recycling. We also lend Clearstream event recycling receptacles for diverting redeemable bottles and cans. And for very small functions (15-30 people), we lend out "party buckets" with durable cups, plateware and cutlery.

questions to:  
**Tri-County**  
Hazardous Waste & Recycling Program  
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