Redmond looks for conference titles on basketball and tennis courts

BY BRIAN RATHBONE
For the Spokesman

SISTERS — If the Redmond boys tennis team looks like the school's basketball team, it's because basically it is.

Eight of the 12 players that made up the Redmond High boys basketball team, including four of the five starters of the 21-win Panther team, will be spending the spring on the tennis courts.

The number of Redmond basketball T-shirts being worn on the tennis court might be a dead giveaway as well.

"They all grew up playing basketball together," said Redmond tennis coach Nathan Saito, who is also the school's freshman basketball coach. "I would do some (tennis) summer camps for the parks and rec and all of them would come down for that."

The early season dual match between Redmond and Sisters Friday afternoon was light-hearted. With the Redmond team having far more players than Sisters, many of the matches pitted Redmond doubles teams against each other.

Which also could have made for a very competitive two vs. two basketball game.

On one side of the net was Yoshi Saito and Tanner Jones — the starting backcourt for the Panthers basketball team. Their opponent was Garrett Osborne, the boys basketball Intermountain Conference Player of the Year playing alongside fellow hooper Easton Croft. Saito and Jones took the win.

"Yoshi and I whooped up on them," said Jones. "But it is just a lot of fun play with your friends."

This spring, it is about keeping the good times — and victories — rolling right along.

"We have been playing these sports together since we were kids so it is a really cool experience," Jones said. "We all just really work well together. We want to bring another title back here and keep the streak going."

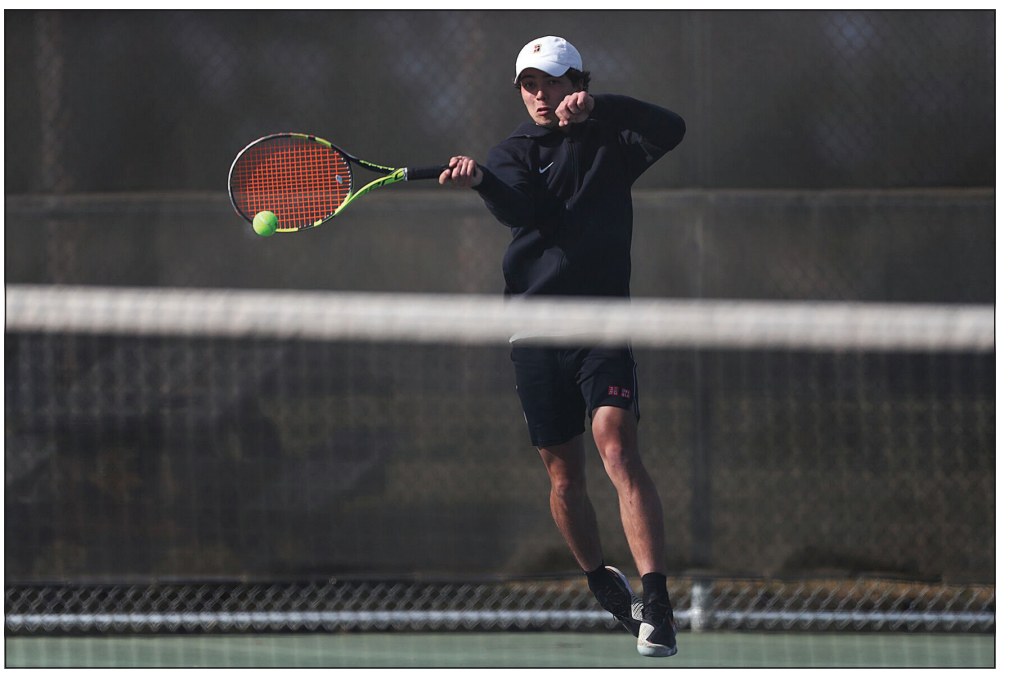
After a banner basketball season this winter that brought an IMC title, a berth in the 5A semifinals and a fifth-place finish at the state tournament, the team is trying to replicate the success it had on the hardwood this spring on the tennis court.

The Panthers tennis program won a state title in 2019, then last spring had an undefeated season that ended with an IMC title. The plan in 2022 is to continue the streak.

"Winning the league again this year is the goal for myself and the team," said senior Yoshi Saito, the team's No. 1 singles player, and son of the coach. "If we do that, then a few will head to state, which is also the goal."

As much as winning is important, tennis brings a much different vibe than basketball. A lot of it is enjoying the weather and final couple of months of the school year with your buddies.

"It is light-hearted, it is easy-going," Jones said. "Once the weather gets nice it is awesome. It is a lot of fun going from a tense basketball season to come out here and having fun with your friends."



Ryan Brennecke/The Bulletin

Redmond's Yoshi Saito returns a serve while playing a doubles match in Sisters on Friday.

"They all grew up playing basketball together. I would do some (tennis) summer camps for the parks and rec and all of them would come down for that."

— Redmond tennis coach Nathan Saito, who is also the school's freshman basketball coach

Meetings

Continued from P1

- Awarded bid of $460,039 to Murraysmith, Inc. for design of a ninth city well. The well and pumphouse will be built in Dry Canyon, north of Black Butte Boulevard and west of the dog park.
- Awarded funds not to exceed $475,000 to Doolittle Construction for city road maintenance (slurry seal); awarded funds not to exceed $450,000 to Tri-County Paving for road maintenance (overlay); awarded funds not to exceed $110,000 to Central Oregon Asphalt Sealing for maintenance on lightly-used roads (liquid roads).
- Spent $292,971 to purchase materials for pavilion and restrooms for Quartz Park. Roseburg-based Romtec will provide the materials.
- Awarded $255,000 to Dicky & Tremper for auditing services through 2024.
- Spent $60,00 to purchase equipment for Juniper Golf Course, including bunker maintenance machinery and a utility vehicle.
- Proclaimed April 3-9 "Arbor Week" in the city of Redmond.
- Closed roads for the Redmond Run, scheduled for June 18. The closure will include SW 6th from Black Butte to Evergreen from 5-10 a.m. for a 5k, 10k and half marathon. All races will start and finish in Centennial Park. About 600 runners are expected.
- Approved a settlement agreement to vacate right of way between the Becky Johnson Community Center and Patrick Building, the alley between of Deschutes and Evergreen that goes through Centennial Park. The city also committed to rebuilding an existing play area for children.
- Granted nonexclusive telecom franchise to Hermiston-based Blue Mountain Networks, a fiber internet provider for homes and businesses.
- Authorized applying for a $750,000 grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for development of the Redmonds Wetlands Complex.

Calendar

Continued from P1

Thursday 4/7

Arbor Week Tree Planting #3: To celebrate Arbor Week, the city will be hosting three tree plantings at three different park locations; 4-5:30 p.m.; free; Diamond Bar Ranch Park, 575 NE Quince Ave., Redmond; redmondoregon.gov or 541-923-7710.

Jesse Meade — Range Music Series: The local singer-songwriter will perform; 5:30-8:30 p.m.; free; Brasada Ranch, 16986 SW Brasada Ranch Road, Powell Butte; brasada.com or 855-318-4960.

Bow Wow Bingo: Join for BowWow Bingo every Thursday evening benefiting Bright-Side Animal Center; 6:30-8 p.m.; $1 each card for first two games, $2 each for second two games; Cascade Lakes at Seventh St., 855 SW Seventh St., Redmond; facebook.com/CascadeLakesBrewingCo or 541-388-4998.

Friday 4/8

Central Oregon Comedy Scene presents Standup Comedy: Local comedians will perform; 7-10 p.m.; $15-$20; General Duffy's Watering Hole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; facebook.com/Generalduffys or 541-527-4345.

Disco Night: Featuring two local Redmond DJ's spinning vinyl records with your favorite disco grooves; 8 p.m.; $5 or five cans of food; High Desert Music Hall, 818 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; highdesertmusichall.com or 541-527-1387.

Coffee Clatter: Join for a morning of networking and hear what's new with Consumer Cellular; 8:30-9:30 p.m.; free; Consumer Cellular, 2999 SW Sixth St., Redmond; visitredmondoregon.com or 541-923-5191.

USA BMX Great NW Nationals: BMX racers will compete; $10 a day; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond; expo.deschutes.org or 541-548-2711.

Saturday 4/9

Spring Gardening Seminar: OSU Master Gardeners will again offer their insight into the world of gardening in Central Oregon; 10 a.m.; $5-$35 Choose 1 class ($5) or up to 7 ($35); OSU Extension Service, Online; gocomga.com or 541-548-6088.

"I can Make This Promise" Book Discussion: Read and discuss the book "I Can Make This Promise" with other youth; 11-11:45 a.m.; Redmond Public Library, 827 SW Deschutes Ave., Redmond; deschuteslibrary.org or 541-312-1050.

Central Oregon Chapter Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Banquet: It is the do-not-miss social event of the year with a chance to win top-notch gear, premium hunts and exclusive art and merchandise.; 4:30-9:30 p.m.; Deschutes County Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond; events.rmef.org

Live in the Tasting Room — Gene Rogers: Gene Rogers of the Hwy 97 Band will be performing acoustic and solo; 5-8 p.m.; $15 adults, children 12 and under free; Faith Hope & Charity Vineyards, 70450 NW Lower Valley Drive, Terrebonne; faithhopeandcharityevents.com or 541-526-5075.

Toast & Jam: The local roots band will perform for a cause; 6 p.m.; $15; General Duffy's Watering Hole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; generalduffys.com or 541-527-4345.

Hardwood Heart & Blackflowers Blacksun: The bluegrass, rock and jazz band will perform with special guests; 8 p.m.; $10; High Desert Music Hall, 818 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; highdesertmusichall.com or 541-527-1387.

USA BMX Great NW Nationals: BMX racers will compete; $10 a day; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond; expo.deschutes.org or 541-548-2711.

Sunday 4/10

Sunday Brunch and Karaoke: Come for the breakfast, stay for the singing; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; facebook.com/Generalduffys or 541-527-4345.

USA BMX Great NW Nationals: BMX racers will compete; $10 a day; Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center, 3800 SW Airport Way, Redmond; expo.deschutes.org or 541-548-2711.

Monday 4/11

Downtown Urban Renewal Advisory Committee (DURAC) Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 5-7 p.m.; Redmond City Hall, Online; redmondoregon.gov or 541-923-7710.

Planning Commission Meeting: A regular meeting will be held; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; free; Redmond City Hall, 411 SW Ninth St., Redmond; redmondoregon.gov or 541-923-7710.

BMX

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Russell works out in the gym in the offseason, strengthening his legs and working on his cardio. He competes twice a week at the Smith Rock track, perfecting his form and working to get faster.

"Just anything I can do to get my time down," he said.

Races are held at the track, located at the High Desert Sports Complex, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Riders can practice from 6-7 p.m. and races start after. All skill levels are welcome.

Drought

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"There is no reason to waste water. If you can conserve water and make that your mission, everyone should do that," said Kyle Gorman, region manager for the Oregon Water Resources Department.

As of Wednesday, Wickiup Reservoir was 55% full, a 5% decline from a year ago and a 42% decline from average, according to data from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation website. Prineville Reservoir was 26% full, a 49% decline from a year ago and a 70% decline from average.

Ochoco has been this area's worst-performing reservoir. As of Sunday, it was just 11% full, a 52% decline from a year ago and an 83% decline from its average height at this point in the year.

Municipal water use is just a small fraction of the water used by irrigation districts in Central Oregon so there is also water that can be saved on larger properties in outlying areas.

"If anybody in any of the (irrigation) districts has thought about not using their water, this would be the year to either not use it or to lease it instream, if available, through the district administration process," said Gorman.

The drought is causing financial losses in agricultural areas due to water allotment cuts, which forces farmers to leave large portions of their farms fallow. Last year, farmers in the North Unit Irrigation District, which holds junior water rights, were routinely fallowing half their acres in order to plant at least a partial crop. The situation this year looks just as bad as in past years.

"We anticipate that irrigation districts will run out of water again this year. We also anticipate extremely low flows in the rivers," said Gorman.

Historically, the picture is equally bleak. The drought conditions are the worst on record, going back 127 years, according to data compiled by Oregon State University.

"The drought indicators in Central Oregon uniformly show the current drought is by far the worst in recorded history," said Larry O'Neill, associate professor at OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. "It, unfortunately, looks to continue throughout this summer."

O'Neill said climate models suggest cooler and drier than normal weather for April, with the weather in May to July showing dry and warm conditions.

On top of the record-low reservoir levels, snowpack is well-below average for the year. Snowpack seeps into underground aquifers in spring and is a good indicator of how high reservoirs will reach the following year.

Below average snowpack this year could result in even lower reservoir levels in 2023. As of Wednesday, snowpack in the Central Oregon Cascades was just 54% of normal and precipitation for the year stood at 81% of normal.

"Very disappointed and discouraged," said Gorman, when asked about this year's snowpack. "I was hoping for a much better winter this year, a recovery. But we just didn't get it. Our snowpack is way below average."

■ *Reporter: 541-617-7818, mkohn@bendbulletin.com*

WORSHIP DIRECTORY

2101 Adventist

Seventh Day Adventist
945 W. Glacier Ave.,
Redmond, OR

541-923-0301

Sabbath School 9:30 am
Worship 10:45 am

2151 Baptist

Highland Baptist Church
3100 SW Highland Ave., Redmond
541-548-4161
Lead Pastor: Barry Campbell

Sunday Worship Services:

Blended - 8 & 9 am
Contemporary - 10:30 am
(Worship Center)

hbc Español - 10:30 am
(Youth Room)

*9 am & 10:30 am live-stream at:
www.hbcredmond.org

Family Night Wednesdays
(March 30 – May 25)

5:30 pm - Free dinner in Gym
6 pm - Practical classes for all ages

See website for a list of classes!

How can hbc pray for you?
prayer@hbcredmond.org

2476 Roman Catholic

St Thomas Roman Catholic Church
1720 NW 19th Street
Redmond, Oregon 97756
541-923-3390

Father Todd Unger, Pastor

Mass Schedule:
Weekdays 8:00 am

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
First Saturday 8:00 am (English)

Sunday 8:00 am, 10:00 am (English)
12:00 noon (Spanish)

Confessions on Wednesdays
From 4:00 to 5:45 pm and on
Saturdays From 3:00 to 4:30 pm

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