

ATHLETE of the Week



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KWAN ADKINS LF, Salem-Keizer Volcanoes

Adkins two-run single helped the Volcanoes defeat the Eugene Emeralds 4-3 on Friday, Aug. 30.

Two days later against the Emeralds, Adkins blasted his fourth home run of the season.

The 2018 30th round draft pick out of Northwestern State is batting .269 for the Volcanoes this season with 19 RBIs and 13 extra-base hits. He also is second on the team in stolen bases (10).



Alyssa Garvey goes up for the spike.

CELTS, continued from Page A14

was primarily used as a middle blocker. However, DeMello has different plans for Martindale because of her ability as a left-handed swinger.

“(Martindale) is a great player. We put her in the middle last season because of her blocking skills. But this year, we’re putting her on the right side to utilize the full skill set that she has offensively when it comes to blocking the opponents outside hitter and using the full array of her lefty shots. We’re super excited because we feel like this is the better place for her to be,” DeMello said.

One newcomer that this McNary team will be relying on is Maddox Snider.

Snider was the only freshman on the junior varsity roster last season and her versatility as a player will be a huge

benefit for the Celtics this year.

“Snider has come in and put in a lot of work in the off-season. She can play any of the front row positions. But it’s also its her defense and serve-ceive that really puts her into the game. Regardless of her age, she will push everyone to be better,” DeMello said.

Another sophomore, Alexis Eldridge, will be called upon to be a key defensive specialist

“(Eldridge) is extremely quick and fearless. You have to have that as a young player and I love that about her,” DeMello said.

With their overall experience and talented new additions, McNary looks to be positioned for a better season in 2019. However, DeMello wants this team’s main focus to be on personal development, rather than wins and losses.

“Every single day, when the girls walk off the court, they are a better player. That’s the goal. We want to know that hitters are getting more shots in their repertoire. And the setters are setting on point and on demand and the defensive players can read and see what’s happening before it happens. That’s the growth you want to see, so if I can see that in November, I will know that we have done our job,” DeMello said.

The Road

Most fishermen will endure great hardships in the pursuit of their sport. Rain, snow, cold or heat and every other misery imagined. Then there are some who push the envelope to extraordinary limits. Myself and a few friends are part of this latter group.

We have fly-fished the Deschutes canyon for summer steelhead for decades. The only access is by boat, bike or hiking. Most choose one of these three methods to get to the river.

There is one other option most avoid: the road. Now I use the word ‘road’ loosely. Most describe it as a wide goat trail over bedrock blasted out of a basalt cliff a century ago. Imagine a 900 foot ascent over one mile. A jagged basalt wall on the right and six inches of clearance on the left side of the truck to a 900 foot drop to the river. If you have a fear of heights, don’t go beyond the gate at the top. Now, throw in holes, boulders, sagebrush, rockslides and ruts and you begin to get a small picture of this nightmare.

So why would any sane individual even consider driving down this abyss? Now sane is a the operative word here and very subjective to the narration at hand.

Oh the stories we’ve amassed over the years going down the road. A hole in the oil pan near the end of the road. No wrecker can get

down there so after three days a guy used a tow cable to pull us out. Trust me, it’s a long story.

Then there was the rattlesnake that took up residence in the engine compartment of our truck. Wouldn’t come out no matter what we did to coax him. He finally dropped to the ground after four of us waited for him in 100 degree heat. The only shade available was on one side of the truck where the snake was holed up. We stayed in the sun.

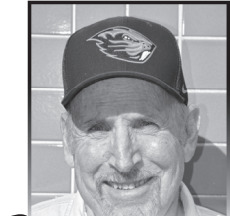
Ruined tires, scratched paint, dents and holes in radiators are all some of the things we’ve endured over years. Of course, you can be trapped down there by a wild fire. That happened to a friend one year.

So, again, why would an individual risk it all just to get to a fishing spot? A spot you wade chest deep on a ledge and boulder field bottom in fast water to cast a fly to a fish some consider mythical. Well, I believe if you’re not living on the edge you are probably taking up too much space.

I only require a little space and the road is my way of finding it. It’s the path to my Nirvana that’s worth the hardship—at least in my mind. Refer to the operative word mentioned before and maybe you will understand why I take the road that most others will not.

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by JIM TAYLOR



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