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What's on your list today?.

LOCAL NEWS



PHOTO BY CLIFF PFENNING/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Benson High School Techmen pose for a team photo after going all the way to the state finals of the 5A tournament.

Benson Falls Just Short

Title game goes to double overtime

BY CLIFF PFENNING
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Despite a dominating performance from senior Andrew Andrews, the Benson Techmen had to settle for second place at the OSAA/U.S. Bank/Les Schwab Tires Class 5A boys basketball state tournament Saturday night at the Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene.

Andrews scored 41 points and grabbed five rebounds, but Benson lost 79-73 to Corvallis in double overtime in the championship game.

Benson had the final shot in both regulation and the first overtime, and led 66-64 in the second overtime when the Spartans went on a 10-0 run to take control of the game.

Andrews played all 48 minutes of the final and was a unanimous selection to the all-tournament team. Junior Bryce White also earned a spot on the all-tournament first team.

Benson's playoff run was its first that reached a state final since 2001. The final was the fifth straight year a team from the Portland Interscholastic League has reached the 5A final following three straight titles by Jefferson and a runner-up finish by Roosevelt in 2007.

Andrews, who is headed for the University of Washington, led the

tournament in scoring at 27.3 points per game. Earlier Saturday, Washington won the Pac-10 Conference title with an overtime win against Arizona.

In other tournaments, Roosevelt played to within five seconds of the Class 4A boys state final at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis and placed fifth.

Lincoln finished fourth in the Class 6A boys tournament at the Rose Garden.

Jesuit won both the boys and girls titles in the Class 6A tournament, becoming the largest school to win both titles in the same year. Jefferson won both titles in the Class 5A tournament last year.

Mercy Corps Bolsters Relief Efforts

The global humanitarian agency Mercy Corps is sending its first emergency responder into Japan's earthquake zone.

Veteran aid worker Randy Martin, who directs the Portland based agency's Global Emergency Operations team, left for Japan Tuesday.

Martin will work to bolster the relief efforts of Mercy Corps' part-

ner agency Peace Winds, which is distributing vital resources in the earthquake-devastated city of Kesennuma, in Japan's Miyagi Prefecture.

"The challenges facing the Japanese people are immense, and our partner Peace Winds is doing an incredible job getting vital supplies to families trapped in a very hard-hit and difficult-to-access

area," noted Martin.

Martin is a veteran of disaster response, having coordinated Mercy Corps' relief efforts after crises including the earthquake in Bam, Iran (2003), Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (2008), the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, and last year's earthquake in Haiti and massive floods in Pakistan.