

# SPORTS

## State Champions!

### Jefferson rallies to win 5A title

Victor Sanders had 22 points and five rebounds and Jefferson rallied from a five-point deficit at the start of the fourth-quarter to defeat Churchill 59-53 for the OSAA Class 5A boys championship at Matthew Knight Arena in Eugene on Saturday night.

Silas Melson and Devaunte Paschal added nine points apiece and Hayden Hall scored all of his nine points in the final five minutes for Jefferson (24-4), which won its fourth state title in the past six years.

Keidren Johnson had 13 points and David Shedrick 11 points and nine rebounds for Churchill (23-5), of Eugene.

Jefferson, which trailed 41-36 entering the fourth quarter, outscored Churchill 14-5 in the last three minutes to claim its seventh state title.

Both teams entered the game undefeated against 5A competition this season. It was a rematch of the 1995 4A championship game won by Churchill.

Jefferson, of Portland, scored the first six points of the second half - the first four by Sanders - to pull even. Sanders, a senior forward, gave the Democrats their first lead since the first quarter with two free throws to make it 36-34 with 2:12 left in the third period.

Churchill came back with a 7-0 run. Smith scored the last five points to put the Lancers ahead 41-36 after three quarters.

Jefferson kept it close early in the fourth then tied it at 45-all on Hall's free throw with 4:32 remaining.

Hall gave the Democrats the lead back at 47-46 on a medium-range jumper with 2:58 left. Hall added two free throws with 1:57 remaining for a three-point advantage.

Churchill shot 20 of 48 (41.7 percent) overall, while Jefferson was 16 of 42 (38.1). The Lancers had a 29-26 rebounding edge, but also had more turnovers (12-8).

Jefferson won three straight 5A titles from 2008 to 2010, the first under Marshall Haskins and the next two under current head coach Pat Strickland.

It was the third state title game appearance for Churchill coach Kelly Bokn, who coached Redmond to a 4A boys championship in 2003 then lost in the championship game with Redmond in 2004.

Churchill trailed 9-5 early before running off 10 straight points. Four different Lancers scored during the run, with DeShone Brooks' layin finishing it for a 15-9 Churchill lead.

Sanders cut the Jefferson deficit to three with a 3-pointer just before



Jefferson's Victor Sanders, Hayden Hall and Daio Papa-Vicente (right), battle for a rebound with Churchill's David Shedrick (center) during the first half of the 5A Championship game Saturday in Eugene. Jefferson won, 59-53. (AP photo)

the first-quarter buzzer.

The teams traded scores throughout the second quarter before Jefferson scored four straight points to close within 24-21.

Churchill answered with five in a row, including an Andrew Smith 3-pointer, and led 29-23 at half-time behind Johnson's nine points. Sanders and Melson was joined

on the all-tournament first team along with Churchill's Emanuel Morgan and Malik Morgan and Silverton's Zach Gengler.

--Associated Press

## First Title for Central Catholic Girls

(AP) — Kailee Johnson had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Central Catholic won its first girls basketball state title with a 57-36 win over South Medford in the OSAA Class 6A championship game Saturday night.

Johnson, a 6-foot-4 senior who signed at Stanford last November, hit 9 of 18 shots and helped Central Catholic (26-3) to a 35-21 edge in rebounding.

Tennessee-bound guard Jordan Reynolds also contributed a double-double for Central Catholic with 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Defending state champion South Medford (24-5) lost to an Oregon 6A school for the first time since the 2010-11 season. Junior forward Ashley Bolston led the Panthers with 18 points.

## Chess for Success Tourney

The 46th annual State Chess Championship, sponsored in part by US Bank, takes place Friday, March 15 and Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at the Oregon Convention Center.

The tournament is the largest, longest-running scholastic chess tournament in the state. Over 1,400 students competed in one of 24 re-

gional tournaments held in January and February to qualify, representing every county in Oregon.

Chess is a challenging game that develops skills beneficial in the classroom and in life.

Many of the players who will par-

ticipate in the weekend tournament are members of Oregon's Chess for Success Clubs which serve K-8 students in underprivileged schools.

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