

Pilot Rock's Madison Dave (12) shoots against Weston-McEwen in game played this season in Pilot Rock.

EO file photo



Prep Basketball

Dave, Broncheau make all-state teams

East Oregonian

After leading her team to the 2A girls basketball championship, Western Mennonite junior Emma Gibb was named Player of the Year on Friday. Pioneers coach Robby Gilliam was voted Coach of the Year, and Western Mennonite finished with three players on the first team. No other team had more than two players named to one of the four tiers of distinction. Two locals were honored despite their teams' absence from the final bracket, as Pilot Rock junior Madison Dave was named to the second team

and Weston-McEwen junior Ammarae Broncheau earned honorable mention. Dave led the Rockets to a 15-7 record overall (9-1 in league play) and first place in the Columbia Basin Conference. She was named CBC Player of the Year after averaging a double-double with 14.2 points and 12.2 rebounds per game. She added 3.5 steals a night as well. Broncheau was a first-team CBC selection after piloting the TigerScots' second-place league finish with a record of 16-9 (8-2). She led the team in scoring (8.4 ppg), assists (2.2 apg) and steals (3.5 spg).

2014-15 2A All-State Girls Basketball
Player of the Year: Emma Gibb, Western Mennonite

Coach of the Year: Robby Gillam, Western Mennonite
First Team
Emma Gibb, jr., Western Mennonite
Keesha Sarman, sr., Union
Catherine Clemens, soph., Burns
Lakin Sussee, jr., Kennedy
Jenna Christenson, sr., Western Mennonite
Madison Hull, soph., Western Mennonite
Second Team
Julia Fletcher, sr., Vernonia
Monica Webb, sr., Regis
Kenzie Ratcliff, jr., Kennedy
Madison Dave, jr., Pilot Rock
Carli Feist, soph., Burns
Meghan Sullivan, sr., Vernonia
Emily Parks, jr., Lost River
Third Team
Kaci Warden, sr., Monroe
Kori Pentzer, fr., Grant Union
Cora Gallop, sr., Oakland
Grace Herman, sr., Myrtle Point
Madison Ballard, fr., Monroe
Honorable Mention
Ammarae Broncheau, jr., Weston-McEwen
Sierra Falcon, sr., Faith Bible
Delanie Kohr, soph., Union
Raelyn Freitag, jr., Bandon
Faith Lee, sr., Bonanza

1A HOOPS: Condon/Wheeler girls land three selections

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Junior guard Ira Ashley and senior post Elijah Bevis were named to the second team. Nixyaawii coach Shane Rivera said he wasn't sure where the players finished for the season stat-wise, but knew that all of them averaged double digits in scoring despite a platoon system used throughout much of league play that limited their playing time. Nixyaawii went 22-7 this season, including an undefeated 12-0 run to the Old Oregon League championship. Nixyaawii defeated Joseph 56-37 in the OOL district championship, then topped Columbia Christian 56-40 in a home playoff game to reach the final bracket in Baker City for the second time in school history. There they beat Hosanna Christian 51-46 and Horizon Christian 65-47 to reach the team's first state final.

Country Christian stopped them there with a 61-53 outcome. Melton was the OOL Player of the Year and a first-team all-tournament selection. Bevis and Ashley were both first-team OOL and Bevis was second-team all-tournament. Nixyaawii also had one girl honored by the state's coaches as senior Charlotte Barkley was name second team all-state. She averaged 15.8 points per game for the fourth-place Golden Eagles and was named the OOL Player of the Year. Condon/Wheeler, which finished in fifth place at the state tournament, had three players named to the state teams. Senior Matney Jamieson was first team, senior Deana Harris was second team, and junior Emma Logan was honorable mention. Jamieson and Harris were the Big Sky League's co-Player of the Year, and both were first-team

all-tournament selections. Jamieson averaged 16.3 points and 10 rebounds a game this season while Harris had averages of 15 points, four assists and 4.5 steals a game. Logan also was a first-team All-Big Sky pick. Rounding out the local selections this year was Echo senior Elizabeth McCarty. She was named to the third team after guiding the Cougars to the OOL championship and first-round bye in the state tournament. McCarty averaged 18.1 points and 9.3 rebounds a game and was on the OOL's first team.

2014-15 2A Boys Basketball All-State
Player of the Year: Ben Grandle, Country Christian
Coach of the Year: Doug Nofziger, Country Christian
First Team
Ben Grandle, sr., Country Christian
Mason Bloomster, sr., Horizon Christian
Hunter Melton, jr., Nixyaawii
Zach Van Loon, jr., Yoncalla
Angel DeAnda, jr., Siletz Valley
Second Team
Jared Davis, sr., Horizon Christian
Jordan Syard, sr., Country Christian
Nico Bustamante, jr., Hosanna Christian
Elijah Bevis, sr., Nixyaawii
Ira Ashley, jr., Nixyaawii
Third Team
Austin Kaseburg, sr., Sherman

Luke Carter, sr., Country Christian
Luke Moody, sr., Columbia Christian
Wyatt Stanford, jr., Jordan Valley
Doug Etchevers, sr., Triad
Matthew Gille, sr., Crosshill Christian
Honorable Mention
Hunter Straub, jr., Damascus Christian
Joe Keller, sr., Yoncalla
Cole Younger, sr., Triangle Lake
Forrest Ross, sr., Siletz Valley
Will Shaw, jr., Yoncalla
Badger Kimbol, soph., Chiloquin
Caleb Morris, sr., Dufur
Lee Stanford, sr., Jordan Valley
Daniel Lindstrom, jr., Siletz Valley
Marques Parazoo, soph., Chiloquin

2014-15 1A Girls Basketball All-State
Player of the Year: Hannah Forrar, Damascus Christian
Coach of the Year: Russ Halverson, Country Christian
First Team
Hannah Forrar, jr., Damascus Christian
Matney Jamieson, sr., Condon/Wheeler
Bella Mast, sr., North Douglas
Kennedy Nofzinger, jr., Country Christian
Ana Wakefield, sr., Damascus Christian
Second Team
Deana Harris, sr., Condon/Wheeler
Andi Warn, sr., Jordan Valley
Miranda Halverson, sr., Country Christian
Katie Murphy, sr., Trinity Lutheran
Charlotte Barkley, sr., Nixyaawii
Dani Baker, jr., North Douglas
Third Team
Buggy Hiddleston, sr., McKenzie
Quincy Pendergrass, sr., Adrian
Laura Holcomb, sr., Elkton
Taylor Durden, sr., Dufur
Elizabeth McCarty, sr., Echo
Honorable Mention
Hannah Maupin, jr., Crane
Courtney McGrath, jr., Country Christian
Danica Roady, sr., Portland Lutheran
Emma Logan, jr., Condon/Wheeler
Kendra Murphy, soph., North Lake
Amy Black, sr., Prairie City
Mollie Levandowski, fr., Country Christian
Andrea Catalan Velez, sr., Adrian
Kalli Frieze, soph., North Douglas

SIDESTEP: Rematch in Phoenix not completely improbable

Continued from 1B

venge loomed large, if only nine months away. That's no longer guaranteed. Last week La Salle Prep backed out of the second year of a two-year home-and-home agreement with Hermiston.

The Falcons were invited to compete at the Nike Tournament of Champions in Phoenix, Arizona, and they elected to accept, scrapping a state title rematch at the Dawg House this winter because it would put them over the maximum number of games allowed. "It would've been a great draw. It would've been a great game — a great show over here," Hermiston coach Steve Hoffert said shortly after learning the news. These things happen. High school sports scheduling is fickle. Until the schedule is made official, it's about as reliable as a horoscope. "It's unfortunate that it happens, but it does happen more often than people know. It's the nature of the job that we have," Hermiston athletic director Blaine Ganvoa said. "It depends on what side of the fence you're on. You can look at it either way. Some say you should honor your two year agreement, obviously we would love to have the game, but also we understand there's other variables involved." No arguments here. I can't fault the Falcons for wanting to fly south for the winter. But, I can't understate how disappointing this has to be for the returning Bulldog players. These two schools will be preseason favorites next season. No doubt about it. Each school returns four starters including four combined All-State players — led by state Player of the Year and championship game MVP Aleah Goodman. There shouldn't be a drop in play, instead a rise.

So, imagine the drama, with most of the cast of characters back, that would be had in December at Hermiston High. It would be a championship atmosphere just in time for Christmas. Hermiston trying to gain vengeance from last year's heartbreak, and La Salle Prep trying to prove that last year's title wasn't a fluke. It's unlikely a better regular season basketball game would ever have been played in Hermiston. "I told (point guard) Jansen (Edmiston) that today," Hoffert said last week. "She said 'Are you kidding me? They're dodging us'. You would think if you were the state champions you wouldn't dodge anyone. But, it is what is."

Revenge is the ultimate iron to stoke the fire of competition. This past tournament is a perfect example. Many wondered would Hermiston get Corvallis back for ousting them from last year's tourney? They did just that in the semifinals. Some asked will La Salle Prep atone for its lone loss of the season against the Bulldogs? They'll hang a banner because they accomplished that goal. So, don't think the loss in the title game, and perhaps a perceived scheduling slight won't be used as fodder this offseason in Hermiston. Now, while there's no promise that these teams will meet before a possible title rematch in Corvallis, it's worth noting it could happen before. Maybe. Hermiston is also entered in the tournament in Phoenix. You'd have to think seeing the Falcons in their bracket in Arizona would be a welcome sight.

Erik Skopil is a sports reporter for the East Oregonian. Contact him at eskopil@eastoregonian.com or (541) 966-0839.

HHS BASEBALL: CRC opener next on schedule

Continued from 1B

to lift the Bulldog a 3-2 victory — the first of two wins over the Broncos at Armand Larive Middle School. They won the second by a score of 4-2. "I went up there thinking 'OK, two outs, tie game, I'm going to hit the crap out of the ball,'" Sexton said of his game-winning hit. "My teammates were counting on me and I was glad I could come in clutch when it was needed." It was the type of plate approach that first-year Hermiston (7-4) coach Lance Hawkins has been begging for this season. The Hermiston bats have been the weak link in the Bulldog attack through one month of play. Hermiston has yet to reach double-digit runs in a game and has been shut out in two of its four losses this season. "That's something that I've been waiting to happen all year," he said of Sexton's hit. "He's a big strong kid. In the cage he just clubs the ball and he's been kind of struggling. It was nice to see him

win the game for us. "I keep talking about a vision of what I want. I want guys to square the baseball up. I want guys to battle every at-bat and every pitch and not wait until the bottom of the sixth or bottom of the seventh." The Bulldogs weren't exactly juggernauts against the less than overpowering rotation of Bronco (2-10) arms they faced Friday. They scored seven runs in two games on 15 hits. To make up for it, the Bulldogs turned in two strong outings on the mound and clean defense behind it. First-game starter RJ Robles allowed two runs in the second inning before calming down to keep Parkrose off the board for the remainder before handing the ball off to Sexton, who earned the win. Chase Root was dazzling at times in the second game of the double dip. He struck out five Broncos his first time through the lineup with a swooping breaking ball and nine for the game. Things got dicey in the

later innings of game two. With a 4-1 lead, Root walked two straight to open the fifth. After a sac bunt moved the batters up, Root and catcher Landon Gammel had a communication miscue with the pitcher already in his wind-up. The action was called a balk and made the score 4-2. Gammel atoned for the error one batter later, blocking the plate on Parkrose's Campbell Dace's slide at home to keep a run off the board. A ground-out to short ended the inning. Root was removed in the seventh. Relief pitcher Slade Gritz walked two before Cole Smith entered and closed out the game. Gammel assisted Smith's closing effort with a rifle throw to second base to catch a Parkrose runner who was dangling off the base for the second out. "We've been play really good defense, but offensive-side — scoring six in two games — we've got to do a lot better than that," Hawkins said. Sacrifice hits from Cole Smith and Mitch Brown brought in runs in the first

game to tie the score at 2-2 before Sexton's game-winning dinger. The Bulldogs scored three runs in the second inning of game two. Kaden Caldwell drove in two on a double with a hard liner to right field that made its way to the fence. A Gritz suicide-squeeze scored the third run in the inning. Lucas Tolan completed the Bulldog scoring with a one-run double in the third. Hermiston has completed its non-league slate with the pair of victories and now moves on to Columbia River Conference play. They'll travel to The Dalles on April 18 for a doubleheader.

HERMISTON 3, PARKROSE 2					
Game one		R	H	E	
PARK	020000	0	—	2	6
HERM	001100	1	—	3	8
Gunnar Schlichting and Huston Emmons. RJ Robles, Tyler Sexton (5) and Landon Gammel. W — Sexton. L — Schlichting. 2B — Michael Simkovic (PARK). HR — T. Sexton (HERM).					

HERMISTON 4, PARKROSE 2					
Game two		R	H	E	
PARK	001010	0	—	2	3
HERM	031000	X	—	4	7
Zach Thomas, Ryan Shimojima (6) and Huston Emmons. Chase Root, Slade Gritz (7), Cole Smith (7) and Landon Gammel. W — C. Root. L — Z. Thomas. 2B — Huston Emmons (PARK); Kaden Caldwell (HERM); Chase Root (HERM); Lucas Tolan (HERM).					

HHS SOFTBALL: Bulldogs make their move in fifth

Continued from 1B

them to score. In the top of the seventh, after retiring the first two batters on just two pitches, the Pacers reached on three straight singles and plated two runs, but Betz coaxed an easy ground out to shortstop to end the threat and the game. After wondering who she had for pitching this season, Lete is becoming more confident in Betz. "She had a good mentality out on the mound, and she kept the ball low, and that's what we need," Lete said. "She kept the ball on the ground and let her defense work, which is what you want from your pitcher." It was the second game in three tries that Hermiston found itself down after the top of the first inning, and it was the second in three games that the Bulldogs chipped away at the lead and eventually pulled ahead. It took an inning, but Jones singled to start the home half of the second, advanced to second on an error, moved to third on a wild pitch and scored on a well-placed bunt from senior first baseman Makenzie Juul.



Sam Barbee photo

Hermiston junior Taylor Betz comes home with a delivery during the Bulldogs' 8-4 win over Lakeridge on Friday. Betz threw a complete game and struck out two batters over the course of seven innings. Hermiston's first five runs were manufactured through aggressive base running and bat handling. "The girls did a good job executing bunts and moving our runners around," Lete said. "That's what we ask of them all the time: execute, and push your runs across

against Kailey Kruger and her tough riseball, the Bulldogs were largely stifled in the first four frames. In the fifth, however, the constant pressure Lete mentioned finally broke through. Jones again singled, but this time with two outs, Juul walked, and then Breyanna Naylor drove home pinch runner Amanda Baron with a sharp single. Then, with Kaylene Wheeler at the plate, pinch runner Keirsten Miller scored on a wild pitch, and after Wheeler walked, Bobbi Hofbauer singled to drive in Naylor. In the sixth, Hermiston got three runs more to add some insurance. "I honestly think this was our first actual win of the season," Betz said. "I know we had more real ones, but, as a team, I think we all felt this more. We felt we played well offensively and defensively. That's the real win." Hermiston again takes the field Thursday for a date with Southridge (WA). First pitch is set for 4 p.m.

HERMISTON 8, LAKERIDGE 4					
		R	H	E	
LHS	100001	3	—	4	9
HHS	011033	X	—	8	6
K. Kruger and K. Ericson. T. Betz and K. Wheeler.					
3B: A. Drotzmann (HHS).					

ATHLETE
— OF THE WEEK —

KEEGAN CRAFTON
Senior -
Hermiston Golf

Keegan led Hermiston to a season-opening win at The Dalles Country Club, shooting a team-best 77 as the Bulldogs finished with a combined score of 327. Keegan finished third at the Grandview invite with a 76 helping the Bulldogs to a team win at 313. Keegan is a three sport student athlete who was also named to the first team CRC league boys basketball team.

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2372 N. 1st (Hwy 395)
Hermiston, OR 97838
541-567-2121