

Prep Basketball

Mustangs, Knights dominate All-CBC teams

Irrigon’s Vera named Player of Year

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

The Heppner Mustangs and Irrigon Knights battled on Saturday afternoon for the CBC crown, proving their worth as the conference’s two best teams. After the game was played, the two teams discovered that the rest of the league felt the same, voting four players from each team to the all-CBC teams.

Patrick Collins, C.J. Kindle, and Logan Grieb were named to the first-team, and Weston Putman was named an all-league honorable mention for the district champion Mustangs. Heppner’s coach Jeremy Rosenbalm was also selected as the CBC Coach of the Year for leading his team to the title, though he says the award says more about his team than him.

“It’s a nice honor, but this team doesn’t really love the individual awards,” he said following Heppner’s win on Saturday. “It’s about getting the team awards. The individual awards will come, but it’s about reaching our team goals and playing for everybody and not just for ourselves.”

For Irrigon, Austin Rice and Hayden White were selected to the second-team, and Xavier Rambo was selected as an honorable mention. But even though the Knights fell just short of a district title, the team boasted the league’s best player as senior Fredy Vera was selected as the CBC Player of the Year.

“I was kind of surprised by it,” Vera said. “I thought someone like (Heppner’s) Patrick Collins would get it, because he’s had a really good year. But it’s a huge honor to get it. I worked so hard all year and wouldn’t have done it without my teammates and coaches.”



Irrigon’s Fredy Vera lays the ball in guarded by Heppner’s Weston Putman in the Mustangs’ 44-42 win against the Knights on Friday in Irrigon.

Vera — Irrigon’s lone senior — has carried the load as a leader for the Knights all-season-long as the lone key player from back-to-back state championship teams. And while he said that pressure as a senior and a leader can seem a little heavy at times, he’s enjoyed the ride.

“At the end of the day it’s about being the leader and the captain for my team,” he said. “I knew I had to step up as a leader because we lost a lot of guys from last year, and the guys looked up to me to step up and I think I did a good job.”

Irrigon coach Mitch Thompson was not surprised by the award.

“He’s a tremendous kid who is the epitome of hard

work,” Thompson said. “Fredy is our cornerstone, and guys lean on him for leadership, points, and I couldn’t be more proud of him.”

The Stanfield Tigers finished the season with a second-place regular season finish at 16-6 and also netted them four all-league selections, with Dylan Grogan named to the first-team, Ryan Bailey named to the second-team, and both Brody Woods and Antonio Flores named as honorable mentions.

CBC All-League Team
Player of the Year: Fredy Vera, sr., Irrigon
Coach of the Year: Jeremy Rosenbalm, Heppner
First-team
Patrick Collins, sr., Heppner
C.J. Kindle, sr., Heppner
Logan Grieb, jr., Heppner
Dylan Grogan, jr., Stanfield
Shaw Broncheau, jr., Weston-McEwen
Second-team

TigerScots sophomore named CBC Player of Year

Weston-McEwen with five players selected all-league

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — As she stood on the court at Pendleton Convention Center along with the other players named to the Columbia Basin Conference all-league first team, Weston-McEwen’s Chelsea Quaempts was puzzled.

All the top names had been accounted for. Who, she wondered, could possibly have won Player of the Year?

Then Quaempts heard her name announced a second time, and the sophomore guard reacted with a comical look of bewilderment.

“I didn’t know that you could get first team and Player of the Year so I was really confused as to who got Player of the Year,” she said. “I was just really confused.”

The award was a consolation prize after Quaempts’ TigerScots were defeated by Irrigon 46-43 in overtime in

the district championship.

Quaempts was one of five TigerScots players honored with all-league selections, and coach Amber Doremus was Coach of the Year.

Weston-McEwen senior Ammarae Broncheau was also named to the first team, junior Sarah Finifrock was second team, and juniors Ashley Hill and Bailey Hillmick were all-league honorable mention.

Irrigon had just three all-league selections led by first-team sophomore Jada Burns. Sophomore Taylor Davis was second team and senior Beatriz Aguilera was honorable mention.

Pilot Rock, which finished second in the regular season, had four all-league players led by junior Bekah Roe and senior Madison Dave on the first team. Sophomore Kayla Deist and junior Jacey Wilson both made the second team.

Three Stanfield seniors were honored with Yazzmin Chavez on the first team and Cynthia Curiel and Guitzell Chavez as honorable mention.

Heppner had one selection

with freshman Jacee Currin on the second team.

Columbia Basin Conference
Player of the Year — Chelsea Quaempts, soph., Weston-McEwen
Coach of the Year — Amber Doremus, Weston-McEwen
First Team
Bekah Roe, jr., Pilot Rock
Jada Burns, soph., Irrigon
Yazzmin Chavez, sr., Stanfield
Ammarae Broncheau, sr., Weston-McEwen
Madison Dave, sr., Pilot Rock
Hannah Lewis, sr., Culver
Second Team
Kayla Deist, soph., Pilot Rock
Sarah Finifrock, jr., Weston-McEwen
Irma Retano, fr., Culver
Jacee Currin, fr., Heppner
Taylor Davis, soph., Irrigon
Jacey Wilson, jr., Pilot Rock
Honorable Mention
Alysha Fritz, sr., Culver
Cynthia Curiel, sr., Stanfield
Beatriz Aguilera, sr., Irrigon
Guitzell Chavez, sr., Stanfield
Ashley Hill, jr., Weston-McEwen
Bailey Hillmick, jr., Weston-McEwen

Big Sky League
CONDON/WHEELER’S LOGAN PLAYER OF YEAR: None of the teams in the Big Sky were able to find a way to contain Condon/Wheeler’s Emma Logan this season, and after a dominant district tournament in which she led the Knights to their fourth straight title, the senior guard was named Player of the Year.

Logan averaged more than 30 points a game in Madras this past weekend as the Knights extended

Austin Rice, jr., Irrigon
Hayden White, jr., Irrigon
Ryan Bailey, jr., Stanfield
Brett Speed, soph., Weston-McEwen
Honorable mention
Xavier Rambo, jr., Irrigon
Bryson Pierce, soph., Pilot Rock
Chris Weinke, soph., Pilot Rock
Weston Putman, sr., Heppner
Brody Woods, soph., Stanfield
Antonio Flores, jr., Stanfield
Shyler Mikesell, sr., Weston-McEwen
Tristan Bogart, sr., Culver

Old Oregon League
NIXYA AAWII’S MELTON PLAYER OF YEAR: Senior guard Hunter Melton led the list of Nixya-aawii Golden Eagles honored with all-league selections at the Old Oregon League district tournament over the weekend.

Melton was named Player of the Year for the second straight season after leading Nixya-aawii to a 12-0 OOL season and a 76-47 win over Joseph in the district championship on Saturday in Baker City.

Four other Nixya-aawii seniors were voted to the all-league teams by OOL coaches. Melton was joined on the first team by guard Fredy Campos while guard Hunter McKay and wing Ira Ashley were named to the second team.

Nixya-aawii’s four all-league selections led the conference while Joseph, Powder Valley and Echo each had three.

Echo senior Michael Thompson was named to the first team and seniors Carlos Chavez and Bob Gibbs were honorable mention.

Helix junior Justin Williams was all-league honorable mention.

Old Oregon League
Player of the Year: Hunter Melton, sr., Nixya-aawii
Coach of the Year: Olan Fulfer, Joseph
First Team
Fredy Campos, sr., Nixya-aawii
Aaron Borgerding, jr., Joseph
Gus McGinn, jr., Powder Valley
Cayden DeLury, jr., Joseph
Michael Thompson, sr., Echo
Second Team
Hunter McKay, sr., Nixya-aawii
Nathan McCall, jr., Pine Eagle
Caleb Day, sr., Powder Valley
Travis Haga, jr., Wallowa
Ira Ashley, sr., Nixya-aawii
Honorable Mention
Carlos Chavez, sr., Echo
Bob Gibbs, sr., Echo
Seth Dixon, jr., Powder Valley
Jake Chrisman, jr., Joseph
Christopher Nobles, jr., Wallowa
Justin Williams, jr., Helix



Maddy Juul (14), of Hermiston, struggles with Pendleton’s Shelby Greb (5) for the ball Tuesday at the Dawg-house.
Staff photo by Kathy Aney

HERMISTON RALLIES:

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I just don’t think we were really focused,” he said. “And when you have a team like Pendleton that likes to play hard and you give them a chance and some confidence you’re in for a dogfight and that’s what we had tonight.”

Pendleton (9-15, 4-5) led Hermiston 43-40 at the end of the third quarter, and started off the fourth quarter with a corner 3-pointer from Lauren Richards put the Bucks up 46-40 with the momentum wearing green-and-gold. But just as it had all game, the turnover bug bit down on the Bucks hard — with the help of a feisty Hermiston full-court defense — to the tune of seven turnovers in the quarter to swing the momentum back into the Bulldogs’ favor.

Pendleton did not score for the remainder of the frame, and only had five total shot attempts in the fourth as Hermiston stormed back for the win. Pendleton finished the game with a staggering 26 turnovers, and coach Michelle Gomez said seeing the game swing like that was frustrating to watch.

“I feel that Hermiston’s been in these situations and were able to capitalize, and we weren’t,” she said. “It’s a learning process, and we’re still young and we’ll get there.”

Four Hermiston players finished in double digits led by Jansen Edmiston’s team-high 13 points. Sara Ramirez and Shaelynn Gilbert each added 11 and Maddy Juul chipped in 10.

Throughout the first half, no matter what Hermiston did it could not put the Buckaroos away. The Bulldogs led 10-5 at the end of the first quarter, but the Buckaroos made a run to start the second quarter to get within one point at 14-13 on a 3-pointer by Cece Hoffman with 6:10 left until halftime.

And just as the Bucks got there, Hermiston made a run of its own jumping out to a 19-13 lead before the Bucks came right back and eventually tied the game at 19-19 with 4:27 left in the second. But right after Hermiston gained some steam to close out the quarter and outscored Pendleton 13-5 to send the game to the break with the Bulldogs holding a 32-24 lead.

In the third quarter, the game turned on its side as the Buckaroos came out of the break with a head of steam and the Bulldogs

sputtered to get going. The Buckaroos were able to beat Hermiston’s press defense and find open lay-ups, and started the third on a 13-4 run to grab its first lead since the five minute mark of the first quarter at 37-36.

During that run, Maureen Davies scored six of her team-high 13 points and Haley Greb netted six of her 11 points to lead the charge.

Following the third quarter, Hoffert said he told his team in the huddle to dig deep because they weren’t competing like he knew they could.

“I told them they looked like they were beat,” he said. “They weren’t competing on either end, Pendleton’s outworking us right now, so we need to get back to doing the things we know we’re good at so we can make a run.”

And it worked.

Hermiston outscored Pendleton 11-3 in that final frame to claim the win. Hermiston grabbed the lead again for good with 5:05 left in the fourth quarter when Sara Ramirez drained a deep 3-pointer from the right wing to put the Bulldogs on top 48-46.

Before the game, the Bulldogs honored Ramirez and her fellow seniors Jansen Edmiston and Kiana Heehn for playing in their final league home games. Hoffert said the three seniors will be some of the toughest replacements to make heading into next season.

“It’s hard to put into words ... they’re three of the most dedicated seniors that I’ve coached,” he said. “They leave everything on the floor, regardless of the score and give me everything they have. They’ve been outstanding players for four years ... and I hope this year we can give the seniors something to be proud of.”

Hermiston will now prepare for its first playoff game on March 4 with its opponent to be determined, and Pendleton will await the match-up for its play-in game which will be played on March 1.

PHS (9-15, 4-5) 5 19 19 3 — 46
HHS (21-3, 9-0) 10 22 8 11 — 51
PENDLETON — M. Davies 13, H. Greb 11, C. Hoffman 8, L. Richards 6, K. McGlothlan 4, S. Greb 2, J. Lemberger 2, R. Gentner, H. Porter, T. Felli, K. Bratt.
HERMISTON — J. Edmiston 13, S. Ramirez 11, S. Gilbert 11, M. Juul 10, K. Padilla 4, H. Meyers 2, R. Andreason, K. Heehn.
3-pointers — PHS 4, HHS 4. Free throws — PHS 6-12, HHS 13-17. Fouls — PHS 21, HHS 14. Fouled out — H. Greb (PHS).

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BLAZERS: McCollum and Lillard join Petrie and Wicks in Portland record book



Brooklyn Nets center Brook Lopez (11) is defended by Portland Trail Blazers center Mason Plumlee (24) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Portland, Ore., Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016.

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first NBA player to do so this season. McCollum added six assists and five rebounds and cracked the 30-point mark in back-to-back games for the first time in his career.

“No question they carried us,” Portland coach Terry Stotts said. “Sixty-eight points from your backcourt, that goes a long way.”

Brook Lopez had 36 points and 10 boards for Brooklyn, which has lost three of four. Joe Johnson had 19 points and eight rebounds, and Donald Sloan scored 14 points.

“We did not play particularly well on the defensive end in the first half,” Nets interim coach Tony Brown said. “As soon as we got engaged and started being aggressive, things started to turn for us.”

The Nets trailed 68-49 early

in the third before charging back for an 89-88 lead with 9:21 to play in the game.

“We had a lot more energy (in the second half) and we knuckled down on defense and got some stops,” Lopez said. “We came out a bit relaxed. I don’t know what it was. There really is no excuse to start that way.”

The game was tied before McCollum and Lillard hit consecutive 3-pointers to make it 107-101 with 1:25 left. Lillard sealed the win with four free throws in the last 26.4 seconds.

“We showed some fight,” Lillard said. “We didn’t panic and let the game completely slip away like we’d done in games in the past.”

Mason Plumlee added 13 rebounds and Portland won for the 11th time in 12 games and 15th out of 18 to move into a tie with idle Dallas for

the sixth seed in the Western Conference.

“We can’t let our guard down,” Stotts said. “I’m glad we’re making a move.”

The teams traded leads in the fourth until McCollum broke the tie with 1:56 to go, and Lillard followed with another 3. Brooklyn’s only points in the final 2:13 came on Lopez’s three-point play with 74 seconds left, which closed the gap to three.

“I needed to close the game out strong,” McCollum said. “(That was) too close for comfort.”

Portland finished with five free throws in the final minute, four from Lillard and one from Plumlee.

McCollum and Lillard are the first Blazers teammates to go for 30-plus in back-to-back games since Petrie and Sidney Wicks did so in 1973.