

Boys Championship

Vernonia caps incredible season with title

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the first time since 1978, the state championship trophy is heading back to Vernonia.

The Vernonia Loggers overcame a sluggish start with a strong finish to put away the Regis Rams to win the 2A state championship on Saturday in front of a rowdy crowd at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Basketball

Vernonia 57
Regis 49



Photo by E.J. Harris

The Vernonia's High School boys basketball team celebrates after the Loggers' 54-49 win against Regis in the 2A state basketball championship game Saturday in Pendleton.

Regis jumping out to a 10-4 lead with 3:25 left in the first quarter. That prompted Weller to call his first timeout to try and get his team to regroup.

"I just said that they made their run so now it's time to make ours," he said. "They got out in transition on us and were playing with energy so we had to kind of take a breath and settle in and play our game. It's not the start you're looking for but I was confident in the guys and I knew they would pick it up."

Vernonia was able to battle back out of the timeout and eventually tied the game at 14-14 by the 7:40 mark of the second quarter on a 3-pointer from Adams.

Regis immediately answered on a baseline jumper from Andrew Schmitt to jump back in front 16-14, but the Loggers came right back to tie the game at 16-16

on a steal and breakaway that ended in a two-hand dunk from Connor, sending capacity crowd into a frenzy.

The two teams traded baskets over the next several minutes before Vernonia took its first lead of the game with 2:35 left in the half on a lay-in from Scheimann. From that point on, the Loggers never trailed keeping a manageable cushion for the rest of the game.

"I'm just proud of my guys," Weller said. "From day one we made it a goal to be here and those guys came to practice every day and worked hard just to prepare ourselves for this point. The chemistry of this team came together so well and the end result couldn't be better."

Bryce Piete led the Rams with 16 points on 6-20 shooting as the Loggers defense did not allow for

many open looks for the team. The Rams shot 18-51 (35 percent) and only 3-18 (16 percent) from 3-point range.

The Loggers doorway to the state title game was nearly slammed shut in the quarter-finals, as they were nearly upset by Burns and held on for a 44-42 win. Weller said that looking back, the way that game played out was a blessing for his team.

"We got that win off of our backs and it settled us in," he said. "After that were comfortable and were able to play our game the rest of the way."

VHS (28-1)	11	16	12	18	-	57
RHS (25-4)	14	10	9	16	-	49

VERNONIA — R. Connor 17, T. Adams 14, A. Scheimann 10, F. Mian 10, B. Elliott 4, C. Sullivan 2, J. Medearis, B. Jones, L. McCallum.
REGIS — Bryce Piete 16, T. Williams 9, Brandon Piete 8, A. Schmitt 5, B. Woodcock 4, S. Nieslanik 4, G. Brown 3.
3-pointers — VHS 3, RHS 3. Free throws — VHS 8-14, RHS 10-18. Fouls — VHS 18, RHS 14.



Regis' Andrew Schmitt tries to block a shot from Vernonia's Clay Sullivan in the Rams' 57-49 loss to the Loggers on Saturday in the 2A state basketball championship game in Pendleton.

Photo by E.J. Harris



Vernonia's Brett Eliott looks for the pass guarded by Regis' Gibson Brown (23) and Sam Nieslanik in the Rams' 57-49 loss to the Loggers on Saturday in the 2A state basketball championship game in Pendleton.

Photo by E.J. Harris

Girls Championship

Kennedy wins state championship on first try

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — For the first time in school history, the Kennedy Trojans are state champions.

The Trojans defeated the Burns Hilanders 52-32 on Saturday evening to capture the coveted championship trophy, doing so in the schools' first-ever trip to the state championship.

"We've worked so hard, blood, sweat, tears, early morning practices, and it's a dream come true," Kennedy co-head coach Kerry Hall said. "I'm just so proud of these senior girls."

The Trojans (24-4) secured the title with one of its best all-around games of the season, operating efficiently on offense and coming at the Hilanders with a stifling defense.

Basketball

Burns 32
Kennedy 52

Burns had 17 turnovers in the game and 11 in the first half, which played a significant part in the outcome of the game. In that first half, Burns mustered just nine shot attempts — making four of them — while Kennedy went on to shoot 10-22 (45 percent) in the half.

"Our girls came out from the start, they were focused, they were ready to play defense and they just let the offense come," Hall said, "and that's what we told them through the whole tournament that you focus on defense and play the best defense you've every played and the rest will come and that's exactly what they did tonight."

Kennedy led 15-10 at the end of the first quarter, but broke the game open when they outscored Burns 11-2 in



The Kennedy girls basketball team celebrates as time expires in their 52-32 win against Burns to win the 2A state championship on Saturday in Burns.

Photo by E.J. Harris



Kennedy's Kenzie Ratliff shoots the ball between Burns' Abby Nonnenmacher and Oakley West (42) on Saturday in Pendleton.

Photo by E.J. Harris

the second quarter to take a 26-12 lead into halftime.

The Trojans were powered by the duo of Kenzie Ratliff and Lakin Susee on offense, as Ratliff had a game-high 25 points on 11-17 shooting and grabbed eight rebounds, while Susee netted 15 points and had a game-high seven assists. Ratliff was selected

as the Moda Health Player of the Game for her performance.

Burns (27-3) was missing a key player in Catherine Clemens on Saturday, as she sat out with a knee injury suffered in Friday's win over Monroe. Lindsey Taylor was the leading scorer for the Hilanders with 12 points on

3-4 shooting and two made 3-pointers.

The Hilanders finished the game shooting 10-29 from the field (34 percent) and also 20 turnovers.

Burns finishes as the runner-up in the 2A tournament for the second-straight year, after losing to Western Mennonite 43-38 in 2015.

BHS (27-3)	10	2	8	12	-	32
KHS (25-4)	15	11	9	17	-	52

BURNS — L. Taylor 12, C. Feist 8, O. West 4, M. Carson 4, A. Nonnenmacher 4, S. Shelman, L. Mace, E. Winn, G. Johnston, C. Patterson.
KENNEDY — K. Ratliff 25, L. Susee 15, K. Cantu 5, M. Jaeger 2, K. Kleinschmidt 2, H. Arriola 2, A. Frey 1, C. Traeger, Y. Gomez, K. Brown, M. Sanchez, T. Brown.
3-pointers — BHS 3, KHS 3. Free throws — BHS 9-15, KHS 9-11. Fouls — BHS 9, KHS 14.

Western Mennonite boys and girls earn dual third-place trophies

Imbler boys, Grant Union girls fourth

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Western Mennonite didn't get the trophy it was looking for, but came away with the best one available to it on Saturday by holding off Bandon 38-34 in the OSAA 2A boys basketball third-place game at Pendleton Convention Center.

With the game tied for the second time in the fourth quarter at 30-all with 2:15 play, the Pioneers (20-9) went 6 for 6 at the free throw line over the next minute and a half to secure the win.

After Bandon (23-5) knotted it with a pair of free throws from Trae Dyer, Simeon Hess put the Pioneers up for good when he was fouled with 1:39 to play.

Niko O'Neill stole the ball on Bandon's next possession, and Johnny Williams scored his only two points of the game at the charity stripe to make it 34-30 with 58

seconds to play.

Zane Olive's three-pointer wouldn't fall for Bandon and Colby Williams pulled in the rebound, then went to the line for two more points with 26 ticks remaining.

Bandon had a chance to narrow the gap with 20 seconds left but could only come away with one point on a possession that included three offensive rebounds.

Hess rounded out Western Mennonite's scoring with two freebies with 12 seconds left and Tristian Davidson sank a three-pointer with six seconds showing to give the game its final score.

Williams led the Pioneers with 13 points and Olive paced Bandon with 14.

Bandon, which placed fifth, held its final lead of the game with 1:08 left in the first quarter when Austin Smith hit a three-pointer to make it 8-7.

BHS (23-6)	8	5	10	11	-	34
WM (21-9)	7	9	12	10	-	38

BANDON — Z. Olive 14, A. Moore 7, A. Smith 6, T. Davidson 5, T. Dyer 2, M. Brown. (12-45)
WESTERN MENNONITE — C. Williams 13, S. Hess 8, K. Hull 8, D. Domes 5, J. Williams 2, M. Hull 1, D. Berkeley 1, N. O'Neill. (12-37)
3-pointers — BHS 6-21, WM 2-14. Free

throws — BHS 4-8, WM 12-18. Fouls — BHS 15, WM 14. Fouled out — Z. Olive (BHS); J. Williams (WM).

IMBLER 39, BURNS 34 — Brandon McGilvray's three-pointer to close the third quarter gave the game its widest margin at 34-24 and the Panthers barely held off Wapiti League foe Burns the rest of the way in Saturday's fourth-place game at Pendleton Convention Center.

The Hilanders trimmed the lead to 34-30 within the first three minutes of the fourth quarter, and trailed by just one point when Trace Tiller hit a runner in the paint to make it 35-34 with 1:23 left in the game.

Burns extended its defense to pressure Imbler on its next possession, and McGilvray eventually took advantage of the extra space and weaved through a pair of defenders before finding a wide open Hunter VanLeuven under the basket for short jumper to make it 37-34 with 38 seconds left.

Burns missed its next shot, and VanLeuven grabbed the rebound and dished it quickly to McGilvray who

was fouled.

McGilvray missed his first free throw, but calmly sank the second to make ice the game with 14 seconds left.

Burns needed the next eight ticks to get off a shot, and Zach McDonald's three-pointer came up short.

McGilvray led Imbler with 19 points and four assists, and Trace VanCleave added 11 points, three assists and three steals.

Tiller was high-point for Burns, which placed sixth, with 18 and McDonald added seven points and seven rebounds.

BHS (22-7)	1	14	9	10	-	34
IHS (22-4)	7	12	15	5	-	39

BURNS — T. Tiller 18, Z. McDonald 7, T. Reid 5, S. Davies 3, T. Hueckman 1, T. Recanzzone, B. Friedrichsen, J. Blackburn, A. Stewart-Graf. (11-33)
IMBLER — B. McGilvray 19, T. VanCleave 11, H. VanLeuven 4, M. Whitaker 2, J. Teeter 2, T. Riggle 1, G. Ryan, A. Kanoho, I. Mowery, T. Bales, R. Patterson. (13-38)
3-pointers — BHS 6-18, IHS 5-9. Free throws — BHS 6-14, IHS 8-18. Fouls — BHS 17, IHS 13. Fouled out — S. Davies (BHS). Technical Fouls — T. Hueckman (BHS).

Girls Basketball
WESTERN MENNONITE 47, MONROE 40 — The Pioneers opened the second quarter on a 13-2 run to give them the cushion needed to hold off

the Dragons the rest of the way in Saturday's third-place game at Pendleton Convention Center.

Maddie Hull scored seven of her 11 points during the stretch and Maddie Hopper chipped in the other six to pad her game-high 18 points. Hopper added 11 rebounds, and Brittney Freeman also had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Hull finished with nine rebounds and four steals.

Western Mennonite (22-8) held a 25-14 lead at halftime, and Monroe (26-3) trimmed the lead to nine points twice in the third quarter but the Pioneers quickly responded each time to push the margin back to double digits.

The Pioneers took their largest lead of the second half when Brittney Freeman's layup made it 42-28 with 6:22 to play in the game.

WM (22-8)	12	13	12	10	-	47
MHS (26-3)	8	6	12	14	-	40

WESTERN MENNONITE — M. Hopper 18, B. Freeman 13, M. Hull 11, K. Louthan 3, A. Hess 2, L. Pack, S. Mansour, L. Foster, R. Seymour. (16-55)
MONROE — M. Ballard 11, R. Gwillim 10, K. Martin 9, C. Krnagos 6, P. Greene 4, K. Martin, E. Stahl. (17-64)
3-pointers — WM 1-13, MHS 3-12. Free throws — WM 14-25, MHS 3-10. Fouls —

WM 18, MHS 20. Fouled out — M. Hull (WM); K. Martin (MHS).

GRANT UNION 41, IMBLER 30 — Lexee Robertson's short jumper pulled the Imbler Panthers within 24-22 of the Grant Union Prospectors with 4:13 left in the third quarter, but that was as close as they would get the rest of the way in Saturday's fourth-place game at Pendleton Convention Center.

Grant Union (21-7) led the entire game and capitalized on five Imbler (18-9) turnovers and four missed three-pointers to go on a 8-0 run to close the frame with a 32-22 lead.

Kori Pentzer scored six of her game-high 21 points during that stretch and gave the Pros their largest lead of the game at 38-24 with a pair of free throws with 2:46 to play in the fourth quarter.

IHS (18-9)	10	6	6	8	-	30
GU (21-7)	12	10	10	9	-	41

IMBLER — K. Barry 14, L. Robertson 8, M. Hassan 5, W. Wilber 2, K. Smith 1, J. Rudd, H. Kilpatrick, M. Hoskin, A. Feik, K. Strewalt, B. Hassan. (10-36)
GRANT UNION — K. Pentzer 21, M. Moulton 11, H. Mosley 6, J. Rude 2, H. Wright 1, S. Brock, M. Wilson, M. Wright, M. McKrola, K. Wright, W. McClellan, T. Hutchinson. (14-47)
3-pointers — IHS 3-11, GU 3-7. Free throws — IHS 7-14, GU 10-12. Fouls — IHS 15, GU 13.