

Smith shines in year three

Buckaroo guard flourishes as team’s go-to guy

BOYS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

CADENCE SMITH
PENDLETON BUCKAROOS

SEASON STATS

20 POINTS PER GAME

5 REBOUNDS PER GAME

4 ASSISTS PER GAME

2 STEALS PER GAME

ALL-EO BASKETBALL
2015-16

By ERIC SINGER
East Oregonian

Pendleton Buckaroo Caden Smith’s junior season of basketball could best be described in one simple sentence. “Definitely a lot of ups and downs,” Smith said with a smile.

The Buckaroos were playing under their third coach in three seasons, as the team tried to figure out how to gel under first-year coach Kyle Tedder. The team won just four of its first 10 games but found its groove in January as it went on to win 11 of the final 13 games before seeing its season end with a loss to Springfield in the first round of the 5A playoffs.

“I thought we grew tremendously and the way the guys stepped up and gave our best shot to get to the state playoffs was great,” Smith said. “But man we were just a cut short this year.”

But through those ups and downs

of the season, one steady force for the Buckaroos was Smith — their 6-foot-2 guard who could always be counted on when the team needed a basket.

Smith has been a good player for the Buckaroos throughout his first two seasons on the varsity team, but he really found his groove under Tedder’s tutelage this season, improving his statistics and offensive efficiency across the board.

“(Coach Tedder) gained my confidence and got it in my head that I can do more than I thought I could,” Smith said. “He’s a real easy guy to gel with and you can have a relationship with him off the court too so that makes you even more close which is always good.”

During the 2015-16 season Smith averaged more than 20 points per game and five rebounds per game, and shot 48 percent from the floor, pushing his Buckaroos squad back to the postseason with a second-straight CRC crown. For

See SMITH/2B

Edmiston sheds distractions

Hermiston senior faced tough decision between sports

By SAM BARBEE
East Oregonian

Jansen Edmiston didn’t know how to pivot. She was in 3rd grade and on the schoolyard with a friend, Martee Kelly. Kelly was demonstrating a pivot, the act of keeping one foot on the ground and turning on it, as Edmiston was going to start playing basketball soon and wanted to learn. Years later, the 2015-16 All-EO Girls Basketball Player of the Year is one of the best girls basketball players to come through Hermiston.

But the beginning was humble.

“I was like, ‘You can’t switch feet?’ And she was teaching me all this stuff,” Edmiston said. “Everything else basically came naturally — dribbling, passing.”

Edmiston rarely had issues with the former or the latter in her four seasons of varsity basketball at Hermiston.

This past season, she tied for the team with 14.2 points per game and added team-highs of 7.3 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 3.4 steals per game. Her totals of 341 points, 174 rebounds, 118 assists, 82 steals and 28 blocked shots were all teams highs, and she also led the Bulldogs with 52 made three-pointers.

But though basketball became Edmiston’s one and only sport by her senior season, she excelled at other

sports along the way. Her mother, Catreece, was an assistant swim coach at Hermiston, and naturally got her long-armed daughter involved in the sport.

Initially, Edmiston wasn’t too excited about swimming. Like basketball, her parents made the decision for Edmiston to participate in these sports, and she heavily resisted at first. The 8-year-old swam at Pendleton Swim Club, as is slightly embarrassed to share that detail.

“I was crying. I didn’t want to do it,” she recalled. “But once they got me in the water, they couldn’t really get me back out.”

Her best event was the freestyle, but her favorite stroke was the breaststroke, the difficult technique that require a swimmer to perform complex motions with arms and feet simultaneously. She went to state her first two years, but had a decision looming.

Because swimming is a winter sport in Oregon, she would have to decide between that and basketball,

See EDMISTON/2B

ALL-EO GIRLS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JANSEN EDMISTON
HERMISTON BULLDOGS

SEASON STATS

14.2 POINTS PER GAME

7.3 REBOUNDS PER GAME

4.9 ASSISTS PER GAME

3.4 STEALS PER GAME

Staff photos by Kathy Aney/Graphics by Matt Entrup

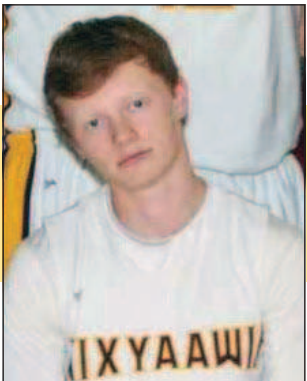
All-EO Boys First Team



Fredy Vera
Irrigon, senior
17 points per game, 2A All-State 1st team, CBC Player of the Year



Chance Flores
Hermiston, junior
CRC 1st team



Hunter Melton
Nixyaawii, senior
12 points per game, 6.3 assists per game, 4.4 steals per game, 3.7 rebounds per game, OOL Player of the Year, 1A All-Tournament 1st team



Patrick Collins
Heppner, senior
16 points per game, 11 rebounds per game, 2 assists per game, 2A All-State 2nd team, CBC 1st team



Dylan Grogan
Stanfield, junior
18 points per game, 8 rebounds per game, 6 assists per game, 3 steals per game, 2A All-State honorable mention, CBC-first team



Sara Ramirez
Hermiston, senior
14.2 points per game, 6.3 rebounds per game, 3.1 assists per game, 2.8 steals per game, CRC co-Player of the Year



Mary Stewart
Nixyaawii, sophomore
19.7 points per game, 7.6 rebounds per game, 6.3 assists per game, 4.6 steals per game, OOL Player of the year



Emma Logan
Condon/Wheeler, senior
BSL Player of the Year, 1A All-Tournament 2nd team



Maddy Juul
Hermiston, sophomore
13 points per game, 6.8 rebounds per game, 1.3 steals per game, CRC 1st team



Sidney Webb
Umatilla, senior
11.8 points per game, 4.2 assists per game, 1.6 steals per game, 3A All-State 2nd team, EOL Player of the Year

All-EO Girls First Team