

2A State Tournament

Trojans close out Prospectors

Kennedy beats Grant Union to reach semifinals

By MATT ENTRUP
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After losing its last two games of the regular season and its league championship, defending 2A girls basketball state champion Kennedy knew it needed to do a better job in the fourth quarter if it was going to reach its season's ultimate goal.

The extra work seemed to pay off on Thursday in the state quarterfinals as the No. 3 Trojans were able to close out No. 11 Grant Union 44-33 at Pendleton Convention Center.

Kennedy (16-10) rebuffed a five-point surge by Grant Union (15-7) to start the fourth quarter, and outscored them 10-5 over the final 5:30 while shooting 3-of-5 from the field and 6-of-9 at the free throw line.

"That's something we've been working on a lot, trying to get through the fourth-quarter pushes," said Kennedy co-coach Peter Hall, whose team brings back two starters from its title run. "Like Grant Union we're kind of young, so it's kind of like, 'Ok girls, let's learn, finish this game, and if we can, move on.'"

"I could tell as soon as the tip-off went that we were all ready and playing relaxed," said Kalyssa Kleinschmit, who led Kennedy with 13 points. "We're really working on the hustle plays and not giving up and just controlling the momentum and the pace from our side."

Grant Union had earned its spot in the Elite Eight with a hot-shooting performance just down the road in Pilot Rock that saw them sink four three-pointers in the first quarter, but the Prospectors couldn't find their touch in the airy convention center.

They went 0-for-4 from distance in the first quarter, and missed their first seven threes before Mariah Moulton finally hit one with 5:45 left in the game. They finished 1-for-13.

"I think the biggest thing was Kennedy did a good job of spreading us out a little bit, taking those looks away, and we just didn't shoot the ball well," said Grant Union coach Mark Mosley. "We're kind of one of those teams where if we start well and we're shooting the ball then you better look out. Unfortunately tonight it just wasn't there. ... It comes with being young, but it's a great learning experience."

Grant Union shot 11-for-37 (29.7 percent) from the field for the game,

Basketball



Kennedy
44



Grant Union
33



Grant Union's Whitney McClellan (24) drives toward the basket as Molly Jaeger (14), of Kennedy, attempts to get in the way Thursday night during an OSAA 2A state basketball championship quarterfinal game at the Pendleton Convention Center.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

and Kennedy was a little more settled at 15-for-37 (40.5 percent).

Kaylin Cantu added 10 points, seven rebounds and four steals for Kennedy, and Molly Jaeger had six points and four assists.

Grant Union was led by Moulton with 11 points, and Madi McKrola added eight points and seven rebounds. Hallie Wright chipped in five points and five steals.

The closest Grant Union got in the second half was when Wright scored on a layup to make it 22-19 with 5:28 left in the third quarter. It capped an 8-0 run by the Prospectors that also featured jumpers from Moulton and Trinity Hutchison, who added a pair free throws.

But Cantu answered with a three-point play when she was fouled in the

paint, and Jaeger turned a Grant Union turnover into two points the other way to make it 27-19 with 3:43 left. Grant Union never got closer than six the rest of the way.

The win moves Kennedy into the semifinals for a rematch with Western Mennonite, who beat them 43-36 for the Tri-River Conference title on Feb. 18. Their rematch tips off at 6:30 p.m. at the convention center.

Grant Union play East Linn Christian in an elimination game at 10:45 a.m. at Pendleton High School.

GU	8	2	13	10	—	33
KHS	12	8	12	12	—	44
GRANT UNION — M. Moulton 11, T. Hutchison 8, M. McKrola 8, H. Wright 5, W. McClellan 1, K. Wright, J. Rude.						
KENNEDY — K. Kleinschmit 13, K. Cantu 10, M. Jaeger 6, H. Arritola 4, C. Traeger 4, S. Carley 3, I. Gomez 2, K. Brown 2, A. Frey.						
3-pointers — GU 1; KHS 0. Free throws — GU 10-16; KHS 14-18. Fouls — GU 13; KHS 12.						

1A State Tournament

Honkers upset Eagles

Arlington moves on to state semifinals

East Oregonian

Basketball



Arlington
44



Damascus
42

BAKER CITY — The Arlington girls basketball team came into the Class 1A postseason with a No. 12 seed attached to its name, effectively telling the team that there were 11 teams better than them in the tournament.

But the Honkers do not believe that, and their game play has shown that.

After taking down the No. 5 seed in the second round on Saturday, the Honkers took on the No. 4 seed Damascus Christian in the quarterfinals on Thursday afternoon and held on for a 44-42 upset victory. The win sends the Honkers into the state semifinals where they will face the No. 1 seed Nixyaawii Golden Eagles on Friday at 1:30 p.m. at Baker High School.

Arlington (21-6) had a balanced scoring effort in the game, as three players — Megan Hauner, Shelby Collins and Emily Kirby — each contributed 10 points. Collins chipped in her 10 points on a perfect 5-5 shooting with eight rebounds, while Kirby shot

5-9 and also snagged eight boards.

As a team Arlington shot 41 percent from the floor (21-51), while Damascus Christian shot 34 percent (17-50) overall and just 2-17 from 3-point range.

Damascus Christian (23-2) took advantage to start the game, holding a 15-10 lead at the end of the first quarter and then a 23-16 lead at halftime. But in the third quarter the Honkers flipped the table and outscored Damascus Christian 14-4 to hold a 30-27 lead at the end of the third.

Damascus eventually tied the game up at 34-34 with 5:43 left to play in the game, but then a jumper from Collins gave the Honkers the lead for good with 4:45 left.

AHS	10	6	14	14	—	44
DC	15	8	4	15	—	42
ARLINGTON — M. Hauner 10, E. Kirby 10, S. Collins 10, R. McClure 6, J. Patnode 4, S. Grady 4, H. Davidson.						
DAMASCUS CHRISTIAN — N. Manning 18, T. Webb 9, A. Paullin 8, S. Sullivan 7, F. Richards, A. Love.						
3-pointers — AHS 1, DC 2. Free throws — AHS 1-9, DC 6-11. Fouls — AHS 15, DC 17.						

NIXYAAWII: Both teams struggled from the field

Continued from 1B

Savannah Stephens paced Powder Valley (21-6) with 15 points, Hallie Feik added 10 points and nine rebounds, and Samantha Kerns had seven points and 12 rebounds.

The lead touched double-digits twice in the first half, but throughout the game the Badgers would answer with little runs and didn't trail by more than 10 until the final 30 seconds of the game. They pulled within 26-22 when Feik scored on a fast break with 1:58 left until halftime, but Schimmel hit a couple free throws and Sunshine Fuentes scored on a jumper to get the lead back to seven by halftime.

The third quarter was low-scoring as each team managed just five points, and Stewart and Schimmel each had steals and layups to make sure Nixyaawii stayed out in front going into the fourth at 35-28.

The teams traded baskets to start the fourth and Powder Valley pulled within six with just under four minutes to play when Stephens hit a three-pointer to make it 43-37.

That was as close as they would get the rest of the way though, and Schimmel took a steal the other way for layup, Kaitlynn Melton hit a jumper in the paint, and the Badgers were 1-for-5

from field in the final three minutes to seal the game.

Both teams struggled from the field as Nixyaawii was 19-for-57 (33.3 percent) and Powder Valley was 14-for-58 (24.1 percent).

Powder Valley won the rebounding battle 52-38 and had 20 offensive boards, which was one thing that concerns Maddern going into the semifinals against an active No. 12 Arlington team that scored 19 second-chance points in its 44-42 win over No. 4 Damascus Christian.

"They're obviously having a pretty good year and they have a couple pretty good players and I think they match up well with us," Maddern said. "One thing I'm impressed with them is they just get after it with offensive rebounds. That's something that I'm concerned for us because we didn't rebound very well."

Nixyaawii and Arlington tip-off in their semifinal game at 1:30 p.m. Friday. The game will be broadcast on the radio by KCUW 104.3 FM.

PV	10	13	5	11	—	39
NCS	13	17	4	14	—	49
POWDER VALLEY — S. Stephens 15, H. Feik 10, K. Williams 7, S. Kerns 7, M. Hufford, M. Bingham, L. Nedrow.						
NIXYAAWII — M. Stewart 20, M. Schimmel 17, K. Melton 5, E. Looney 3, S. Fuentes 2, T. Melton 2, S. Fitzpatrick, E. Butler, K. Mountaintop.						
3-pointers — PV 6; NCS 3. Free throws — PV 5-12; NCS 8-13. Fouls — PV 15; NCS 16.						

Prep Basketball

Smith, Juul lead CRC all-league selections

Pendleton teams combine for eight selections

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Columbia River Conference belonged to the Pendleton Buckaroos in 2017, as the Buckaroos boys and girls captured league championships.

When the league's coaches voted on the all-conference teams this week the Buckaroos were well represented, leading the way with a combined eight selections on both teams. On top of that, boys head coach Kyle Tedder and girls head coach Kevin Porter were named the league's top coaches.

On the boys side, Pendleton's senior star Caden Smith was named the league's Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, as he carried the load as the team's go-to scorer and guided his Buckaroos to a perfect 9-0 mark in CRC play. It also marks the third year in a row that Smith landed on the all-league first team.

Joining Smith on the first team roster was senior forward Johnny Stuvland and senior wing Wyatt Morris, while junior point guard Shaw Jerome landed on the second team.

Hermiston followed up Pendleton with three selections, as senior guards Xavier Rambo and Chance Flores each brought home first team honors, and senior sharpshooter Hunter Walls



Pendleton's Caden Smith was named Columbia River Conference boys Player of the Year for the second consecutive season by the league's coaches on Thursday.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

brought home second team honors. It's the second-straight year that Flores finished on the first team all-league.

On the girls side of things, Hermiston junior forward Maddy Juul earned her first career Player of the Year honor and her second consecutive first team all-league selection, after she stepped into Hermiston's go-to scoring role with her athlet-

icism and skill inside. Juul was accompanied by teammate Kynzee Padilla on the first team all-league roster, as well as freshman guard Jazlyn Romero and senior guard Rileigh Andreason on the second team.

Pendleton also had four selections, led by junior workhorse Kalan McGlothlin and Haley Greb on the first team, followed by junior forward Maureen Davies



Hermiston's Maddy Juul was named Columbia River Conference girls Player of the Year by the league's coaches on Thursday.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

and junior point guard Hallie Porter on second team. It's the second-straight year making the all-league team for Greb and McGlothlin.

All-Columbia River Conference	
Boys	
Player of the Year	— Caden Smith, sr., Pendleton
Coach of the Year	— Kyle Tedder, Pendleton
First team	Caden Smith, sr., Pendleton; Xavier Rambo, sr., Hermiston; Dakota Muir, jr., The Dalles; Johnny Stuvland, sr., Pendleton; Chance Flores, sr., Hermiston; Wyatt Morris, sr., Pendleton
Second team	Dakota Kurahara, jr., Hood River Valley; Shaw Jerome, jr., Pendleton; Eric Flores, sr., The Dalles; JJ Mears, jr., Hood River Valley; Hunter Walls, sr., Hermiston; Carson Flores, soph., Hood River Valley
Girls	
Player of the Year	— Maddy Juul, jr., Hermiston
Coach of the Year	— Kevin Porter, Pendleton
First team	Maddy Juul, jr., Hermiston; Kynzee Padilla, sr., Hermiston; Kalan McGlothlin, jr., Pendleton; Haley Greb, sr., Pendleton; Kailin Hoylman, sr., The Dalles; Brooke McCall, sr., The Dalles
Second team	Jazlyn Romero, fr., Hermiston; Rileigh Andreason, sr., Hermiston; Jodi Thomason, jr., The Dalles; Maureen Davies, jr., Pendleton; Emily Curtis, soph., Hood River Valley; Hallie Porter, jr., Pendleton

TIGERS:

Continued from 1B

Woods said. "We got a few turnovers and turned them into points, and I think that was a turning point for us to be able to keep the lead."

The Warriors did give the Tigers another run early in the fourth quarter to cut the lead to nine points twice at 53-44 with 3:41 left to play, but soon after it was evident that fatigue had set in. Oakridge had two players at 30-plus minutes, while Stanfield had just one player (Grogan) that played more than 24 minutes.

"That's the biggest factor for us moving forward," senior Jose Garcia said of Stanfield's endurance. "Earlier this year Enoel (Angel) said we had to 'Trust the Process' and this is the process right here and it's going good for us."

Dylan Grogan led the Tigers in scoring with a game-high 20 points with six rebounds and six steals, while Garcia followed up with 13 points and Ryan Bailey had 12. Woods was also a key contributor

for Stanfield, with eight points, three boards and three blocks.

Bailey said that continuing to have that kind of balance on the score sheet will be important for the Tigers for the rest of the tournament.

"Dylan (Grogan) sometimes packs a lot of the load but it's nice to take it off of him," Bailey said. "Once teams start focusing on him, the other guys are going to have to come through and we definitely can. We have a team full of guys that can take over the game."

Snyder was the Warriors' leading scorer with 22 points, while Jonathan Ncheckwube followed with 13 to go with 12 rebounds and five blocks. Oakridge finished the game with 23 turnovers, and shot 35 percent (20-57) from the floor.

OHS	12	15	6	15	—	48
SHS	18	13	18	10	—	59
OAKRIDGE — J. Snyder 22, J. Ncheckwube 13, D. Kirkhart 9, M. Ncheckwube 2, P. White 2, C. Gregor, M. Powell.						
STANFIELD — D. Grogan 20, J. Garcia 13, R. Bailey 12, B. Woods 8, T. Flores 3, T. Monkus 2, E. Angel 1, J. Galarza, D. Allan, E. Esquivel, A. Gomez, N. Sanchez.						
3-pointers — OHS 3, SHS 4. Free throws — OHS 5-12; NCS 8-13. Fouls — OHS 19, SHS 13.						