

SMITH: Ready to head off to Saint Martin's University in fall

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what.”
While the statistics and individual accolades look good, those are not what defined Caden Smith as a player this past season. He was still the same high-level threat, perhaps better, at scoring the basketball or dishing the basketball in many different ways and he was still a solid defender. But the part of his game that he really elevated was his leadership.

With the Buckaroos losing their leaders James Bradt and Kai Quinn to graduation, there was a large void to fill for this season's Buckaroos, and Smith was the obvious choice as the team's best player. But he had to learn how to become a leader for a team, though teammate and fellow senior Wyatt Morris said the Bucks knew he could do it.

“I mean he's always been a leader, really,” Morris said. “He's just fun to be around, always positive. On the court, he's such a good player and makes everyone better. I think he knew he had to step up and he did.”

The Buckaroos journey got off to a bit of a rocky start, sitting at 3-4 and heading towards league play. But then they caught fire and won their final 11 straight games to clinch the league title and a home playoff game for the second straight year. It was nearly deja vu for Pendleton, who started the 2015-16 season 4-6 before winning 11 of its last 12 to win the league title and clinch a home playoff spot.

However last season, Pendleton dropped that home playoff game 64-49 to Springfield. This season, Pendleton outlasted Corvallis in double overtime to advance. Smith said that the Buckaroos getting over the metaphorical hump this season was due to their work ethic.

“I just think we were more gritty this year,” Smith



Pendleton's Caden Smith eyes the basket before a free throw attempt Friday in a 5A state championship quarterfinal game against Corvallis at Warberg Court.

Staff photo by Kathy Aney

said, “not letting the little things get to us and playing each game, taking each game one step at a time and just working our way to where we want to get to. And I feel like we did a really good job of that this year.”

But of course another reason was Smith's leadership. Both a vocal leader and a leader-by-example, the Buckaroos, especially the more inexperienced varsity players, saw how Smith handled himself on the practice court and the extra work in the weight room. The Bucks learned how to handle themselves during the big moments of the game.

And in the game against Corvallis, it paid off for all parties and gave Smith his proudest moment of the season. In the last minute of the first overtime session, Smith fouled out and the Bucks had to play the

final five minutes of the game without their go-to guy. But the team did not flinch. They kept fighting and clawing with Smith screaming and cheering from the bench and pulled out the victory.

“I was so happy for my guys,” Smith said. “It's a moment I'll always remember for sure.”

Later at the state tournament, Smith nearly single-handedly took down the state runner-up Churchill in the quarterfinals and then rallied the team to earn a pair of wins in the tournament, which a Pendleton team had not accomplished since the 1990s. During the three-game run at the state tournament, Smith continued his excellence by averaging 18.6 points, five rebounds and 3.6 assists per game.

“I really wouldn't trade it for the world, putting on a Pendleton uniform

All-EO First Team*

* Also includes Caden Smith



Xavier Rambo Hermiston, G. sr.
177 points, 4.9 rebounds, 2.2 assists, All-state honorable mention



Dylan Grogan Stanfield, F. sr.
1st team all-state, unanimous 1st team 2A all-tournament



Logan Grieb Heppner, G. sr.
17 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 3 steals, CBC Player of Year



Kaden Webb Umatilla, G. sr.
17 points, 5.5 assists, 3.2 rebounds, 2.8 steals, EOL Player of the Year



Johnny Stuvland Pendleton, P. sr.
9 points, 6 rebounds, 2 blocks, 54% FG, 1st team all-CRC

All-EO Second Team



Chance Flores Hermiston, G. sr.
17.1 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.2 assists, 3.5 steals, 46% FG



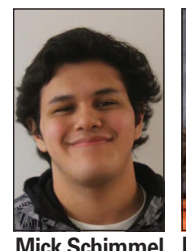
Wyatt Morris Pendleton, G. sr.
7 points, 4 rebounds, 47% FG, 38% 3 FG



Shaw Broncheau WMHS, G. sr.
16 points, 6.4 assists, 4 rebounds, 3 steals



Hayden White Irrigon, P. sr.
14 points, 8 rebounds, 1st team all-EOL



Mick Schimmel Nixyaawii, G. fr.
20 points, 7 rebounds, OOL Player of the Year



Ethan Reger WMHS, F. sr.
16 points, 10.5 rebounds, 1st team all-CBC

All-EO Third Team



Ryan Bailey Stanfield, G. sr.
2nd team all-CBC, 2nd team all-2A tournament



Austin Rice Irrigon, G. sr.
10 points, 4 rebounds, 1st team all-EOL



Seth Cranston Umatilla, F. jr.
7.9 points, 4.5 rebounds, 2.5 steals, 41% FG



Bryson Pierce Pilot Rock, F. jr.
16 points, 6 rebounds, 2 steals, 1.5 assists



Chris Weinke Pilot Rock, G. jr.
13 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3 steals, 3 assists



Jose Garcia Stanfield, P. sr.
2nd team all-CBC

every night with all the fan support behind us all the love we get every night,” Smith said. “It was such an honor to play with all the guys that were on my team, it went by super fast to say the least but it was the best experience I've had by far playing basketball.”

Since that final game on Mar. 10, Smith took some time off to relax and recover from a long, hard season, but has since gotten

back into the groove of his normal workouts on the court and in the weight room. He is counting down the days until he moves up north to continue his basketball career in college at Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington.

As a soon-to-be freshman, he'll likely go back to being a follower rather than a leader on the court for the Saints, but it doesn't mean he won't work

out like one.
“I know that I cannot take any time off because there's so many good players at that level there's no breathing room for rest,” Smith said. “You have to always stay at it but that's okay because it's what I love to do.”

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PREPS: Riverside softball, Stanfield baseball earn sweeps

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but Rigby got her payback in the 400 which she won ahead of Zacarias with a time of 1:01.50.

Riverside's Faith Rosen won the 100 hurdles in 17.47 ahead of Umatilla's Nancy Ortiz (17.72), and Ortiz also placed second in the 300 hurdles (52.30).

Mac-Hi's Bianca Garcia won in javelin with a throw of 122-8 taht was more than enough to outdistance Umatilla's Aleesha Watson (121-6) and Weston-McEwen's Maddi Muilenburg (115-4).

Weston-McEwen's Bryce Thul tied for the win in long jump with South Wasco's Ana Popchok with a leap of 15-1.

Other notable finishes for girls were Umatilla's Maria Moreno-Mendez with a new personal record of 32-10 to place second in shot put, and Irrigon's Alexis Williams with a PR of 12:27.84 for second in the 3,000.

Back in boys' action, Weston-McEwen's Jacob Speed had a PR to win the 400 meters in 52.06, and was second in both the 100 and 200 to Lyle/Wishram's Brandon Montoya.

Heppner's Derek Howard won shot put with 45-11, and Umatilla's Alec Williams was second with a PR of 43-9.5.

Mac-Hi's Landon Warne just missed a 150-foot discus through last week, but nearly got it this week with a 149-07 PR to win that event, and Hermiston's Carson Wrathall had a PR in pole vault to win with height of 11-6.

Pilot Rock's Devin Hasher set his highest mark of the season to win high jump at 6-1, and Irrigon's Justin Iveson continued his dominance in triple jump with a winning leap of 41-1.

Arlington's Ben Evans had a season-best throw of 153-1 to place second in javelin.

BASEBALL

HOOD RIVER 1-14, HERMISTON 0-10 — At Hood River, the Bulldogs nearly came back but couldn't avoid the sweep on Friday to open Columbia



Riverside's Skylar Wightman (7) comes in to score after hitting a home run against Umatilla on Friday in a league softball game in Boardman.

Contributed photo courtesy of Jordan Mittelsdorf

River Conference play.

Locked in a scoreless Game 1, Hermiston (6-9, 0-2 CRC) was unable to get anything going against Hood River (10-5, 2-0) starter Connor Coeper and managed just two hits in the game.

The Eagles finally broke the tie in the bottom of the sixth when Trevor Lariza doubled and then Lucas Viuhkola singled to drive in pinch runner Jacob Smith.

Slade Gritz gave the Bulldogs hope with a two-out single in the seventh, but a fly out ended the game.

Hood River jumped on the Bulldogs early in Game 2 and led 10-1 after two innings.

Game 1		R	H	E
HHS	000	0	0	2
HRV	000	1	1	3
W — C. Coeper; L — L. Tolan.				
2B — T. Lariza (HRV).				

STANFIELD 18-12, NYSSA 0-2 — At Stanfield, the Tigers got a pair of runaway wins on Friday and scored 30 runs off 18 hits against the Bulldogs to stay unbeaten in Eastern Oregon League play.

Game 1 saw everybody getting in on the offense for Stanfield (11-1, 5-0 EOL) with 14 hits to go around. Dylan Grogan was 2 for 2 with three runs, Klay Jensen was 2 for 3 with two runs, Brody Woods and Ryan Bailey each hit 2 for 4 with two RBI, Shayne Keltz was 1 for 1 with two RBI, and Thyler Monkus, Adrian Renner and Tony Flores

each had three RBI.

Woods pitched four complete innings for the win and gave up no runs on two hits with nine strikeouts and four walks.

Jenson took the mound to start Game 2 and overcame some early control issues to last five complete with nine strikeouts and three walks. He allowed both runs on three hits.

Nyssa took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning after a walk put a runner on and wild pitches helped bring him around.

Stanfield got it back and then some in the bottom of the frame, which started with back-to-back walks followed by back-to-back errors to make it 3-1.

Hunter Barnes went 2 for 3 with three RBI to lead Stanfield at the plate, and Bailey and Flores each drove in two.

Game 2 (6 innings)		R	H	E
NHS	101	0	0	0
SHS	311	0	0	2
W — K. Jensen; L — A. Gonzalez.				
3B — T. Flores (SHS).				

SOFTBALL

IRRIGON 6-0, ECHO 5-4 — At Irrigon, the Knights and Tigers split a Special District 1 double-header on Friday as errors continued to plague Irrigon.

The Knights (10-5, 2-1 SD1) were able to avoid paying for their mistakes in Game 1 thanks to a clutch pinch hit by Karrizza Luna in the bottom of the seventh inning.

With two outs and two on, Luna snuck a single

down the first-base line to plate the winning runs.

Echo (5-5, 1-1) had taken a 5-4 lead in the top of the seventh when Kenzie Gonzales hit a single to center and Monique Montoya scored from second base.

Gilman started in the circle and had six strikeouts before leaving after being hit by a line drive back up the middle in the third inning. She was not seriously injured, but Mya Chapman took her spot on the rubber and finished out the game of the win. Jada Burns went 3 for 3 at the plate.

Chapman got the start in Game 2, and pitched well, but couldn't get any support as errors led to all three Echo runs in the first inning and Cougars starter Alyssa Ray pitched a three-hit shutout.

RIVERSIDE 27-25, UMATILLA 2-0 — At Boardman, Skylar Wightman's threw a no-hitter in the pitching circle and hit a home run with eight total RBIs to help her Riverside Pirates sweep Umatilla 27-2 and 25-0 in an Eastern Oregon League double-header on Friday afternoon.

Wightman got the win for Riverside (10-3, 2-1 EOL) in Game 2 after striking out 10 Vikings (1-9, 0-3) as well. The junior also threw two innings in Game 1 with four strikeouts, but Bianca Avalos got the win with five strikeouts in three innings.

Also doing damage at

the plate for Riverside was Alexis Villegas (3 for 3, double, 3RBI), Emily Kirby (three hits, five RBI, triple, double) and Sadie Hasbell collected three hits. Jocelyn Rodriguez and Lizette Sanchez also collected their first career varsity hits.

Game 1		R	H	E
UHS	000	11	—	2
RHS	1130	3X	—	27
W/P — B. Avalos.				
2B — A. Villegas, E. Kirby (RHS); HR — S. Wightman (RHS).				

Game 2		R	H	E
UHS	000	00	—	0
RHS	120310X	—	25	13
W/P — S. Wightman, LP — C. Alvarez.				
2B — M. Hagar (RHS); 3B — E. Kirby (RHS).				

TENNIS

WESTON-MCEWEN 9, RIVERSIDE 3 — At Boardman, the Weston-McEwen TigerScots boys and girls tennis teams made easy work of the Riverside Pirates on Friday, as the boys compiled a 5-1 record while the girls went 4-2.

“I'm so proud of how the players persevered and played so well in not so perfect conditions,” Weston-McEwen coach Troy Olson said.

Weston-McEwen's lone loss in the girls matches came at No. 3 singles where Krysta Calvert fell to Riverside in a tiebreaker 8-6. In the five other girls matches, Weston-McEwen won 31 of the 40 games that were played.

On the boys side, Riverside won the No. 1 singles match when Austin Thompson beat Ryan Schmidtgall in a close 6-4 match. But then Weston-McEwen rolled again, winning 30 of the 48 games.

UP NEXT
Weston-McEwen heads to Mac-Hi on Tuesday at 4 p.m., while Riverside will go to Mac-Hi on Monday.

- Singles (Girls)**
Johanna Albert (W) def. Veronica Rodriguez 6-1
Emmaline Irvine (W) def. Belinda Lomas (7-5)
Krysta Calvert (W) lost 8-6
- Singles (Boys)**
Austin Thompson (R) def. Ryan Schmidtgall 6-4
Kellen Fairchild (W) def. Donovan Carmack 8-3
Curtis Papineau (W) def. Brandon Jusrez 6-3
- Doubles (Girls)**
Bagdon/Swofford (W) def. Mendoza/Gaytan 6-2
McIntyre/Ford (W) def. Ramos/Gonzalez 6-2
Olson/Davis (W) def. Aldrich/Seplida 6-1
- Doubles (Boys)**
Shaffer/Froese (W) def. Bedollo/Altamirano 8-2
Davison/Papineau (W) def. Cambero/Reyes 8-2
Shaw/McDonough (R) def. Bryan/Mann 8-5

MARINERS: Cruz smashes first home run of season in fourth inning

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but out three and walking none. Marc Rzepczynski retired the last two batters in the eighth and Edwin Diaz pitched the ninth, stranding the tying run at third for his second save.

Nelson Cruz put the Mariners up 1-0 with two outs in the fourth, lining a 3-2 pitch over the wall in center for his first homer of the season and 800th career RBI.

Seattle then loaded the bases on two singles and a walk, but starter Martin Perez escaped by striking out Mike Zunino.

Texas, which had managed just one hit through the first five innings, tied it in the sixth. Jurickson Profar singled to open the inning, advanced on a bunt single by Carlos Gomez and moved to third when Shin-Soo Choo bounced into a double play. Nomar Mazara followed with an RBI single up the middle.

Perez allowed a walk and single to open the sixth, but Leclerc relieved and struck out Taylor Motter, Danny Valencia and Zunino.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: SS Jean Segura, on the 10-day DL (strained right hamstring), is improving. “He's feeling better. He has not gotten out on the field or anything like that,” manager Scott Servais said. “He's doing the strengthening exercises and stuff, I have not seen him run or get any update on that today.”

UP NEXT

Rangers: RHP Andrew Cashner, who opened the season on the 10-day DL (right biceps soreness) is likely to be activated and start Saturday. “We feel like he's healthy, we feel like he's ready,” manager Jeff Banister said.

Mariners: RHP James Paxton (1-0, 0.00 ERA) has not allowed a run in 13 innings in his first two starts. He has struck out 13 and walked three.