

HERMISTON

Hermiston girls AAU teams make history at state tournament

By ALEXIS MANSANAREZ
East Oregonian

After the Hermiston Storm defeated West Linn 33-29 in the 2017 Girls Oregon Middle School State Championship for AAU, they were poised to bring home some more hardware the following season. This past weekend in Central Oregon, the Storm — along with the 5th grade Hermiston Sparks and 6th grade Hoopdaws — did just that.

With the three victories, Hermiston became the first city since the start of the AAU tournament in 2013 to win multiple championships in the gold bracket.

The championship tournament began Friday and wrapped up play Sunday in Bend and Redmond.

Three teams made up of Hermiston-area students qualified to attend the tournament through top finishes in various tournaments throughout the regular season.

The 5th grade Hermiston Sparks and 8th grade Storm earned bids in early November after finishing in the top two at a tournament in Spokane. For the 6th grade Hoopdaws, they punched their ticket in January.

In the gold bracket, which included middle schools that feed into a Class 6A/5A high school program, Hermiston had to outlast a total of 55 other teams to make it to the championship game.

The three teams went a combined 14-0 throughout the tournament, holding off its opponents in some tough matchups — the Sparks advanced to the title game by defeating the Churchill Iron Maidens by one point — and some blowouts — the Storm defeated their first opponent 64-20 to open the weekend.

In the title games, the Storm came back for the win after starting the first half behind with a 28-23 victory over McMinnville.

“I’m proud of the girls playing hard,” head coach MaryJane Heideman said, “and coming away with these tough wins.”

The Hoopdaws were off to a rocky start in their championship game. They started down 9-1 in the first five minutes of the play, and couldn’t buy a basket. However, after halftime, Hermiston found its rhythm and eventually defeated Sherwood 42-37.

The Storm was the final team to compete, and pulled away late to seal at 44-39 win over Sheldon.

Contact Alexis at amansanarez@eastoregonian.com or 541-564-4542. Follow her on Twitter @almansanarez.



Hermiston eighth grade AAU team, the Storm, poses after winning the state championship in Redmond. Pictured is: (front row, left to right) Sydney Seavert, Adrianna Coleman, Faith McCarty, Katelyn Heideman and assistant coach Heidi De La Cruz; (back row) head coach Aaron Heideman, Morgan Brown, Taylor Durfee, Caitlin Anderholm, Alexis Kessell, Heavenly Coleman and assistant coach McKenzie Byrd



Hermiston's 6th grade AAU team, the Hoopdaws, poses after winning the championship in Central Oregon. Pictured is: (front row, left to right): Kaylee Elliott, Izzy Simmons, Sydney Stocker, Brooklynn Warburton and Nevaeh Thew; (back row) coach Alissa Simmons Ainsley Philippi, Haylee Mercer, Rian Woodard, Alexis Ackerman and coach Kay Edwards.



Hermiston's 5th grade AAU, the Sparks, team poses after winning the championship in Central Oregon. Pictured is: (front row, left to right): Madeline Jared, Camryn Hagel, Addison Garberg, Shayla Stewart and Karsyn Botefuhr; (back row) head coach MaryJane Heideman, Ellie Heideman, Piper Roberts, Amy Armstrong, Avonlea Edwards, Madison Wicks and assistant coach Josh Hagel.

Men's College Basketball

Arizona No. 1 seed at Pac-12 tourney after tumultuous year

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Arizona's season started under a dark cloud following the arrest of assistant coach Emanuel Richardson as part of a federal probe into shady recruiting practices.

Wildcats coach Sean Miller found himself in the crosshairs late in the season when an ESPN report alleged he was caught on an FBI wiretap discussing a \$100,000 payment to lure top recruit Deandre Ayton to the school.

Oh, and preseason All-American guard Allonzo Trier had to miss two games for testing positive for the same banned substance that cost him 19 games last season.

Through all the tumult, the 15th-ranked Wildcats stayed steady on the court.

“A lot lesser programs, teams, universities would have crumbled and we didn’t,” Miller said. “That says something about us and our future.”

Arizona's immediate future is the Pac-12 tournament in Las Vegas this week. The Wildcats (24-7, 14-4) are the top seed and one of four teams to get a bye into Thursday's quarterfinals. They will play the winner between No. 9 seed Arizona State and No. 8 Colorado.

Arizona closed the season with four wins in five games, its only loss on the road to Oregon without Miller, who was held out a day after the ESPN report. Miller missed three practices before vehemently denying the report in a statement last Thursday. Less than three hours later, university President Robert C. Robbins said Miller would remain as coach.

The Wildcats beat Stanford that night and overcame an emotional senior day on Saturday to pull away from Colorado late for their fifth Pac-12 title in six seasons.

“Lot of emotions, an emotional week, a lot of things flying around,” Arizona point guard Parker Jackson-Cartwright said. “Everybody was just drained mentally and physically.”

TROJANS' BUBBLE: Southern California had a chance to move itself away from the NCAA Tournament bubble in its regular-season finale against rival UCLA. An 83-72 loss keeps the Trojans (21-10,

12-6) bubbling. USC has few marquee wins, but did finish second in the Pac-12 behind Arizona.

“Sometimes common sense has to prevail, right?” USC coach Andy Enfield said.



The Trojans open the conference tournament Thursday, against the winner between Oregon State and Washington.

SUN DEVILS

BUBBLING: Unlike USC, Arizona State does have marquee wins on its resume. The Sun Devils beat Kansas at Allen Fieldhouse and Xavier on a neutral court, giving them arguably the two biggest wins of any team in the country. They also went 12-0 in nonconference. But Arizona State (20-10, 8-10) was inconsistent through the Pac-12 season, finishing tied for eighth with Colorado.

The Sun Devils had 15 conference games decided by single digits, most since 1996-97, according to STATS/Pac-12 Network.

“Even though there are some that might want to say that that part of the season was so long ago that it shouldn’t count, it does count,” Arizona State coach Bobby Hurley said after an 84-83 loss to Stanford on Saturday. “This is a season. There’s a Pac-12 season and then there’s an entire season,” he said. “All the close games just prove you’re going to have to bring a very good game to the table to beat our team.”

UCLA'S RELIEF:

UCLA avoided ending the season on a three-game losing streak, thanks to its win over rival USC. That gave the Bruins a Quadrant 1 win, a first-round bye in the conference tournament and a little breathing room.

“It puts us in a great situation,” Bruins coach Steve Alford said. “Now we get a little bit more rest.”

UCLA opens against the Cal-Stanford winner.

UNDERDOG UTES:

Utah lost four of its top six scorers from a year ago and was picked to finish seventh in the Pac-12. The Utes played with a mountain-sized chip on their shoulder all season and have put themselves in contention for an NCAA Tournament berth while earning Larry Krystkowiak coach of the year honors from The Associated Press.

Utah (19-10, 11-7) still may need to avoid a slipup in the Pac-12 tournament, but has put itself in a good position.

ALL-CRC: Hermiston has four total first-team selections

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selection and senior point guard Hallie Porter was selected to the second team.

Lemberger was Pendleton's best shooter this season and averaged nearly 11 points a game, and Davies put up 7.4 per-game while being one of the top rebounders and shot blockers in the league as well.

The Hermiston Bulldogs also had numerous selections to the boys and girls all-league teams. Starting with the boys CRC champion Bulldogs, juniors Ryne Andreason and Cesar Ortiz

were first team selections and Jordan Ramirez was a second team pick. Andreason burst onto the scene as a full-time varsity player this season and averaged 15.2 points per game in conference play to lead the Bulldogs to the title. Ortiz became a well-rounded player as a junior, but still showed his lethal scoring touch by averaging 13.5 points per-game.

For the CRC runner-up Bulldog girls, junior post Jordan Thomas and sophomore guard Jazlyn Romero were both first team selections and senior guard Hannah Thompson was

a second team pick. Romero, a second team selection last year as a freshman, proved to arguably the top ball-handler and one of the top shooters in the league, alongside her teammate Thompson. Thomas, meanwhile, showed tremendous improvement from her sophomore season and developed into a dominant force inside the paint.

The complete boys and girls teams are listed below.

Boys All-Columbia River Conference
Player of the Year — Tyler Newsom, Pendleton, jr.
First Team
Ryne Andreason, Hermiston, jr.; Jonah

Tactay, Hood River Valley, sr.; Dakota Murr, The Dalles, sr.; Cesar Ortiz, Hermiston, jr.; Dakota Sams, Pendleton, so.

Second Team
Dakota Kurahara, Hood River Valley, sr.; Jacob Hernandez, The Dalles, so.; Jordan Ramirez, Hermiston, jr.; JJ Mears, Hood River Valley, sr.; Shaw Jerome, Pendleton, sr.; Josh Nisbet, The Dalles, jr.

Girls All-Columbia River Conference
Player of the Year — Kylan McGlothlin, Pendleton, sr.

First Team
Jaiden Lemberger, Pendleton, sr.; Maureen Davies, Pendleton, sr.; Jordan Thomas, Hermiston, jr.; Jazlyn Romero, Hermiston, so.; Jodi Thomasian, The Dalles, sr.

Second Team
Hallie Porter, Pendleton, sr.; Hannah Thompson, Hermiston, sr.; Paulina Finn, The Dalles, sr.; Lauren Orr, Hood River Valley, sr.; Haylee Baker, Hood River Valley, jr.

Contact the East Oregonian at sports@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0839.



Hermiston's Ryne Andreason shoots the ball over the top of Sunset's Colby King in the Bulldogs' 76-61 loss to the Apollos on March 7.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Thursday
EOU vs. Reinhardt (NAIA Championship First Round - at Sioux City, Iowa), 10:15 a.m.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Saturday
Shoreline at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.
Sunday
Linn-Benton at BMCC (DH), 11 a.m.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Thursday
Clackamas at BMCC, 1 p.m.
Friday
SW Oregon CC at BMCC (DH), Noon
Saturday
Northwest Christian at EOU (DH), 11 a.m.
Sunday
Northwest Christian at EOU (DH), 11 a.m.

Basketball

BOYS OSAA PLAYOFFS

Class 6A State Tournament
(at Chiles Center, University of Portland)
Thursday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Jefferson vs. No. 8 Jesuit, 1:30 p.m.
No. 12 Tualatin vs. No. 20 Barlow, 3:15 p.m.
No. 3 Southridge vs. No. 11 Lincoln, 6:30 p.m.

No. 2 Grant vs. No. 10 West Salem, 8:15 p.m.

Class 5A State Tournament

(at Gill Coliseum, Oregon State University)
Wednesday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Silverton vs. No. 8 Churchill, 1:30 p.m.
No. 4 Wilsonville vs. No. 5 Springfield, 3:15 p.m.
No. 3 Thurston vs. No. 6 Mountain View, 6:30 p.m.

Class 4A State Tournament

(at Forest Grove High School)
Thursday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Banks vs. No. 8 Sisters, 1:30 p.m.
No. 4 La Grande vs. No. 5 Valley Catholic, 3:15 p.m.
No. 3 Marshfield vs. No. 6 Newport, 6:30 p.m.
No. 2 Seaside vs. No. 7 Mazama, 8:15 p.m.

OSAA GIRLS PLAYOFFS

Class 6A State Tournament
(at Chiles Center, University of Portland)
Wednesday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Southridge vs. No. 9 Clackamas, 1:30 p.m.
No. 4 West Linn vs. No. 5 North Medford, 3:15 p.m.
No. 3 Beaverton vs. No. 6 Sheldon, 6:30 p.m.
No. 2 Tigard vs. No. 7 Benson, 8:15 p.m.

Class 5A State Tournament

(at Gill Coliseum, Oregon State University)
Tuesday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Marist 53, No. 9 Crescent Valley 43

No. 5 Silverton 40, No. 4 Springfield 37
No. 6 Bend 26, No. 3 Central 23
No. 2 La Salle Prep 52, No. 10 Crater 43

Wednesday Consolation

No. 9 Crescent Valley vs. No. 4 Springfield, 9 a.m.
No. 3 Central vs. No. 10 Crater, 10:45 a.m.

Class 4A State Tournament

(at Pacific University)
Thursday Quarterfinals
No. 1 Marshfield vs. No. 9 Valley Catholic, 1:30 p.m.
No. 4 Baker vs. No. 5 Banks, 3:15 p.m.
No. 3 Cascade vs. No. 6 Stayton, 6:30 p.m.
No. 2 Hidden Valley vs. No. 10 North Marion, 8:15 p.m.

NBA

Tuesday's Games
Philadelphia 128, Charlotte 114
Toronto 106, Atlanta 90
Washington 117, Miami 113, OT
Houston 122, Oklahoma City 112
Dallas 118, Denver 107
Portland 111, New York 87
Golden State 114, Brooklyn 101
New Orleans 121, L.A. Clippers 116

Wednesday's Games

Utah at Indiana, 4 p.m.
Houston at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
Memphis at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 5 p.m.
New Orleans at Sacramento, 7 p.m.

Cleveland at Denver, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m.

NCAA Men's Basketball

Top 25 Schedule
Tuesday's Games
No. 6 Gonzaga 74, BYU 54
Wednesday's Games
Syracuse vs. No. 12 UNC (ACC Men's Tournament), 6 p.m. (ESPN2)

Pac-12 Tournament

at Las Vegas
Wednesday First Round
Arizona St vs. Colorado, Noon
California vs. Stanford, 2:30 p.m.
Oregon State vs. Washington, 6 p.m.
Washington St vs. Oregon, 8:30 p.m.

Thursday Quarterfinals

No. 1 Arizona vs. Colorado/ASU winner, Noon
No. 4 UCLA vs. Cal/Stanford winner, 2:30 p.m.
No. 2 USC vs. Oregon St/Washington winner, 6 p.m.
No. 3 Utah vs. WSU/Oregon winner, 8:30 p.m.

NCAA Women's Basketball

Tuesday's Games
No. 22 Green Bay 62, Wright State 44 (Horizon League Championship)

No. 1 UConn 70, No. 19 South Florida 54 (AAC Championship)

Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

Hockey

NHL
Tuesday's Games
Winnipeg 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
Columbus 4, Vegas 1
New Jersey 6, Montreal 4
Boston 6, Detroit 5, OT
Tampa Bay 5, Florida 4, OT
Minnesota 6, Carolina 2
Nashville 2, Dallas 0
Chicago 2, Colorado 1, OT
Anaheim 4, Washington 0

Wednesday's Games

Calgary at Buffalo, 4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
Arizona at Vancouver, 7 p.m.

Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series
Upcoming Schedule
Sunday — TicketGuardian 400 at ISM Raceway, Phoenix, Arizona, 12:30 p.m. (TV: FOX)
Mar. 18 — Auto Club 400 at Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, California, 12:30 p.m.

(TV: FOX)
Mar. 25 — STP 500 at Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, Virginia, 11 a.m. (TV: FS1)

Points Standings

Through March 4
1. Kevin Harvick, 135; 2. Joey Logano, 132; 3. Ryan Blaney, 131; Martin Truex Jr., 115; 5. Kyle Busch, 104; 6. Kyle Larson, 104; 7. Brad Keselowski, 99; 8. Denny Hamlin, 97; 9. Paul Menard, 96; 10. Austin Dillon, 94; 11. Clint Bowyer, 93; 12. Ryan Almirola, 93; 13. Kurt Busch, 77; 14. Ryan Newman, 75; 15. Darrell Wallace Jr., 68; 16. Chris Buescher, 67; 17. Alex Bowman, 67; 18. Ricky Stenhouse Jr., 66; 19. Erik Jones, 64; 20. Michael McDowell, 53.

Golf

PGA TOUR
Upcoming Schedule
March 8-11 — Valspar Championship, Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead), Palm Harbor, Fla.
March 15-18 — Arnold Palmer Invitational, Bay Hill Golf Club and Lodge, Orlando, Fla.
March 21-25 — WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, Austin CC, Austin, Texas