

50th: Celebration plans underway for team



Portland Trail Blazers, File

They were the first — the 1970-71 Portland Trail Blazers. Front row, left to right: Leo Marty, Geoff Petrie, Walt Gilmore, Ed Manning, Dale Schlueter, LeRoy Ellis, Ron Knight, Gary Gregor, Shaler Halimon, Rolland Todd. Second row: Dr. Frank Smith, Dr. Larry Mudrick, Stu Inman, Rick Adelman, Stan McKenzie, Jim Barnett, Claude English, Dan Trutanich, Bill Schonely, Harry Glickman.

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Blazers the first 25 years.

Other events include specially-designed “Decades Nights” that will celebrate the players, coaches, uniforms, branding, music and other Trail Blazer memories from the 1970s, ‘80s, ‘90s, 2000s and 2010s.

A special 50-year logo has been designed for next year, with plans of playing on a special commemorative court, and wearing very special uniforms.

Happy anniversary to a team that brought its fans a championship, three trips to the NBA

Finals, a streak of 21 straight playoff appearances, and six Hall of Famers.

How ‘Rip City’ was born

In case you were wondering, legendary Blazer announcer Bill Schonely said that “Rip City” came about by Schonely trying to come up with a phrase that would “help my broadcast, as well as be synonymous with the team. I couldn’t figure it out.

“Later on in 1970, the Lakers came to town, Wilt Chamberlin, Jerry West ... the place (Memorial Coliseum) was packed. The Blazers were down by 25-26 points. All of a sudden as the

game went on, the scene changed and the next basket by Portland would tie the mighty Lakers.

“Jim Barnett stopped in front of me, turned and gave me a wink, spun around and took a shot for no reason, and the crowd went wild. He took the ball as it went through the hoop, and for whatever reason, I said ‘Rip City, all right!’

“The Lakers immediately called timeout. I gave my commercial cue, I sat back in my chair and the guys on the side of me said, ‘Rip City?’ I said ‘yeah!’ They said, ‘leave that in!’ That was the birth of Rip City!”

Swimming: Breaking records

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starting blocks for the 100 breast, an event in which he broke a 29-year-old school record in a time of 1:02.04. The previous record was set by Dan Allen in 1990 (1:03.64).

“He has always been fast and driven to work hard,” Nelson said. “Athletic ability and a drive to compete — that is rare. Thankfully, he has that.”

From purple to green

Barnard swam for Hermiston High School the past three years, but when the Bulldogs were set to move into the WIAA and the Mid-Columbia Conference, he wanted to stay in his comfort zone. He was able to get a waiver to attend school in Pendleton.

“Hermiston is getting so big and crowded,” Barnard said. “I wanted more of a reasonable class size, and a lot of my friends graduated last year. I had more friends at Pendleton than I did Hermiston because of club swimming.”

The two schools have been rivals for years, but Barnard said he fit right in.

“Everyone was welcoming,” he said. “It’s a very good environment and I really enjoy going to school there. It was an easy transition.”

While at Pendleton, Barnard has done his best to leave his mark. He wanted to put his name by four of the eight individ-

ual event records. He has three — 200 IM, 100 breaststroke and the 100 backstroke (56.52), where he broke another of Jennings’ records (2017, 57.04).

He had his last high school practice Wednesday, which brought back memories.

“It’s a little sad,” he said. “I’ve gone through a lot of training partners, most were older than me and have graduated out. This year, Cahill has been one of my partners. He is going to be really fast. I have enjoyed every minute of it.”

Nelson said he will miss Barnard and his leadership.

“He works extremely hard every day,” Nelson said. “He works to achieve his goals. It’s good for the younger guys to see what you have to do. It’s good to have someone like that. Hopefully that impression sticks with them.”

The future

Barnard has plans to attend the University of Idaho and study engineering.

The Vandals do not have a swim program at present, but are scheduled to have one up and running in two years.

“They have a club team, and my plan is to swim with them next year,” Barnard said. “Then I will evaluate whether I want to join the team or not my sophomore year.”

Be rest assured, he will be taking his goals sheet with him, albeit filed away in his computer.



AP Photo/Darryl Webb

Washington coach Mike Hopkins shouts to his team during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Arizona State on Saturday in Tempe, Ariz. Arizona State won 75-63.

Apple Cup rivalry tops this week in the Pac-12

By JOHN MARSHALL
AP Basketball Writer

A look at things to watch this week in the Pac-12 Conference:

Game of the week: Washington (19-5, 10-1) at Washington State (10-14, 2-8), Saturday. The Huskies will be big favorites in this rivalry game, but don’t count out the Cougars after last week. Washington State pulled off one of the conference’s rarest road sweeps, knocking off Arizona and Arizona State last week for the first time since 2007. Robert Franks was a big reason for it, scoring 34 points against the Sun Devils and 31 against the Wildcats. Washington has been the Pac-12’s dominant team, building a three-game lead by the midpoint. The Huskies still have a three-game lead despite splitting games on their Arizona road trip last week, matching Sam Houston State in the Southland for Division I’s largest conference lead.

Looking ahead: The Apple Cup isn’t the only rivalry game in the Pac-12 this week. Oregon plays at Oregon State on Saturday in a rematch of a game played on Jan. 5. The Beavers won the first round 77-72 behind Tres Tinkle’s 28 points and enter the rivalry game with three wins in four games. The Ducks have won four of five after sweeping the Northern California schools last week. It will be the 352nd meeting, most in college basketball history. The Beavers will be trying to sweep the season series for the first time since 2009-10.

Inside the numbers: Road teams have a .454 winning percentage in conference games this season after going 8-4 last week. The all-time mark under the 18-game format is .467 in 2007-08. ... Two games separate second and 10th place. Arizona State, Oregon State and Utah are tied for second at 7-4. ... Oregon State’s Kaylor Kelley still leads the nation in blocked shots at 3.48 per game.

Player to watch: Franks, Washington State. The Cougars’ high-scoring guard had a spectacular week, averaging 32.5 points while shooting 65 percent and grabbing 10.5 rebounds in two games. He was named national and Pac-12 player of the week.

On the women’s side: The women’s version of the Civil War rivalry will take place twice in a span of three days. On Friday, No. 9 Oregon State plays at No. 3 Oregon, then the two meet on Monday in Corvallis. Keep an eye on the matchup between Oregon’s Sabrina Ionescu and Oregon State’s Destiny Slocum, both finalists for the Nancy Lieberman Award for the nation’s best point guard. The Ducks have yet to lose in conference play (10-0) and have a two game lead over the Beavers.

DISTRICT 8 HOOPS

Dawgs back on the court today

Weather permitting, Hermiston will host Kennewick at 6 p.m.

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

OK, basketball fans, this is the plan. Weather permitting, of course.

With the District 8 3A boys and girls basketball tournaments woefully behind, the Mid-Columbia Conference and Greater Spokane League athletic directors have put a plan in motion.

Providing both Hermiston (14-6) and Kennewick (11-10) have school on Thursday, the boys semifinal game will be played at 6 p.m. in Hermiston.

“It’s been 13 days without a game,” Bulldogs coach Casey Arstein said. “It’s time to play. They worked hard for the No. 1 seed and they deserve to play at home. The next day will be interesting for the winner and loser. We didn’t plan on playing back-to-back. It will be wild.”

It will be the third meeting between the Bulldogs and Lions this season.

Hermiston won the first meeting 72-64, and the second 64-63.

After Thursday, District 8/Greater Spokane League director Herb Rotchford said all championship games will be played at Spokane Arena.

“That is nonnegotiable,” Rotchford said. “I need to make the best decisions for the tournament. We are working from the championship game back and

IF YOU GO

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: Hermiston High School
Admission: \$7 adults/\$5 students

seeing how it all can work.”

The winner of the Hermiston-Kennewick game will play in the championship game at 7:30 p.m. Friday, while the loser will play Kamiakin at 4:30 p.m. Friday.

In the other semifinal, Shadle Park is at Mt. Spokane on Thursday. The winner advances to the title game, while the loser plays North Central at 1:30 p.m.

The winners of Friday’s two loser-out games will play at 4:30 p.m. Saturday. The winner of that game will play at the loser of the championship game at 3 p.m. Monday.

All games must be completed by 5 p.m. Monday so regional seeding can take place.

If Hermiston and Kennewick cannot play Thursday, Rotchford will implement Plan B.

The Hermiston girls, who last played Feb. 5, will play at noon Friday at Spokane Arena against the loser of Thursday’s Kennewick-Mt. Spokane game.

A win would have the Bulldogs playing at 3 p.m. Saturday in a loser-out game.

Admission prices for Thursday, set



Staff photo by E.J. Harris/File

Hermiston’s Ryne Andreason grabs a rebound in front of La Grande’s Hunter Youngblood in a December game. Andreason and the Bulldogs will host Kennewick in a District 8 playoff game Thursday.

by the WIAA, are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students.

Hermiston Athletics will cover the admission cost for students who want to attend the game.

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

THURSDAY, FEB. 14

Boys Basketball

Mac-Hi at Ontario, 4:30 p.m.
Kennewick at Hermiston, 6 p.m.
Hood River Valley at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 6:30 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. Cove (at Baker), 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 15

Boys Basketball

Nixyaawii at Old Oregon League Districts (at Baker), 2:30 p.m.
Umatilla at Nyssa, 5 p.m.
Stanfield vs. Enterprise (at Pendleton Convention Center), 6 p.m.
Pendleton at Redmond, 6:30 p.m.
Echo at Big Sky League Districts (at Madras), 6:30 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Hermiston vs. Kennewick/Mt. Spokane loser (at Spokane Arena), noon

Heppner vs. Enterprise (at Pendleton Convention Center), 2:45 p.m.

Echo vs. Lone (at Madras), 6 p.m.
Redmond at Pendleton, 6:30 p.m.
Stanfield vs. Union (at Pendleton Convention Center), 7:45 p.m.

Boys Wrestling

Hermiston at Mat Classic XXXI (at Tacoma), 8:30 a.m.

Heppner at Districts (at Halfway), 2 p.m.

Swimming

Pendleton at State Championships (at Beaverton), 1:45 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

Boys Basketball

Nixyaawii at Old Oregon League Districts (at Baker), 3 p.m.
Heppner at Blue Mountain Conference Districts (at Pendleton Convention Center), 6 p.m.
Echo at Big Sky Districts (at Madras)

Girls Basketball

Lone at Big Sky Districts (at Madras), noon
Echo at Big Sky Districts (at Madras)

Boys Wrestling

Hermiston at Mat Classic XXXI (at Tacoma), 9:45 a.m.

Irrigon at Burns, 9 a.m.
Heppner at Districts (at Halfway), 10 a.m.

Swimming

Pendleton at State Championships (at

Beaverton), 1 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	W	L	Pct
Toronto	43	16	.729
Boston	37	21	.638
Philadelphia	37	21	.638
Brooklyn	30	29	.508
New York	10	47	.175
Southeast	W	L	Pct
Charlotte	27	29	.482
Miami	26	30	.464
Orlando	26	32	.448
Washington	24	34	.414
Atlanta	19	38	.333
Central	W	L	Pct
Milwaukee	43	14	.754
Indiana	38	20	.655
Detroit	26	30	.464
Chicago	14	44	.241
Cleveland	12	46	.207

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest	W	L	Pct
Houston	33	24	.579
San Antonio	33	26	.559
Dallas	26	31	.456
New Orleans	25	33	.431
Memphis	23	36	.390
Northwest	W	L	Pct
Denver	39	18	.684
Oklahoma City	37	19	.661
Portland	33	23	.589
Utah	32	25	.561
Minnesota	27	30	.474
Pacific	W	L	Pct
Golden State	41	15	.732
L.A. Clippers	32	27	.542
Sacramento	30	27	.526
L.A. Lakers	28	29	.491
Phoenix	11	48	.186

Tuesday’s Games

Atlanta 117, L.A. Lakers 113
Boston 112, Philadelphia 109
Orlando 118, New Orleans 88
San Antonio 108, Memphis 107
Golden State 115, Utah 108
Wednesday’s Games
Brooklyn 148, Cleveland 139, 30T
Milwaukee 106, Indiana 97
Boston 118, Detroit 110
Philadelphia 126, New York 111
Toronto 129, Washington 120

Chicago 122, Memphis 110

Minnesota 121, Houston 111
Miami 112, Dallas 101
Denver 120, Sacramento 118
L.A. Clippers 134, Phoenix 107
Portland 129, Golden State 107
Thursday’s Games
Charlotte at Orlando, 4 p.m.
New York at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 5 p.m.
Friday’s Games
Team World vs. Team USA at Charlotte, N.C., 6 p.m.
Saturday’s Games
No games scheduled.
Sunday’s Games
2019 NBA All-Star Game
Team LeBron West vs. Team Giannis East at Charlotte, N.C., 5 p.m.

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	57	42	11	4	88	223	159
Toronto	56	35	18	3	73	200	159
Boston	57	32	17	8	72	168	148
Montreal	56	31	18	7	69	172	162
Buffalo	56	28	21	7	63	165	171
Florida	55	23	24	8	54	168	192
Detroit	57	22	28	7	51	159	188
Ottawa	56	21	30	5	47	173	205
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	56	33	17	6	72	161	136
Washington	57	31	19	7	69	192	183
Columbus	55	23	20	3	67	180	167
Pittsburgh	57	20	24	7	67	196	174
Carolina	57	29	22	6	64	167	164
Philadelphia	57	26	24	7	59	167	190
N.Y. Rangers	56	24	24	8	56	159	186
New Jersey	56	21	27	8	50	162	194

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	57	36	18	3	75	198	163
Nashville	59	33	21	5	71	182	154
Dallas	56	29	22	5	63	145	140
St. Louis	55	28	22	5	61	163	162
Minnesota	57	27	25	5	59	160	167
Colorado	56	22	23	11	55	182	188
Chicago	57	23	25	9	55	185	209
Pacific	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	57	34	16	7	75	210	177
Calgary	56	34	16	6	74	205	167
Vegas	58	31	24	4	66	172	162
Vancouver	57	25	25	7	57	164	181

Arizona	56	25	26	5	55	150	163
Edmonton	56	24	27	5	53	160	187
Los Angeles	56	23	28	5	51	136	171
Anaheim	56	21	26	9	51	127	182

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per