

Heppner's Wilson, W-M's Hoffman unanimous picks in Blue Mountain Conference

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Heppner sophomore Sydney Wilson and Weston-McEwen junior Stockton Hoffman were unanimous picks by the coaches for the Blue Mountain Conference teams.

Wilson and Grant Union twins Hailie and Kaylee Wright were unanimous picks on the girls team, while sophomore Keegan Glenn of Union joined Hoffman on the boys team.

Wilson, a forward, averaged 22.5 points, 9.5 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game for the Mustangs.

Hoffman, a 6-foot-1 guard, averaged 23 points, 9.5 rebounds and six assists per game for the TigerScots (4-19).

The Heppner boys (18-7), who won the BMC regular-season title and the district title, had seniors Trent Smith and Tyler Carter named to the first team.

The No. 8-ranked Mustangs will host Kennedy at 6 p.m. Friday in a first-round state playoff game.

The winner will advance to the state tournament Feb. 28-March 2 at the Pendleton Convention Center and Pendleton High School.

Also on the first team were senior Elias Esquivel of Stanfield, and junior Tristan Morris of Grant Union.

The Grant Union girls won the BMC regular-season title with an 11-2 record, but Heppner (18-8) won the district title with a 62-57 win over the Prospectors.

The No.6-ranked Mus-

BLUE MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

Boys First Team
Keegan Glenn, so., Union (Unanimous); Stockton Hoffman, jr., Weston-McEwen (Unanimous); Trent Smith, sr., Heppner; Elias Esquivel, sr., Stanfield; Tyler Carter, sr., Heppner; Tristan Morris, jr., Grant Union.

Second Team
Tanner Elliot, sr., Grant Union; Devin Greer, jr., Enterprise; Jacob Vaughan, sr., Grant Union; Dylan Marr, sr., Enterprise; Theo White, fr., Weston-McEwen

Honorable Mention
Hugo Hernandez, sr., Stanfield; Tate Lantis, sr., Union, Riley Waggoner, so., Pilot Rock; Hunter Nichols, sr., Heppner; Justin McAninch, sr., Heppner.

Girls First Team
Hailie Wright, sr., Grant Union (Unanimous); Kaylee Wright, sr., Grant Union (Unanimous); Sydney Wilson, so., Heppner (Unanimous); Shelby Moncrief, sr., Enterprise; Katie Vescio, sr., Weston-McEwen; Jacee Currin, sr., Heppner.

Second Team
Callie Glenn, sr., Union; Kendra Hart, jr., Stanfield; Karli Bedard, sr., Enterprise; Madi McKrola, sr., Grant Union; Lexi Gassett, sr., Enterprise; Nyah Tejeda, jr., Stanfield.

Honorable Mention
Kait Evans, sr., Pilot Rock; Grace Austin, sr., Pilot Rock; Kylie Marriott, so., Union.

tangs (18-8) will host Santiam at 2 p.m. Saturday in a first-round state playoff game.

The winner will advance to the state tournament Feb. 28-March 2 at the Pendleton Convention Center and Pendleton High School.

Rounding out the first team were seniors Jacee Currin of Heppner, Katie Vescio of Weston-McEwen and Shelby Moncrief of Enterprise.

Alex: 'I have to show I'm one of the best, or weed me out'

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170-pound district finals to Nyssa's Adam Simpson, is 39-2 going into the 3A state tournament.

But being a No. 2 seed comes with challenges.

Miranda-Walls will open the state tournament Friday against three-time state champion Dax Bennett of Harrisburg. Bennett, who has won titles at 132, 152, and last year at 182, dropped to 170 for the post-season this year.

"I heard my draw, and the coaches and I checked him out a little bit," Miranda-Walls said. "It's tough right off the bat. I get what I get. It's my destiny to go out and win, or put up the best fight he's had all season."

Should he get past Bennett, Simpson, the defending state champion, is on the other side of the bracket.

"That's pretty much how it is," Miranda-Walls said. "Everyone has credentials. I have to show I'm one of the best, or weed me out."

Bring it on

Irrigon coach Jason Dunten made sure he put together a schedule this season that would challenge his team, especially Miranda-Walls.

"People have dodged him all year," said Dunten, who is taking a school record nine wrestlers to state. "We have taken him all over the state to find someone worth wrestling. That's why I think Alex is ready to take on everyone in the state, including Dax Bennett."

Miranda-Walls went undefeated at the Oregon Classic, and won the Mac-Hi Christmas tournament, but there are a few moments that stand out more than others.

He started to get noticed in late December after winning the Winter Cup at Hanford High School with a 3-2 decision over Ozious

Harden of Reardan, who went on to place third at the 1B/2B Washington state tournament.

After the tournament, he was 18-0, and the competition just kept getting better.

At the Farm City Invitational in Hermiston, Miranda-Walls pinned his first three opponents in the first round before meeting up with Chiawana's Victor Siva in the finals. Miranda-Walls beat Silva 7-0.

Silva went on to place fourth at the 4A Washington state tournament.

At the Culver Invitational, he beat Ridgeview's Cole Jackson 15-5 in the 182-pound championship match. Jackson has qualified for the 5A Oregon state tournament.

Miranda-Walls lost his first match of the season Feb. 2 to Hon Rush of Baker/Powder Valley, a 6-4 decision at the Bank of Eastern Oregon Invitational in Heppner.

All of which have prepared him for state.

"This is my last hurrah as a high school wrestler," Miranda-Walls said. "I'm serious out on the mat, but if I didn't enjoy it, I wasted four years. I get to compete in a sport I love."

Which makes his brother happy.

"I'm excited to go watch him at state," Landeros said. "To be honest, I have never seen him wrestle. It's all still pretty new to me."

What the future holds

Miranda-Walls had gotten serious interest from NAIA wrestling power Southern Oregon University, and has been in communication with Raiders coach Mike Ritchey.

With a dream of being a wrestling coach, Miranda-Walls is leaning toward a degree in education.

"The best coaches are the ones involved in their schools and community," he said.

Bucks: 'When you break your routine, it'll affect you on the court'

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"This was a game we knew we would probably win," said coach Kevin Porter. "Those are the games that are the hardest to prepare yourself for."

Senior Sarah Scott opened the game with a bucket to put Pendleton out front, and 5 1/2 scoreless minutes ensued before Eagles senior Haylee Baker grabbed a turnover to even things out. A basket with 0:05 left from freshman Muriel Hoisington kept the Bucks ahead 5-2.

"I wouldn't just call it a slow quarter — I'd call it a slow game," Porter said. "I'm not sure if we were still recovering from the hangover after Tuesday's double overtime (against Ridgeview), but we were tired tonight."

Hoisington and sophomores Josie Wilson and Natalie Neveau strung together six- and eight-point runs to give the Bucks a 21-7 lead at the half. The Eagles scrounged up just five points, including a trey from Baker.

"I feel good for our defense, but bad for (Hood River)," Porter said of his team's advantage. "They don't have very many shooters. It would have been easier for us to get some rebounds if they did."

Both teams endured a three-minute scoring



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Natalie Neveau, left, and Katie Bradt, of Pendleton, and Hood River's Reese Leiblein and Molly Routson battle for a rebound Thursday at Warberg Court.

drought in the third quarter before freshman Daisy Jenness got a point at the free throw line to give Pendleton a 20-point lead with 0:17 left. The Eagles' sole point came from junior Kaitlyn McMerney's free throw.

"We were on defense for really long stretches of time," said senior post Katie Bradt. "(Hood River) likes to move the ball outside, and we prefer to push it up

the floor. That hurt us. When you break your routine, it'll affect you on the court."

A 3-point play from Baker early in the fourth quarter put the Eagles in double digits, but Bradt responded with four straight points for a 22-point Bucks advantage. Baker ended Hood River's game with back-to-back treys, and Scott drained another bucket with 0:21 seconds left.

Pendleton	5	16	7	11	—	39
Hood River Valley	2	5	1	10	—	18
PENDLETON — Hoisington 10, Bradt 6, Wilson 6, Scott 6, Neveau 6, Jenness 3, Sprlet 2						
HOOD RIVER VALLEY — Baker 14, Baker 3, McMerney 1						

"Hood River is a pretty scrappy team," Bradt said. "We didn't show up with our best game tonight. We knew we stood a good chance against them, and with that in the back of our minds, it was hard to bring yourself into the gym ready for a dog fight, if there was going to be one. They drove a lot, but their shots weren't falling — that helped us when our defense was scrambling a little bit."

The Bucks (9-12, 4-2 IMC) got 10 points from Hoisington, and six each from Bradt, Neveau, Scott, and Wilson. Baker posted a game-high 14 points or the Eagles.

With the win, Pendleton now moves forward in the winner's bracket and travels to Ridgeview on Saturday — a team they fell to in double overtime earlier this week.

"It's going to be anyone's game," Bradt said of Saturday's matchup. "(Ridgeview was) on fire on Tuesday. They were hitting 3s left and right. I want to see the same energy that we brought on Tuesday. If we play like that, I think we have a shot."

Nixyaawii's Schimmel, Burns highlight OOL team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

Nixyaawii's Mick Schimmel and Tyasin Burns were selected to the Old Oregon League first team by the league's coaches.

The Golden Eagles (24-2) won the OOL regular-season title with a 12-0 record. They beat Joseph 54-42 in the district championship game, earning a first-round bye in the state playoffs.

Nixyaawii will host St. Paul at 6 p.m. Friday in a state playoff game. The winner will advance to the 1A state tournament Feb.

OLD OREGON LEAGUE

Girls First Team

Sabrina Albee, so., Joseph; Madelyn Nelson, jr., Joseph; Emma Hite, sr., Joseph; Megan Bingham, sr., Powder Valley; Caysie McGinness, sr., Imbler; Tymra Anderson, jr., Elgin.

Second Team
Haley Miller, sr., Joseph; Belle Blair, so., Powder Valley; Logan Nedrow, sr., Powder Valley; Jocelyn Palmer, so., Elgin; Lark Moses, jr., Nixyaawii; Ermia Butler, sr., Nixyaawii.

Honorable Mention
Camille Crenshaw, jr., Joseph; Autumn Davis, jr., Powder Valley; Arianna Krol, sr., Griswold; Riley Ferre, sr., Wallowa; Jamie Johnston, jr., Wallowa; Austin Kendall, jr., Cove; Maggie Frisch, fr., Cove; Maddie Morgan,

jr., Pine Eagle.

Boys First Team

Christopher Nobles, sr., Wallowa; Mick Schimmel, jr., Nixyaawii; Tyasin Burns, so., Nixyaawii; Omar Benitez, sr., Powder Valley; Tyler Homan, sr., Joseph; Mason Ferre, so., Joseph.

Second Team
Jayce Burnett, jr., Imbler; Kaden McClure, so., Elgin; Tucker Gulick, sr., Pine Eagle; Deven Barkley, sr., Nixyaawii; Eli Sprenger, so., Griswold; Moses Moses, so., Nixyaawii.

Honorable Mention
Quamah Picard, jr., Nixyaawii; Chase Murray, so., Joseph; Roper Bingham, fr., Powder Valley; Blake Witten, sr., Cove; Reese Dixon, fr., Powder Valley; Gage McKay, so., Elgin.

27-March 2 at Baker High School.

Joining Schimmel and Burns on the first team are

PREP ROUNDUP

Ione girls no match for Joseph in 1A state playoffs

East Oregonian

The 1A state playoff matchup on Wednesday wasn't a pretty one for the lone girls.

The Cardinals ended their season with a 62-24 defeat to the 1A's No. 2 team Joseph in the tournament's first round.

"They have a relentless press," coach Nathan Heideman said of Joseph. "They're really long and really quick. We're young — we're mostly freshmen and sophomores. But I thought we played as good as we could have against a team like that. The girls worked their

tails off all the way through, and as a coach, I couldn't be more proud."

Sophomore Jessica Medina poured in 10 points for the Cardinals (18-5, 12-1 BSL), and freshman Hailey Heideman added in eight.

Ione ended at No. 3 in the Big Sky League stand-

ings, and No. 17 in the 1A division.

"(Joseph's) coach gave me a really great compliment after the game," said Heideman. "He said, 'Next year, you guys are going to be the team to look out for.' I couldn't ask for anything more from my team tonight."

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL SLATE

FRIDAY, FEB. 22

Boys Basketball
Umatilla at Sutherlin, 5:30 p.m.
Kennedy at Heppner, 6 p.m.
Nixyaawii vs. St. Paul (at Pendleton High School), 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Big Bend at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

Boys Wrestling
Pendleton, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stanfield, Riverside at State Wrestling (Portland), 9 a.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 23

Boys Basketball
Pendleton vs. The Dalles (at BMCC), 4 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Santiam at Heppner, 2 p.m.
Pendleton at Ridgeview, 2:30 p.m.

Boys Wrestling
Pendleton, Irrigon, Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stanfield, Riverside at State Wrestling (Portland), 9 a.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	43	16	.729	—
Philadelphia	38	21	.644	5
Boston	37	22	.627	6
Brooklyn	30	30	.500	13½
New York	11	47	.190	31½
Southeast	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	27	30	.474	—
Orlando	27	32	.458	1
Miami	26	31	.456	1
Washington	24	34	.414	3½
Atlanta	19	39	.328	8½
Central	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	44	14	.759	—
Indiana	38	20	.655	6
Detroit	26	30	.464	17

Chicago	14	44	.241	30
Cleveland	13	46	.220	31½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	24	.579	—
San Antonio	33	26	.559	1
Dallas	26	31	.456	7
New Orleans	26	33	.441	8
Memphis	23	36	.390	11
Northwest	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	18	.684	—
Oklahoma City	37	20	.649	2
Portland	35	23	.603	4½
Utah	32	25	.561	7
Minnesota	27	30	.474	12
Pacific	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	41	16	.719	—
L.A. Clippers	32	27	.542	10
Sacramento	30	27	.526	11
L.A. Lakers	28	29	.491	13
Phoenix	11	49	.183	31½
Wednesday's Games				
No games scheduled.				
Thursday's Games				
Cleveland 116, Phoenix 98				
Philadelphia 101, Miami 102				
Portland 113, Brooklyn 99				
Milwaukee 98, Boston 97				
Friday's Games				
Chicago at Orlando, 4 p.m.				
New Orleans at Indiana, 4 p.m.				
San Antonio at Toronto, 4 p.m.				
Washington at Charlotte, 4 p.m.				
Detroit at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m.				
Minnesota at New York, 4:30 p.m.				
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 5 p.m.				
Denver at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.				
Utah at Oklahoma City, 6:30 p.m.				
Saturday's Games				
Portland at Philadelphia, 10 a.m.				
Brooklyn at Charlotte, 4 p.m.				
Indiana at Washington, 4 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 4 p.m.				
Memphis at Cleveland, 4 p.m.				
Phoenix at Atlanta, 4 p.m.				

Detroit at Miami, 4:30 p.m.							
Boston at Chicago, 5 p.m.							
Sacramento at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.							
Houston at Golden State, 5:30 p.m.							
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 5:30 p.m.							
Dallas at Utah, 7 p.m.							
Sunday's Games							
Orlando at Toronto, 12:30 p.m.							
L.A. Clippers at Denver, 2 p.m.							
San Antonio at New York, 4:30 p.m.							
NHL							
Conference Glance							
EASTERN	GP	W	L	Ot	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	62	47	11	4	98	244	163
Boston	61	36	17	8	80	184	157
N.Y. Islanders	60	35	18	7	77	174	146
Toronto	60	36	20	4	76	210	170
Washington	61	34	20	7	75	205	193
Montreal	61	33	21	7	73	184	177
Pittsburgh	61	32	22	7	71	210	191
Carolina	61	32	23	6	70	178	170
Columbus	59	33	23	3	69	188	180
Buffalo	60	28	24	8	64	171	187
Philadelphia	61	28	26	7	63	179	166
Florida	59	26	25	8	60	184	203
N.Y. Rangers	60	26	26	8	60	173	199
New Jersey	61	24	29	8	56	180	208
Detroit	61	23	29	9	55	203	204
Ottawa	60	22	33	5	49	186	223
WESTERN							
Calgary	60	37	16	7	81	221	178
San Jose	61	36	17	8	80	223	190
Nashville	63	36	22	5	77	193	164
Colorado	60	36	20	4	76	203	178
St. Louis	60	32	23	5	69	179	169
Vegas	62	32	25	5	69	182	175