

# EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019

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## Mustangs charge past Oakers and toward the 2A semifinals

Heppner girls take down Oakland in 2A quarterfinals

By BRETT KANE  
East Oregonian

It may have taken them a quarter to get going, but once they did, there was no stopping the Mustangs.

On Thursday night, the Heppner girls broke away from Oakland's grasp in the second quarter to run away with the 2A quarterfinals, 48-39.

"When we play hard and as a team, good things will happen," said coach Robert Wilson. "It comes down to all the little things that we do as a team that helps us compete with these state-qualifying teams."

Oakers senior Hadley Brooksby knocked down two straight buckets in the first quarter to claim the lead before Heppner senior Jacee Currin and sophomore Madison Ashbeck scored a basket each to take the game back.

Oakers senior Cassidy Jones would knot the score again twice, and Brooksby returned with another basket to keep Oakland ahead 9-7 at the end of the quarter.

"We saw Oakland play last year, and had a pretty good idea of the abilities of their returning girls," Wilson said. "They're a great team. We knew what No. 11 (Brooksby) could do."

Heppner senior Madison Combe and sophomore Syndey Wilson quickly remedied their team's deficit in quarter two, combining for six points to put the Mustangs out front again.

The Oakers didn't manage a score until 4:47, after which Syndey Wilson sunk four more points, and knocked down a 3-pointer with 1:41 left in the half before the Mustangs took a 22-15 advantage into the locker room.

"Syndey's fearless, and it showed tonight," coach Wilson said. "She's aggressive on offense, and that helps the others get good looks at the net."

Syndey Wilson and Currin took care of 12 of Heppner's 14 points in the third quarter, and the Oakers were held away from the net for nearly 4 1/2 minutes.

Oakland pulled together just seven points before the end of the quarter, five of which came from junior Gabby Parnell.

"Our coach told us to slow down and keep the pace of the game," Syndey Wilson said. "They got



Heppner's Sydney Wilson shoots the ball in front of Oakland's Hadley Brooksby in the Mustangs' 48-39 win against the Oakers on Thursday in Pendleton.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris

tired, and we came out hot. We held them off."

A trey from Brooksby at 3:59 in the final quarter pulled the Oakers within 10 points of Heppner, and

she would do it again at the line with just 1:01 left to go.

Oakers senior Grace Witten wrapped the game up with a 3-pointer to chip their deficit to just

nine, but Heppner held them off in the final seconds to punch their ticket to the semifinals.

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### 2A STATE HOOPS

## Red-hot Coquille cruises past Grant Union

Defending boys champ Columbia Christian posts big win over Kennedy

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

Morgan Baird poured in 22 points and hauled down nine rebounds to lead Coquille to a 54-36 victory on Thursday over Grant Union in the quarterfinals of the 2A state basketball tournament at the Pendleton Convention Center.

The Red Devils (26-1), who have won 15 games in a row, will play Kennedy at 6:30 p.m. in Friday's semifinals. The Trojans beat Central Linn 39-31.

The Prospectors (18-6) will play Central Linn at 9 a.m. in a loser-out game at Pendleton High School.

The Red Devils, who have played in the 3A state tournament the past three years, finishing fifth or better, made a big splash in their Pendleton debut.

Coquille led 25-22 at the half, then used a 17-5 third-quarter outburst to take control of the game.

Baird, the Sunset Conference Player of the Year, scored eight of her points in the fourth quarter as Coquille outscored the Prospectors 12-9.

See 2A hoops, Page B2



Staff photo by Kathy Aney

Abby Lusco, of Grant Union, goes up for a shot as Coquille's Maya Salazar defends during Thursday's state quarterfinal game at the Pendleton Convention Center.

## Irrigon, Umatilla have first-team players

By ANNIE FOWLER  
East Oregonian

Irrigon senior Ana Zacarias was named to the Eastern Oregon League first team, and freshman JaLay Burns to the second as the all-league selections were announced this week.

Zacarias averaged 13.8 points and three steals per game for the Knights (12-11). Burns averaged 13.3 points and 3.2 assists per game.

Sophomore Allie Hueckman of Burns was named MVP, and Hilanders coach



Earl



Garcia



Zacarias

Brandon McMullen took the coaching award.

Also named to the first team were Gracee Jacobs and Matyson Siddoway from Vale, Shai Skinner of Burns, and Samantha

Moore of Nyssa.

For the boys, Umatilla junior Andrew Earl and senior Uriel Garcia were named to the EOL first team, while senior Trent Durfey was named to the second team.

Riverside sophomore Francisco Barajas was named to the second team, as was Irrigon senior Keith Fleming.

Rounding out the first team are Omar Jaquez of Nyssa, Kade Haueter of Vale, and Dakota Ceja of Burns.

Nyssa junior Pedro Chavez was named MVP, while Bulldogs coach Aaron Mills took the coaching award.

### EASTERN OREGON LEAGUE SELECTIONS

#### Girls

##### First Team

Allie Hueckman, so., Burns; Gracee Jacobs, sr., Vale; Ana Zacarias, sr., Irrigon; Shai Skinner, sr., Burns; Samantha Moore, sr., Nyssa; Matyson Siddoway, so., Vale.

##### Second Team

JaLay Burns, fr., Irrigon; Aundraya Ceja, so., Burns; Faith Rose, sr., Riverside; Taylor Durfee, fr., Umatilla; Alexia Arredondo, sr., Nyssa; McKenzie Hoyt, sr., Burns; Emersyn Johnson, so., Vale.

##### Honorable Mention

Brendy Avalos, sr., Riverside; Mileah Skunkcap, sr., Burns; Madyson Hartley, sr., Nyssa; Kyla Wright, sr., Vale; Hailey Castro, so., Nyssa.

#### Boys

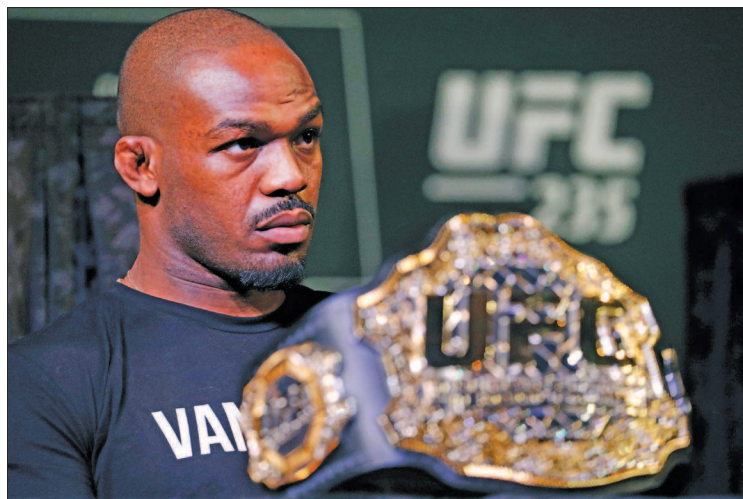
##### First team

Pedro Chavez, jr., Nyssa; Omar Jaquez, sr., Nyssa; Andrew Earl, jr., Umatilla; Uriel Garcia, sr., Umatilla; Kade Haueter, sr., Vale; Dakota Ceja, jr., Burns.

##### Second Team

Zane Taylor, sr., Burns; Francisco Barajas, so., Riverside; Agustín Trujillo, sr., Nyssa; Tanner Hamilton, sr., Vale; Trent Durfey, sr., Umatilla; Keith Flemming, sr., Irrigon.

### SPORTS SHORTS



## Jones can fight at UFC 235 despite new drug test woes

(AP) — Light heavyweight champion Jon Jones will be allowed to fight at UFC 235 on Saturday despite two recent drug tests showing traces of a steroid metabolite.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission announced the findings on Thursday and affirmed its belief that

the tests do not reflect new drug use by the UFC star.

The commission believes the two positive tests conducted Feb. 14 and 15 uncovered residual results from the drug intake that resulted in a 15-month suspension for Jones in 2017. Tiny amounts of the same metabolite have

periodically appeared in several tests taken by Jones since then.

Jones has denied ever knowingly taking performance-enhancing drugs.

Jones received a one-fight license from the commission last month to face Anthony Smith this weekend.

AP Photo/John Locher, File

In this Jan. 31, 2019, file photo, light heavyweight champion Jon Jones attends a news conference for the UFC 235 mixed martial arts event in Las Vegas.