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Caplinger among MCC tennis elite

Hermiston has two doubles teams selected to second team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Led by junior Addi Caplinger, Hermiston had five players selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference tennis team.

The Hermiston girls finished the season with a 13-1 record this season, with their lone loss going to Southridge on April 29.

Caplinger was the Bulldogs' No. 1 singles player all season. She lost a three-set match to Kennewick's Janie Buckingham in the No. 1 singles semifinals at the MCC Championships in three sets.

"Coming in, she had just her freshman year, where she was low on the totem pole," Hermiston tennis coach Jason Sivey said. "She came out this year and she was competitive. She was more dominating than people thought she would be."

During the regular season, Caplinger lost matches to Buckingham, Southridge's Emma Hamaker-Teals and Richland's Bryn Neal.

Caplinger beat Hamaker-Teals at the MCC Championships.

Neal, a sophomore, was named the MCC Player of the Year, while Southridge's Chuck Hamaker-Teals was named Coach of the Year.

On the second team, the Bulldogs had the doubles team of seniors Violet Mitchell and Ashlyn Hofbauer, who had just one loss during the regular season.

Mitchell and Hofbauer won the No. 1 doubles title for the Bulldogs at the MCC Championships, beating Kamiakin's Charly Scherbarth and Korin Clark 6-2, 6-7, 6-3.

"They lost to Kamiakin during the regular season, and then beat them in the MCC Championships," Sivey said. "They had a rough match during the regular season. It was good to see them come back



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Addison Caplinger hits the ball during a singles match April 15, 2021, against Kamiakin's Madi Forbes at Hermiston High School.



Caplinger



Hofbauer



McClannahan



Mitchell



Salvador



Spencer

and show who they really are."

For the boys, Hermiston's top doubles team of Miguel Salvador and Max Spencer were named to the second team. They finished 7-2 during the regular season.

Salvador and Spencer won the No. 1 doubles title at the MCC Championships, beating Richland's Cody Davey and Josh Cowell 6-1, 1-6, 6-2.

Hanford sophomore Sonny Bravo was named Player of the

Year, while Hanford's Craig Klatt was selected as Coach of the Year.

Mid-Columbia Conference Golf

Hermiston senior Madi McClannahan was named to the girls second team after averaging a 90 during the regular season.

McClannahan, who has signed to golf for Southwestern Oregon Community College, shot her best round of 84 during Week 4 at Horn

Rapids Golf Course.

She also shot an 85 at the season-opening event at Canyon Lakes Golf Course.

McClannahan finished tied for ninth at the MCC Championships with a 90 at Horn Rapids.

Angela Park of Southridge was the Golfer of the Year, while Spencer Reiboldt of Pasco and Janet Schuster of Richland were Coaches of the Year. Park averaged a 71.8 over the six MCC matches.

MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE TENNIS

Girls

Player of the Year — Bryn Neal, so., Richland. **Coach of the Year** — Chuck Hamaker-Teals, Southridge.

First team

Bryn Neal, so., Richland; Emma Hamaker-Teals, sr., Southridge; Janie Buckingham, so., Kennewick; Addi Caplinger, jr., Hermiston; Courtney Tran, fr., Southridge; Paige Beck, sr., Chiawana; Carson Fangman, sr., Chiawana.

Second team

Leah Thompson, sr., Hanford; Charly Scherbarth, sr., Kamiakin; Ashlyn Hofbauer, sr., Hermiston; Violet Mitchell, sr., Hermiston; Korin Clark, sr., Kamiakin; Cassia Vinci, jr., Richland.

Honorable mention

Meigan Crowder, jr., Southridge; Cassidy Gale, sr., Southridge; Mia DeGarmo, sr., Southridge.

Boys

Player of the Year — Sonny Bravo, so., Hanford. **Coach of the Year** — Craig Klatt, Hanford.

First team

Sonny Bravo, so., Hanford; Matthew Morrison, fr., Richland; Isaac Contreras, so., Kamiakin; Jackson Clary, jr., Kennewick; Hayden Jones, jr., Hanford; Shaheer Arif, sr., Richland.

Second team

Sam Tachery, sr., Walla Walla; Kyle Bachman, jr., Chiawana; Max Kobieska, jr., Richland; Andrew Smith, so., Richland; Connor Hrebeniuk, sr., Hanford; Miguel Salvador, sr., Hermiston; Max Spencer, sr., Hermiston.

Honorable mention

Ken Higgins, fr., Walla Walla; Humayl Hashmi, so., Hanford; Edward Ghannam, so., Hanford.

For the boys, Carter Sheets of Richland was the Player of the Year, while Richland's Mike Neidhold was Coach of the Year.

Hermiston has four players named to MCC baseball team

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — The Hermiston Bulldogs still are trying to navigate the talent-rich Mid-Columbia Conference, but they are making inroads with four players earning honorable mention honors this spring.

Senior Rustin Edmiston was selected as a pitcher, senior Spencer Juul at catcher, senior Gavin Hunter as a relief pitcher, and junior Chase Elliott as a utility player.

"That league is really, really tough," Hermiston coach Kevin Moore said. "For Hermiston to get four kids is outstanding for our program. Usually when a team struggles (4-11 record), they usually don't get any. We got four kids on there, which is fabulous."

Kamiakin junior Payton Graham was named conference MVP, while Richland senior Mason Brunson was voted Pitcher of the Year. Richland's



Hunter



Edmiston



Juul



Elliott

Grant Richardson was named Coach of the Year.

Edmiston, a right-handed pitcher, has signed to play at Yakima Valley Community College. He threw a team-high 25.1 innings with a 7.737 ERA. He struck out 25 while walking 19.

At the plate, he hit .311 with three doubles, one home run, 16 RBIs and he scored 16 runs.

Juul, who has signed to play at Wenatchee Valley Community College, hit .302 over 15 games. He had five doubles, two home runs, 11 RBIs and scored 10 runs. In the field, he had just two errors.

Blue Mountain Community College is the next stop for

Hunter. He hit .324 in 37 at-bats. He had nine RBIs, scored 11 runs and committed just three errors. On the mound, he pitched 10 innings with a 2.80 ERA.

"It's a testament to those kids who want to play at the next level," Moore said of his seniors. "I cannot be more appreciative of how hard to continue to work during the season and offseason. I appreciate them as players."

Elliott, who will return next season, played everything from pitcher to second base to outfield. He hit .282 with four doubles, one home run, seven RBIs and scored a team-high 20 runs. On the mound, he threw 16 innings with a 6.125 ERA.

MID-COLUMBIA CONFERENCE BASEBALL

Player of the Year — Payton Graham, jr., Kamiakin. **Pitcher of the Year** — Mason Brunson, sr., Richland. **Coach of the Year** — Grant Richardson, Richland.

First team

Pitcher — Mason Brunson, sr., Richland; Cade Puckett, sr., Kennewick. **C** — Jackson Lind, sr., Kennewick. **First base** — Cade Puckett, sr., Kennewick. **Second base** — Trevor Ridley, sr., Kennewick. **Third base** — Payton Graham, jr., Kamiakin. **Shortstop** — Daniel Dickinson, jr., Kennewick. **Outfield** — Nate Gray Jr., Jr., Kamiakin; Simeon Howard, jr., Kennewick; Carson Craig, sr., Richland. **Utility** — Will Kytola, jr., Walla Walla. **DH** — Devyn Hernandez, sr., Chiawana. **Relief pitcher** — Drew Jošson, so., Richland.

Second team

Pitcher — Payton Graham, jr., Kamiakin; Cameron Kallsen, jr., Richland. **C** — Scott Artzer, sr., Richland. **First base** — Jayden Gill, sr., Chiawana. **Second base** — Trevor Dame, sr., Richland. **Third base** — Andrew hall, so., Walla Walla. **Shortstop** — Eden Blanco, sr., Chiawana. **Outfield** — Joey Weissenfels, jr., Richland; Kayden Mitchel, sr., Kennewick; Nico Garcia, sr., Pasco. **Utility** — Matty Carlson, sr., Hanford. **DH** — Kooper Jones, so., Richland. **Relief pitcher** — Landon Welter, so., Kamiakin.

Honorable mention

Pitcher — Will Kytola, jr., Walla Walla; Devyn Hernandez, sr., Chiawana; Rustin Edmiston, sr., Hermiston; Gaven Mattson, sr., Kennewick. **C** — Cael Mercado, sr., Hanford; Spencer Juul, sr., Hermiston. **First base** — Ian Kopf, sr., Walla Walla; Troy Molnaa, so., Richland. **Second base** — Diego Romero, sr., Chiawana; Brick Springen, jr., Kamiakin. **Third base** — Jase Vopalensky, so., Richland; Ivan Palomino, sr., Chiawana. **Shortstop** — Casey Swanson, sr., Walla Walla; Rustin Edmiston, sr., Hermiston. **Outfield** — Dylan Berry, sr., Southridge. **Utility** — Gaven Mattson, sr., Kennewick; Chase Elliott, jr., Hermiston. **Relief pitcher** — Gavin Hunter, sr., Hermiston.

SPORTS SHORT

EOU sits 27th in Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup standings

East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University's fall and winter sports programs in 2020-21 sits 27th overall in the Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup for the NAIA, according to a press release.

The Mountaineers, who have a total of 280.5 points, are the second highest ranked team out of the Cascade Collegiate Conference behind Lewis-Clark State College (Idaho) at 16th.

In the fall portion of the standings, the Mountaineers

racked up 141.5 points overall between the two postseason sports of women's soccer and volleyball. Women's soccer racked up 68.5 points en route to finishing ninth in the Learfield Cup standings, while volleyball led the way with 73 points and ranked fifth in the standings.

For the fall portion of the Learfield Cup standings, the Mountaineers racked up 139 points total between three sports. The track and field program for the indoor season had 83 combined points. The men led the way with 48.5 points, while the women

secured 34.5 points. Making up the final 56 points for the Mountaineers in the winter was men's wrestling, which finished 18th in the standings.

The final release of the NAIA Learfield IMG College Director's Cup standings will come out July 2 and will include spring sports as well. The Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in NAIA Championships.



Samantha Flett/Eastern Oregon University Athletics, File

The Eastern Oregon University volleyball team celebrates April 3, 2021, in La Grande after defeating Lewis-Clark State College to win the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championship.