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Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian, File

Hermiston's Jayden Ray drives toward the basket during the first quarter against the Chiwana Riverhawks. Chiwana defeated the Hermiston Bulldogs 44-40 on June 15, 2021, at Hermiston High School. Ray was selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference second team for girls basketball.

Hermiston's Ray earns MCC basketball honor

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston's Jayden Ray was selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference second team for girls basketball.

Ray, a senior, averaged 10.64 points a game for the Bulldogs, who finished the season 6-8. Ray has signed to play college basketball for Pacific University.

Richland, Washington, sophomore Kylee Fox, who averaged 20 points a game, was named Player of the Year. Kamiakin sophomore Nikole Thomas was named the Defensive Player of the Year, and the Braves' Lane Schumacher was selected as Coach of the Year.

For the boys, Kamiakin swept the awards — junior Tyler Bilodeau was named Player of the Year, junior Trey Arland was the

Defensive Player of the Year, and Brian Meneely was Coach of the year.

Hermiston did not have any players selected to the all-conference team.

MCC bowling

Hermiston seniors Halle Pennington and McKenzie Hendrickson were named to the Mid-Columbia Conference girls bowling team.

Pennington, who averaged a 168.9 during the season, was named to the first team.

Hendrickson, whose average was 164.33, was named to the second team.

Kennewick junior Paige Harns, who averaged 190.96 during the season, was named Bowler of the Year. Her average was more than 10 pins better than the next player.

Kennewick's Tom Richardson was selected Coach of the Year by his peers.



Ray



Pennington



Hendrickson

Stone takes over Hermiston softball

Former Pendleton standout Lindsey will assist

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Amy Stone is quite familiar with the Hermiston softball program.

She was an assistant for her sister Kate Greenough from 2017 through the 2020 season, which was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Greenough left after that season, and Stone had her first child, Laynee, who just turned 1 year old.

With current coach Rebecca Pridmore moving out of the area, the Bulldogs' coaching job came open, and Stone threw her hat in the ring.

"I had to do the whole interview process," said Stone, who is a special education teacher at the high school. "It was pretty intimidating, I'm not going to lie. It worked out for the best."

Hermiston Athletic Director Larry Usher said the school district is happy to have Stone back in the coaching ranks.

"We are very excited that Amy has decided to return to the diamond and take on the challenge with our softball program," Usher said. "The Hermiston High School softball coaching staff and athletes will get the opportunity to play in the brand new softball complex on the high school campus, and we look forward to watching them compete this fall and spring."

Stone, 31, said she was hesitant to apply for the job, but is glad she did.

"Now that I have more of a grasp of being a first-time mom, I was ready to go," she said. "I have a super supportive husband (Justin). We discussed it and I decided to go for it. Coaching these kiddos, they mean the world to me. I feel like I still have a lot to give."

Stone is ready to get to work, starting with slow pitch in the fall and fast pitch in the spring.

"I am excited," she said. "The last time I was with a lot of these girls, they were freshmen. They are raring and ready to go. It's fun to see them excited. They are full of talent, they just have to put it all together."

While the Bulldogs have played fast pitch for years,



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

Amy Stone poses for a photo at the new Hermiston High School softball facility Friday, July 2, 2021. In the fall, Stone will take the reins as the head coach of the school's softball program.

the slow pitch came in a couple of years ago in the Mid-Columbia Conference.

"They are different, but they are so much fun," Stone said. "Some of the first-year girls, who didn't plan on playing, start with slow pitch. Slow pitch is important, but it's a different speed and you get to play your own game and have fun and be successful. I want to bring that back to Hermiston softball."

Growing up in the sport

Stone is a 2008 grad of David Douglas, and while she played high school and college softball, she had a ball in her hand long before

"Dad vowed he was going to have a boy and he would be left-handed," Stone said. "He had two girls. My mom used to work at night and Dad would have this thing where we had to grab things with our left hand. That didn't turn out his way, we were both right-handed."

But he did give them the love of sports.

"Dad took us to softball lessons, took us to camps and he watched videos and he really helped us," Stone said. "My dad still gives pitching lessons to softball players. It's been fun to watch him change over time."

Stone and her sister played basketball and soft-

until we moved here, but we played basketball against each other in high school," Stone said. "She was at Gresham, we were at David Douglas. She was scary. We hated playing against her."

A top assistant

Stone already has an assistant coach in place — former Pendleton standout Darian Lindsey.

Lindsey, an infielder, was the 5A Player of the Year in 2012, 2014 and 2015, and helped the Bucks win state titles in all three years.

"She's a badass and a great person," Stone said. "I'm excited to have her on my coaching staff. What was neat, I introduced her to a few of the girls and you could tell by their faces they were stoked. They were pumped that she was going to be part of the program."

Lindsey played one season at Mount Hood Community College. She led the team with a .477 batting average, along with 14 home runs, 46 RBIs and 68 runs.

The Saints won the 2016 NWAC title. Lindsey was the Southern Region Player of the Year, and was the NWAC all-tournament team, and was a first-team All-American.

From Mount Hood, Lindsey went to Portland State, where she was named Big Sky Conference Newcomer of the Year and was a second-team Big Sky selection as a sophomore.

Her junior year, she started all 51 games for the Vikings. She hit .404 on the year with 20 doubles, seven home runs and 33 RBIs. She earned first-team Big Sky honors.

"She knows what it takes to be good," Stone said. "This will be her first coaching experience. We know how to get them to where they need to be if they are willing to work that hard."

"SHE'S A BADASS AND A GREAT PERSON. I'M EXCITED TO HAVE HER ON MY COACHING STAFF."

— Amy Stone, Hermiston softball coach

she put on a uniform.

Amy and Kate's dad, Steve Greenough, was an all-star left-handed pitcher for South Eugene High School. He was drafted out of high school in the 22nd round of the 1969 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the New York Yankees.

Greenough opted to go to college, and played for the University of Oregon. He later was drafted in the 15th round of the 1972 MLB draft by the San Francisco Giants while he was playing for the Ducks. He played four years of minor league ball, posting a 3.17 ERA over 101 games.

While at Oregon, Greenough roomed with teammate Jim Dillingham. Greenough would later marry Dillingham's sister Linda.

ball at David Douglas. Kate, a pitcher, went on to play softball at Northern Illinois, then Utah State her junior and senior years.

Stone, a pitcher and first baseman, played one year of softball at Blue Mountain Community College, then transferred to Wenatchee Valley. Once she had her associate's degree, she went to Corban University, where she finished her playing career and her education degree.

Kate Greenough took over the Hermiston program at the start of the 2015-16 school year, and Stone joined her a year later as an assistant coach.

At Hermiston, they ran into an old foe in Bulldogs track coach Emilee Strot.

"We didn't know Emilee

SPORTS SHORT

Former OSU star leaves \$1,000 tip at Portland IHOP

By ARON YOHANNES
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Chad Johnson is a generous man.

One of the most entertaining players the game of football has ever seen, Johnson shares much of that same flair off the field.

He showed that off Friday, July 2, while dining locally in Portland.

The former Oregon State star was at an IHOP near Portland International Airport getting his

usual unhealthy slate of food — this time in the form of pancakes, where his bill at the restaurant totaled \$33.53. His tip? A massive \$1,000.

The tip didn't come without a final message, however. The star wide receiver left a little jab for Portland Trail Blazers star Damian Lillard.

"I beat Damian Lillard in 1 on 1 years ago in the YMCA," Johnson scribbled.

A Cincinnati Bengals legend,

Johnson has left generous tips of that amount before. He told The New York Post he's been doing it for 20 years.

Once during a visit in Houston, he left a \$1,300 tip on a \$107.17 bill at James Harden's Thirteen Houston restaurant. He left another \$1,000 tip at Houston's Turkey Leg Hut.

No official video proof of Johnson's 1-on-1 victory against Lillard is out there (yet). Until then, we'll have to take his word.



Former Cincinnati wide receiver Chad Johnson, front, runs the ball as Baltimore's Willie Gaston tries to tackle him Nov. 11, 2007, in Baltimore. Johnson was at an IHOP near Portland International Airport July 2, 2021, where his bill at the restaurant totaled \$33.53. His tip? A massive \$1,000.

Gail Burton/The Associated Press, File