

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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Three Bulldogs earn MCC basketball honors

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

HERMISTON — Hermiston had freshman Izzy Simmons and senior Katelyn Heideman selected to the Mid-Columbia Conference girls all-conference team that was announced Wednesday, Feb. 16.

“I think it’s the first time Hermiston has had two players on the all-league team since we moved into the MCC,” Bulldogs coach Jay Ego said.

Simmons was named to the second team, while Heideman was selected to the honorable mention team.

Simmons, a 5-foot-7 point guard, who was limited to 15 games because of an ankle injury, averaged 19.6 points a game and was the fourth leading scorer in the conference.

In MCC play, Simmons averaged 20.9 points, nine rebounds, five assists and 3.4 steals a game.

Heideman, a 5-5 shooting guard who has signed to play at University of Providence, averaged 13.7 points a game over 21 games.

In the MCC, she averaged 13.8 points, 1.6 rebounds, 1.6 assists and two steals a game.



Heideman



Olsen



Simmons

“She has learned to put the ball on the floor and go to the basket,” Ego said.

The Bulldogs, who finished 8-8 in conference play, will lose five seniors, but will return Simmons, fellow freshman Ellie Heideman, junior Adrianna Coleman and several others.

“We have a big core of girls coming back,” Ego said. “Bailey (Young) is a huge presence for us inside. She has kind of taken over the boards (12.8 rebound per game). She will be hard to replace.”

Richland junior Kylee Fox was named conference MVP for the second year in a row, while Leanna Lepe of Pasco was named Defensive Player of the Year. Aaron Barcot of Pasco was named Coach of the Year by his peers.

MCC BOYS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year: Tyler Bilodeau, sr., Kamiakin.
Defensive Player of the Year: Tyler Bilodeau, sr., Kamiakin.

Coch of the Year: Earl Streufert, Richland.

First team
Tyler Bilodeau, sr., Kamiakin; Trey Arland, sr., Kamiakin; Diego Jaques, sr., Walla Walla; Twazae Gladney, sr., Richland; Josh Woodward, so., Richland.

Second team
Cash Callaway, sr., Chiawana; Daniel Dickinson, sr., Kennewick; Kade Smith, jr., Chiawana; Con-

nor Mendez, sr., Chiawana; Nate Gray, sr., Kamiakin; Luke Westfield, so., Richland.

Honorable mention
Ayden Knapik, sr., Kennewick; Grant Olsen, so., Hermiston; Tyler Mattioli-Butcher, sr., Kennewick; Kaden Bradshaw, sr., Richland.

Defensive team
Tyler Bilodeau, sr., Kamiakin; Twazae Gladney, sr., Richland; Trey Arland, sr., Kamiakin; Luke Westfield, so., Richland; Jase Vopalensky, jr., Richland; Bryce Cramer, sr., Hanford.

MCC GIRLS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year: Kylee Fox, jr., Richland.
Defensive Player of the Year: Leanna Lepe, jr., Pasco.

Coch of the Year: Aaron Barcot, Pasco.

First team
Kylee Fox, jr., Richland; Mya Groce, sr., Pasco; Malia Ruud, fr., Chiawana; Iliana Moran, sr., Hanford; Nikole Thomas, jr., Kamiakin.

Second team
Tajia Mackey, sr., Pasco; Izzy Simmons, fr., Hermiston; Macie Milum, so., Richland; Maddy Ran-

dall, jr., Kamiakin; Aniyaj Heavens, sr., Chiawana; Haylee Johnson, so., Kennewick.

Honorable mention
Katelyn Heideman, sr., Hermiston; Leanna Lepe, jr., Pasco; Taleya Maiden, sr., Pasco; Lynnea Moran, so., Hanford; Dyllyn Dress, fr., Kennewick.

Defensive team
Leanna Lepe, jr., Pasco; Nikole Thomas, jr., Kamiakin; Mya Groce, sr., Pasco; Kylee Fox, jr., Richland; Tajia Mackey, jr., Pasco.

MCC boys

Hermiston sophomore Grant Olsen was named to the Mid-Columbia Conference honorable mention team by the conference coaches.

Olsen, a 6-4 forward, averaged 20.35 points a game. He was third in the conference in scoring behind Kamiakin’s Tyler Bilodeau (23.32) and Walla Walla’s Diego Jaques (22.20).

Olsen also had six rebounds and two assists

a game for the Bulldogs, who finished 4-12 in MCC play.

Bilodeau, a 6-8 forward, has signed to play at Oregon State University. He was named the MCC Player of the Year for the second year in a row. He also was named the Defensive Player of the Year.

Richland’s Earl Streufert was named Coach of the Year.

Yellow perch on ice Home again



BRAD TRUMBO

UPLAND PURSUITS



A few stunning little yellow perch are a prized ice fishing catch.



One of the beautiful bluegill sunfish that nabbed the fly.

Heavy snow and frigid temperatures in late December and early January may have kept me from traveling for a New Year vacation, but ice forming thick on one of my favorite yellow perch lakes was an acceptable consolation.

My fishing friend Chas lives about three hours closer to the lake than I, so it was no surprise to see he was already set up when I finally arrived in early afternoon. We planned to stay in a cabin nearby for a couple nights to see if we could dial in the perch, and anything else that would entertain the variety of gear in our tackle boxes.

The sun was settling behind the western ridges as I donned my arctic survival suit and hit the ice. Chas had no luck where he had started, so we moved across the lake to an area where a shallow “weed bed” extended from the foot of a dark timbered ridge. I was hoping to find an area between 8 and 15 feet deep on the fringe of vegetation where perch might linger, but also something attractive for cruising trout to keep things interesting.

We played the exhausting game of drilling a line of holes until we felt out the depth range, which left my desk-job arms feeling a bit quivery. Sixteen inches of ice drilling with a semi-dull manual auger makes one reconsider the gas-powered options. Finally dialing in between 8 and 12 feet above the weeds, we located a school of perch and sunfish, but the fish were picky and delicate. Having started with a small spoon, I switched out to a bead-head fly tied with a

red floss body and a few straight feather filament tail strands. An extremely simplistic fly — small, attractive and tipped with a Berkley maggot bait.

The mercury plummeted the last half-hour of daylight, but the bite got hot with yellow perch and bluegill gently sucking up the little baited fly and finding their way through the hole. I use an old-school flasher that basically sends a sound wave down and reads the intensity in which its reflected by surfaces and objects. The fly appeared

as a thin yellow line. When fish approached the fly, they too appeared as a thin yellow line, at first. But as they closed in, the line thickened and turned green, then red outlined in green and yellow when they were right on top of the fly. As I jigged the little fly about a foot off the bottom, green lines continually blipped beneath as fish moved about the area. They were small, but the action was exceptional and watching the lines on the flasher appear and change colors is just as thrilling

now as it was when I first acquired the technology 20 years ago.

The next morning, we found ourselves back at the holes from the night before and the bite was once again on. The sun had barely laid a peach glow across the ridges to the south when the first yellow perch gave in to the little bead-head fly. Chas was into them as well and we bantered across the 15 feet that separated our holes, sharing tips on baits and asking if the other was seeing any fish when the bite would wane.

Curiosity caused us to move to other areas looking for bigger fish which proved fruitless, save for a single tiger trout that Chas lured in by jiggling a rattling crankbait. Luckily, no one laid claim to our original holes, and we settled back onto them for the evening bite.

Rainbow trout were cruising that evening and taking the little flies tipped with the maggot or a small piece of nightcrawler to add a little flavor. While the perch and sunfish mostly pecked at the fly, the cruising rainbows would snag it on the go, leaving the drag zinging on our jig rods. Red squirrels chat-

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Pendleton’s Davis transfers to EOU to continue football career

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

LA GRANDE — Eastern Oregon University football coach Tim Camp was disappointed in the spring of 2019 when Pendleton High School receiver Blake Davis chose to play at Western Oregon University.

The Mounties coach is all smiles now. Davis transferred from Western Oregon University to EOU at the start of winter quarter.

“He should have never gone,” Camp said. “He is a pretty special kid. I’ve been watching him over the years and he has been impressive. It’s good for him to get a clean slate. He has a good work ethic, and we are building his strength levels. He is not afraid of hard work. That is the true sign of a Mountie.” Davis has three seasons of eligibility to give the Mounties, and he’s excited to get started.

“I loved Western,” Davis

said. “It was a great place. It made me a better football player, and a smarter football player. It prepared me for what’s ahead, but I wanted to maximize my playing career. I like coach Camp and what he has going on here. He is a personable coach and he cares for his players off the field. They like what I can do. I bought in and I’m ready to go.”

When he was in high school, Davis was one of the top wide receivers in Oregon. At WOU, he played special teams.

“It was only my first year of eligibility, and I played special teams and I loved it,” Davis said. “My best friend Andre Martinez (from Lake Oswego) and I both played a lot of special teams. We were headed into another year of being twos. We were ready to find another place to ball out.”

Martinez also has joined the Mounties for the upcoming season. He and Davis were part of Western’s 2019 GNAC championship team.

The 6-foot, 180-pound Davis is excited to get back to his natural position.

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ON THE SLATE

Schedule subject to change

SATURDAY, FEB. 19

Prep girls basketball

Big Sky League title game: Ione/Arlington vs. Echo, site and time TBD
Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Union vs. Stanfield/Enterprise, Pendleton Convention Center, 7:45 p.m.

Prep boys basketball

Blue Mountain Conference district playoffs: Heppner vs. Stanfield/Union, Pendleton Convention Center, 6 p.m.

Prep boys and girls wrestling

Hermiston at Mat Classic XXXIII, Tacoma, 10 a.m.

Prep boys wrestling

Irrigon, Riverside at 3A Special District 1 Tournament, Nyssa, TBD
Heppner/Ione, Echo/Stamfield at Special District 4 Championships, Adrian, 10 a.m.

College men’s basketball

Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 4 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 5 p.m.

College women’s basketball

Wenatchee Valley at Blue Mountain, 2 p.m.
Eastern Oregon at Warner Pacific, 3 p.m.

College baseball

Eastern Oregon at Western Oregon (2), noon

College men’s wrestling

Eastern Oregon at Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships, Havre, Montana, TBA

College women’s lacrosse

Willamette at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 20

College baseball
Eastern Oregon at Western Oregon (2), noon

College softball

Blue Mountain at Lewis & Clark College (2), noon

College women’s lacrosse

Linfield at Eastern Oregon, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 21

College men’s basketball
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 7:30 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Blue Mountain at Yakima Valley, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 22

Prep boys basketball
Pendleton at Hood River Valley, 5:45 p.m.

Prep girls basketball

Pendleton at Hood River, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 23

College men’s basketball
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 7:30 p.m.

College women’s basketball
Walla Walla at Blue Mountain, 5:30 p.m.

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