

EAST OREGONIAN SPORTS

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SOFTBALL



Erick Olson/Umatilla High School softball coach
Some members of the 2021-22 Umatilla High School varsity softball team and coaches pose for a photo. The team saw 15 of its 25 players earn All-American Scholar Athlete honors.

Umatilla players earn NFCA academic honors

Vikings had 15 players with a GPA of 3.5 or better

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

UMATILLA — Fifteen of Umatilla's 25 softball players earned Easton/NFCA All-American Scholar Athlete honors for the 2021-22 school year.

The National Fastpitch Coaches Association annually honors student-athletes who have completed a full school year with a 3.5 or better grade point average.

"We were really happy to be able to maintain that (GPA), considering how frequently we were in action," Vikings coach Erick Olson said. "Between the two programs we had 46 games."

The Vikings, including manager Luis Ortega-Cardenas, finished the season

with a cumulative GPA of 3.4936.

The players will get a certificate for their accomplishment.

"It's an opportunity that can be meaningful on a resumé, especially on college applications," Olson said.

The softball team also earned Oregon School Activities Association academic honors and earned Umatilla OSAA Cup points for the year.

The NFCA honored the following players: seniors Danica Hartsteen, Nancy Jaimes, Thalia Trujillo and Kyleigh Wheeler; juniors Piper Dilley, Ryleigh Freel and Meeka Holmes; sophomores Braelyn Cragun, Mischa Hill and Maddisyn Rico; and freshmen Mayeli Cardenas, Ciralynn Larsen, Jaily Rodriguez-Gonzalez, Esperansa Rodriguez-Ruiz and Kaylonni Schafer-Cranston.

TRACK AND FIELD

Hermiston's Hottman, Young earn spots on MCC first team

Hottman was the top shot put and discus thrower in the MCC

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian



Hottman



Young

HERMISTON — Hermiston's Caden Hottman was named to the Mid-Columbia Conference first team for shot put and discus, while teammate Bailey Young was a first-team selection for the girls shot put.

Hottman placed first in both events at every MCC meet this spring. He threw 56 feet, 4 inches in the shot put at the MCC Championships, then broke the school record with a mark of 57-9 at the 3A state meet.

Hottman also won both events at the prestigious Pasco Invite.

In the discus, he broke his own school record with a toss of 185-8 on March 31, and won the 3A state title in May.

Young had a monster spring in the shot put. After placing second at the Richland jamboree, she never lost another competition. She also won titles at the Pasco Invite and the Oregon Relays.

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SPORTS BRIEFING

Hermiston athletes place at national meet

EUGENE — Three Hermiston athletes earned their way onto the awards podium June 16-19 at the Nike Outdoor National Championship at Hayward Field.

Recent graduate Caden Hottman, who is headed to Washington State University, unleashed a throw of 204 feet, 10 inches to place second in the boys hammer championship division, and better his own school record.

Jeremiah Nubbe of Rainier, Washington, who has signed to throw at Texas, won the event with a toss of 236-4.

Hottman also competed in

the discus (165-3) but did not make the finals.

Jaysen Rodriguez placed fourth in the boys freshman mile with a time of 4:26.81.

Ryker McDonald finished ninth in the boys shot put emerging elite division with a throw of 49-7¼. He also ran the 100 (11.30), but did not make the finals.

Bailey Young, who recently won the 3A state titles in the shot put and discus, placed fifth in the shot put with a mark of 45-9, which came on her final throw. Young, who is headed to Eastern Washington University, also was 24th in the discus with a toss of 109-7.

Mensi Stiff of Lewisburg, Tennessee, won the shot put with a heave of 51-8¼.

—EO Media Group

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Bilingual basketball camp returns to Irrigon

By ANNIE FOWLER
East Oregonian

IRRIGON — It's unique, it's free and it's back.

The second annual bilingual basketball camp is set to return July 23-24 to Irrigon Elementary School, and camp coordinator Mitch Thompson is hoping for another big turnout.

"I don't think there is anything quite like it in Oregon," Thompson said. "How intentional we are about speaking Spanish. As long as we have support and time, we will keep doing it."

There are various camp times each day. Prekindergarten through third grade will go at 9 a.m., followed by fourth through sixth grade at 11 a.m. After a quick lunch, seventh and eighth graders will hit the courts at 1 p.m. High school players will have a three-on-three tourney format in the evening.



East Oregonian, File

Isaac Colin, 10, tosses a bounce pass to a partner July 31, 2021, during the free bilingual basketball camp at A.C. Houghton Elementary School in Irrigon. The camp returns July 23-24, 2022, at the Irrigon Elementary School.

SIGNING UP

Camp sign ups are online at bit.ly/3QCb5qE and are in English and Spanish. The camp is open to all interested players in Umatilla, Morrow and surrounding counties.

Each player should bring their own water bottle, and there will be music and prizes.

The camp saw 160 young people during the two-day event last summer at A.C. Houghton Elementary School.

"The school district has been a big help," Thompson said. "(Principal) Stephanie

Ewing has been very helpful and appreciative of our efforts. She said the kids were excited about their haircuts and basketballs."

Ewing said information about the event is on the school's Facebook page, and she hopes youths will take advantage of the camp.

"We are trying to get the word out as best we can,"

she said. "It's local, at their school, they feel comfortable and it's bilingual. It's pretty neat that there are extracurricular events they can participate in with no barriers."

Every camp participant will receive a free basketball, school supplies and a barber will be on site for those wanting a haircut.

"There is no barber shop in Irrigon," Thompson said. "It's a big deal."

Thompson, who coached the Irrigon Knights 2015-16, has kept in touch with his former players. He and Adrian Romero hatched a plan for the camp last year and put the pieces in motion.

"It's a really unique group of guys," Thompson said of his former players. "I started coaching them eight years ago and we have stayed in touch. We just want to find a way to give back. They are high level people. If we can rejuvenate some energy into basketball and get them playing, the better. COVID was hard on these kids."

Former Irrigon players slated to help at the camp are Adrian Romero,

See Camp, Page B2

HIV isn't just a big city issue.

More than half of Oregonians with HIV live outside of Portland, often in suburbs and small towns like this one.

Good neighbors chip in to get the job done. And we've got work to do on HIV prevention. People in rural Oregon are more likely to get a late-stage diagnosis, and a lack of HIV treatment may harm your health, or your partner's. Detected early, HIV is more easily managed and you can live a long, healthy life. Getting tested is a sign of strength, not weakness. Learn more and find free testing at endhivoregon.org

