

Switzler's points come at the right times

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

He doesn't start, and if the public address announcer doesn't call his name, he might not be noticed when he comes into the game.

But people notice when Larry Switzler pops a three-pointer or makes a perfect pass inside. Even if he does either only once a game, it's usually at a critical time, when a big play is necessary.

Switzler, a senior, averages 3.4 points per game off the bench for the Madras boys basketball team.

He is also a Warm Springs tribal member, the only one on this season's team.

"He comes in and gives us great minutes at the point," Madras coach Evan Brown said. "He's a good defender, and he's a good strong kid. And he's got the ability to score."

Though his average, which has peaked at just over four points a game, may not necessarily reflect his ability to put points on the board, his points tend to come in big moments.

He scored a season-high 11 points against Sherwood at the Sisters Tournament and then came back to hit a big first-half three-pointer against the same Bowmen in the Buffs' Tri-Valley Conference-opening win.

"I just come off the bench and handle the ball and try to get looks and try to get the ball



Larry Switzler

inside to my posts inside, and if I can't get it to them, set up a play," he said.

After a four-game stretch in which he scored 27 points in four games, through the start of the league season, Switzler has since cooled down.

"My past couple games haven't been so good," he said. "A couple games, I'd score a couple points and had a lot assists to my posts and hit the outside shot in some of my games."

"My past couple games against LaSalle and Estacada were pretty bad games. I didn't really handle the ball that well. I didn't really shoot that well."

Though he's a senior, Switzler is on the Madras varsity for the first time this year.

"He's been in the program for a while, so he knows our system," Brown said. "It's his game experience he has to catch

up on."

"I didn't have time to come (to Madras from Warm Springs), and my grades kind of hurt me, and I didn't go to tournaments (in the off-season) last year, either," he said. "I usually go to tournaments every year, and I didn't go to any last year."

What occupied his time, he said, was helping his father on his family's ranch in the Tenino area. Switzler and his family live in the Greeley Heights area of the reservation.

"With the growing pains he's going through now, you hope he would have gone through them a year ago (had Switzler played)," Brown said.

"Coach said I would have been way more useful if I'd played last year," Switzler said.

He learned to play basketball through a friend, Steven James, who took young players like Switzler to basketball tournaments all over the West, as far as Nevada and Utah, beginning when he was in fifth grade.

Switzler only plays basketball at Madras High. His other sport is on the ranges of the reservation.

"I ride horses all summer," he said.

Switzler's biggest game all season was the 11-point effort against Sherwood Dec. 30.

"It felt pretty good. I handled the ball. I shot it well," he said. "My teammate Kevin Hernandez, he drove in and

dished it and saw me out on the three (-point arc), and I drained it when I was wide open."

Though he's come off the bench all season, the Buffs have been their best when Switzler's contributed. He scored in all but one of the nine straight games the Buffs won through December and early January.

In fact, Brown would like Switzler to shoot even more.

"He's a good shooter, and we've been harping on him to do that more often," he said. "He's almost too unselfish."

Switzler is one of four seniors on the Buffs this season. As a first-year player on varsity, he is one of the quieter seniors on the team, naturally deferring to Hernandez, the Buffs' lone returning starter from last year, Brown said.

Despite splitting their first six games in Tri-Valley League play, including losses in two of the three home games in that stretch, the Buffs are among a group of four teams equally qualified to earn either second or third place in the league and state playoff berth.

"We have a pretty good chance," Switzler said. "We talked about it earlier today (at practice last week), about what chances we have and who's going to have a pretty good chance of finishing out and taking second. We have a pretty good chance."

BUFF BULLETIN: The Buff boys play at Gladstone tomorrow to avenge a 57-49 home loss Jan. 11 before playing their last two regular-season home games, against Wilsonville, the No. 1 team in Class 3A for most of the season Feb. 10 and LaSalle Feb. 15... the Buffs scored four points in the last three seconds to beat Sherwood, 64-63, last Friday... the win put the Buffs alone in second place in the Tri-Valley League ... the top three teams make the Class 3A state playoffs... Sherwood plays its last three games at home, while LaSalle plays two of its last three at home... Gladstone plays its last three games on the road... senior Hernandez continues to lead the Buffs with a 13.8 per-game average, while senior Luke Telfer averages 10.4 per contest

and junior Jordan Say has scored 8.7 per game... Marcus Zacarias' 13 points against Sherwood was his season-high and included three three-pointers... The Madras girls basketball team hosts Gladstone tomorrow and travels to Wilsonville Feb. 10 and LaSalle Feb. 15 before hosting Estacada Feb. 18... The Lady Buffs are in second place in the Tri-Valley with a 5-2 record and have won four straight games, five of their last six... freshman Brianna Stacona continues to lead the team in scoring at 12.7 points per game, while Jaylyn Suppah averages 10.3 and Susan Ahern 10.6... Raylene Thomas now averages 9.1 points... Suppah scored 67 points in a four-game stretch through Jan. 21, while Thomas scored 45 in a recent four-game string.

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Warm Springs youth represent tribes at Box Offs

By Austin Smith
Boxing Coach

Friday night fights: 2005 Oregon State Senior Championships and Saturday match bouts, Jan. 28-29.

Clubs from all parts of Oregon came this past weekend to take in the Oregon Senior Box Offs that was hosted by Mark Evens and the Central Oregon Boxing Club. The event took place at Eagle Crest Resort. There were some good boxing matches at this fight night with only a couple not going the full distance.

Friday had four championship bouts scheduled for action, with three of them being represented by Native America. Louis Smith from the Warm Springs Nation Boxing Club, in the 141 pound weight class boxed Gavin Scott of West Portland Boxing Club but lost a tough four round decision.

In the 178 pound weight class it was Chippewa Pedro Rodriguez of Bend's Deschutes County Boxing Club and Javier Torres from the Medford Bulldogs Boxing Club. It was a tough fight to call and had spectators at a high point in this fight night. Chippewa got the nod and got the win and will advance to the Northwest Regional Senior Box Offs in Pasco, Wash.

In the 132 pound weight

class, Jackson Bussell, another Native from the Klamath Tribes, of the Self Defense Boxing Club, came with game and went up against the National Olympic runner up, Ray Lampkin Jr., Knott Street Boxing Club of Portland. An action packed bout that went to Lampkin by a decision.

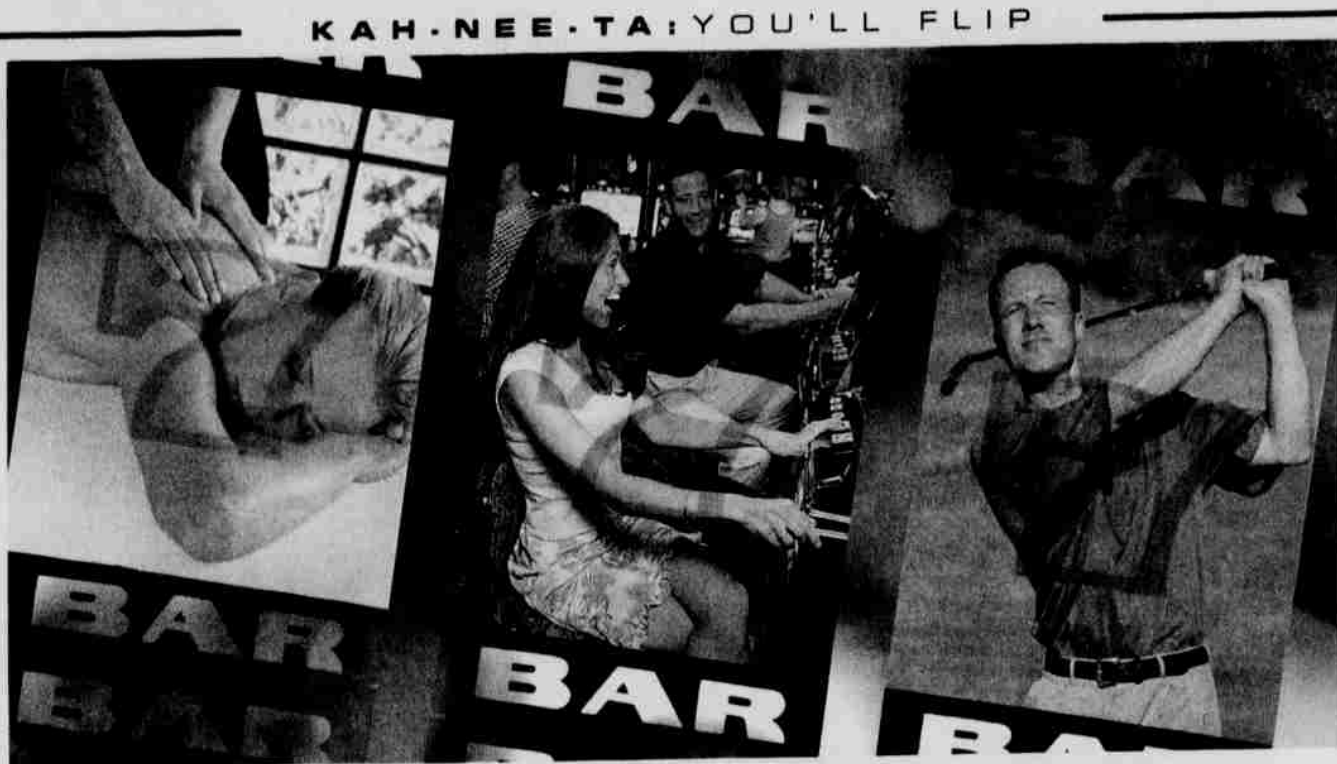
The Match Bouts had some good action to express too, and Warm Springs' Jasper Smith wanted to win, but just needs more sparring to make it happen. Jasper lost his return match with Central Oregon's Antonio Villanueva in the 125 pound weight class. Remember when Rocky was trying to catch that chicken but gave up the chase? It takes hard work and a lot of self-discipline and knowing what to change and how to change it. It's not the mind or the will that changes. It's our nature that keeps us alive with what we do and decides what we should care about, so it doesn't seem important at the time, but if you want to win you've got to go for it each day that you train and every time that bell rings, concentrate, read, for the exercise remember what it is that you're supposed to be doing with your life and don't forget, your body rules in the game of sports.

The Warm Springs Boxing Club will be working forward for the up and coming Fred Enslow Memorial Boxing Tour-

namment at Portland, Feb. 26-27. We have a couple of new members that are expected to enter the ring for the first time at this tournament. Nathan Youngman, a 70 pound lightning fast and hard to trap good skills athlete. Also, but not too old, Jamie Halliday will re-enter the ring for

the first time since December 7, 2003.

If you want to box, we're boxing, so come down and work out and get some sparring in. It's at the basement boxing gym of the Warm Springs Community Center.



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Meeting to discuss student funds

The Johnson O'Malley (JOM) program is funded annually by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to provide supplemental education services to Indian students enrolled in the 509-J school district. JOM funds currently provide the activity bus from the middle and high schools to Warm Springs, a kindergarten teacher assistant at Warm Springs Elementary School, a middle school tutor, and the teen parenting program and

child care assistant. There is an informational parent meeting to review the current services provided and review the 2005 plan. Parents of students currently enrolled in the 509-J district are invited to attend. The meeting is at 6 p.m. Wed., Feb. 9 at the Family Resource Center conference room. Please call Julie Quaid, Essential Education director, at 553-3544 for more information.