

Basketball squad looking to post season

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

Going into the last three games of the regular season, the Madras White Buffalo boys basketball team still has a golden opportunity to win the Tri-Valley League title, or at least lock up a trip to the Class 3A State Tournament without playing a league playoff game.

The White Buffalos (15-6, 7-2 Tri-Valley as of Monday) faced first-place Wilsonville, ranked No. 5 in the last Associated Press poll, for a chance to move into first place in the league. Madras, Wilsonville (8-2) and Sherwood (7-2) each have two league losses. Wilsonville, which beat Madras, 90-72, Jan. 17, lost its second league game to Valley Catholic in overtime Friday, three days after the Madras beat the Valiants by five.

After Tuesday's game at Wilsonville, Madras is at 1-9 LaSalle Friday and returns home for its regular-season finale against 2-7 Estacada.

Madras has won five straight games since the home loss to Wilsonville, averaging 83.4 points per game, only once scoring under 81 points.

Derek Metcalf continues to lead the team, averaging 15.7 points a game, while Jansen Harrington averages 12.9 and Marcus Zacarias is the third Buff in double-figures, at 10.8 points per game.

Tyler Ellsbury contributes 7.6 per game, while Carson Ahern has picked his average up to 7.1 per game, with the help of a season-high 17-point effort against Gladstone Friday.

With a three-pointer in 16 straight games, Albert Adams averages 6.9 points a game, while A.J. Adams is at 4.6. Orlando Tewee averages 2.6 a game in limited action.

A lot is at stake for the White Buffalos, depending on how they do over their last two regular-season games.

The league champion doesn't play until March 4, against the winner of a game between the third-place team from the Capital League, which may be Sisters, and the Greater Oregon League runner-up, which appears to be Baker, last year's state runner-up.

Second place in the Tri-Valley League hosts the third-place team from the GOL, which appears to be Riverside.

The third-place team, which must survive a Tri-Valley League playoff between the winner of the fourth and fifth-place teams (now Valley Catholic and Gladstone), travels to either North Bend, Sutherlin, or Coquille, whichever happens to finish second in the Far West League.

Girls team

For all of their struggles this

year, the Madras girls basketball team still has a chance at the postseason.

Now in sixth place in the Tri-Valley League with a 2-7 mark, they need only finish ahead of 3-7 LaSalle to get to fifth place and get into a league playoff.

Following their home game against Wilsonville Tuesday, the White Buffalos host LaSalle, one of two teams they've beaten in league action, and then end the regular season at Estacada.

Senior Susan Ahern's scoring average had dropped to under eight points a game, but four double-figure outings in her last five games, including a season-high 18 in a losing effort at Gladstone last Friday, boosted her average to 8.9 a game.

Briana Stacona continues to lead the White Buffalos at 11.8, after she started the Tri-Valley campaign at 15.5.

Shirelle Adams also has four double-figure games in her last five games and now averages 7.7 a game.

When Alyssa Selam scored against Gladstone Friday, it was her first bucket since the Jan. 17 game at Wilsonville. She averages 3.3 points a game.

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Begay hopes to win his first state tournament match

Madras' Blaine Begay, a Warm Springs tribal member, will make his third trip to the OSAA-U.S. Bank State Wrestling meet this weekend after finishing second in his weight class, 275 pounds, at the Tri-Valley League meet in Estacada Saturday.

Begay, the defending league champion, lost to Justin Torgeson of Estacada, which won the team championship, in the 275 lb. title match Saturday. Begay faces senior Ruben Mendoza of Riverside or junior Joe Cornett of Hidden Valley when action begins Thurs-

day. Begay is looking to win his first state-tournament match, as he has gone 0-2 in each of his trips to the meet.

The meet is at The Pavilion at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, beginning Thursday and continuing through Saturday.

Defending state champion Brennan Olander of North Valley is the No. 1 seed.

Madras sends 12 wrestlers to the state meet, including four champions as it finished second at the Tri-Valley League meet.

Nathan's offering tax services

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