

White Buffalo boys head to state tourney

By Brian Mortensen
Spilyay Tymoo

By the time this edition of the *Spilyay* reaches your hands, the Madras White Buffalo boys basketball team may have reached North Bend High School for the first round of the OSAA-U.S. Bank Class 3A State Basketball Tournament.

The White Buffaloes (18-7) were slated to make the 261-mile trip to the coast to play the Bulldogs (16-9) Wednesday and try for their first trip to the Class 3A Tournament site at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis since 2003.

The White Buffaloes are in the state playoffs as the No. 3 seed from the Tri-Valley League, after their 80-70 win over Valley Catholic at the Buffalo Dome Saturday. The Buffaloes hit 12 three-pointers in the first half and scored 34 points in the first period and led, 49-31, at the half. They had to hold off a late rally from the Valiants that saw their lead cut to four, 71-67, with just over two minutes left, but managed to hold on, thanks to clutch free throw shooting and a late three-pointer from Jansen Harrington.

Derrick Metcalf hit six of Madras's 12 three-pointers had a game-high 18 point, while Marcus Zacarias had 12. In a great show of balanced scoring, Harrington and Carson Ahern each had eight points, and Tyler Ellsbury, Orrin Wallace and Jordan Say each had seven. Their fate was all but secured when Sherwood handed Wilsonville its second loss in

three games, a 44-43 decision in Sherwood, and climbed into first place with only two losses to its credit. Wilsonville, which then had three losses, was then tied for second in the league with Madras. Wilsonville, though, which beat the Buffalos, 93-83, in Wilsonville Feb. 14, held tie-breaker edge over Madras by virtue of its season sweep.

The White Buffalos rebounded with an 82-61 win at LaSalle Feb. 17, and a 106-64 romp over Estacada on Senior Night Feb. 24, the third time Madras surpassed the century mark this season.

If Madras wins at North Bend Wednesday, it plays at Capital Conference champion Stayton Saturday. Stayton (19-6) won a tie-breaking playoff game against North Marion to earn that league's first seed last Thursday. The Eagles split with Sisters during Capital League play, while Madras beat Sisters by 29 points in their only meeting in December. Stayton also went 3-1 against four Tri-Valley League opponents in December, one of the wins being a curious 56-39 win over now TVL champion Sherwood Dec. 13, and lost in a low-scoring game to Wilsonville.

Should Madras win at North Bend and Stayton, it would join Class 3A's final round of eight at Gill Coliseum in Corvallis and play Skyline Conference champion Hidden Valley, the No. 1 team in the state that has not lost since Dec. 9 and has not lost to an Oregon opponent all

year, at 8:15 p.m. on March 9.

Madras, which is at its offensive prime, at a season-high 79.1 points per game, continues to have three players averaging in double figures, with the junior Metcalf leading with a 14.6 average, Harrington at 12.8 a game, and Zacarias at just under 12 a game.

Led by Ellsbury, at 7.7, the Buffs have five players averaging between five and eight points a game.

The Madras girls team's hope to return to the Class 3A playoffs went up in smoke Feb. 21 when it lost at Estacada, 59-50. The Buffs, who had struggled to a 7-15 mark and 3-8 record in league play, were still tied with LaSalle for the fifth and last Tri-Valley League playoff mark. All they needed to do was beat Eastacada, a team that had been winless in league play, at 0-11, had not won since beating 2A Heppner Dec. 29 and had not been beaten a 3A team since Dec. 1 (Molalla), to at least work itself into a tie-breaking playoff game the next night. LaSalle played Valley Catholic, which would have clinched at least a share of third place in the league with a win, at home.

Madras struggled to stop the Rangers and lost, 59-50, as LaSalle beat Valley Catholic, 41-36. The 59 points Estacada scored was a season-high, as the Rangers, which averaged 36 points a game through the season, had scored as many as 51 only once in the season.

Sophomore Briana Stacona,

who ended the season as the only Buffalo averaging double figures, at 12.04 a game, was the only Buffalo in double figures in that game, with 13. Contrast that to four days prior, the Buffs' home finale, when Madras beat LaSalle, 55-36, when Stacona scored 20 points and had two teammates, in Shirelle Adams, with 12, and Krista Haugen, with 10, assisting her. However, that 55-point effort was Madras' highest point total since its opening game of the season, when again, three players scored in double figures.

The encouraging news for Madras is that it loses only one senior, wing Susan Ahern, the team's last link to the 2003 Class 3A state championship win. Ahern, who was the Buffs' leading scorer as a sophomore in 2004, before the arrival of Stacona last year, struggled to an 8.5-per-game scoring average. A proven scorer and a consistent shooter, Ahern scored in double figures only six times in the Buffs' 23-game schedule, though two of them came in her last four games, including her 18-point season high at Gladstone Feb. 7.

Along with Stacona, the Buffs return Adams, a junior who averaged 7.7 points a game, and Haugen, a sophomore who contributed 5.7 at the post, and Jacoba Smith, who averaged 5.2 points in five games before being lost for the season due to injury. They'll also return guards Whitely Ruiz and Alyssa Selam, who both average 3.3 points a game.

Begay shows his best at championships

In his last chance at the OSAA-U.S. Bank Class 3A Wrestling Championships, Madras's Blaine Begay, a senior who is a Warm Springs tribal member, had his best tournament the weekend of Feb. 16-18.

Begay, who had gone 0-4 in two previous trips to the state tournament, went 3-2, including two pins, to finish seventh.

His finish helped the White Buffaloes finish seventh as a team, as three of his teammates left the weekend tournament in Salem with top-three finishes.

Begay, who was seeded second in the 275 pound, traditional heavyweight, competition, started, after a first-round bye, with a pin over Riverside senior Ruben Medoza, in two minutes, 44 seconds.

He then lost to the eventual runner-up, Nathan Hannah of Scappoose, 2-1, Friday, Feb. 17, to fall into the consolation bracket. The best Begay could have done from that point was finish third, by winning four matches in the consolation bracket.

But while there, he earned his second pin, over Tanner Bennett of Sutherlin, in 4:22, but then lost to Levi Cooper of North Marion, pinned in 2:24.

That put him into a match for seventh place against Emanuel Quintanilla of Cascade, which he won, 6-4.

Begay, who received his No. 2 seed at state despite finishing second at the Tri-Valley League tournament the previous weekend, was a league champion as a junior in 2005. He wrestled in Australia last year as part of the Down Under Games, and he was selected to play football in Great Britain later this month.

For Madras, which had an all-time high 12 wrestlers advance to the state meet, the weekend in Salem was a good one, with four wrestlers placing.

Cameron Rosenfeld upset No. 1 seed Vladi Pedersen of Central, in the 135-pound quarterfinals and moved into the championship match on Sat., Feb. 18. An unseeded wrestler, Rosenfeld, found himself up against Tyler Swartzlander of perennial and 2006 team champion Burns, the runner-up at 119 pounds in 2005. Swartzlander beat Rosenfeld by pin in 2:29, but Rosenfeld's runner-up finish ended up as Madras' top finish of the weekend. Corey Carrillo finished third at 130 pounds, and Chris Monroe was also third, at 140.

— By Brian Mortensen

News from Indian Country

Tribe, county at odds over loophole in smoking ban

FIFE, Wash. (AP) — Despite two citations for violating Washington's new statewide smoking ban, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians continues to let patrons light up at its Emerald Queen Casino.

Dr. Federico Cruz-Urbe, director of the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, says an agreement the tribe signed in 2004, allowing it to move the casino from waterfront land in the Port of Tacoma to an Interstate 5 location in Fife, requires that it be follow the same state and local laws as other businesses.

Tribal spokesman John Weymer counters the tribe is a sovereign nation, unencumbered by the smoking ban.

The dispute hinges on whether the voter-approved

smoking ban applies to tribal casinos that aren't on reservation land — an issue the law does not address.

The Puyallups' main casino near East Tacoma is on reservation land. The tribe can operate its other casino, at the Fife location of a former Best Western hotel on non-tribal land, for up to six years before it must enter a trust, said Susan Arland, a spokeswoman for the Washington State Gambling Commission.

Businesses on nontribal lands are subject to the ban, but Janelle Guthrie, spokeswoman for the Attorney General's office, said "it's not crystal clear whether or not it would be (enforceable) on trust lands."

The federal government holds trust land for use by Indian tribes, whose own governments deter-

mine rules on the land.

It's also not clear whether the ban is enforceable on Indian reservations, but it's "reasonably likely" that courts would find it isn't, Guthrie said. Neither situation has been challenged in court, she said, noting that she did not know of any pending cases.

Sen. Bob Morton, R-Orient, sent a letter to state Attorney General Rob McKenna asking for clarification on a several smoking ban questions, including several related to tribal businesses.

Requests for an attorney general's opinion typically take 60 to 90 days to complete, said Jim Pharris, deputy solicitor general.

In a Feb. 17 letter to the health department, Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg wrote the tribe "vol-

untarily made an enormous contribution to the economic vitality of our communities and should not now suffer" for moving its casino from trust land in the port to nontrust land in Fife. Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Belfair, has sponsored a bill that would immediately grant the Fife land trust status, the congressman's spokesman, George Behan, said. He noted that the U.S. Senate approved a companion bill last fall sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash.

County health inspectors twice visited the Emerald Queen Casino in the week after the smoking ban took effect Dec. 8. Inspectors cited the casino for allowing people to smoke inside the building and for not posting "no smoking" signs.

Officials press for ruling on casino application

BELOIT, Wis. (AP) — City officials hope to use an upcoming conference in Washington, D.C. as an opportunity to encourage federal action on a local casino application.

Beloit City Manager Larry Arft and Council President Marty Densch say they want the application to receive a fair hearing, but the approval process has gotten bogged down by politics.

The St. Croix and Bad River Band Chippewa filed the application late last year, hoping the review process would take several weeks. The Minnesota regional office of the Bureau of Indian Affairs first must review the application, which then is sent to Washington for more evaluation.

Chanda Joseph, a tribal operations specialist with BIA, said the application is being looked at but she didn't say when a de-

cision would be announced.

"It's still under review and it's ongoing," she said.

Herb Nelson, the bureau's regional environmental specialist, confirmed that the environmental impact study, often a substantial part of the approval process, is complete.

Joseph and Nelson said BIA business is progressing as usual, even though U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, is pushing for reform of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

One component of that act stipulates that land held in trust for tribes by the federal government cannot be used for gaming unless certain conditions are met. That means the Department of the Interior and the state's governor would have to agree that the gaming facility is in the tribe's best interest and wouldn't hurt the surrounding community.

Gov. Jim Doyle has said he will make a decision on the Beloit application only if it reaches him.

McCain's bill would amend the gaming act to limit the lands eligible for gaming. It would also mandate that approval be granted at the local as well as state and federal levels. The measure is being reviewed in a congressional committee.

Arft said he doesn't see McCain's proposals as cause for concern since he thinks casino proposals already filed will be grandfathered in under the bill.

While in Washington, Arft and Densch plan to discuss the casino application with Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl and U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison. The Beloit officials plan to attend the National League of Cities conference the weekend of March 11.

Tribe plans to revive landmark hotel

SULPHUR, Okla. (AP) — The Chickasaw Nation plans to revive this community's landmark hotel, a structure that has been disassembled and reconstructed twice.

The five-story Artesian Hotel was built for the 1905 World's Fair in St. Louis, disassembled, then moved to Oklahoma and reconstructed at what then was known as Platt National Park. In 1906, the building was torn down again and moved to downtown Sulphur. Hotel patrons paid \$1.50 a night for steam heat, electric lighting, a dance pavilion and the best lobby in the state at the time.

"Oh, it was just a beautiful place, and it was the home away from home for a lot of different people — governors and members of Congress... people who would come here to enjoy the national park and fishing and the scenery and hot baths," said Eldon Cleveland, a longtime citizen and member of the Arbuckle Historical Society.

Fire destroyed the hotel in January 1962. Another hotel was built, but it fell into foreclosure.

The Chickasaw tribe purchased the hotel land in 1972 for \$139,000 and built the Chickasaw Motor Inn, which had a modern appeal but lacked the historical beauty of the original Artesian. The tribe received a \$210,000 grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to build the motor inn. Instead of the Artesian's famous bath house, tribal spokeswoman Robyn Elliott said, the new owners added office space for their growing staff. Tribal officials now view the hotel's proximity to the Chickasaw National Recreation Area and southern Oklahoma's growing tourism market as prime reasons to reopen the hotel.

Inter-Industry Conference
On Auto Collision
Repair (I-CAR)

Automotive Service
Excellence (ASE)
Certified

Miller Ford-Nissan Collision Center

36 S.E. 6th, Madras, OR 97741

Come see us first
We repair all makes
and models!

24-Hour Towing
Service,
Rental cars
available
541-475-6153

Let us help negotiate your vehicle damage claim

We honor all insurance company estimates. Factory trained technicians, factory quality repairs & craftsmanship, frame straightening rack, with laser precision body alignment.

No matter what happens to your car, you can count on the Autobody Repair specialists at Miller Ford Nissan collision center to take care of it from the smallest scratch to the biggest dent.