

O'Ducky winners announced

Benjamin Sargent, Hermiston, was first place winner of the St. Pat's O'Ducky Race, as his plastic duck, number 240, was the first to cross the Willow Creek finish line. Benjamin, the grandson of Dick and Lynnea Sargent, Heppner, won \$100. Second place went to Aaron Harris, Heppner, who won \$75

and third went to Mary Benge, also of Heppner who won \$50. The first 10 ducks to cross the line also earned T-shirts for the lucky number holders. Fourth through 10th place finishers were: David Sicilia, Carl Christman, Jim Williams, Creagh Williams, Kim Morris, Sandy Matthews and Jillian Smalley.

Paustians take first in Golf Cart contest

Leslie and Janice Paustian took first place, out of eight, in the first O'Golfers Decorated golf cart challenge, from Willow Creek Country Club. Second place went to Frank and Neoma Bailey and third to Earl and Carol Norris. Others taking part in the fun were: Louis and Betty Carlson, Ray and Norma French, Howard

and Helen Gilliam, Wayland and Pat Hyatt and Ray and Deena Reid. Gilliam's cart was driven and decorated by Luvilla Sonstegard, Kip Clark drove the Hyatt cart and Tom Sturgen assisted with the Reids'. Judges were Dorothy Wilson, Paul Heinrichs and O.L. Adams.

Garcia, Garrett friends on and off the court

Photos by Wayne Harns



Gabe Garcia



Mike Garrett

dumps the ball to Garrett who has a clear shot at the basket. How did this unconventional move become a vital part of the Cardinal offense? Not without a lot of practice and just a few bungled passes. "The first five times he tried it, the ball hit me in the back of the head. I learned to never look at the basket until I saw the ball leave his hands," said Mike.

Both boys hope to continue playing basketball as they move on to college. If intercollegiate ball isn't in the cards, they talk about intramurals or rat ball on the playground. "We'll never quit," says Garcia.

Gabe has already been accepted at Eastern Oregon College in La Grande, the school that Mike also hopes to attend. The friends have talked about rooming together. Both are leaning towards the education field and an eventual career in teaching and coaching. Boat are consistent performers on the "B" honor roll and with similar grade point averages, they talk about studying together at college and helping each other out, just like on the basketball court.

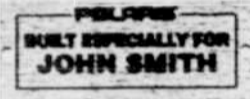
For now, they will wind down from their exhausting but exhilarating weekend in Baker City and prepare for all the springtime activities that go along with being a senior. Both hope for a return trip to the state track meet and of course, there's the prom, banquet, graduation and a trip to Disneyland in the works. But who could blame them if they wanted to relive this season and their high school basketball careers for just a few more days before moving on.

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By Anne Morter

They are as different as night and day but that doesn't stop Mike Garrett and Gabe Garcia from being good friends and soul mates on the basketball court. At the recent Class 1A State Tournament in Baker City, they took their basketball magic to new levels, rewriting the record books, stumping opponents, and dazzling the crowds.

In their opening game, Garrett scored a whopping 43 points, breaking the old single game scoring record. Not only that, but he shot 19 of 27 from the floor, establishing new records for number of field goals and for the highest individual shooting percentage with 70 percent. (For the record, Mike has had a higher point total in a game, scoring 48 points in a game against Helix last year.) In that same game, Gabe came up with 13 assists and his first record of the state tournament. By the end of the tournament, Garrett had established new three game scoring and rebounding records and Garcia had set a three game assist mark. To top it off, the Cardinal team set

a new record for team assists in the Wallowa game as well as the three-game assist standard.

The Cardinals, in their first state tournament appearance since 1981, didn't make it home with any of the highly coveted trophies, but the fans can attest, they provided some of the best games in the tournament. The one-point loss to Butte Falls in the semi-finals, sending the Loggers on to become the eventual state champions, was a hard loss to swallow for the Cards and their two starting seniors, Gabe and Mike.

The game was neck and neck the whole way but Butte Falls in their third state appearance, just wanted it more, and had the experience to get the job done. The game came down to the last nine seconds, nine seconds that will play over and over in the minds of the Cardinals for weeks to come. "I could tell you about everyone of those last nine seconds," says Gabe. "They seemed to take forever. We would do anything to have those last nine seconds over again" said Mike, "and keep having them over until we won," added Gabe.

The state tournament was the culmination of three years of basketball ups and downs for the duo. Gabe transferred to Ione from Heppner at the start of his sophomore year. That was the year that he and Mike first established their on-court rapport and, with the help of three freshmen, established themselves as a fast-moving, run-and-gun type team. Advancing to district, they upset Culver in the opening round and then lost by seven to Sherman County, the eventual state runner-up. That performance set high expectations for the next season, where the Cards took a 17-5 record into the district tourney. Much to their disappointment, they lost both district games, even to Condon, whom they had defeated in all their previous games that season. But if nothing else, the experience provided motivation for this year where the Cardinals exited the district tournament as the champions after winning their first game.

Both Garrett and Garcia were named to the All-Star team of each tournament the Cardinals played this year, including district and state. However, they are quick to spread the credit around, to fellow starters, David Wagenblast, Ryan Halvorsen and

Deacon Heideman, and to the Cardinal bench. Affectionately known as "The Posse," the Cardinal reserves often rode to the rescue and many times scored more points than the starters. One of Mike and Gabe's all-star moves was what the East Oregonian called a "no-look pass." Gabe calls it a "jump shot pass." Whatever you call it, the maneuver worked like a charm, especially the unsuspecting state tourney teams. It works like this: Garcia drives the baseline, drawing out Garrett's defender. He goes up, seemingly to shoot a jump shot, but once airborne,

Hooley party set for pageant cast

Heppner Intergenerational Theatre will have a "hooley" cast party Sunday, March 29 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the St. Patricks Senior Center dining room for all those who worked on "Erin Came to County

Morrow". All drinks will be provided. Guests are asked to bring snack foods and be prepared to do something for the show part of the hooley. For more information call 676-9435.

IHS senior class plans car wash

The senior class of Ione High School will hold a car wash and bake sale on Saturday, March 21 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Ione Key Lock Gas Station. Cost

is \$5 for the exterior and \$7.50 for the interior and exterior. Proceeds will go towards the seniors trip to Disneyland in May.

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