

## Cardinals place third at state



Tyler Brown goes for the shot with Imbler trying to block it.

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By Anne Morter

The Ione boys' varsity team went into the State 1A Basketball Tournament ranked number nine, but came home with the third place hardware after a long weekend of close and exciting games in Baker City. Their trophy is the first state basketball for the boys' team since 1961. The Cardinals proved they could play with any of the teams there, defeating number two ranked Crow, playing number one ranked Imbler to the bitter end and fighting off a formerly number two ranked South Wasco County.

Individually, the Cardinal's Tyler Brown, a junior, was the only unanimous All-State selection in the boys' division after a fantastic effort leading the team.

The march to the trophy began with a tough match-up against Crow on Wednesday. Coming into the tourney, Crow was ranked number two in the state and proved to be a quick and scrappy opponent. The Cougars jumped out to an early lead 8-1 before the Cards got their rhythm. Thanks mainly to two 3-pointers by Tyler Brown and one by Kelly Thompson, Ione pulled even with Crow at the end of the first period, 16-16. From the end of the first to early in the second, Ione reeled off 14 unanswered points and went on to outscore Crow in the second quarter, 20-9, giving them a 36-25 lead at the half.

In the third, Ione stretched their lead to 17 points in the early going before Crow went on a 13-4 rampage to cut the Card's margin to nine, 50-41, to start the fourth. Crow kept the momentum going and with six minutes remaining in the game, pulled to within two points, 50-48. The Cards responded with critical baskets by Brown, Thompson and back-to-back buckets by Nick Christman to hold their lead. With both

Arthur Ekstrom and Tyler Raible fouled out of the game, the Cardinals used clutch free throw shooting to fend off the Cougars. With just under three minutes remaining, the Cardinals went to the line 12 times, making 10 to build the final winning margin of 70-64.

Thompson led all scorers with 21 points, shooting 67 percent from the floor and 80 percent from the line. Brown had 18 points and tremendous rebounding effort with 18 boards. Tony Bolin was in double figures for the Cards with 12 points. Also scoring for Ione were Raible with nine, Christman with six, Ekstrom with two and Alan Rietmann with two. The Cardinals held a 39-30 rebounding edge over the Cougars.

Ione shot 50 percent from the floor for the game (24-48), 60 percent from the three-point line (3-5) and 61 percent from the free throw line (19-31.) Crow shot 43 percent from the floor and just 50 percent from the free throw line. Like most of the games over the weekend, it was a physical match up with Crow racking up 28 fouls to the Card's 16.

"This was the second time this season that we took on a second ranked team in the state. The kids once again responded with a terrific defensive game," said Coach Dennis Stefani. "Kelly Thompson had a great game along with Tyler Brown. But I really feel that our inside defense of Tyler Raible, Arthur Ekstrom and Dan Long made the difference in this game. It was also very nice to come into the tourney and get that first win. That always takes the pressure off."

The win over Crow moved Ione into the semi-finals winner's bracket where they ran into a tall and formidable opponent, Imbler. Nine of the 14 players listed on their roster are 6 foot 1 inch or over, with two starters over 6 foot 6 inches and all were experienced seniors. The Panthers, who played in last year's 2A Tournament, were undefeated and for the most part, untested during this season. To the Cardinals credit, they were not intimidated by the Panther's height or reputation. During the course of the game, the lead changed hands 12 times with five ties as the Cardinals played one of their best games of the season, hanging with the touted Panthers until the very end. The hard fought battle ended with Imbler prevailing, 68-61.

Imbler jumped out to a 6-0 lead before Brown swished the first three of his four first-quarter 3-pointers. The lead seasawed through the first quarter and ended 22-21 in favor of Imbler when Brown made a four

point play at the end of the quarter. Brown set the torrid pace for both teams in that first quarter, scoring 13 of the team's 21 points. Together, both teams put 43 points on the board in the period.

The offensive output cooled in the second quarter as both defenses picked up the pace. The Cards scored nine to the Panther's eight, leaving the teams tied at halftime, 30-30. Imbler scored first in the third period and threatened to get away from the Cardinals, stretching their lead to 10 points with three minutes to go. But Christman hit two baskets and a free throw, Bolin hit another and Brown knocked in a 3-pointer with less than 10 seconds remaining in the third to pull back within four, 43-47.

The fourth quarter saw the lead change hands four times. The Cards took their first lead since early in the third quarter, 53-52 on a Christman bucket with 5:10 to go in the game. Imbler hit two free throws to regain the lead before Christman hit another basket to put Ione back in front again 55-54 with 3:45 remaining in the game. Imbler then took the lead for good and took advantage of the double bonus to slowly widen the lead to the final 68-61 margin.

Brown led all scorers with 28 points, which included five 3-pointers. Christman also came up big for the Cards with 17 points. Other scorers for Ione included Bolin with six, Thompson with six, and Raible and Rietmann with two each.

Ione shot 45 percent from the floor (23 of 51) and 62.5 percent from behind the three-point line (5-8.) The team struggled a bit at the line, making just 10 of 16 for 54.5 percent. Imbler shot 43 percent from the field (26 of 54) and just 17 percent from behind the three-point arc (2 of 12). After shooting no free throws in the first half, connected on 14 of 23 in the second half for 61 percent. Imbler used their significant height advantage to overpower Ione in the rebounding department, 44-23.

"The kids got what they wanted all year—a shot at the number one team in the state. And the kids responded with their best game of the year," said Coach Stefani. "We had our chances in this contest, but the breaks you need to win the big games didn't go our way. Either way it was a great game and I feel it was the championship game." Stefani also noted that Brown had a terrific game, as did the post players inside, despite the height difference. Stefani commended Christman on another big game, coming up with some outstanding plays late in the game.

The loss against Imbler pitted the Cardinals

against South Wasco County for the fourth time this season. From the start, it was apparent that both teams were determined to win. Ione held a slim 14-11 advantage after one, but South Wasco nailed a 3-pointer at the end of the second quarter to tie the game at halftime, 23-23. The Redsidies went on a run in the third quarter, hitting three 3-pointers along with a couple of twos to open their biggest lead of the game, seven points, putting the score at 36-29 with 2:42 remaining in the third quarter. The Cards responded with a 3-pointer by Brown to pull within three. Ekstrom scored on the next two possessions to keep pace with the Redsidies, making the score 39-36 in favor of South Wasco at the end of three.

The fourth quarter was wild with eight lead changes and eight ties, as each team scrambled to convert on every opportunity. With 1:38 remaining, Raible hit a basket to open up the widest lead of the quarter, 52-49. South Wasco's Stephen Kresse answered with a trey, one of his five in the game, to tie the score again 18 seconds later. With 42.5 seconds left, South Wasco's Palmquist hit a free throw to put them up by one, 53-52. Ione didn't score on their next possession and then turned the ball over with 16.6 seconds remaining, seemingly putting the Redsidies in the driver's seat. But as South Wasco was in-bounding the ball, Kresse was whistled for a foul against Thompson, sending Thompson to the line for a critical one and one opportunity. Thompson calmly swished both to put the Cards on top by one with those same 16.6 seconds on the clock. South Wasco brought it down court, but Brown tipped their last second shot attempt to seal the victory, 54-53.

Brown again led all scorers with 24 points, followed by Christman with 16, Thompson, Raible and Ekstrom with four each and Bolin with two. Brown had 11 rebounds as the Cardinals out-rebounded the Redsidies 33-30. Bolin and Thompson had five assists each and Bolin had three steals. Both teams shot 42 percent from the floor. South Wasco actually made more field goals than the Cards 22-19 and seven of those field goals were 3-pointers but as has been the case in their previous meetings, free throws told the story. South Wasco only went to the line five times, making two while the Cards were 13 of 23 from the line.

"This was a huge win for us. It not only got us third place in state, but it proved that our game against Imbler was for real. The kids were very tired as they put everything into the Imbler game, but they came out and responded with a very strong

effort to get the win over South Wasco," said Coach Stefani. "This was the best finish for Ione since 1961. Once again our defense made the difference, and the entire team played with a tremendous amount of emotion and heart. This was a terrific way for the season to end for a group of kids that worked their tails off all season.

"This was a great season, one of the best in a long time for Ione boy's basketball," continued Stefani. "These kids have worked so hard to get to the State Tournament and dedicated themselves to making sure that they preformed well when they got there. It was nice to see everything come together for them. This is a bunch of great kids and they deserve all the honors they have achieved. This team really came together as the year progressed; not only as an offensive team, but what made me so happy was to see how much pride they took in the defensive side of the ball. The defense was what took this team to where they are. They will all walk away from this season with a lot of pride and memories."

## Bunny Barn has successful February showings



KT'S Veranique

KT'S Bunny Barn had a successful February showing their Mini Rex rabbits. Visiting Victoria, B.C., on Feb. 19 and 20 for the VIRBA Shows, Kathy Tellechea and Pam Renfro brought home two Best of Breeds and a Reserve in Show with KT'S Tarot, a senior Black Mini Rex doe.

Feb. 26 found Tellechea and Renfro in Nampa, ID at the Snake River Rabbit Club shows. They won Best of Breed and Best Opposite of Breed in both shows and in Show B they won Best in Show with

## Two qualify for state bowling tourney

Individuals earning a spot in the Oregon State YABA All-Star Bowling Tournament, in Hermiston on March 12 and 13, are Heppner High School's Myah Southworth and Ione High School's Brittnee DesBouillons. Southworth placed fourth and DesBouillons placed sixth out of 34 competitors at The Dalles District Bowling Tournament, held Feb. 20. The top six bowlers on each of the boys' and girls' teams qualify for state.

Placing in the district girls' team competition was Hermiston, first; The Dalles/Wahtonka, second; Ione #1, third; Heppner, fourth; Ione #2, fifth and Umatilla, sixth. Boys' district team competition placed Hermiston #1, first; The Dalles/Wahtonka, second; Hermiston #2, third; Heppner, fourth; Umatilla, fifth; and Ione #2, sixth. Only the first and second place bowling teams go on to state.

KT'S Veranique, a junior Broken Black Mini Rex doe.

Veranique continued her winning streak in Enumclaw, WA at the Evergreen Rabbit Breeders Show on March 5. This doe won Best Opposite of Breed in Show A and Best of Breed and Reserve in Show in Show B. In the Mini Rex Specialty Show, Veranique was beat by her sister, KT'S Eclipse for Best Opposite of Breed.

The next shows for Tellechea and Renfro will be in Kennewick, WA on March 19 and Central Point on March 26. They will be traveling to Belton, TX, April 1 for Mini Rex Nationals where they will be showing 15 of their rabbits. There is expected to be breeders from all over the United States, Canada and Japan with estimates of over 1500 Mini Rex entered.

## Morrow County Gun Club news

On March 6, a warm, sunny day, 12 shooters spent the afternoon competing on the trap field.

In singles shooting, Kelwayne Haguewood hit a perfect 25 out of 25 shots. Jeff Cutsforth followed with 23 out of 25 shots and Mark Schlichting and Rob Ashbeck came in with 22. Deona Hodges was high lady with 14 out of 25 hits.

In handicap shooting, Schlichting hit 23 out of 25 shots. Dick Goodhead and Haguewood

## Transportation plan update meeting to be held

There will be a joint workshop with the Planning Commission and the County Court to review Morrow County's draft Transportation System Plan (TSP) on March 15 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be located at the Stokes Landing Community Center, 195 NW Opal Place, Irrigon. The community is invited to attend and learn about the county's current and long-term transportation needs, industrial lands access needs and its plans for enhancing the county road system for everyone who uses it.

followed with 22 and Cutsforth came in with 21. Hodges had high lady at 16 hits.

Annie were then shot with Barry Munkers winning two and Rob Crum, Goodhead and Schlichting each winning one.

In week five of Winter League shooting, the team of Peck and Schlichting is on top with 483 points out of 500. Close behind are teams Munkers and Haguewood with 480; Crum and Crum with 477; Ashbeck and Childers with 473 and Mortimer and Cutsforth with 469.

The next shot will be held on March 13 at 12 p.m. Come on up and enjoy and afternoon at Morrow County Gun Club.

## Marriage Licenses

March 1: Elias Mendoza Ortiz, 49, Irrigon and Kathleen Joy Davison, 50, Irrigon; Thomas Dean Roberts, 30, Irrigon and Andren C. Ford, 32, Irrigon; Calixto Perez Rubio, 40, Boardman and Elvira Sanchez Sausedo, 28, Boardman; and Denis S. Claustro, 24, Boardman and Marla E. Echevarria, 21, Boardman.

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## WEDNESDAY FETTUCINE NIGHT

(Fettucine with garlic toast) from 5-8 p.m.

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